

Weekly One Liners 25th to 31st of October 2021

THE's World Reputation Rankings 2021 announced

4 Indian institutes have made it to the **Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021**, the annual ranking of THE that features the top 200 universities based on the votes from leading academics across the globe. **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru** ranked among the top 100 (91-100) has topped the Indian Institutes. The other 3 Indian institutes are the IIT Bombay, the IIT Delhi, and the IIT Madras.

Harvard University of the United States of America (USA) has topped the 2021 ranking. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA** and **University of Oxford** from the United Kingdom (UK) has secured the 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

Globally:

Ranking	Institute
1	Harvard University (US)
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
3	University of Oxford (UK)

Ranking of Indian Institutes:

Ranking	Institute
91-100	IISc Bangalore
126-150	IIT Bombay
176-200	IIT Delhi
176-200	IIT Madras

Viktor Axelsen and Akane Yamaguchi won Denmark Open 2021

Danish Olympic champion **Viktor Axelsen** won the **Mens' single 2021 Denmark Open** Badminton held at the Odense Sports Park, Denmark. He defeated world number one Kento Momota of Japan. **Akane Yamaguchi** of Japan won her second title in the women's category defeating An Se-young (South Korea).

List of all winners of Denmark Open 2021:

Category	Winner
Mens' single	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
Womens' single	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's double	Takuro Hoki, and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)
Women's double	Huang Dongping and Zheng Yu (China)
Mixed double	Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan).

National Affairs

- **The Election Commission of India (ECI)** has launched the **Garuda app** for digital mapping of all polling stations, to ensure faster, smarter, transparent and timely completion of election work. Through the Garuda app, Booth Level Officers (BLO) will upload photos and location information of the polling stations, along with data like latitude and longitude of the centre, from their registered mobile numbers. The app will also help in reducing the paperwork.
- **Invest India**, a young startup within the **Government of India** has been unanimously elected as the President of the **World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)** for 2021-2023. Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency to help investors looking for investment opportunities and options in India.
- **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** of NITI Aayog has launched a Digi-book named **"Innovations for You"**. The sector in focus in this Digi-book is Healthcare. "Innovation for you" is an initiative of Niti Aayog to share success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains.
- The Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, **G.K Reddy** has launched the **Amrit Mahotsav Podcast**, as a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration by the ministry. The Amrit Mahotsav Podcast series (**Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani**) is a tribute to the Indian National Army (persons and movements), which significantly contributed to India's freedom struggle, some of which have remained untold and not found a place in the conventional storyline.



- The Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, **R K Singh** has launched a new market segment, "**Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)**". This makes India as the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for renewable energy.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister, **Nitin Gadkari** has launched a knowledge App and platform **CUNSLT**. Emphasizing innovation, entrepreneurship, science technology, research and skill for knowledge transformation. The app is the first such global facility by which people who need information, advice, counsel, guidance can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors.

States in the News

- The **2022 South Asian Federation Cross Country Championships** is scheduled to be held in **Kohima, Nagaland** on January 15, 2022. Besides this, the **56th National Cross Country Championships** will also be clubbed with the South Asian Federation Cross Country Championships. This will be the first-ever national athletics event hosted by Nagaland.
- **Uddhav Thackeray**, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, inaugurated India's 1st State government-owned **Wildlife DNA testing analysis laboratory** at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**. On the occasion, he also launched 3 Fast Track DNA testing units in Mumbai & Pune under the Nirbhaya scheme.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to rename the **Faizabad Junction** to **Ayodhya Cantt railways station**. Opened in 1874, the Faizabad railway station comes under the Northern Railway zone.
- **Goa** has achieved **Open Defecation Free (ODF)** and **Electricity** for every household. The original ODF protocol was issued in the year 2016. According to it, a city or ward is notified as ODF city or ward if not a single person is found defecating in the open, at any point of the day.
- **Gujarat** Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has launched the '**Go-Green**' scheme & its Portal to provide electric two-wheelers at subsidised rates to construction and industrial workers of the state. The scheme is aimed at reducing fuel bills and also curbing vehicular pollution.

- During the **17th** meeting of the **State Board for Wildlife (SBWL)**, the government of Maharashtra approved its own **Wildlife Action Plan (2021-2030)**, which will be implemented over the next 10 years. Maharashtra became India's first state to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan. The board has also approved the extension of the boundary of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, in the Chandrapur district of the Vidarbha region, by around 79 sq km.
- **Uttarakhand** gets India's largest aromatic garden in the **Nainital district**. The research wing of the Uttarakhand forest department inaugurated the biggest aromatic garden of India in **Lalkuan** of Nainital district.

International Affairs

- **South Korea** recently launched its first indigenously developed rocket, known as "**Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II**" or "**Nuri**". The launch vehicle lifted off from the Naro Space Center, in Goheung, built on an island nearly 300 miles (500 kilometres) south of Seoul.
- **China** successfully launched a new satellite named **Shijian-21**. The satellite will be used to test and verify space debris mitigation technologies. Shijian-21 was launched from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in southwest China's Sichuan Province on a Long March-3B carrier rocket.
- **Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, the incumbent **President of Uzbekistan** has won a 2nd five-year term as the **President of Uzbekistan**. He is a member of the **UzLiDeP (Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party)**. Shavkat Mirziyoyev took office in 2016 following the death of Islam Karimov, the first post-independence president of Uzbekistan.
- **France** has successfully launched a state-of-the-art satellite namely '**Syracuse 4A**' into orbit which was carried off by Ariane 5 rocket from **Kourou, in French Guiana**. It is designed to allow France's armed forces across the globe to communicate swiftly and securely. The satellite can survey its close surroundings and move itself to escape an attack.
- Indo-Canadian **Anita Anand** became just the second woman to be appointed Canada's minister of **national defence** as Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** announced his new cabinet. The ministers were sworn in by governor-general Mary May Simon in a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. She is the first woman to serve as defence minister since Kim Campbell in the 1990s.

- The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of **South Korea** held that the '**Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant**' at the Shinincheon Bitdream headquarters of Korea Southern Power in **Seo-gu, Incheon** has been completed and inaugurated.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- IndiGo and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)** entered into a strategic partnership for the launch of a co-branded credit card named '**Ka-ching**'. The credit card was launched under IndiGo's 6E Rewards programme and linked with it to enable the members to earn rewards by using the card on IndiGo and other merchants.
- HDFC Ltd and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** made a strategic partnership to offer HDFC Ltd's home loans to **4.7 crore** customers of IPPB through its wide network of 650 branches and over **1.36 lakh** banking access points. The partnership helps to promote affordable housing in the remotest locations of India.
- MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, and **Google** have partnered to launch '**Appscale Academy**', a growth and development programme, to train early to mid-stage startups across India. The programme focuses on the emerging startup ecosystem in Tier II and Tier III cities of India to provide them with the help needed to build scalable app solutions.
- SBI General Insurance** made a technological partnership with **Google Pay** to enable users to buy **SBI General's health insurance** on the **Google Pay app**. This collaboration marks Google Pay's 1st partnership with an insurer in India to offer health insurance. The users were enabled to buy both individual and family plans under SBI General's Arogya Sanjeevani policy through Google Pay Spot.



Books and Authors

- "Writing for My Life"**, an anthology of author **Ruskin Bond** has been released. It contains some of the most exemplary stories, essays, poems and memories of Ruskin Bond. This anthology has been released **25 years** after the first anthology of Bond titled, "The Best of Ruskin Bond".
- Renowned journalist and writer **Chidanand Rajghatta** have authored a new book **"Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman"**, a biography of Kamala Harris, the first women Vice President of the United States of America (USA).
- The former Union Minister of Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has gifted a copy of his book titled '**AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue**' to Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in Delhi. The book was written by Pokhriyal while he was battling COVID-19 at AIIMS in Delhi. The book was published by **Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.**

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's Largest **Small Finance Bank AU Small Finance Bank** has launched **QR (Quick Response) Code Sound Box** to boost its digital payments while making it the first bank to launch such a product. The QR Sound Box will help small merchants to run their operations smoothly without the hassle of reading SMS every time when a customer makes a payment. It will be made available in five languages – **Hindi, English, Punjabi, Gujarati and Marathi**.
- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** has crossed the market capitalisation of **Hindustan Unilever** to become the fifth-largest company by market value. According to BSE data, ICICI Bank's market capitalisation (m-cap) stood at **₹5.83 lakh crore**, just above HUL's **₹5.76 lakh crore**. This follows the bank posting its highest ever quarterly net profit in the July to September 2021 quarter.
- The **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Hyderabad** to launch a 1st of its kind initiative on Cyber Security Awareness. CDAC will assist UBI in educating its employees & customers with awareness on Cyber Security & tips to protect themselves from Cyber fraud. The Bank has previously launched an e-book & an online game '**Spin-N-Learn**', as a part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month (October).

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of **4.99 percent** of the outstanding equity share capital in **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** by private sector lender **HDFC Bank**. HDFC Bank will acquire 3.56 crore shares or 4.99% stake for Rs 1,906 crore from the parent company Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC). HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company is a joint venture between HDFC and European insurer ERGO International AG.
- Private sector general insurer **Future Generali India Insurance (FGII)** has entered into a **bancassurance** tie-up with the **Bank of India (BoI)** for further penetration of its general insurance products. FGII will offer its wide array of best-in-class and innovative insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches spread across 28 States and 8 Union Territories.
- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of **Parexel International Corporation** by Phoenix Parentco Inc. Phoenix Parentco is a special purpose investment vehicle that operates solely as an investment holding company. It is jointly controlled by EQT Fund Management S. r.l. and The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.
- **ICICI Lombard**, private general insurance company has introduced **BeFit**, serviced through its **ILTakeCare app**. It provides customers with the benefits of OPD services i.e. doctor consultation, pharmacy and diagnostics services, and physiotherapy sessions in a cashless manner. The solution aims to empower customers to benefit from a host of wellness services.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Ramnath Krishnan** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of rating agency **ICRA**. He replaces **N Sivaraman**, who resigned with immediate effect citing personal reasons on October 23, 2021. Gurgaon based ICRA is a unit owned by global rating agency **Moody's Corporation**.
- German sportswear brand **Adidas** has roped in Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** as global ambassador for women sports. She will represent Adidas women globally.
- **Eicher Motors Ltd** passed the resolution to reappoint **Siddhartha Lal** as the **Managing Director** of the company for five years, starting May 1, 2021.

- **FloBiz**, a neobank for **Indian Small to Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs)**, announced Padma Shri Awardee actor **Manoj Bajpayee** as the brand ambassador for its flagship product.
- The government of India has appointed **K V Kamath** as chairperson of the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)**. He is a well-known banker in India and is the first head of the **New Development Bank (NDB)**.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** has approved the appointment of **Baldev Prakash** as Managing Director and CEO of **J&K Bank** for a period of three years from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier. The actual date of appointment of Baldev Prakash as MD & CEO of J&K Bank will be announced by the bank subsequently.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the reappointment of **Shaktikanta Das** as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a further period of three years with effect from **December 10, 2021**.

Defence News

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)-**ABHYAS**, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in **Odisha**.
- **The Indian Navy** has organised an Offshore Sailing **Regatta** from Kochi to Goa, as a part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations**, and above all, boost the spirit of adventure and ocean sailing among the Navy Personnel.
- **The Armed Forces of India and the United Kingdom (UK)** are undertaking the sea phase of the maiden Tri-Service exercise '**Konkan Shakti 2021**' off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea from October 24 to 27, 2021.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** carried successful test-firing of surface-to-surface ballistic missile **Agni-5** on October 27, 2021, from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha**. Agni-5 is a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine. The missile can strike targets at ranges up to **5,000 km** with a very high degree of accuracy.
- In a major outreach to the friendly foreign countries as also to the defence manufacturing industries of the world, Raksha Mantri, **Rajnath Singh** has chaired the **Ambassadors' Round Table for Def Expo 2022**, in New Delhi.

- A new Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) '**Sarthak**' has been dedicated to the nation on October 28, 2021. It will be based at **Porbandar in Gujarat**. The indigenously built ship was commissioned by the Director-General of Indian Coast Guard, K Natarajan, at Goa. ICGS Sarthak is commanded by Deputy Inspector General MM Syed and has a complement of 11 Officers and 110 men.

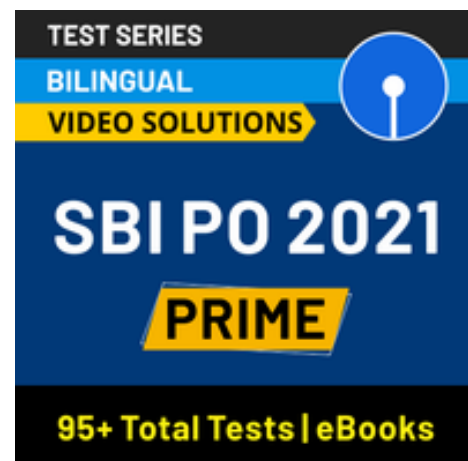
Awards and Recognitions

- Actor **Rajinikanth** was honoured with the prestigious **51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award** at the **67th National Film Awards ceremony**, for his contribution as an actor, producer and screenwriter. He received the prestigious award from Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema.
- Former Chief Scientist at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), **Dr. Rajiv Nigam** has been selected for the **2022 Joseph A. Cushman Award** for Excellence in Foraminiferal Research. Dr. Nigam is the first Indian Citizen to be selected for the prestigious award. He has been chosen for his outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of foraminifera (microfossil) research.
- The **Peace Prize of the German Book Trade 2021** has been awarded to the Zimbabwean author and a filmmaker **Tsitsi Dangarembga** for a "**new Enlightenment**", a work on violence in her country and all over the world by Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, an association of German book publishers and booksellers.
- **TVS Motor Company** has been awarded the '**Outstanding Renewable Energy User**' at the **third Edition of India Green Energy Award 2020** by the **Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE)**. The award was presented by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari**.

Summit and Conference

- **India, Australia, and the UK** in collaboration with **small island developing states (SIDS)**, have planned to launch a new initiative "**Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)**", on the sidelines of the **Conference of Parties (COP26)**. The IRIS platform aims at creating an infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen economic losses in island nations.

- The Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** has participated in the **6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** through a video conference from **New Delhi**. The theme of the Annual Meeting of AIIB was "**Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow**".
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has participated in the **16th East Asia Summit (EAS)** through a video conference on October 27, 2021, during which he re-affirmed India's focus on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the principle of **ASEAN Centrality** in the region. The 16th EAS was hosted under the Chairmanship of Brunei. This was the 7th East Asia Summit for Prime Minister Modi.
- **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021** is being organized as a three-day online event on **27, 28 and 29 October 2021**. IPRD 2021 will focus on the theme 'Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead'. It will focus on eight specific sub-themes.
- Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi** has attended the **18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit** virtually. This was the **9th ASEAN-India Summit** attended by PM Modi. The Summit was held under the chairmanship of the Sultan of Brunei.
- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** participated in the CII Asia Health 2021 summit on October 28, 2021, through video-conferencing. The theme of the two-day summit is "**Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow**". The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organised the summit to provide a centralised forum to deliberate on the most critical challenges that India and the world face in delivering healthcare, with a focus on the digital transformations that result in improved patient outcomes and experience.



Science and Technology

- **Facebook** is now called **Meta**, in a rebrand that focuses on building the “**metaverse**,” a shared virtual environment that it bets will be the successor to the mobile internet. The name change, the plan for which was first reported by the Verge, is a significant rebrand for Facebook, but not it's first. In 2019 it launched a new logo to create a distinction between the company and its social app. The name change comes as the world's largest social media company battles criticisms from lawmakers and regulators over its market power, algorithmic decisions and the policing of abuses on its services.
- **Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science & Technology, Government of India**, has developed non-toxic metal phosphate-based ink with excitation dependant luminescent properties which are highly stable under practical conditions such as temperature, humidity and light, etc.

Ranks and Reports

- In accordance with the report ‘**Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement**’ by London & Partners, and Co, **India** ranked **9th** in the list of top 10 countries for climate technology investment from **2016 to 2021**. Indian climate tech firms received USD 1 billion in venture capital (VC) funding in this period. The report analyzed the trends in the climate sector since the 2016 United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) in Paris, France. The list has been topped by the **United States (US)** with **USD 48 billion** which is followed by **China USD 18.6 billion**.
- **India** has ranked **106th** in the **FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association)** Rankings 2021, the position of team India was increased to one spot. After the victory in the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Championship 2021 of team India led by Sunil Chhetri, it has secured the 106th position. The team has defeated Nepal in the summit clash. Under the FIFA Rankings, **Belgium** is at 1st position. **Brazil** holds 2nd position, **France** holds 3rd position.

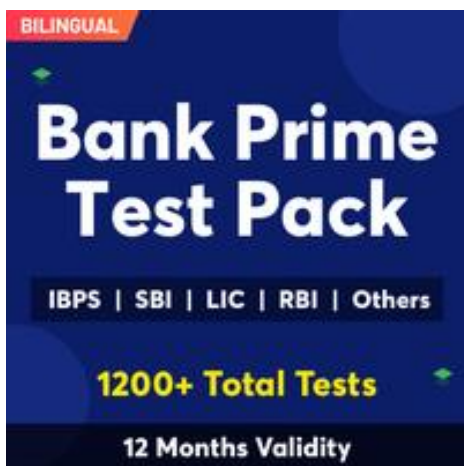
- **Karnataka** has topped the **State Energy Efficiency Index 2020 (SEEI)**, scoring 70 points out of 100 on the back of several initiatives to improve energy efficiency in the state. **Rajasthan** is on second rank followed by **Haryana** on third. Last year i.e in SEEI 2019 ranking, Rajasthan was on top. The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020 was released under the **Ministry of Power**.

Schemes and Committees News

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the “**Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**” on October 25, 2021, from his parliamentary constituency **Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh**. The Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country and is in addition to the National Health Protection Mission (Ayushman Bharat Yojana).
- **Department of School Education and Literacy** has constituted the **National Steering Committee (NSC)** for the implementation of the **NIPUN Bharat Mission**. It seeks to develop a methodology of assessment to analyze the progress of education and provide feedback to States/UTs. To achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by end of Class 3 by 2026-27.
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has launched an e-National Level Awareness Programme ‘**SAMBHAV**’, to promote engagement of the youth in promoting entrepreneurship. The e-National Level Awareness Programme 2021 ‘**SAMBHAV**’ was launched by Union Minister of MSME **Narayan Rane** in New Delhi.
- **The Central Government of India** has reconstituted the seven-member **Economic Advisory Council to the PM (EAC-PM)**. **Bibek Debroy** continues to be the **Chairman** of the Council. EAC-PM has been reconstituted for a period of **2 years**. EAC-PM was set up in September 2017 with a term of two years and it replaced the erstwhile Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).
- **Supreme Court of India** has appointed a three-member committee to look into allegations of unauthorized surveillance using **Pegasus**, a spyware developed by Israeli firm NSO Group. It will be headed by retired judge **Justice R V Raveendran**. He will supervise the functioning of the technical committee, which will look into the “truth or falsity of the allegations” and will submit a report “expeditiously”. Justice Raveendran was part of the **R M Lodha** Committee appointed by the SC in 2015 to reform the BCCI.

Sports News

- **Ahmedabad and Lucknow** are the two new teams that will be part of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** from **2022**. Hence taking the total number of teams in the competition to ten. **RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG)** is the owner of the Lucknow team while CVC Capital Partners is the owner of the **Ahmedabad team**. RPSG group has won the bid for Lucknow at **Rs. 7090 crore**, while CVC Capitals a.k.a Irelia has won the bid for Ahmedabad at **Rs. 5625 crore**. The IPL's first season was played in **2008**. There have been fourteen seasons of the IPL tournament. The **15th** season will see 10 teams competing for the IPL title.
- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the **2021 United States Grand Prix** held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, United States. This is the 8th win for Verstappen in this season. The race was the 17th round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship. **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) stood second while **Sergio Perez** (Mexico-Red Bull) came third.
- Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP's **Fabio Quartararo** became the **"2021 MotoGP World Champion"**. Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) secured second and Joan Mir (Team Suzuki Ecstar), finished third. Fabio Quartararo is the sixth-youngest rider to clinch a premier class world title, aged **22 years, 187 days** on race day of the Emilia Romagna GP.
- **Ryan ten Doeschate**, the 41-year-old Cricket all-rounder from the Netherlands, announced retirement from **International Cricket after Netherland** failed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the **International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 World Cup**. During the qualifiers, Netherland lost to Namibia and failed to enter the Super 12 stage, which was his last international match.



Important Days

- Every year **24 October** is celebrated as United Nations Day since **1948**. It was on this day in **1945** that the Charter of the United Nations came into force. The year **2021** marks the **76th anniversary** of the United Nations and its founding Charter. The Charter was signed on **26 June 1945** by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.
- The **International Day of Diplomats** is celebrated on **24 October** every year. The day aims to commemorate the contributions made by diplomats in shaping the world since ancient times and in making our planet a better place. It also aims to bridge the gap in perception and reality of diplomats' lives among the general public.
- The United Nations' **World Development Information Day** is held on **October 24** every year. The day aims to draw the attention of world public opinion to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them for overall growth and development. The World Development Information Day was established by the UN General Assembly in **1972**, to coincide with the United Nations Day.
- **World Polio Day** is celebrated annually on **October 24**, to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio. The Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of **Jonas Salk**, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. 2021 theme for World Polio Day is **"Delivering on a Promise."**
- **Disarmament Week** is observed annually to promote awareness and understanding of the issues of disarmament in several countries. The week aims to reduce the use of weapons, specifically nuclear weapons, to bring peace in society. This year, the disarmament week will be starting on **October 24**. The week-long observance will continue till **October 30**. Disarmament Week seeks to promote awareness and a better understanding of disarmament issues and their cross-cutting importance.
- The **Indian Army** celebrates **October 27** every year as the **'Infantry Day'**. This year nation celebrates its **75th** Infantry Day on October 27, 2021. On this day that the **1st Battalion** of the Sikh Regiment landed at Srinagar airbase and displayed resoluteness and extraordinary courage and became 'The Wall' to thwart the evil designs of the Pakistan Army, who had invaded Kashmir with the help of tribal raiders in 1947.

- The **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage** is observed every year on **27 October**. The theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2021: **"Your Window to the World"**.
- The **Vigilance Awareness Week 2021** has been organised by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) from **26 October to 01 November 2021**. The annual event is celebrated during the week in which the birthday of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** falls, which is held on October 31. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2021: **'Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity'**.
- **International Animation Day** is observed every year on **October 28** to celebrate the art of animation and also recognise the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation. This year marks the **20th** International Animation Day. The day was created in 2002 by **International Animated Film Association (ASIFA)**, an International Animated Film Association, a member of UNESCO.
- **World Psoriasis Day** is observed every year on **29 October** by the **International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA)** to promote awareness, empowerment, and action for improving the quality of life for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. The theme for 2021 World Psoriasis Day is **"Uniting for action"**.
- **International Internet Day** is celebrated on **October 29** every year across the world to celebrate the usage of the internet for the first time. The day marks the sending of the first electronic message which was transferred from one computer to another in **1969**. At that time the Internet was known as **ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network)**.
- Every year world thrifty is observed on the **31st of October** across the globe. This day is celebrated to promote the importance of savings and how saving money is important in today's world.
- In India, the **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day** is observed every year on **October 31** since **2014**, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. This year marks the **146th** anniversary of the great leader who played an instrumental role in India's struggle for independence, and later during the integration of the country.

- The **United Nations General Assembly** has designated the **31st of October** as **World Cities Day**. The global theme of World Cities Day 2021 is **"Adapting cities for climate resilience"**, acknowledging that integrated climate resilience policies and action plans will greatly reduce climate-related risks for urban populations.

Obituaries

- Padma Shri **Dr Madhavan Krishnan Nair**, an eminent Oncologist and the founding director of the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), has passed away. He has served as a member of the expert group that prepared the National Cancer Control Plan of India.
- Hiroshima nuclear bomb attack survivor, **Sunao Tsuboi** has passed away. A leading Japanese campaigner against nuclear weapons who survived the world's first atomic bomb attack has died at the age of 96.
- Former South Korean President **Roh Tae-woo**, who took part in a military coup and later won the election that was the country's first move towards democracy before he was imprisoned for corruption, died. He was a key participant in the 1979 military coup that made his army friend and coup leader Chun Doo-hwan president.
- Eminent Gandhian and ambassador of peace in Chambal region, **Salem Nanjundaiah Subba Rao**, passed away in Sawai Man Singh Government Hospital in Jaipur. Rao plunged into the Quit India Movement when he was just 13 years old. The Government of India honoured him with Padmashri Award.

Miscellaneous News

- The Tamil-language drama film **Koozhangal (internationally translated as Pebbles)**, has been selected as India's official entry for the **94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022)**. The film has been directed by filmmaker **Vinothraj PS** and produced by **Vignesh Shivan and Nayanthara**. The 94th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place in Los Angeles, on March 27, 2022.
- The first IVF calf of **"Banni"** breed of buffaloes, found primarily in **Gujarat's Kutch region**, was born at a farmer's house in the state's **Gir Somnath district**. The process was carried out to enhance the number of genetically superior buffaloes to increase milk production. Banni buffalo is known for its resilience and higher milk-producing capacity in an arid environment.

- Former India captain and now **Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA)** president **Mohd Azharuddin** has unveiled what is certified by the Guinness Book of World Records to be the **biggest cricket bat**, designed by **Pernod Ricard India (P) Ltd**, on Tank Bund. The bat measures **56.10 feet**, weighs **9-tonnes** and is made of poplar wood. This was to convey best wishes to the Indian cricket team and bring back the **T-20 World Cup in Dubai**.
- The **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SPM)** in **Kolkata** has become the first Major Indian Port to get a **Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System**. The ROIP was inaugurated by Vinit Kumar, Chairman of SPM, on October 25, 2021. SPM, Kolkata has been constantly maintaining its pivotal position in Indian Major Ports for the past 152 years.
- State-owned **GAIL (India) Ltd** will build **India's largest green hydrogen-making plant** as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel. GAIL Chairman and Managing Director **Manoj Jain** said the company is looking at building a 10-megawatt (MW) electrolyzer capable of generating 4.5 tonnes of green hydrogen daily.
- **CBSE** launches **Veer Gatha project** in schools to raise awareness on **Gallantry Awards**. Schools affiliated to the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** have been asked to prepare projects and engage in activities based on the Gallantry Award winners.

Static Takeaways

- Election Commission of India Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sushil Chandra.
- World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies Founded: 1995.
- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: Jagdish Mukhi.
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari;
- Maharashtra Chief minister: Uddhav Thackeray.
- UP Capital: Lucknow;
- UP Governor: Anandiben Patel;
- UP Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath.
- Goa Capital: Panaji;
- Goa CM: Pramod Sawant;
- Goa Governor: S. Sreedharan Pillai.

- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat;
- Gujarat Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel.
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari;
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.
- South Korea President: Moon Jae-in;
- South Korea Capital: Seoul;
- South Korea Currency: South Korean won.
- China Capital: Beijing;
- China Currency: Renminbi;
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Uzbekistan Capital: Tashkent;
- Uzbekistan Currency: Uzbekistani som;
- Uzbekistan Prime Minister: Abdulla Aripov.
- France Capital: Paris;
- France Currency: Euro;
- France Prime Minister: Jean Castex.
- Canada Capital: Ottawa; Currency: Canadian dollar.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Founded: 2003;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: Let's make money simple.
- MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB): J Venkatramu;
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was incorporated as Payments Banking Company under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949;
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.
- SBI General Insurance Founded: 24 February 2009;
- SBI General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- SBI General Insurance MD & CEO: Prakash Chandra Kandpal.
- AU small finance bank Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan;
- AU small finance bank MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal;
- AU small finance bank Chairman: Raj Vikash Verma.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi;

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; • ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka. • Union Bank of India Founded: 1919; • Union Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; • Union Bank of India MD & CEO: Rajkiran Rai G; • Union Bank of India Tagline: Good People to Bank with. • HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai; • HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994; • HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan; • HDFC Bank Tagline: We understand your world. • Jammu & Kashmir(J&K) Bank Headquarters: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. • Director-General of Indian Coast Guard: Krishnaswamy Natarajan. • Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi. • United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. • Mr Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations. • UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France. • UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay. • UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of International Animated Film Association: Sayoko Kinoshita. • International Animated Film Association Founder: John Halas. • International Animated Film Association Founded: 1960, Annecy, France. • President of International Federation of Psoriasis Associations: Hoseah Waweru. • International Federation of Psoriasis Associations Founded: 1971. • International Federation of Psoriasis Associations Headquarters: Sweden. |
|---|---|

