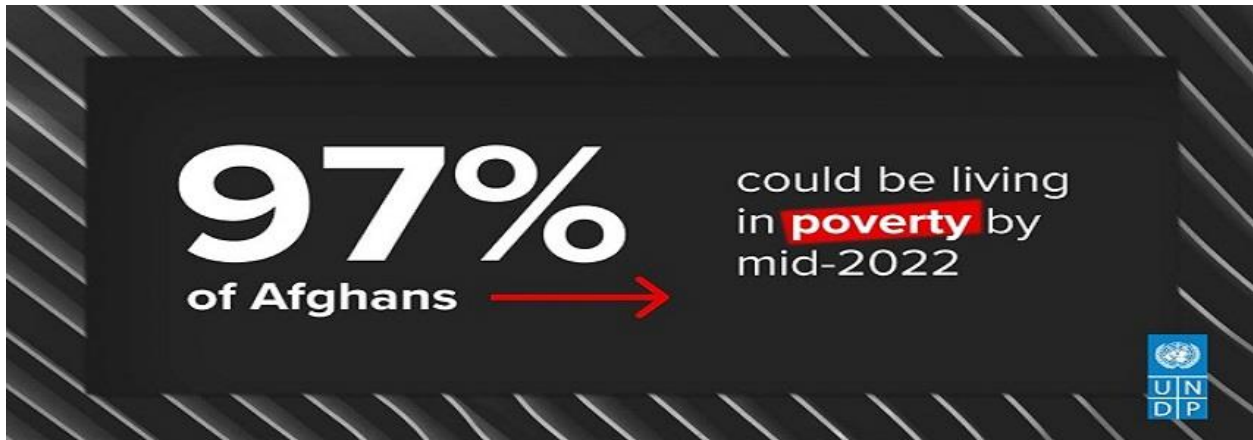


## 97 % of Afghans could plunge into poverty by mid 2022: UNDP



In a report, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said that 97 percent of Afghans could plunge into poverty by mid 2022. The study, which analysed four potential scenarios of escalating intensity and isolation, indicates that real GDP could contract by as much as 13.2 percent, leading to an increase in the poverty rate of up to 25 percentage points.

UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Kanni Wignaraja said that half of the population is already in need of humanitarian support. This analysis suggests that Afghanistan is on course for rapid, catastrophic deterioration in the economic front.

## India, Japan hold sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue in virtual format



India and Japan held their sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue in a virtual format.

The consultations involved exchanges on developments in the maritime security environment, regional cooperation activities and opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

### World's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide from air starts in Iceland



The world's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turning it into rock started running in Iceland.

The plant, named Orca, after the Icelandic word orka meaning energy, consists of four units, each made up of two metal boxes, similar in appearance to the containers used for maritime transport.

Constructed by Switzerland's Climeworks and Iceland's Carbfix, when operating at capacity the plant will draw 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide out of the air every year. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that equates to the emissions from about 870 cars. To collect the carbon dioxide, the plant uses fans to draw air into a collector, which has a filter material inside.

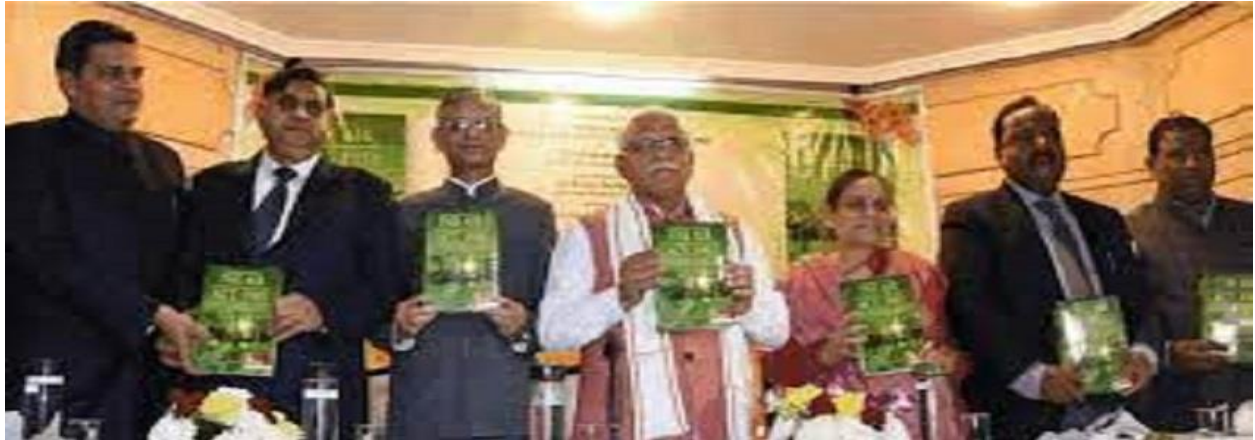
### World First Aid Day 2021: 11 September



World First Aid Day is observed on the second Saturday of September every year. In 2021 the day is being observed on September 11, 2021. The day is an annual campaign aimed at promoting the importance of first aid training and increasing its accessibility to save more lives in a crisis.

The theme for World First Aid Day 2021 is 'First aid and road safety'.

### Manohar Lal Khattar releases book titled 'Haryana Environment and Pollution Code'



Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal released the book 'Haryana Environment and Pollution Code' compiled by former IAS officer and famous poet Smt. Dheera Khandelwal.

The book will prove useful to the entrepreneurs, who were deprived of complete knowledge of laws and regulations related to the environment for setting up new ventures. Students, law researchers and practitioners will also benefit from this book.

### Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura takes charge as Chairman, National Commission for Minorities



Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura took charge as the Chairman, National Commission for Minorities in the presence of Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in New Delhi.

Mr Naqvi extended his best wishes to Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura in his new responsibility. He said that his vast experience in administration, social and literary fields will be helpful in strengthening Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas".

**Govt launches 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' campaign for Digital Onboarding & Training for street vendors**

# Main Bhi Digital 3.0

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the pilot drive 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' – A special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities in the country. It was jointly launched by Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra and Electronics and IT Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney in a virtual event. The drive is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.

**Prahlad Singh Patel launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase -II**



The Minister of State for Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase -II.

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation will undertake Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2021 countrywide to support acceleration of ODF Plus interventions and increase momentum for improving ODF Sustainability as well as Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities across the villages in the country. The department had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen on two occasions earlier in 2018 and 2019.

On the occasion, Mr Patel also released the Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2021 Protocol document, Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2021 Dashboard and the mobile App for Citizens feedback.

## India, US hold ministerial meeting on Strategic Clean Energy Partnership



Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri co-chaired a virtual Ministerial meeting with U.S. Secretary of Energy Ms. Jennifer Granholm to launch the revamped U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership SCEP.

The SCEP is launched in accordance with U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden at the Leaders Summit on Climate held in April this year.

The SCEP organizes inter-governmental engagement across five pillars of cooperation, Power and Energy Efficiency, Responsible Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Growth and Emerging Fuels.

## CAG GC Murmu gets elected as ASOSAI chairman



The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, GC Murmu was elected as the chairman of the assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for a period of three years from 2024 to 2027.

Murmu was elected by the 56th governing board of ASOSAI and approval for the same was conveyed by the 15th assembly of ASOSAI. India will host the 16th assembly of ASOSAI in 2024.

## **NPCI and Fiserv launch 'nFiNi' programme**



National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in partnership with Fiserv Inc. to launch the plug-and-play RuPay credit card stack, 'nFiNi'. nFiNi is a ready stack of services required for fintechs and banks to issue RuPay credit cards and will enable fintech to co-create bank-sponsored credit cards. It is a BaaS (banking-as-a-service) programme.

The nFiNi platform will power RuPay cards (including National Common Mobility Card) by offering access to needed services through the NPCI network combined with FirstVision™ cloud-based open API integrations from Fiserv. This will bring significant efficiencies for banking and fintech institutions at various levels in terms of operations and customer management.

## **Udaan names co-founder Vaibhav Gupta as CEO**



Udaan, India's largest b2b e-commerce platform has appointed co-founder Vaibhav Gupta as CEO. This is part of the plan for the next phase of growth for the Bengaluru-based company. The other two co-founders, Amod Malviya and Sujeet Kumar, as Board members will actively work with Vaibhav Gupta to ensure that the organisation effectively transitions to a CEO-led structure for continued success and achieve their shared vision for the organisation.

## Final Test between India, England called off due to Covid-19 fears



The fifth and final Test between India and England at Old Trafford in Manchester has called off due to Covid-19 fears in the Indian camp.

England and Wales Cricket Board has issued an official statement confirming the cancellation of the match.

The development came after a meeting between officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the ECB less than three hours before the toss was scheduled to be held.

## US Open: Rajeev Ram, Joe Salisbury clinch Men's Doubles title; Medvedev reaches Men's Singles finals



American Rajeev Ram and his British partner Joe Salisbury clinched the Men's Doubles title after defeating British Brazilian pair of Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 last night. The fourth seed pair were previously victorious at the 2020 Australian Open, and also reached the final in Melbourne earlier this year.

In US Open Tennis, second seed Daniil Medvedev cruised into the Men's Singles finals after producing a dominant performance to overcome 12th seed Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 in New York. The Russian, is now one match away from capturing his first major title at Flushing Meadows. It was the first Grand Slam semi-final for 21-year-old Auger-Aliassime, who reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals earlier this year and has been hailed among the sport's brightest young stars.