

Current Affairs: 14/16.10.2021

Centre accords “Maharatna” status to state-owned PFC Ltd.

The Government of India has accorded ‘**Maharatna**’ status to the state-owned **Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)** on October 12, 2021. The new status will give PFC greater operational and financial autonomy. PFC was incorporated in 1986, as an Indian financial institution under the ownership of Ministry of Power. It is the largest Infrastructure Finance Company in India, exclusively dedicated to Power Sector.

PM Modi inaugurates Rs 100 lakh crore PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity

With the vision of holistic and integrated infrastructure development in the country, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated **PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan**, from Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on October 13, 2021. The **Rs 100 lakh crore** PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan aims to provide multi-modal connectivity to economic zones in the country. Under the new project a centralised portal will be set up to bring together the infrastructure schemes (which are to be completed by 2024-25) of as many as 16 Ministries & State Governments on a common platform, for integrated planning and coordinated implementation, instead of planning & designing separately by each ministry and department.

- The PM GatiShakti **digital platform** is based on **six pillars**
 1. **Comprehensiveness**
 2. **Prioritization**
 3. **Optimization**
 4. **Synchronization**
 5. **Analytical**
 6. **Dynamic**
- PM Modi also inaugurated the new exhibition complexes of ITPO and reviewed the model of the new exhibition complex at Pragati Maidan.

World’s first driverless-automated train launched in Germany’s Hamburg



The **world’s first automated, driverless train** has been unveiled in **Hamburg in Germany**. The project for Automated trains is a joint venture between German rail company **Deutsche Bahn** and high-tech industrial group **Siemens**. The project is part of a 60 million euro (\$70 million) ‘Digital Rail Germany’ modernisation plan which includes modernisation of Hamburg’s rapid urban rail system. The trains will begin carrying passengers from December 2021.

India approves USD 200 million Line of Credit to support development projects in Kyrgyzstan

India has approved to provide a **USD 200 million Line of Credit (LoC)** support to **Kyrgyzstan** for development projects in the country. The two nations also signed an MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP)” to enable implementation of quick community development projects in various sectors for the

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



benefit of common people under full grant funding by the Government of India. It must be noted that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is on four-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia to further expand bilateral ties with the three Central Asian countries.

IMF Projects Indian Economy to grow at 9.5% in FY22; Global economy at 5.9% in 2021

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has estimated the **Indian economy** to grow by **9.5%** in the current fiscal year, i.e **2021-22 (FY22)** and **8.5% in FY23 (2022-23)**, in its latest World Economic Outlook report, released on October 12, 2021. Meanwhile, IMF expects the **global gross domestic product (GDP)** to grow by **5.9 percent in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022.**

ADB Raises 2019–2030 Climate Financing Goal to \$100 Billion



The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced an increase in its **climate financing goals 2019-2030** for developing member countries (**DMCs**) by **\$20 billion to \$100 billion**. Earlier in 2018, ADB had announced \$80 billion goal for climate financing for developing countries in Asia during 2019-2030. The additional \$20 billion in financing support will be used for climate mitigation

efforts including low-carbon energy sources, climate adaptation projects and private sector projects.

India Ranks Third in 2021 EY Index; The US Retains Top Position

India has retained the **third** position in the **58th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)** released by the consultancy firm **Ernst & Young (EY)**.

The 2021 RECAI ranks the world's top 40 global markets (nations) on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities. The **United States** has also retained its top position on RECAI 58, followed by **China** at the second position.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu presents 2021 Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence to AIIMS Director, Dr. Randeep Guleria

The Vice President of India **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** presented the **22nd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence** on October 11, 2021, to **Dr. Randeep Guleria**. Dr. Randeep Guleria is an eminent pulmonologist and **Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)**. The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award is presented annually since 1999 by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi. The award is given to a business leader, management practitioner, public administrator, educator or institution builder for sustained individual contributions for achievements of high professional order and excellence. The award consists of a cash award of Rs 5,00,000, a citation and a plaque.

Former I&B and Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare Appointed Advisor To PM Modi



Former Information & Broadcasting (I&B) and Higher Education Secretary, **Amit Khare** has been appointed as the new **Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on October 12, 2021. Khare is a 1985-batch IAS officer from Bihar- Jharkhand cadre. He has been

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



appointed for a period of two years on contractual basis as Advisor to the Prime Minister in Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



International E-Waste Day: 14 October

The **International E-Waste Day (IEWD)** is celebrated on **14 October** every year since 2018, to promote the correct disposal of e-waste throughout the world with the aim to increase re-use, recovery and recycling rates. 2021 is the fourth edition of the International E-Waste Day. The day was developed in 2018 by the WEEE Forum, an international association of e-waste collection schemes, with the support of its members. The theme for 2021 IEWD is **“Consumer is the key to Circular Economy!”**

World Standards Day: 14 October



OCTOBER 14

The **World Standards Day (WSD)** (also known as International Standards Day) is celebrated globally on **14 October** annually. World Standards Day 2021 theme is **“Standards for sustainable development goals – shared vision for a better world”**.

Purpose: to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry.

Varanasi To Become India's first City to Start Ropeway Service in Public Transportation



Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh will become the **first city in India to use ropeway services in public transportation**. Overall, Varanasi will be the **third city in the world** after Bolivia and Mexico City to use ropeway in public transportation. The total cost of the ropeway project is **Rs 424 crore**. The total distance of 4.2 km will be covered in just 15 minutes.

The cost of the project will be divided between the Centre and the state government at 80:20.

Telangana develops India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution

Telangana has developed **India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution** considering the Covid-19 pandemic. The system will undergo a dry run in the form of a dummy election being conducted in Khammam district with the registration on the application open from October 8-18 and the dummy voting on October 20. The eVoting solution has been developed by **Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC)** with the implementation support of the Emerging Technologies Wing of the IT Department of the State and the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)**.

Assam launches app 'Fishwaale', India's first e-fish market

App named **Fishwaale** has been launched in **Assam** and it is **India's first e-fish market**. The launch was done by Minister for Fisheries, Environment and Forest and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya.

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



RBI grants small finance bank licence to Unity SFB

Reserve Bank of India has granted small finance bank licence to the consortium of **Centrum Financial Services Limited (Centrum), and Resilient Innovations Private Limited (BharatPe)** named **Unity Small Finance Bank**. The Unity Small Finance Bank will take over the assets and liabilities of **Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank**. RBI had given in-principle approval to [Centrum Financial Services Limited to set up a small finance bank in June 2021.](#)

Tata Sons wins bid to acquire Air India for Rs 18,000 crore



Talace Pvt Ltd the wholly-owned **subsidiary of Tata Sons** has won the **bid to acquire Air India for Rs 18,000 Crore**. Tata Sons is the holding company of Tata groups.

Now Tatas will own: **100% stake in Air India** (a full-service airline operating in domestic and international markets), **100% in its subsidiary Air India Express** (a low-cost carrier airline that focusses on short-haul international operations especially in the Middle East market) and **50% in the joint venture Air India SATS** (airport services on ground and cargo handling). It must be noted that **Air India was founded by JRD Tata in 1932**, but the Jawaharlal Nehru government had taken over 100% stake in Air India from Tata group through nationalisation **in 1953 for Rs 2.8 crore**. The second bid to acquire Air India was for Rs. 15,100 crores by a consortium led by SpiceJet chief Ajay Singh.

Airtel, Ericsson conducts India's first rural 5G trial

Bharti Airtel and Ericsson conducted **India's first 5G network trial** in a rural location in the first week on October 2021. The trial run was done in Bhaipur Bramanan village on the outskirts of Delhi-NCR using 5G trial spectrum allocated to Airtel.

17th Edition of Indo-US Joint Military Exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" organised in Alaska (USA) from Oct 15 to 29

The **17th edition** of the **Joint Military Training Exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021"** between the **Indian Army and the United States Army**, is scheduled to take place from October 15 to 29, 2021 at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, **Alaska in USA**. The Indian contingent will comprise of 350 personnel of an Infantry Battalion Group. The exercise will further enhance understanding, cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies. The previous version of the exercise was held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan in February 2021.

Satya Nadella-led Microsoft team wins 2021 C.K. Prahalad Award

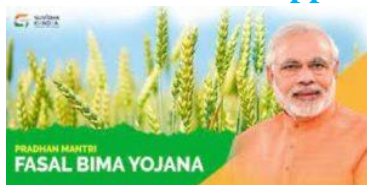
Indian American **Microsoft CEO, Satya Nadella** has won the prestigious **C K Prahalad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership** for the year 2021, along with three other top leaders of Microsoft. Apart from Nadella, Microsoft's President and Vice-Chair **Brad Smith**, Chief financial officer **Amy Hood** and chief environment officer **Lucas Joppa** have shared the award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership.

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



- The four top Microsoft leaders have received the Award for their collaborative leadership to transform Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and remove all its historical emissions by 2050.
- **C K Prahlad award for Leadership by an Individual Executive** : This award has been given to Ecolab Chairman and former CEO, Douglas M. Baker, Jr. for his efforts to educate the business community about corporate responsibility and the business risks of global water scarcity and the need to account for the true value of water in financial decision making.
- **About C K Prahlad Award:** The award was created in 2010 by the Corporate Eco Forum (CEF) in honour of its founding Advisory Board member C.K. Prahalad. The award recognizes winners for exemplifying the fundamental connection between sustainability, innovation and long-term business success in a globalizing world.

Ritesh Chauhan appointed as CEO of PM Fasal Bima Yojana

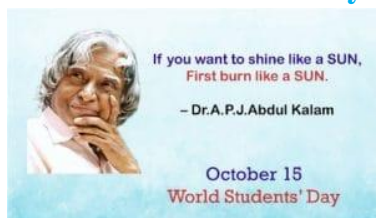


Senior bureaucrat **Ritesh Chauhan** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** and Joint Secretary, Agriculture under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Chauhan will have a combined tenure of seven years

up to September 22, 2023.

He is a 2005-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre. He will succeed Ashish Kumar Bhutani, who was appointed in 2018.

World Students' Day: 15 October



World Students' Day is observed every year on **October 15** to mark the birth anniversary of former President **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**. In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October "World Students' Day", due to Kalam's love for students and who himself was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else. **2021 marks 90th birth anniversary** of the former president and 'Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

Global Handwashing Day : 15 October

The **Global Handwashing Day (GHD)** is observed on **15 October** every year. It is an international handwashing promotion campaign to motivate and mobilize people around the world to improve their handwashing habits. The day was established by the Global Handwashing Partnership (GHP) (formerly called "Public Private Partnership for Handwashing" (PPPHW)) in 2008. Theme of GHD 2021 is **"Our Future Is at Hand – Let's Move Forward Together"**.

International Day of Rural Women: 15 October



The **International Day of Rural Women** is observed on **October 15** each year. The United Nations General Assembly established the day on 18 December 2007 and was observed for the first time in 2008. **2021 theme: "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All"**. The day recognizes the crucial role of women and girls in ensuring the

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being. In **India**, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare observes the day as the **Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas** since 2016, to increase the active participation of women in agriculture.

PM Narendra Modi dedicates 7 new Defence PSUs to the nation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated **seven new Defence PSUs**, carved out of OFBs, to the nation, on October 15, 2021. These 7 new companies have been formed following the dissolution of the 200-year-old **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** w.e.f October 01, 2021. Under the OFB there were **41 factories and 9 ancillary bodies**. Now these factories will be distributed among the seven newly created companies. Also the **70,000 employees** of these OFBs will be sent to the seven new entities, with no change in the service condition of the employees.

- The seven new defence PSUs includes:
 1. Munition India Ltd,
 2. Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd
 3. Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd
 4. Troop Comforts Ltd
 5. Yantra India Ltd
 6. India Optel Ltd
 7. Gliders India Ltd

India's first Atal Community Innovation Center unveiled at VGU Jaipur

India's first **Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC)** has been launched at **Vivekananda Global University (VGU) in Jaipur**. It is the first center in the country to be set up by the Government of India, **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog**. ACIC aims to support and nurture innovative ideas that can take the shape of big ideas and help transform society for a better tomorrow. The center at VGU will benefit the hardworking, passionate and courageous businessmen of Rajasthan who want to take their business towards heights.

Vishwakarma Vatika to be set up at Hunar Haats

The Government of India has decided to set up a **"Vishwakarma Vatika"** at every **"Hunar Haats"** to protect, preserve and promote India's glorious legacy of centuries-old skills of artisans and craftsmen. The **first** such "Vishwakarma Vatika" has been set up in **"Hunar Haat" at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh**, organised from October 16 to 25, 2021. The "Vishwakarma Vatika" will be inaugurated by Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan on October 16, 2021. The new initiative will provide a single stop place to proficient craftsmen, sculptors, stonemasons, blacksmiths, carpenters, potter and other artisans from across the country, to give live demonstrations of how India's traditional art and craft and elegant indigenous handmade products are made.

- The name is derived from Hindu deity "Vishwakarma" who is worshipped as the God of architect.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

India and US to raise \$100 billion per year to fight climate change in developing countries



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her American counterpart, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, participated in **8th U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership** on October 14, 2021. During the meeting, the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to raise **\$100 billion** annually for **developing countries** from public and private sector sources, to tackle climate change. The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010 as a framework to strengthen the economic bonds and build greater cooperation and economic growth in the future, between the two countries. The 8th U.S.-India Economic and

Financial Partnership was organised on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the **International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington.**

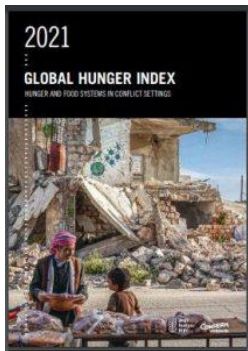
Indian entrepreneur Sajjan Jindal elected Chairman of World Steel Association for 2021-22

Sajjan Jindal has been elected as the **Chairman of the World Steel Association (WSA)** for the year **2021-22**. Jindal is the Chairman and Managing Director of JSW Steel Ltd. He is the first representative from India to serve as Chairman of the WSA.

Reliance Industries tops Indian Corporates in Forbes World's Best Employer 2021 Ranking; Samsung Tops Globally

Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries** has topped the Indian corporates in the **World's Best Employers 2021** rankings published by **Forbes**. Globally, Reliance is placed at **52nd** position among **750 global corporates**. **South Korean giant Samsung Electronics** has topped the overall ranking as World's Best Employers 2021, followed by US giants IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet and Dell Technologies. Parameters used during survey for the ranking includes image, economic footprint, talent development, gender equality and social responsibility.

India ranks 101 in Global Hunger Index 2021



India's rank has dropped to **101st** position among **116** countries in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021**. In 2020, India was placed at 94th spot, out of 107 countries. The 2021 GHI score of India is recorded at **27.5 out of 50**, which comes under serious category. A **total of 18 countries**, including China, Kuwait and Brazil, shares the top rank. The GHI score of these 18 nations is less than 5. This means that these countries suffers very less from hunger and malnutrition. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) measures and tracks hunger at global, regional, and national levels. The index is published jointly

by **Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Concern Worldwide.**

Based on current GHI projections, the index states that the world as a whole will not achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



World Food Day: 16 October

World Food Day (WFD) is celebrated every year on **16 October** across the globe to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime. WFD also commemorates the date of founding of the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** in 1945

Theme 2021: **“Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow”**.

