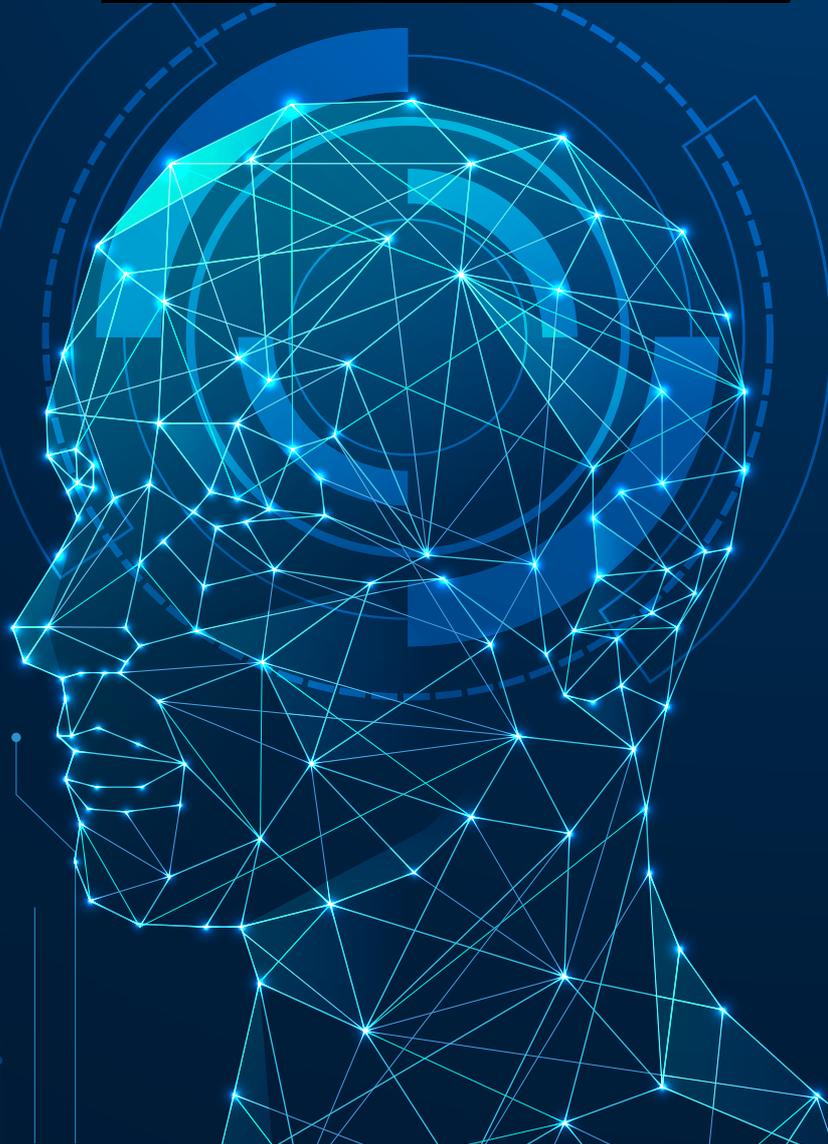


**May 2021**

# **BOLT**

***Monthly Current Affairs***



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## Banking & Finance

### 1. RBI joins network for 'greening the financial system'

RBI has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member. NGFS is a group of Central banks and supervisors willing to share the best practices and contribute to the development of the environment and climate risk management in the financial sector. The System was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit in December 2017.

### 2. Axis Bank board okays reclassification of NIACL as 'public investor' from 'promoter'

Public sector insurer, The New Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) has been reclassified as a 'public shareholder' of Axis Bank from being a 'promoter' earlier. The country's third-largest private sector lender had received a request from NIACL to reclassify it to the public category from promoter category investor.

### 3. RBI imposes a Rs 3-cr penalty on ICICI Bank for violating prudential norms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined ICICI Bank Rs 3 crore for violating prudential norms on the operation of its investment portfolio. RBI found contravention of norms in the matter of "shifting of securities from one category to another."

### 4. IDBI Bank back in black after 5 years; reports profit of Rs 1,359 crore

LIC-controlled IDBI Bank turned profitable in the fiscal ended in March 2021 after five years, posting a net profit of Rs 1,359 crore for the year. In the last quarter of the fiscal year 2020-21, the bank reported a nearly four-fold jump in its net profit to Rs 512 crore.

### 5. RBI excludes Lakshmi Vilas Bank from second schedule of RBI Act

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has excluded Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act after it was merged with DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) last year. A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as 'Scheduled Commercial Bank'.

### 6. RBI sets up advisory group to assist regulatory review authority

The Reserve Bank has been constituted an advisory group to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0). Headed by SBI Managing Director **S Janakiraman**, the advisory group will assist the RRA by identifying regulations, guidelines, & returns that can be rationalised. RBI has set up the RRA 2.0 initially for a period of one year from May 1, 2021. RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao was appointed as the Regulations Review Authority.

### 7. SBI, EIB to invest up to Euro 100 million in Indian SMEs focused on climate change, sustainability

The European Investment Bank and the country's largest lender SBI entered into a pact to jointly pump Euro 100 million in equity financing into Indian small businesses focused on climate change and sustainability. SBI already invests in a vehicle called Neev Funds for its impact investing objectives. EIB and SBI have created 'Neev Fund II' for taking ahead this partnership. Neev Fund II will provide equity to SMEs focusing on mitigating climate risks,

### 8. RBI extends restrictions on Karnataka-based Millath Co-operative Bank by 3 months

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the restrictions on Karnataka-based Millath Co-operative Bank by three months, till August 8, 2021. The bank would also not enter into any compromise or arrangement and sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets. The restrictions were first imposed in May 2019 and have been extended thereafter.

### 9. Federal Bank, Mashreq Bank partner to offer instant money transfers from UAE to India

Federal Bank has inked a strategic alliance with Mashreq Bank one of the leading financial institutions in the UAE, to facilitate money transfers from the UAE to India. The partnership will help Mashreq's faster payment product, QuickRemit, which was launched in 2017. Mashreq

is one of the oldest banks in the UAE. Mashreq is also the only privately-owned bank in the UAE.

#### **10. PayPal introduces digital Foreign Inward Remittance Advice**

PayPal, a global digital payments company, has introduced an automated process for receiving Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA)—a key document for Indian MSME exporters and freelancers that establishes proof of receipt of export proceeds in foreign currency from outside the country. At zero-cost, merchants will now be able to download their monthly digital FIRA. FIRA is issued by banks in India.

#### **11. Jana Small Finance Bank launches 'I choose my number' feature**

Jana Small Finance Bank announced the launch of the 'I choose my number' feature for all its customers across India. This new feature gives the bank's existing and new customers to choose their favourite numbers as the last 10 digits of their bank account, savings or current. Ajay Kanwal, MD and CEO, Jana Small Finance Bank

#### **12. RBI cancels the licence of West Bengal's United Co-operative Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bagnan in West Bengal due to poor financial condition. However, all the depositors will receive the full amount of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation. The Reserve Bank cancelled the licence of the bank as the bank does not have adequate capital.

#### **13. India received \$83 billion in remittances in 2020: World Bank report**

According to a World Bank report, India received over USD83 billion in remittances in 2020, a drop of just 0.2 per cent from the previous year, despite a pandemic that devastated the world economy. In 2019, India had received USD83.3 billion in remittances. India and China are followed by Mexico (USD42.8 billion), the Philippines (USD34.9 billion), Egypt (USD29.6 billion), etc. Remittances outflow from India in 2020 was USD7 billion, against USD7.5 billion in 2019.

#### **14. State Bank of India and HyperVerge Partner for AI-powered Online Account Opening**

HyperVerge announced its partnership with SBI, with one of its flagship products, the Video Banking solution, which aims to achieve a 10x improvement in the number of account openings per day per agent. Last year, Reserve Bank of India allowed banks to adopt the Video Customer Identification Process (V-CIP). HyperVerge is an AI company headquartered in Palo Alto (United States).

#### **15. IDBI Bank launches digital loan processing system for MSME, agri borrowers**

IDBI Bank announced the launch of its fully digitized loan processing system, offering over 50 products to MSME and the agriculture sector. The Loan Processing System (LPS) for MSME and agri products seamlessly integrate with data fintech, bureau validations, document storage, account management and customer notifications among others.

#### **16. State Bank of India (SBI) posts 80% jump in March quarter net profit to '6,451 crore**

SBI reported a record quarterly profit, helped by higher net interest income and lower provisions to cover loan losses. Net profit at the country's largest lender rose 80% from a year ago to '6,451 crore in the three months ended 31 March, topping the '6,166.2 crore average estimate in a survey of 10 analysts by Bloomberg. Net interest income, difference between interest earned & expended rose 18.9% to '27067 cr

#### **17. RBI: Mandatory interoperability for prepaid payments from FY23, increases limit to Rs2 lakh for full-KYC**

RBI makes interoperability mandatory for Prepaid Payment Instruments. RBI has advised banks and companies to enable interoperability by March 31, 2022. Users will now be able send & receive money from different mobile wallets. RBI has increased the maximum amount outstanding in respect of full-KYC PPIs (KYC-compliant PPIs) to Rs.2 lakh from Rs.1 lakh.

### **18. RBI to transfer Rs 99,122 cr as dividend to govt, changes accounting year**

RBI will transfer Rs 99,122 crore as surplus to the central government for the nine months ended March 31 (July 2020-March 2021) higher than the earmarked transfer of Rs 53,511 crore. The central bank has changed its accounting period, aligning it with the fiscal calendar (April-March) from this year, instead of the earlier July-June calendar.

### **19. Rajesh Bansal appointed as CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub**

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 on May 22. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub would develop internal infrastructure to promote fintech research and facilitate engagement with innovators and start-ups.

### **20. Kotak Mahindra Bank issues India's first FPI licence to GIFT AIF**

Kotak Mahindra Bank has issued the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global. This is the first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in the country.

### **21. RBI fines City Union Bank, 3 other lenders over violation of directions**

A penalty of Rs 1 crore has been imposed on City Union Bank Limited for contravention of/non-compliance with certain provisions contained in RBI (Lending to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Sector) Directions, 2017. Penalty of Rs 1 crore on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with Cyber Security Framework in Banks & Rs.90 lakh on Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad. Nutan Nagarik was fined for non-compliance with Interest Rate on Deposits, KYC etc.

### **22. Sebi doubles AIFs overseas investment limit to \$1.5 bn after talks with RBI**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) doubled the overseas investment limit of alternative investment funds (AIFs) to \$1.5 billion. In 2015, Sebi had created a \$500-million allowance for overseas investment. However, domestic AIFs were only allowed to invest a fourth of their corpus overseas. In 2018, the limit was increased from \$500 million to \$750 million.

### **23. IMF proposes \$50 billion global vaccination plan**

The International Monetary Fund has proposed a \$50 billion global vaccination plan that would cover at least 40 percent of the global population by the end of 2021 and at least 60 percent 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.

### **24. Zeta becomes 14th Indian unicorn this year after SoftBank funding**

Banking technology startup Zeta has raised \$250 million from Japanese investment major SoftBank at a valuation of \$1.45 billion. Zeta has become the 14th Indian startup to cross the valuation of \$1 billion in 2021. SoftBank's Vision Fund II was the source of the investment. The company's value has increased by more than threefold as a result of SoftBank's investment. Zeta, a startup that helps banks and fintech firms launch products.

### **25. Equitas Small Finance Bank simplifies NRI account opening online, becomes the first SFB to offer**

Equitas Small Finance Bank has touched on a new milestone by becoming the first Small Finance Bank to offer its NRI customer segment the ease of account opening online. The company will also be the only one in the Small Finance Bank sector to have Virtual Relationship Managers based on time zones.

### **26. ICICI Bank has collaborated with NPCI to link its 'Pockets' digital wallet to the UPI network**

ICICI Bank has announced the launch of a unique facility of linking a UPI (Unified Payments Interface) ID to its digital wallet 'Pockets', marking a departure from the current practice that demands such IDs be linked with a savings bank account. This initiative enables users to undertake small value everyday transactions directly from their 'Pockets' wallet.

## 27. Ashutosh Choudhary assumes charge as Chief Risk Officer of Punjab National Bank

Punjab National Bank informed the exchanges that Ashutosh Choudhury, General Manager (impanelled as Chief General Manager) has assumed the office of Group Chief Risk Officer (GCRO) of the bank, in place of Vishesh Kumar Srivastava.

## 28. RBI Annual Report for 2020-21: 'Fall in provisions, sharp forex gains led to higher RBI surplus'

RBI released its Annual Report 2020 ' 21, a statutory report of its Central Board of Directors for the transition period of 9 months (July '20 - Mar '21). According to the report, the balance sheet of RBI increased by 6.99% and RBI's gains from foreign exchange transactions rose by 69%. RBI's income decreased by 10.96% and expenditure decreased by 63.10%. In 2020-21, bank frauds in terms of value ('1 lakh & above) decreased by 25%.

## 29. RBI imposes Rs 10 crore penalty on HDFC Bank over irregularity in Auto loans

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank in relation to irregularities found in its auto loan portfolio. This is one of the largest penalties imposed by the regulator on a bank in recent times. The irregularities were linked to the marketing and sale of third-party non-financial products to the bank's customers.

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## Economy

### 1. GST collection hits all-time high of over Rs 1.41 lakh crore in April

The gross Goods and Services Tax revenue collected in the month of April is at a record high of over ' 1.41 lakh crore indicating sustained economic recovery. Of the gross GST, CGST is Rs 27,837 crore, SGST Rs 35,621 crore & IGST is Rs 68,481 crores. The revenues for the month of April 2021 are 14% higher than March.

### 2. RBI announces Rs 50,000 cr boost for emergency health sector, relief to MSMEs

RBI has allowed an on-tap term liquidity facility of Rs 50,000 cr with the tenor of up to 3 years at repo rate is being opened till March 31, 2022, for vaccine manufacturers and the healthcare sector. In order to provide further support to MSME & unorganised sector businesses, special long-term (3-year) repo operations of Rs 10,000 cr for fresh lending by SFBs up to 10Lakh. SFBs -Small financial banks

### 3. Goldman Sachs lowers India growth forecast for FY22 to 11.1%

Wall Street brokerage Goldman Sachs has lowered its estimate for India's economic growth to 11.1 percent in the fiscal year to March 31, 2022, as a number of cities and states announced lockdowns of varying intensities to check the spread of coronavirus infections.

### 4. With Rs 55,500 crore market capitalisation (m-cap), SAIL enters 100 most-valued Indian firms' club

The state-owned steel major entered into the league of top 100 most valued companies list. SAIL is one of the leading steel producers in India, which has 5 large integrated steel plants (Bhilai steel plant, Rourkela steel plant, Durgapur steel plant, Bokaro steel plant, & IISCO) spread across 4 states in eastern India (Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, and Jharkhand). SAIL stood at 78th position in the overall m-cap ranking.

### 5. S&P slashes India's GDP growth forecast to 9.8% for this fiscal

S&P Global Ratings slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to 9.8 percent saying the second COVID wave may derail the budding recovery in the economy and credit conditions. The US-based rating agency in March had an 11 percent GDP growth forecast for India for the April 2021-March 2022 fiscal year. S&P, which currently has a 'BBB-' rating on India.

### 6. Harley-Davidson launches all-electric motorcycle brand 'LiveWire'

Harley-Davidson Inc. launched an all-electric motorcycle brand "LiveWire," the latest effort by the company to ramp up bets on the rapidly growing electric vehicle market. Named after Harley's first electric motorbike, which was unveiled in 2019. It aims to attract the next generation of younger and more environmentally conscious riders.

### 7. PM-Kisan scheme: PM Modi releases 8th instalment of benefit to over 9.5 crore farmers.

PM Narendra Modi has released the 8th instalment of financial benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme to eligible farmers. The prime minister also interacted with beneficiary farmers from several states via video conference. Almost 11 crore farmer families have got Rs 1.35 lakh crore under the scheme till date. Under PM KISAN, Rs 6,000 per year is provided to eligible beneficiary farmer families.

### 8. Wadia Group-backed no-frills carrier GoAir has been rebranded as 'Go First'.

GoAir will now be known as Go First, is rebranding itself as an ultra-low-cost carrier. The airline is in the process of transitioning all its operations under this new brand. The airline has filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) for its Rs, 3,600 crores of initial public offering (IPO), betting big on its ultra-low-cost business model. GoAir launched in 2005 & currently owns a market share of more than 9.5 percent in India.

### 9. Reliance Jio joins global consortium to build undersea cable network

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 other with Italy & Africa. Submarine cable networks connect several nations for flow of internet & telecom services.

#### **10. According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade - Wholesale Price Index Surges 10.49% On Year In April 2021**

In April, 2021 (over April, 2020), the annual rate of inflation (YoY), based on monthly WPI, stood at 10.49% (Provisional). The annual rate of inflation in April 2021 is high primarily because of rising in prices of crude petroleum, mineral oils viz petrol, diesel, etc, and manufactured products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year. WPI released by The Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT.

#### **11. Apollo Tyres gets NABL accreditation for outdoor regulatory testing**

Apollo Tyres has become the first manufacturer in the country to get accreditation from NABL for outdoor regulatory testing. The company has been accredited with ISO/IEC 17025 for the 'wet grip and coast by noise' tyre tests on the track. The testing capability is linked to the central government's plan to implement a 'star rating' of tyres.

#### **12. BSE Hits Record \$3-Trillion Market-Capitalization for the First Time Ever**

The market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies hit the \$3 trillion mark for the first time. The rise in market cap came after Sensex closed 111 points higher at 50,651 and Nifty rose 22 points to 15,197. According to the depository data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew Rs 6,370 crore from equities and pumped in Rs 1,926 crore in the debt segment.

#### **13. 7th Pay Commission Salary Alert: Variable Dearness Allowance Doubled For 1.5 Crore Government Workers**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced an increase in the variable dearness allowance (variable DA) of temporary central government employees from Rs 105 to Rs 210 per month. The decision from the ministry will benefit over 1.5 crore casual workers & will come into effect from April 1, 2021.

#### **14. Gujarat receives \$30.23 billion in FDI during FY21; highest in the country**

For the fourth consecutive year, Gujarat has retained the top position in the country during 2020-21 in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). Gujarat was ahead of all other states by securing 37 percent out of the total foreign investments that came in the country during 2020-21. Gujarat received a total FDI of USD 30.23 billion in 2020-21. The country managed to garner a total FDI of USD 81.72 billion in 2020-21.

#### **15. Barclays pegs India's FY22 GDP growth at 7.7% in bear-case scenario**

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.

#### **16. India adds 2,105 MW grid connected solar capacity in Q1 2021**

India added 2,105 megawatts (MW) of grid-connected solar power generation capacity in the first quarter (Q1) of 2021, as the first wave of COVID-19 subsided and construction pace picked up gradually. This took the total installed capacity to 44,241 MW by 31 March 2021. It added that utility-scale solar installations increased by more than 33 percent in Q1 2021.

#### **17. India's GDP to grow 7.5% in 2021, outlook fragile: UN**

The United Nations has raised India's growth forecast to 7.5 per cent for calendar year 2021, marking a 0.2 per cent increase from its projection in January, but said the country's outlook for the year remains highly fragile. The surging Covid-19 infections and inadequate vaccination progress in many countries threaten a broad-based recovery of the world economy. World Economic Situation & Prospects (WESP) report published by UN.

## National

### **1. Government amends the EDLI Scheme; Increases maximum sum assured to Rs. 7 Lakhs**

The central government amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 2021. In line with the amendment, the maximum sum assured payable under the EDLI Scheme was increased from Rs. 6 Lakhs to Rs. 7 Lakhs. The claim amount under EDLI Scheme has been changed to 35 times the average monthly salary in the past 12 months. Thus fund is subjected to a ceiling of Rs. 1,75,000.

### **2. FinMin releases first instalment worth Rs 8,873 cr of SDRF to states**

The Centre released the first instalment of the central share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) of '8873.6 crore for the year 2021-22 ahead of the normal schedule. The government said that the states can use up to 50% of the amount for coronavirus disease (Covid-19) containment measures.

### **3. Indian Navy launches 'Samudra Setu-II', deploys 7 ships to bring medical oxygen**

The Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Samudra Setu-II' to meet the country's acute shortage of liquid medical oxygen (LMO). As a part of the operation, the Navy has deployed INS (Indian Navy Ships) Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat for shipment of oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.

### **4. Union I&B ministry announces year-long celebrations for Satyajit Ray centenary**

In a homage to Satyajit Ray, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced that it will organize year-long celebrations across India and abroad to mark the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary filmmaker. 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema' has been instituted from 2021 to be given at the International Film Festival of India.

### **5. All India Chess Federation launches the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' to help the chess community affected by the pandemic**

All India Chess Federation launched the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' to help the chess community affected by the pandemic. The initiative was launched in the presence of FIDE (World Chess Federation) president Arkady Dvorkovich, 5-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, World Rapid Chess Champion Koneru Humpy, AICF president Sanjay Kapoor and Secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan.

### **6. India notifies digital tax threshold of Rs 2 crore and 300,000 users**

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.

### **7. Supreme Court constitutes National Task Force to streamline medical oxygen allocation**

A Supreme Court bench has constituted a National Task Force (NTF) to assess the distribution of medical oxygen for the entire country. This bench was headed by Justice DY Chandrachud. The demand for liquid medical oxygen in the country is around 8,500 metric tonnes per day. The major reason for the scarcity is the shortage of cryogenic tankers.

### **8. CovAid portal set up for real-time monitoring of relief**

The NITI Aayog has set up a dedicated portal 'CovAid' for tracking all aid coming via missions or by individual organisations. All Covid-19 related foreign aid received by the government can be tracked online end-to-end till distribution by the donors. CovAid will also help individuals and organisations to do end-to-end tracking till the ultimate beneficiary. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

## **9. Cash payment above Rs 2 lakh limit permitted for Covid treatment at hospitals, nursing homes**

The Income Tax Department allowed hospitals and nursing homes to accept cash over and above the limit of Rs 2 lakh for Covid treatment till May 31. In the exercise of powers conferred by clause (iii) of Provision to Section 269ST of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Central Government specifies Hospitals, Dispensaries, Nursing Homes, Covid Care Centres, etc.

## **10. Defence National OPD On E-Sanjeevani Portal has been launched**

Veteran defence doctors have come forward answering the call of the nation to provide free online consultation services on the e-Sanjeevani platform. e-Sanjeevani OPD is a Govt of India flagship telemedicine platform, developed by the C--DAC, Mohali under the aegis of MoHFW, Govt of India. It facilitates free online medical consultation to all citizens of India, as well. 'Ex-Defence OPD' was launched on 07 May 2021 in a phased manner.

## **11. Railways set to have 86 Oxygen plants for its hospitals across country**

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.

## **12. Toll Free Helpline for elderly persons ELDERLINE (14567) becomes operational in several states**

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.

## **13. Govt cuts subsidy on sugar exports to Rs 4,000 per tonne from Rs 6,000 on high global prices**

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.

## **14. Centre to fund startups offering indigenous solutions to combat Pandemic**

NIDHI4COVID2.0 will fund eligible startups and companies registered in India offering promising solutions in the thrust areas of oxygen innovation, portable solution, relevant medical accessories, diagnostic etc. to mitigate impact of Covid. The initiative is a special drive by NSTEDB under Department of Science & Technology.

## **15. Six Indian places added to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

The sites on the tentative list are: Satpura Tiger Reserve, Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi, Megalithic site of Hire Benkal, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur, and temples of Kanchipuram. With the addition of these six sites, UNESCO has 48 proposals in the tentative list of India.

## **16. 51st virtual Indian Handicrafts & Gift Fair of Delhi inaugurated**

The 5 day virtual fair of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, IHGF of Delhi was inaugurated on May 19. The fair is the India's largest Virtual Fair in the Home, Fashion, Lifestyle, Textiles and Furniture sector. It was inaugurated by Chairman of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts Ravi K. Passi. The fair will see participation of 1,500 manufacturers and exporters.

## **17. Countrywide 'AYUSH COVID -19 Counselling Helpline' operationalized**

A dedicated community support helpline has been operationalised by the Union Ministry of Ayush to provide AYUSH-based approaches and solutions for the challenges raised by Covid-19. The toll-free number is 14443. The helpline is operational pan-India from 6 am to 12

midnight-all seven days of a week. The helpline is IVR (Interactive Voice Response) equipped. The effort is supported by the NGO Project StepOne.

### **18. Ministry Of Ayush Organises Series Of Five Webinars On 'Be With Yoga, Be At Home'**

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

### **19. Power Ministry to set up a National Mission on use of biomass in coal based power plants**

The Ministry of Power will set up a National Mission on use of biomass in coal based thermal power plants to address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation. The proposed National Mission on biomass will also contribute to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

### **20. CBSE launches Young Warrior movement to combat Covid-19**

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.

### **21. Centre grants No-Permission-No-Takeoff (NPNT) to 166 green zones for drone operations**

The Centre has granted permission of "No-Permission-No-Takeoff" (NPNT) compliant drone operations at 166 additional green zones. Accordingly, the approved sites allow drone usage up to 400 ft 'Above Ground Level' (AGL). These zones are in addition to the 'Sixty-Six' green zone sites approved earlier. The list of the approved green zone sites can be accessed from the 'Digital Sky Platform'.



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## International

### 1. World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opens in Portugal

The record-breaking bridge measures 516 meters (or roughly 1,692 feet) long and is suspended 175 meters (574 feet) above a river. It's in the town of Arouca ' about an hour south of Porto ' in the UNESCO-recognized Arouca Geopark, an area famous for its nature tourism and outdoor activities. The bridge connects the banks of the Paiva River, a popular destination for kayaking.

### 2. U.S. House passes bill to make Washington, D.C., the 51st state

The U.S. House of Representatives voted for the second time in a year to make the District of Columbia the 51st state. The new state would be named "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth" after George Washington, the first U.S. president, and Frederick Douglass, a former enslaved person who became a famous abolitionist. US Capital: Washington, D.C. President: Joe Biden

### 3. Poland Clinches Historic Deal to Phase Out Coal by 2049

Poland's government and unions signed an agreement with the coal mining industry to phase out coal production by 2049. Industry representatives agreed to shut all coal mines by the target date, with severance payments for workers in the Silesia coal basin. The agreement marks the first time that the powerful coal mining sector has agreed to reduce its presence. Poland Capital: Warsaw Currency: Polish zoty President: Andrzej Duda.

### 4. UK becomes first country to give green light to self-driving cars on motorways

The Government of the United Kingdom became the first country to announce that it will be regulating the use of self-driving cars at slow speeds on motorways. The Ministry will start with the Automated Lane Keeping Systems- ALKS- which uses software and sensors to keep cars within the lane and allowing them to brake and accelerate without driver input. The first such vehicles are expected to appear on public roads as soon as in 2021.

### 5. Ethiopia to designate TPLF, OLF-Shene as 'terror' groups

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.

### 6. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Declares End Of Latest Ebola Outbreak

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. The Democratic Republic of the Congo Capital: Kinshasa; Currency: Congolese franc.

### 7. NASA's Parker Solar Probe Discovers Natural Radio Emission in Venus' Atmosphere

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. Venus is known as Earth's twin.

### 8. Canada allows Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12-15

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. Canada Capital: Ottawa; Currency: Canadian dollar.

### **9. WHO gives emergency approval to Sinopharm, first Chinese Covid-19 vaccine**

The World Health Organization approved a Covid-19 vaccine from China's state-owned drugmaker Sinopharm for emergency use. A WHO emergency listing is a signal to national regulators on a product's safety and efficacy, and would allow the shot to be included in COVAX, the global programme to provide vaccines mainly for poor countries.

### **10. Mayflower 400: World's First Unmanned Vessel To Navigate Across Atlantic**

A team of researchers from the marine research organisation ProMare with IBM acting as technology partner recently built the world's first intelligent ship known as the Mayflower 400. The ship is a 15 m-long trimaran, which weighs nine tons and navigates with complete autonomy, is preparing for a transatlantic voyage.

### **11. China becomes the world's first country to ban synthetic cannabinoids**

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. Synthetic cannabinoids are highly camouflaged, as some are found in e-cigarette oil, & some are found in cut tobacco made from leaves, flower petals, etc.

### **12. Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli forms minority government**

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has formed a minority government, days after he lost a vote of confidence recently. Oli took the oath of secrecy amidst a ceremony at Sheetal Niwas as Parliamentary leader of Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), the biggest political party. Oli has now become PM for the 3rd time & 43rd Prime Minister of Nepal.

### **13. India-born Rajesh Agrawal re-appointed London's deputy mayor for business**

India-born entrepreneur Rajesh Agrawal has been re-appointed as London's Deputy Mayor for Business by Mayor Sadiq Khan after he won a second term in local elections last week. Agrawal is also the co-chair of the Labour Friends of India (LFIN) diaspora representative group of the Opposition Labour Party. UK Prime minister: Boris Johnson Currency: Pound sterling.

### **14. Google fined 102 million euros by Italy's antitrust for abuse of dominant position**

Italy's competition watchdog said that it had fined Google 102 million euros for abuse of dominant position due to its Android mobile operating system and its app store Google Play. Google was also recently fined by France, in December last year. France's competition authority fined Google 150 million euros (\$167 million) for anti-competitive behaviour. CEO: Sundar Pichai Parent organization: Alphabet Inc. HQ: Mountain View, California, USA.

### **15. Iron Dome, an air defence system developed by Rafael Advanced Defence System, intercepts drone during combat for the first time**

Israel's Iron Dome air defense system has intercepted a drone belonging to the Hamas militant group, a first for the platform. Israel touted new capabilities for Iron Dome over the last year, including a drill where it worked alongside other air defense systems to confront multiple threats and another exercise this year during which it downed unmanned aerial systems. The Iron Dome was deployed in 2011.

### **16. China successfully launches new ocean observation satellite Haiyang-2D**

China 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 which 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.

### **17. World's largest iceberg breaks off from Antarctica**

European Space Agency (ESA) confirmed using satellite images that the world's largest iceberg has broken off Antarctica. Named as A-67, the iceberg was 4320 square kilometers 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 The images were captured by Copernicus Sentinel-1.

### **18. UK launches plans for global pandemic radar to detect Covid-19 variants**

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. UK Prime Minister:- Boris Johnson; Capital: London

### **19. NASA to send its first mobile robot to search for water 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's South Pole. VIPER runs on solar power.

### **20. Three Indian peacekeepers to be honored with UN's prestigious medal, posthumously**

Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav are among those to be honored 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)

### **21. Cindy Kiro to be next NZ governor-general**

Celebrated academic and former children's commissioner Dame Cindy Kiro will be New Zealand's next governor-general. Kiro becomes New Zealand's 22nd governor-general, the fourth woman to hold the role, and the first Maori woman. New Zealand: Capital: Wellington PM: Jacinda Ardern

### **22. Conservative Guillermo Lasso is sworn in as Ecuador's new president**

Businessman, banker, and center-right conservative politician Guillermo Lasso has been sworn in as Ecuador's new President for the next four years. Lasso became the first liberal president of Ecuador in the last two decades after a period of institutional instability between 1997 and 2007. Ecuador: Capital: Quito Currency: US Dollar

### **23. Bangladesh agrees \$200 million currency swap deal to help Sri Lanka**

Bangladesh agreed to give Sri Lanka loans of at least \$200 million from foreign exchange reserves under a currency swap deal. Sri Lanka will repay over three months with 2% interest on the Libor rate. Sri Lanka's foreign currency reserves stand around \$4 billion. It is the 1st time Bangladesh is giving loans to another country from the reserves by swapping currency.

### **24. Mount Nyiragongo erupts in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

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. Its last major eruption, in 2002, killed 250 people and displaced thousands. Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40 percent of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions. Mount Nyiragongo is located inside Virunga National Park.

### **25. US President releases his first annual budget; sets out \$6tn spending plan**

US President has released his first annual budget - a \$6tn spending plan that includes steep tax increases for wealthier Americans. The bumper proposal would include huge new social programs and investment in the fight against climate change. But it needs approval from Congress. Under the plan, debt would reach 117% of GDP by 2031, surpassing levels during World War Two.

### **26. Bashar Al-Assad Re-Elected As Syrian President For 4th Term**

Bashar al-Assad has been re-elected for a fourth term as president of war-ravaged Syria. Standing against him were former state minister Abdallah Salloum Abdallah and Mahmud Merhi, a member of the opposition. Syria: Capital: Damascus Currency: Syrian pound

## 27. Collinet Makosso appointed Republic of Congo's new Prime Minister

The President of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso has appointed Anatole Collinet Makosso as the country's Prime Minister. Before this appointment, Makosso was the education minister of the Central African country since 2015. He was also minister of youth and civic instruction from 2011 to 2016. Capital: - Brazzaville; Currency: - Congolese franc



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## Sports

### 1. F1 2021: Hamilton wins Portuguese Grand Prix as Verstappen settles for second

Mercedes took victory with Lewis Hamilton taking the 96th win of his career at Portimao for the Portuguese Grand Prix. Red Bull's Max Verstappen crossed the finish line second with the fastest lap and Mercedes's Valtteri Bottas in third.

### 2. Mark Selby beats Shaun Murphy to win fourth World Snooker Championship

Mark Selby (UK) claimed his fourth World Championship title with an 18-15 victory over Shaun Murphy at a sold-out Crucible Theatre. Now level with Scotland's John Higgins on four, only Hendry (seven), Ronnie O'Sullivan, Steve Davis, and Ray Reardon (all six) have won more world titles than Selby in the modern era.

### 3. Gymnast Pranati Nayak set to compete at Tokyo Olympics

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. The 26-year-old from West Bengal is the second reserve behind Sri Lanka's Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh for the Asian quota.

### 4. Thisara Perera retires from international cricket

Sri Lanka allrounder Thisara Perera has announced his retirement from international cricket. A white-ball stalwart, Perera was known for his hit-the-deck bowling and his clean ball-striking down the order. Of all batters with at least 2000 runs in men's ODIs, Perera's strike rate of 112.08 is the fourth-highest of all time. Sri Lanka national cricket team Captain: -Dimuth Karunaratne

### 5. Alexander Zverev beats Matteo Berrettini to win his second Madrid title

German Alexander Zverev earned his second Mutua Madrid Open title when he defeated Matteo Berrettini 6-7(8), 6-4, 6-3 to lift his fourth ATP Masters 1000 trophy. This is the second time that the 24-year-old has posted three or more Top 10 wins at a single event, following his 2018 title run at the Nitto ATP Finals (4).

### 6. Lewis Hamilton wins Spanish GP ahead of Max Verstappen

Lewis Hamilton beat Max Verstappen in a thrilling duel to win the Spanish Grand Prix and increase his championship lead over his top rival. Hamilton followed his 100th career pole by taking his **98th** career win. He also tied Michael Schumacher's mark of six victories at the Spanish Grand Prix. Valtteri Bottas steered his Mercedes to third place.

### 7. Babar Azam and Alyssa Healy voted ICC Players of the Month for April 2021

International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for April which recognize and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year. Pakistan's Babar Azam won the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021. Australian camp, Alyssa Healy was deservingly named the ICC Women's Player of the April.

### 8. NBA creates social justice award, named for legendary Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The 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. Winning player will receive \$100,000 for the charity of his choice

### 9. Former Cricketer Ramesh Powar appointed head coach of India Women Cricket Team

Former India offspinner Ramesh Powar has been appointed by the BCCI as the head coach of the senior India Women's team. Powar's candidature was finalised and recommended to the board by a three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Sulakshana Naik, Madan Lal and RP Singh. Indian women's team is scheduled to play One Test, three ODIs and three T20Is in England.

### **10. New Zealand wicketkeeper BJ Watling to retire after World Test Championship final on England tour**

New Zealand wicketkeeper BJ Watling said he took the decision in order to spend more time with his family. Watling, who has represented New Zealand in 73 Tests, will retire after the World Test Championship final, starting June 18 in Southampton. New Zealand Prime minister: Jacinda Ardern; Capital: Wellington

### **11. Italian Open: Iga Swiatek wins Women's Singles title; Rafael Nadal beats Novak Djokovic to win 10th title**

In Tennis, Polish teenager Iga Swiatek has won the Women's Singles title of Italian Open. 15th seed Swiatek defeated ninth seed Czech Karolina Pliskova. Rafael Nadal defeated Novak Djokovic in Italian Open. It was Rafael Nadal's 10th Italian Open title. Djokovic and Nadal were facing each other for the 57th time. Nadal won through 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 against the defending champion.

### **12. Kobe Bryant formally inducted into Hall of Fame in postponed ceremony**

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. Los Angeles Lakers great Bryant retired in 2016; he was the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2008. The five-time NBA champion died, aged 41, in a helicopter crash in January 2020.

### **13. Arjan Bhullar becomes first Indian-origin fighter to win high-level MMA title**

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. By defeating Vera, Bhullar ended the Filipino-American's five-year championship-winning run. Bhullar had won the commonwealth games gold medals in 2010 and 2012. He became the first Indian-origin freestyle wrestler to represent Canada at the Olympics.

### **14. Shiv Sunder Das named India Women batting coach for England tour**

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.

### **15. Leicester City beat Chelsea to win FA Cup for the first time**

Leicester won the FA Cup for the first time in the club's 137-year history as Yuri 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.

### **16. Barcelona Women beat Chelsea Women to win 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. Barcelona are the first Spanish side to win the Women's Champions League.

Barcelona become the first club to win both the men's and women's Champions League, and this was the biggest ever winning margin in a women's final.

### **17. U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in India in October 2022: FIFA**

The U-17 women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30 next year. India were 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. FIFA Council also approved the tournament dates for the Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 from July 20 to August 20, 2023.

### **18. Hockey India wins Etienne Glichitch Award**

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.

The Pablo Negre Award was presented to the Uzbekistan Hockey Federation.

### **19. Indian women's pair of Palak-Parul qualify for Paralympics**

Women's pair of Palak Kohli and Parul Parmar became the first Indian para shuttlers to qualify for Tokyo Paralympics. Palak and her partner Parul have achieved the qualification for the SL3-SU5 Women's Doubles event in para-badminton, which will be making its debut in this year's Paralympics.

### **20. Casper Ruud beats Denis Shapovalov to win Geneva Open title**

Casper Ruud 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.

### **21. Ashok Kumar, the only Indian referee to officiate in wrestling in Tokyo Olympics**

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.

### **22. Zinedine Zidane resigns as Real Madrid manager**

Zinedine Zidane has decided to resign as Real Madrid coach. Zidane, 48, returned to the Real Madrid job in 2019, having previously been in charge from 2016 to 2018. He won an unprecedented three consecutive Champions League trophies in 2016, 2017 and 2018, as well as the club's first La Liga title in five years in 2017.

### **23. Atletico Madrid Win 2020-21 La Liga Title After Beating Valladolid 2-1**

Atletico Madrid won La Liga securing the 2-1 victory over Real Valladolid. This is only the second time in 17 years that a team other than Barcelona or Real Madrid have won the title, with Atleti claiming the other one under Simeone in 2014.

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## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. MoU with MoHUA for setting up an Accelerator Centre for R&D at IIT Kharagpur

IIT Kharagpur and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs signed an MoU to set up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development at the Institute. Under this MoU will provide innovation & incubation assistance to carry out activities like technology & product development.

### 2. Rolls-Royce and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Sign MoU for Supporting MT30 Marine Engine Business

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Rolls-Royce have signed an MoU to establish packaging, installation, marketing, and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 marine engines in India. Through this MoU, Rolls-Royce and HAL will expand their long-standing partnership in India and work together in the area of marine applications for the first time.

### 3. Union Cabinet Gives Nod to MoU between India, UK on Trade and Mobility Partnership

India and UK have agreed to launch the Global Innovation Partnership which will support Indian innovators to scale up their innovations in third countries. The GIP innovations are also focussed on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This MoU is aimed at "liberalising" the issuance of visas promoting the mobility of students, researchers, and skilled professionals.

### 4. India begins exports of organic millets grown in Himalayas to Denmark

India has begun exporting millets sourced from farmers in Uttarakhand, which meet the organic certification standards of the European Union, to Denmark. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, APEDA, in collaboration with Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board and Just Organik, an exporter, has sourced & processed from farmers in Uttarakhand for exports. These farmers produce mainly millets such as ragi, barnyard millet, amaranthus, etc.

### 5. Mahindra Group to open MADE, a design centre for mobility products in UK

The Mahindra Group, which has an interest in fields as diverse as farm equipment, aerospace, finance, IT, and real estate, among others, will be setting up Mahindra Advanced Design Europe (MADE) in the West Midlands, UK. Mahindra Group will be the second firm from India to set foot in the UK for designing cars and SUVs.

### 6. IOC, ONGC, GAIL, other oil PSUs commit Rs 100 cr for redevelopment of Badrinath Dham shrine

India's top oil PSUs - IOC, ONGC, GAIL, BPCL, and HPCL committed Rs.100 crore for the redevelopment of Badrinath Dham, one of the holiest shrines of Hindus, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Badrinath Temple is situated in the town of Badrinath in Uttarakhand. The temple and town form one of the four Char Dham and Chota Char Dham pilgrimage sites.

### 7. Cabinet approves MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Qatar Financial Centre Authority

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.

### 8. Ministry Of Tribal Affairs And Microsoft Sign MoU On Joint Initiative For Digital Transformation Of Tribal Schools

Tribal Affairs Ministry and Microsoft have signed an MoU for the digital transformation of Tribal Schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools and Ashram Schools. The collaboration seeks to skill educators and students in next-generation digital technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

### 9. India and Oman renew MoUs on military cooperation, maritime issues

The signing ceremony of MoU on military cooperation was held at the Ministry of Defense, Muscat. The agreements will ensure the continuation of cooperation in specific areas of defence and security.

### 10. Bamboo Society of India (BSI) and Council of Architecture (COA) sign MoU to mainstream bamboo in building sector

Bamboo Society of India (BSI) and Council of Architecture (COA) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to mainstream bamboo in building sector. The MoU aims at introducing bamboo, an agro product, as a mainstream material for building and related sectors for all kinds of buildings, infrastructure, rural development etc through awareness programmes. COA is a statutory body constituted under Architects Act, 1972; HQ: New Delhi

### 11. Cabinet Approves MoUs Signed Between ICoAI, ICSI With Foreign Countries

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 range of collaborative activities for exchange of knowledge.

### 12. TRIFED and NITI AAYOG to partner to implement the Van Dhan Yojana in Tribal Clusters of all Aspirational districts of India

TRIFED will now be partnering with NITI Aayog to implement the Van Dhan Yojana in the districts that have been identified as aspirational districts by NITI Aayog. These include districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura.

### 13. India, Israel sign pact to boost agriculture

The ministry of agriculture and farmers' welfare has announced a three-year agreement between India and Israel for cooperation in agriculture and setting up more Indo-Israel villages of excellence to create a 'model ecosystem' to boost the agriculture industry. India's agriculture & farmers' welfare ministry and 'Mashav' -Israel's nodal agency are the signatories.

### 14. ICMR-NIN launches online survey to assess nutrition-related misinformation on web

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in partnership with National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has launched an online survey to assess nutrition-related misinformation circulating on the internet. The study aims to understand the impact of the abundant information on food and nutrition floating on the web, nutrition-related knowledge, attitude and practices, etc.



#### Kumar Saurab

Cleared SBI JA (Rank 1), SBI PO, RRB PO

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## Schemes

### 1. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), launches SHWAS and AROG schemes for COVID preparedness

SIDBI has launched SHWAS (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of COVID19) and AROG (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID-19 pandemic), two new quick credit delivery schemes. These schemes envisage 100 per cent funding up to an amount of Rs 2 crore to an MSME unit at an interest rate of 4.50 to 6 per cent p.a.

### 2. Cabinet approves '18,100 crore PLI scheme for battery storage

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.

### 3. Govt releases Rs 5,968 crore to 15 states under Jal Jeevan Mission

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.

### 4. Aarogya Setu will display vaccination status, double blue ticks for fully vaccinated

The Aarogya Setu mobile application is used for contact tracing and also for the dissemination of medical advisories intended to contain the spread of Covid-19 in India and is currently maintained by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The application uses Bluetooth technology and the personal contact number of a person to mark them as either Covid-19 positive or negative

### 5. Ministry of Education launches YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors

Ministry of Education launched YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors. It is an Author Mentorship program to train young and budding authors below 30 years. YUVA is a part of the India@75 Project to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown, and Forgotten Places. YUVA - Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors.



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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. Arun Raste named new MD & CEO of NCDEX

The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has been appointed Arun Raste as the Managing Director and CEO for the next five years. Raste is currently associated with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) as an Executive Director NCDEX is headquartered in Mumbai.

### 2. T Rabi Sankar named RBI deputy governor; to succeed B P Kanungo

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) executive director T Rabi Sankar has been named as the fourth Deputy Governor of the central bank. He has been appointed for a period of three years. The other three deputy governors are Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Patra and M Rajeshwar Rao. BP Kanungo retired on April 2, 2021.

### 3. Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant Appointed As The Acting Chairperson Of National Human Rights Commission

The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has authorized Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant, Member, National Human Rights Commission, NHRC India, to act as its Chairperson. He was appointed the first Chief Justice of the newly established Meghalaya High Court at Shillong on 20th September, 2013, and continued till 12th August, 2014.

### 4. Albania: PM Edi Rama secures third term for Socialist Party

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.

### 5. Dr. R.M.Sundaram appointed as Director of ICAR-IIRR

Dr. Raman Meenakshi Sundaram has been appointed as Director of ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR), Hyderabad. Dr. Sundaram's research accomplishments include the development of one of the first biotechnology products in rice, Improved Samba Mahsuri, a high-yielding grain type, has a low glycaemic index & is highly resistant to bacterial blight. He is a scientist associated in the area of rice biotechnology, molecular breeding, etc.

### 6. Vijay Goel takes over as CMD of THDCIL

Shri. Vijay Goel assumed the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of THDC India Limited. The THDCIL is a Schedule-A Mini Ratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Administrative control of the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It is an Indian electricity utility company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Thermal Power Corporation. THDCIL Headquarters Location: Rishikesh (Uttarakhand).

### 7. Padmakumar M Nair Appointed As CEO Of National Asset Reconstruction Company

The central government has appointed Padmakumar M Nair as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the recently made National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC). The ARCs work with the RBI-mandated 15:85 model, wherein the ARC pays 15% to banks in the form of cash, and 85% in the form of Security Receipts (SRs). Indian Banks' Association Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sunil Mehta.

### 8. Ujjwala Singhania Appointed As the 38th National President FICCI FLO.

FICCI FLO is the oldest business chamber of Southeast Asia which is led by women. Ujjwala Singhania was appointed the 38th President of the organisation at its 37th Annual Session in the presence of eminent personalities. This included union ministers Smriti Irani, Dr Jitendra Singh, and Narendra Singh Tomar. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry - FICCI Ladies Organization

### 9. Sir David Attenborough named COP26 People's Advocate

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. Attenborough has already inspired millions of people in the U.K. & around the

world with his passion & knowledge to act on climate change and protect the planet for future generations. COP26:- 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties

#### **10. Ram Karan Verma appointed as next Ambassador of India to Central African Republic**

Ram Karan Verma has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Central African Republic. Earlier, Verma, a 1987 Indian Foreign Services (IFS) was the Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Congo. He also served as the Director (Central Europe) at headquarters in the Ministry of External Affairs previously.

#### **11. Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths appointed UN humanitarian chief**

The UN chief has appointed veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths, a seasoned negotiator with wide global experience, as the new UN humanitarian chief. Griffiths brings extensive leadership experience in humanitarian affairs at headquarters and country levels, both strategically and operationally. Griffiths has spent the last three years as the UN special envoy for Yemen. Five permanent Security Council nations -- the US, Russia, China, Britain, and France.

#### **12. Veteran AP journalist Sally Buzbee to head The Washington Post, first woman to hold the job**

Sally Buzbee, senior vice president and executive editor of The Associated Press, was named as executive editor of The Washington Post. As Associated Press's top editor since 2017, Buzbee has directed AP's journalism through the Covid-19 pandemic, Donald Trump's presidency, the #MeToo movement, Brexit, protests over racial injustice, and the 2020 U.S. election.

#### **13. Elisabetta Belloni named as first woman to head Italy secret service**

A former ambassador has been named as the first woman to lead Italy's secret services. Prime Minister Mario Draghi announced Elisabetta Belloni as head of the Department of Information Security (DIS). Ms Belloni went on to lead the Italian foreign ministry's crisis unit from 2004 to 2008, the first time a woman had held the role. Italy's Capital: Rome; Currency: Euro

#### **14. Bata India appoints ex-Britannia exec Gunjan Shah as country CEO**

Footwear major Bata India has appointed Gunjan Shah as its new chief executive officer. Shah, who has been serving at Britannia Industries as its chief commercial officer, will take up his new role from June 2021. Sandeep Kataria, Bata India's current CEO, has been elevated to the position of global CEO of Bata brands. Bata Corporation is a Swiss-based multinational footwear/fashion accessory manufacturer

#### **15. Satoshi Uchida appointed as Suzuki Motorcycle India's new Company Head**

Suzuki Motorcycle India has appointed Satoshi Uchida as the new Company Head. Satoshi Uchida has replaced Koichiro Hirao as part of Suzuki Motor Corporation's global revamp. Suzuki Motorcycle India registered its highest-ever monthly sales in April 2021, dispatching as many as 77,849 units during the month. Suzuki Motor Corporation is a Japanese multinational corporation based in Minami-ku

#### **16. ASCI General Secretary Manisha Kapoor named VP on the executive committee of ICAS**

Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) General Secretary Manisha Kapoor has been appointed to the executive committee of the International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS). She will be one of the four Vice-Presidents on the executive committee and will play a leadership role till 2023. ICAS is a global platform of self-regulatory organisations (SROs). The ICAS President is from the United Kingdom.

#### **17. Martha Koome becomes Kenya's first woman chief justice**

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. Capital: Nairobi; Currency: Kenyan shilling; President: Uhuru Kenyatta

### **18. Mali's PM Moctar Ouane reappointed after resignation**

The prime minister of Mali, Moctar Ouane, has been reappointed as prime minister by the transitional president after submitting his resignation. Upon the prime minister's resignation, transitional president Bah N'Daw "repealed the decrees" respectively appointing the prime minister and the members of the government.

### **19. Shri Mridul Kumar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico**

Shri Mridul Kumar, a 1992 batch IFS officer, presently High Commissioner of India to Malaysia, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico.

### **20. Shri Alok Ranjan Jha appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus**

Shri Alok Ranjan Jha, an IFS officer of 2002 batch, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus. He shall replace H E Sangeetha Bahadur who recently moved up to take charge as the Ambassador of India to Malta.

### **21. BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma elected to BWF Council**

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) president Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected to the BWF council for the period 2021-25. He is also the Vice President of Badminton Asia, got 236 votes in his favour as the 20 council members were elected from 31 contestants at the virtual AGM and Council election of Badminton World Federation (BWF). Himanta Biswa Sarma:- The current Chief Minister of Assam.

### **22. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra appointed as acting chief justice of Chhattisgarh High Court**

Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, the senior-most judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court, was appointed as its acting chief justice. Chief justices and judges of high courts retire at the age of 62, while the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the Supreme Court retire at the age of 65 years.

### **23. David Barnea Appointed as Israel's Next Mossad Chief**

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. Israel Capital:- Jerusalem; Currency:- Israeli Shekel

### **24. India's Narinder Batra re-elected as International Hockey Federation president**

Incumbent Narinder Batra of India was re-elected as the International Hockey Federation (FIH) President for a second term during the virtual 47th Congress of the sport's global governing body. Batra will hold the office until 2024. Batra is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association and an International Olympic Committee member. Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; Founded: 7 January 1924 (Paris, France)

### **25. CISF chief Subodh Jaiswal appointed CBI director with tenure of two years**

Subodh Jaiswal, a 1985 batch Maharashtra cadre IPS officer and chief of the CISF, has been appointed Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). 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: CJI .NV Ramana & Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

### **26. Jagjit Pavadia elected as president of Vienna based International Narcotics Control Board**

Jagjit Pavadia, 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. INCB:- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria President: Cornelis P. de Joncheere Founded: 1968

### 27. IB, RAW Chiefs Get One-Year Extension; J&K Chief Secy To Take Charge As Commerce Secy

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the PM Modi, has given a one-year extension to Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Samanta Goel and Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Arvinda Kumar. BVR Subrahmanyam will take charge as the officer on special duty in the commerce ministry. AK Mehta was appointed in Subrahmanyam's place as the new chief secretary J&K.

### 28. CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh gets additional charge of NIA

Director General of Central Reserve Police Force, CRPF Kuldiep Singh has been given additional charge of Director General of National Investigation Agency, NIA. Mr. Singh will hold the additional post after 31st of this month after superannuation of Y C Modi.



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## Awards

### **1. Maria Ressa conferred UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2021**

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.

### **2. Japan to confer Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays decoration to Bengaluru teacher Shyamala Ganesh**

Shyamala Ganesh, the former director of the Japanese Language School, will be conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays.

Ms. Ganesh is also former President of the Bengaluru Chapter of Ohara-ryu Ikebana, and helped popularise not just the language but also other cultural traditions such as Ikebana, Japanese flower arrangements, and hosting exchange events.

### **3. Retired Justice Gita Mittal to be awarded Arline Pacht Global Vision Award by International Association of Women Judges**

Former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal, has been declared as one of the two recipients (other recipient- Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico) of the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021. International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) instituted this award in 2016. Justice Mittal would be the first Indian judge to receive the award. Award is presented to a sitting/retired woman judge to recognize her contribution to IAWJ

### **4. Anupam Kher wins best actor award at New York City International Film Festival**

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.

### **5. Naomi Osaka, Rafael Nadal, win Laureus World Sports Awards**

Japan's Naomi Osaka has been named Sportswoman of the Year at the Laureus World Sports Awards, with Spain's Rafael Nadal the men's winner. Tennis legend Billie Jean King received the Lifetime Achievement award. Briton Lewis Hamilton claimed the inaugural Athlete Advocate award. Liverpool and Egypt striker Mohamed Salah won the Sporting Inspiration award. Nadal's win was his fourth Laureus award.

### **6. Nagaland conservationist Nuklu Phom gets prestigious Whitley Awards 2021**

An environmentalist from Nagaland's remote Longleng district has won this year's Whitley Awards 2021, also known as the Green Oscar. Nuklu 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). He established a new biodiversity peace corridor for Amur Falcons.

### **7. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd conferred with 'Green Urja Award'**

Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has been recently, conferred the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) with the 'Green Urja Award'. The agency has been awarded for being the leading public institution in financing institution for renewable energy. IREDA, is under the administrative control of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

### **8. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank receives 'International Invincible Gold Medal'**

International Invincible Gold Medal of this year has been conferred on Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank. The decision was made after due deliberations by a high-powered committee duly constituted under the leadership of Dr. Tony Nader who is the global head of the Maharshi organisation. This honor will be given by the worldwide Maharishi Organization & its universities,

### **9. Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted of Indian descent wins World Food Prize 2021**

Dr Shakuntala H.Thilsted, a global nutrition expert of Indian descent has won the prestigious 2021 World Food Prize for her groundbreaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems. Her research on small native fish species in Bangladesh led to the development of nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquatic food systems. The first recipient of the World Food Prize was M.S. Swaminathan in 1987.

### **10. DNA sequencing pioneers from Cambridge win 1 million euro tech Nobel prize 2020**

Millennium Technology Prize has been won by Cambridge University professors Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman for their work over 27 years creating ever faster and cheaper ways to sequence the human genome. These two British chemists developed a super-fast DNA sequencing technique that paved the way for revolutionary healthcare advances. The Millennium Technology Prize is Finland's version of the Nobel science prize.

### **11. International Dublin Literary Award: Mexican author Valeria Luiselli wins for 'Lost Children Archive'**

The American policy of keeping children away from their parents at the Mexican-American border was the origin of this fictional novel. It also won the Rathbones Folio prize in 2020. Considered one of the richest literary awards in the world, the Award includes a prize money of '100,000 (approx '89,27,300). It is awarded to a novel written or translated into English.

### **12. Jane Goodall wins Templeton Prize for work at intersection of science and spirituality**

Primatologist, conservationist, and world-famous environmentalist Jane Goodall, DBE, won the 2021 Templeton Prize, a \$1.5 million award that recognizes achievements of people 'harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it.' She was awarded for her 'scientific and spiritual curiosity'. Mother Teresa was the first winner and Dalai Lama won it in 2012

### **13. Shree Malani Foams Pvt Ltd Wins the Star Export House Award by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

The certification is valid for 5 years between 2021 to 2026. With this notable development, Shree Malani Foams Pvt. Ltd. has emerged as the first and only mattress and mattress components company to be awarded this honour in the past 5 years. Managing Director, Shree Malani Foams Pvt. Ltd: Siddharth Malani

### **14. SpiceHealth wins Gold Stevie Award 2021**

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. Stevie Awards are widely considered to be the world's premier business awards, conferring recognition for achievement in programs such as The International Business Awards for 19 years.

### **15. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik's Private Secretary VK Pandian to receive FIH President's Award**

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. Karthikeyan was awarded for his contribution in direction of the event and promotion of hockey in Odisha. FIH President:- Narinder Dhruv Batra; Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

### **16. Dr Nageshwar Reddy becomes first Indian to win Rudolf V Schindler award**

Padma Bhushan awardee and noted gastroenterologist Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, who is also the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the highest honour from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) 'the Rudolf V Schindler Award making him the first Indian to receive this honour. The Rudolf V Schindler award is the highest category in the Crystal

Awards of ASGE. Named after Dr Schindler, who is widely considered as 'father of gastroscopy'.

### **17. Prof CNR Rao bags Eni International Award for renewable energy research**

Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao has received International Eni Award 2020 for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage, also called the Energy Frontier award. This is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research. The Energy Frontiers award is to be presented in October 2021 in Rome.

### **18. Amartya Sen to be honoured with Spain's Princess of Asturias Award 2021**

Economist and Philosopher Amartya Kumar Sen, who studied the causes of famines, to be recognized with the Princess of Asturias award in the social sciences category. The 50,000-euro award is one of 8 prizes, including in the arts, communications, and sports, handed out annually by the Asturias Princess Foundation, which is named for Spanish Crown Princess Leonor. Sen won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998.

### **19. Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson wins 2020-21 Kia National Basketball Association Sixth Man Award**

Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson has won the 2020-21 Kia NBA Sixth Man Award for his contributions in a reserve role. This is the first Sixth Man honour for Clarkson, who becomes the first player to win the annual award with the Jazz. Clarkson received 65 first-place votes and earned 407 total points from a global panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters.



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## Ranks & Reports

### 1. Wipro overtakes HCL Tech to become third most-valued Indian IT firm

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. Wipro also announced its plan to achieve Net-Green House Gas emissions by 2040.

### 2. New Delhi ranks 32nd and Mumbai 36th in Global Prime Residential Index by Knight Frank

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. Globally, Shenzhen ranked 1st with a 18.9% annual change for the period Q1 2020 ' Q1 2021. New York was the weakest-performing global city during the period.

### 3. Renewables grew at fastest rate in two decades last year, IEA says in new report

Electricity from renewable energy sources grew at the fastest rate in two decades during 2020, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency. Capacity added jumped 45% to 280 gigawatts last year. The increase is poised to become the new normal as supportive policies and declining costs drive adoption. The World Energy Outlook Report is released by the IEA annually.

### 4. 43 of 100 - India has most cities in the world vulnerable to environmental risks

Of the 100 most vulnerable cities, 99 are in Asia, as per report by research firm Verisk Maplecroft. Of those, 37 are in China & 43 are in India, the world's 1st & 3rd biggest emitters of greenhouse gases respectively. Globally, 1.5 billion people live in 414 cities that are at high risk from pollution, water shortages, extreme heat, natural hazards etc. Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, topped the list of combined risk

### 5. New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern takes out top spot in Fortune's 50 World's Greatest Leaders list

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern topped Fortune's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders and CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla also made it to the list. Jacinda Ardern has been lauded for her efficiency in tackling and controlling the spread of Coronavirus in New Zealand. Other celebrated leaders: Paypal CEO Daniel H Schulman, NBA Rescuers, John Nkengasong, etc.

### 6. India is the second largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific

India is the second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific and accounts for 35 percent 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

### 7. India Moves to 3rd in Latest Renewable Energy Attractiveness Index

Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY) recently released its 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) and granted the third position to India due to its continued progress in solar energy. The biannual RECAI ranks the world's top 40 markets on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities. The US retains the top and China at second.

### 8. Gautam Adani becomes Asia's 2nd richest man with \$67 billion net worth; Mukesh Ambani is Asia's richest.

Adani Group founder and chairman Gautam Adani has now become the second richest man in Asia after overtaking China's Zhong Shanshan. His net worth at \$67.6 billion, makes him the second richest Asian and the 14th richest businessman in the world, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Mukesh Ambani is currently on the 13th spot with net worth of \$76 billion.

### 9. Jharkhand clinches 1st rank for implementing Smart City Mission schemes; Rajasthan came second.

Jharkhand has clinched the first position in the recent ranking released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs based on the progress of the implementation of the Smart City Mission's schemes running in different 100 cities of the 36 states & UTs. The mission initially included 100 cities with the deadline for completion of the projects set between 2019 and 2023. Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi has risen to 12th position in terms of progress, Delhi is at 11.

### 10. Long working hours are killing 745,000 people a year: World Health Organization and ILO

In joint research by the global public health and employment bodies, they estimated there were 745,000 deaths from stroke and ischemic heart disease in 2016, marking a 29% increase since 2000. The WHO and ILO estimated that 398,000 people died from stroke and 347,000 from heart disease in 2016 as a result of having worked at least 55 hours a week.

### 11. In pandemic year, bank frauds down 25% by value: RBI annual report

Banks and other financial institutions reported frauds worth Rs 1.38 trillion in 2020-21, down 25 percent compared to the previous year, when the amount involved was Rs 1.85 trillion, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) annual report. The RBI data takes into account frauds of Rs 1 lakh and above only.



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## Important Days

### 1. International Workers' Day (Labour Day): May 1

International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day in most countries, is celebrated on May 1 every year. The day is a celebration of laborers around the world. The day has its origins in the labor union movement, specifically the eight-hour day movement. International Labour Organization HQ: Geneva, Switzerland Director-General: Guy Ryder

### 2. World Laughter Day: First Sunday of May

World Laughter Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of May to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. More than 70 countries around the world celebrate World Laughter Day on the first Sunday of May. World Laughter Day was first celebrated on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai, India. This year the day falls on May 02, 2021

### 3. World Press Freedom Day 3 May, 2021 Theme: Information as a Public Good

World Press Freedom Day 2021 Global Conference, Organized annually since 1993, the Global Conference provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics, and the broader public to discuss emerging challenges to press freedom and journalists' safety, and to work together on identifying solutions. The 2021 Global Conference is hosted by UNESCO and the Government of Namibia.

### 4. International Firefighters' Day 2021 | May 4

The IFFD was instituted after a proposal was emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999. This happened shortly after the death of five firefighters in the bushfires in Australia in 1998. The red and blue ribbon is one of the most significant symbols of International Firefighters' Day.

### 5. World Migratory Bird Day: 8 May

World Migratory Bird Day is an awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It aims to draw attention to the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. The Day is celebrated bi-annually on the second Saturday in May and in October. The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2021 is Sing, Fly, Soar ' Like a bird!

### 6. World Red Cross Day is marked on May 8 every year

May 8 is observed as the World Red Cross Day on Henry Dunant's, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross, birthday. This day is to acknowledge the beliefs of the Red Crescent Movement and the International Red Cross. The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, 1948. IFRC was founded in 1919 in Paris in the aftermath of World War I. The theme 2021:- 'Together we are #unstoppable!'

### 7. World Thalassaemia Day: May 8

May 8 is observed as World Thalassaemia Day every year. The day commemorates the struggles of the patients suffering from this genetic disorder and raises awareness about the disease and its symptoms. This year's theme is 'Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community'. The disease reduces the haemoglobin count in the body & affects the production of RBCs.

### 8. National Technology Day 2021 | May 11

The National Technology day was first observed on May 11, 1999. The day was chosen because on this day India successfully broke into the elite group of countries with nuclear weapons. On 11 May 1998, India successfully conducted three nuclear tests at Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. The tests were conducted under operation Shakti. On 11th May 1998, India also tested its first indigenous aircraft Hansa-3.

### 9. International Nurses Day is observed on May 12 every year

Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary is observed as International Nurses Day. Florence Nightingale was an English nurse, a social reformer, and a statistician who founded the key

pillars of modern nursing. She was born on this day 1820. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) celebrated the day for the first time in 1965. The theme for 2021 is Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A vision for future healthcare.

#### **10. International Day of Families is observed on May 15**

International Day of Families is annually observed by the United Nations across the world on May 15. The day is commemorated to highlight the important affairs central to the welfare of families, such as health, education, gender equality, rights for children, and social inclusion among others. The theme for 2021: - "Families and New Technologies". UN is preparing for the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024

#### **11. May 16 is observed as the National Dengue Day in India**

This day aims at spreading awareness about dengue, informing people about the disease, and encouraging them to take the necessary precautions to prevent it. The bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is responsible for the transmission of dengue infection. This viral disease is caused by the dengue virus (DENV, 1'4 serotypes)

#### **12. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17 May**

The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1865, the occasion on which the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris, France. The day is celebrated with an aim to raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the internet can have to bridge the gap in society. 2021 theme is "Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times".

#### **13. 6th UN Global Road Safety Week to be held 17-23 May 2021**

'Streets for Life' is the slogan chosen for the 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week, which this year is celebrated between 17 and 23 May, to call for 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns, and villages worldwide. The Week will also be the official launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030. UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW) - a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO.

#### **14. World Hypertension Day 2021: May 17**

World Hypertension day is celebrated on May 17 every year. It is observed annually to raise awareness about the symptoms of hypertension. The main aim of World Hypertension Day is to educate the public and increase awareness of hypertension, which is also commonly known as high blood pressure. Theme 2021: - 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer'.

#### **15. May 17 is observed as the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia**

17 May, is the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. It's a day to recognise that while the rights of the LGBTQI+ people have significantly advanced in recent decades, progress remains patchy and geographically uneven. IDAHOTB 2021 and this year's global theme: 'Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing.'

#### **16. World AIDS Vaccine Day is observed each year on May 18**

The day is commemorated to recognize the efforts of thousands of scientists and health professionals who are tirelessly working to find a vaccine against the Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The day is also addressed as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, which is aimed at increasing awareness regarding the need for HIV vaccines to prevent the spread of HIV infection and AIDS.

#### **17. International Museum Day 2021: May 18**

International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year to raise awareness among people about the museums. Museums are an important means of cultural exchange and the development of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among people. The theme for International Museum Day 2021 is 'The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.'

### **18. World Bee Day is observed across the globe on May 20.**

The main purpose of this World Bee Day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. This year, in its 4th observance of this International Day, FAO is organizing a Virtual Event on 20 May 2021 with the theme 'Bee engaged- Build Back Better for Bees'. On this day, in 1734, Anton Jansa, the pioneer of beekeeping, was born.

### **19. International Day for Biological Diversity | 22 May**

United Nations General Assembly in late 1993 proclaimed May 22 as "The International Day for Biological Diversity" (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. 2021 theme is 'We're part of the solution'. This year's slogan is a continuation of 2020 theme- "Our solutions are in nature".

### **20. International Day to End Obstetric Fistula | 23 May**

Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic childbirth injuries. Obstetric fistula is a hole in the birth canal caused by protracted, obstructed labour. Left untreated, it can lead to infection, disease, and infertility. The theme of this year's observance is 'Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!'

### **21. Menstrual Hygiene Day: 28 May**

Menstrual Hygiene Day is annually observed on 28th May to educate people about the importance of menstrual hygiene. It aims to promote menstrual health & hygiene for all women and girls. Global Co-ordinator of Menstrual Hygiene Day - WASH United. The theme for 2021: Action & Investment in Menstrual Hygiene & Health. The first edition of this day was observed in 2014.

### **22. World Hunger Day: May 28**

World Hunger Day is observed on 28th May every year to create awareness about the people across the world who live in chronic hunger. This day was an initiative of the New York-based 'Hunger Project' in 2011. The theme for 2021 is: 'Access Ends Hunger'. Around 690 million people across the world live in chronic hunger of which 60% are women.

### **23. International Day of Action for Women's Health: May 28**

International Day of Action for Women's Health is annually observed on 28th May to create awareness about the Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) movement. The theme for 2021 is: 'Women's Health Matters: Ending the Inequality Pandemic & Ensuring SRHR remains essential.

### **24. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers: May 29**

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers May 29 is a day to pay tribute to all those who have served & continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication & courage. Theme for 2021: The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security.

### **25. International Everest Day 2021 - May 29**

International Everest Day 2021 is observed in the memory of the first summit of Mount Everest by New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepal's Tenzing Norgay Sherpa that took place on 29th of May 1953. In the year 2008, Nepal decided to celebrate International Everest Day every year on 29th of May. British named it Mount Everest after Sir George Everest, a British surveyor of South Asia.

### **26. World No Tobacco Day 2021: May 31**

No Tobacco Day or Anti-Tobacco Day is marked on May 31. The day as the name suggests is meant to raise awareness about the adverse effects of smoking. The day created by World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1987, aims to sensitise people about the hazardous diseases that can be caused due to smoking. 2021 Theme: 'Commit to Quit'.

## Summit & Conferences

### 1. Prahlad Singh Patel Virtually Participates In G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting

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.

### 2. BRICS agrees to devise framework for social security agreement

1st meeting of BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) was held virtually from May 11-12, during which, member-countries agreed to formulate a framework on Social Security Agreement. Social Security Agreement would help the international workers to port their benefit to their home countries thereby preventing loss of their hard-earned money. BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

### 3. 4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was held virtually through video conferencing

Talks for collaboration on various aspects including investments, International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA), National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), FinTech, sustainable finance and cross border financial services were held during the forum. India-Switzerland Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) is under negotiation.

### 4. Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs 26th meeting of Group of Ministers (GOM) on COVID-19

The 26th GoM meeting was chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Ministry, to discuss COVID-19 relief measures and steps taken. CoWIN platform-the government developed 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. He was joined by S. Jaishankar (external affairs) & Shri Hardeep S. Puri. (civil aviation)

### 5. India took part in Global Health Summit co-hosted by Italy

India has recently participated in the Global Health Summit, which is being co-hosted by Italy as the Chair of the G20 group and the European Commission this year. India represented by its Sherpa for G20 Suresh Prabhu at the meet. The key outcome of the Global health meet will be the "Rome Declaration" which will focus on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## Science & Technology

### **1. World's most powerful weather, climate-change forecasting supercomputer to be built in UK**

Microsoft and UK's Met Office have teamed up to build the world's most powerful supercomputer to forecast weather and climate change. Likely to be operational in 2022, the supercomputer will provide accurate warnings on severe weather and help protect from the impact of increasingly extreme storms, floods, and snow in the UK. This is a part of the UK government's commitment towards achieving Net Zero by 2050.

### **2. IIT-Bombay converts existing nitrogen plant into oxygen generator**

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.

### **3. DRDO's anti-Covid drug 2-DG receives DCGI approval for emergency use**

An anti-COVID-19 therapeutic drug developed by DRDO called drug 2-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 drug, which was developed by the DRDO in association with pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, has been found to be effective in controlling the viral growth. The drug comes in the form of a powder in a sachet & is supposed to be dissolved in water.

### **4. Lightest-known form of uranium created**

Scientists have discovered a new type of uranium that is the lightest ever known. The discovery could reveal more about a weird alpha particle that gets ejected from certain radioactive elements as they decay. The newfound uranium, called uranium-214, is an isotope, or a variant of the element, with 30 more neutrons than protons, one fewer neutron than the next-lightest known Common uranium isotopes: uranium-235, which is used in nuclear reactors.

### **5. Prana, VaU, Svasta, And Shwaas: ISRO's VSSC Develops Ventilators, Oxygen Concentrator**

ISRO's VSSC has developed three different types of ventilators & an oxygen concentrator. 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. Portable medical oxygen concentrator-Shwaas. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, director S Somanath.

### **6. DRDO develops AI based software to detect COVID in chest X-rays**

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.

### **7. China lands its Zhurong rover on Mars**

China has successfully landed a spacecraft on Mars. 6-wheeled Zhurong robot was targeting Utopia Planitia, a vast terrain in the planet's northern hemisphere. The vehicle used a combination of a protective capsule, a parachute & a rocket platform to make the descent. Zhurong, which means God of Fire, was carried to Mars on the Tianwen-1 orbiter. Only the Americans (NASA) had really mastered landing on Mars until now.

### **8. SpaceX will launch a satellite to the Moon next year funded entirely with the cryptocurrency Dogecoin**

The satellite, dubbed DOGE-1, will be launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in the first quarter of 2022, the Calgary-based company said in a statement. The cubic satellite, weighing

40 kilograms, will aim to obtain "lunar-spatial intelligence from sensors and cameras on-board," according to the statement. Canadian company Geometric Energy Corporation, will lead the lunar mission.

### **9. IIT Ropar Designs Eco-friendly Mobile Cremation System**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar, Punjab has designed an eco-friendly cremation cart amid the rise in the Covid-19 cases. The cart is fitted with stainless steel insulation for ensuring no heat loss and less wood consumption. The cart has been developed in collaboration with the company Cheema Boilers Limited. IIT-Kharagpur's product COVIRAP can detect possible novel coronavirus in 45 minutes.

### **10. Anti Covid drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose or 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister**

Minister of Defence and Minister of Health and Family Welfare, jointly launched the new COVID drug 2-DG at DRDO Bhawan. The anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) has been developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with Dr Reddy's Laboratories. Minister of Defence- Shri Rajnath Singh & MoHFW- Harsh Vardhan

### **11. Robotic Navigation Tech ' That Helped NASA's Perseverance Rover Land on Mars ' Will Explore the Deep Ocean**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship Okeanos Explorer will depart from Port Canaveral in Florida on a 2-week expedition led by NOAA Ocean Exploration, featuring the technology demonstration of an autonomous underwater vehicle. Called Orpheus, this new class of submersible robot will showcase a system that will help to identify the sea floor features. It will now undergo a trial run on the U.S. East Coast in the Atlantic Ocean.

### **12. IISc researchers identify new blood-based biomarker to distinguish between bacterial and viral infections**

An Indian Institute of Science (IISc) study has identified a set of molecular biomarkers that can be used in the differential diagnosis of acute bacterial and viral infections. These biomarkers are different messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules found in the blood; differences in their levels can detect and predict with high probability if an infection is viral or bacterial. This new study is published in the journal 'EBioMedicine'.

### **13. Google partners with Elon Musk's SpaceX for its Starlink satellite Internet service**

Google Cloud and SpaceX recently announced a new partnership to deliver data, cloud services, and applications to customers at the network edge, leveraging Starlink's ability to provide high-speed broadband internet around the world and Google Cloud's infrastructure. SpaceX will locate Starlink ground stations within Google data centre properties.

### **14. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) develops COVID-19 antibody detection kit**

The DRDO's Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) laboratory developed DIPCOVAN kit can give the result in 75 minutes and will cost Rs 75 and has a 18 month shelf life. It can detect spike as well as nucleocapsid (S&N) proteins of SARS-CoV-2 virus with a high sensitivity of 97% and specificity of 99%. To be commercially launched by DRDO's industry partner, Delhi-based Vanguard Diagnostics.

### **15. Iran launches its most powerful supercomputer, Simurgh**

Iran has launched its most powerful supercomputer to date, Simurgh, named after the benevolent Phoenix-like bird. The system currently has a processing power of 0.56 petaflops, but will reach one petaflops in two months, state media claimed. Developed at Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology, the system is 100 times more powerful than previous Iranian supercomputers.

### **16. ICMR approves home-based RAT kit for Covid testing**

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a home-based rapid antigen testing (RAT) kit for Covid-19. Home testing by RAT is advised only in the asymptomatic individuals and immediate contacts of laboratory-confirmed positive cases. The move is expected to make testing widely available and accessible particularly in rural areas. ICMR - one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world Founded:-1911.

### **17. IIT Ropar develops unique detector 'FakeBuster' to detect imposters attending a virtual conference**

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.

### **18. India's first city-wide environmental surveillance platform for COVID launched in Bengaluru**

Govt of Karnataka assisted by USAID & Skoll Foundation-supported COVIDactionCollab (CAC) introduced a city-wide sewage surveillance system in Bangalore that will help track coronavirus at an early stage. Precision Health Platform in Bengaluru, the 1st of its kind in Asia, will test sewage from both sewered and non-sewered waste water to identify clusters of new infections. CAC - India-wide collaborative of networks working to provide COVID-19 relief.

### **19. NASA to send its first mobile robot to search for water on the moon in 2023**

USA's NASA is planning to send its first mobile robot to the moon in late 2023. The rover named Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) will search for ice and other resources on the lunar surface. VIPER will also be using the first headlight on a lunar rover to aid in exploring the permanently shadowed regions of the moon. NASA is headquartered in Washington D.C., USA.

### **20. ICMR Approves Saline Gargle RT-PCR Test Developed By NEERI For COVID-19 Detection**

Scientists of NEERI have developed a 'Saline Gargle RT-PCR Method' for testing COVID-19 samples. The method is non-invasive and so simple that the patient can themselves collect the samples. They can also get the results within three hours. This method is also environmental-friendly. NEERI is located in Nagpur, Maharashtra. NEERI stands for National Environmental Engineering Research Institute.

### **21. IIT Guwahati researchers design "smart windows" to cut carbon emissions**

IIT Guwahati researchers have developed a smart window material that can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it in response to an applied voltage. This material can help in developing automatic climate control systems in buildings. This study was recently published in the journal- 'Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells'

### **22. WHO and Switzerland launch global BioHub for pathogen storage, sharing and analysis**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Swiss Confederation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch the first WHO BioHub Facility as part of the WHO BioHub System, which was announced in November 2020. This facility will enhance the rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and partners globally.

### **23. Space-tech startup Bellatrix Aerospace tests India's first privately built Hall Thruster**

Space-tech startup Bellatrix Aerospace has test-fired India's first privately built Hall Thruster, a highly efficient electric propulsion system. The technology, originally demoed in Russia, is aimed at helping satellites manoeuvre in space and maintain proper orientation.

### **24. NASA partners with Axiom for first private astronaut mission to space station**

NASA and private space infrastructure company Axiom Space have signed an order kickstarting the first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The

mission, known as Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1), is set to launch no sooner than January 2022. The Ax-1 private astronauts include Larry Connor, Mark Pathy, Eytan Stibbe & mission commander Michael Lopez-Alegria. Peggy Whitson and John Shoffner are "backups."



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## Defence

### 1. Armed Forces Launches Op CO-JEET for Mental Health Of COVID Patients: Lieutenant General Madhuri Kanitkar

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. Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) Kanitkar is the third woman to become a three-star general in the armed forces. Vice Admiral Dr. Punita Arora & Air Marshal Padmavathy Bandopadhyay are the 1st & 2nd.

### 2. Border Roads Organisation celebrated its 61st Raising Day on 7th May

BRO is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with a primary role of providing road connectivity in the border areas. It executes road construction & maintenance works along the Northern & Western frontiers primarily to meet the strategic requirements of the Army. BRO has also built roads in friendly foreign nations like Bhutan, Myanmar & Afghanistan. Director General, BRO:- Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhary. BRO founded on :- 7 May 1960

### 3. Indian Army sets up Covid Management Cell for real time response

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.

### 4. Indian and Indonesian navies carry out military drill in southern Arabian Sea

The Indian Navy was represented at the 'Passage' exercise by INS Sharda, an offshore patrol vessel (OPV), and the Indonesian Navy was represented by KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a corvette. The 'Passage' exercises are regularly conducted by the Indian Navy with friendly foreign navies.

### 5. INS Rajput, Indian Navy's first destroyer, decommissioned after 41 years of service

The lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR, the destroyer was commissioned on May 4, 1980 at Poti, Georgia. INS Rajput was constructed in the 61 Communards Shipyard in Nikolaev (present-day Ukraine) under her original Russian name 'Nadezhny' meaning 'Hope'. The ship had the motto 'Raj Karega Rajput', and participated in several operations. It was the first Naval Ship to be affiliated with an Indian Army regiment (the Rajput).

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## Books & Authors

### 1. Meghan Markle's first children's book, 'The Bench'

Meghan Markle has written her first children's book, *The Bench*, which will hit shelves next month. The book's cover depicts an empty bench beneath a tree, as well as five birds. A glimpse of one of the pages shows a father-son pair sleeping on the bench. *The Bench* will be released on June 8.

### 2. Life in the Clock Tower Valley' by Shakoor Rather

'Life in the Clock Tower Valley' is the debut book of Press Trust of India (PTI) journalist Shakoor Rather. 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.

### 3. The book "Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance", published by HarperCollins India

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. This book released on May 16, which is celebrated as Sikkim Day. Objective of the book is to clarify & establish the primacy of strategic issues deals with the merger of Sikkim.

### 4. Former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon's book - 'India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present'

'India and Asian Geopolitics: The past, present' by Shivshankar Menon (Brookings Institution Press, Washington DC, 2021) may, at first glance, appear to be primarily on India. But it is about Asia as a whole, its past, present and future in the context of global developments. As such, China's growth, problems, and prospects in a changing regional and global context.

### 5. The book 'Nehru, Tibet and China' written by Avtar Singh Bhasin

Based on years of meticulous archival research, the book titled, 'Nehru, Tibet & China' authored by Avtar Singh Bhasin, 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.

## Miscellaneous

### 1. Twitter brings Tip Jar feature for content creators to earn cash for tweets

Twitter has announced the rollout of Tip Jar, a new feature that will let content creators earn through the service. For now, Tip Jar is available to a select group of people from across the world. It will enable the viewers to provide monetary support to content creators on Twitter. Twitter will take no cuts from the tips provided by the viewers. Twitter HQ: San Francisco, California, United States Founders: Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone,

### 2. Google launches News Showcase in India, to pay 30 news publishers for content

Google is launching its News Showcase feature in India and is partnering with 30 news organisations. According to Google, the move is aimed at incentivizing and supporting local publishers to curate high-quality content on the search engine's News and Discover platforms. This initiative is part of Google's investment campaign to support quality journalism in India.

## Obituary

### **1. Senior Advocate, eminent jurist and former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee passes away**

Sorabjee was designated Senior Advocate by the Bombay High Court in 1971. He was in the legal profession for nearly seven decades and also served as the Attorney General for India twice. He was also the Solicitor General of India from 1977-80. He appeared in a number of landmark cases including Kesavananda Bharati, SR Bommai, and Maneka Gandhi. He was honored with Padma Vibhushan in 2002.

### **2. Director and Cinematographer KV Anand Passes Away**

National award-winning cinematographer and one of the renowned filmmakers of South Indian cinema, Karimanal Venkatesan Anand passed away. In 1994, Anand received a National Film Award for Best Cinematographer for his work in the Malayalam movie Thenmavin Kombath.

### **3. Assam's first female IAS officer Parul Debi Das passes away**

Parul Debi Das, the first female IAS officer from Assam, passed away. She was an Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer. Parul Debi Das 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.

### **4. Senior Technical Director of NIC, Shri Prakash Kumar Pankaj passes away**

Shri Prakash Kumar Pankaj, Senior Technical Director of the National Informatics Center, passed away. He began his career at NIC from NIC Headquarters, as Scientist B in March 1993 and worked with the Department of Information and Broadcasting and related organizations (RNI, Publications Divisions).

### **5. Sitar maestro Pandit Devabrata Chaudhuri passes away**

Sitar maestro Pandit Devabrata Chaudhuri passed away. He was 85. Pandit Debu Chaudhuri, The sitarist, considered among the greatest sitar players alongside Ustad Vilayat Khan, Ravi Shankar and Nikhil Banerjee, belonged to Jaipur's Senia Gharana of music started by the descendants of Tansen's family and known for working towards preserving the purity of ragas.

### **6. Indian-origin author, playwright Ronnie Govender passes away in South Africa**

Ronnie Govender, an internationally acclaimed Indian-origin author and playwright known for his books and theatre efforts reflecting the difficulties of the Indian and African communities under apartheid, died of age-related illness. He was 87. Govender's debut book, 'Cato Manor Stories', won the 1997 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best first book in the Africa section.

### **7. Tanzanian diplomat dies of COVID-19 at Base Hospital in Delhi Cantonment**

A Tanzanian official has become the first foreign diplomat to die of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The High Commission of Tanzania has announced that Col. Dr. Moses Beatus Mlula, Defence Adviser of Tanzania, died. Tanzania: Currency: Shilling; Capital: Dodoma.

### **8. Padma Shri-awardee Manzoor Ahtesham passes away**

Noted Hindi litterateur and Padma Shri awardee Manzoor Ahtesham has died. He was 73. Manzoor Ahtesham's first story was titled 'Ramzan Ki Maut'.

### **9. Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Jagmohan passes away at 93**

Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor and Union Minister for Urban Development and Tourism in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government Jagmohan passed away. He was appointed Jammu and Kashmir governor in 1984 and completed his five-year tenure. In 2016, Padma Vibhushan was awarded to him.

### **10. Four-time Asian Games equestrian medallist Ghulam Mohammed Khan dies**

Asian Games equestrian gold medallist Ghulam Mohammed Khan has died at age 74. At the New Delhi 1982 Games, Khan won a team eventing gold medal as well as individual silver behind compatriot Raghubir Singh. Four years later at the Seoul 1986 Asian Games, Khan won bronze medals in the team eventing and dressage competitions.

### **11. Renowned infectious diseases expert Dr Rajendra Kapila, 81, passes away**

Renowned infectious disease specialist and Rutgers University professor Dr. Rajendra Kapila passed away in Delhi. Dr. Kapila worked extensively on HIV-AIDS, trained many people in the field, and practised at Rutgers University for 50 years.

### **12. Actor Pandu, who designed the symbol and flag of AIADMK dies**

Actor Pandu, 74, who starred in several Tamil films and who designed the AIADMK flag at the request of MGR, died. Mr. Pandu designed the 'two leaves' symbol and the flag of the AIADMK. All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is a regional political party in the state of Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Puducherry.

### **13. Former Head of Mar Thoma Church Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Passes Away at 103**

Kerala Former head of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and the longest-serving bishop in India Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom died due to age-related ailments. He is credited with implementing and formulating many projects to improve the social, economic, and cultural conditions of the poor and deprived.

### **14. Former Union minister and RLD chief Ajit Singh passes away**

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief and former Union minister Chaudhary Ajit Singh passed away at the age of 82 after battling COVID-19. Ajit Singh was the son of former Prime Minister of India late Chaudhary Charan Singh. Rashtriya Lok Dal, a political party recognized in the western part of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

### **15. BCCI scorer K.K. Tiwari passes away**

BCCI scorer Krishan Kumar Tiwari passed away due to Covid at the AIIMS in Jhajjar (Haryana). He was 52. He was a part of the DDCA's four-member Umpire and Scoring Committee. A well-known name in Capital's cricket circles for over three decades, Tiwari covered four Tests, five One-Day Internationals, over 60 Ranji Trophy matches, and over 50 Indian Premier League fixtures. He also officiated as an umpire in local cricket since 1985.

### **16. V Kalyanam, Mahatma Gandhi's Former Personal Secretary, Passes Away At 99 In Chennai**

Mahatma Gandhi's former personal secretary V Kalyanam died in Chennai due to old age-related ailments. He was Gandhi's personal secretary from 1943 to 1948, when the Mahatma was assassinated. Kalyanam had earlier shocked the country by claiming that Mahatma Gandhi did not utter the words 'Hey Ram' when he was assassinated 73 years ago.

### **17. Scientist Manas Bihari Verma, key man behind Tejas, passes away**

Padma Shri decorated aeronautical scientist Manas Bihari Verma, who played a key role in the development of the country's first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas', died. He was 78. Verma was deeply involved in LCA project definition and under his guidance, the requirement of full-scale engineering development (FSED), phase-I activities, were achieved.

### **18. Former Asiad gold medallist footballer Fortunato Franco passes away**

Former India international footballer Fortunato Franco breathed his last at the age of 84. The midfielder was an integral part of the Indian football team which won the Gold medal at the 1962 Asian Games.

### **19. Telugu actor Thummala Narsimha Reddy aka TNR dies**

Popular Telugu YouTube host, film journalist, and actor TNR aka Thummala Narsimha Reddy passed away. TNR shot to fame as an actor with films such as Uma Maheswara Ugra Roopasya, HIT, Falaknuma Das and George Reddy, among others.

### **20. India's Consul General in Mazar-e-Sharif Vinesh Kalra dies at 52**

INDIA'S CONSUL General in the Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif, Vinesh Kalra, died at a hospital in Kabul. He was 52. Kalra had served in various Indian missions abroad, including Muscat, Hanoi, Pretoria, Kuala Lumpur and Beijing.

### **21. Assamese writer, journalist and Sahitya Akademi awardee Homen Borgohain passes away aged 88**

Borgohain was the president of Asam Sahitya Sabha and the chief editor of the Assamese daily Niyomiya Barta at the time of his passing. In 2015, he announced that he would be returning the Sahitya Akademi Award for his 1978 novel Pita Putra in the aftermath of the Dadri lynching.

### **22. Kerala politician, Advocate KR Gouri Amma who presented the Land Reforms Bill in 1957 passes away**

Advocate KR Gouri Amma, the legendary politician from Kerala passed away. She was 102 and suffering from age related ailments. Gouri Amma was elected Member of Legislative Assembly 13 times. In the first assembly elections held after the creation of Kerala State, she became the Revenue Minister in the Communist government led by EMS Namboodiripad. Gouri Amma was the first woman lawyer from Kerala's Ezhava community.

### **23. Former Union Minister Matang Singh dies of Covid-related complications**

Former union minister and Congress leader, Matang Singh died in a hospital in New Delhi. Singh was elected to the Upper house in 1992 from Assam. He was union minister of state in parliamentary affairs from 1994 to 1998.

### **24. Financial Express Managing Editor Sunil Jain passes away**

Sunil Jain, Managing Editor of The Financial Express, passed away at AIIMS. He was 58. A graduate of Delhi School of Economics, Jain wrote extensively on issues like regulatory capture, highlighting details of faulty decisions by the telecom as well as various electricity regulators.

### **25. Former Saurashtra cricketer, BCCI referee Rajendrasinh Jadeja passes away**

Former Saurashtra pacer and BCCI referee Rajendrasinh Jadeja has died. Jadeja was 66. Rajendrasinh was one of the finest right-arm medium pacers and a remarkable all-rounder. He played 50 first-class matches and 11 List A games, taking 134 and 14 wickets respectively. He had scored 1,536 runs in first-class matches and 104 runs in List A cricket.

### **26. Congress MP Rajeev Satav dies after recovering from Covid-19**

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Satav passed away. 46-year-old Satav was elected to Rajya Sabha in March last year, for what was his first term in the upper house. He has also served as a Lok Sabha MP from 2014 to 2019 from the Hingoli Lok Sabha constituency in Maharashtra and has been a legislator in the Maharashtra Assembly. Satav was Congress General Secretary and in-charge of the party in Gujarat.

### **27. Distinguished mathematician Padma Bhushan Prof. M S Narasimhan passes away at 88**

Famous for Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem, he made pioneering contributions to differential & algebraic geometry. He played key role in development of Mathematics in India. He was the only Indian to be awarded with King Faisal International Prize for Science & First Chair of National Board for Higher Mathematics.

### **28. KK Aggarwal, eminent cardiologist and former IMA president, dies of Covid**

Padma Shri awardee and eminent cardiologist Dr KK Aggarwal has died. A prominent face of the medical fraternity in the country, Aggarwal, 62, had served as the president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA). The Padma Shri award winner (2010) dedicated his life to the welfare of the public and raising health awareness. Aggarwal also headed the Heart Care Foundation of India.

### **29. Sahitya Akademi award-winning writer Ki Rajanarayanan passes away at 98**

Renowned Tamil writer, novelist and recipient of Sahitya Akademi award Ki Rajanarayan, popularly known as Ki Ra passed away at 98. He was an eminent writer of short stories, novels, folklores and essays. He was known for the depiction of the people and culture of 'Karisal bhoomi' - the hot and dry land of southern Tamil Nadu. He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopallapurathu Makkal'.

### **30. Indian table tennis legend Venugopal Chandrasekhar passes away**

Veteran table tennis player and coach Venugopal Chandrasekhar passed away in Chennai. Popularly known as 'Chandra', he died at the age of 63. Chandra was one of the most popular paddlers of his time who won three national championships. He was a semi-finalist at the Commonwealth Games and an Arjuna Award winner.

### **31. Former NSG Chief JK Dutt, Who Led 26/11 Counter-Terror Ops, Passes Away**

JK Dutt was the chief of NSG, who saw counter-terror and rescue efforts during operation Black Tornado in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. A 1971 batch Indian Police Service Officer from the West Bengal cadre, JK Dutt served in various positions in the CBI and the Central Industrial Security Force.

### **32. Former Rajasthan CM Jagannath Pahadia passed away due to Covid-19**

Veteran Congress leader and former Rajasthan chief minister Jagannath Pahadia has died at the age of 89. The chief minister of Rajasthan in 1980-81 and also a former governor of Haryana and Bihar. The state government has announced one-day mourning, government offices will be closed and the national flag will fly at half-mast.

### **33. Environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna passes away at 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. He lived for decades in his Silyara ashram in Tehri Garhwal, inspired many young people in his passion for the environment. He, along with local women, founded the Chipko movement. He also coined the Chipko slogan: 'ecology is permanent economy'.

### **34. Indian boxing's first Dronacharya awardee coach O P Bhardwaj passes away**

Bhardwaj was bestowed the highest national honour in coaching jointly with Bhalchandra Bhaskar Bhagwat (wrestling) & O M Nambiar (athletics), when it was introduced in 1985. Bhardwaj was India's national boxing coach from 1968 to 1989 & also served as a national selector. He was the first chief instructor for the sport at the National Institute of Sports India in Patiala.

### **35. Renowned musician Laxman aka Vijay Patil in Ram-Laxman duo passes away**

Ram-Laxman was a pair of Ram aka Surendra Hendre and Vijay Patil aka Laxman. Their debut film was 'Agent Vinod' for Rajshri productions. Even after the death of his partner Ram in 1976, Laxman composed music with the same name Ram-Laxman. He had composed music for about 75 Hindi, Marathi and Bhojpuri films. The 1989 film 'Maine Pyaar Kiya' won him the Filmfare Award.

### **36. China's 'father of hybrid rice' Yuan Longping passes away**

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.

### **37. Ex-dept of atomic energy chief Srikumar Banerjee dies at 75 in Navi Mumbai**

Padma Shri awardee scientist Srikumar Banerjee, who was the former chairperson of the department of atomic energy (DAE), passed away at 75. He was a specialist in physical metallurgy and material science. Banerjee was also the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award recipient and a fellow of the Indian National Science Academy.

### **38. Ex-Formula One boss Max Mosley dies aged 81**

Max Mosley, the former head of Formula One's governing body, has died at the age of 81. 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.

### 39. Lee Evans, record-setting U.S. Olympic sprinter, dies aged 74

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.

### 40. 1971 war hero Col Panjab Singh passes away

Colonel Panjab Singh, a 1971 Indo-Pak war hero, who with a handful of soldiers repulsed an attack by a Pakistani Army battalion and defended a strategic point in Poonch, died. The Vir Chakra recipient passed away at the age of 79. Operation Cactus Lilly, 1971 - military operation by the Indian Air Force in East Pakistan

### 41. Freedom fighter Doreswamy passes away at 103

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. He was also a journalist and ran a newspaper called Paura Vani, which voiced the aspirations of an independent India.

### 42. Author And Art Curator Alka Raghuvanshi Passes Away

Dr Alka Raghuvanshi 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.

### 43. Academician, former Anna University VC M Anandkrishnan passes away

Eminent educationist and former vice-chancellor of Anna University M. Ananthkrishnan passed away. He served as Vice-Chancellor of Anna University for two terms and was chairman of the Board of Governors of the IIT, Kanpur. He received several awards, including Padma Shri in 2002 & the Order of Scientific Merit from the President of Brazil in 1996. He also served as chief science officer in the United Nations in New York.



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## Person in news

### 1. Rashi Parasrampurua To Represent India At Miss Teen International

Rashi Parasrampurua will be representing India at Miss Teen International 2021. Rashi Parasrampurua had previously won the Miss Teen India International crown at the Miss Teen Diva 2020 pageant in January 2021. She is now eyeing the Miss Teen International 2021 title which was won by Aayushi Dholakia in 2019.

### 2. Sindhu, Michelle Li appointed ambassadors for IOC's 'Believe in Sport' campaign

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. The pair have been global ambassadors for BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign since April 2020.

### 3. Nepal's Kami Rita scales Everest for record 25th time

Nepalese climber 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. Nepali name of Mt. Everest: Sagarmatha; Tibetan name: Chomolungma

### 4. Arzan Nagwaswalla: 1st Parsi on Indian cricket team since 1975

23-year-old Arzan Nagwaswalla is a new addition to team India as a stand-by player. Nagwaswalla, who is a tall left-arm pacer, from Gujarat has been making waves in the domestic circuit. Farokh Engineer played his final Test for India in 1975 while Diana Edulji's last game in the women's team came in July 1993.

### 5. Mumbai-born Dr Tahera Qutbuddin First Indian To Win Arab World Nobel Prize

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.

### 6. Indian-origin expert Sankar Ghosh elected to National Academy of Sciences

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 is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

### 7. Woman mountaineer from Himachal among first to summit Mount Pumori of Everest Massif

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.

### 8. India's Tejaswini Shankar Wins Consecutive High Jump Titles In USA

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. Shankar is the third Indian to compete in the highly competitive USA circuit, the breeding ground for many US track and field Olympians.

### 9. Indian-American Neera Tanden appointed White House senior adviser

Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden has been appointed as a senior adviser to US President Joe Biden, two months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators. Tanden, 50, is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).

### 10. Miss Universe 2020: Miss Mexico Andrea Meza crowned as the winner, Miss India Adline Castelino finishes fourth

The 69th Miss Universe is Miss Mexico, Andrea Meza. The first runner up is Brazil's Julia Gama while Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up. Whereas India's Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez became third runner-up and fourth runner-up respectively. Miss Universe 2020 Venue: Hollywood, Florida, USA.

### 11. Penpa Tsering elected president of Tibetan exile government

The former speaker of Tibet's parliament-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, has been elected the new president of the exile government. Nearly 64,000 Tibetans living in exile in India, Nepal, North America, Europe, Australia and elsewhere voted in the election, which was held in two rounds in January and April. It was 3rd direct election of leadership after the withdrawal of Dalai lama from politics

### 12. India's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh appointed as member of FIH Athletes' Committee

Star India hockey team goalkeeper Parattu Ravindran Sreejesh was appointed as a member of the FIH Athletes' Committee during the virtual meeting of the world body's Executive Board. He was one of the four new members appointed by the EB which met two days before the 47th FIH Congress, which will also be held online. Steve Horgan (USA), the new chair of the FIH Rules Committee, succeeding David Collier.

### 13. Aashritha V Olety is India's 1st woman flight test engineer

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.

### 14. Louvre Museum Gets Its First Woman President After Centuries Of Its Creation

Laurence des Cars makes history by becoming the first woman chief of the Louvre museum in Paris. The museum with historical significance was opened during the French revolution, two centuries ago. She will replace Jean-Luc Martinez, who had been the chief of the museum for eight years, on September 1.

### 15. Sanjay Dutt receives UAE's Golden Visa

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. UAE: Capital: Abu Dhabi Currency: UAE dirham

### 16. Choreographer Suresh Mukund becomes first Indian to win the Annual World Choreography Award

Emmy Award-nominated choreographer Suresh Mukund recently became the first Indian to win the 10th Annual World Choreography Award 2020. Earlier Suresh and his team Kings United had won the American dance reality show World of Dance Season 3.

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## Insurance

### 1. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) 10th most-valuable insurance brand, third-strongest globally

LIC has emerged as the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally. PingAn Insurance of China leads the most valuable insurance companies list with a brand value of over \$44 billion, followed by China Life Insurance with over \$22 billion. The report also looks into the strongest insurance brands. The list is led by Italy's Poste Italiane, followed by Spain's Mapfre. Total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands, \$433.0 billion in 2021.

### 2. Health Insurers To Approve Cashless COVID-19 Treatment Claims Within 1 Hour, IRDAI directs insurers

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has directed insurance companies to convey their decision on authorization for cashless treatment for Covid-19 claims to the hospital within a period of 60 minutes from the time of the receipt of authorization request, along with all necessary requirements from the hospital.

### 3. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Launches Vision LifeIncome Plus, A Plan to Suit the Customer's Money Needs at All Life Stages

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, announced the launch of a hyper-flexible savings plan, the new ABSLI Vision LifeIncome Plus Plan. It will provide guaranteed regular income plus flexible bonus payouts to policyholders. It provides customer with the comfort of a guaranteed regular income for up to 30 years. MD & CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance: Mr. Kamlesh Rao



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## India & World

### 1. India, Russia To Establish 2+2 Dialogue In Boost To Partnership

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. It is expected to boost the bilateral strategic partnership between India & Russia.

### 2. Boeing announces \$10 mn assistance package for India's fight against Covid-19

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,

### 3. Top US Diplomat Daniel Smith Takes Charge as Interim Envoy to India

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.

### 4. Serum Institute to invest 240 million to expand its vaccine business in UK

Serum Institute of India (SII) is expanding its vaccine business in the United Kingdom with the investment of 240 million. 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. British Prime Minister: Borish Johnson; Serum Institute of India CEO: Adar Poonawalla

### 5. Sunder Pichai, Punit Renjen and Shantanu Narayen join steering committee of Global Task Force on Pandemic Response

Three Indian-American CEOs Sunder Pichai from Google, Punit Renjen from Deloitte, and Shantanu Narayen from Adobe have joined the steering committee of the Global Task Force on Pandemic Response, which is overseeing an unprecedented corporate sector initiative to help India successfully fight COVID19. This organised by the US Chamber of Commerce & supported by Business Roundtable.

### 6. Operation 'Samudra Setu II - INS TARKASH brings medical oxygen to Mumbai from Qatar

As part of ongoing COVID relief Operation 'Samudra Setu II' launched by Indian Navy, INS Tarkash, with two Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) filled (20 MT each) cryogenic containers and 230 Oxygen cylinders embarked, arrived at Mumbai. The Oxygen containers were facilitated by the French Mission as part of the 'Oxygen Solidarity Bridge'.

### 7. India approves opening of first consulate in the Maldives

The union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the proposal for opening the first such consulate in the Addu City of the Maldives this year to augment the country's diplomatic presence in the Indian Ocean archipelago. President:- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih , Capital: Mal, Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

### 8. Joe Biden nominates Indian-American Arun Venkataraman as head of US Foreign Commercial Service

US President Joe Biden nominated Indian-American Arun Venkataraman for the Director-General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service and the Assistant Secretary for Global Markets in the Department of Commerce. He is currently the Counselor to the Secretary of Commerce, advising the Department on trade and other international economic matters.

### 9. TCS CodeVita wins Guinness title for world's largest programming competition

Tata Consultancy Services announced that the ninth season of TCS CodeVita has won a Guinness World Records title as the world's largest computer programming competition with

136,054 participants from 34 countries. This year's champion, Ben Alexander Mirtchoukof Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, is the competition's first-ever US winner. Top 3 CodeVita finishers received cash prizes of USD 10,000, 7000 & 3,000, respectively.

### 10. Govt to open one-stop centres (OSCs) tackle cases of violence against women

The government will be opening One-Stop Centres (OSCs) in 10 missions across nine countries. These centers will be supported by the Women and Child Development Ministry and operated by the External Affairs Ministry. One OSC will be established in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, Australia, Canada, and Singapore, while two will be established in Saudi Arabia. 300 more OSCs will also be opened across India.

### 11. TCS opens its first European innovation centre in Amsterdam, Netherland

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will bring universities, businesses, startups and government together at its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam to help use digital technology to solve sustainability challenges. It will focus on sustainability challenges faced by organisations and becomes the first in a network of hubs, known as TCS Pace Ports, in Europe. Netherland capital : Amsterdam; Capital : Euro

### 12. India, France and Australia to work for open, rules-based Indo-Pacific

India, France, and Australia are committed to advancing their shared values and working together to achieve a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said a joint statement issued by all three countries after meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. External Affairs Minister of India:- Dr. S. Jaishankar,



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## Environment

### 1. Indian Army Launches First Solar Plant in North Sikkim

The Indian Army has recently inaugurated the first green solar energy plant in Sikkim. The facility, which uses vanadium-based battery technology, was built at an altitude of 16000 ft. in the northern part of the state and has a capacity of 56 KVA. The plant is expected to produce at least 15 lakh units of electricity annually or about 1.25 lakh units per month.

### 2. JSW Energy Signs PPA With SECI for 540 MW of Wind Energy Projects

JSW Renew Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of JSW Future Energy, announced that it has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to develop 540 MW of blended wind projects. This is the single largest PPA for the wind/blended wind category in the Industry.

### 3. Cyclone Tauktae: First cyclonic storm of 2021

Cyclone Tauktae (pronounced Tau-Te), classified as a very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS) and developed as a depression in the Arabian Sea on May 14 morning, it strengthened into a VSCS by the early hours of May 16. The cyclone has been given the name 'Tauktae' by Myanmar. It means 'gecko', a highly vocal lizard, in the Burmese language. Vulnerable states:-Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu

### 4. Researchers say sharks use Earth's magnetic field as navigation system

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.

### 5. New mammal species discovered in India, characterised by dense fur, thick darker tail

Described as *Crocidura narcondamica* was discovered in the Andaman islands by scientists from the Zoological Survey of India. The latest discovery of shrew from the volcanic Narcondam island increases total number of catalogued *Crocidura* species in Indian checklist of mammals to 12. *Crocidura* is a massive genetic group with 198 species found mostly in Africa, Europe & Asia. *Crocidura* is the most species-rich group of mammals.

### 6. Cheetah to be re-introduced in India from Africa in November: MP govt

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. The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and it was declared extinct in the country in 1952. Kuno NP:- located in the Chambal region, is spread over an area of over 750 sq km.

### 7. Kerala farmer bags India Biodiversity Award 2021

Shaji N M, a farmer from Wayanad, who took up farming tuber crops as a solution to fight lifestyle diseases and poverty, has won the prestigious India Biodiversity Award, on the International Day for Biological Diversity. The India Biodiversity Awards was founded in 2012 jointly by the ministry of environment, forest & climate change. The nickname of Shaji N M:- 'Tuber Man'

### 8. Ana, first named Atlantic storm of 2021, forms near Bermuda

The first named Atlantic storm of the season is posing no threat to land and is expected to dissipate in a few days. The National Hurricane Center in Miami says Subtropical Storm Ana is drifting northeast over the Atlantic Ocean after bringing rain to Bermuda. Ana was located about 270 miles northeast of Bermuda with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph.

## **Apps & Portals**

### **1. Yono by SBI Joins Hands with Shivrai Technologies, to Launch Small Farm Accounting App, Farmizo Khata**

Shivrai Technologies, Indian AgTech company, recently announced the launch of their B2C Farm accounting mobile application, Farmizo Khata. Joining hands with Yono by SBI, they aim to help farmers across the country to manage their accounts efficiently, thus cutting down on losses. Shivrai also owns their own B2B brand, FarmERP.

### **2. CBSE launches 'Dost for Life' mobile app for students and parents**

Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE has launched a new mo 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.

### **3. HDFC BANK, CSC partner to offer Chat Bot EVA's support to Village Level Entrepreneurs**

HDFC Bank and Common Services Centers (CSCs) jointly announced the launch of chatbot 'Eva' on CSC's Digital Seva Portal to support Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in providing banking services for last-mile rural consumers. As of now, 1, 27, 348 VLEs are offering HDFC Bank's products and services in semi-urban and rural India. Dinesh Tyagi, CEO at CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.

### **4. National Gallery of Modern Art Launches Audio-Visual Guide App**

On the occasion of International Museum Day, (May 18), the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, has launched its first-ever audio-visual guide app. This app will make it possible for museum viewers to listen to stories and anecdotes on their smartphones of several treasured Indian Modern artworks displayed at the museum anywhere at any time. Director-General of the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Shri Adwaita Gadaniyak.

### **5. Bihar govt launches 'HIT Covid App' to ensure regular monitoring, tracking of home isolated patients**

Bihar government 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 tracking. Health workers will visit the patients at home every day and feed data in the app after measuring their temperature and oxygen level.

### **6. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches NMMS app and Area officer monitoring App.**

National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area Officer Monitoring App will induce transparency & accountability to the execution of rural development works conducted. NMMS App permits taking real time attendance of workers at MGNREGS worksites etc & area Officer Monitoring App facilitates them to record their findings online with photos for schemes etc.

### **7. Ayush Minister launches ACCR Portal and 3rd version of Ayush Sanjivani App**

Ayush Ministry launched its Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the 3rd version of Ayush Sanjivani App in a virtual event. The portal will provide access to clinical outcomes in the field of alternative therapy, and further research and analysis. This portal aims to aggregate information about clinical outcomes achieved by Ayush practitioners on a large scale. App facilitates study & documentation regarding efficacy of selected Ayush interventions.

### **8. Twitter to Provide COVID-19 Vaccine Information via Fact Box in Users' Timelines**

Twitter is adding a fact box on users' timelines to help promote the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination effort. The new feature will provide people around the world with the latest vaccine information in their particular country. The feature will appear as a big, unmissable box at the top of a user's Twitter feed on the iOS and Android apps.

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. CCI nod to acquisition of Ingram Micro by Imola Acquisition Corp

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.

### 2. Groww inks deal to acquire Indiabulls' mutual fund biz for Rs 175cr

Online investment platform, Groww will acquire Indiabulls Asset Management Company from Indiabulls Housing Finance for a consideration of Rs 175 crores. The sale of Indiabulls AMC will be limited only to the Mutual Fund business, while the Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) and Portfolio Management Service (PMS) businesses will be demerged from the existing structure.

### 3. Zensar Technologies signs agreement to acquire US-based M3bi

RPG company Zensar Technologies has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire M3bi, an Arizona-based data, and digital engineering firm. Zensar Technologies Ltd will acquire the entire share capital of M3bi Private Limited ('M3bi India'), and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Zensar Technologies Inc., will acquire the entire share capital of M3bi LLC.

### 4. CCI approves sale of YES Bank's MF subsidiaries to GPL Finance

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Yes Asset Management (India) Ltd and Yes Trustee Limited by GPL Finance and Investments Ltd. The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of 100 per cent equity shares of the two entities by GPL. GPL Finance is a non-deposit-taking & non-systemically important NBFC. NBFC:- non-banking financial company.

### 5. MRPL acquires 100% stake in ONGC Mangalore

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has acquired a balance of 0.0002% equity holding of ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited (OMPL), a subsidiary of the company from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). OMPL has now become a wholly-owned subsidiary of MRPL upon holding 100% shares.

### 6. PharmEasy acquires Medlife, becomes India's largest e-pharma company

PharmEasy has acquired Medlife for an undisclosed amount. The deal will make PharmEasy the largest player in the domestic online pharmacy sector, with the combined entity set to serve 2 million customers a month. The deal values the stake of Medlife shareholders at \$250 million.

## Agri-Business

### 1. MCCIA And NABARD To Launch Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre in Pune

The Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), in association with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), will launch India's first and unique Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre. This Facilitation Centre will work as a one-stop-shop for the exporters in the agricultural sector. MCCIA-Indian business advocacy & networking group located in Pune.

### 2. Centre hikes fertilizer subsidy for FY22 by Rs 14,775 crore

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.

## FinTech

### 1. Mastercard, BOB Financial launch SME focussed ConQR credit card

BOB Financial and Mastercard jointly launched small business-focused QR code embedded credit cards that will not only enable the cardholders to make payments but receive them as well. BOB Financial is the credit card arm of Bank of Baroda. ConQR is a Mastercard QR-on-card solution that enables cardholders/ SMEs to accept cashless payments using their cards. ConQR credit card will have a Bharat QR code on the card face.

### 2. Indian Bank signs MoU with BSNL to provide Telecom Services

Indian Bank signed an MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide seamless telecom services and will provide access to the latest technologies at great competitive rates to the bank at a competitive rate. Indian Bank CEO: Padmaja Chunduru HQ: Chennai

### 3. Airtel Payments Bank Increases Day-End Balance Limit To ' 2 Lakh

Airtel Payments Bank increased its day-end account balance limit for customers from ' 1 lakh to ' 2 lakh, becoming the first payments bank in the country to do so. The bank deposits are insured under the DICGC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI. MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank: Anubrata Biswas.



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## States/UTs

### Andhra Pradesh

#### 1. Andhra Pradesh government gives nod for black fungus treatment under Aarogyasri

Andhra Pradesh government included black fungus in the list of diseases covered under YSR Aarogyasri. According to the health department, the 14-day package under Post Covid with Mucormycosis Management costs Rs 41,968. It is known that those who recover from covid are yielding to another problem in the form of black fungus. Mucormycosis commonly called blackfungus (serious fungal infection caused by mucormycete).

#### 2. NHA inks pact with Telangana government to implement Ayushman Bharat PMJAY-scheme

The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Telangana to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in the state with immediate effect. The scheme has been integrated with the existing state scheme 'Aarogyasri' and is being called Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri.

### Assam

#### 1. Himanta Biswa Sarma takes oath as 15th Chief Minister of Assam

Himanta Biswa Sarma will succeed Sarbananda Sonowal as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam. The BJP won a second straight term in the recently concluded assembly polls in the state. The party won 60 seats in the 126-member Assam assembly while its alliance partners AGP got nine seats and UPPL six seats.

#### 2. Four-time MLA Ajanta Neog becomes the first woman Finance Minister of Assam

New Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma declared Ajanta Neog as Assam's first woman Finance Minister. Ajanta Neog, who was elected to the state Assembly from the Golaghat assembly constituency in eastern Assam, would also hold the social welfare portfolio.

#### 3. Assam appoints 'guardian ministers' for its various districts

The Assam Cabinet appointed ministers who would act as guardians for different districts in the state. These guardians are given the responsibility of 2-3 districts to take stock of welfare schemes, implementation of infrastructure projects, etc. The guardian ministers will be assigned with a secretary each and both will have to visit their districts at least once a month. Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma; Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

### Goa

#### 1. EESL subsidiary, CESL to install solar plants for remote Goa villages

Convergence Energy Services Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited signed an agreement with Goa Energy Development Agency for installation of solar PV-based home lighting systems for remote villages in Goa. CESL will install and maintain solar PV systems for 5 years under the Remote Village Electrification programme of the Government of Goa. Goa: Capital: Panaji Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari CM: Pramod Sawant

### Haryana

#### 1. HSIIDC inks MoU with World Trade Center for WTC Faridabad

The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the World Trade Center (WTC) to facilitate trade and investment in Faridabad. WTC Faridabad and HSIIDC have jointly initiated to facilitate mutually beneficial meets, webinars with leading investors from the developed countries.

#### 2. Haryana govt launches Ayurvedic tele-medicine facility for Corona patients

Health Minister Anil Vij of Haryana said that any patient can consult the Ayurvedic Doctors on phone by dialling 1075. The facility has been launched after verifying the response of

Ayurvedic medicines used on Corona patients. A call centre has been set up to run it and teams of senior Ayurvedic Doctors have been appointed for consultation, who will provide service. Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya CM: Manohar Lal Khattar

### **3. Haryana Declares Black Fungus A Notified Disease**

Black Fungus declared Notified Disease in Haryana. 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. Declaring a disease notifiable helps collate information and lets authorities monitor the disease and set off early warnings.

### **4. Haryana to be the First State to allow Reimbursement of GST on 'Covid items' Donations**

The Haryana became the first state in India to allow reimbursement of goods and service tax paid by companies, non-governmental organisations and individuals on purchase of 15 items including Covid vaccines, Remdesivir injections, ventilators and oxygen cylinders that they have donated free of cost to the state government or state-run hospitals.

### **5. Haryana To Launch Anti-Covid "Sanjeevani Pariyojana" For Quick Medicare Access At Home**

Haryana will launch an anti-Covid "Sanjeevani Pariyojana" to provide for supervised and quick medical care at home largely for people in rural areas with mild to moderate symptoms of the disease. Sanjeevani Pariyojana will extend medical care to rural areas where awareness of the second wave of COVID-19 and how to treat it remains low. Chief Minister:- ML Khattar; Governor:- Satyadev Narayan Arya

## **Himachal Pradesh**

### **1. Himachal Pradesh is Building 'Forest Ponds' to Harvest Rainwater to Replenish Groundwater**

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. Himachal Pradesh Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya; CM: Jai Ram Thakur.

### **2. AYUSH Dept launches statewide wellness programme 'AYUSH Ghar Dwar' for COVID-19 patients in Sloan district of Himachal Pradesh**

In Himachal Pradesh, AYUSH Department launched a state-wide wellness programme 'AYUSH Ghar Dwar' for COVID-19 patients, in the Sloan district. The initiative aims to provide a Holistic Healthcare Approach through AYUSH to ensure not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing to COVID patients through AYUSH. Himachal Pradesh: Governor:- Bandaru Dattatreya CM:-Jai Ram Thakur

## **Karnataka**

### **1. Karnataka No.1 state in establishing Health & Wellness Centres: Health dept**

Karnataka has emerged as the best state and is ranked number one in establishing health and wellness centre under the Ayushman Bharat Program, to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas. The union government had set a target of establishing 2,263 HWC sub-centres, and the state has upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31, 2021.

## **Kerala**

### **1. Pinarayi Vijayan sworn in as Kerala Chief Minister for the second time**

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government led by CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Pinarayi Vijayan assumed office, after a 21-member Cabinet was sworn in at the Central Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram on May 20 by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

## Maharashtra

### 1. Anand Mahindra Deploys Boleros To Roll Out 'Oxygen On Wheels' Project

Mahindra Group rolled out the 'Oxygen on Wheels' project in a bid to ease the transportation of Oxygen as there's been a heavy shortage of oxygen in Maharashtra due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. The "Oxygen on Wheels" will use trucks in local shuttle routes to connect oxygen producers with hospital, homes and wherever oxygen is needed for medical purposes.

### 2. 'Oxygen nurses' to monitor use, limit wastage in Maharashtra

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.

### 3. Maharashtra gives nod to set up National Institute of Medicinal Plants

To be set up over 50 acres in the Sindhudurg district, it will be developed as a one-stop centre for all matters relating to medicinal plants and will collaborate with the Central and State Government. The facility will be set up at Adali village in Dodamarg taluka of the district. Dodamarg is a part of Western Ghats with huge biodiversity.

### 4. Maharashtra govt launches "Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance"

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 will be set up in Vidarbha, Marathwada, Dhule, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg regions.

## Manipur

### 1. Manipur launches mobile app for delivering veggies at home

Chief Minister, N Biren Singh has launched MOMA Market mobile application for home delivery of fresh vegetables. The application can be downloaded from [www.momamarket.com](http://www.momamarket.com) and it will also be available on Google Play Store soon. The application was introduced by Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur.

## Meghalaya

### 1. 100-million year old bones of sauropod dinosaurs discovered in Meghalaya

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. Sauropods were characterised by long necks, long tails, small heads, & pillar-like legs

## Odisha

### 1. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik declares journalists as frontline Covid warriors

After being declared as frontline workers by the state government, journalists will now get priority in the vaccination program. As many as 6,944 working journalists of the state have been covered under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana. They are getting health insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh each.

### 2. Odisha to allow vaccination for vulnerable people without ID proof

The Odisha government has announced that it will administer COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable people who do not possess any ID proof as a part of its effort to inoculate the entire population of the state. vulnerable groups of citizens may not possess any of the seven prescribed identity cards for registration on CoWIN. Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal Capital: Bhubaneswar

## Punjab

### 1. Punjab gets its 23rd district, Malerkotla

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh declared Malerkotla as the 23rd district of the state on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Recalling the rich and glorious history of Malerkotla, CM said its

conversion into a district, which was a long-standing demand of the local people, would ease the hardships of such people & enable them to resolve their administrative problems  
Punjab Capital: Chandigarh Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore

## **2. Punjab joins COVAX to procure Covid-19 vaccines at affordable prices**

The Punjab government joined the Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative to procure Covid-19 vaccines globally at the best price, becoming the first state in India to do so, chief minister Amarinder Singh's office announced recently. The decision to join COVAX alliance was taken during a virtual Cabinet meeting, chaired by the chief minister. Union health minister: Dr Harsh Vardhan

## **3. Mohali international hockey stadium renamed after Balbir Singh Senior**

The Punjab Government has announced to rename the Mohali International Hockey Stadium, Sector 63, after triple Olympian and Padma Shri Balbir Singh Sr. The stadium will now be known as Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium. He scored five goals in India's 6-1 victory over the Netherlands in the final of the 1952 Olympic Games.

### **Tamil Nadu**

#### **1. DMK chief Stalin appointed as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**

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.

#### **2. Tamil Nadu govt announces '5 lakh fixed deposit for children who lost parents to Covid**

Tamil Nadu Govt announced that ' 5 lakh would be deposited on the account of each orphaned child & would be given to the child with interest when the child attains 18 years of age. Families who have been left with single parents due to Covid to be given an immediate benefit of ' 3 lakh. It also plans to pay '3000 per month to relatives who have custody of the orphaned. Tamil Nadu: Capital: Chennai Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

### **Telangana**

#### **1. ICMR, Telangana Get Govt Nod To Test Vaccine Delivery Through Drones**

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.

#### **2. Telangana Government Imposes Total Ban on Herbicide Glyphosate**

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.

### **Tripura**

#### **1. Hon'ble Education Minister of Tripura Launches Auro Scholarship Programme of Sri Aurobindo Society**

Education Minister of Tripura, Ratan Lal Nath launched '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. Mr. Sambhrant Sharma, Director Education, Sri Aurobindo Society.

## Uttarakhand

### 1. Cabinet approves transfer of land of ITBP to Government of Uttarakhand for development of Aerial Passenger Ropeway System

The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved transfer of 1500 square metres of land belonging to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Mussoorie to the State Government of Uttarakhand for their infrastructure project, namely, 'Aerial Passenger Ropeway System' between Dehradun and Mussoorie. The proposed Ropeway is a mono-cable ropeway of 5580 m.

### 2. Uttarakhand Police Launches 'Mission Hausla' To Help Covid Patients Get Necessary Supplies

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.

### 3. Uttarakhand govt announces Vatsalya Yojana for children orphaned due to Corona

Uttarakhand 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 yrs. They will get a maintenance allowance of 3000 Rs/ month & 5% horizontal reservation in government jobs. Uttarakhand CM: Tirath Singh Rawat; Governor: Baby Rani Maurya

## West Bengal

### 1. Mamata Banerjee takes oath as West Bengal CM for third consecutive term

Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee was sworn in as West Bengal chief minister for the third straight term after she spearheaded her party to a remarkable victory in the assembly polls. CM's predecessor Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, leader of Opposition of the outgoing House Abdul Mannan, & CPI(M) veteran leader Biman Bose are the leaders who have been invited to function. Governor of West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar.

### 2. SC strikes down West Bengal's law on regulating real estate

The Supreme Court struck down West Bengal's law on regulating the real estate sector saying it was "unconstitutional" as the state's statute encroached upon the Centre's Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA). The judgement came on a plea of 'Forum For People's Collective Efforts', an umbrella homebuyers association that challenged the 2017 act. A bench of justices D Y Chandrachud & M R Shah said the act is more or less identical.

### 3. Lakshmi Bhandar Project and two other initiatives launched in West Bengal

As part of the Lakshmi Bhandar project, poor families will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 500 from the government. Families from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families are eligible to receive Rs 1,000. Student Credit Card initiative launched to help students receive low-interest loans up to Rs 10 lakh for higher studies. The ration home delivery scheme, 'Duare Ration [ration at doorsteps]' is also launched.

## Andaman and Nicobar Island

### 1. Andaman & Nicobar becomes first large territory to get organic certification

About 14,491 ha area in Andaman and Nicobar has been certified as organic, the first large contiguous territory to be done under a government scheme. The certification has been given under the Large Area Certification Scheme of the Participatory Guarantee System certification (PGS - India) program. India now has more than 30 lakh hectares of area registered under organic certification.

### 2. New species of shrew discovered in Andamans' Narcondam Island

Crocidura narcondamica, an insectivorous mammal, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island (volcanic and uninhabited island) of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands. Shrews

are small and mouse-like mammals, and they live in sub-leaf stratum in the forests. Insects are the primary diet of these animals.

## **Delhi**

### **1. Delhi Police launch vehicle helpline 'COVI Van' for senior citizens**

The Delhi Police has launched a vehicle helpline called 'COVI Van' to help senior citizens in South Delhi. According to Delhi Police, the beat officer will visit the senior citizens with the 'COVI Van' and help them with their hospitalisation, vaccination or take them to nearby markets to buy medicines or items of daily needs. Initially, the facility has been initiated at the Greater Kailash police station, Delhi.

## **Jammu and Kashmir**

### **1. Jammu and Kashmir govt announces '3 crore relief package for tourism sector**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced a '3 crore relief package for people associated with the tourism sector that has taken a severe hit due to the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The relief will be transferred to only those who are registered with the tourism department.

### **2. J&K to construct 4,200km of road under PMGSY this fiscal**

The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) government plans to construct 4,200 kilometres of road connecting remote areas with Central assistance during 2021-22 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Since the scheme was implemented in J&K, around 14,053km of road has been completed, for which 90% of the fund came from the Centre, while 10% was arranged by the UT administration. The PMGSY scheme was launched in 2001.

### **3. Jammu & Kashmir Achieves Milestone Of NABL Accreditation Of Food Testing Laboratories**

Food Testing Laboratories of Jammu and Srinagar have joined an elite list of prestigious institutions of the country engaged in analytical work of food & food products by achieving the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation as mandated under Section 43 of Food Safety & Standards Act 2006. NABL is a Constituent Board of Quality Council of India.

### **4. Govt sanctions 19,000 solar streetlights for Jammu and Kashmir**

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy sanctioned 19,000 solar streetlights (SSLs) to J&K. The SSL project has the central financial support of Rs 42.06 crore against the total project cost of Rs 47.84 crore. The remaining is provided by the UT. The installation of these SSLs shall help in saving 8.4 units of energy annually resulting in a saving of Rs 61.32 lakhs annually.

### **5. J&K becomes first UT to provide relief to COVID victims' families**

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first UT to provide relief to COVID affected. SASCM/Saksham Scheme was launched to provide special pension and scholarships to COVID victims' families. Under this, the surviving spouse & one eldest surviving member of the affected families will receive a special monthly pension of ' 1000 through DBT.

## **Puducherry**

### **1. N Rangasamy sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister for record fourth time**

AINRC chief N Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for the record fourth time. The Puducherry assembly has a unique arrangement where 30 members are elected by the people and three are nominated by the Centre. This year, he contested from two constituencies ' Yanam and Thattanchavady. While he lost from Yanam but managed to win from Thattanchavady. Lt Governor of Puducherry: Tamilisai Soundararajan

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