

# THE HINDU

## REVIEW APRIL 2021

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**Current Affairs  
Monthly Capsule**

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## The Most Important Current Affairs April 2021

### 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2021) announced

The **93rd Academy Awards ceremony**, also known as the **Oscars Award**, took place in Los Angeles on April 25, 2021. The award is presented annually by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)**. 2021 Oscars honoured the best films of 2020 and early 2021.

American drama '**Nomadland**' won most honours with three awards. **Chloe Zhao**, who directed "Nomadland", was crowned best director, and with this, she became the only second woman to claim the title and the first woman of colour to win that award. Indian film personalities **Irrfan Khan and Bhanu Athaiya** were honoured in the "In Memoriam" montage showcased at the event.

#### Complete List of Winners:

1. **Best Picture: Nomadland**
2. **Best Director: Chloe Zhao, Nomadland**
3. **Best Actress: Frances McDormand, Nomadland**
4. **Best Actor: Anthony Hopkins, The Father**
5. Best Supporting Actress: Youn Yuh-jung, Minari
6. Best Supporting Actor: Daniel Kaluuya, Judas And The Black Messiah
7. Best Original Screenplay: Promising Young Woman
8. Best Adapted Screenplay: The Father
9. Best Animated Feature Film: Soul
10. Best International Feature Film: Another Round
11. Best Original Score: Soul
12. Best Original Song: Fight For You, Judas And The Black Messiah
13. Best Documentary Feature: My Octopus Teacher
14. Best Documentary Short: Colette
15. Best Live Action Short: Two Distant Strangers
16. Best Animated Short: If Anything Happens I Love You
17. Best Sound: Sound Of Metal
18. Best Production Design: Mank
19. Best Cinematography: Mank
20. Best Makeup And Hair: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
21. Best Costume Design: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
22. Best Film Editing: Sound Of Metal
23. Best Visual Effects: Tenet
24. Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award: Tyler Perry

### India ranks 140th in WEF's gender gap index 2021

**India** has slipped 28 places to rank **140** among **156 countries** in the **Global Gender Gap Report 2021**, by **World Economic Forum**. In 2020, India ranked 112th among 153 countries. Iceland has topped the index as the most gender-equal country in the world for the 12th time. Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report.

#### South Asia:

- India emerged as the third-worst performing country in South Asia.
- **Bangladesh** is the best performer in South Asia.
- Among India's neighbours, Bangladesh ranked 65, Nepal 106, Pakistan 153, Afghanistan 156, Bhutan 130 and Sri Lanka 116.
- In South Asia, only **Pakistan and Afghanistan** ranked below India.

#### Top 10 gender-equal country

1. Iceland
2. Finland
3. Norway
4. New Zealand
5. Rwanda
6. Sweden
7. Namibia
8. Lithuania
9. Ireland
10. Switzerland

#### Global Gender Gap Report

- The Global Gender Gap Report 2021 is the **15th edition** of the annual publication by WEF.
- The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the **World Economic Forum** in 2006 to compare countries' gender gaps across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership.



## RBI Monetary Policy: Policy Rate unchanged

The six-member monetary policy committee of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** headed by Governor **Shaktikanta Das**, has decided to keep key lending rates unchanged for the fifth consecutive time, in its April 2021 policy review meeting held between **April 5 to 7, 2021**. The Reserve Bank of India is likely to keep policy rates unchanged amid the uncertainty created by a fresh surge in coronavirus infections.

### The key decisions taken in the Monetary Policy Committee meeting are:

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
- Bank Rate: 4.25%
- CRR: 3%
- SLR: 18.00%

### RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:

- The Consumer Price Index of 2022 is predicted to be at **5.1%**.
- RBI has also kept the accommodative monetary stance unchanged.
- Meanwhile, the GDP growth of India is projected at **10.5%** in the financial year **2021-22**.
- RBI is to buy **Rs 1 lakh** crores of G-Sec under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme.
- The Apex Bank has increased the centre's Ways and Means Advances by 46%. The current limit is Rs 32,225 crores. It has now been increased to **Rs 47,010 crores**.
- Maximum End of Pay balance for payment banks has been doubled to **Rs 2 lakhs**.
- Additional liquidity facility of Rs 50,000 crores announced for **NABARD, SIDBI and NHB in 2021-22**.

### The composition of the Monetary Policy Committee is as follows:

- Governor of the Reserve Bank of India – Chairperson, ex officio: **Shri Shaktikanta Das**.
- Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in charge of Monetary Policy– Member, ex officio: **Dr Michael Debabrata Patra**.
- One officer of the Reserve Bank of India to be nominated by the Central Board – Member, ex officio: **Dr Mridul K. Sagar**.
- A professor at the Mumbai-based Indira Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research: **Prof. Ashima Goyal**.

- A professor of finance at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad: **Prof. Jayanth R Varma**.
- An agricultural economist and a senior adviser with the National Council of Applied Economic Research in New Delhi: **Dr Shashanka Bhide**.

### Some important instruments of Monetary Policy:

The RBI's Monetary Policy has several direct and indirect instruments which are used for implementing the monetary policy. Some important instruments of Monetary Policy are as follows:

**Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which banks can borrow overnight liquidity from the Reserve Bank of India against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).

**Reverse Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India can absorb liquidity from banks on an overnight basis, against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.

**Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** The LAF has overnight as well as term repo auctions under it. The term repo helps in the development of the inter-bank term money market. This market sets the benchmarks for the pricing of loans and deposits. This helps in improving the transmission of monetary policy. As per the evolving market conditions, the Reserve Bank of India also conducts variable interest rate reverse repo auctions.

**Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** MSF is a provision that enables the scheduled commercial banks to borrow an additional amount of overnight money from the Reserve Bank of India. Bank can do this by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a limit at a penal rate of interest. This helps the banks to sustain the unanticipated liquidity shocks faced by them.

## Jeff Bezos tops Forbes' Annual Billionaire list fourth year in a row

The **Amazon.com Inc** founder, **Jeff Bezos** has topped Forbes' annual world's billionaires list for the fourth consecutive year. India's richest billionaire **Mukesh Ambani** ranked at **10th** position with a total net worth of **USD 84.5 billion**. The **35th** edition Forbes World's Billionaires list was released on April 06, 2021, comprising a record-breaking 2,755 billionaires. The list is prepared based on the wealth using stock prices and exchange rates from March 5, 2021.

**Top five billionaires on the list :**

Rank	Name	Company	Net Worth in USD (\$)
1	Jeff Bezos	Amazon	177 billion
2	Elon Musk	Tesla, SpaceX	151 billion
3	Bernard Arnault	LVMH	150 billion
4	Bill Gates	Microsoft	124 billion
5	Mark Zuckerberg	Facebook	97 billion
6	Mukesh Ambani	Reliance Industries	84.5 billion

**74th Edition of BAFTA Awards 2021 announced**

The **British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs)** for the year 2021, has been announced by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. BAFTA 2021 is the **74th edition** of the annual award to honour the best national and foreign films of 2020 and early 2021.

**Most Nominations**

- American drama “Nomadland” (7)
- British coming-of-age drama “Rocks” (7)

**Most Awards**

- Nomadland (4)

**List of Winners of BAFTA 2021**

- Best Film: **Nomadland**
- Best Director: **Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)**
- Best Actor in a Leading Role: **Anthony Hopkins** (The Father as Anthony)
- Best Actress in a Leading Role: **Frances McDormand** (Nomadland as Fern)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Daniel Kaluuya (Judas and the Black Messiah as Fred Hampton)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Youn Yuh-Jung (Minari as Soon-JA)
- Best Original Screenplay: Promising Young Woman (Emerald Fennell)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: The Father (Christopher Hampton and Florian Zeller)
- Best Short Animation: The Owl and the Pussycat (Mole Hill and Laura Duncalf)
- Best Short Film: The Present (Farah Nabulsi)
- Best Animated Film: Soul (Pete Docter and Dana Murray)
- Best Documentary: My Octopus Teacher (Pippa Ehrlich, James Reed and Craig Foster)

- Best Film Not in the English Language (Another Round)
- Best Casting: Rocks (Lucy Pardee)
- Best Cinematography: Nomadland (Joshua James Richards)
- Best Costume Design: Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom (Ann Roth)
- Best Editing: Sound of Metal (Mikkel E.G. Nielsen)
- Best Makeup and Hair: Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom (Matiki Anoff, Larry M. Cherry, Sergio Lopez-Rivera and Mia Neal)
- Best Original Music: Soul (Jon Batiste, Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross)
- Best Production Design: Mank (Donald Graham Burt and Jan Pascale)
- Best Sound: Sound of Metal (Jaime Baksht, Nicolas Becker, Phillip Bladh, Carlos Cortés and Michelle Couttolenc)
- Best Special Visual Effects: Tenet (Scott R. Fisher, Andrew Jackson and Andrew Lockley)
- Outstanding British Film: Promising Young Woman (Emerald Fennell, Ben Browning, Ashley Fox and Josey McNamara)
- Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer: His House (Remi Weekes (Writer/Director))
- Rising Star Award: Bukky Bakray

**Lilavati Awards 2020 announced**

The Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** recently presented the **AICTE Lilavati Awards, 2020** in New Delhi. The awards were presented based on the theme **“Women Empowerment”**. The winners were selected by AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) in six sub-themes.

**List of winners:**

- SWEAT (Sona Women Entrepreneurship and Training)** from Sona College of Technology, Tamil Nadu won the award under the **‘Women Entrepreneurship’** sub theme.
- Another college from **Tamil Nadu, Paritrana from St. Joseph’s College of Engineering** won the award for the **‘Self Defense’** sub theme.
- Under the **‘Literacy’** sub theme, **Bharatiya Vidyapeeth of the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development** Pune won the award.

- The Lilavati Award under the “Women’s Health” sub theme was won by the WIT Women Health Coalition from Walchand Institute of Technology, Maharashtra.
- Radiant Seetha from Thiagarajar Polytechnic College won the contest in the ‘Legal Awareness’ sub theme.
- Under the ‘Sanitation & Hygiene’ sub-theme, Smt. Kishoritai Bhoyar College of Pharmacy, Nagpur, Maharashtra won the award.

### Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020 published

The **2020 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)** is released by **ShanghaiRanking Consultancy**. The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore)** has secured the top position among the best higher education institutes in India, while **Calcutta University** became the best varsity in the country, as per the published **Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU 2020)**. The Indian institutes are not even in the top 100 list, the best higher education institute, (IISc Bangalore) is in the category of 501- 600.

#### Best Institute Ranking Index

- **Rank 1:** Harvard University
- **Rank 2:** Stanford University
- **Rank 3:** University of Cambridge
- **Category of 501- 600-** IISc Bangalore

#### Regional Best Institute Ranking Index

- **Rank 1:** IISc Bangalore
- **Category 2-4:** IIT Madras
- **Category 2-4:** University of Calcutta

#### About the Academic Ranking of World Universities:

Since **2003**, ARWU has been presenting the world top universities annually based on transparent methodology and objective third-party data. It has been recognized as the precursor of global university rankings and the most trustworthy one.

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### India ranks 49th in Inclusive Internet Index 2021

The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, in partnership with **Facebook**, has released the **Inclusive Internet Index 2021**. India has been ranked at **49th** spot globally. It shares its rank with **Thailand**. This index measures the extent to which the internet is available and affordable by region, and highlights additional insight into how people around the world are using the web.

#### Top 5 Countries:

1. Sweden
2. United States
3. Spain
4. Australia
5. Hong Kong

#### About the Index:

- The ‘Inclusive Internet Index’ surveyed 120 countries, representing **98 per cent** of global GDP and **96 per cent** of the global population.
- The overall Index score is based on four parameters, which are: **Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness categories**. The Inclusive Internet Index is commissioned by Facebook and developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit.

### 102 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

The **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**, also known as the **Amritsar massacre**, took place on **13 April 1919**. This year we commemorate the **102nd anniversary** of the terror that shook the entire country to a standstill. The Jallianwalabagh garden has been converted into a memorial. And thousands of people on this day come to pay their respects to the martyred men, women, who were killed on that fateful day for the nation.

#### History of the day:

Acting Brigadier-General **Reginald Dyer** ordered troops of the British Indian Army to fire their rifles into a crowd of unarmed Indian civilians in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab. **General Dyer, the British India army officer, felt the people gathering for such a cause was anti-national**. He ordered the 50 of his troops consisting of Sikh, Gurkha, Baluchi, and Rajput to open fire on the unarmed men and women. The resulting figures would make you go numb as **379 men** and women were killed for no fault of theirs and **1100 injured**.

## Wisden Award 2021 announced

To perpetuate the **50th anniversary** of the first One-Day International, five ODI cricketers of the decade have been listed in **Wisden Almanack's 2021 edition**. One cricketer has been selected from each decade between **1971 and 2021**, with the Indian captain been granted the award for the 2010s.

### List of winners:

- India captain **Virat Kohli** Wisden Almanack's ODI player of the 2010s.
- **Sachin Tendulkar** is the ODI Cricketer of the 1990s.
- **Kapil Dev** was named as the ODI Cricketer for the 1980s.
- England all-rounder **Ben Stokes** is 'Leading Cricketer of the Year'.
- Australia's **Beth Mooney** is 'Leading Women's Cricketer in the World'.
- West Indies all-rounder **Kieron Pollard** was adjudged the 'Leading T20 Cricketer in the World'.

Meanwhile, **Jason Holder, Mohammed Rizwan, Dom Sibley, Zak Crawley, and Darren Stevens** have been awarded the Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2021.

## India Clinches 14 medal at 2021 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship

The **2021 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships** was held from April 13 to 18, 2021 in **Almaty, Kazakhstan**. The event was the **34th edition** of the Asian Wrestling Championships. India won 14 medals to stand in the third spot on the medal table. The medals include 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze Medals. Iran and Kazakhstan topped the medal tally with 17 medals each.

### Following are the medal winners from India:

#### GOLD MEDAL

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya – 57 kg Men's freestyle
- Vinesh Phogat – 53 kg Women's freestyle
- Anshu Malik – 57 kg Women's freestyle
- Sarita Mor – 59 kg Women's freestyle
- Divya Kakran – 72 kg Women's freestyle

#### SILVER MEDAL

- Bajrang Punia – 65 kg Men's freestyle
- Deepak Punia – 86 kg Men's freestyle
- Sakshi Malik – 65 kg Women's freestyle

#### BRONZE MEDAL

- Karan Mor – 70 kg Men's freestyle
- Narsingh Yadav – 79 kg Men's freestyle
- Sanjeet – 92 kg Men's freestyle
- Satyawart Kadian – 97 kg Men's freestyle
- Seema Bisla – 50 kg Women's freestyle
- Pooja Sihag – 76 kg Women's freestyle

## RBI sets up committee to review working of ARCs

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted a **six-member** panel to carry out a comprehensive review of the working of **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** in the financial sector ecosystem. The panel will be headed by former Executive Director of RBI, **Sudarshan Sen**.

### Other members of the panel include:

- Vishakha Mulye – Executive Director, ICICI Bank;
- P N Prasad – former Dy. Managing Director, SBI;
- Rohit Prasad – Professor of Economics, MDI, Gurgaon;
- Abizer Diwanji – Partner, Ernst & Young;
- R Anand – Chartered Accountant

### Terms of reference for the panel:

- Review existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs
- Recommend measures to improve the efficacy of ARCs.
- Review business models of ARCs.
- Study role of ARCs in the resolution of stressed assets including under Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.
- Suggest ways for improving liquidity in and trading of security receipts.
- Recommend suitable measures for enabling ARCs to meet the growing requirements of the financial sector.

## National Panchayati Raj Day

Nation celebrates **National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April** every year. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organizes the National Panchayati Raj day or the National Local Self Government Day. India celebrates the first National Panchayati Raj Day or the National Local Government Day on **April 2010**.

### History of Panchayat Raj:

**24th April 1993** marks a defining moment in the history of decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj, through the Constitution (**73rd Amendment**) Act, 1992 which came into force with effect from that day. Ministry of Panchayati Raj commemorates the 24th April of every year as the National Panchayati Raj Day(NPRD), as the 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into force on this date. **Rajasthan** was the **first state** that carried the **Panchayati Raj System in 1959** during the times of late **Prime Minister Jawarharlal Nehru**.

**Banking and Financial Current Affairs**

- **HDFC Bank** has adjudged the 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at the **Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021**. In its evaluation, the magazine said on its website – "HDFC Bank's transformation of its micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) business over the past few years makes it a worthy winner of this award."
- **Union Bank of India** has launched "**UNI - CARBON CARD**", an **HPCL** co-branded credit card on the **Rupay platform of NPCI**. It is a unique card designed with association with one of the largest Public Sector Bank, Union Bank of India and HPCL, a leader in the fuel retail and Rupay – India's largest card payment network. It will create an opportunity to create value for the customers.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the timeline for processing recurring online transactions by **6 months to September 30, 2021**.
- India's largest lender, **State Bank of India**, has raised **\$1 billion from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to extend loans to the supply chain of the Japanese automobile industry in India. The loan is in the form of refinancing against the funding support provided to the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers of **Japanese automobiles in India**.
- The government has decided to borrow **Rs 7.24 lakh crore** in the **first half of 2021-22 fiscal (FY22)** to meet resources to revive the economy hit by coronavirus pandemic. This borrowing is **60.06 per cent** of the estimated gross issuances for **fiscal 2021-22**.
- India's economic recovery is gathering steam. The **GST collections** for the month of March have topped **Rs 1.23 lakh crore**, setting a new record since the implementation of Goods and Services Tax in **July 2017**. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of March 2021 rose to a record of **₹ 1,23,902 crore** of which CGST is ₹ 22,973 crore, SGST is ₹ 29,329 crore, IGST is ₹ 62,842 crore and Cess is ₹ 8,757 crore.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that it will periodically publish a "**Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index)**" annually in July for the financial year ending previous March. The FI Index would be based on multiple parameters and shall reflect the broadening and deepening of financial inclusion in the country, a statement on regulatory and developmental policies of RBI.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has increased the limit for **Way and Means Advances (WMA)** for the State Governments/UTs from **Rs. 32,225 crore** (fixed in February 2016) to **Rs. 47,010 crore** based on the recommendation of a committee headed by **Shri Sudhir Shrivastava**. This represents an increase of about **46%**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has enhanced the limit of maximum balance at end of the day maintained in Payments Bank from **Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh** per individual customer. The step has been taken to encourage the efforts of Payments Bank for financial inclusion and to expand their ability to cater to the needs of their customers, including MSMEs, small traders and merchants.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has enhanced the loan limit from **Rs 50 lakh to Rs 75 lakh** per borrower against the pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce backed by **Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)/electronic-NWRs(e-NWRs)** issued by the warehouses registered and regulated by **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to allow payment system operators to take direct membership of **Centralised Payment Systems (CPS)**, such as **RTGS and NEFT**. Membership in Centralised Payment Systems (CPS) RTGS and NEFT for entities other than banks are so far limited to banks, with a few exceptions, such as specialised entities like clearing corporations and select development financial institutions.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has transferred all its **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** transaction business to **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI. All licensed bill processors on the Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU), i.e. the banks and payment aggregators, have been directed to start accounting their billing transactions under NBBL from **April 1 2021**.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** launched its new '**Rewards123**' savings account, which provides customers with perks and rewards. The Rewards123 Savings Account is built specifically that allows you to get access to a variety of perks when you save and transact digitally.



- **Axis Bank Ltd** informed it has become co-promoters of **Max Life Insurance Company Limited**, after completion of the acquisition of **12.99%** stake collectively by the Axis Entities in the company. Axis Bank and its two subsidiaries Axis Capital Limited and Axis Securities Limited will collectively own a **12.99%** stake in Max Life after the consummation of the deal.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will be set up a new **Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0)** from May 1, 2021, to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures of the central bank for streamlining them and making them more effective. The RRA will be set up for a period of **one year** unless the timeline is extended by the RBI. **M Rajeshwar Rao**, Deputy Governor, RBI will be the head of the **Regulations Review Authority**.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has launched a digital initiative "**PNB@Ease**" under which every transaction undertaken by a bank branch will be initiated and authorised by customers themselves. This facility will enable the customers to avail all banking services under one roof.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a show-cause notice prior to **cancelling the licence** of fraud-hit **Sambandh Finserve Pvt Ltd.** after its networth eroded below the regulatory minimum and financial situation worsened beyond redemption over the recent months. Sambandh is registered as an **NBFC-MFI**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **commercial banks** to pay dividends on equity shares for FY21, from the profits for the fiscal ended March 31, 2021, subject to certain conditions and limits. The new notification of RBI allows commercial banks to pay dividends not more than **50 per cent** of the amount determined as per the **dividend payout ratio** prescribed. This means that banks may **pay dividends up to 50%** of what they paid before the Covid scenario.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI) Research** has revised India's GDP growth rate for FY22 (2021-22) to **10.4%**. Earlier it estimated this at **11%**. The downward projection has been taken in view of the increasing **COVID-19** related curbs across states.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based **Bhagyodaya Friends**

**Urban Co-operative Bank Limited** due to inadequate capital. On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of **Rs 5 lakhs** from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has capped the tenure of **Managing Director and Chief Executive of commercial banks** to **15 years**. The upper age limit for MD & CEO and WTDs in private banks has been retained at **70 years**. The revised instructions will be applicable to all the **Private Sector Banks** including **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)** and wholly owned subsidiaries of Foreign Banks.
- The **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of a digital and contactless banking platform, especially for retail merchants. The service, called '**Merchant Stack**', is targeted at the over 2 crore retail merchants in the country, covering grocers, supermarkets, large retail store chains, online businesses and large e-commerce firms.
- **HDFC Bank** has emerged as the top arranger of corporate bond deals in 2020-21 (FY21). **Axis Bank** came in second, while **ICICI Bank** third. However, for the last quarter of FY21, i.e January- March 2021, **Axis Bank** was the top arranger of corporate bond deals while HDFC was second in the last quarter. Axis Bank managed **16 deals** worth Rs. 106.6 billion while HDFC Bank had **19 deals** worth around Rs 70.4 billion.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** as a member. The central bank joined the NGFS on April 23, 2021. Green finance assumed significance in the context of climate change.



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**Economy Current Affairs**

- The Global forecasting firm **Oxford Economics** has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast for India to **10.2 per cent** for **fiscal 2021-22**. Earlier it predicted this at **11.8 per cent**. The downward revision is based on the country's serious health burden, weak vaccination rate and lack of a convincing government strategy to contain the pandemic.
- The Manila-based **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has projected the growth rate of India's economy, in its latest flagship **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021**, as follows: FY22 (2021-22): 11%; FY23 (2022-23): 7%.
- London-based financial services company **IHS Markit** has projected the GDP growth rate of the Indian economy to grow at **9.6 per cent** in **FY22 (2021-22)**. The revision is based on factors like ongoing lockdown and mobility curbs coupled with fears of an extension, time-wise and across more Indian cities.
- **S&P Global Ratings** raised **India's** growth forecast for the financial year **2021-22** to **11%** from **10%** earlier, led by an expansionary fiscal policy aimed at boosting domestic private spending. It has also raised the 2021 growth forecast for **China to 8% from 7%** on stronger-than-expected exports and lingering momentum in the property market.
- The **World Bank** has revised upward the **GDP growth** projections for India by **4.7 percentage points** to **10.1 per cent** for the financial year 2021-22, due to a strong rebound in private consumption and investment growth. Earlier the bank had pegged the GDP growth at **5.4 per cent for FY22**.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has raised its growth forecast for the Indian economy by 100 basis points to **12.5 per cent** for the fiscal year **2021-22**. GDP growth for **FY23** is pegged at **6.9 per cent**. The revised forecast was published in the IMF's World Economic Outlook. India is the only country among major world economies that is projected to grow at a double-digit rate during FY22.
- The **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** said in the latest update that, India's is estimated to record economic growth of **7%** in 2021-22, over a contraction of **7.7%** witnessed in the previous fiscal on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity. It also noted that maintaining low borrowing costs while keeping non-performing loans in check would be a challenge.
- The Japanese brokerage company **Nomura** has revised the GDP forecast of India in the financial year **2021-22 (FY22)** to **12.6 per cent** from the previous estimate of **13.5 per cent**, amid rising coronavirus cases and higher inflation. Nomura has pegged the calendar year GDP growth at **11.5 per cent**, a decline from **12.4 per cent** estimated earlier.
- **Care Ratings** has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast of India to **10.2 per cent** in **2021-22 (FY22)**. Earlier this was estimated between **10.7-10.9 per cent**. This cut in the GDP is based on the fact that economic activities are getting affected across the country due to curbs imposed by states amid a surge in **COVID-19 cases**.
- The domestic rating agency **ICRA** has cut the growth estimate of India for 2021-22 by **0.5 per cent** on the upper end and now expects the economy to grow **10-10.5 per cent in 2021-22** as against **10-11 per cent** estimated earlier. The downward revision in the forecast follows the lockdowns and restrictions which are getting imposed once again due to rising COVID-19 cases.
- Rating agency **Fitch Ratings** has kept the sovereign rating of India unchanged at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook. Earlier, Fitch had estimated GDP contraction of **7.5 per cent** in 2020-21 and growth of **12.8 per cent** in the fiscal year **FY22**, followed by **5.8 per cent** in **FY23**.
- The **S&P Global Ratings** has estimated the Indian economy to grow at **11 per cent** in the current fiscal, i.e. 2021-22 (FY22). In terms of the sovereign rating, S&P currently has a 'BBB-' rating on India with a stable outlook. Earlier, for 2020-21, the S&P estimated the Indian economy to contract **8 per cent**.
- Wall Street brokerage, **Goldman Sachs** revised downward the GDP growth forecast of India for the fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22) to **10.5 per cent** from the earlier estimate of **10.9 per cent**. The downward revision is due to the increasing number of pandemic cases and a host of key states announcing stricter lockdowns, thus affecting economic activities.
- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast of India in FY22 (2021-22) to **10.1 per cent**. Earlier Ind-Ra estimated this at **10.4 per cent**. The downward revision is due to the second wave of COVID-19 infections and the slower pace of vaccination. For FY21 (2020-21), the economy is estimated to have contracted by **7.6 per cent**. Ind-Ra is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fitch Group.

**Business Current Affairs**

- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has entered into a **Share Purchase Agreement** for sale of 100 per cent stake in its subsidiary, Axis Bank UK Limited to **OpenPayd Holdings Ltd.** The agreement was entered on March 31, 2021, and the transaction is subject to approval by the UK Financial Regulator, the **Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA)**.
- The UP-based **Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited** commenced operations as a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)** with effect from April 26, 2021. It must be remembered that the **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB)** is the first urban co-operative bank (UCB) in India to receive licence from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank (SFB).
- **SwitchON Foundation**, a West Bengal-based not-for-profit organization, has partnered with **Punjab National Bank** to facilitate solar pump financing for small and marginal farmers. Under the partnership, SwitchON Foundation shall set up a first loss default guarantee fund through which Punjab National Bank will be financing solar pumps.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced to conduct the open market purchase of government securities of **Rs 1 lakh crore** under the **G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0)** in the first quarter of **2021-22**. The objective of this is to have a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve. Under this scheme the first purchase of government securities for an aggregate amount of **Rs. 25,000 crore under G-SAP 1.0** will be conducted on **April 15, 2021**.
- **SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd** has informed that it has become the first mutual fund house in India to cross the **Rs. 5 lakh crore average assets under management (AAUM)** mark. SBI MF has seen a growth of **35%** during the financial year 2020-21, with its average AUM increasing from **Rs 3.73 lakh crore to Rs 5.04 lakh crore**.
- The e-commerce giant **Amazon** has launched a **\$250 million (Rs 1,873 crore)** venture fund called "**Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund**", to invest in Indian startups and entrepreneurs, with a focus on **digitizing SMEs**. The launch of the Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund aims to attract the best ideas and empower entrepreneurs in the country to partner in this vision.

- **PhonePe** has become the first company to cross one billion transactions on **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** infrastructure. The company achieved the feat in **March 2021**, when the total transactions clocked around **1.3 billion** on its platform, across the payment instruments offering of wallet, cards as well as UPI.

**International Current Affairs**

- **New Zealand's** parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a **miscarriage or stillbirth**, becoming only the second country in the world to do so. **India** is the only other country with similar legislation.
- India's First **Indo-Korean Friendship Park** was jointly inaugurated at **Delhi Cantonment** by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri **Rajnath Singh**, and Hon'ble Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea **Mr Suh Wook**. The park has been developed in joint consultation with the Ministry of Defence, the Government of India, the Indian Army, the Delhi Cantonment Board, the Embassy of Korea and the Korean War Veterans Association of India.
- The world's first animal vaccine against the novel coronavirus has been registered in **Russia**, the country's agriculture safety watchdog **Rosselkhoznadzor**. The vaccine for animals, developed by a unit of Rosselkhoznadzor (Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance), was named **Carnivac-Cov**.
- **Kosovo's** parliament elected **Vjosa Osmani** as the country's new president. Osmani received 71 votes from the lawmakers at the third round of voting in the **Assembly of Kosovo**.
- **Vietnam's** legislature voted to make **Pham Minh Chinh**, a member of the Communist party with a history as a security official, the country's next **Prime Minister**. Outgoing Prime Minister **Nguyen Xuan Phuc** was appointed the new **President**.
- **Niger** President **Mohamed Bazoum** appointed **Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou** to head his new cabinet as the country's new prime minister. He was previously served as a minister in charge of the finance and mining portfolios.
- **Singapore** ratified the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement**, the world's largest free trade agreement, led by **China**. In doing so, Singapore became the first among 15 participating countries to ratify RCEP.

- The **United Arab Emirates** named the next two astronauts in its space programme on 10th April, including the country's first female astronaut. **Noura al-Matroushi** is the UAE's first female astronaut. The announcement gave no biographical information about her or her male counterpart, **Mohammed al-Mulla**.
- A Sanskrit learning app '**Little Guru**' has launched in Bangladesh by the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC)** of the High Commission of India. The Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the **Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)** to promote the Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists and historians across the world.
- An Indian-American Congressman has introduced a resolution in the **US House of Representatives** for a second consecutive year to honour **Bhimrao Ambedkar**, the architect of India's Constitution, on his **130th birth anniversary** so that young leaders around the world can be inspired by his vision for equality.
- US President **Joe Biden** has announced that all American troops would be withdrawn from **Afghanistan** by **September 11** this year, thus bringing to end the country's longest war. US troops, as well as forces deployed by our **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Allies and operational partners**, will be out of Afghanistan before the **20th anniversary of that heinous attack on September 11 (2001)**.
- **New Zealand** is about to become the world's **first country** to bring a law into force that demands environmental accountability from financial firms by asking them to report on how their businesses affect **climate change**. The aim is to bring the financial sector on board with the efforts being made towards achieving the country's target of becoming carbon neutral by **2050**.
- **Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel** has been officially sworn in as the '**First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba**', following the resignation of **Raul Castro**. The Secretary of the Communist Party is the **most powerful position in one party ruling Cuba**. Díaz-Canel now holds Cuba's two most important positions, head of the party and president of the state.
- **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan** have launched the construction of an international center for trade and economic cooperation named "**Central Asia**" on the

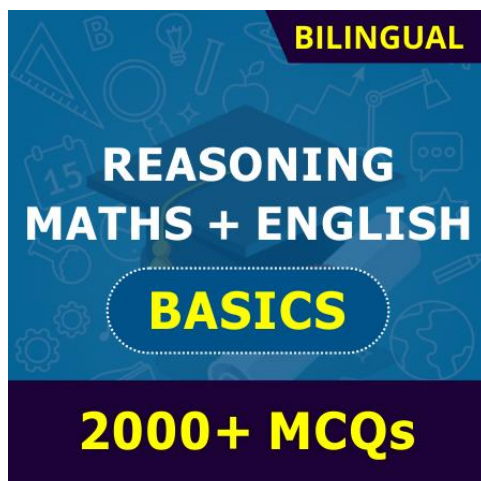
border of the two countries. The capsule was laid at the construction site of the logistics center, which is located in the vicinity of the border checkpoint Gisht Kuprik (called Zhibek Zholy in Kazakhstan).

- **China** has named its first-ever Mars rover "**Zhurong**" after an ancient fire god ahead of a landing attempt on the Red Planet in May. The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** revealed the name at the sixth China Space Day held in Nanjing. The Chinese name for Mars, "**Huoxing**," literally means "**fire star**."

### National Current Affairs

- Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched the '**Tribal TB Initiative**' in pursuit of **TB Mukht Bharat**. The government accords top priority to ensuring Universal Access to free treatment and care for TB across the country. A Guidance Note on Joint Action Plan for Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination, a Special Edition of Tribal Ministry's Publication '**ALEKH**' on TB, and a document on Tribal Tuberculosis (TB) Initiative was also released at the event.
- The **Central Government** has announced to infuse **Rs 14,500 crore** in four state-owned lenders namely **Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank** in 2020-21, by issuing non-interest bearing bonds to these banks. This infusion will complete the government's total capital infusion of **Rs 20,000 crore** in public sector banks for the current financial year 2020-21.
- The central government has declared April 14, **Dr BR Ambedkar's** birthday a public holiday. Dr B R Ambedkar was the sculptor of the Indian Constitution and the country already celebrates his birthday as **Ambedkar Jayanti** every year. The government has announced that from this year 14th April will be declared as a public holiday. It will be Ambedkar's **130th birth anniversary** on April 14, 2021.
- Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched the "**MyNEP2020**" Platform of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Web Portal which will be operational from **April 1 to May 15, 2021**. The platform seeks to invite suggestions/inputs/membership from the stakeholders for preparing a draft for the development of **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** and **National Mission for Mentoring Program membership (NMM)**.

- The construction of the arch of the **world's highest railway bridge** that soars **359 metres** above the bed of the **Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir** was completed. The 1.3-kilometre-long bridge aims to boost connectivity to the Kashmir Valley and it is being constructed at a cost of ₹ 1,486 crores as part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project**.
- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** and the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, **Shri Arjun Munda** jointly launched '**Anamaya**', the Tribal Health Collaborative on April 07, 2021, through video conference. The initiative is supported by **Piramal Foundation** and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**.
- The **Supreme Court of India** has launched its Artificial Intelligence portal "**SUPACE**" (**Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency**). Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases.
- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched a portal '**Madhukranti**' and Honey Corners on April 07, 2021, with the aim to bring an increase in income of farmers, employment generation and increase in exports. Madhukranti portal is an initiative of the **National Bee Board (NBB)**. The portal is being developed for online registration to achieve traceability source of Honey and other beehive products on a digital platform.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** recently appealed to the Chief Ministers of the States to organise "**Tika Utsav**". Tika Utsav is a vaccine festival. It is to be held between April 11, 2021, and April 14, 2021. The main objective of the festival is to vaccinate as many people as possible. It will also focus on zero wastage of the **COVID-19 vaccine**.
- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** chaired a high-level meeting on the implementation of the **National Education Policy 2020** and released an implementation plan for school education called '**Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)**'.
- The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, **Prof. K Vijay Raghavan** launched a mobile app called "**MANAS**" to cater mental well-being of citizens on scalable, secure and digital platforms. MANAS stands for Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated **e-SANTA**, an electronic marketplace, to provide a platform for connecting aqua farmers and buyers. e-SANTA aims to raise income, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality levels, traceability, of aqua farmers. e-SANTA stands for **Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture**.
- **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University launched called "**Poshan Gyan**", a national digital repository on health and nutrition. The website can be accessed through the following link: <https://poshangyan.niti.gov.in/>
- Union Health Minister, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched **Aahaar Kranti**, a mission dedicated to spreading awareness about nutrition. It is designed to address the peculiar problem of hunger and diseases in abundance, being faced by India and the world. Studies show that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories it consumes.
- **Italy** has launched its first-ever **mega food park project in India**, at **Fanidhar in the Mehsana district of Gujarat**. The project aims to create synergy between agriculture and industry of the two countries and focuses on the research and development of new and more efficient technologies in the sector.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** recently launched the **Gender Samvaad Event**. It is a joint initiative between **DAY-NRLM** and **IWWAGE**. The main objective of the Gender Samvaad event was to create awareness of gender-related interventions under the DAY-NRLM. DAY-NRLM is **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission**. IWWAGE is Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy.



- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** launched the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**. The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization.
- The Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (I/C), **Prahlad Singh Patel** virtually inaugurated the first-ever Online Exhibition on **Ramayana**, the Epic by Maharishi Valmiki, on the occasion of **World Heritage Day 2021**. The online exhibition has been titled **“Rama Katha: The Story of Rama Through Indian Miniatures”**.
- **India** has been elected by acclamation, to three bodies of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, for a **three-year term beginning January 1, 2022**. These UN Bodies are: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP).
- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a pact between fair trade regulator **CCI** and the Administrative Council for **Economic Defense of Brazil**. As per **the Competition Act, 2002**, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) can enter into any memorandum or arrangement with any agency of any foreign country for discharging its duties or performing its functions under the Act.
- The Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge) **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**, and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** jointly inaugurated the **‘Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**. The Convention Centre has been developed under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** of the Ministry of Tourism, adding another feather to the **UNESCO World Heritage** site at Khajuraho.
- **Utkal Divas or Utakala Dibasha** is celebrated on **April 1** every year to remember the formation of the **Odisha state** after a struggle to be recognised as an independent state. Under British rule, Odisha was part of the Bengal presidency, which consisted of the present-day Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha. The state was originally called Orissa but the Lok Sabha passed the **Orissa Bill, and Constitution Bill (113rd amendment)**, in March 2011 to rename it **Odisha**.
- **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam** listed itself at **BSE** and successfully raised **Rs. 150 Crores** by issuing Municipal Bond on Private Placement Basis using **BSE BOND**. This is the first-ever green bond issuance by any Municipal Corporation in the country.
- The **Maharashtra government** has declared an area at **Amboli in Western ghats** in Sindhudurg district, where a rare freshwater fish species was discovered, as a biodiversity heritage site.
- The biggest floating **solar power plant in India** is to be set up at **Ramagundam in Telangana**. It is expected to be opened in May 2021. The cost of the project has been estimated as **Rs 423 crores**. The power plant will have **4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels**.
- **Rajasthan** becomes the first state in the country where the state government is providing **free health insurance facility** to all the citizens of the state. This plan was announced by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the state budget of 2021-22. The State began the registration for its cashless ‘mediclaim’ scheme **Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme**.
- The **World Bank** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **USD 32 million** projects to improve management capacity and quality of health services in **Mizoram**. The project titled **“Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project”** will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Mizoram Health department and its subsidiaries. This project will support the state government’s efforts to deliver quality healthcare for the poor and vulnerable and those located in remote areas.

### States Current Affairs

- **Nagaland** Health and Family Welfare Minister, **S Pangnyu Phom** has launched **i-Learn**, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers, CHOs in the state at his office chamber in **Kohima**. The state government launched the i-Learn application in partnership with **USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiago** which will cater across the 189 Health & wellness centres in the state.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** was organised a **‘Banana Festival’** in **Kushinagar**, which has witnessed the participation of at least **35 farmers and entrepreneurs**. The state government had in 2018 organised the **One District One Product (ODOP) scheme** to promote traditional enterprise.

- The **World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** have approved the loan for **USD 300 million (about Rs 2,190 crore)** canal-based drinking water projects in **Punjab**. The project is aimed at ensuring quality drinking water and minimise water losses for Amritsar and Ludhiana. The entire project will be co-financed by **IBRD (World Bank)** – USD 105 million, **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** – USD 105 million and the **Punjab government** – USD 90 million.
- Bollywood actor **Sonu Sood** has been made the brand ambassador for **Punjab’s anti-coronavirus vaccination programme**. During the coronavirus-induced lockdown last year, the actor had helped migrants reach their home states.
- **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has launched a 14-day **“Mask Abhiyan”** as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus in view of rising cases and urged people to strictly follow the safety guidelines.
- **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN)** has announced successfully raising and listing India’s first **Green Municipal bond issue**. GNN raised **₹150 crores** at a cost of **8.1 per cent**.
- India’s first **Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU)** has arrived at H-Energy’s Jaigarh Terminal in the **Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra**, on the west coast of India.
- **Pohela Boishakh**, also known as **Bengali New Year**, is the traditional New Year day of the Bengali people. The festival date is set according to the lunisolar Bengali calendar as the first day of its first month Baishakh. However, the festival falls on **April 14 or April 15 every year in India**.
- **Himachal Day** is observed on **15th April** in **Himachal Pradesh**. The state became a full-fledged state on this day. Four districts of **Mandi, Chamba, Mahasu and Sirmour** were integrated with over two dozen princely states, leading to the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a **Union Territory in 1948**. Decades later, in **1971, Himachal Pradesh** became the **18th** state in India with Shimla as its capital.
- **Punjab State** reiterated the commitment of the State to achieve the **‘Har Ghar Jal’** target by **2022** as planned. Punjab has **34.73 lakh rural household**, out of which 25.88 lakh (74.5%) have tap water supply.
- The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** recently released the first tranche of **Rs 672 crores** under the **Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme** for the year 2021-22. This reimbursed the fees for 10.88 lakh students. So far, a total of Rs 4, 879 crores have been disbursed under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme.
- The **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)** is the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through **electoral bonds**. A declaration of a **₹1 crore** donation was made in the party’s **2019-20 contribution report**.
- A team of scientists have discovered **India’s first bat species** with disk-shaped sticky feet in **Meghalaya**. The species, *Eudiscopus denticulus*, was found at Lailad close to **Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The **Nagaland government** in consultation with all the stakeholders would prepare a **Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)** to protect the indigenous people and their traditional life and culture. The main purpose of RIIN is to identify the citizens who settled in Nagaland prior to December 1, 1963, the day the mountainous region became a full-fledged state.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to establish **10 oxygen plants** for unabated supply of oxygen to the hospitals. A team of DRDO officials will help the state administration in this task. On the other hand Hindustan aeronautics limited will help state administration in preparing a new all facility covid hospital in **Lucknow**.

### Schemes/Committees

- The government has once again extended the deadline for making payment under the direct tax dispute settlement scheme **‘Vivad Se Vishwas’** by two months till June 30, 2021 to provide relief to the taxpayers facing hardships amid the pandemic. This is the fourth time that the deadline is being extended by the **Ministry of Finance**, since the launch of the scheme.
- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** launched the distribution of e-property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme on National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, 2021, through video conferencing. SVAMITVA stands for **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas**. The launch marked the rollout of the implementation of

the SVAMITVA scheme across the entire country. About 4.09 lakh property owners were given their e-property cards during the event, in more than 5 thousand villages.

- The **Central Government** has extended the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 3.0)** by another three months till **June 30, 2021**, or till such time that an amount of **Rs. 3 lakh crore** is sanctioned under the Scheme. Additionally, the government has also introduced certain modifications in the ECLGS scheme to further contribute towards economic revival.
- The government has withdrawn its order slashing interest rates on **small savings schemes**, including **National Savings Certificates (NSC)** and **Public Provident Fund (PPF)**, for the first quarter of 2021-22. Earlier on March 31, 2021, the Finance Ministry had announced a sharp cut in interest rates for small savings schemes by **50-110 basis points**. Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.
- The Government of India recently announced that it will provide five kilo grams of free food grains under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till June 2021**.
- The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry recently launched the **"Start Up India Seed Fund" scheme**. The scheme aims to provide financial support to the startups for their prototype development, proof of concept, product trials, market entry.
- The Ministry of Rural Development recently launched the **Gender Samvaad Event**. It is a joint initiative between DAY-NRLM and IWWAGE. The main objective of Gender Samvaad event was to create awareness on gender related interventions under the DAY-NRLM.

### Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **India and Bangladesh** have signed **five Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** to further boost bilateral cooperation. The signing of the MoUs took place on 27 March 2021, between Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** and her Indian counterpart **Narendra Modi** in Dhaka.

- In a bid to promote Ayurveda as the mainstream treatment for the prevalent lifestyle-related diseases, **Vinoba SevaPratisthan (VSP)**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of AYUSH**, has successfully organized a 3-day **"Ayurveda Paravin Bhubaneswar"**. This unique initiative aims to not only ensure greater acceptance of Ayurveda among the masses but also to popularize Ayurveda as the main line of treatment for the current lifestyle diseases.
- **ICICI Bank and PhonePe** announced their partnership for the issuance of **FASTag using UPI on the PhonePe App**. This integration allows over 280 million registered PhonePe users to order and track the ICICI Bank FASTag conveniently on the app.
- **Bharti Airtel** has entered into an agreement with **Reliance Jio Infocomm** to transfer **'Right to Use'** for some of its **800 MHz spectrum** in three circles to the **Mukesh Ambani-led firm**. Following this agreement, **Bharti Airtel** will receive a consideration of **₹1,037.6 crores** from Reliance Jio for the proposed transfer. In addition, Reliance Jio will assume future liabilities of ₹459 crores relating to the spectrum.
- The Union Cabinet recently apprised an **MoU (Memorandum of Understanding)** signed between **India and Japan**. The MoU was signed between the **National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL)** that operates under the Department of Space, GoI and the **Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere called the RISH** that operates under the **Kyoto University of Japan**.
- **Bharti Axa Life and Fincare Small Finance Bank** have joined hands for a **bancassurance** partnership under which the bank will sell insurance policies to its customers. This alliance will make life insurance solutions reachable to over 26.5 lakhs customers of Fincare Small Finance Bank and provide financial security to them.
- The Indian space agency, **ISRO** has signed an agreement with the space agency of **France CNES** for cooperation in its first human space mission, **Gaganyaan**. CNES will train Indian flight physicians and CAPCOM mission control teams at French facilities. The Gaganyaan orbital spacecraft project was kicked off in **August 2018**. It originally intended to send astronauts from Indian soil to mark the **75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022**.



- **RBL Bank** and **Mastercard** have announced their partnership to launch a mobile-based consumer-friendly payment solution '**Pay by Bank App**', a first-of-its-kind payment functionality in India. RBL Bank account holders can now enjoy contactless transactions across the world through their mobile banking application both in-store and online. This functionality will be available at all Mastercard accepting merchants, worldwide that accept contactless and online payments.
- **Microsoft** has made its second-biggest acquisition after **LinkedIn**. The tech giant has bought AI speech tech firm **Nuance for \$19.7 billion**. The move will help Microsoft's prowess in voice recognition and will give it a boost in the health care market. Nuance is known for its Dragon software which helps to transcribe speech using deep learning. In 2016, Microsoft had purchased **LinkedIn for \$26 billion**.
- State-run **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has appointed homegrown payments player **Paytm** to facilitate its digital payments. Following a tie-up with another payment gateway earlier, the country's largest life insurer has sought a new deal as the majority of its payments have moved to digital modes.
- The **Government of India and Germany** have signed an agreement for Technical Cooperation in enhancing practices to prevent plastic from entering the marine environment at a virtual ceremony in New Delhi. The project titled '**Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment**' will be implemented for a period of three and a half years.
- **Australia** has announced a grant of **Rs 81.2 million (AUD 1.4 million)** under the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**. IPOI was proposed by Indian Prime Minister Modi at the East Asia Summit in November 2019 and Australia is co-leading New Delhi in the marine ecology pillar of the initiative.



- **Ladakhi youth Army** under the aegis of **Fire and Fury Corps** signed MoU for **Ladakh Ignited Minds project** with corporate partner **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and executing agency **National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO)** HQ 14 Corps Leh.

### Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- **Soma Mondal**, the chairperson of the state-owned **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**, was on March 26, 2021, elected the new chairperson of the **Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)**. Mondal will have a two-year term starting April; she took charge of SAIL on January 1, 2021.
- Senior IAS officer, **Mukhmeet S. Bhatia** took over the charge of **Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** on April 04, 2021. He is a 1990 IAS Officer of the Jharkhand cadre. Earlier, he has worked as the Additional Secretary in the **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**. ESIC is a Statutory and an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Subhash Kumar** has assumed the additional charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** on April 01, 2021. He is serving as Director (Finance) at ONGC. Kumar succeeds incumbent CMD, **Shashi Shanker**, who superannuated on March 31, 2021.
- Former Reserve Bank of India Governor **Dr Urjit Patel** has been appointed as **Additional Director of Britannia Industries** with effect from 31st March 2021 for the tenure of **5 years**. The company has announced that its board of directors has approved the appointment.
- Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited, **Mallika Srinivasan** has been appointed as the chairperson of the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)**, an order issued by the personnel ministry. This is for the first time that a private sector specialist has been appointed as the head of the PESB, responsible for the appointment of top management posts in the **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

- Former Quality Council of India (QCI) chief **Adil Zainulbhai** has appointed chairman of **Capacity Building Commission**. The government has approved a commission under **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**, also known as '**Mission Karmayogi**', to train civil servants at all levels.
- **Digit Insurance** has roped in cricketer **Virat Kohli** as its brand ambassador. Kohli has also invested in Digit Insurance in the past. Digit Insurance, a general insurance company that became the first unicorn of 2021 with a valuation of \$1.9B.
- **BP Kanungo** has stepped down from the post of the deputy governor of the **Reserve Bank of India** after his term ended on **2 April**, cutting short all expectations of an extension of his tenure. He was appointed deputy governor in **2017** for **three years**.
- **Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala**, who has served as the Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) before, is the new **BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit chief**.
- The **Central Government** has approved the appointment of **Tarun Bajaj** as the new Revenue Secretary under the **Ministry of Finance**. Prior to this, Bajaj, a 1988 batch Haryana-cadre IAS officer, was serving as the Economic Affairs Secretary since April 30, 2020. The cabinet has also approved the appointment of **Ajay Seth**, a 1987 batch Karnataka-cadre IAS officer, as new Economic Affairs Secretary in place of Bajaj.
- The senior-most Supreme Court judge Justice **Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana** has been appointed as the next **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. Justice Ramana would succeed incumbent CJI **Sharad Arvind Bobde** to take over as the **48th** CJI. He would assume charge of the office from April 24, 2021, till August 26, **2022**.
- **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), appointed **Carl Bildt** as **WHO Special Envoy** for the Access to **COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator)**.
- Noted socio-technologist, **Dr Chintan Vaishnav** has been appointed the mission director of **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, the government's flagship initiative under **NITI Aayog**.
- The government has appointed **S Ramann** as **Chairman and Managing Director** of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**. Ramann, a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer, is currently the CEO of National E-Governance Services Ltd, India's first Information Utility.
- The incumbent Election Commissioner (EC) **Sushil Chandra** has been named to become the next **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India**. He will assume charge with effect from April 13, 2021. He will replace incumbent CEC, **Sunil Arora**, who will retire on April 12, 2021.
- **Poonam Gupta** will be the new **director-general** of the policy think tank **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**. Gupta will succeed the current head of the think tank, **Shekhar Shah**, to become the first woman to hold the post. Currently, Gupta is the lead economist at the **World Bank in Washington DC**.
- IAS officer, **Siddharth Singh Longjam** will take over as the **National Anti-Doping Agency's Director-General**. Longjam is currently serving as joint secretary in the sports ministry and is also the CEO of the currently suspended National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL). He will replace **Navin Agarwal** who listed the creation of Athletes Biological Passport (ABP) for around 60 elite Indian sportspersons as one of the highlights of his tenure.
- Prime Minister of **Haiti, Joseph Jouthe** has resigned following a situation of unrest in the country due to an increase in killing and kidnapping cases over the past few days. Joseph Jouthe served as the Prime Minister of Haiti from **March 4, 2020, until April 14, 2021**. President Jovenel Moise has nominated **Claude Joseph** as the new prime minister of **Haiti**.
- Private sector lender, **DCB Bank** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India** for the re-appointment of **Murali M. Natrajan** as the **Managing Director & CEO**, for a further period of one year from April 29, 2021. He was appointed as MD and CEO of DCB Bank in May 2009. Prior to joining DCB, Natrajan has worked with foreign banks Standard Chartered & Citibank.
- Global sportswear brand **Puma** has signed long-term endorsement deals with cricketers **Washington Sundar and Devdutt Padikkal**. Puma India, which recently announced its partnership with **Royal Challengers Bangalore**, has been consistently investing in India's sports ecosystem.
- India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), **GC Murmu** has been chosen as the external auditor by the Hague-based **Conference of State Parties of the Organisation** for the **Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**, for a **three-year** term starting 2021.

- Accenture India's chairperson, **Rekha M Menon** has been appointed as chairperson of the **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)**, becoming the first woman to take the top role in the software lobby group's 30-year history. She succeeds **U B Pravin Rao**, chief operating officer of Infosys as Nasscom's chairperson. TCS President **Krishnan Ramanujam** will be the vice-chairperson.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of former Economic Affairs Secretary, **Atanu Chakraborty**, as the part-time chairman and additional independent director of the private sector lender **HDFC Bank**. He retired as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020. Prior to that, he served as Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- Former US Ambassador to India **Richard Verma** has been appointed as General Counsel and Head of Global Public Policy of Mastercard. The first and only Indian American to serve in this position so far, Verma joined Mastercard in October 2020.
- Justice **Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana** was sworn in as the **48th Chief Justice of India (CJI)** on April 24, 2021. Justice Ramana was administered the oath of office by **President Ram Nath Kovind** at a brief ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has given approval to the appointment of **Arun Raste** as **MD and CEO** of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (**NCDEX**) for a period of 5 years.
- **Public Enterprise Selection Board** selected **Amit Banerjee** as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Bharat Earth Movers Limited, (BEML)** an Indian Public Sector Undertaking. The PESB announced on meeting held on April 26, 2021. Currently, he is serving as Director (Rail & Metro), BEML Limited.
- Japanese Sportswear brand **ASICS** announced that it has appointed **Ravindra Jadeja**, the all-rounder of the Indian cricket team and Chennai Super Kings as its brand ambassador. The company, which focuses on sporting gear for the running category.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **T V Somanathan** as the new **Finance Secretary**. He will replace **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** who superannuated in February 2021.

- **Bajaj Auto** has announced the appointment of **Neeraj Bajaj** as its new **Chairman** of the Board with effect from May 1, 2021. The automaker has also announced **Rahul Bajaj** as its Chairman Emeritus. This will be taken up at the ensuing annual general meeting for the approval of the shareholders.

## Ranks and Reports

- The "**World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives**" was released by the World Bank. The World Development Report focuses on how data can improve the lives of poor people and advance development objectives, to ensure no one is left behind. It highlights the tremendous potential of the changing data landscape to improve the lives of poor people, at the same time acknowledging its potential to open back doors that can harm individuals, businesses, and societies.
- Despite the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the year 2020 was the best year in history for the global wind industry as this sector installed **93GW of new capacity in 2020**, according to a new report titled '**Global Wind Report 2021**', released by the **Global Wind Energy Council**. This is the 16th annual flagship report, released by GWEC on March 25, 2021. The 93GW represents a **53% year-on-year increase**.
- Amid the rising **COVID-19 cases** and subsequent restrictions on travel overseas, when many countries are banning individuals from worst-hit nations, the **Henley Passport Index** on April 17 released its list of the most powerful passports. **India** stands at number **84** on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places. **Japan, Singapore and Germany, South Korea stand in Top 3** respectively.
- **India** has been placed at **142nd position** among **180 countries** in the latest **World Press Freedom Index 2021**, released on April 20, 2021. India was at **142nd position in 2020** as well. **Norway** has retained its top spot for the fifth year running, followed by **Finland and Denmark** at second and third place respectively. **Eritrea** is at the bottom of the index at **180th place**.
- **India** is placed at the **87th** position among **115 countries** in the **2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI)**. The report is published by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, prepared in collaboration with **Accenture** to track nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects. **Zimbabwe (115)** is the last ranked country in the index.

- India has retained its position as the third biggest military spender in the world in 2020, according to new data titled ‘**SIPRI Military Expenditure Database**’ published by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** on April 26, 2021. As per the new report, the top five biggest spenders in 2020 were the **United States (\$778 billion), China (\$252 billion), India (\$72.9 billion), Russia (\$61.7 billion) and the United Kingdom (\$59.2 billion) respectively.**
- **India** has been placed at **49th** position among 104 nations in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021. **Finland** has topped the CGGI Index 2021 and **Venezuela** is the last ranked country at 104.

### Sports Current Affairs

- **India** finished at the top of the medals table at the **2021 ISSF World Cup New Delhi**, held from 18 to 29 March 2021 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. India secured 30 medals which included **15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze.** The USA came second with eight medals including four gold, three silver and one bronze.
- Mercedes star **Lewis Hamilton** got his bid for an eighth world title off to a thrilling start with victory in the **Bahrain Grand Prix 2021.** Hamilton after his 96th career win. **Max Verstappen** (Red bull) and **V Bottas** (Mercedes ) stand 2nd and 3rd Position Respectively.
- **Aniyan Midhun** of Nattika won the gold at the **South Asian Wushu Championship** that concluded in **Nepal** on March 31. The 28-year-old youth represented the country in the **70-kg** category in the championship. He is the first Wushu player from southern India to reach the Indian team.
- **President of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Umar Kremlev** during his visit to **Uzbekistan** officially announced that AIBA Men’s World Boxing Championships will take place in **Tashkent in 2023.** The city of Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men’s World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan. The **AIBA Board of Directors** voted in favour of the major event candidate city.

- **Hubert Hurkacz** of Poland won the biggest title of his career by beating 19-year-old **Jannik Sinner** of Italy 7-6 (4), 6-4 in the **Miami Open final.** Hurkacz became his country’s first Masters 1000 champion. The world number 37 is the lowest-ranked player to win a Masters event since Tomas Berdych in Paris in 2005.
- **FIFA** has suspended the **Pakistan Football Federation (PFF)** and **Chadian Football Association (FTFA)** with immediate effect due to claims of outside interference. The suspension will be lifted once the relevant government decisions have been repealed.
- Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, **Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated the **Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE)** for **Rowing discipline** at the **Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy** at the Nehru Park in the world-famous **Dal Lake** in Srinagar. This is one of the two KISCEs from Jammu & Kashmir. The other being the **Maulana Azad Stadium for Fencing discipline in Jammu.**
- India seamer **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** has won the **ICC Player of the Month award** for his superlative show in the recent limited over series against **England in March.** Bhuvneshwar became the third successive Indian recipient of the award since its inception early this year.
- South African **Lizelle Lee**, who played four ODIs against India where she scored a century and two half-centuries to move to the top of Women’s ODI batting rankings, was named the **ICC Women’s Player of the Month for March.**
- **Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands)** won the **Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021, in Imola, Italy.** This win is his first victory of the season. The race was the second round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
- **Mirabai Chanu** set a new **World Record** in the women’s **49kg Clean and Jerk** with a massive **119 kg lift** at **Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent.** The 26-year-old Indian won the bronze medal at the event. The gold medal went to **Hou Zhihui of China** who created a new world record in snatch. Asian Games, held once every 4yrs, is the 2nd largest multi-sport event after Olympics.
- **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won his first **ATP Masters 1000 series** after a flawless performance against **Andrey Rublev in Monte Carlo.** The Greek star had lost his previous two finals at this level, with Rafael Nadal denying him in Toronto and Novak Djokovic beating him in Madrid.

- **Tamil Nadu's, Arjun Kalyan** became **India's 68th Chess Grandmaster** when he crossed the **2500 ELO mark** after beating **Dragan Kosic** in the fifth round of GM Round Robin **"Rujna Zore-3" in Serbia**. Arjun is coached by **IM Saravanan** and **Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov** and began playing chess at the age of nine and got his FIDE rating a year later. **Viswanathan Anand** became the country's **first Grandmaster, in 1988**.
- **Manchester City** won the **League Cup** for a record-equalling fourth time in succession with a deserved victory over a disappointing **Tottenham Hotspur side** at Wembley. City's victory equalled Liverpool's achievement in the early **1980s** of winning the competition four years in a row.
- **Rafael Nadal** beat **Stefanos Tsitsipas** 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 to win his **12th Barcelona Open title**. It was Nadal's 87th career title, and his 61st title on clay. This is the second tournament where Nadal has captured 12 or more titles. The 13-time Roland Garros champion will return to No. 2 in the FedEx ATP Rankings.


### Summits and Conferences

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, addressed the **7th annual summit of NATHEALTH**. The summit focused on **'Indian Health system expansion in post-COVID era'**. While addressing the summit the minister reiterated the commitments of the government for fulfilling the goal of Health for all.
- President **Joe Biden** has invited **40 world leaders**, including Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, to a US-hosted virtual summit on climate next month to underscore the urgency and the economic benefits of stronger climate action. Biden will host a two-day climate summit of world leaders starting on **Earth Day, April 22**, in which he will outline the US goal for reductions of carbon emissions by 2030, known as the nationally determined contribution under the historic Paris accord.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has participated virtually in the **Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)** meeting. This meeting held under the **Italian Presidency** to discuss policy responses to global challenges to restore strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** participated in the **103rd Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary**, via video conferencing. During the meeting, she shared the measures taken to combat COVID-19 including social support measures for the poor and vulnerable, and relief measures for firms in statutory and regulatory compliance matters.
- Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of the Netherlands **Mr Mark Rutte**, held a Virtual Summit. During the **India- Netherlands virtual Summit**, the two leaders reviewed the existing bilateral engagements and also exchanged views on further expanding and diversifying the relationship in trade and economy, water management, agriculture sector, smart cities, science & technology, healthcare and space.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **2021 "Raisina Dialogue"**, through video-conferencing. The Raisina Dialogue 2021 is the **sixth edition** of the annual dialogue, organised from **April 13 to 16, 2021**, in full digital form for the first time due to the coronavirus pandemic. The theme for the 2021 conference is **"#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control"**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the First bi-annual Indian Air Force, **IAF Commanders' Conference 2021** at Air Headquarters **Vayu Bhawan in New Delhi**. The conference is attended by the Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief of all Commands of IAF, all Principal Staff Officers and all Director Generals posted at Air Headquarters.

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- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** participated in the “**Leaders’ Summit on Climate**”, hosted by the President of the **U.S.A. Joe Biden**. The two-day conference has been organised virtually on 22-23 April 2021, which coincides with the fifth anniversary of the opening of the **Paris Agreement** on climate change for signature. The theme of the summit: **Our Collective Sprint to 2030**.
- The opening ceremony of the **Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021** was held in Boao, south China’s Hainan Province. The theme of the conference – “**A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation**”.

### Awards & Recognition

- **Mahinder Giri**, range officer of **Rajaji Tiger Reserve** for being the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious **International Ranger Award** for his contribution towards conservation. The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas WCPA.
- Noted Marathi writer **Dr Sharankumar Limbale** will receive **Saraswati Samman, 2020** for his book *Sanatan*. The award carries fifteen lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque. **Saraswati Samman**, instituted by **KK Birla Foundation in 1991**, is recognised as the most prestigious and highest literary award in the country.
- **Maggie O’Farrell’s Hamnet**, an imagined take on the death of Shakespeare’s son from the bubonic plague, has won the **National Book Critics Circle prize** for fiction.
- The legendary actor **Rajinikanth** has been selected to be honoured with the **51st Dadasaheb Phalke Awards**, the highest film honour in India. The iconic actor Rajinikanth will receive the Dadasaheb Phalke award for **2019** for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema. Rajinikanth will receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on May 3, 2021.
- Odisha-born Andhra Pradesh Governor **Biswabhusan Harichandan** received the **Kalinga Ratna Samman for 2021**. Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu conferred Biswabhusan with the prestigious award in Cuttack on the occasion of the **40th annual day of the Sarala Sahitya Sansad at the Sarala Bhawan**.
- Lawrence Gussman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science, **Alfred V. Aho** has won the 2020 **Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award**, known informally as the “**Nobel Prize of computing**.” Aho shares the award with his long-time collaborator **Jeffrey David Ullman**.
- Professor **Suman Chakraborty** has been selected for the **30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research** for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare. He is a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur’s department of mechanical engineering.
- The famous **Devishankar Awasthi Award** has been awarded to the prolific Hindi prose, journalist, and critic **Ashutosh Bhardwaj**. This honour has been given to him for his work ‘**Pitra-Vadh**’. He was elected by the selection committee of Ashok Vajpayee, Nandkishore Acharya, and Rajendra Kumar.
- Indian sprinter, **Dutee Chand** has been chosen for the inaugural edition of the **Chhattisgarh Veerni Award**, by the Chhattisgarh state government. The award, which recognises the contribution of Indian women in different fields, including sports, will be given virtually on April 14, 2021.
- Acclaimed filmmaker, **Guneet Monga** to be conferred with honour of the **Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres)**. It is the second-highest civilian **French honour** and has earlier been awarded to big Hollywood names like **Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Bruce Willis**.
- Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, **Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan** has honoured Indian-origin businessman **Yusuffali MA** and 11 other individuals with **Abu Dhabi’s top civilian award** for their noble and charitable contributions to the community.
- **New Zealand** star cricketer **Kane Williamson** was recently awarded **the Sir Richard Hadlee medal**. It was his 4th Sir Richard Hadlee award in **6 years**.
- The **Spanish city of Seville** will host the **22nd Laureus World Sports Awards** in a virtual ceremony owing to the raging **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The Marathi film “**Puglya**” has won the **Best Foreign Language Feature award** at **Moscow International Film Festival, 2021**. The film *Puglya* has been directed and produced by **Vinod Sam Peter** under the banner **Abraham Films**.

- Director **Roberto Benigni** will be receiving the **Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement** at the **78th Venice International Film Festival**, which runs from September 1 to 11. The organisers confirmed the news about the two-time Oscar-winning actor-director.
- Forbes launched the 6th annual Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list. 25 years old **Vibha Harish**, the founder of **Cosmix**, a Bengaluru based health supplement brand is featured on the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2021 list.
- **Rumana Sinha Sehgal**, Software engineer turned entrepreneur from Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, won the **Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021** by the **Diplomatic Mission Global Peace**. She was virtually awarded for her contribution to the field of developing innovative and functional green products by recycling varied materials and non biodegradable materials.
- The **National Panchayat Awards 2021** was conferred by PM Modi. Prime Minister will transfer the award money (as Grants-in-Aid) through the click of a button, ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh. The amount will be directly transferred to the bank account of the Panchayats concerned in real-time. This is being done for the first time.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** won the **“E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021”**, ranking first in Category I. It was followed by **Assam and Chhattisgarh** at the second position, while Odisha and Tamil Nadu stood third. Every year, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj awards those states, which ensure maximum use of information technology to keep a tab on the work done by gram panchayats.
- **Dr. Krithi K Karanth**, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 **'WILD Innovator Award'**. This award given by the **"WILD ELEMENTS Foundation"** brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to "disrupt the status quo and identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation,".
- The **World Autism Awareness Day** is observed internationally on **2 April** every year, to raise awareness about people with **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** throughout the world. The **2021 World Autism Awareness Day observance** will address these issues through a virtual event that will include moderated panel discussions with individuals on the autism spectrum who have themselves experienced the challenges and seen these new opportunities in the employment market.
- **International Children’s Book Day (ICBD)** is organised annually on **2nd April** since **1967**, by the **International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)**, an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children’s books. Theme 2021: **“The Music of Words.”**
- **National Maritime Day** in India is observed on **5 April** every year. This year is the **58th** edition of the National Maritime Day. The National Maritime Day is celebrated every year day to illustrate the awareness in supporting intercontinental commerce and the global economy as the most well-organized, safe and sound, environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one corner to another corner of the world.
- The United Nations celebrates the **6th of April** every year as the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**. Sport has historically played an important role in all societies, be it in the form of competitive sport, physical activity or play. Sports also presents a natural partnership for the **United Nations (UN) system**.
- The **World Health Day** is a global health awareness day celebrated on **7 April** every year. On April 7th every year, governmental as well as non-governmental health organizations organize events that focus on promoting healthier habits of living. The Theme of World Health Day 2021: **“Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone”**.
- **International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda** observed globally on **7 April** every year. The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda was announced by the United General Assembly in 2003. On April 7th, the date where the genocide against members of the Tutsi began. For approximately 100 days, over 800,000 Tutsi were assassinated.

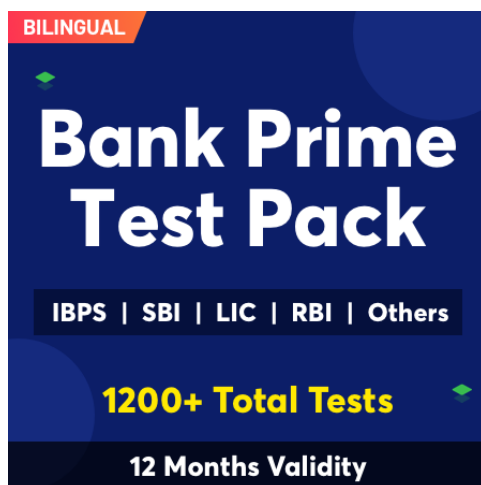
### Important Days

- **International Transgender Day of Visibility** observed globally on **31st March** every year. The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society. The day was founded by US-based transgender activist **Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009**.

- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas)** is observed on **9 April** every year, as a tribute to the brave men of the Force. 2021 marks the **56th CRPF Valour Day**.
- **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **April 10** to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day marks the birth anniversary of German physician **Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, who is considered the founder of the system of alternative medicine called Homeopathy. The year 2021 marks the **266th birthday of Hahnemann**. The theme of the conference is **“Homoeopathy – Roadmap for Integrative Medicine”**
- The **International Day of Human Space Flight** is observed globally on **April 12** every year. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution on April 7, 2011, had declared April 12 to be celebrated as **International Day of Human Space Flight**.
- **National Safe Motherhood Day** is observed on **April 11** every year. The day also marks the **birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi**, the wife of the father of Nation **Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi**.
- Every year, **April 11** is observed as **World Parkinson’s Day** to raise awareness of Parkinson’s disease, which is a progressive nervous system disorder. The day marks the birthday of **Dr James Parkinson** from **London**, who was the first person to systematically described the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson Disease.
- The **World Chagas Disease Day** is observed on **14 April** to raise public awareness and visibility among people about Chagas Disease (also called **American trypanosomiasis or silent or silenced disease**) and the resources needed for the prevention, control or elimination of the disease.
- **Ambedkar Jayanti** (also known as **Bhim Jayanti**) is an annual festival observed on **14 April** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar** who was born on **14 April 1891**.
- The **International Turban Day** is celebrated every year on **April 13 since 2004** to bring awareness of the strict requirement on Sikhs to put the turban as a mandatory part of their religion. The **2021 Turban Day** marks the **552nd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev** and the festival of Baisakhi.
- The **World Voice Day (WVD)** is celebrated globally on **April 16** every year to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. The theme of 2021 is **ONE WORLD| MANY VOICES**.
- **World Hemophilia Day** observed globally on **17 April** every year. This day is observed to raise awareness for hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. The theme for 2021 World Hemophilia Day is **“Adapting to Change: Sustaining care in a new world”**.
- **World Heritage Day** observed globally on **18 April** every year. The day is observed to raise awareness about the cultural heritage that we see around us. This year’s theme **“Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures”** reflects on the need to acknowledge global calls for greater inclusion and recognition of diversity.
- **World Liver day** is observed on the **19 April** every year to spread awareness about the second largest organ in the body. The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain. Liver diseases can be caused by **hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs**. Viral Hepatitis occurs due to consumption of contaminated food and water, unsafe sexual practices and drug abuse.
- **UN Chinese Language Day** is observed globally on **April 20** every year. The day has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about **5,000 years ago**.
- **World Creativity and Innovation Day** is observed globally on **21 April** every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem-solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals, also known as the **“global goals”**.
- In India, **‘Civil Services Day** is celebrated on **April 21** every year. It is a day to appreciate the tremendous work done by officers engaged in public administration, in various departments of the central and state governments.
- **Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day** is observed globally on **22 April** every year. The Day will be celebrated all over the world to spread awareness for Earth’s wellbeing and to encourage people to support environmental protection. World Earth Day 2021 will mark the **51st Anniversary** of the day since it started being observed in 1970. Earth Day was renamed officially by the UN in 2009 as **International Mother Earth Day**. The theme of 2021 International Mother Earth Day is **Restore Our Earth**.



- **International Girls in ICT Day** marked annually on the **fourth Thursday in April**. This year International Girls in ICT Day is observed on **22nd April 2021**. International Girls in ICT Day aims to inspire a global movement to increase the representation of girls and women in technology. Today, let's recommit to the goal of equal access for young women and girls to opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.
- The **World Book and Copyright Day (also known as 'International Day of the Book' and 'World Book Day')**, is an annual event organized on **April 23** by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** to promote reading, publishing, and copyright. April 23 is chosen because it marks the birth and death of several prominent authors. For instance, **William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Josep Pla** died on April 23 and **Manuel Mejia Vallejo and Maurice Druon** were born on April 23.
- The **UN English Language Day** and **UN Spanish Language Day** is observed annually on **23 April**. For English, 23 April has been chosen to mark both the birthday and date of death of **William Shakespeare**. For the Spanish Language, the Day was chosen because the day is also observed as **Hispanic Day** in Spain, meaning the Spanish speaking world.
- The **World Veterinary Day** is observed on the **Fourth Saturday of April** every year. In 2021, the day falls on **April 24, 2021**. The theme of the 2021 World Veterinary Day is '**Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 crisis**.'
- The **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** observed globally on **24 April**. 'International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace' was first observed by the United Nations (UN) on **April 24, 2019**.
- The **World Day For Animals In Laboratories (WDAIL)**; also known as **World Lab Animal Day or World Day for Laboratory Animals**, is observed every year on **24 April**. The day was instituted in **1979** by the **National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS)**, as an "international day of commemoration" for animals in laboratories.
- The **World Malaria Day (WMD)** is observed globally on **25 April** each year to recognize the efforts of the people worldwide to control malaria. The theme of World Malaria Day 2021 is '**Reaching the zero malaria target**'.
- **International Delegate's Day** observed globally on **25 April** every year. This day is observed to raise awareness of the **role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to the United Nations**.
- **World Intellectual Property Day** is observed globally on **April 26** every year. Theme 2021: '**Intellectual property and small businesses: Taking big ideas to market**'.
- The **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day** is observed every year on **April 26** to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general.
- **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is observed globally on **28 April** every year. The theme for 2021 is "**Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises - Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems**".
- The **Workers' Memorial Day**, also known as International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers occurs every year on **28 April**. Theme 2021: '**Health and Safety is a fundamental workers' right**'.
- The **International Dance Day** is observed globally on **29 April** every year. The day celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals. The theme of International Dance Day 2021: '**Purpose of dance**'.



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- Every year, the **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** is celebrated on **April 30** in India. The Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated to achieve twin missions. They are to promote health and wellness to the poor and also to provide insurance benefits to them.
- The **International Jazz Day** is celebrated on **30 April** every year to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role in uniting people in all corners of the globe. The 2021 celebration marks the 10th Anniversary of **International Jazz Day**. The day was created on the idea of jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador **Herbie Hancock**.

### Defence Current Affairs

- The **11th edition** of **Indo-US** joint special forces exercises **Vajra Prahar 2021** was conducted at Special Forces training school located at **Bakloh, in Himachal Pradesh**. The exercise 'Vajra Prahar' is aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics. The exercise was aimed at improving interoperability between the special forces of the two countries.
- A multinational Military Exercise named '**SHANTIR OGROSHENA' 2021** (Front Runner of the Peace) is scheduled to be held in **Bangladesh** from April 04 to 12, 2021. The theme of the exercise is "**Robust Peace Keeping Operations**". The exercise is being held to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangladesh '**Father of the Nation' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** and mark glorious 50 years of liberation of the country.
- The fourth batch of **three Rafale fighter** jets landed in India after flying non-stop from **Istres Air Base France**, in a further boost to the strike capability of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**. The Rafale fighter jets were provided mid-air refuelling by air force tankers of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has congratulated **DRDO and DMSRDE Kanpur** for developing a **LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket**. India needs more such innovative product design and development to realize the dream of **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed an **Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard naval ships** against missile attack. The development of Advanced Chaff Technology by the DRDO lab is another step towards **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **India** formally handed over **Rs 100 crore** patrol vessel "**PS Zoroaster**" to **Seychelles** during the virtual summit between Indian PM Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan. The PS Zoroaster is the fourth made-in-India patrol boat developed for Seychelles since 2005. The other vessels gifted by India include **PS Topaz (2005), PS Constant (2014), Patrol Boat Hermes (2016)**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO** will set up a Covid-19 hospital with **500 beds equipped with ICU facilities in Delhi Cantonment**.
- The eight **Indo-Kyrgyz** Joint Special Forces Exercise "**Khanjar**" was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of Kyrgyz Republic in **Bishkek**, the capital of the host nation. Initiated first in 2011, the two-weeks long special operations exercise focusses on high-altitude warfare, mountain warfare and counter-extremism exercises.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation** has developed a **SpO2-based** supplemental oxygen delivery system for **soldiers** serving in extremely high altitude areas & **COVID-19 patients**. This automatic system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO2 (blood oxygen saturation) levels & prevents the person from sinking into a state of **hypoxia, which is fatal in most cases**.
- The **19th edition** of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise '**VARUNA-2021**' conducted in the **Arabian Sea** from 25 to 27 April 2021. During the three day exercise, the units of both the navies will undertake high tempo-naval operations at sea, which will include advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises, intense fixed and rotary wing flying operations, tactical manoeuvres, surface and anti-air weapon firings, underway replenishment and other maritime security operations.
- The **Indian Navy** has joined the rescue operation for an Indonesian submarine and its 53-person crew that went missing more than 4 days ago. Indonesia had sought assistance from India after its **44-year-old submarine, KRI Nanggala-402**, went missing while conducting a torpedo drill north of the island of Bali. The Navy's Deep-Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSVR) left from Visakhapatnam.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters and has supplied 60 of these blades to **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** as part of their indigenous helicopter development programme for engine application. The DRDO will develop a total of **five sets (300 blades) of single-crystal blades**.

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, successfully test-fired the **5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM)** from Tejas aircraft, at Goa. This adds the Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in the air-to-air weapons package of India's indigenously developed **Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas**.
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has launched joint military exercises "**DEFENDER-Europe 21**" in **Albania** with thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since **World War II in the Western Balkans**.

### Science and Technology

- **Facebook and Google** are planning to build new subsea cables from the **US to Singapore and Indonesia**. Facebook has partnered with leading regional and global partners to build two new subsea cables **Echo and Bifrost** that will provide vital new connections between the Asia-Pacific region and North America. While **Google** is only investing in **Echo**. These cables will increase overall transpacific capacity by **70 per cent**.
- Online investment platform **Paytm Money** has set up a new **R&D facility in Pune, Maharashtra**, which will drive product innovation, especially in the area of equity, mutual funds, and digital gold. The company added that it plans to hire over 250 engineers and data scientists to build new wealth products and services.
- The **Chinese government** has launched a robot prototype named as '**NEO-01**', in the Earth's low orbit, on its **Long March 6 rocket**. The **30kg robot prototype** has been developed by Shenzhen-based space mining start-up '**Origin Space**'.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** is set to launch **four astronauts** to the **International Space Station on World Earth Day (April 22)**. NASA is to launch the mission along with **SpaceX**. It is the second crewed operational flight of **Crew Dragon Spacecraft**.
- The United States space agency **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has picked **Elon Musk's SpaceX** for its Artemis programme, to develop the first commercial lander and take the next two US astronauts to the moon. The total value of this contract is **\$2.89 billion**.

- **NASA** successfully flew its tiny helicopter **Ingenuity on Mars**, the first powered flight on another planet and a feat a top engineer called "**our Wright brothers' moment**." Data and images from the autonomous flight were transmitted 173 million miles (278 million kilometres) back to Earth where they were received by NASA's array of ground antennas and processed more than three hours later.
- According to **NASA** a toaster-size experimental instrument aboard **Perseverance** called the **Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE)** accomplished the task. Mars' atmosphere is **96 per cent** carbon dioxide. MOXIE works by separating oxygen atoms from carbon dioxide molecules, which are made up of one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms. MOXIE is expected to extract oxygen at least nine more times over the course of a Martian year (nearly two years on Earth).
- The Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** launched the world's first **Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD)** called "**NanoSniffer**". The ETD has been developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an **IIT Bombay** incubated startup. It is being marketed by Vehant Technologies, a spin-off from a former **IIT Delhi** incubated startup Kritikal Solutions.
- A professor and a research associate at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, (IIT-K)** have developed a novel touch-sensitive watch for the use of visually impaired people to sense time accurately. The watch was developed by prof **Siddhartha Panda** and **Vishwaraj Srivastava** of IIT Kanpur.
- The Union Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** virtually inaugurated the first **3D printed house** in India at the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)**. The concept of this 3D printed house was conceived by former IIT-M alumni. The single-storey home has been built in just five days over an area of about **600 sq. ft** using '**Concrete 3D Printing**' technology.

### Books & Authors

- A book titled "**Names of the Women**" authored by **Jeet Thayil**. The book talks about the women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or erased in the Gospels. Jeet Thayil is a renowned author, best known for his book '**Narcopolis**' which was shortlisted for the **Man Booker Prize 2012** and won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. His most recent book '**Low**' was released in 2020.

- Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book '**Suparipalana**' by retired civil servant Dr **Shailendra Joshi**. The book 'Suparipalana' is the Telugu translation of "**Echo T Calling: Towards People-Centric Governance**", written by former Telangana Chief Secretary, Shri S K Joshi. The translator of the book is Shri Annavarapu Brahmaiah and the publisher is Shri Maruthi.
- A new book titled '**Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life**' authored by **Nitin Gokhale** was released. The book is published by **Bloomsbury**. It is an attempt to capture Parrikar's persona — the man, the politician and the patriot.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will release the Hindi translation of the book '**Odisha Itihaas**', written by **Utkal Keshari Harekrushna Mahtab**, on 9th April at the **Ambedkar International Center**. The event marking the release of the Hindi version has been organised by the Harekrushna Mahtab Foundation.
- The updated version of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** book named '**Exam Warriors**' was launched. The book gives out various suggestions to both students and parents to deal with the examination pressure and stress.
- **PM Narendra Modi** has paid tribute to India's first law minister and the architect of the Indian Constitution **Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar** on his birth anniversary and released four books based on his life. The four books to be released by the prime minister are **Dr Ambedkar Jivan Darshan, Dr Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan, Dr Ambedkar Rashtra Darshan, and Dr Ambedkar Aayam Darshan**.
- A book titled '**Believe - What Life and Cricket Taught Me**', the much-awaited **Suresh Raina** autobiography is set to hit the bookstands in May 2021. The book is Co-authored by Raina and sports author **Bharat Sundaresan**, the biography will be published by the prestigious publishing house, Penguin India.
- **JK Rowling** has a new book coming this autumn, a festive children's story with all new characters. The story is about a boy named **Jack** and his toy **Dur Pig**, who goes missing on Christmas Eve. The book is set to be released worldwide on Oct. 12. "**The Christmas Pig**" is Rowling's first children's novel since **Harry Potter**.
- The climate activist-author, **Aakash Ranison** has come out with a new e-book titled "**Climate Change Explained - for one and all**", on the occasion of Earth Day. Through the e-book, the author explains the impact of climate change and aims to motivate readers to reduce its outcome with the help of simple sustainable solutions.
- "**The Living Mountain**" is a new story by Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author **Amitav Ghosh**, written during the course of the pandemic. It is a fable for the current times: a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature, leading to an environmental collapse.
- Renowned American author **Jhumpa Lahiri** has launched her new novel titled "**Whereabouts**". The book is an English translation of the Italian novel '**Ias Dove Mi Trovo**' which was written by the author Jhumpa Lahiri itself and published in 2018.

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The giant container ship "**Ever Given**" that blocked traffic in the **Suez Canal** for the last week resumed its journey, after being successfully refloated. The efforts to float the delinquent **Panamanian container ship Ever Given** are successful.
- Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has inaugurated "**Anandam: The Center for Happiness**" at the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu** virtually. The centre will help people overcome mental stress and help spread positivity and it will encourage and propagate holistic development for all the stakeholders at IIM Jammu. Lieutenant Governor, Jammu, and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha; Founder, Art of Living Foundation, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar virtually graced the occasion.
- The central government has extended the deadline for linking the **Aadhaar number** with the **permanent account number (PAN)** to June 30, 2021, in view of the difficulties arising out of the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The earlier deadline was **March 31**. The government had said those who miss the deadline will be liable to pay a penalty of up to **Rs 1,000** and their PAN will become invalid.
- Indian Railways' **West Central Railway** zone gets **fully electrified!**, after CCRS Inspection and Commissioning of electrification of **Kota - Chittaurgarh railway section (Srinagar - Jalindri)** in the state of Rajasthan. West Central Railways has become the first fully electrified railway zone in the country. The zonal railway now boasts a **3012 Route Km electrified network**.

- In the Kashmir Valley, **Tulip Festival in Srinagar** was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha**. Over 15 lakh flowers of more than 64 varieties are in full bloom on the foothills of the **Zabarwan Mountains**. The five-day-long Tulip Festival in Asia's largest tulip garden at the foothills of Zabarwan hills on the banks of world-famous **Dal Lake in Srinagar**.
- The **Great Khali** has been inducted into the **WWE Hall of Fame Class of 2021**. The Great Khali went on to battle many of WWE's most legendary Superstars, including **John Cena, Batista, Shawn Michaels and fellow 2021 Inductee Kane**, whom he defeated to pick up his first win on The Grandest Stage of Them All, **WrestleMania**.
- **India** has contributed an additional **\$500,000** to the **United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism**, taking the country's donation to the UN office set up to combat terrorism to over **\$1 million**. With this amount, India's total contribution to it so far is **\$1.05 million**.
- Union Health Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has approved **National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021**. The policy aims to lower the high cost of treatment for rare diseases, with an increased focus on indigenous research & local production of medicines. The Policy also focuses on early screening and prevention through primary and secondary health care infrastructure such as **Health and Wellness Centres and District Early Intervention Centres**.
- **Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED)** has launched **Sankalp Se Siddhi - Village & Digital Connect Drive**. It is a 100-day drive which was started on the 1st of April. The drive entails 150 teams visiting 10 villages each of which 10 in each region from TRIFED & State Implementation Agencies, visiting 10 villages each.
- Indian Army's Lieutenant Colonel, **Bharat Pannu** has earned **two Guinness World Records** for his fastest solo cycling feats from October 2020. The first record was created when Lt Col Pannu cycled from **Leh to Manali (472 km distance)** on October 10, 2020, in just 35 hours and 25 minutes. Lt Col Pannu created a second record when he cycled the 5,942-km-long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes.
- **'Lost golden city of Luxor'** discovered by archaeologists in **Egypt**. The 3,400-year-old royal city was built by **Amenhotep III**, abandoned by his heretic son, Akhenaten, and contains stunningly preserved remains.
- Union Minister for Communication & IT and Law & Justice **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the **"Online Grievance Management Portal of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)"**.
- India's **mRNA-based covid-19 vaccine candidate-HGCO19**, developed by Pune-based biotechnology company Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd has received additional government funding for its clinical studies.
- The Central drug regulator, **DCGA** has approved emergency use authorisation of the **Russian Vaccine, Sputnik V**. It has now become the third vaccine to get emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator after **Covishield and Covaxin**. The Vaccine was developed by Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology last year in Russia.
- **Skymet** has released its monsoon forecast for **2021**. Skymet expects the upcoming monsoon to be 'healthy normal' to the tune of **103%** (with an error margin of +/- 5%) of the long period average (LPA) of **880.6 mm** for the 4-month period from June to September.
- Following a surge in the number of **Covid-19 cases**, the **Indian Railways** will run '**Oxygen Express**' trains transporting **liquid medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders** across the country via green corridors to meet growing demand from states. Green corridors are being created to ensure fast movement of these trains.
- **Priyanka Mohite** from Satara in western **Maharashtra** has scaled **Mt Annapurna**, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, becoming the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat. **Mount Annapurna** is a massif in the Himalayas located in Nepal that includes one peak over **8,000 metres** and is considered to be one of the toughest mountains to climb.
- **Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI)** has been established by the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** at **Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand**. The institute was inaugurated on Friday by Chief Minister **Tirath Singh Rawat** and Sports Minister **Kiren Rijju**. ITBP's Mountaineering and Skiing Institute at Auli will independently run this institution, which will impart training in aero, water and land-related sports and adventure activities.

- The **40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA)** hosted by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** successfully returned to **Cape Town** after completing a journey of about **12,000 nautical miles in 94 days**, including stopovers. This achievement concludes four successful decades of India's scientific endeavour in the continent of peace and cooperation. The team reached its destination **Bharati station** on **February 27** and **Maitri station** on **March 8 in Antarctica**. Bharati and Maitri are India's permanent research base stations in **Antarctica**.
- **UNICEF** Goodwill Ambassador, **David Beckham**, is fronting a global initiative to inspire confidence in vaccines and encourage parents around the world to vaccinate their children against deadly diseases.

### Obituaries

- Former **Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor, KC Chakrabarty** passed away. He was the deputy governor of the central bank between **15 June 2009 and 25 April 2014** when he demitted office three months before his term was to end. Prior to the stint, he had served as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of Punjab National Bank (2007-2009), and CMD of Indian Bank (2005-2007).
- Noted journalist and author **Anil Dharker** passed away. He was the founder and director of the **Mumbai International Literary Festival**. He was in his mid-70s, was the editor of several publications including Mid-Day and The Independent and played a vital role in opening the Akashwani Auditorium in south Mumbai as an art movie theatre.
- Lieutenant General, **Walter Anthony Gustavo 'WAG' Pinto (Retd)**, a military hero who led an infantry division to a legendary victory in the **1971 India-Pakistan War** has passed away at the age of 97. He led the 54 Infantry Division in the **Battle of Basantar** in the war that gave birth to Bangladesh, leading his troops from the front with the motto he coined "**bash on regardless**".
- Beloved children's author of US, **Beverly Cleary** passed away. She was named a **Living Legend in 2000** by the Library of Congress. In 2003, she was chosen as one of the winners of the **National Medal of Arts**. The author whose memories of her Oregon childhood were shared with millions through the likes of Ramona and Beezus Quimby and Henry Huggins.

- Japanese Physicist **Isamu Akasaki**, a co-winner of the **2014 Nobel Prize in Physics**, has passed away. Akasaki, a professor at the university, had been recognized for the invention which has contributed to bright and energy-saving white light sources, widely known as **LED lamps**.
- Founder member of the **Samajwadi Party** and former UP minister **Bhagwati Singh** passed away. He was 89-year-old. The last rites of Singh will not be done as he had pledged to donate his body to the King George Medical University.
- Veteran film and TV actress **Shashikala Om Prakash Saigal** passed away. She was more popularly known by her first name, Shashikala has famously appeared as various supporting characters in over 100 films.
- Malayalam screenwriter, filmmaker, dramatist and actor, **P. Balachandran** has passed away. He is best known for the play **Paavam Usman** for which he won the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and Kerala Professional Nataka Award** in the year 1989.
- Former Union Environment Minister and an MLA from Wankaner in Gujarat, **Digvijaysinh Zala** has passed away. The veteran Congress leader became the first Environment Minister of India under the then Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi from 1982 to 1984**.
- The president of Gita Press, **Radheshyam Khemka**, passed away. He is credited for taking the **Sanatan literature** to the masses. Khemka for 38 years was the editor of the prominent 'Kalyan' magazine printed at the press. He last edited the magazine's April 2021 issue. Gita Press is the world's largest publisher of **Hindu religious texts**.



- **Fatima Rafiq Zakaria**, a Padma Shri awardee, renowned journalist, academician and chairman of **Maulana Azad Educational Trust** and **Khairul Islam Trust Mumbai**, passed away. She was awarded the **Padma Shri** in recognition of her work in education in **2006**.
- India's first female cricket commentator **Chandra Naidu** passed away. She was the daughter of the country's first Test captain **CK Naidu**. She had done her first commentary during a match between national champions Bombay (now Mumbai) and MCC in Indore in 1977. She had also penned a book titled '**CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers**' on her late father, who was a distinguished cricketer.
- **Prince Philip**, the husband of **Queen Elizabeth II**, has passed away. The 99-year-old royal passed away just months before his 100th birthday in June. He had retired from public duties in **2017** at the age of 96. He was the longest-serving royal consort in British history who was a constant presence at Queen Elizabeth II's side for decades.
- Veteran actor **Satish Kaul**, who had 300 Punjabi and Hindi films to his credit and played the role of **Lord Indra in the TV show Mahabharat**, passed away. The actor began his career in the early '70s, juggling between Hindi and Punjabi films. While his popular Bollywood films include **Ram Lakhan, Pyaar Toh Hona Hi Tha and Aunty No 1 etc.**
- Legendary shooting coach **Sanjay Chakravarty** passed away due to Covid-19. The Dronacharya awardee had trained some of the finest Indian shooters including Abhinav Bindra, Gagan Narang, Anjali Bhagwat and Suma Shirur, Deepali Deshpande, Anuja Jung and Ayonika Paul.
- Eminent Historian and an expert on Awadh especially Lucknow **Yogesh Praveen**. Through his books and articles, he enabled the public to know about the **rich heritage and culture of Avadh**. He was awarded **Padma Shri in 2019**.
- **Balbir Singh Junior**, who was a member of the silver medal-winning **1958 Asian Games Indian hockey team** passed away.
- Former election commissioner, **GVG Krishnamurty** passed away due to age-related ailments. An Indian Legal Service officer, Krishnamurty became the election commissioner in **October 1993 to September 1996**.
- **Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Ranjit Sinha** has passed away. He was a 1974-batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, who served as CBI Director from 3 December 2012 to 2 December 2014.
- Renowned radiologist, **Dr Kakarla Subba Rao**, who served as the first director of **Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS)**, Hyderabad, has passed away.
- Former India International Football defender, **Ahmed Hussain Lala** has passed away due to COVID-19. He represented India in the **1956 Melbourne Olympics**, where India finished fourth. Besides, he was also part of the Indian team that won the gold medal in the **1951 Asian Games**.
- American computer scientist **Charles Geschke**, best known as the co-founder of graphics and publishing software company **Adobe Inc**, has passed away. Geschke co-founded Adobe company in **1982** with fellow mate **John Warnock**. Geschke, who was widely known as Chuck, also helped in developing the popular **Portable Document Format (PDF)**.
- Renowned Tamil actor and comedian **Vivek** has passed away. He was launched by legendary filmmaker **K Balachander in the late 1980s**. He went on to become one of the most sought after comedy actors of Tamil cinema in the 1990s and retained a stronghold in the industry.
- Veteran Kannada writer **Ganjam Venkatasubbiah**, who also was a grammarian, editor, lexicographer and literary critic, has passed away. He was 107. He was commonly known as a walking encyclopedia of Kannada language and culture, in his literary circles.
- Acclaimed Marathi filmmaker, **Sumitra Bhave** has passed away. Sumitra Bhave was popular as a duo with filmmaker Sunil Sukthankar in Marathi cinema and Marathi theatre. She was known for her out-of-the-box content and also for the way she handled social issues in her films.
- The senior BJP leader and former Union Minister **Bachi Singh Rawat** has passed away. He was a four-time MP from the **Almora-Pithoragarh constituency** in Uttarakhand. He had served as the **Union Minister of State for Science and Technology** in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

- Former American politician, diplomat, and lawyer **Walter Mondale**, who served as the **42nd Vice President of the United States**, has passed away. He served as Vice President from 1977 to 1981 under President **Jimmy Carter**. He also served as U.S. ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996 under Bill Clinton.
- The former **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Maidavolu Narasimham**, has passed away. He was famously known as the **“Father of Indian Banking Reforms”**. He was the **13th** Governor of RBI and served from **May 2, 1977, to November 30, 1977**. He was known for being the chair of two high-powered committees on banking and financial sector reforms.
- Noted Bengali poet, **Shankha Ghosh** has passed away following COVID-19 complications. He was known by his pen name **Kuntak**. He was honoured with numerous awards for his contribution to Bengali literature, some of which includes: **Padma Bhushan in 2011**, the **Jnanpith Award in 2016**, and the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977** for his book **‘Babarer Prarthana’**, as well as **Saraswati Samman and Rabindra Puraskar** among other awards.
- The President of the Republic of **Chad, Idriss Deby Itno**, has passed away, following a confrontation with rebels after which he suffered wounds on the battlefield. He had ruled the central African nation for more than three decades and was even declared winner of the 2021 presidential election, paving the way for him to stay in power for six more years. Deby first won elections in **1996 and 2001**. After this, he continued to win in **2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021**.
- Veteran actor **Kishore Nandlaskar**, who was a popular face in both Marathi and Hindi films, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications. The actor made his debut with Marathi film in 1982 titled **‘Navare Sagle Gadhav’** and went to act in movies like **‘Bhavishyachi Aishi Taishi: The Prediction’**, **‘Gaon Thor Pudhari Chor’** and **‘Jara Japun Kara’**.
- Qawwali singer **Farid Sabri**, of the famous Sabri Brothers duo, has passed away. Sabri Brothers (Farid Sabri and Amin Sabri) were known for their evergreen numbers like **‘Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin Der Na Ho Jaye’** and **‘Ek Mulakat Zaruri Hai Sanam’**. The brothers and their father Saeed Sabri performed qawwali at several events held in Indian and abroad.
- Noted Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader and author **Maulana Wahiduddin Khan** has passed away due to **Covid-19 complications**. He has written over 200 books on several aspects of Islam and is best known for having written a commentary on the Quran and its translation in English, Hindi and Urdu. He was the recipient of several notable honours like **Padma Vibhushan (2021)**, **Padma Bhushan (2000)** and the **Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award (2009)**.
- Popular Gujarati and Hindi film actor **Amit Mistry**, who was last seen in the Amazon Prime Video series **“Bandish Bandits”**, has passed away.
- Veteran music composer **Shravan Rathod** of Nadeem-Shravan fame has passed away due to coronavirus complications. The iconic composer duo Nadeem-Shravan (Nadeem Saifi and Shravan Rathod), were among the most sought-after composers of the 90s.
- Supreme Court judge Justice **Mohan M Shantanagoudar** passed away. Justice Shantanagoudar was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on February 17, 2017. He would have remained in office till May 5, 2023.
- Renowned Hindustani classical singer, from ‘Banaras Gharana’ of India, **Pandit Rajan Mishra**, has passed away. He was a vocalist in the **khyal style of Indian classical singing**.
- Indian nuclear scientist **Krishnamurthy Santhanam**, who played a noteworthy role in the 1998 nuclear tests at **Pokhran**, has passed away. He was deeply associated with **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)**, **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)**.
- **Jagdish Khattar**, the former **Managing Director of Maruti Suzuki**, has passed away. He had served at Maruti Suzuki India Limited from **1993 to 2007**. He is credited for establishing Maruti as India’s largest car company.
- Veteran Gujarati poet and folk singer **Dadudan Pratapdan Gadhvi** has passed away. He was 80 years old. He was also known as **Kavi Dad**.
- Eminent Indian educationist, popular columnist and prolific author, who wrote in Odia and English, **Manoj Das** has passed away.
- The American astronaut, **Michael Collins**, who was the command module pilot for the **Apollo 11 mission** to the moon, has passed away, after losing his battle to cancer.



### Static Takeaways

- Prime minister of New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern.
- Capital of New Zealand: Wellington.
- The currency of New Zealand: New Zealand dollar.
- South Korea Capital: Seoul
- South Korea President: Moon Jae-in
- South Korea Currency: South Korean won
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- Union Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Union Bank Founded: 11 November 1919.
- Union Bank Tagline: Good People to Bank with.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Axis Bank Commenced operations: 1994.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Axis Bank Tagline: Dil Se Open.
- S&P Global Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- UNESCAP Founded: 28 March 1947.
- UNESCAP Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand.
- SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SAIL founded: 19 January 1954.
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation Founded: 24 February 1952.
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, Delhi.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Founder: Government of India.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Founded: 14 August 1956.
- Global Wind Energy Council Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium;
- Global Wind Energy Council Founded: 2005.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971.
- World Autism Organisation: 1998.
- International Board on Books for Young People Founded: 1953, Zürich, Switzerland.
- International Board on Books for Young People Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland.

- UIDAI Founded: 28 January 2009;
- UIDAI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- Britannia Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Britannia Founded: 1892.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Kosovo Capital: Pristina.
- Kosovo Currency: Euro.
- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi.
- Vietnam Currency: Vietnamese dong.
- Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995.
- Reliance Industries Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen;
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority Established: 2010.
- Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority HQ: New Delhi.
- Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.
- Supreme Court of India Established: 26 January 1950.
- SIDBI set up on 2nd April 1990;
- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.

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- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Jin Liqun.
- Headquarters of AIIB: Beijing, China.
- AIIB established: 16 January 2016.
- Uzbekistan Capital: Tashkent.
- Uzbekistan President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
- Uzbekistan Currency: Uzbekistani so'm.
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- WHO founded: 7 April 1948.
- UNESCO formation: 4 November 1946.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.
- Central Reserve Police Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Central Reserve Police Force Formed: 27 July 1939.
- Central Reserve Police Force Motto: Service and Loyalty.
- Seychelles Capital: Victoria.
- Seychelles Currency: Seychellois rupee.
- Seychelles Continent: Africa.
- SBI Funds Management Founded: 7 February 1992.
- Niger Capital: Niamey.
- Niger Currency: West African CFA franc
- Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar.
- Capital of Singapore: Singapore.
- PM of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.
- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- Airtel Payments Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Airtel Payments Bank Founded: January 2017.
- Max Life Insurance Founded: 2001;
- Max Life Insurance Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.
- Amazon.com Inc Founded: 5 July 1994.
- Amazon.com Inc Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States.
- Election Commission Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NCAER Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NCAER Founded: 1956.
- NADA Headquarters location: New Delhi;
- NADA Founded: 24 November 2005.
- Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince; Currency: Haitian gourde.
- AICTE Headquarters: New Delhi;
- AICTE Established: 1945.
- Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro.
- Minister of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar.
- White Ribbon Alliance India was launched in 1999.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- WHO founded: 7 April 1948.
- World Federation of Hemophilia Founded: 1963.
- World Federation of Hemophilia Headquarters location: Montreal, Canada.
- RBL Bank Founded: August 1943;
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- SpaceX Founded: 2002.
- SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Nuance Headquarters: Massachusetts, United States;
- Nuance Founded: 1992, United States.
- Kyrgyzstan Capital: Bishkek.
- Kyrgyzstan President: Sadyr Japarov.
- Kyrgyzstan Currency: Kyrgyzstani som.
- Italy Capital: Rome;
- Italy Currency: Euro;
- Italy President: Sergio Mattarella.
- UN Economic and Social Council President: Munir Akram;
- UN Economic and Social Council Headquarters: New York, USA.
- Prime minister of New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern.

- Capital of New Zealand: Wellington.
- The currency of New Zealand: New Zealand dollar.
- Cuba Capital: Havana;
- Cuba Continent: North America;
- Cuba Currency: Cuban peso.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- Germany Capital: Berlin, Currency: Euro, Chancellor: Angela Merkel.
- Australia Capital: Canberra.
- Australia Currency: Australian dollar.
- Australia PM: Scott Morrison.
- Sambandh Finserve Private Limited founded: 1992;
- Sambandh Finserve Private Limited Headquarters: Odisha.
- DCB Bank Headquarters: Maharashtra.
- DCB Bank Founded: 1930.
- NASSCOM Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NASSCOM Founded: 1 March 1988.
- International Air Transport Association Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.
- International Air Transport Association Founded: 19 April 1945.
- Henley & Partners Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom.
- Henley & Partners Founded: 1997.
- The World Chess Federation, known as FIDE headquarters: Lausanne (Switzerland).
- Headquarters of International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS): Paris, France;
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Founded: 1965;
- UNEP Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- UNEP Founder: Maurice Strong.
- UNEP Founded: 5 June 1972, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Indian Railways Founded: 16 April 1853, India;
- Indian Railways Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ITBP Founded: 24 October 1962.
- ITBP Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Minister of Earth Sciences: Dr Harsh Vardhan.
- Headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Indonesia President: Joko Widodo;
- Indonesia Capital: Jakarta;
- Indonesia Currency: Indonesian rupiah.
- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- President of International Labour Organization: Guy Ryder.
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919.
- Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited MD and CEO: Suveer Kumar Gupta.
- NCDEX Founded: 15 December 2003.
- NCDEX Headquarters: Mumbai.
- NCDEX Owner: Government of India (100%).
- UP Capital: Lucknow;
- UP Governor: Anandiben Patel;
- UP Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath.
- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited Founded: May 1964.
- International Theatre Institute Founded: 1948.
- Headquarters of International Theatre Institute: Paris, France.
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa; Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- ADB Established: 9 December 1966.
- Governors & Administrators of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.



● States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:

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

Union Ministers in News in month of April 2021

Sr No	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Union Education Minister	Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
2	Health Minister	Dr Harsh Vardhan
3	Union Minister of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda
4	Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	Narendra Singh Tomar
5	Union Minister for Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal
6	Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture ( I/C)	Prahlad Singh Patel
7	Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs	Kiren Rijiju
8	Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman
9	Defence Minister	Rajnath Singh
10	Union Minister for Communication & IT and Law & Justice	Ravi Shankar Prasad

Sr No	Ministry	Union Minister
11	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of AYUSH	Shripad Yesso Naik
12	Minister of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions	Narendra Modi
13	Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions	Jitendra Singh
14	Minister of External Affairs	S Jaishankar
15	Union Minister of Railways	Piyush Goyal

**Heads of various organizations in News in month of April 2021**

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
2	Union Bank CEO	Rajkiran Rai G
3	RBI 25th Governor	Shaktikant Das
4	SBI Chairperson	Dinesh Kumar Khara
5	Axis Bank MD and CEO	Amitabh Chaudhry
6	President of S&P Global Ratings	John Berisford
7	World Bank President	David Malpass
8	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation CEO	Shashi Shanker
9	Global Wind Energy Council CEO	Ben Backwell
10	World Economic Forum Founder	Klaus Schwab
11	International Board on Books for Young People Founder	Jella Lepman
12	UIDAI CEO	Saurabh Garg
13	Google CEO	Sundar Pichai
14	Google Founders	Larry Page Sergey Brin
15	Chief Executive Officer of Facebook	Mark Zuckerberg
16	Paytm Founder & CEO	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
17	Paytm Money CEO	Varun Sridhar
18	Britannia CEO	Varun Berry
19	Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
20	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
21	CEO of Phonepe	Sameer Nigam
22	Bharti Airtel CEO	Gopal Vittal
23	Bharti Airtel Founder	Sunil Bharti Mittal
25	Reliance Industries Ltd Founder	Dhirubhai Hirachand Ambani
26	Reliance Industries Ltd Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani
27	Secretary of BCCI	Jay Shah
28	President of BCCI	Sourav Ganguly
29	National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
30	President of FIFA	Gianni Infantino
31	President of the World Health Organisation	Tedros Adhanom
32	UNESCO Director-General	Audrey Azoulay

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
33	CRPF director general	Kuldiep Singh
34	Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India is	Prof K Vijay Raghavan
35	ISRO Chairman	K Sivan
36	MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance	Parag Raja
37	MD & CEO Fincare Small Finance Bank	Rajeev Yadav
38	Airtel Payments Bank's MD and CEO	Nubrata Biswas
39	Max Life Insurance CEO	Prashant Tripathy
40	Punjab National Bank MD and CEO	S S Mallikarjuna Rao
41	Amazon com Inc founder and CEO	Jeff Bezos
42	First executive of Election Commission	Sukumar Sen
43	AICTE Chairman	Professor Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe
44	Air Chief Marshal	Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
45	Director general of WHO	Tedros Adhanom
46	World Federation of Hemophilia Founder	Frank Schnabel
47	RBL Bank MD & CEO	Vishwavir Ahuja
48	Mastercard President	Michael Miebach
49	Acting Administrator of NASA	Steve Jurczyk
50	SpaceX founder & CEO	Elon Musk
51	Microsoft CEO	Satya Nadella
52	Nuance CEO	Mark D Benjamin
53	LIC Chairperson	M R Kumar
54	Managing Director and CEO of Sambandh	Deepak Kindo
55	International Air Transport Association Leader	William M Walsh
56	Henley & Partners Chairman	Christian Kalin
57	Henley & Partners CEO	Juerg Steffen
58	President of International Council on Monuments and Sites	Toshiyuki Kono
59	UNEP Head	Inger Andersen
60	ITBP DG	S S Deswal
61	CEO of World Intellectual Property Organization	Daren Tang
62	UNICEF Executive Director	Henrietta H Fore
63	President of International Labour Organization	Guy Ryder
64	Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited MD and CEO	Suveer Kumar Gupta