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**MONTHLY UPDATES ON  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WILEY**

## NATIONAL

- © Seven Indian companies have found a place in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list. The Fortune Global 500 is an annual ranking of the top 500 enterprises globally, as measured by business revenues. **Mukesh Ambani**-led Reliance Industries Ltd is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list in terms of revenue, with revenues of nearly \$63 billion, placed at 155th spot globally. Globally, Walmart has topped the list in terms of revenue for the eighth consecutive year and the 16th time since 1995. China has dominated this year's list for the highest number of companies featuring in the list at 143.

Indian Companies in the list:

- Reliance Industries (Rank: 155)
  - State Bank of India (Rank: 205)
  - Indian Oil (Rank: 212)
  - Oil & Natural Gas (Rank: 243)
  - Rajesh Exports (Rank: 348)
  - Tata Motors (Rank: 357)
  - Bharat Petroleum (Rank: 394)
- © The Athletics Federation of India has decided that **Javelin Throw day** will be on 7th August every year in honour of Olympic gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra**. The 23-year-old Neeraj is India's second individual Olympic gold medalist after Abhinav Bindra. Neeraj bagged the gold medal in men's javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on August 7, 2021.

- © Four more wetlands from India have been added to the list of Ramsar sites, giving it the status of **Wetland of International Importance**. With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India have reached 46, covering a surface area of 1,083,322 hectares. The sites have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Two of these sites are in Haryana, while the other two are in Gujarat. These sites are:

- Thol, Gujarat
- Wadhvana, Gujarat
- Sultanpur, Haryana
- Bhindawas, Haryana

- © Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles that is, **Bharat series (BH-series)**. The

vehicles bearing the BH-series mark will not have to require the assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to another. Earlier, under section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, if a person moves from one state to another, a person is allowed to keep the vehicle for not more than 12 months in any state other than the state where the vehicle is registered, but a new registration with the new state- registering authority has to be made within the stipulated time of 12 months.

This facility is available on a voluntary basis to Defense personnel, employees of Central Government/ State Government/ Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings and private sector companies/organizations, which have their offices in four or more States/Union territories.

- © Nine new judges, including three women, have been administered the oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India (CJI) **NV Ramana**. The strength of the Supreme Court would go up to 33, including the CJI, out of the sanctioned strength of 34, after the swearing-in of the nine new judges.



Three out of these nine new judges (Justice Vikram Nath and Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice PS Narasimha) are in line to become the chief justice of India.

This is the first time that nine judges were sworn in together in the history of the top court. Traditionally, new judges take the oath of office in the CJI's courtroom, but due to that Covid pandemic, the swearing-in ceremony would be held in the auditorium of the Supreme Court's additional building complex.

- © Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will virtually preside over an open debate at United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on August 9, 2021. Debate will be held on the issue of

maritime security at UNSC. India is holding presidency of UNSC for August and Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to chair an open debate at UNSC. After getting elected to UNSC, India highlighted its goal of promoting responsible and inclusive solutions to international peace and security. India would also pitch for a reformed multilateral system.

- ⊙ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced that the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** has been renamed as **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**. Khel Ratna award is the highest sporting honour in India. This move of renaming award after sportsman was welcomed on social media.

## ECONOMY

- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its bi-monthly monetary policy. This is the seventh time in a row that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has maintained the status quo. RBI had last revised its policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. The meeting was held between August 4 and 6. The remaining will take place in October (6 to 8); December (6 to 8) and February (7 to 9). 2022).
- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India has introduced the **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)**, which is a measure of the extent of financial inclusion in India. FI Index incorporates the inclusion details of banking, investments, insurance, postal and pension sector in India. This was among the announcements made in the first bimonthly monetary policy in April this year.
 

Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index):

  - The value of FI-Index will range between 0 to 100. Where 0 denotes complete financial exclusion while 100 denotes full financial inclusion.
  - Parameters of FI-Index: The FI-Index comprises of three parameters, namely- Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators. In total there are 97 indicators.
  - The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2021 is 53.9 while for the period ending
- ⊙ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has unveiled the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22. The major theme for EASE 4.0 is 'Technology-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking'. EASE stands for Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE). EASE 4.0 aims to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation and deeply embed digital and data into PSBs' ways of working. It sets the agenda and roadmap to transform all PSBs into digital attacker banks working hand-in-hand with key constituents of the financial services ecosystem to offer industry-best customer experience.
- ⊙ Fintech services provider, **PayU**, is set to acquire the Indian digital payments provider, **BillDesk** for \$4.7 billion. This will be one among the largest deals in Indian fintech sector. This announcement was made by the global consumer internet group and one among the largest technology investors worldwide, Prosus NV on August 31, 2021. The proposed acquisition will see PayU that operates in more than 20 high-growth markets. It also became one of the leading online payment providers by total payment volume, globally.
- ⊙ Government of Cuba announced to recognize and regulate cryptocurrencies for payment in the Island nation. This decision was taken following the popularity of cryptocurrencies increased among a technologically savvy group in Cuba as it became harder to use dollars. As per officials, Central Bank will set rules for such currencies. It will also determine how to license the providers of related services in Cuba.
- ⊙ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a mobile app called **Ananda mobile app** for its agents and intermediaries in order to onboard the prospective customers. ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application. It is the paperless solution for new business processes. The app comprises of all distinctive features of the digital app. App could be developed as a result of high-level usage of ANANDA module.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ③ The ISRO-NASA joint mission **NISER (NASAISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** satellite, aimed at making global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging, is proposed to be launched in early 2023. It is a dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission with the capability of full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation to observe minor changes in land, vegetation and cryosphere.
- ③ Union AYUSH Ministry launched a Y-Break App from Vigyan Bhawan on August 29, 2021. It was launched by Union AYUSH minister, **Sarbananda Sonowal**. On the occasion, several bouquets of activities and campaigns was launched by Ministry of Ayush to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Apart from Y-Break App, a year-long campaigns like cultivation of medicinal plants in farmland, distribution of medicinal plants to households and sensitisation of School & College going students on Ayush systems were launched.
- ③ The **Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI)** gave nod for Phase-2 and Phase-3 trials of India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine. First mRNA-based covid-19 vaccine, called HGCO19, is being developed by a Pune-based biotechnology company, Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. The company submitted its interim clinical data for Phase I study to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to get the further approval.

## SPORTS

- ③ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced that **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** will be renamed as **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**. The Prime Minister said the move was based on the numerous requests he received from across the nation. Dhyan Chand, whose birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day, won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey.
- ③ The **Tokyo Olympics 2020** came to an end on August 08, 2021. The international multi-sport event was held from July 23 to August 08, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. This was for the fourth time that

Japan hosted the Olympic Games, after previously hosting the Tokyo 1964 (Summer), Sapporo 1972 (Winter), and Nagano 1998 (Winter) games and Tokyo is the first Asian city to hold the Summer Games twice. The United States has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals, followed by China (88 medals), Japan (58 medals), Great Britain (65 medals) and Team ROC (71 medals). India finished the Games with its best-ever Olympic medal tally of 7 in Tokyo Games 2020, surpassing the previous best record of 6 medals at the 2012 London Olympics.

The Indian medal winners list is given below.

Medal	Category	Winner
Gold	Men's Javelin Throw	Neeraj Chopra
Silver	Women's 49kg Weightlifting	Mirabai Chanu
Silver	Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling	Ravi Dahiya
Bronze	Women's Welterweight Boxing	Lovlina Borgohain
Bronze	Women's Singles Badminton	PV Sindhu
Bronze	Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling	Bajrang Punia
Bronze	Men's Hockey	India men's hockey team

## PERSONS IN NEWS

- ③ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Shri Mansukh Mandaviya**, took charge as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board on August 26, 2021. He will hold the responsibility with immediate effect and hold the position until 2024.



He will now lead the efforts of Stop TB Partnership Secretariat, partners, and TB community in order to reach towards reaching United Nations TB

targets by 2022. Thus, it is a milestone moment in the effort of ending TB by 2030.

- © Indian government approved the appointment of **Dr. Dhriti Banerjee** as new director of ZSI. She is a prolific scientist and had been conducting research in zoogeography, taxonomy, morphology and molecular systematics.



She will take charge of Zoological Survey of India in a week. She has worked as the co-ordinator of ZSI's Digital Sequence Information Project, since 2012.

- © Online nominations or recommendations for **Padma Awards** comprising of Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri has started. Padma awards will be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2022. Nominations or recommendations for Padma Awards will be received online only on Padma Award portal. Recommendations will be considered by Government in line with its commitment of transforming Padma Awards into 'People's Padma'. Citizens are requested to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements deserve to be recognized. Talents are to be recommended amongst women, SC/STs, divyang persons and those providing selfless service to society.
- © Chairman of 15th Finance Commission, **NK Singh**, has been elected as the new president of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society. He succeeded former Prime Minister **Dr Manmohan Singh** who was the President of IEG since 1992.



His name was recommended by Dr Manmohan Singh for the consideration of the IEG's general assembly. Dr Manmohan Singh stepped down from this position for health concerns.

- © **Google** paid tribute to **Subhadra Kumari Chauhan** on her 117<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary by dedicating a creative doodle to her. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was an Indian activist, freedom fighter, and poet. Google doodle was illustrated by **Prabha Mallya** who is a New Zealand-based guest artist. Doodle signifies Chauhan dressed in a saree, sitting & holding a pen with several notes. Doodle also shows **Jhansi Ki Rani** and several freedom fighters. Google also described Chauhan as a **trailblazing writer and freedom fighter** who earned national prominence during the time when literature dominated by men.

## PLANS AND POLICIES

- © Web version of **e-GOPALA** application was launched on August 28, 2021. This web version has been developed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). This portal was launched to aid dairy farmers. NDDB also launched IMAP web portal that provides real-time information to the dairy farmers in order to provide better productivity of dairy animals. Web portal was launched in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of 'Digital India'.
- © According to finance ministry, Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), number of bank accounts have increased to 43 crores with total deposits of Rs 1.46 lakh crore. The flagship financial inclusion scheme, PMJDY, has completed seven years of implementation. This scheme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Independence Day address on August 15, 2014 and was launched on August 28 with the objective of bringing financial inclusion. It was

launched to ensure that people have access to financial services, like banking, credit, insurance, remittance and pension in an affordable manner. Eligible PMJDY account holders will soon be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) as well as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).

- ③ Maharashtra government launched a special mission called **Mission Vatsalya** in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19. Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women. It been designed for widows, with special focus on widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds and deprived sections. Under this mission, schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will benefit those for women.
- ③ Ministry of Jal Shakti started the **SUJALAM** campaign on August 25, 2021. SUJALAM Campaign is a 100 days campaign launched as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. This campaign seeks to create more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management across villages in India. During the campaign, ten lakh Soak-pits will be created. Efforts under the campaign would be directed towards achieving the ODF plus status for villages in an accelerated manner.
- ③ Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman**, unveiled a four-year **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** scheme on August 23, 2021. Scheme was launched with a ₹ 6 lakh crore unlock value in brownfield projects. It also engages the private sector. They will have the rights but not the ownership in projects. Scheme will be using the funds for infrastructure creation across India. Under the scheme, roads, railways and power sector assets would be comprising of more than 66 per cent of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised. Rest of the estimated value will come from sector like mining, telecom, ports, aviation, natural gas, warehouses & stadiums and petroleum product pipelines.
- ③ Chief Minister of Manipur, **N. Biren Singh**, launched **COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme** on August 23, 2021. This scheme was launched in a bid to provide assistance to those who had severely affected by COVID-19 pandemic in Manipur. Chief Minister noted on

the occasion that, the State Government had been working sincerely with an aim to uplift poor and weaker sections. Government is there for people to serve them always. This scheme was introduced considering the economic dislocations, that severely affected the livelihood of large percentage of the population. It has led to an inability to maintain a basic minimum standard of living.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

- ③ Government of India announced **MeitY-NASSCOM** Start-up Women Entrepreneur Awards 2020-2021 on August 17, 2021. MeitY-NASSCOM Women Startup Entrepreneurs Awards is the first step that recognizes and cultivates the entrepreneurial spirit in women. Awards inspire next generation of women to lead Indian digital era in order to serve as guiding role models. It also encourages promising entrepreneurs who contribute to the nation's economy as well as social community. It also provides leadership and serves as guiding examples for emerging and young future entrepreneurs. Awards were open to participation from tech start-up women entrepreneurs in which about 159 applications were received. Leaders from MeitY, UN Women, Industry and Academia together, decided 12 women entrepreneurs as winners while 2 women entrepreneurs were declared as the Jury Choice.
- ③ The Family Man 2 actors **Manoj Bajpayee** and **Samantha Akkineni** were among the winners of the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards. The IFFM 2021 were held virtually on Friday with several stars from various film industries in attendance. Eminent Indian artists like **Shoojit Sircar**, **Anurag Kashyap**, **Thiagarajan Kumararaja**, **Sriram Raghavan** were amongst the presenters, along with **Richa Chadha**, **Guneet Monga**, **Onir** and others as jury members.

Here is the full list of winners of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2021:

- Best Feature Film: Soorai Potru
- Best Performance Male (Feature): Suriya

Sivakumar (Soorai Pottru)

- Best Performance Female (Feature): Vidya Balan (Sherni) & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan (The Great Indian Kitchen)
- Best Director: Anurag Basu (Ludo) & Honorary Mention Prithvi Konanur (Pinki Elli?)
- Best Series: Mirzapur Season 2
- Best Actress in a Series: Samantha Akkineni (The Family Man 2)
- Best Actor in a Series: Manoj Bajpayee (The Family Man 2)
- Equality in Cinema (Short Film): Sheer Qorma
- Equality in Cinema Award (Feature Film): The Great Indian Kitchen
- Best Indie Film: Fire in the Mountains
- Diversity in Cinema Award: Pankaj Tripathi
- Disruptor Award: Sanal Kumar Sasidharan
- Best Documentary Film: Shut Up Sona

- © President Shri **Ram Nath Kovind**, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 144 Gallantry awards for armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2021. Besides, President Kovind also approved 28 Mention-in-Despatches

to the army personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations.

- © Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced the EASE 3.0 Awards. State Bank of India is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards). Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third. Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance. SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0. There were awards for various themes and the

Winners of these themes are:

Theme	Winner
Smart Lending for Aspiring India	Bank of Baroda
Tech-enabled ease of Banking	SBI
Institutionalised Prudent Banking	Bank of Baroda
Governance and Outcome centric HR	Union Bank of India
Deepening FI and Customer Protection	Union Bank of India

