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### INTERNATIONAL

### 1) Greater Male Connectivity Project

Afcons, an Indian company, has signed a contract for the largest-ever infrastructure project in Maldives which is the Greater Male Connectivity Project. The project is the result of bilateral consultation between India and the Maldives. It is a causeway link between Male and nearby islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

### 2) "Shared Destiny-2021"

Militaries of China, Mongolia, Thailand and Pakistan are set to take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise called "Shared Destiny-2021". It will be organised by the People's Liberation Army at the combined-arms tactical training base in central Henan province of China. This is the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise, involving four nations.

### NATIONAL

### 1) Personalised Letter from EC

The Election Commission launched a new initiative, in order to reach out to new voters by sending them a personalised letter along with voter identity card. Initiative was launched by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

### 2) Women Entrepreneurship Platform

NITI Aayog in partnership with Cisco has launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform titled "WEP Nxt" to foster women entrepreneurship in India. WEP, which was launched by NITI Aayog in 2017, is a first-of-its-kind, unified portal that brings together women from diverse backgrounds and offers them access to a multitude of resources, support, and learning.

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

### 1) 'EASE 4.0'

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the fourth edition of Public Sector Bank Reforms Agenda called 'EASE 4.0' for the financial year 2021-22. It is a simplified, tech-enabled and collaborative banking. Its initiatives includes Smart lending backed by analytics, 24×7 banking with resilient technology & cloud-based IT systems etc.

#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 1) BBV87

# International Vaccine Institute has announced that Bharat Biotech's Chikungunya vaccine candidate (BBV87) has entered into Phase II and III clinical trials. BBV87 is an inactivated virus vaccine, similar to Covaxin. Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease first described during an outbreak in southern Tanzania in 1952.

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### APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS 1) Shri Mansukh Mandaviya

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, took charge as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board. He will hold the responsibility with immediate effect and hold the position until 2024. Stop TB Initiative was established after the meeting of the First Session of Ad Hoc Committee on Tuberculosis Epidemic.

# 2) Carol Furtado

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has named Carol Furtado as the interim CEO of the bank after the whole time CEO Nitin Chugh resigned. She has also been appointed as the officer on special duty of the bank. Furtado is currently serving as the CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services, the holding company of the bank.

# 3) Hitendra Dave

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Hitendra Dave as the Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank (India). RBI has accorded the approval for a period of three years. In June 2021, HSBC had announced the appointment of Hitendra Dave as the Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India.

# **IMPORTANT DAYS**

# 1) Stockholm World Water Week

Stockholm World Water Week was held online from August 23 to 27, 2021 by the Stockholm International Water Institute. Surat Municipal Corporation was the only civic body from India that was invited at the panel discussion on the topic "Zero Liquid Discharge Cities". The Stockholm World Water Week was held under the theme: 'Building Resilience Faster'.

# **OBITUARY**

# 1) Ted Dexter

Former England and Sussex captain Ted Dexter has passed away. Dexter, nicknamed "Lord Ted", was an aggressive batsman and part-time seam bowler who played 62 tests for England after making his debut in 1958 against New Zealand and was captain between 1961-1964.

# **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

# 1) 'Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received a book titled 'Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government' by former Union Minister, K J Alphons. The book is about all the areas of India's reform journey, written by Mr Alphons.

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