

Weekly One Liners 27th December 2021 to 02nd of January 2022

PETA: Alia Bhatt India's 2021 Person of the Year

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has named Bollywood star **Alia Bhatt** its **2021 Person of the Year**. She is an animal lover and often shares pictures with her pets. This year, Alia Bhatt invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which is a vegan leather made from discarded temple flowers.

Her vegan kidswear line, Ed-a-Mamma, also won a 2021 PETA India fashion award for helping to nurture kids' love for animals and nature. Alia also starred in a pro-adoption PETA India campaign to help cats and dogs. She has used her position to call for stronger animal protection laws.

Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year Award:

- **Dr Shashi Tharoor**, for supporting Compassionate Citizen, PETA India's humane education programme for children, as well as other education on animal protection;
- Former Supreme Court Justice **KS Panicker Radhakrishnan**, for the landmark judgement against the use of bulls in performances;
- Cricketer **Virat Kohli**, for calling for the release of an abused elephant and stronger penalties for animal abusers;
- Comedian **Kapil Sharma**, for encouraging people to adopt dogs;
- Actors **John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, R Madhavan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Hema Malini, and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja**, for helping animals in various ways.

Good Governance Index 2021: Gujarat topped the ranking

Good Governance Index 2021 was launched by Union Minister **Amit Shah** on the occasion of the Good Governance Day on 25 December 2021. GGI 2021 was prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). The GGI 2021 framework covered 10 sectors and 58 indicators. The aim of the Good Governance Index is to create a tool that can be used uniformly across the states for assessing the impact of various interventions that are taken up by Central and State Governments.

10 Governance Sectors are:

- Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- Commerce & Industries
- Human Resource and Development
- Public Health
- Public Infrastructure and Utilities
- Economic Governance
- Social Welfare & Development
- Judicial & Public Security
- Environment
- Citizen-Centric Governance

Top ranking states in sectors as well as composite ranks:

Sectors	Group A	Group B	NE & Hill States	UTs
Agriculture and Allied Sectors	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Mizoram	D & N Haveli
Commerce & Industries	Telangana	Uttar Pradesh	J&K	Daman & Diu
Human Resource and Development	Punjab	Odisha	Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh
Public Health	Kerala	West Bengal	Mizoram	A & N Island
Public Infrastructure and Utilities	Goa	Bihar	Himachal Pradesh	A & N Island
Economic Governance	Gujarat	Odisha	Tripura	Delhi
Social Welfare & Development	Telangana	Chhattisgarh	Sikkim	D & N Haveli
Judicial & Public Security	Tamil Nadu	Rajasthan	Nagaland	Chandigarh
Environment	Kerala	Rajasthan	Manipur	Daman & Diu
Citizen-Centric Governance	Haryana	Rajasthan	Uttarakhand	Delhi
Composite	Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	Delhi

What is the Good Governance Index?

Good Governance Index is an implementable and comprehensive framework that assesses the state of Governance across the Indian States and Union Territories enabling ranking of States and districts.



CEBR: India to become 3rd largest economy in 2031

The **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)** from the United Kingdom has predicted that the **Indian economy** will become the **world's third-largest by the year 2031**. In the year 2022, India is set to regain its sixth position in World Economic League Table (WELT) from France, as per CEBR.

In Global Scenario:

The annual league table also predicted that China will overtake the US to be the largest economy in 2030 (two years later than the forecast in 2021). The world economy is set to surpass \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022.

The World Economic League Table 2022 shows the economic forecasts for 191 countries to 2036:

Ranking out of 191 countries	2021	2022	2026	2031	2036
India	7	6	5	3	3
United States	1	1	1	2	2
China	2	2	2	1	1
Japan	3	3	3	4	5
Germany	4	4	4	5	4
UK	5	5	6	6	6
France	6	7	7	7	7

NITI Aayog released 4th State Health Index

NITI Aayog has released the **fourth edition** of the **State Health Index for 2019-20** that provides incremental performance in health outcomes and status. The index is developed by: NITI Aayog, World Bank, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The report, titled **"Healthy States, Progressive India"**, ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status. The index is being compiled and published since 2017. The reports aim to nudge states/UTs towards building robust health systems and improving service delivery.

To ensure comparison among similar entities, the ranking is categorised as 'Larger States', 'Smaller States' and 'Union Territories':

- Among the **'Larger States'**, in terms of annual incremental performance, **Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana** are the top three ranking states.
- Among **'Smaller States'**, **Mizoram and Meghalaya** registered the maximum annual incremental progress.
- Among **UTs**, **Delhi, followed by Jammu and Kashmir**, showed the best incremental performance.
- On overall ranking based on the composite index score in 2019-20, the top-ranking states were **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** among the 'Larger States', **Mizoram and Tripura** among the 'Smaller States', and **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Chandigarh** among the UTs.

National Affairs

- **Docprime tech** has launched India's first health locker integrated with **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**. ABDM was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country. ABDM integrated Health Locker will provide users a digital and self-consented health data management system without any charges. It will store and manage health records electronically.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and laid the foundation of the hydropower projects worth **Rs 11000 crore in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh**. He inaugurated the **Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project**, a 111 MW Project which has been built at a cost of around Rs 2,080 crore.
- Under the **National Blockchain Project**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched blockchain-based digital degrees at the **54th Convocation Ceremony of IIT Kanpur**. Later Prime Minister also inaugurated the completed section of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project and the Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project. These digital degrees can be verified globally and are unforgeable.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the 356 Km long **Bina Refinery (Madhya Pradesh)- POL Terminal at Panki (Kanpur, UP) Multiproduct pipeline project** (capacity of 45 million metric tonnes per annum) with an outlay of Rs 1524 crore (Rs. 1227 crores in UP and Rs. 297 crores in MP).
- **Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad**, has named a new road **Narendra Modi Marg**. The Governor viewed the road under Kabi Lungchok from Kyongsala, 4th mile. This is an alternative to **Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg**.

States in the News

- **Tamil Nadu government** has launched the Chief Minister (CM) Dashboard monitoring system, **"CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360"** in Chennai. It will enable CM to track all welfare schemes, including the status of their implementation, fund allocation, and the number of beneficiaries along with updates on the storage of water in dams and rainfall patterns.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the **97th** edition of the **World Sangeet Tansen festival** started in Gwalior. A five-day World Sangeet Tansen festival starts from **December 25 to December 30** in the city. The stage of the program has been constructed on the theme of the Siddhanath temple situated in Omkareshwar.
- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** has launched the **'Meendum Manjappai' scheme** to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and discourage the use of plastic bags. This awareness campaign on using **'yellow' cloth bag or 'manjapai'** as it is called in Tamil, is aimed at encouraging the people to return to the use of this eco-friendly bag and discard the plastic bags.

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has laid the foundation stone of the **BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit** in **Lucknow**. He also laid the foundation of **DRDO Defence Technology and Test Centre in Lucknow**. BrahMos Project will help in creating 5,500 fresh job opportunities.
- The **Government of India** has decided to constitute a 'five-member' committee to look into the demand for withdrawal of **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act "AFSPA"** in **Nagaland**. The committee headed by **Vivek Joshi**, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, would submit its recommendations within 45 days. Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry Piyush Goyal will be its Member-Secretary. The Chief Secretary and DGP of Nagaland and the DGP of Assam Rifles will be the other members of the committee.
- The Chief Minister of Haryana, **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched the '**Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam portal**' and announced to set up the Atal Park & Smriti Kendra in Gurugram, Haryana. The CM also honoured 78 officers and employees for delivering the best services in various fields. He also launched a magazine '**Vyavastha Parivartan Se Susashan**' and the 2022 official calendar.
- Karnataka government** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) & State Bank of India (SBI)** to enable and implement the '**e-RUPI**' payment solution to students under its scholarship programme. For redeeming e-RUPI, the identified institutes will scan the QR code or SMS string displayed by the students using an application. The e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless payment solution provided by NPCI and It will be used to ensure leak-proof delivery transactions.

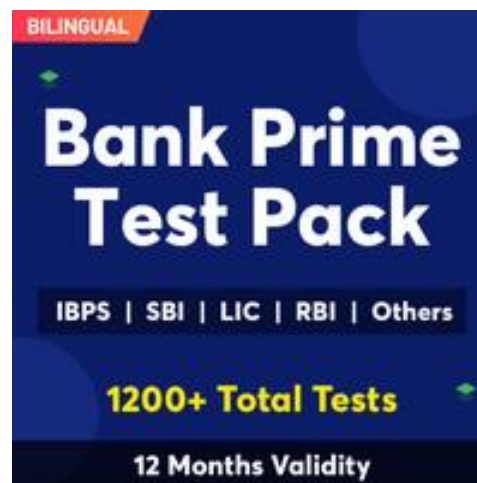
International Affairs

- Japan** has launched **Inmarsat-6 F1**, a communication satellite, through a **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) H-IIA204 rocket** from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center that will enter geostationary orbit, about 22,240 miles (35,790 kilometres) above the earth.
- Somalian Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble** has been suspended. President **Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo** has suspended the Prime Minister, who is facing allegations of involvement in the theft of land. Mohamed Roble accused the President of trying to stage a coup and said, he would continue in office.
- China** has launched a new satellite with a camera capable of taking photos of the ground with a resolution of five meters, according to the **National Space Administration of China (CNSA)**. The satellite, called "**Ziyuan-1 02E**" or "**Five Meter 02 Optical Satellite**".
- Japan** has introduced a minibus lookalike world's first **dual-mode vehicle (DMV)** in its town of Kaiyo. The vehicle can run on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels, which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks. The DMV can carry up to 21 passengers and runs at a speed of **60km/h on rail tracks** and can go as fast as around **100km/h on public roads**.

- Egypt** added as the fourth new member of **BRICS New Development Bank**. **Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay** joined BRICS New Development Bank in September 2021. Membership expansion enables New Development Bank to position itself as a premier development institution for emerging economies.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Indipaisa** has signed a partnership agreement with **NSDL Payments Bank** to launch Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions targeting India's 63 million **Small & Mid-sized Enterprise (SME) sector**. To empower SME owners & operators to provide facilities and services that help them grow businesses, comply with government tax laws and build a sustainable future.
- HDFC Bank** has signed an MoU with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to offer banking services to over 4.7 crore customers of IPPB in **semi-urban and rural areas**. Under the MoU, out of 4.7 crores, customers around 90 per cent reside in rural areas. The HDFC bank aims to boost its financial inclusion drive by leveraging IPPB's network of 650 branches and over 136,000 banking access points.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Bengal government to develop its **MSME ecosystem**. SIDBI is the country's principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).
- Western Union**, a global leader in cross-border, cross-currency money movement & payments, & **NPCI International Payments Ltd**, the International arm of **National Payment Corporation of India**, have signed a MoU to enable real-time bank account payouts in India. It will help the customers in India to receive international money transfers in real time into their bank accounts.



Books and Authors

- Vice-President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released the book titled “**The Turnover Wizard – Saviour Of Thousands**”, an autobiography of Arup Roy Choudhury, the former Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Limited and NBCC (India) Limited. The book consolidates Arup Roy Choudhury’s learnings from life and brings out the management lesson from his life. The book is also endorsed by **E Sreedharan**, The Metro Man of India.
- A new book by former Indian Army Chief of Staff Gen. **Nirmal Chander Vajpayee (ret)** claims to offer a “full picture” of the conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir and the way forward. The book published by HarperCollins India, the book of General Vaj, The riddle of “**Kashmir: the quest for peace in a troubled land**”.
- **Sanju Verma**, an economist and the BJP National Spokesperson, has authored a new book titled “**The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0**”. The book features the various achievement in the last 2 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 2nd term as PM of India. The foreword of the book is written by Padma Shri Mohandas Pai and the Afterword is written by ace journalist, Anand Narasimhan, Managing Editor at CNN News 18.
- Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the book titled ‘**Dr V L Dutt: Glimpses of a Pioneer’s Life Journey**’ authored by **Dr V L Indira Dutt**, Chairperson and Managing Director of KCP Group, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The book is based on the life of Late Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt (V.L. Dutt), the former Chairman of KCP Group.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Paytm Payments Bank** has partnered with **MoneyGram**, a peer-to-peer remittance company to enable international fund transfer directly to **Paytm Wallet**. Under the Partnership, MoneyGram users abroad can now transfer money to any full Know Your Customer (KYC)-compliant Paytm wallet. MoneyGram transactions in India received digitally stands at nearly 50 per cent of all transactions received in the country. This is MoneyGram’s first mobile wallet partnership in India.
- **BOB Financial Solutions Ltd. (BFSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and the **Indian Navy** have introduced a co-branded credit card for the personnel of the **Indian Navy**. The card will be equipped with contactless features and offered on the **RuPay platform**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the **card-on-file (CoF) tokenization deadline** by 6 months i.e., to **June 30, 2022**. Earlier the deadline was fixed till **December 31, 2021**. In March 2020, RBI had issued guidelines for the regulation of payment aggregators and payment gateways, prohibiting payment aggregators and merchants to store customer card credentials within their database or server from 30 June 2021.

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalties on two payment system operators, **One Mobikwik Systems Private Limited** and **Spice Money Limited**, for violation of norms. Both the payment companies have been slapped with a fine of **Rs 1 crore**, as per the order issued by the central bank. In a statement, the RBI said it has imposed the penalty on the two payment system operators for “committing offences of the nature referred to in **Section 26 (6) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSSAct)**.”
- **HDFC Life** signed a **bancassurance (Bank-Insurance)** agreement with **South Indian Bank** to enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life’s life insurance products and services to the customers of South Indian Bank. This bancassurance arrangement will enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life’s wide range of life insurance products which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness. This bancassurance partnership will further strengthen HDFC Life’s business across India.
- **IndusInd Bank** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation** to offer real-time cross-border remittances to India using UPI IDs, for its **Money Transfer Operator (MTO)** partners. It is the first Indian bank to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances. Under this arrangement, the MTOs will be using the IndusInd Bank channel to connect with NPCI’s UPI payment systems for validation and cross-border payment settlement into beneficiary accounts.
- **IndusInd Bank** has announced the launch of ‘**green fixed deposits**’, whereby the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the **UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. A green deposit is a fixed-term deposit for investors looking to invest their surplus cash reserves in environmentally friendly projects. These deposits will be offered to both retail & corporate customers.
- **Axis Bank** has become the **second-largest merchant-acquiring bank** in the country, leapfrogging two spaces during 2021 by installing over two lakh card-swipe machines during the year. This is part of the bank’s ‘**Axis One**’ strategy where it approaches the customers by offering its entire gamut of products instead of a standalone service.
- **State Bank of India** will acquire up to **9.95 per cent** stake in **India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) Ltd** subject to a maximum investment of **Rs 34.03 crore**. The Clearing Corporation is a GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat) based Market Infrastructure Institution (MII). The Corporation is the first international clearing corporation to be set up at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**. The Clearing Corporation acts as a central counterparty providing clearing & settlement and risk management services to India International Exchange (IFSC) Ltd.

- **ICRA Credit rating agency** has expected India's real gross domestic product (GDP) will grow with **9% rate** in fiscal years **2022 and 2023**. The Indian economy has grown at **8.4 percent** in the second quarter of the current fiscal year.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)** has announced fresh appointments to its board of directors. **Kamlesh Gandhi**, CMD of MAS Financial Services has been appointed as Co-Chairman, FIDC in addition to **Umesh Revankar**, CEO and MD of Shriram Transport Finance Group. **Sanjay Chamria** has resigned as the Co-Chairman and Director, FIDC.
- **Mohammed Ben Sulayem** of the **United Arab Emirates** has been elected successor to **Jean Todt** as the first non-European president of motorsport's world governing body, the **International Automobile Federation (FIA)**.
- The RBL Bank board has appointed **Rajeev Ahuja**, who's currently working as the Executive Director at the bank, as interim **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer** of the bank with immediate effect, subject to the regulatory and other approvals. The board of directors at its meeting has accepted the request of **Vishwaviir Ahuja**, Managing Director and CEO of the bank, to proceed on leave with immediate effect.
- **India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd.** has announced that **Eishin Chihana** has taken charge of the Group's India operations as its new **Chairman**. He has replaced **Motofumi Shitara**. Chihana has been associated with Yamaha Motor Company and its group companies across the globe since **1991**.
- Indian origin, **Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen** has been appointed to **South Africa's** highest judicial bench, the **Constitutional Court**. The appointment of 64-year-old **Kollapen & Rammaka Steven Mathopo** as the latest additions to the Constitutional Court after a lengthy process of public interviews. Both will take office from January 1, 2022.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Atul Kumar Goel**, MD & CEO of UCO Bank, as **MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB)** with effect from February 1 next year. Goel will serve as PNB chief until **December 31, 2024**, which is his attaining the superannuation age. Goel will replace **Mallikarjuna Rao**, incumbent MD & CEO of PNB. Rao was given a three-month extension that will end on January 31, 2022. Meanwhile, the ACC has appointed **Soma Sankara Prasad**, currently Deputy Managing Director at State Bank of India, as **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer in UCO Bank**.
- Govt of India has approved the appointment of **Praveen Kumar**, IAS, Former Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to the post of **Director General & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**. The proposal for setting up IICA was approved by Planning Commission in the year 2007. It was established in 2008 at Manesar, Haryana.
- **Radhika Jha** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** in state-run **Energy Efficiency Services (EESL)**. EESL is a joint venture between NTPC, Power Grid, Power Finance Corp and REC, working to promote energy efficiency in the country.
- Diplomat **Vikram Misri** has been appointed as **deputy national security adviser** in the national security council secretariat. The appointment of Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, came after he served as the Indian ambassador to China for nearly three years.
- Indian Forest Service officer, **Chandra Prakash Goyal** has been appointed as the **Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS)**, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. Goyal, a 1986 batch IFS officer was previously the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest under Uttar Pradesh Department of Forest.
- Bollywood actors **Vijay Raaz & Varun Sharma** have been named as brand ambassadors for **EaseMyTrip.com** (Easy Trip Planners Ltd), an online travel company based in India. EaseMyTrip founded by **Nishant Pitti and Rikant Pitti in 2008** was started as the Business-to-Business (B2B) portal and entered into the business-to-consumer (B2C) segment in 2011.
- **Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan** has been reappointed as the **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (ESFBL)** for three years (from July 23, 2022, to July 22, 2025), by the Board of Directors (BoD). He is currently serving as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- ITBP director general **Sanjay Arora** will hold the additional charge of another border guarding force **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** as the latter's chief **Kumar Rajesh Chandra** is set to retire on December 31.
- Senior diplomat **Anupam Ray** has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the **UN Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva. Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi. Ray will succeed Pankaj Sharma. Sharma, a 1991-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Mexico.



Defence News

- **Indian Army** has launched a contemporary messaging application named **'ASIGMA' (Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application)**. It is a new generation web-based application developed entirely in-house by a team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the Army. It works as an alternative to **Army Wide Area Network (AWAN)** messaging application which has been in service for the past 15 years.
- **INS Khukri** (Pennant number 49), the first indigenously built Missile Corvette, was decommissioned after **32 years of service** at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The warship was built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MSD) and commissioned on 23rd August 1989 and had been part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted a flight test of indigenously developed **High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'Abhyas'** from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off Odisha coast. During its trial, a high subsonic speed trajectory at a very low altitude with high endurance was demonstrated. It is Developed by **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)**, DRDO laboratory along with other laboratories.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** selected **Paras Defence and Space Technologies** for handing over the technology of **border surveillance systems** as developed by Instruments Research & Development Establishment and DRDO.
- The **Indian Army** has established the **Quantum Lab at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE)**, in Military Headquarters Of War (Mhow), **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. Indian Army's research in the field of Quantum Technology will help in leapfrogging into next-generation communication and transforming the current system of cryptography in Indian Armed Forces to Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC).

Awards and Recognitions

- **Vayana Network**, one of India's largest trade finance platforms, and **Federal Bank**, a leading Private Sector Bank have been awarded the **'Most Effective Bank-Fintech Partnership: Agile and Adaptable'** at the **IBSi-Global Fintech Innovation Awards 2021**.
- **Anukruti Upadhyay** has won the **Sushila Devi Award 2021** for the Best Book of Fiction for her novel, **Kintsugi**, which was published by the Fourth Estate imprint. The Ratanlal Foundation and the organizing Committee of the Bhopal Literature and Art Festival announced the winner, for this notable award for fiction written by a woman author and published in 2020. This prize has been instituted by the Shri Ratanlal Foundation.

- **HDFC Bank** has been named under **'Most Innovative Best Practice'** at the coveted Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) **Digital Transformation Award 2021 or CII DX Award 2021**. It will be recognized for the HDFC's efforts in world-class financial inclusion in Village Level Executive (VLE) centres along with the Government of India's Common Service Centres (CSC).
- **Viral Sudhirbhai Desai**, an industrialist from Surat, who is popularly known as the Greenman or green man of Gujarat has been honoured with the **Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award 2021**. Among the 28 personalities from 11 countries (which includes the United Kingdom(UK), the United States(US), New Zealand, France, and Malaysia,) who were honoured with this award, Viral Desai was the only Indian to win the honour for climate change.
- The **All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP)** on poultry breeding, Mannuthy, under the **Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU)**, bagged the national breed conservation award for 2021. The centre received the prestigious award from ICAR – The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) for the conservation and research activities on the Tellicherry breed, the only registered native chicken breed from the State.

Summit and Conference

- **India** will chair the **Counter-Terrorism Committee of UNSC in January 2022 after 10 years**. The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by **Security Council resolution 1373** adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US.

Ranks and Reports

- **Telangana** has secured 1st place among the 34 states and Union Territories that implement the **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)**. **Tamil Nadu and Gujarat** have secured 2nd and 3rd place on the list respectively. In the Ranking of the Cluster, among the 295 clusters, the **Ryakal cluster of Sangareddy and the Jukkal cluster of Kamareddy** in Telangana has secured the 1st and 2nd position respectively. The **Aibawk cluster of Aizawl** in Mizoram has secured the 3rd position.
- **IIT Madras** has bagged the first position in the **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021**, for the third consecutive year, under the category of **CFTIs/ Central Universities/ Institute of National Importance (Technical)**. The third edition of the ARIIA ranking was dominated by the IITs in the centrally funded institution category. Seven IITs are on the top-10 list. IIT-Madras is followed by IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IIT Roorkee. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru bagged the sixth position in the category.

Sports News

- Indian skier **Aanchal Thakur** has bagged a bronze medal at the **International Ski Federation (FIS)** Alpine Skiing Competition in **Montenegro**. Croatia's Dora Ljubic (1:50.61) won the gold medal while Cyprus skier Georgia Epiphaniou (1:52.71) clinched silver.
- Senior Indian off-spinner, **Harbhajan Singh** has announced retirement from all forms of **cricket**. He was the 1st Indian Cricketer to take Hat-trick wickets in Test Cricket. He took 417 wickets in 103 Tests and is the 4th highest wicket-taker for India in Test cricket.
- **Pankaj Advani** has defended his **National Billiards Title** by winning his 11th tournament, after defeating his PSPB teammate **Dhruv Sitwala** in a 5-2 game final that was held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** beat **Tamil Nadu** by 11 runs (VJD Method) in the final to win their maiden **Vijay Hazare Trophy title**, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur. Batting first, Tamil Nadu posted a challenging total of 314 in 49.4 overs. In reply, Himachal were 299 for 4 in 47.3 overs when bad light stopped play and the chasing side were declared winners via the VJD (V Jayadevan rule) method.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has crowned the winners of the **11th Junior National Men's Hockey Championship** following a 3-1 victory over **Chandigarh** in the final at Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu. Tournament top scorer **Sharda Nand Tiwari** opened the scoring for Uttar Pradesh.
- **Nitesh Kumar** won doubled gold at the **4th Para-Badminton National Championship**, which concluded in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. Haryana's Nitesh along with his partner **Tarun Dhillon** defeated World No. 1 Paralympic Games gold medallist **Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar** in straight sets 21-19, 21-11 in the Men's doubles finals to win the gold.
- **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** has restored the accreditation of the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)** in accordance with the **International Standard for Laboratories (ISL)**, which had been suspended since **August 2019**.
- **Mohammed Shami** became just the **11th Indian bowler** to claim **200 wickets** in Test cricket in just 55 test matches. During this process, he became the only 5th Indian pacer to bag 200 wickets in the purest format of the game. Also, Shami is the third fastest Indian pacer to reach this milestone as Kapil Dev and Javagal Srinath bagged 200 Test wickets in 50 and 54 Tests respectively.
- **Jasprit Bumrah** has achieved the milestone of picking **100 wickets** away from home in **22 Test matches**. Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions. The 28-year-old now has 105 wickets, out of which 101 have come away from home. Bumrah, who made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018, has played 25 Tests, 23 of which have come on the road.

- Veteran New Zealand batter, **Ross Taylor** has announced retirement from international cricket at the end of the ongoing domestic season.
- **South Africa's** wicketkeeper-batter **Quinton de Kock** has announced his **retirement from Test cricket** with immediate effect late. His announcement came just hours after South Africa's 113-run defeat to India in the first Test of the three-match series.

Important Days

- The United Nations and World Health Organization marked **December 27** as the **International day for Epidemic Preparedness**. Battered by the Covid-19 pandemic, humans have learned about epidemic preparedness the hard way.

Obituaries

- Legendary Malayalam filmmaker **KS Sethumadhavan** has passed away at the age of 90 years. He directed over 60 movies in five languages including Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi during his career.
- **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and veteran of South Africa's struggle against white minority rule, has died aged 90. He was awarded **Nobel Peace Prize in 1984** for his non-violent opposition to apartheid.
- Former England captain, **Ray Illingworth** has passed away. He played 61 Tests for England between 1958 and 1973 and captained the country 31 times, winning 12 matches and an Ashes series in Australia in 1970.
- **Mark Taylor**, artist and toy designer for the **He-Man and the Masters of the Universe** franchise as well as the **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, passed away. Taylor began his career with Mattel in 1976 as a packaging designer.
- Veteran Greek politician **Karolos Papoulias**, who served as president at the height of the economic crisis of the 2010s, died. Papoulias, a longtime socialist lawmaker and minister, was close to Andreas Papandreu, the founder of the **Socialist PASOK party**. He served two terms between 2005 and 2015.



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- **E.O. Wilson**, the former **Harvard University biologist and Pulitzer Prize winner** whose study of ants and human behaviour made him one of the world's most influential scientists and prompted his calls for action to protect millions of species on the planet, has passed away. He was 92. To protect Earth earned him the nickname **"Darwin's natural heir"**.
- Seven-time Rajya Sabha MP from the **Janata Dal (United) & industrialist, Mahendra Prasad** passed away. He was a seven-term Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and was also elected to the Lok Sabha once.

Miscellaneous News

- **Russia** has launched its first in the series **Project 22220 versatile** nuclear-powered icebreaker known as **'Sibir'**. This icebreaker will support the growing fleet of icebreakers to keep the Northern Sea Route open for year-round shipping through the **Arctic** and enable a wider presence of **India in the arctic region**.
- **Yogi Adityanath**, Chief Minister of **Uttar Pradesh** has announced that the government of UP has renamed the **Jhansi Railway Station**, in Jhansi, UP as **"Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station"** after **Rani Laxmibai**.
- **China** has announced a **five-year roadmap** to achieve its goal of becoming a global robotics innovation hub by the year **2025**. **China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology** revealed operating income from the country's robotics industry is expected to grow by around 20% per year between **2021 and 2025**. From 2016 to 2020, the sector expanded at an average growth rate of 15%. Last year, operating income surpassed 100 billion yuan (\$15.69 billion) for the first time.

Static Takeaways

- Himachal Pradesh Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);
- Himachal Pradesh Governor: Rajendra Arlekar;
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur.
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Chief minister: M. K. Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel;
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow;
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath;
- Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: Jagdish Mukhi.
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;

- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka: Basavaraj S Bommai;
- Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot;
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru.
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.
- Somalia Capital: Mogadishu;
- Somalia Currency: Somali shilling.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese Yen;
- Japan PM: Fumio Kishida.
- New Development Bank Headquarter: Shanghai, China;
- New Development Bank President: Marcos Prado Troyjo;
- New Development Bank Founder: BRICS;
- New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.
- NSDL Payments Bank Founded: 1996;
- NSDL Payments Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- NSDL Payments Bank MD & CEO: Abhijit Kamalapurkar.
- India Post Payments Bank Founded: 2018;
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi;
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) MD & CEO: J Venkatramu;
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Tag line: Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwaar.
- Paytm Payments Bank Founded: 2015;
- Paytm Payments Bank Headquarters: Noida, UP;
- Paytm Payments Bank Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.
- South Indian Bank Founded: 29 January 1929;
- South Indian Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala;
- South Indian Bank MD & CEO: Murali Ramakrishnan.
- State Bank of India Founded: 1 July 1955;
- State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- State Bank of India Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- Finance Industry Development Council was formed in 2004;
- Finance Industry Development Council is Headquartered in Mumbai.
- International Automobile Federation Headquarters location: Paris, France;
- International Automobile Federation Founded: 20 June 1904.
- RBL Bank Founded: 1943;
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- RBL Bank CEO & MD: Vishwavir Ahuja;

- RBL Bank Tagline: Apno Ka Bank.
- Energy Efficiency Services Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Energy Efficiency Services Founded: 2009;
- Energy Efficiency Services Chairmen: Arun Kumar Mishra.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Founded: 2016;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Part-Time Chairman: Arun Ramanathan;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Tagline: It's Fun Banking.
- Chief of the Army Staff: Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral R Hari Kumar;
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala;
- Federal Bank MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan;
- Federal Bank Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner.
- Center for Economic and Business Report (CEBR) Chairman: Martin Piers;
- Center for Economic and Business Report Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- World Anti-Doping Agency Founder: Dick Pound;
- World Anti-Doping Agency Founded: 10 November 1999;
- World Anti-Doping Agency Headquarters: Montreal, Canada;
- World Anti-Doping Agency President: Craig Reedie.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Rouble.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.

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