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# THE HINDU REVIEW

MAY  
2021



- **Monthly Capsule**
- **Current Affairs**

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## The Most Important Current Affairs May 2021

### RBI sets up an advisory group to assist RRA 2.0

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted an advisory group to assist the second **Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, which was set by the central bank on May 01, 2021 to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities. The Advisory Group will be headed by SBI Managing Director **S Janakiraman**.

#### Other members of the 6-member advisory group are:

- **T T Srinivasaraghavan** (Former Managing Director and Non-Executive Director, Sundaram Finance),
- **Gautam Thakur** (Chairman, Saraswat Co-operative Bank),
- **Subir Saha** (Group Chief Compliance Officer, ICICI Bank),
- **Ravi Duvvuru** (President and CCO, Jana Small Finance Bank),
- **Abadaan Viccaji** (Chief Compliance Officer, HSBC India)

#### About the RRA 2.0:

- The second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0), has been set up for a period of one year from May 01, 2021, to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures for streamlining them and making them more effective.
- The group will assist the RRA 2.0 by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns that can be rationalised, and submit reports periodically to RRA containing the recommendations/suggestions.

### Naomi Osaka wins top title at 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards

World number two tennis player **Naomi Osaka** of Japan has been named "**Sportswoman of the Year**" at the **2021 Laureus World Sports Awards**. This is Osaka's second Laureus Sports Awards. In 2019, she won the "**Breakthrough of the Year**" award.

In the men's category, World number two **Rafael Nadal** of Spain won the 2021 "**Laureus Sportsman of the Year**" title. This is the second title for Nadal, who also claimed the prestigious award in 2011.

### Here is the complete list of Winners:

- Sportsman of the Year Award: Rafael Nadal
- Sportswoman of the Year Award: Naomi Osaka
- Team of the Year Award: Bayern Munich
- Breakthrough of the Year Award: Patrick Mahomes
- The comeback of the Year Award: Max Parrot
- Sport for Good Award: KICKFORMORE by KICKFAIR
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Billie Jean King
- Athlete Advocate of the Year Award: Lewis Hamilton
- Sporting Inspiration Award: Mohamed Salah
- Sporting Moment of the Year Award: Chris Nikic

### Pakistan's Babar Azam Wins ICC Players of the Month for April 2021

**Pakistani** skipper **Babar Azam** has been named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021** for his consistent and stellar performances across all formats in the recently concluded series against **South Africa**. The ICC Player of the Month Awards recognise and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.

Along with Babar, Australian women's team wicketkeeper-batsman **Alyssa Healy** also bagged the **ICC Women's Player of The Month** accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April. Healy's consistency with the bat has played a significant role in Australia's dominance. Healy has shown her class in all conditions and against all types of bowling in the recent series against **New Zealand**.



### ISRO develops 3 cost-effective ventilators, oxygen concentrator

The Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator at a time when a shortage of this critical medical equipment resulted in the deaths of many Covid-19 patients across the country. Based on designs, features and specifications, we have named them, Prana, VaU and Svasta. All three are user-friendly, fully automated and with touch-screen specifications, meeting all safety standards.

Technology transfer will be done for the commercial production of these three ventilators and the one oxygen concentrator by this month itself. Likely to be priced around ₹1 lakh, the ventilators developed by the ISRO were cost-effective and easy to handle compared to the mini conventional ventilators that are currently priced around ₹5 lakh.

#### About the Prana, VaU, Svasta and Shwaas:

- Prana is meant to deliver respiratory gas to the patient by automated compression of an Ambu bag, Svasta is designed to work without electric power, and the VaU is a low-cost ventilator equivalent to commercially available high-end ventilators.
- The VSSC has also developed a portable medical oxygen concentrator called Shwaas. It is capable of supplying 10 litres of enriched oxygen per minute, adequate for two patients at a time.
- It enhances the oxygen gas content by selectively separating the nitrogen gas from ambient air through Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) which is commonly used for the production of oxygen from the air.

### Andrea Meza crowned 69th Miss Universe 2020

Miss Mexico Andrea Meza has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020. On the other hand, Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4. Brazil's Julia Gama is the first runner-up, Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up while India's Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up, respectively. This year, the pageant is being held in Miami, Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood. Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa crowns her successor in the event.

### Six Heritage Sites added to India's UNESCO World Heritage sites Tentative List

The Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.

#### The following six places have successfully entered the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- Ganga Ghats of Varanasi,
- Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu,
- Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
- Maharashtra Military Architecture
- Hire Benkal Megalithic site,
- Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh

### Forbes Highest paid Athletes list 2021 released

Forbes has unveiled its annual list of the 10 highest-paid athletes of the year. UFC star Conor McGregor has topped the Forbes list by earning \$180 million in the past year beating soccer superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to become the highest-paid athlete in the world. The factors used by Forbes' for calculation include all prize money, salaries and bonuses earned between May 1, 2020, and May 1, 2021.

#### Ranking Index

Rank	Name	Sports	Earning
1	Conor McGregor (Ireland)	MMA	\$180 million
2	Lionel Messi (Argentina)	Soccer	\$130 million
3	Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)	Soccer	\$120 million
4	Dak Prescott (United States)	Football	\$107.5 million
5	Lebron James (United States)	Basketball	\$96.5 million
6	Neymar (Brazil)	Soccer	\$95 million
7	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	Tennis	\$90 million
8	Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom)	Formula 1	\$82 million
9	Tom Brady (United States)	Football	\$76 million
10	Kevin Durant (United States)	Basketball	\$75 million

## Asia's richest and second richest persons are now Indians

Billionaire **Gautam Adani** has edged past Chinese tycoon **Zhong Shanshan** to become the second-richest Asian, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaire Index**. China's Zhong was the richest Asian till February when he lost the crown to **Mukesh Ambani**, India's richest person and chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd.

However, while Ambani lost **\$175.5 million** this year, Adani's wealth surged by **\$32.7 billion** to touch **\$66.5 billion**, against Zhong's **\$63.6 billion**. Ambani's total wealth now stands at \$76.5 billion, making him the **13th richest in the world, followed by Adani at 14th**.

### Bloomberg Billionaires Index on May 21, 2021:

Rank	Name	Net Worth	Country
1	Jeff Bezos	\$189B	US
2	Elon Musk	\$163B	US
3	Bernard Arnault	\$162B	France
4	Bill Gates	\$142B	US
5	Mark Zuckerberg	\$119B	US
6	Warren Buffet	\$108B	US
7	Larry Page	\$106B	US
8	Sergey Brin	\$102B	US
9	Larry Ellison	\$91.2B	US
10	Steve Ballmer	\$89.2B	US
11	Francoise Bettercourt Meyers	\$87.2B	France
12	Amancio Ortega	\$82.4B	Spain
13	<b>Mukesh Ambani</b>	\$76.3B	India
14	<b>Gautam Adani</b>	\$67.6B	India
15	Zhong Shanshan	\$65.6B	China

### About Bloomberg Billionaires Index

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index comprises a daily ranking of the world's richest people, based on their net worth. The figures are updated at the close of every trading day in New York.

## RBI Annual Report 2021: Highlights

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has published its annual report and highlights "asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters". In its annual report, the central bank said the country's growth prospects now essentially depend on how fast India can arrest the second wave of **COVID-19 infections**.

## RBI Annual Report 2021:

- RBI in its semi-annual financial stability report earlier highlighted **bad loan ratio of banks could rise to 13.5% under the baseline stress scenario** by September 2021.
- The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5 % by December 2020**, because of prudent provisioning by banks above regulatory prescriptions on accounts availing moratorium and undergoing restructuring.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of banks **increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%**.
- In its report, RBI cautioned "banks being lenders will have to provide a true picture of bad loans after **Supreme Court lifted the interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA) in March 2021**."
- According to it, waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts opted for a moratorium during **March-August 2020 would put stress on the financial health of banks**.
- The Gross NPA ratio of banks **decreased from 8.2% in March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020**.
- The Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) **increased from 6.8% in March to 5.7% in December 2020**.
- The capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs **increased from 24.8% in December 2020 to 23.7% in March**.
- Frauds reported by banks fell by 25% in value terms in just one year to Rs 1.38 lakh crore at the end of fiscal year ended March 2021**, data released by the RBI as part of its annual report showed.
- The **Reserve Bank of India on 27th May said banknotes in circulation witnessed a higher than the average increase during 2020-21**, on account of precautionary holding of cash by people due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and its prolonged continuance. Value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by **16.8% and 7.2%** respectively in 2020-21.

## PM Modi announces Rs 10 Lakh PM CARES Fund for kids orphaned due to COVID

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced a number of welfare measures for children who lost their parents to **COVID-19**. All children who have lost either both parents or surviving parents or legal guardians or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 will be supported under **PM-CARES for Children scheme**. The welfare measures have been listed below:

### Fixed Deposit in the name of the child

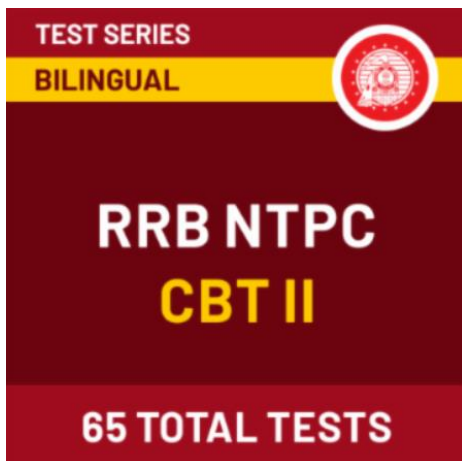
- The government has announced the “**PM-CARES for Children**” scheme under which fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children from the PM-CARES fund.
- The total corpus of the fund will be **Rs 10 lakh** for each child.
- This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend when the child reaches **18 years of age**, for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements.
- Upon reaching the age of **23 years**, the child will get the corpus amount as one lump sum for personal and professional use.

### Education

- Children under **10 years** will be given admission to the nearest **Kendriya Vidyalaya** or in a private school as a day scholar.
- Children between **11-18 years of age** will be given admission to any central government residential school such as **Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya**.
- For higher education, children will be assisted in obtaining education loan for professional courses or higher education in India according to existing norms. The interest on this loan will be paid from the **PM-CARES fund**.

### Health Insurance

- Each child will be enrolled as a beneficiary under **Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY)** with a health insurance cover of **Rs 5 lakh**.
- The premium amount for these children will be paid by PM CARES, till they attain the age of **18 years**.



### Govt announces scheme to provide pension for dependents of Covid victims

The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**-led Government of India has announced two major measures for those families who have **lost the earning member due to Covid**, to mitigate financial difficulties that may be faced by them. Firstly, the government have decided to provide family pension to such families and secondly, provide them with enhanced & liberalised insurance compensation.

#### Key Facts relating to the schemes

1. **Family Pension under Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)**
  - Dependent family members of such persons will be entitled to get the benefit of a pension equivalent to **90%** of the average daily wage drawn by the worker as per the existing norms.
  - This benefit will be applicable with effect from **24 March 2020 till 24 March 2022**.
2. **Employees Provident Fund Organization-Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI)**
  - The insurance benefits under the **EDLI scheme** have been enhanced and liberalized, particularly to help the families of employees who have lost their lives due to COVID.
  - The amount of maximum insurance benefit has been increased from **Rs 6 lakh to Rs. 7 lakh**.
  - The provision of minimum insurance benefit has been retained at **Rs. 2.5 lakh**.
  - This benefit will apply retrospectively from **15 February 2020** for the next three years, that is **15 February 2022**.

### GST Council forms 8-member panel to examine tax exemption on Covid material

The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** has constituted a **group of ministers (GoM)** in order to decide on the rates of **COVID-19 relief material**. Currently, 5% GST is levied on domestically manufactured vaccines, while it is 12% for COVID drugs and oxygen concentrators. Alcohol-based sanitisers, hand wash, disinfectants and thermometers attract 18% GST.

An eight-member ministerial panel under the Meghalaya chief minister **Conrad K Sangma** to consider Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemptions on a range of Covid-19 essentials such as vaccines, drugs, testing kits and ventilators. The other members of the group of ministers (GoM) are Gujarat deputy chief minister **Nitinbhai Patel**,

Maharashtra deputy chief minister **Ajit Pawar**, Goa transport minister **Mauvin Godinho**, Kerala finance minister **KN Balagopal**, Odisha finance minister **Niranjan Pujari**, Telangana finance minister **T Harish Rao** and UP finance minister **Suresh Kumar Khanna**.

In the **43rd meeting of the GST Council**, the finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had said a ministerial panel will be constituted to decide on the rates on the vaccines and medical supplies. According to its terms of reference, the GoM will examine the need for GST concession or exemption on Covid vaccines, drugs and medicines for Covid treatment, testing kits for Covid detection, medical-grade oxygen, pulse oximeters, hand sanitisers, oxygen therapy instruments (concentrators, generators and ventilators), PPE kits, N95 masks, surgical masks, temperature checking thermometers and any other items required for Covid relief.

### Economy Current Affairs

- UK-based global brokerage firm **Barclays** has cut India's GDP growth estimate for 2021-22 (FY22) to **10 per cent** from its earlier estimate of **11 per cent**. Apart from this, Barclays has estimated the economy to contract by **7.6 per cent in FY21**.
- Wall Street brokerage, **Goldman Sachs** has cut the GDP growth rate estimate for the Indian economy to **11.1 per cent** in fiscal year **FY22 (April 01, 2021, to March 31, 2022)**, due to increasing intensities of lockdowns by states to check the spread of coronavirus infections. Goldman Sachs has also revised the 2021 Calendar Year growth forecast to **9.7 per cent**, from the previous estimate of **10.5 per cent**.
- The US-based **S&P Global Ratings** has lowered the **GDP growth forecast** of the Indian economy to **9.8 per cent** for the financial year **2021-22 (FY22)**. The US-based rating agency in March had an 11 per cent GDP growth forecast for India for April 2021-March 2022 fiscal. on account of a fast economic reopening and fiscal stimulus.
- **Fitch Solution** has estimated the **GDP of the Indian economy** to grow **9.5 per cent** in 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022). The cut in the real GDP is due to the economic damage caused as a result of state-level lockdowns imposed because of the sudden and steep surge in the number of coronavirus cases.

- **Nomura** has cut the GDP growth estimate of India for the current **2021-22 fiscal (FY22)** to **10.8 per cent** from the earlier projection of **12.6 per cent**. The cut in the GDP rate is due to the impact of the second wave-induced lockdowns. Nomura is a **Japanese** brokerage having its headquarter in **Tokyo**.
- The rating agency **Moody's** has cut the **gross domestic product (GDP)** forecast of India for **FY22 (01 April 2021-31 March 2022)** to **9.3 per cent**. Earlier this rate was projected at 13.7 per cent. The downward revision in GDP estimates is due to the second wave of Covid infections across the country, which have triggered localised lockdowns and mobility curbs.
- The **United Nations** has projected that the Indian economy would grow at **10.1 per cent** in the calendar year **2022**, nearly double the **5.9 per cent growth** forecast for the country in the January report. But cautioned that the growth outlook of 2021 was **"highly fragile"** as the country was the **"new hotbed of the pandemic."**
- **HDFC Bank** has cut India's growth projection to **10 per cent** from **11.5 per cent** for the current financial year, citing the adverse effect of the second **Covid-19 wave**. In a worst-case scenario of COVID-19, the bank has predicted the GDP rate to be at **8%**.
- The domestic rating agency, **Care Ratings**, has revised the GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) to **9.2 per cent**. This is lower than **10.2 per cent** estimated earlier in April 2021.
- The country's retail inflation, measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, eased to **4.29 per cent** in the month of **April**. Separately, India's factory output, measured in terms of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, witnessed a growth of **22.4 per cent** in March, two separate data released by the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**. The retail inflation during the month of March was at **5.52 per cent**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** recently released **Wholesale Price in India** for the month of **April 2021**. The annual rate of inflation for the month of April 2021 was **10.49%**. The WPI for the month of April 2021 stood at **128.1**. The base year in calculating WPI is fixed as 2011-12.

- **Foreign direct investments (FDI)** into the country grew **19 per cent** to **USD 59.64 billion** during **2020-21** on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business. Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the **“highest ever”** of **USD 81.72 billion** during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.
- **Barclays** has pegged India’s economic growth for **fiscal 2021-22 (FY22)**, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) at **7.7 per cent** in the bear-case scenario if the country is hit by the third wave of the Covid pandemic going ahead. The economic cost, it believes, could rise by at least a further **\$42.6 billion**, assuming another round of similar stringent lockdowns is imposed across the country for eight weeks later this year.
- **India’s GDP** is likely to have grown at **1.3%** in the **fourth quarter of 2020-21** and may have contracted by about **7.3%** for the full financial year, according to an SBI research report **‘Ecowrap’**. The National Statistical Office (NSO) will release the GDP estimates for the March 2021 quarter and provisional annual estimates for the year 2020-21 on May 31.

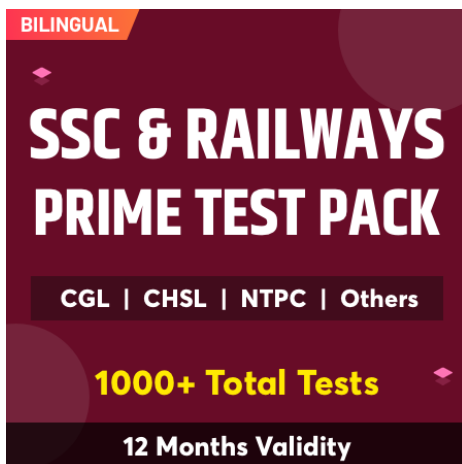
### International Current Affairs

- **Albania's ruling Socialist Party (PS)** has secured its third consecutive mandate in a parliamentary election. Prime Minister **Edi Rama** claimed victory for his party with 49% of the vote. Democratic Party (PD) leader **Lulzim Basha** conceded defeat.
- **Daniel Smith** has taken charge as the US interim envoy to India. The position of **US Ambassador to India** had been lying vacant since January 20, when **Biden** was sworn in as the **46th president of the United States**.
- **Ethiopia** has added two armed groups to its **“terror list”**, including the **Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF)**. The council of ministers approved a resolution to designate the TPLF as a “terrorist” organization, along with the OLF-Shene. They have been launching attacks against civilians and public infrastructure to achieve political objectives.
- The **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** officially declared the end of the **12th Ebola outbreak**, which killed six people in its eastern province of North Kivu. The recent resurgence was genetically linked to the 2018-2020 epidemic in the northeastern part of the country, in which 3,470 people were infected and 2,287 were killed.

- **Canada** is authorizing the use of Pfizer Inc’s (PFE.N) COVID-19 vaccine for use in **children aged 12 to 15**, the first doses to be allowed in the country for people that young. The Pfizer vaccine, produced by US company Pfizer with German partner BioNTech.
- The **European Union** recently approved the requests of **Norway, Canada and the United States** to participate in the **Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)** defence initiative. This is the first time, the European bloc has allowed a third state to participate in the PESCO project. The countries will now participate in the **Military Mobility Project in Europe**.
- Nepalese climber, **Kami Rita** has scaled Mount Everest for the **25th time**, breaking his own record for the most ascents of the world’s highest peak. Rita, 51, first scaled Everest in **1994** and has been making the trip nearly every year since then. He is one of many **Sherpa** guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success of the hundreds of climbers.
- Former Senator **Bill Nelson** was sworn in as the **14th NASA administrator** tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration’s vision for the agency. **Nelson** served in the U.S. Senate for 18 years from Florida and as a payload specialist on space shuttle mission **61-C in 1986**.
- Nepal Prime Minister **K P Sharma Oli** has lost the **vote of confidence** in the **House of Representatives**. K P Sharma Oli got **93 votes** in his favour while **124 voted against him**. In the 275-member House of Representatives, he required at least **136 Votes** to win the trust vote in the lower of the House of Representatives.
- The **Israeli military** has bombarded rockets in different areas in **Gaza**. It is the most intense airstrikes in Gaza since 2014. Hamas had red hundreds of rockets towards Israel on Monday. After that, Israel has carried out hundreds of **airstrikes in Gaza**. The Gaza-based **Palestinian group, Hamas**, had red rockets towards Israel in protest of the clash between **Israeli police and Palestinian protesters** in the **Al-Aqsa Mosque**. Al-Aqsa Mosque is located in **Jerusalem**. It is the third holiest place for Muslims.
- In Nepal, **KP Sharma Oli** was re-appointed as the Prime Minister of the country by President **Bidhya Devi Bhandari**. Oli was administered the oath of office by the President on May 14, 2021. Now, he must prove that he has majority support in the House within 30 days. This will be his **third stint as Prime Minister**.



- Sir **David Attenborough**, world-renowned broadcaster & natural historian, has been named **COP26 People's Advocate** for the U.K.'s Presidency of UN climate change summit in Glasgow this November.
- **China** will become the world's first country to ban all **synthetic cannabinoid substances**. The ban is likely to come into effect on **July 1**. The move comes as China tries to curb the manufacturing & trafficking of the drug. The synthetic cannabinoids are highly camouflaged, as some are found in e-cigarette oil, and some are found in cut tobacco made from various flower petals, or plant stems and leaves. In Xinjiang, it has a commonly known nickname of "**Natasha**."
- The **World Health Organization** has classified a coronavirus variant found in India as a global "**variant of concern**". This variant has been named **B.1.617**. According to World Health Organization, this variant is already spread to more than 30 countries. It is more transmissible than other variants. This variant is also called the "**double mutant variant**". It was 1st identified by the **United Kingdom health authorities**.
- **China** successfully achieved the feat of landing its first **Mars Rover 'Zhu Rong'** on the red planet, on May 15, 2021, becoming the only second nation to do so. Till date, only the United States has successfully landed its rover on Mars. All other countries that have tried have either crashed or lost contact soon after reaching the surface.
- The former speaker of **Tibet's** parliament-in-exile, **Penpa Tsering**, has been elected the new **president** of the exile government.
- **Moctar Ouane** is reappointed as **Prime Minister of Mali**. He was appointed as Prime Minister of the caretaker government in August 2020 after the removal of **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**. Ouane will have to form a new government with room for the political class, under the instructions of President **Bah N'Daw**.
- **China** has successfully sent a new ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit as part of its effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system that would provide early warning on marine disasters. The satellite was launched by a **Long March-4B rocket** carrying the **Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) satellite** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China**.
- **Martha Karambu Koome** is Kenya's first **woman chief justice**. She is the first woman to head any of the three branches of government. Koome, 61, a calm but staunch women's rights crusader, takes over the judiciary ahead of next year's general elections and would likely play a decisive role in adjudicating any eventual election disputes.
- The **United Kingdom** has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at low speeds. The UK wants to be at the forefront in rolling out autonomous driving technology. The Government of the UK forecasts that around **40% of UK cars** will have self-driving capabilities by **2035**. The **United Kingdom** will develop an advanced international pathogen surveillance network to identify **Covid-19 variants** and emerging diseases. This **Global Pandemic Radar** will ensure the early detection of new variants and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed. Prime minister **Boris Johnson** announced the plans, ahead of the **Global Health Summit** hosted by **Italy and the European Union (EU)**.
- The **International Monetary Fund** has proposed a **\$50 billion** global vaccination plan that would cover at least **40 per cent** of the global population by the end of **2021** and at least **60 per cent** by the first half of **2022**. The vaccination target requires additional upfront grants to Covax, donating surplus doses and free cross-border flows of raw materials and finished vaccines.
- The President of the Republic of **Congo**, **Denis Sassou Nguesso** has appointed **Anatole Collinet Makosso** as the country's **Prime Minister**. He replaced **Clement Mouamba**, in-office since 2016. Before this appointment, Makosso was the education minister of the Central African country. He was also minister of youth and civic instruction from 2011 to 2016.



BILINGUAL

**SSC & RAILWAYS  
PRIME TEST PACK**

CGL | CHSL | NTPC | Others

**1000+ Total Tests**

**12 Months Validity**

- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** appointed **David Barnea** as the new head of the country's spy agency, the **Mossad**. Barnea, a former longtime Mossad operative, will succeed Yossi Cohen as head of Israel's intelligence agency on June 1. Cohen has served as Israel's spymaster since taking office in 2016.
- **Guillermo Lasso**, a conservative, assumed the presidency of Ecuador and has become the first right-wing leader in **14 years in Ecuador**. The 65-year-old former banker beat left-wing economist **Andres Arauz** in a second-round run-off last month and succeeds the hugely unpopular **Lenin Moreno**.
- **Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad** has been re-elected for the fourth straight 7-year term in a landslide victory, winning 95.1 per cent of the total votes cast. The 55-year-old Assad is serving as the **19th President of Syria** since 17 July 2000.
- **Christine Wormuth** was confirmed unanimously by the Senate to be the first female secretary of the Army. Wormuth, who led **President Joe Biden's** transition team at the **Pentagon**, got an overwhelmingly warm reception from members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing this month.
- The Nation's first '**Drive in Vaccination Center**' was inaugurated by **MP Rahul Shewale** in **Mumbai**. This center has been set up in the parking lot of **Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar**. This first of its kind 'Drive-in Vaccination Center' facility has been made available to the citizens at a time when people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination center.
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** granted a conditional exemption from the **Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Rules** to the Indian Council of Medical Research for conducting a feasibility study of Covid-19 vaccine delivery using drones. The ICMR has partnered with **IIT Kanpur for this project**.
- India notified a revenue threshold of **Rs 2 crore** and a limit of **300,000 users** for non-resident technology firms such as **Google, Facebook, Netflix**, to pay tax in India under new or revised bilateral tax pacts. This is part of the Significant Economic Presence (SEP) principle, which was introduced in the Finance Bill 2018-19. This will come into effect from April 1, 2022.
- **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has launched a new mobile app for students and parents. The new app '**Dost for Life**' is an exclusive psychological counselling app for students and parents of CBSE-affiliated schools. The new App will simultaneously cater to students and parents from CBSE-affiliated schools in different geographies across the world.

### National Current Affairs

- **India and Russia** have agreed to establish a '**2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**' at the **Foreign & Defence Minister** level between the two countries. Russia is the **4th** country and **1st Non-Quad member country** with which India has established the '2+2 Ministerial dialogue' mechanism. India has such a mechanism with the **US, Japan and Australia**. It is expected to boost the bilateral strategic partnership between India & Russia.
- **Serum Institute of India (SII)** is expanding its vaccine business in the **United Kingdom** with an investment of **£240 million**. The serum has already started phase one trials in the UK of a one-dose nasal vaccine for coronavirus, in partnership with **Codagenix INC**. This was a part of the **£533 million of new Indian investment** in the UK in growing sectors such as health and technology.
- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** was formed on **7 May 1960**, with the primary goal of securing India's borders and developing infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and northeastern states. On **7 May 2021** BRO celebrated its **61st Raising Day (foundation day)**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** recently released the eighth instalment of **Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi**. The Government of India transfers **Rs 6,000** to the account of small and marginal farmers. These funds are transferred in three instalments. The first instalment of **Rs 2,000** is made between April and June. The second Instalment is made between August and November. The third instalment is made between **December and March**.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the proposed acquisition of **100 per cent** shareholding and sole control of Ingram Micro Inc by **Imola Acquisition Corporation**.
- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved signing of **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** and **Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA)**. The MoU would enhance cooperation between the Institutes to work together to strengthen the Accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar.

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the proposal of the Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage'** for achieving the manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC with an outlay of **₹18,100 crores**.
- **India** lost the **ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas field** in the Persian Gulf after **Iran** awarded a contract for developing the giant gas field to a local company. The **National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)** has signed a contract worth **USD 1.78 billion** with Petropars Group for the development of Farzad B Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.
- The **Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (MCCIA)** has launched India's first agro-export facilitation centre in **Pune**, in collaboration with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**. The new Facilitation Centre will work as a one-stop-centre for the exporters in the agricultural sector as well as boost agricultural exports from the region, as per global standards.
- India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a Covid-19 antibody detection kit. The **DIPCOVAN kit** can detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus with a high sensitivity of **97%**. It has been approved by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and has been developed by the **Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences lab of DRDO** in association with **Delhi's Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd**.
- The **Railways** will soon have **86 Oxygen plants** for its hospitals across the country. Four oxygen plants are already functional, 52 have been sanctioned and 30 are under various stages of processing. There is also a Massive Capacity Enhancement in **86 Railway Hospitals across India**. In last few days, the number of beds for COVID treatment have been increased from **2539 to 6972**.
- The **Government** has released **Rs 5,968 crore to 15 states** for the implementation of the **Jal Jeevan Mission** in the financial year 2021-22. Of the central funds allocated under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 93 percent is to be utilized on developing water supply infrastructure, 5 per cent on support activities and 2 percent on water quality monitoring and surveillance.
- In order to address the problems of elders in the context of the ongoing COVID pandemic, the **Ministry of Social Justice** has started state wise call centres in major states under the **ELDERLINE project**. The facility is already made operational in 5 major states of **UP, MP, Rajasthan, TN & Karnataka**. Facility operationalised with the assistance of Tata Trusts & NSE foundation. Likely to become functional in all states by end of **May, 2021**.
- The union government has decided to increase the fertilizer subsidy outlay for the year by **14,775 crore**. This will take the fertilizer subsidy outlay for 2021-22 to **Rs 94,305 crore** from a budgeted outlay of **Rs 79,530 crore**. The decision was taken to increase the subsidy for **diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer** from **Rs 500 to Rs 1200 per bag**, an increase of **140 percent**.
- The **Centre slashed subsidy on sugar** exports from Rs 6,000 per tonne to **Rs 4,000 per tonne** with immediate effect in view of firm global prices. Sugar production in India has reached more than 30 million tonne so far in the 2020-21 marketing year, higher than **27.42 million tonne** achieved in the 2019-20 year, as per the industry data. All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) Chairman Praful Vithalani.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR** has approved **CoviSelf kit** for the purpose of home testing. It stated that all symptomatic individuals who test negative by Rapid Antigen Test should get themselves immediately tested by **RT-PCR**.
- Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, the **Maldives in 2021**. India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity. Maldives occupies an important place in the '**Neighbourhood First Policy**' and the '**SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India**'.
- The **Union Cabinet** has granted approval to the **Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** entered into by the **Institute of Cost Accountants of India** and the **Institute of Company Secretaries of India** with various countries and organisations. The MoUs seek to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications and a range of collaborative activities for the exchange of knowledge. The signed MoUs would help in the advancement of the goals on **equity, public accountability and innovation among the beneficiaries countries**.

- **India** will launch 'UNITE AWARE', a mobile tech platform for the **United Nations Peacekeepers** to improve their safety and security in the line of duty. It will be launched during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021 (Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month).
- Raksha Mantri Shri **Rajnath Singh** has launched the '**Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT)** OPD portal, through video conferencing. The main motive of the portal is to provide telemedicine services to the serving **Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families**.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** is organising various activities in the run-up to the **International Day of Yoga, 2021**. One among these is a series of five webinars that the Ministry is organising under the broad theme of "**Be with Yoga, Be at Home**" in collaboration with five renowned organisations of the country who will present one webinar each on a particular topic. Some renowned Organisations are:- **The Art of Living, The Yoga Institute, ArhamDhyanYog, etc.**
- The **All India NR Congress (AINRC)** founder leader **N Rangasamy** has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the **Union Territory of Puducherry**, for a record fourth time, on May 07, 2021. N Rangasamy was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lieutenant governor (additional charge) **Tamilisai Soundararajan**.
- Under the **Parvat Dhara scheme**, the **Himachal Pradesh** government has initiated rejuvenation of water sources and recharging aquifers through the forest department with an outlay of **Rs 20 crore**. The work was started in 10 forest divisions that include **Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Jogindernagar, Nachan, Parvati, Nurpur, Rajgarh, Nalagarh, Theog and Dalhousie**.
- The **Maharashtra government** has decided to implement the practice of appointing an "**oxygen nurse**", currently prevalent in the tribal-dominated Nandurbar district, across the entire state. The primary job of an "oxygen nurse" is to monitor its use among patients and ensure minimal wastage. **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been named as the **15th Chief Minister of Assam** on May 08, 2021. He will replace incumbent **Sarbananda Sonowal**. He will take the charge of the office with effect from **May 10, 2021**.

### States Current Affairs

- **Mamata Banerjee** was sworn as **West Bengal Chief Minister** for the **third time** in the shadow of Covid and post-poll violence in parts of the state. The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at the "**Throne Room**" at the **Raj Bhavan**. The rest of the cabinet and the council of ministers will be sworn in on **May 9**, the birth anniversary of **Rabindranath Tagore**.
- Tamil Nadu governor **Banwarilal Purohit** has appointed Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief **MK Stalin** as the **chief minister of Tamil Nadu**. The 68-year-old is the son of the former five-term Tamil Nadu chief minister, the late **M Karunanidhi**. The DMK-led alliance won **159 seats**, well ahead of the majority mark of 118 seats. The party alone won **133 seats in the election**.
- The **All India NR Congress (AINRC)** founder leader **N Rangasamy** has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the **Union Territory of Puducherry**, for a record fourth time, on May 07, 2021. N Rangasamy was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lieutenant governor (additional charge) **Tamilisai Soundararajan**.
- Education Minister of **Tripura, Ratan Lal Nath** launched the '**Auro Scholarship Programme**' of **Sri Aurobindo Society** for all the students of the state. Auro Scholarship Programme provides the monthly micro-scholarship to the students in order to motivate them towards achieving better learning outcomes once students achieve benchmark performance in **10-min curriculum-aligned Quizzes**.
- **Puducherry** has achieved the target of **100% piped water connection** in rural areas under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. Earlier, **Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands** have provided tap water supply to every rural home under **Jal Jeevan Mission**. So, Puducherry is the **fourth State/UT** to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **Delhi Police** has launched a helpline number for senior citizens who are struggling with their essential needs amid **Covid-19**. South District Police of the national capital has launched a **COVI Van Helpline (012- 26241077)** for senior citizens in the neighbourhood amid the coronavirus situation here.

- **Punjab** Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** has declared **Malerkotla** as the **23rd district** of the state on May 14, 2021, on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Malerkotla is a Muslim-dominated area and has been carved out of the **Sangrur district of the state**. The government had promised that Malerkotla will be declared a district soon in 2017.
- The **Uttarakhand Police** has launched a drive called "**Mission Hausla**" to help people get oxygen, beds, ventilators, and plasma for Covid-19 patients. Besides these, police will also help the public to get medicines meant for Covid-19 management as part of the mission and rations.
- The **Telangana Government** declared a complete ban on the **controversial herbicide, Glyphosate**, which is used rampantly by farmers to kill weeds in **HTBt cotton crop**. The reason for the ban is that the excess use of this herbicide by farmers is causing harm to soil and human health. Anybody violating the ban will be punished **under the Insecticide Act 1968**.
- New Chief Minister of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** declared **Ajanta Neog** as Assam's first woman Finance Minister.
- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has granted permission for emergency use of anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the **drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**, a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in **collaboration** with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.
- **Himachal Government** has launched the '**Ayush Ghar-Dwar**' program to keep the home isolated **Covid-19 positive patients** healthy by **practising Yoga**. This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the **Art of Living organisation**. Yoga Bharti's instructors would provide their services in the program. During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
- **Black Fungus** has been categorised as a notified disease in **Haryana**, making it imperative that government authorities be informed about each case. This will allow in the tracking and management of an outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic in India has catalysed the spread of **black fungus or mucormycosis**, which can disfigure people even when it is not fatal.
- **Manipur** Chief Minister **N Biren Singh** has launched a smartphone application "**Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) Market**" for home delivery of fresh vegetables to ensure that people get fresh vegetables at their doorsteps during the COVID-19 induced curfew.
- The **Telangana government** has selected 16 primary healthcare centres (PHCs) spread around Vikarabad area hospital for pilot testing the ambitious '**Medicine from the sky**', the first-of-its-kind project involving delivery of medicines through multiple drones. The area hospital has been selected as the central point owing to the presence of cold chain facilities and the selected PHCs are both within the **Visual Line of Sight (VLOS)** and **Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS)** range.
- The **West Bengal cabinet**, chaired by Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee**, has approved the formation of the Legislative Council. At present, only **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh** have Legislative Council. Previously, West Bengal had a bicameral legislature but it was abolished by the **United Front government in 1969**.
- **Jharkhand** has launched the '**Amrit Vahini**' App for the online booking of hospital beds. Corona patients in Jharkhand can book hospital beds online through the '**Amrit Vahini**' App launched by **CM Hemant Soren**.
- **Pinarayi Vijayan** was sworn as **Kerala Chief Minister for the second time** in the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis in the state. The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at the **Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram**. Governor **Arif Mohammed Khan** administered the oath of office to 76-year-old Vijayan. It is the second stint of the Marxist veteran in the top office.
- **Haryana and Gujarat** have become the first few states to announce **reimbursement of Goods and Services Tax (GST)** components paid for Covid-19 related medical supplies. These medical supplies include oxygen concentrators, ventilators, medicines which would be donated free of cost to the state governments. Waiver from Haryana is **till June 30**, while that of Gujarat is valid till **July 31**.
- **Bihar government** has launched '**HIT Covid App**' to ensure regular monitoring and tracking of those Covid-19 patients, who are in home isolation across the state. HIT stands for home isolation tracks. Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** said the app will help the health workers in regular monitoring of home-isolated patients.

- In wake of the acute oxygen shortage across the country, the **Karnal administration** (Haryana) has rolled out '**Oxygen on wheels**' to assist hospitals in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and oxygen crisis. The purpose is to ensure a smooth supply of medical oxygen to hospitals treating Covid patients.
- **Haryana government** has launched an anti-Covid "**Sanjeevani Pariyojana**", which will provide supervised and quick medical care at home for people, with mild to moderate symptoms of Covid-19, residing in **rural areas**. This Pariyojana has been launched to extend medical care in rural areas where awareness regarding the second wave of Covid-19 and related treatment remains low. It is an important step of bringing medical care for the people who need it most and when they need it most.
- **Maharashtra government** has launched the "**Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance**" scheme to meet the state's oxygen needs. Special incentives will be given to oxygen-producing industries under this scheme. At present, the state's oxygen generation capacity is **1300 MT per day**. Units set up in **Vidarbha, Marathwada, Dhule, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg regions** will be eligible for incentives up to **150 per cent** of their eligible fixed capital investments and units set up in the rest of Maharashtra will be eligible for up to **100 per cent** general incentives.
- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister **Tirath Singh Rawat** has announced **Chief Minister Vatsalya Yojana** for orphaned children who have lost their parents due to **Covid-19**. Under the scheme, the State Government will make arrangements for their maintenance, education and training for employment up to the age of **21 years**. The Chief Minister said that such orphaned children of the state will be given a maintenance allowance of **3000 rupees per month**.
- The **Punjab Government** finally announced to rename the **Mohali International Hockey Stadium**, after triple Olympian and Padma Shri **Balbir Singh Sr.** The stadium will now be known as **Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium**. The government also announced to start a scholarship scheme in the legend's name for meritorious hockey players of the state.
- **Assam** Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has appointed '**Guardian Ministers**' to oversee the implementation of government policy decisions, administrative reforms, and other welfare schemes in all the 34 districts of the state. **13 'Guardian Ministers'** have been appointed for all **34 districts** in Assam, for balanced, speedy and sustainable developments of these districts. The assigned ministers will be responsible for the implementation of all centrally-sponsored schemes as well as the state's own priority programmes.
- Chief Minister of **Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan** has announced a secretary-level committee will formulate guidelines and recommendations on implementation of the "**Smart Kitchen Scheme**" in state to fulfil commitments of the **Left Democratic Front (LDF)**. It aims to account and reduce the workload of women's domestic labour. Smart Kitchen Scheme will be launched by **July 10, 2021**.

### Schemes/Committees

- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare** has recently approved **Rs 2,250 crores** for the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture for the year 2021-22.
- The Union Cabinet recently approved the Production Linked Incentive scheme for **Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage**. Around **Rs 18,100 crores** have been allocated to the scheme. This has been done as a part of National Programme on **Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage**.
- The **National Bamboo Mission** recently launched the **Management Information System** to strengthen the domestic Agarbatti industry.
- The Union Government released **Rs 5,968 crores** of rupees to implement the **Jal Jeevan Mission**. The funds were released to fifteen states. This is the first instalment of the four to be released in 2021-22.

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- **Union Ministry of Power** has announced to set up a 'National Mission on use of Biomass' in coal based thermal power plants. This decision was taken to address issue of air pollution caused due to farm stubble-burning.
- **National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app** and Area officer monitoring App was launched by Rural Development Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar on May 22, 2021. These apps are a big step towards bringing the transparency and proper monitoring of the schemes.
- **SAMVEDNA is Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.** It a toll-free helpline through which children affected during COVID-19 pandemic are provided counselling.
- **National Health Authority (NHA)** has inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Telangana government** to implement **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** across the state immediately.
- **Odisha government** has announced **Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana** for journalists. Odisha has declared the journalists as frontline Covid warriors. It will benet more than **6500 journalists of the state.**
- The government has once again extended the deadline for making payment under the direct tax dispute settlement scheme '**Vivad Se Vishwas**' by two months till June 30, 2021 to provide relief to the taxpayers facing hardships amid the pandemic. This is the fourth time that the deadline is being extended by the **Ministry of Finance**, since the launch of the scheme. The deadline was extended for the first time from March 31, 2020, to June 30, 2020, followed by December 31, 2020, and then again till March 31, 2021.
- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has constituted an expert committee on **Investment Funds**. The Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of **Nilesh Shah**, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd. It will holistically review the global best practices and make recommendations to IFSCA on the roadmap for the fund's industry in the International Financial Service Centres (IFSCs).
- The Department of Higher Education under the **Ministry of Education** has launched a new initiative called '**YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors**'. YUVA stands for **Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors**. It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors, below **30 years of age** to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- **CBSE** launched a nationwide **Young Warrior movement** to engage **5 million young people** to fight against Covid-19. This movement is expected to impact **50 million people**. The Board has launched the movement together with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **YuWaah-UNICEF**, and a multi-stakeholder consortium of over 950 partners.

### Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** executive director **T Rabi Sankar** has been named as the fourth **Deputy Governor of the central bank**. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment. He is in charge of the payments system, fintech, information technology and risk management at the RBI. He succeeds **BP Kanungo** as the deputy governor, who retired on April 2 after getting a one-year extension in his position.
- **Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (KLI)** on 1st May announced it has appointed **Mahesh Balasubramanian** as managing director of the company. He has been appointed following the retirement of **G Murlidhar**.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** member Justice (retired) **Prafulla Chandra Pant** had been appointed as the **acting chairperson** of the Commission with effect from April 25. A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019. The post of a chairperson has been vacant since **Justice H.L. Dattu**, a former Chief Justice of India, completed his tenure on December 2, 2020.
- **Raman Meenakshi Sundaram** has been appointed as **Director of the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR)**, an arm of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**. Prior to this elevation, he was working as Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) at the institute crop Improvement Section.

- THDC India Ltd has announced that Vijay Goel assumed as chairman and managing director. His appointment will come into effect from May 1, 2021. He joined the company in 1990 as a senior personnel officer (SPO) from NHPC Ltd. He has more than 35 years of varied experience in the field of human resource management. **Ujjwala Singhania** has been appointed as the National President of **FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)**, the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia. As the **38th** National President of FLO Singhania will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.
- **Sankar Ghosh**, an award-winning Indian-origin immunologist, has been elected to the prestigious **National Academy of Sciences** in recognition of his “**distinguished and continuing achievements in original research**”. He was among the 120 newly elected members announced by the Academy.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed **Jose J Kattoor** as **Executive Director (ED)**. Prior to being promoted as ED, Mr Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka. He will look after Human Resource Management Department, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department.
- **Padmakumar M Nair** has been appointed as the **CEO** of the proposed **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd**. Presently Padmakumar is the Chief General Manager of Stressed Assets Resolution Group at SBI.
- The **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)**, the government’s head-hunter, has picked **Arun Kumar Singh** as the chairman and managing director of state-run oil refining and marketing firm **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**.
- Veteran British diplomat **Martin Griffiths** has been appointed as the new **Chief at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, for a period of five years. Griffiths will replace **Mark Lowcock** as the new **Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC)** of OCHA. He is currently serving as the **United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen**.
- **Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)** announced that its general secretary **Manisha Kapoor** has been appointed to the executive committee of the **International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS)**. Until April, ASCI served on the executive committee as a member for a two-year term. Now, Kapoor will play a leadership role on the committee till 2023. She will be one of the four global vice-presidents on the executive committee.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced the appointment of **Ramesh Powar** as the **Head Coach of Team India (Senior Women)**.
- Footwear company **Bata India** has appointed **Gunjan Shah** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. He will join Bata in his new role from 21 June 2021, for a period of five years. Shah replaces **Sandeep Kataria**, who has been elevated as the **Global CEO of Bata Brands** in November 2020.
- Indian-American **Neera Tanden** has been appointed **senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden**. She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, **Center for American Progress (CAP)**. She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.
- **Suzuki Motorcycle India** has appointed **Satoshi Uchida** as the new Company Head. He has replaced **Koichiro Hirao** as part of **Suzuki Motor Corporation’s global revamp**.
- Star India hockey team goalkeeper **PR Sreejesh** was re-appointed as a member of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes’ Committee** during the virtual meeting of the world body’s Executive Board. He has been a member of the panel since 2017. The EB confirmed the appointment of four new members for the Athletes’ Committee. **Sreejesh Parattu (IND)**, **Marlena Rybacha (POL)**, **Mohamed Mea (RSA)** and **Matt Swann (AUS)** are now joining the Committee. **Steve Horgan (USA)**, the new chair of the FIH Rules Committee, succeeding **David Collier**.
- **Amitabh Chaudhry** has been re-appointed as the **Managing Director and CEO** of the private sector lender Axis Bank for three more years by the bank board. His second 3 years term will begin with effect from **January 1, 2022, up to December 31, 2024**.



- **Vaishali S Hiwase** became the first woman officer to be appointed as officer commanding in the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** where she will be responsible for providing connectivity through an **Indo-China border road**. Vaishali is from Wardha, Maharashtra, and has completed a successful demanding tenure in Kargil. **Narinder Batra** has been re-elected as the President of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** for the second consecutive term. He was elected during the virtual **47th** Congress of FIH, where he beat **Marc Coudron**, Chief of Belgium Hockey Federation, by just two votes. He will hold the office until **2024** because the FIH has reduced the term from four to three years.
- The **Badminton Association of India (BAI)** President **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been elected as a Member of the c for the period 2021-25. Sarma was elected among 31 contestants to the 20-member BWF Council on May 22, 2021, at the virtual AGM and Council election of BWF, where he got **236 votes in favour**. He is also the **Vice President of Badminton Asia** and the **Chief Minister of Assam**.
- The **Board of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** has appointed **Rajesh Bansal** as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the RBIH with effect from May 17, 2021, the RBIH said in a statement. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub would develop internal infrastructure to promote fintech research and facilitate engagement with innovators and start-ups.
- IPS officer, **Subodh Jaiswal** has been appointed **Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. He was the most senior officer among the three shortlisted for the post of CBI Director. Jaiswal, along with **KR Chandra** and **VS Kaumudi**, was short-listed out of 109 officers for the top post by the high-powered committee led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. Other members of the committee include Chief Justice of India (CJI) **NV Ramana** and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury**.
- **Andy Jassy** will officially become the **CEO of Amazon** on July 5th, the company announced at a shareholder meeting. Amazon announced that Jassy, who is the current CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS), would replace **Jeff Bezos** as CEO of the entire company in February.
- **Jagjit Pavadia**, the former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs), has been elected **president** of the **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**. She is the first Indian to be heading the Vienna-based organization and the second woman to hold this office.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**, Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir as an officer on special duty in the **Department of Commerce**. An order issued by the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Research and Analysis Wing chief, **Samant Kumar Goel** and Intelligence Bureau head **Arvind Kumar** were given a **one-year extension** in their services. Goel, a 1984-batch IPS officer from Punjab cadre, would continue to be the Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) for a period one year beyond the presence tenure which ends on June 30.
- Historian **Laurence des Cars** becomes the first female president of **Musée du Louvre**, the world's largest museum in **Paris, France in 228 years**. She was appointed as the first female president of Musée du Louvre by the President of France, **Emmanuel Macron**.
- Director-General of **Central Reserve Police Force, Kuldiep Singh** has been given additional charge of Director General of **National Investigation Agency, NIA**. He will hold the additional post after 31st or this month after the superannuation of **Y C Modi**.

### Ranks and Reports

- London-based property consultant **Knight Frank** has ranked **New Delhi and Mumbai** in **32nd** and **36th positions** respectively in the **Global Prime Residential Index**. While **Bengaluru** moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked **40**; Delhi and Mumbai dipped one place each in the same period. Three Chinese cities – **Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou** lead the index this quarter. Shenzhen recorded the strongest performing world region with a growth of 18.9%, while New York was the weakest performing market with negative 5.8% growth. Some of the world's top metropolises, **New York, Dubai, London, Paris and Hong Kong** are seeing prices soften. **New York** was the weakest-performing global city during the period.

- The **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a **Digitally Inclusive Bharat**'. **NITI Aayog** has released the report in collaboration with **Mastercard**. The report identifies the various challenges faced in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and also provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its **1.3 billion citizens**.
- **India** was the largest recipient of **remittances in 2020**, as per the report, "**Migration and Development Brief**" released by the **World Bank**. India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008. However, the remittance received by India in 2020 was over **USD 83 billion**, which is a drop of 0.2 per cent from **2019 (USD 83.3 billion)**. Globally, the remittance flow was **USD 540 billion in 2020**, which is 1.9% lower as compared to that of 2019, when it was **USD 548 billion**.
- New Zealand Prime Minister, **Jacinda Ardern** has topped the '**World's 50 Greatest Leaders**' list for 2021, released by **Fortune Magazine**. The 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021 is the **eighth edition** of the annual list which celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren't so familiar, who made a difference amid the "**truly unprecedented times**" of the Covid-19 pandemic. From India, **Adar Poonawalla**, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII) is the only Indian among the top 10 names. He is placed in the **10th spot**.
- **India** has moved a notch higher at the **third spot** on **EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index** due to exceptional performance on the **solar photovoltaic (PV) front**. India has moved one position above (3rd) from the previous index (**4th**), this is primarily because of the exceptional performance on the solar PV front.
- **India** is the **second-largest insurance technology** market in **Asia-Pacific** and accounts for **35 per cent** of the **\$3.66 billion** insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence data**. The data showed that at least 335 private insurtechs are operating in Asia-Pacific, with about 122 of them disclosing \$3.66 billion in aggregate capital raised via private placement deals.

- **Karnataka** has been ranked first in establishing **Health and Wellness Centres** under **Ayushman Bharat Program** to provide comprehensive primary health care in rural areas. Karnataka is leading in implementing the project for 2020-2021. While the Centre had set a target of establishing 2,263 centres, the State has upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31. With a score of **90 out of 95**, the state ranks on top when it comes to the implementation of the project for the year 2020- 21 as per the health and family welfare department.
- **Jharkhand** has clinched the **1st Position** among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects, **Rajasthan** came second in the rankings. The rankings were released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The state-owned insurance behemoth '**Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**' has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally, in **Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021**. The annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance, to identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally.

### Sports Current Affairs

- **Lewis Hamilton** overtook title rival **Max Verstappen** and Mercedes team-mate **Valtteri Bottas** to win the **Portuguese Grand Prix**. Verstappen finished second, while Bottas, who started from pole, came in a disappointing third place. Sergio Perez took the flag in fourth, with Lando Norris fifth for McLaren.



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- **Sri Lankan** all-rounder and former captain, **Thisara Perera** has announced his retirement from international cricket, ending his international career which spanned nearly **12 years**. Perera played six Tests, 166 ODIs (2338 runs, 175 wickets), and 84 T20Is (1204 runs, 51 wickets) for Sri Lanka, after making his debut in December 2009. The 32-year-old would continue to play domestic and franchise cricket.
- The **Badminton World Federation** announced that India shuttler **PV Sindhu** and Canada's **Michelle Li** have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) '**Believe in Sport**' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation.
- In Snooker, English professional player **Mark Selby** has become the **World Snooker Champion** for the fourth time. He won the Championship title after defeating fellow mate **Shaun Murphy** by 18-15 victory at a professional snooker tournament, that took place from 17 April to 3 May 2021 at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England. Prior to this, Selby won the Championship title in **2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021**.
- Former **Sri Lanka player** and coach, **Nuwan Zoysa** has been banned from all cricket for **six years** after an **ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal** found him guilty of breaching the **ICC anti-corruption code**. The ban for Zoysa is backdated to **31 October 2018**, when he was provisionally suspended.
- The **All India Chess Federation** has launched the '**Checkmate Covid Initiative**' to help the chess community affected by the pandemic. The initiative was launched at an online event in the presence of **FIDE (World Chess Federation)** president **Arkady Dvorkovich**, five-time world champion **Viswanathan Anand**, World Rapid Chess Champion **Koneru Humpy**, AICF president **Sanjay Kapoor** and secretary **Bharat Singh Chauhan**.
- Indian gymnast **Pranati Nayak**, who had claimed a bronze in the vault at the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships in 2019, is set to compete at the **Tokyo Olympics** after qualifying through the continental quota. **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) won the **2021 Spanish Grand Prix**, held on 09 May 2021. This win is the fifth successive Spanish Grand Prix title of Lewis Hamilton and the third win of this season. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull Racing-Netherlands) came second followed by **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes-Finland) at third position. The race was the fourth round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
- In tennis, the world number seven, **Aryna Sabalenka** of Belarus, defeated world number one **Ashleigh Barty** of Australia to win the **2021 Madrid Open women's singles title**.
- German **Alexander Zverev** earned his second **Mutua Madrid Open title 2021** when he defeated **Matteo Berrettini** 6-7(8), 6-4, 6-3 to lift his fourth ATP Masters 1000 trophy. He won his first Madrid title in **2018 in a final against Thiem**.
- **New Zealand** wicketkeeper-batsman **BJ Watling** has announced he would be retiring from international cricket after the three Tests, including the **World Test Championship final** against India, on their upcoming England tour. Watling has played 73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20Is for the BlackCaps.
- **Manchester City** has crowned **Premier League champions** for the **third time** in four seasons after **Manchester United** crashed to a 2-1 defeat against **Leicester**. United started the century dominating English football, now City is the force with five titles in 10 seasons and the biggest spenders on transfers and salaries.
- **Rafael Nadal** beat world number one **Novak Djokovic** to win a **10th Italian Open title**. Second seed Nadal won through 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 in 2hr 49min against the defending champion in the 57th career showdown between the pair.
- In the women's category, Polish teenager **Iga Swiatek** crushed Czech ninth seed **Karolina Pliskova** 6-0, 6-0 to win the **Italian Open title**. Swiatek, ranked 15, claimed her third WTA title.
- Representing Kansas State University, **India's Tejaswini Shankar** won back-to-back men's high jump titles in the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in **Manhattan, USA**. He is the third Indian to compete in the highly competitive USA circuit, the breeding ground for many US track and field Olympians.
- **Arjan Bhullar** became the first Indian-origin fighter to win a world title in a top-level **MMA promotion** when he beat **Brandon Vera** to become the heavyweight world champion at the Singapore-based One Championship.
- The **Asia Cup T20 tournament**, which was scheduled to be held in June in **Sri Lanka**, has been postponed indefinitely due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**. The tournament which was originally scheduled to be held in **September 2020** in Sri Lanka was moved to **June 2021** due to COVID-19.

- **Barcelona Women** beat **Chelsea Women** to win the **Women's Champions League trophy**. Chelsea conceded four goals in the first 36 minutes as Barcelona blew them away to win their first Women's Champions League in Gothenburg.
- **Shiv Sunder Das**, the former India men's Test opener, has been appointed as the **batting coach of India Women** for the upcoming tour of England, while **Abhay Sharma** has been named the **fielding coach**. Shiv Sunder Das, who previously worked with the India women's A team, including during the 2020 quadrangular series in Patna.
- **Leicester** won the **FA Cup** for the first time in the club's **137-year history** as **Youri Tielemans's** sensational strike beat Chelsea 1-0. Four times they had previously lost the final, but the last of those was 52 years ago.
- The **U-17 women's World Cup** will be held in India from **October 11 to 30 next year**, Fifa Council said on 21st May. India was earlier scheduled to host the 2020 U-17 World Cup but it was postponed to 2021 before being cancelled due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**. The FIFA Council approved key dates for the international match calendars, including the dates of the 2022 U-17 World Cup in India.
- **Atletico Madrid** pipped city rivals **Real Madrid** to the **La Liga title** on 22nd May Luis Suarez fired them to a 2-1 comeback win at **Real Valladolid**. Atletico finished top of the standings on 86 points while Real, who snatched a late 2-1 win over Villarreal, came second on 84. Valladolid finished 19th and was relegated to Spain's second division.
- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has won the **Monaco Grand Prix** for the first time to take the Formula One championship lead from **Lewis Hamilton**. Ferrari's **Carlos Sainz Jr.** finished second, while McLaren, **L. Norris** came in a disappointing third place.
- Norway's **Casper Ruud** has won the **ATP Geneva Open final** with a 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 victory over **Denis Shapovalov**. Victory in Geneva means the Norwegian world number 21 is going to be among the top 16 seeds in Paris. A second career title lifted Ruud's record to 2-2 in finals, all at clay-court events. The 22-year-old Norwegian's previous title was at Buenos Aires last year.
- American professional golfer, **Phil Mickelson** has created history by winning the **2021 PGA Championship**, at the age of 50. With this victory, Mickelson became the oldest player to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour. This is his **sixth** major title.
- **Ashok Kumar** will be the only referee from the country to officiate in wrestling matches of the **Tokyo Olympic Games**. He was named in the list of officials released by the **United World Wrestling (UWW)**. Ashok, who will officiate in his second consecutive Olympics. He is a UWW referees' educator as well.
- **Pooja Rani** won the **gold medal in the 75kg Women's Middle category final** at the **Asian Boxing Championships**. She defeated **Mavluda Movlonova** in the gold medal clash. Indian pugilist **Mary Kom**, lost to two-time world champion **Nazym Kyzaibay** of Kazakhstan, to settle for silver medal at the **2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai**.
- **Chelsea** defeated **Manchester City** 1-0 in the final, to lift the 2020-21 **UEFA Champions League title**, on May 29, 2021, played at the **Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has confirmed that the **IPL 2021 Phase 2** will be held in the **UAE** during the **September-October window**. In a Special General Meeting chaired by BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly**, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed to the State units that the tournament will have to be shifted out of India on account of 'monsoon.'

### Summits And Conferences

- The Prime Minister of India, Shri **Narendra Modi** and his British counterpart **Boris Johnson** held a virtual Summit meeting. During the Summit meeting, both the leaders unveiled an ambitious **10-year road map** to elevate the **India-UK bilateral relationship** to a comprehensive strategic partnership. The UK prime minister Boris Johnson announced a new India-UK trade investment worth **£1 billion**.
- The first-ever **India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue** was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the **G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting**. The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, **Dr S. Jaishankar** from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, **Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian** and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator **Marise Payne**.
- Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c), **Prahlad Singh Patel** participated in G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting held in Italy on 4th May 2021. This dialogue aimed to collaborate in protecting tourism businesses, jobs and taking initiatives to frame policy guidelines to support the sustainable and resilient recovery of travel and tourism. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi participated in the **India-EU Leaders' Meeting**, held in a hybrid format. The India-European Union Leaders' Meeting is hosted by **Portugal**. Portugal currently holds the chair of the grouping. PM Modi attended the event at the invitation of the President of the European Council **Mr Charles Michel**.

- The first **BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG)** Meeting was held in 2021 in virtual format. The meeting was held under the **chairmanship of India**, which has assumed the BRICS Presidency in 2021. The meeting was chaired by Shri **Apurva Chandra**, Secretary, Labour and Employment.
- The fourth **India-Swiss Financial Dialogue** was held here virtually through video conferencing. **Ajay Seth**, Secretary Economic Affairs led the Indian delegation. The delegation from the Swiss side was led by **Daniela Stoffel**, State Secretary, and State Secretariat for International Finance, Switzerland.
- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** chaired the **26th meeting of the Group of Ministers** on COVID-19. CoWIN platform- the government developed a website for the registration and booking of vaccine appointment- will be soon accessible in Hindi and 14 other regional languages, informed in the 26th GOM meeting.
- **Dr. Harshvardhan**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare chaired the opening session of the **33rd meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries** through video conference. Agenda of the Meet - '**Ensuring Equitable Access to Vaccines and Building Resilience for Health Systems and Emergencies**'. Health minister stated that, "My motto has always been '**Health for those without wealth**'".
- The **Global G20 Health Summit** was co-hosted by European Commission along with **Italy** as part of its **G20 presidency** amid the surge and spread of coronavirus cases. The summit adopted the agenda to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. It also decided to develop and endorse a **Rome Declaration of principles**.
- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, chaired the **74th World Health Assembly** in virtual mode. According to Dr Harsh Vardhan, the executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility. Director-General of World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros, also participated in the event.

## Awards & Recognition

- The **Japanese Government** recently awarded the "**Order of Rising Sun**" to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, **Shyamala Ganesh**. She is a Japanese teacher at the Septuagenarian institution and also at the Ohara School of Ikebana in RT Nagar, Bengaluru. She has tutored more than hundreds of students since its **inception 38 years ago**. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement.
- **Maria Ressa** has been named as the **2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**. The \$25,000 prize "recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger," according to UNESCO. The prize was named after **Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist**.
- Singer **Pink** will be honoured with the **Icon Award** at the **2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs)**. The award aims to recognize artists who have achieved success on the Billboard charts and left an indelible impact on music. Pink joins previous honourees that include Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks.
- Former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal, has been declared as one of the two recipients of the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021. The Award will be presented at IAWJ's Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony on May 7, 2021. She shares the honour with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico. **Anupam Kher** won the **Best Actor award** for his performance in the short film **Happy Birthday** at the **New York City International Film Festival**. The film has been directed by **Prasad Kadam** and produced by FNP Media. Besides Anupam, Happy Birthday stars Aahana Kumra. The film also won the **Best Short Film award at the festival**.
- Mumbai born, **Dr Tahera Qutbuddin**, a professor of **Arabic Literature** at the **University of Chicago**, recently became the first person of Indian-origin to win the **15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award**. The award is considered to be the **Nobel Prize of the Arab world**. She won the award for her latest book, "**Arabic Oration - Art and Function**" published by **Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden in 2019**.

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)** has been conferred with the “**Green Urja Award**” for being the Leading Public Institution in the Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year by the **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**. IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.
- Indian-origin global nutritionist, **Dr Shakuntala Hark Singh Thilstad** has received the “**World Food Award**” of the year **2021**. She developed a holistic and nutritionally sensitive approach to seafood and food systems and has received an award for his research. The award is also known as the **Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture**. Every year, the committee selects a person who will be awarded the **\$ 250,000 title and prize money**.
- An environmentalist from Nagaland’s remote Longleng district, **Nuku Phom** has won this year’s **Whitley Awards 2021**, also known as the Green Oscar. Nuku Phom’s name, along with that of five others, was announced recently in a virtual award ceremony organized by the UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN). Nuku and his team want to offer alternatives that engage communities in conservation using the Amur falcon as a flagship.
- The **National Basketball Association (NBA)** has announced the creation of a new award — the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award**, to recognise players who are making strides in the **fight for social justice**. Each NBA team will nominate one player for consideration; from there, five finalists will be selected and ultimately one winner. The winning player will receive **\$100,000** for the charity of his choice.
- **International Invincible Gold Medal of this year** has been conferred on Union Education Minister **Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**. He has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.
- Los Angeles Lakers legend, **Kobe Bryant** has been posthumously inducted into the **Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame**. He was presented at the ceremony in Connecticut by NBA great **Michael Jordan** and his widow, **Vanessa**, accepted his induction on his behalf.
- Two British chemists who developed a **super-fast DNA sequencing technique** that paved the way for revolutionary healthcare advances were awarded Finland’s version of the **Nobel science prizes**. Cambridge University professors **Shankar Balasubramanian** and **David Klenerman** took home the **1 million euro (\$1.22 million) Millennium Technology Prize** for their work over 27 years creating ever faster and cheaper ways to sequence the human genome.
- The Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer **Suresh Mukund**, has won the 10th Annual ‘**World Choreography Award 2020**’, (also known as Choreo Awards), becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious honour. He won the award in the ‘**TV REALITY SHOW/COMPETITION**’ category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show ‘**World of Dance**’.
- The naturalist **Jane Goodall** has been announced as the **2021 winner of the Templeton Prize** in recognition of her life’s work on animal intelligence and humanity. Goodall built her global reputation on her groundbreaking studies of **chimpanzees in Tanzania in the 1960s**.
- **Hockey India** has won the prestigious **Etienne Glichitch Award** in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country. The awards were announced by the game’s governing body FIH during the HockeyInvites virtual conference. It was part of its **47th FIH Congress** which concluded with the **FIH Honorary Awards**.
- **SpiceHealth**, a healthcare company founded by the promoters of **SpiceJet**, has won the Gold Award at the **2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards** for ‘**Most Valuable Medical Innovation**’ under Covid19.



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- **V Karthikeyan Pandian**, an IAS officer, and private secretary to **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** was conferred with President's award by **International Hockey Federation** through the **47th FIH Congress**. He was awarded for his contribution in direction of the event and promotion of hockey in Odisha.
- Padma Bhushan awardee and noted gastroenterologist **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy**, who is also the chairman of **AIG Hospitals**, has won the **Rudolf V Schindler Award** from the **American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)**. Rudolf V Schindler Award is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after **Dr Schindler** who is considered as **"the father of gastroscopy."**
- Noted Indian scientist and Bharat Ratna Professor, **C.N.R. Rao** has been felicitated with the **International Eni Award 2020** (also called the Energy Frontier award). The International Eni Award is considered to be the **Nobel Prize in Energy Research**. He has been conferred the prize for his work on **metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and other materials** and two-dimensional systems.
- Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, **Amartya Kumar Sen** has been conferred with the '**2021 Princess of Asturias Award**' by Spain in the **social sciences category**. Princess of Asturias Awards is annual prizes awarded by the Princess of Asturias Foundation in Spain to individuals, entities or organizations from around the world who make notable achievements in the sciences, humanities, and public affairs.
- Corporal **Yuvraj Singh**, civilian peacekeeper **Ivan Michael Picardo**, and **Moolchand Yadav** are among those to be honoured with the **UN's prestigious medal**. Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) while civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper. Moolchand Yadav was associated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).
- **World Laughter Day** is celebrated on the **first Sunday of May** every year. It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. In 2021, the day falls on **02 May 2021**. World Laughter Day was first celebrated on **May 10, 1998, in Mumbai** upon the initiation of **Dr Madan Kataria**, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.
- **World Press Freedom Day** is observed globally on **3 May** every year. It is also known as **World Press Day**. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives. They risk their lives at times or may even have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public. This year's World Press Freedom Day theme **"Information as a Public Good"**.
- **World Tuna Day** is observed globally on **2nd May** every year. This day is established by the **United Nations (UN)** to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish. It is observed for the first time in **2017**. According to the UN, an outsized number of nations worldwide depend upon tuna for both food security and nutrition. At the same time, more than 96 countries have tuna fisheries, and their capacity is constantly growing.
- The **International Firefighters' Day (IFFD)** is observed on **May 4** every year since **1999**. The day is celebrated to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in **Australia** on **2 December 1998**.
- **Coal Miners' Day** is celebrated on **May 4** to recognize the hard work of some of the great unsung heroes of the **Industrial Revolution**. The day is celebrated to show appreciation for the coal miners and honour their accomplishments. Coal miners spend most of the days digging, tunnelling and extracting coal from the mines. They dig deep into the Earth to bring out the riches that help to sustain our life. Coal mining is one of the toughest professions.
- **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the **1st Tuesday of May**. This year, World Asthma Day is observed on **May 4, 2021**. The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world. Whilst the primary focus is supporting the person with asthma, support may also extend to family, friends and caregivers. The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is **"Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions"**.

### Important Days

- **International Labour Day** (also known as **May Day** or **International Workers' Day**) is celebrated across the world on the **1st of May** every year. The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.

- Every year, the **World Hand Hygiene Day** is observed on **May 5**. The day is organised by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to raise awareness among people across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections. The theme for 2021 is **'Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands'**.
- **International Day of the Midwife** is observed globally on **5 May** every year since **1992**. This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns. The theme for 2021 International Day of the Midwife is **"Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives."**
- **International No Diet Day** is observed on **May 6**, and its symbol is a **light blue ribbon**. It is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity. It means recognising that your body is beautiful exactly as it is and worry less about your weight, body shape and more about being healthy and active.
- The **World Athletics Day-2021** is observed on the **5 May**. The date is subject to adjustment, the date of World Athletics Day is decided by the IAAF, however, the month stays the same as May. The first World Athletics Day was observed in **1996**. The basic objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.
- The **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is observed every year on **8 May**. The day aims to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality. Theme 2021 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: **'Unstoppable'**
- **World Thalassaemia Day** is celebrated on **May 8** every year to commemorate Thalassaemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease. The theme for 2021 World Thalassaemia Day is **"Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community"**.
- **World Migratory Bird Day 2021** is observed globally on **8 May**. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them. **"Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!"** is the theme of this year's World Migratory Bird Day.
- Every year during May 8-9, the United Nations marks the Time of Remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War. The day pays tribute to all the victims of the Second World War. This year is the 76th Anniversary of World War II. In **2021**, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **10 May** the **International Day of Argania**. The resolution, submitted by Morocco, was co-sponsored by 113 member states of the **United Nations and adopted by consensus**. The argan tree (**Argania Spinosa**) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas.
- **National Technology Day** is celebrated on **11 May** across India. This day marks the successfully tested **Shakti-I** nuclear missile at the **Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan**. This day will be focusing on rebooting the economy through Science and Technology. It also highlights the achievements of our scientists and engineers in the field of science and technology and encourages students to embrace Science as a career option.
- **International Nurse Day** is observed globally on **12 May** every year. This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale**. She was also known as Lady with the Lamp. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician. The theme of 2021 International Nurses Day is **'Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare'**.
- The **International Day of Families** is observed every year on **15 May** to reflect the importance that the international community attaches to families. This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The theme of 2021 is **"Families and New Technologies"**.
- In India, the **National Dengue Day** is observed every year on **16 May**. The day is an initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.
- The **International Day of Light (IDL)** is celebrated on **16 May** each year to mark the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, **Theodore Maiman**. The message of 2021 International Day of Light is **"Trust Science"**.



- The **International Day of Living Together in Peace** is held on **16th May** every year since 2018. The UN General Assembly, declared **16 May** the **International Day of Living Together in Peace**, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
- The **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)** is observed every year on **17 May** since **1969**, to commemorate the founding of the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**. The theme of 2021 is **“Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times”**.
- The 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week, which this year is celebrated between **17 and 23 May**, call for **30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits** to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide. **UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW)** is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by **WHO**.
- **World Hypertension Day (WHD)** is celebrated on **17 May** worldwide to promote public awareness of increasing **high blood pressure (BP)** and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer. The day was held for the first time in **May 2005**. The theme for World Hypertension Day 2021 is **Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer**.
- **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, (also known as **HIV Vaccine Awareness Day**), is observed annually on **May 18** to promote the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS. The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was thus observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton’s speech.
- The **International Museum Day** is celebrated on **18 May**, since 1977, to raise awareness about the fact that “Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples”. The theme of International Museum Day 2021: **“The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine”**. It is coordinated by the **International Council of Museums (ICOM)**.
- **World Bee Day** is observed globally on **20th May** every year. On this date, 20 May, the pioneer of beekeeping **Anton Janša** was born in **1734** in **Slovenia**. The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is **“Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees”**.
- **World Metrology Day** is observed globally on **20th May** every year. Many nations on this day, internationally collaborate to create awareness about metrology and its advancement in the respective field. The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is **Measurement for Health**. This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in health, and thus in the wellbeing of every one of us.
- **International Tea Day** is observed globally on **May 21** on the recommendation of India. The purpose of International Tea Day is to try to improve the condition of tea producers and tea workers. The United Nations recognised International Tea Day by the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** to raise awareness of the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world and promote its importance in fighting hunger and poverty.
- In India, the **National Anti Terrorism Day** is observed on **May 21** to commemorate the death anniversary of former **Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi**. The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people. Rajiv Gandhi was India’s youngest Prime Minister. He was appointed as the **sixth** Prime Minister of the country and served the nation from **1984 to 1989**.
- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** is observed globally on **21 May** every year. The day aims to celebrate the richness of the world’s cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- The United Nations celebrates **International Day for Biological Diversity** on **22 May** every year to raise awareness about the issue of a significant reduction in biological diversity due to certain human activities. This year 2021 the theme is **“We’re part of the solution”**.
- Every year, United Nations (UN) **International Day to End Obstetric Fistula** is marked on **23rd May** since **2013** to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a condition that affects many girls and women during childbirth in developing countries. The theme 2021: **“Women’s rights are human rights! End fistula now!”**.

- The **World Turtle Day** is observed on **May 23** every year by **American Tortoise Rescue**, a nonprofit organization. The day is celebrated to raise awareness among people to protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world. The theme of 2021 World Turtle Day is **"Turtles Rock!"**.
- **World Thyroid Day** is observed globally on **25 May** every year. The main purpose of the WTD is to aware of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases.
- **International Missing Children's Day** is observed globally on **25th May** every year. This day is observed for missing children who have found their way home, remember those that are victims of crime, and continue efforts to seek out those that are still missing. 25 May is now widely referred to as Missing Children's Day, with the **forget-me-not flower** as its emblem.
- **Commonwealth Day** is celebrated on the **second Monday** in the month of **March** every year. However, in India, another Commonwealth Day is also celebrated on **May 24**. Also known as **Empire Day**, Commonwealth Day commemorates the formation of the **British Empire** in India and other colonies of Britain. This year the theme for Commonwealth Day is: **Delivering a Common Future**.
- **Vesak Day 2021** is observed globally on **26 May**. Vesak, the **Day of Full Moon** is the most sacred day to Buddhists all over the world. On this day, **Lord Gautham Buddha** attained enlightenment. The Day is commemorated by the **United Nations** every year.
- **World Hunger Day** is observed globally on **28 May** every year. The objective of this day is to raise awareness about more than **820 million** people living in chronic hunger worldwide. It is observed since **2011** to not only spread awareness about the malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through sustainable undertakings.
- The **International Day of Action for Women's Health (International Women's Health Day)** is observed every year on **May 28** since **1987** to raise awareness on the issues related to women's health and well being. **Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN)** and **Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)** launched the day.
- The **United Nations** is observing the **International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories** from **May 25 to 31, 2021**.
- The **"International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers"** is observed on **May 29** annually. The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly on **December 11, 2002**, and first celebrated in **2003**. The 2021 Theme: **"The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security."**
- The **"International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers"** is observed on **May 29** annually. The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly on **December 11, 2002**, and first celebrated in **2003**. The 2021 Theme: **"The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security."**
- **International Everest Day** is being observed on **29th May**. Nepalese **Tenzing Norgay** and New Zealand's **Edmund Hillary** had climbed Mt. Everest on this day in **1953**, as the first humans to achieve the feat.
- Every year, **World Digestive Health Day (WDHD)** is observed on **29 May**. It is organised by the **World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO)** in collaboration with the **WGO Foundation (WGOF)**. The theme of WDHD 2021 is **"Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic."**
- **Amnesty International Day** is observed every year on **May 28**, because it was on this day in **1961** that this non-governmental organization was founded in London.
- Every year, on **31st May**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and global partners celebrate **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)**. This year theme of the 2021 WNTD is **"Commit to quit."**

### Defence Current Affairs

- The **Indian Navy** has launched **Operation Samudra Setu-II** to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries to India, amid its worsening COVID-19 pandemic. As a part of operation 'Samudra Setu II', **seven Indian Naval ships** have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries. These warships are **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat**.

- The armed forces have launched operation “CO-JEET” to aid **anti-COVID-19 efforts**, like strengthening the medical system in India and oxygen supply chains. Along with these, CO-JEET also take measures to ensure the mental wellbeing of people. Apart from medical therapy, patients necessitate the assurance that “they will be fine” and at times that is all they need to gain back self-confidence and courage. Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) **Kanitkar** is the third woman to become a three-star general in the armed forces.
- The Indian Army recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in Sikkim. It was launched to benefit the troops of the Indian army. The plant uses Vanadium based battery technology. It was built at an altitude of 16,000 feet. The capacity of the plant is 56 KVA. It was completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai. The **Indian Army** has set up a **Covid Management Cell** to bring greater efficiency in coordinating real-time responses to address the exponential rise in Covid cases across the country. It helps in assistance to civil administration in the form of testing, admissions in military hospitals, and transportation of critical medical equipment.
- An anti-COVID-19 therapeutic drug developed by **DRDO** called **drug2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG)** has been given emergency approval by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** for Coronavirus patients in the country. The **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**, a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed the drug, in collaboration with **Dr Reddy’s Laboratories, Hyderabad**.
- The **Indian and Indonesian Navies** conducted **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** in the southern **Arabian Sea** with a focus on further improving their interoperability. The exercise was aimed at improving interoperability and understanding between both the friendly navies.
- **DRDO** has developed an **Artificial Intelligence algorithm** that can detect the presence of COVID-19 disease in Chest X-rays. Named **ATMAN AI**, the tool was developed by DRDO’s Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), with the support of 5C Network & HCG Academics. Triaging COVID suspect patients using X-ray is fast, cost-effective, and efficient.
- The **Indian Navy** has designed an **Oxygen Recycling System (ORS)** to mitigate the existing Oxygen shortages. Indian Navy’s Diving School of the **Southern Naval Command** has conceptualised and designed the System as they have expertise in this area because the basic concept is used in some of the diving sets used by the school.
- The first destroyer of the Indian Navy, **INS Rajput**, will be **decommissioned on May 21**. It was commissioned on **04 May 1980**. After rendering service for **41 years**, it will be decommissioned at the **Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam**. INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard. Its Original Russian name was ‘**Nadezhny**’.
- Squadron Leader, **Aashritha V Olety** is the **first and only woman in the IAF** qualified for the role, and as a **flight test engineer**, she will be responsible for evaluating aircraft and airborne systems before their induction into the armed forces. Aashritha V Olety, a native of Karnataka, has graduated as part of the **43rd Flight Test Course**.
- National Security Advisor (NSA), **Ajit Doval** has commissioned the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) **Sajag**, which has been constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited**.

### Science and Technology

- The **United Launch Alliance** launched the **Atlas V rocket** from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The Atlas V rocket carried **SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite**. The full form of SBRIS is the **Space-Based Infrared System**. It is designed for missile warning, missile battlespace and defence characterization.
- **IIT Ropar** has developed a portable **eco-friendly electric cremation system**. It is one of its kind of technology that produces no smoke despite using wood for cremation. It is based on **wick-stove technology**. The cart has been developed in collaboration with the company **Cheema Boilers Limited**.
- **Iran** has unveiled a new supercomputer named ‘**Simorgh**’, which is 100 times more powerful than the previous supercomputer of the country to date. The supercomputer has been developed indigenously by **Tehran’s Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT)**. It has been named after a mythical **Phoenix-like bird ‘Simorgh’**.

- Telecom operator **Reliance Jio** is constructing the largest international **submarine cable system** centred on India with global partners and **submarine cable supplier Subcom** to cater to increased data demand. The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets (**Singapore, Thailand & Malaysia**) and others with **Italy & Africa**.
- **Google** has announced the launch of its global licensing programme **News Showcase in India**. Google has sealed agreements with **30 Indian publishers** to offer access to some of their content. Amid mounting pressure from the global media fraternity asking for a fair price and advertising share from technology platforms.
- Tech-giant **Microsoft** has decided to retire its iconic **Internet Explorer (IE) browser**, with effect from 15 June 2022, after more than 25 years of its launch. The **Internet Explorer (IE)** browser was launched in **1995**. Microsoft recommends its users shift to Microsoft Edge (2015) before June 15, 2022, for a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience.
- **Sharks** use the **Earth's magnetic field** as a sort of natural **GPS to navigate journeys** that take them great distances across the world's oceans, scientists have found. **Marine laboratory experiments** with a small species of shark confirm long-held speculation that sharks use magnetic fields as aids to navigation — behavior observed in other marine animals such as sea turtles.
- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe** detected a natural radio signal that revealed the spacecraft had flown through **Venus's** upper atmosphere. This was the first direct measurement of the Venusian atmosphere in nearly **30 years** — and it looks quite different from Venus's past. This marks the latest clue to untangling how and why Venus and Earth are so different.
- Elon Musk-owned **SpaceX** is set to launch the "**DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon**", the first-ever commercial lunar payload, paid entirely in the **cryptocurrency Dogecoin**. The satellite is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of **2022** onboard the **Falcon 9 rocket**. The dogecoin-funded mission is led by the **Canadian company Geometric Energy Corporation (GEC)**.
- **Google Cloud** and **SpaceX** signed a deal for providing internet service through **Starlink satellite**. Google will provide the Cloud infrastructure for this connectivity Project, while Space X will install ground terminals in Google's cloud data centres for connecting Starlink satellites. It will help in providing fast internet service to the rural areas. This service will be available to customers before the **end of 2021**.
- The **United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration** is planning to search for **water** and other resources on the **moon in 2023**. The US agency, as part of its **Artemis program**, is planning to send its **first mobile robot** to the Moon in late 2023 in search of ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface. The **Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER** will collect data that would help NASA map resources at the lunar South Pole that could one day be harvested for long-term human exploration at the Moon.
- The US space agency, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is developing a new system called the **Earth System Observatory**, to mitigate efforts related to climate change and disaster mitigation. NASA has also partnered with the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** which will provide **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**. NISAR will carry two radar systems to measure changes in the Earth's surface, during one of the observatory's first missions intended as a pathfinder.
- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** and **Monash University, Australia** have developed a detector named '**FakeBuster**' to identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge. It can also find out faces manipulated on social media to defame or make a joke of someone.



### Books & Authors

- Meghan Markle will be releasing her new book, titled **The Bench**, on June 8, which was inspired by a poem she wrote to her husband, Prince Harry, on his first Father's Day as a dad to son Archie. The book, with watercolour illustrations by Christian Robinson, began as a poem that Markle says she wrote for Harry on the first Father's Day after Archie was born. Bollywood actress **Kalki Koechlin** is making her debut as an author, with her first book titled **"Elephant In The Womb"**. The book, which is yet to be released, is an illustrated non-fiction book on motherhood. It is illustrated by **Valeriya Polyanychko** and published by **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)**.
- **"Life in the Clock Tower Valley"** is the debut book of Press Trust of India (PTI) journalist **Shakoor Rather**. The book is published by **Speaking Tiger**, it talks about Kashmir's pristine past, its grievous present and always-uncertain future. It also includes historical and political information about Kashmir as well as environmental issues that are seldom talked about.
- The book **"Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance"**, published by **HarperCollins India**, released on **May 16**, which is celebrated as **Sikkim Day**. Former diplomat **Preet Mohan Singh Malik** combines insights into the unique history of the erstwhile kingdom of Sikkim with the intriguing story of how it became **India's 22nd state in his new book**.
- A book has titled **"Nehru, Tibet and China"** authored by **Avtar Singh Bhasin**. The book based on years of meticulous archival research, this book in fascinating detail, analyses the events from **1949** to the Indo-China war in **1962** and its aftermath to explore the answers to these burning questions.
- A book has titled **'India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present'** is authored by **Shivshankar Menon**. He was the Prime Minister's **National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary**, is exploring these phases in their historical context to tell the story of how India weathered the many geopolitical storms of the past in his latest book.
- Bollywood actor **Neena Gupta** is all set to launch her autobiography **"Sach Kahun Toh"**, publisher **Penguin Random House India**. she wrote the book in 2020 during the lockdown. The book addresses issues like casting couch, film industry politics, and also talks about what it takes for a young actor to survive without a godfather or guide.

- **Aditya Gupta**, a Delhi-based entrepreneur and mountaineer aim to raise **Rs 1 crore** for COVID-19 relief from the sale proceeds of his recently released book **"7 Lessons from Everest - Expedition Learnings from Life and Business"**. The coffee-table book, with 350 stunning images spread over 250 pages, is written by Aditya Gupta.
- A book titled **"Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020"** authored by **Salman Rushdie**. In his new book, Rushdie attempts to perform a defensive castling move.

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The Mahindra Group Chairman, **Anand Mahindra** has rolled out a project titled **'Oxygen on Wheels'** to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals and homes, following acute oxygen shortage amid a severe second wave of coronavirus. The **'Oxygen on Wheels'** initiative will bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India, especially in Maharashtra.
- **Wipro** regained its position as the **3rd largest Indian IT services company** by market capitalization of **₹ 2.65 trillion** by suppressing **HCL Technologies'** **₹ 2.62 trillion** market cap. **TCS** remains at the top of the list with a market cap of **₹ 11.51 trillion** followed by Infosys.
- The world's largest aeroplane, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space, soared into clear skies over **California's Mojave Desert**. The company **Stratolaunch** designed it to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space. The aircraft named **'Roc'** features a twin-fuselage design and the **longest wingspan** ever flown, at **385 feet (117 m)**, surpassing the **Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat of 321 feet (98 m)**. The Stratolaunch is intended to carry a **550,000-pound payload** and will be able to launch rockets from high altitude.
- The **world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge** named **"Arouca"** was opened in **Portugal**, according to a press release by **UNESCO's Arouca World Geopark**. The **Arouca Bridge** offers a half-kilometre (**almost 1,700-foot**) walk across its span, along a metal walkway suspended from cables. **Some 175 meters (574 feet)** below, the **Paiva River** flows through a waterfall.

- The **Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B)**, has set up a demonstration unit to convert nitrogen generators, which are found in all parts of India, into oxygen generators by fine-tuning the existing nitrogen plant set up. The oxygen generated by this plant at IIT-B lab was tested and found to be **93-96% pure and at 3.5 atmospheric pressure**.
- **US aerospace** major Boeing announced a **USD 10 million (about ₹74 crore)** emergency assistance package for India. The assistance from Boeing will be directed to organisations providing relief, including medical supplies and emergency healthcare for communities and families battling the pandemic.
- In the West Khasi Hills District of **Meghalaya**, **100-million-year old fossil bone fragments of sauropod dinosaurs** have been found by researchers of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**. The bone fragments were collected from poorly sorted, purplish to greenish arkosic sandstone that was interlaid with pebbly beds. **Arzan Nagwaswalla**, a 23-year-old left-arm seamer from Gujarat, has been picked as a reserve player in the **Indian Test squad** named for the **World Test Championship** final against **New Zealand in Southampton**. Arzan Rohinton Nagwaswalla, hailing from a Parsi community in a village near the Maharashtra border, is the first Parsi cricketer to break into the national team since **1975** and the only active Parsi cricketer.
- Fintech major **Paytm** launched '**COVID-19 Vaccine Finder**', a platform to help citizens check the availability of vaccination slots on its Mini App store. The platform will help citizens to check the availability of vaccination slots for a specific date by individually entering different pin codes or district details along with age group (**18+ or 45+**).
- World's First Unmanned Vessel named "**Mayflower 400**" is set to **Navigate Across the Atlantic**. It has been built by the marine research organization **ProMare** in collaboration with **IBM**. It will begin its transatlantic voyage on **May 15, 2021**, to track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the **water, and study marine pollution**.
- **Harley-Davidson Inc.** has launched an all-electric motorcycle brand "**LiveWire**," the latest effort by the company to ramp up bets on the rapidly growing electric vehicle market. The company would create a separate electric vehicle-focused division, as it aims to attract the next generation of younger and more environmentally conscious riders.
- Wadia Group-owned, **GoAir** has rebranded itself as '**Go First**', with the new motto "**You Come First**". The decision to rebrand after 15 years is part of the company's attempt to operate the carrier in an **ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier)** airline model, to tide over the impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Two women mountaineers - **Baljeet Kaur**, of Solan district of Himachal and **Gunbala Sharma** of Rajasthan have defied all odds and a raging pandemic to become the first Indian women to **summit Mount Pumori in Nepal**. Mt Nuptse, Mt Pumori, Mt Lhotse along with the tallest mountain on earth, Mt Everest make up the Everest Massif.
- **Cyclone Taukate** has obtained its maximum intensity in the **wee hours of Sunday** and has now become a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (**wind speed of 118 to 166 km/hr**). The latest cyclone alert issued by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has said that this storm would reach close to **Gujarat coast, Maharashtra, Goa**. Light to moderate intensity rainfall is expected to continue over coastal **Karnataka and Kerala till Monday**.
- The **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)** is building a next-generation **Digital Financial Infrastructure** named **National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)**. NADI would provide a roadmap and framework for future digital financial services growth in India.
- On the occasion of International Museums Day 2021, the **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)** has launched the **Audio-Visual Guide App**. The app will enable museum viewers to listen to anecdotes and stories related to the Indian modern art exhibited at the Gallery. It has been launched to provide a better way of viewing the museum to visitors. International Museums Day is observed every year on **18 May**.
- The Munjal family-led **Hero Group** has launched a new education technology startup '**Hero Vired**', which will offer an end-to-end learning ecosystem. Through this new edtech venture, Hero Group aims to enter the ed-tech space. The platform will offer learners overall professional development to make them industry-ready for employment.
- A category **5 cyclonic storm** has been forecasted to make its landfall along the coastline of **West Bengal and Odisha** between May 26-27. Once formed, the cyclone will be named '**Yaas**'. Yaas will be as deadly as Amphan which was also formed in the Bay of Bengal in May last year. Yaas, named by **Oman** as such, refers to a Jasmine-like tree that has a good fragrance.

- **European Space Agency (ESA)** has confirmed using satellite images that the world's largest iceberg has broken off **Antarctica**. Named as **A-76**, the iceberg was **4320 square kilometres** in size, which is half the size of the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. The finger-shaped iceberg broke off from the Ronne Ice shelf, a massive ice shelf that encompasses an area of more than 400,000 sq. km.
- An Indian-origin Human Sciences student from Magdalen College at the University of Oxford has been declared the winner at the end of a Student Union (SU) byelection. **Anvee Bhutani**, Co-Chair **Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE)** at Oxford SU and President of the Oxford India Society, was in the fray for the by-election for the **2021-22 academic years**, which attracted a record turnout.
- **Cheetah**, the world's fastest land animal which was **declared extinct in India in 1952**, is expected to be **re-introduced** into the country in **November** this year at the **Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh**. Kuno, positioned within the Chambal area, unfolds over a space of over 750 sq km and has a conducive atmosphere for the cheetah.
- **Tsang Yin-hung**, a Hong Kong-based mountaineer, has created the record of the world's fastest ascent of **Everest by a woman**, within the time of just under 26 hours. The 44-year-old Tsang, scaled the **8,848.86-metre (29,031 feet)** Everest mountain in a record time of **25 hours and 50 minutes** on **May 23**. It was her third attempt of scaling the Himalayan peak.
- The **Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)**, the apex body of broadcasters, is being renamed as **Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF)**, as it expands its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital (OTT) players under one roof. IBDF is in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters pertaining to digital media.
- The **UAE government** awarded Bollywood actor **Sanjay Dutt** with its **Golden Visa**. The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency to people with outstanding talents. In 2019, UAE implemented a new system for long-term residence visas enabling foreigners to live, work & study there without the need of a national sponsor & with **100% ownership** of their business.
- **Mount Nyiragongo** erupted in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Mount Nyiragongo is one of several volcanoes near the DRC's border with **Rwanda and Uganda**. Mount Nyiragongo is located inside **Virunga National Park**.

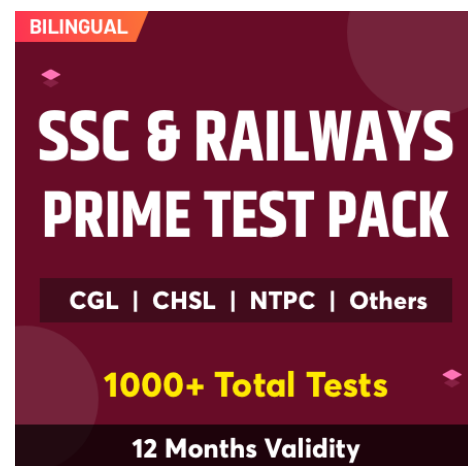
## Obituaries

- Sitar maestro **Pandit Debu Chaudhuri** has passed away following COVID-19 related complications. The Legend of Sitar belonged to the Senia or Gharana style of music. He had been awarded the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri. He was also a teacher and writer and had penned six books and composed many new ragas.
- Actor **Bikramjeet Kanwarpal**, who has been a popular character in many films, TV shows and web series, has passed away due to **Covid-19 complications**.
- **Parul Debi Das**, the first female IAS officer from Assam, passed away. She was an Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer. She was the daughter of the former cabinet minister of undivided Assam – Ramnath Das. She was the sister of former Assam Chief Secretary **Naba Kumar Das**.
- Shooter **Chandro Tomar**, nicknamed '**Shooter Dadi**', passed away at the age of 89 due to Covid-19. She was hailing from the Baghat village in Uttar Pradesh, Tomar was 60-plus when she picked up the gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions for veterans, her feats ultimately inspiring the award-winning Bollywood movie '**Saad ki Aankh**'.
- The Indian aeronautical scientist, **Manas Bihari Verma**, who played an instrumental role in the development of the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) – Tejas**, has passed away. He worked as a scientist at the **Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO)** for 35 years in the aeronautical stream.
- Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor, **Jagmohan Malhotra** has passed away. Jagmohan served two terms as Jammu and Kashmir Governor, once from **1984 to 1989**, and then from January 1990 to May 1990. He had also served as Lieutenant Governor of **Delhi, Goa and Daman & Diu**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi's** former personal secretary **V Kalyanam** passed away. He was Gandhi's personal secretary from **1943 to 1948**, when the Mahatma was assassinated. Kalyanam was preserving letters written by Gandhiji, a cheque bearing his sign and other literature associated with him. He was proficient in **Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English**. A staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he was also associated with Rajaji in the 1960s.

- Former Union Minister and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) founder and leader **Ajit Singh** has passed away battling COVID-19. He was the son of former Prime Minister of India, **Chaudhary Charan Singh**.
- Actress **Abhilasha Patil**, who featured in films like 'Good Newwz', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania' and 'Chhichhore', passed away due to Covid-19 complications.
- Veteran senior journalist **Shesh Narayan Singh** has passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19. He was 70. A columnist, political commentator and an expert on foreign policy, Shesh Narain Singh had a career spanning over two decades.
- The veteran Music Composer Vanraj Bhatia, who was the best-known composer of Western classical music in India, has passed away after a brief illness. His work ranged from composing music for advertisement films, feature films, mainstream films, television shows, documentaries etc. Eminent sculptor, architect, and Rajya Sabha member, **Raghunath Mohapatra** has passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19. Hailing from Odisha, Mohapatra was awarded Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013 for his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture.
- The senior-most communist leader of Kerala, **KR Gouri Amma**, who was the first Revenue Minister in the first communist ministry of the state in 1957, has passed away due to age-related ailments. **She was 102**. She was the **second longest-serving MLA in Kerala Legislative Assembly** and also the last surviving member of the first Kerala government.
- Noted Assamese litterateur and journalist, **Homen Borgohain** has passed away. He was associated with several newspapers and was most recently working as the editor in chief of **Assamese daily Niyomiya Barta** until his death. He was also the President of **Assam Sahitya Sabha**. He was awarded **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978** for the Assamese language for his novel 'Pita Putra'. He has written several novels, short stories and poetry.
- Freedom fighter and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra musician, **Anup Bhattacharya** passed away. During the liberation war of Bangladesh, he worked as the composer and music director at **Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra**. He is also a founder member of the **Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha**.
- Three-time National table tennis champion and former International paddler **V. Chandrasekar** passed away due to COVID-related complications. He was the current president of **Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association (TTTA)**.
- Pioneering philanthropist and **Times Group** Chairperson, **Indu Jain** has passed away due to Covid-related complications. The prominent Indian media personality, Indu Jain was the chairperson of India's largest media group, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., which is popularly known as the Times Group, which owns the Times of India and other large newspapers.
- Former CBI officer **K Ragothaman** has passed away. He was the chief investigation officer of the **Special Investigation Team (SIT)** of the **Rajiv Gandhi assassination case**. He was awarded the Police Medal in 1988 and President Medal in 1994.
- Noted Indian mathematician, **Professor MS Narasimhan** has passed away. Professor Narasimhan, along with **C. S. Seshadri**, were known for their proof of the **Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem**. He is the only Indian to receive the **King Faisal International Prize** in the field of science.
- Former Saurashtra pacer and BCCI referee, **Rajendrasinh Jadeja** has died due to **COVID-19**. He was one of the finest right-arm medium pacers and a remarkable all-rounder.
- The senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP, **Rajeev Satav** has passed away, days after recovering from a coronavirus infection. He was a member of the **Rajya Sabha** from **Maharashtra** and the in-charge of the **All India Congress Committee (AICC)** affairs in Gujarat. Formerly, he was the Member of Parliament in the **16th Lok Sabha** from **Hingoli** in Maharashtra.
- Renowned cardiologist and former national president of the **Indian Medical Association (IMA)**, **Dr KK Aggarwal**, has passed away battling with Covid. He was an eminent physician and cardiologist, who also has served as the head of the Heart Care Foundation of India. He was honoured with the **Dr BC Roy Award in 2005** and the **Padma Shri in 2010**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of medicine.
- Noted Tamil folklorist and acclaimed writer **Ki. Rajanarayanan** has passed away. Famously called by his Tamil initials as **KiRa**, he was known as the pioneer of '**Karisal Literature**'. KiRa was honoured with the **Sahitya Academy award in 1991** for his novel '**Gopalapurathu Makkal**'. He was an eminent writer of short stories, novels, folklores and essays and has published over 30 books.



- Senior BJP leader and former union minister, **Chaman Lal Gupta** has passed away. He had an illustrious political career spanning over five decades, beginning with becoming a member of the J&K Legislative Assembly in 1972. He was a member of the **11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha** from the **Udhampur constituency of Jammu**.
- Senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan chief minister **Jagannath Pahadia** has passed away due to COVID-19. He served as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan from 6 June 1980 to 14 July 1981. Apart from this, he was also a former Governor of **Haryana and Bihar**.
- **J.K. Dutt**, former Director-General of the **National Security Guards (NSG)** who headed the force during the **26/11 Mumbai terror attack**, passed away due to COVID-19 related complications. JK Dutt saw counter-terror and rescue efforts during operation **Black Tornado** in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.
- Well-known environmentalist and Gandhian, **Sunderlal Bahuguna** has passed away. He was 94. A pioneer in environmental protection, Mr Bahuguna led the charge against the construction of big dams in the **Himalayas in the 1980s**. He was fervently opposed to the construction of the **Tehri dam**.
- Renowned TV journalist and news anchor, **Rohit Sardana**, has passed away, due to a heart attack, following the deadly COVID-19 infection. The young journalist was just 41-year-old. Sardana was associated with **Zee News since 2004, before moving to AajTak in 2017**.
- Renowned music director "**Laxman**" of the famous duo composers "Raam-Laxman", has passed away due to a heart attack. His real name was **Vijay Patil**, but was better known as Raamlaxman and was most famous for his work with Rajshri Productions of Hindi films.
- The former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India, **Dr. Srikumar Banerjee**, has passed away. He retired as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy in **2012**. He had also served as the Director of the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** for six years till 2010.
- Indian boxing's first Dronacharya awardee coach, **O P Bhardwaj** has passed away. He has bestowed the **highest national honour** in coaching jointly with Bhalchandra Bhaskar Bhagwat (wrestling) & O M Nambiar (athletics) when it was introduced in 1985.
- Chinese scientist **Yuan Longping**, renowned for developing a hybrid rice strain that vastly improved the grain output in the country, passed away at the age of 91. Yuan succeeded in cultivating a high-yield hybrid rice strain in **1973**, which was later grown on a large scale in China and other countries to substantially raise output.
- **Max Mosley**, the former head of Formula One's governing body, has died at the age of 81 after suffering from cancer. The youngest son of **Oswald Mosley**, the leader of the British fascist movement in the 1930s. Mosley was a racing driver, team owner and lawyer before becoming president of the **International Automobile Federation (FIA) in 1993**.
- **Lee Evans**, the record-setting sprinter who wore a black beret in a sign of protest at the **1968 Olympics** then went onto a life of humanitarian work in support of social justice. Evans became the first man to crack **44 seconds in the 400 meters**, winning the gold medal at the Mexico City Games in **43.86**.
- Colonel **Panjab Singh**, a hero of the **Battle of Poonch during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**, was cremated with full military honours under pandemic protocols after he passed away. The retired officer, who was awarded the **Vir Chakra**, the third highest war-time gallantry award, died of post-Covid complications.
- Freedom fighter **H S Doreswamy**, who recently recovered from Covid-19, passed away. He was born in Bengaluru on April 10, 1918, **Harohalli Srinivasaiah Doreswamy**, is known for his participation in the **Quit India movement** and **Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan movement**. He was also a familiar figure in **civil society movements** in Karnataka as he had campaigned to revive lakes in Bengaluru.



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- Author And Art Curator **Alka Raghuvanshi** passed away. She was India's first trained art curator, having trained at the **Goldsmiths College, London** and the **Museum of Modern Art in Oxford**. She has curated and designed over 25 major exhibitions many of which travelled to other parts of the country and the world.

### Static Takeaways

- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- The SII was founded by Cyrus Poonawalla (Adar Poonawalla's father) in 1966.
- BRO Headquarters: New Delhi;
- BRO Founded: 7 May 1960.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HQ: Bengaluru;
- Rolls-Royce Founder: Bayerische Motoren Werke AG;
- Rolls-Royce Founded: 1904;
- Rolls-Royce Headquarters: Westhampnett, United Kingdom.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: let's make money simple.
- National Human Rights Commission Formed: 12 October 1993;
- National Human Rights Commission Jurisdiction: Government of India;
- National Human Rights Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen;
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- International Association of Women Judges Founded: 1991;
- International Association of Women Judges HQ: Washington DC, USA.

- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- All India Chess Federation Headquarters location: Chennai;
- All India Chess Federation Founded: 1951.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- International Confederation of Midwives Headquarters: Hague, Netherlands.
- World Athletics Headquarters: Monaco;
- World Athletics Founded: 17 July 1912.
- Headquarters of International Committee of the Red Cross: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Mahindra Group Founded: 2 October 1945, Ludhiana.
- Wipro Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Portugal President: Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa;
- Portugal Capital: Lisbon;
- Portugal Currency: Euro.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank Founded: 1926.
- Congo Capital: Kinshasa;
- Congo Currency: Congolese franc.
- Canada Capital: Ottawa; Currency: Canadian dollar.
- CBSE Chairman: Manoj Ahuja;
- CBSE Head Office: Delhi;
- CBSE Founded: 3 November 1962.
- Chief Minister of Puducherry: N Rangasamy.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Bajjal.
- Nepali name of Mt. Everest: Sagarmatha;
- Tibetan name: Chomolungma.
- Nepal capital is Kathmandu and the currency is Nepalese Rupees.
- President of Nepal: Bidya Devi Bhandari.
- Israel Capital is Jerusalem and the currency is the Israeli shekel.
- Benjamin Netanyahu is the Prime Minister of Israel.
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- The tagline of Jana Small Finance Bank: 'Paise Ki Kadar';

- Jana Small Finance Bank Founded: 24 July 2006;
- Jana Small Finance Bank Headquarters Location: Bengaluru.
- Bajaj Finance Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra;
- Eroute Technologies Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.
- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- CARE Ratings Founded: 1993.
- CARE Ratings: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Founded: 1952.
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Founded: 19 December 1991;
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Headquarters: New York, United States and Istanbul, Turkey.
- International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation Headquarters: Brussels Capital, Belgium;
- Advertising Standards Council of India Founded: 1985;
- Advertising Standards Council of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- Indonesia President: Joko Widodo;
- Indonesia Capital: Jakarta;
- Indonesia Currency: Indonesian Rupiah;
- IREDA Headquarters location: New Delhi;
- IREDA Founded: 11 March 1987.
- World Food Programme Headquarters: Rome, Italy;
- World Food Programme Founded: 1961.
- European Council Founded: 9 December 1974;
- European Union Headquarters location: Brussels, Belgium;
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993.
- Representatives of BRICS member nations include Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Switzerland Currency: Swiss franc;
- Switzerland Capital: Bern;
- President of Switzerland: Guy Parmelin.
- Knight Frank Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- Knight Frank Founded: 1896;
- Knight Frank Founders: Howard Frank, John Knight, William Rutley.
- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015.
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- Prime minister of New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern.
- Capital of New Zealand: Wellington.
- The currency of New Zealand: New Zealand dollar.
- National Science Day is celebrated all over India on 28th February.
- International Council of Nurse's headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- International Council of Nurses founded: 1899.
- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- Paytm Founded: 2009.
- IBM Headquarters: Armonk, USA.
- Harley-Davidson Inc. Founded: 1903.
- SpaceX Founded: 2002.
- SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- GoAir Founder: Jehangir Wadia;
- GoAir Founded: 2005;
- GoAir Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- WHO was established on 7 April 1948.
- WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- WHO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian Toman;
- Iran President: Hassan Rouhani.
- NABARD Founded: 12 July 1982;
- NABARD Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Tibet Capital: Lhasa;
- Tibet Currency: Renminbi.
- United Launch Alliance Founded: 1 December 2006;

- United Launch Alliance Headquarters: Centennial, Colorado, United States.
- Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa;
- Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa;
- Mali capital is Bamako and the currency is the West African CFA Franc.
- Kenya Capital: Nairobi;
- Kenya Currency: Kenyan shilling;
- Kenya President: Uhuru Kenyatta.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Adani Group Founded: 20 July 1988;
- Adani Group Headquarters: Ahmedabad.
- YES bank HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Suzuki Motor Corporation Founded: October 1909;
- Reliance Jio Founded: 2007;
- Reliance Jio Headquarters: Mumbai.
- NBA Founded: 6 June 1946, New York, United States;
- NBA Headquarters: New York, United States.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- International Telecommunication Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- International Telecommunication Union Founded: 17 May 1865;
- International Council Of Museums Headquarters: Paris, France;
- International Council Of Museums Founded: 1946.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Founded: 16 October 1945.
- International Organization of Legal Metrology Headquarters: Paris, France.
- International Organization of Legal Metrology Founded: 1955.
- Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology Headquarters location: Hyderabad;
- Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology Founded: 1996.
- Hero Group HQ: New Delhi;
- International Hockey Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Hockey Federation Founded: 7 January 1924, Paris, France;
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Prime minister of United Kingdom: Boris Johnson.
- Capital of the United Kingdom: London.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 1993.
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Bank Tagline: Your Own Bank, Banking That's Twice As Good.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- CBSE Head Office: Delhi;
- CBSE Founded: 3 November 1962.
- National Investigation Agency Headquarters: New Delhi;
- National Investigation Agency Founded: 2009.
- President of the Republic of Congo: Denis Sassou Nguesso;
- Prime Minister of Republic of Congo: Anatole Collinet Makosso;
- Congo Capital: Brazzaville;
- Congo Currency: Congolese franc.
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi



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● States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadeo Narain Arya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
11	Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	MK Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Tirath Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

**Union Ministers in News in month of May 2021:**

Sr No	Ministry	Union Minister
1	External Affairs Minister	Dr S Jaishankar
2	Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c)	Prahlad Singh Patel
3	Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare	Dr Harsh Vardhan
4	Union Education Minister	Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal
5	Minister of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda
6	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Culture	Prahalad Singh Patel
7	Rural Development Minister	Narendra Singh Tomar
8	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of AYUSH	Shripad Yesso Naik
9	Union Minister for Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal
10	Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs	Kiren Rijiju
11	Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman
12	Defence Minister	Rajnath Singh
13	Minister of External Affairs	S Jaishankar
14	Minister of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions	Narendra Modi
15	Union Minister for Communication & IT and Law & Justice	Ravi Shankar Prasad

**Heads of various organizations in News in month of May 2021 :**

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	Serum Institute of India the CEO	Adar Poonawalla
2	Director-General of BRO	Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary
3	SBI Chairperson	Dinesh Kumar Khara
4	Chief Executive Officer of Facebook	Mark Zuckerberg
5	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited CMD	R Madhavan
6	Rolls-Royce CEO	Torsten Muller-Otvos
7	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
8	Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO	Uday Kotak
9	Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral Karambir Singh
10	President of International Association of Women Judges	Vanessa Ruiz
11	International Olympic Committee President	Thomas Bach
12	Chairman of ICC	Greg Barclay
13	CEO of ICC	Manu Sawhney
14	All India Chess Federation President	Sanjay Kapoor
15	Director-General of the World Health Organization	Tedros Adhanom
16	International Confederation of Midwives President	Franka Cadee

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
17	World Athletics President	Sebastian Coe
18	President of the International Committee of the Red Cross	Peter Maurer
19	Mahindra Group CEO	Pawan Kumar Goenka
20	Chairman of Wipro Limited	Rishad Premji
21	Wipro MD and CEO	Thierry Delaporte
22	Stratolaunch CEO & President	Jean Floyd
23	Punjab National Bank MD and CEO	S S Mallikarjuna Rao
25	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
26	MD and CEO of Jana Small Finance Bank	Ajay Kanwal
27	Bajaj Finance CEO	Sanjiv Bajaj
28	Erout Technologies MD & CEO	Sanjeev Pandey
29	Google CEO	Sundar Pichai
30	Secretary-General of the United Nations	Antonio Guterres
31	CARE Ratings Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer	Ajay Mahajan
32	President of International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation	Guy Parker
33	Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
34	Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India	Shishir Baijal
35	NITI Aayog Chairperson	Narendra Modi
36	Mastercard President	Michael Miebach
37	World Bank President	David Malpass
38	International Council of Nurses President	Annette Kennedy
39	Paytm Founder & CEO	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
40	IBM Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	Arvind Krishna
41	Harley-Davidson Inc CEO	Jochen Zeitz
42	SpaceX founder & CEO	Elon Musk
43	ISRO Chairman	K Sivan
44	Secretary of BCCI	Jay Shah
45	President of BCCI	Sourav Ganguly
46	WHO current President	Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
47	NABARD Chairman	G R Chintala
48	United Launch Alliance CEO	Tory Bruno
49	Microsoft CEO	Satya Nadella
50	Adani Group Founder	Gautam Adani
51	YES bank MD & CEO	Prashant Kumar
52	Suzuki Motor Corporation Founder	Michio Suzuki
53	Suzuki Motor Corporation CEO	Osamu Suzuki
54	Reliance Jio President Infocomm	Mathew Oommen

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
55	Reliance Jio Founder	Mukesh Ambani
56	NBA Commissioner	Adam Silver
57	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
58	International Telecommunication Union Secretary-General	Houlin Zhao
59	President of International Council Of Museums	Suay Aksoy
60	International Council Of Museums Founder	Chauncey J Hamlin
61	Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General	QU Dongyu
62	CMD of Hero Group	Pankaj M Munjal
63	International Hockey Federation CEO	Thierry Weil
64	IDBI Bank CEO	Rakesh Sharma
65	Indian Bank CEO	Padmaja Chunduru
66	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Chairman & MD	Pravin Kumar Purwar
67	President of International Labour Organization	Guy Ryder
68	UN's Secretary-General for Peace Operations	Jean-Pierre Lacroix
69	IMF Managing Director and Chairman	Kristalina Georgieva
70	IMF Chief Economist	Gita Gopinath
71	Equitas Small Finance Bank MD & CEO	Vasudevan P N
72	International Hockey Federation CEO	Thierry Weil
73	Badminton World Federation President	Paul-Erik Hoyer Larsen
74	International Narcotics Control Board President	Cornelis P de Joncheere
75	Italy President	Sergio Mattarella
76	President of FIFA	Gianni Infantino
77	United Nations Population Fund Head	Natalia Kanem
78	Founders of American Tortoise Rescue	Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson
79	Chairman of International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children	Dr Franz B Humer
80	World Meteorological Organisation	President David Grimes
81	Chairman of National Book Trust, India	Govind Prasad Sharma
82	CBSE Chairman	Manoj Ahuja
83	National Investigation Agency Founder	Radha Vinod Raju
84	Director-General of Indian Coast Guard	Krishnaswamy Natarajan