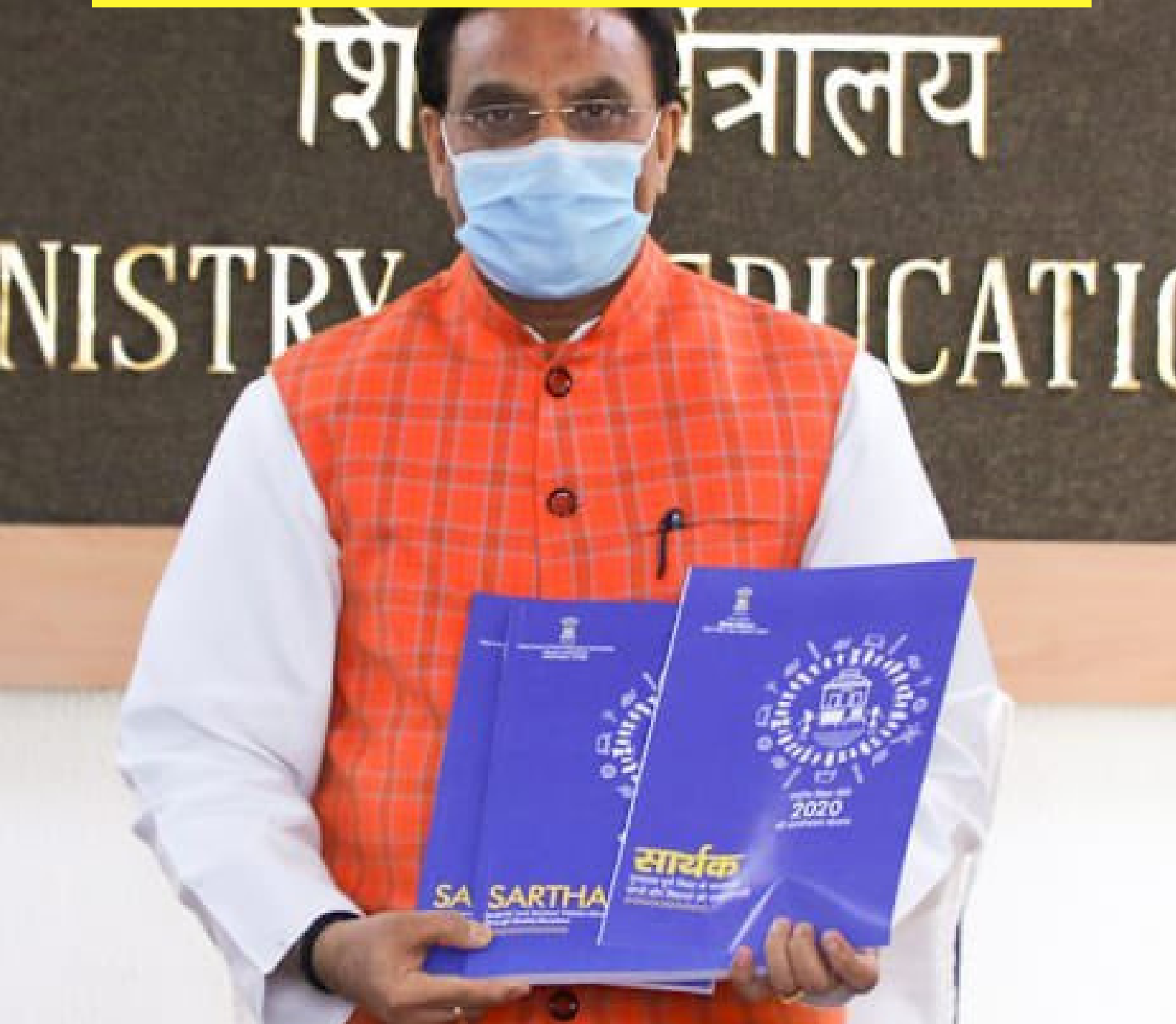


EVERY INFORMATION YOU NEED RELATED TO YOUR EXAMS

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

100 PRACTICE QUESTIONS INCLUDED



## APRIL 2021

GLOBAL IAS ACADEMY



**IAS 2021**

# GS MAINS ADVANCE

GS Paper 1, 2, 3, 4 + Essay + Mains Test Series

**A Solution for 1250 Marks**

**Online Live Interactive Classes**

**BATCH-2**

**STARTS**

**Starts Soon**

📍 22/1, 1st Floor, 3rd cross,  
Near Attiguppe Metro Station,  
Chandra layout Main Rd,  
Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560040.

☎ +91 99640 93666

✉ info@globalias.in

🌐 /globaliasacademy



[www.globalias.in](http://www.globalias.in)

5 Months Course to cover Key concepts of GS Mains paper 1, 2, 3 & 4

Complete coverage of contemporary issues of last two years

Detailed Answer Writing session on each subject

Mains Test Series including 25 Tests (10 Sectional + 3 Contemporary Issues + 8 Full Mock + 4 Essay Mock )

Essay Classes + Essay Practice Workbook

Study Material of Contemporary Issues



**IAS PRELIMS 2021**

**COMPLETE REVISION OF  
CURRENT AFFAIRS  
*through*  
500 MCQs**

**IAS  
2021**

**QUESTIONS  
*with* ANSWER HINTS**

# PREFACE

*This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for UPSC Civil Services Examination & Other Central & State Government Job Examinations, released for the month of April 2021.*

*The Magazine is divided into three sections:*

*Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short .....Page 03 to Page 107*

*The first section is dedicated for Topic Wise 1 Liner Current Affairs to provide information about all major happenings in this month.*

Important Days	Page 04
Agreements	Page 17
Appointment News	Page 21
Award News	Page 29
Banking News	Page 36
Books and Author	Page 45
Defence News	Page 48
Economy	Page 52
International News	Page 58
Miscellaneous News	Page 63
National News	Page 69
Obituaries	Page 76
Ranks & Reports	Page 86
Schemes and Committee	Page 90
Science & Technology	Page 92
Sports News	Page 96
State News	Page 100

..



**Section 2: Detailed Analysis of important events .....Page 108 to Page 129**

The Second Section is dedicated to Civil Services Aspirants and covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The Content part has been created as per the present shift in the examination pattern of the Civil Services Examination. The magazine will cover your syllabus of 'General Studies - II & General Studies - III'. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with the Daily Study of News Papers as well as your other sources.

Economics	Page 110
Enviro & Diversity	Page 115
Governance	Page 117
History	Page 118
Polity	Page 120
Science Tech Art & Culture	Page 123
Security Issues	Page 129

**Section 3: Practice Questions with Answers.....Page 131 to Page 172**

The Third Section contains 100 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Prctatice Questions	Page 131
Answers	Page 146

# SECTION 1

## Topic Wise Current Affairs in short

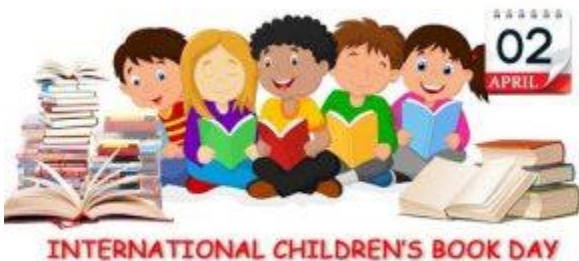
## Topic 1 - Important Days

### World Autism Awareness Day: 02 April



- Every year on April 2nd, the World Autism Awareness Day is observed around the world to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- The World Autism Awareness Day commemoration in 2021 will explore these issues through a virtual event that will include moderated panel discussions with people on the autism spectrum who have faced these struggles and seen these potential job opportunities.
- On April 2, 2008, the very first World Autism Day was observed. The United Nations General Assembly approved it on December 18, 2007. World Autism Day is one of only seven official United Nations health-related days.

### International Children’s Book Day: 02 April



- Since 1967, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an international non-profit organisation, has celebrated International Children's Book Day (ICBD) on April 2nd to encourage a love of reading and raise awareness of children's books.
- “The Music of Words” is the theme for 2021. Each year, a different IBBY National Section is given the opportunity to serve as the international sponsor of ICBD and choose a theme. International Children's Book Day 2021 is sponsored by the IBBY United States.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- International Board on Books for Young People Founder: JellaLepman.
- International Board on Books for Young People Founded: 1953, Zürich, Switzerland.
- International Board on Books for Young People Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland.

### International Day of Conscience: 5 April



- The International Day of Conscience is observed on April 5th by the United Nations. This day serves as a reminder to people to focus on their lives, obey their hearts, and do the right thing.

- Every year on April 5th, International Conscience Day is commemorated, with the first commemoration taking place in 2020. So, in the year 2021, the United Nations (UN) International Day of Conscience will be commemorated around the world for the second time.
- This day is observed to emphasise the value of conscience and its function in preventing people from harming others by oral, physical, sexual, or mental means.
- International Conscience Day is observed to emphasise that everyone has the right to self-respect and to live in peace and security. Scholars describe anti-humanity activities on this day, and they are denounced so that the general public despises and avoids them.

#### International Mine Awareness Day: 4 April



- Every year on April 4, the United Nations commemorates the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 4 April each year as International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on December 8, 2005. It was discovered for the first time on April 4, 2006.
- The United Nations will encourage mine action this year by emphasising how "perseverance,

partnership, and progress" have helped the sector get through a difficult year.

#### International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: 6 April



- Every year on April 6th, the United Nations commemorates the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. Sport has played an important role in all cultures throughout history, whether it is professional sport, physical exercise, or play. Sports and the United Nations (UN) arrangement are both natural partners.
- Fairness, teamwork, tolerance, inclusion, and perseverance can all be promoted through sport. Sport and physical activity, like COVID-19, will help us get through periods of crisis by reducing anxiety and improving physical and mental health.
- The professional sport also provides employment and income to many people around the world and an integral sector to the economic success of many communities and regions.

#### Nation celebrates 58th edition of National Maritime Day





- Every year on April 5, India celebrates National Maritime Day. The National Maritime Day is in its 58th year this year. Every year, National Maritime Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of promoting intercontinental trade and the global economy as the most well-organized, secure, and environmentally responsible method of transporting goods from one part of the world to another.
- On April 5, 1964, the first National Maritime Day was observed. The SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd, sailed from Mumbai to the United Kingdom on April 5, 1919, beginning the saga of India shipping (London). On this day an award called “**Varuna**” is conferred to those who made an outstanding contribution to the Indian maritime sector.

**World Health Day observed globally on 7 April**

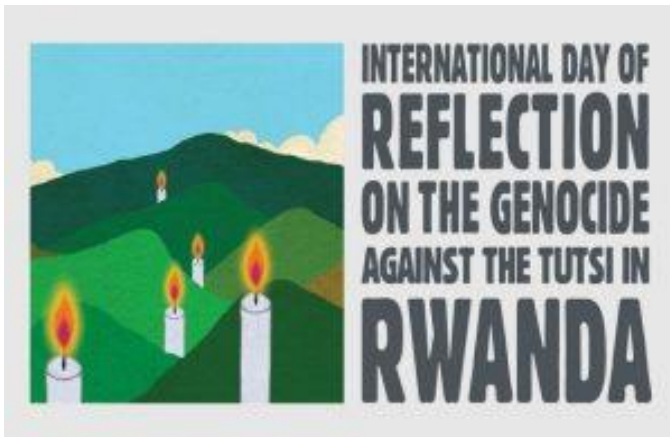


- The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated on 7 April every year. On April 7th every year, governmental as well as non-governmental health organizations organize events that focus on promoting healthier habits of living.
- From exciting activities to pledges and support plans, these events aim to create awareness about what can increase the life expectancy of people around the world. The Theme of World Health Day 2021: “Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone”.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- President of the World Health Organisation: Tedros Adhanom.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- WHO founded: 7 April 1948.

**International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide**

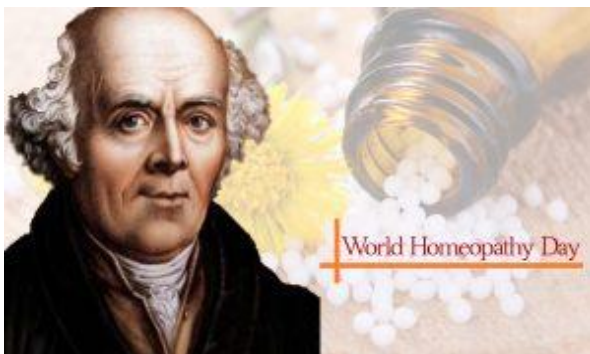


- Every year on April 7, the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda is commemorated around the world.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 2003.
- On April 7th, the genocide against Tutsi members officially began. About 800,000 Tutsis were assassinated over the course of 100 days.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UNESCO formation: 4 November 1946.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Director-General: Audrey Azoulay.

**World Homeopathy Day: 10 April**



- Every year on April 10th, World Homeopathy Day is observed to raise awareness about homeopathy and its contributions to medicine.
- The day commemorates the birth of German physician Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, who is credited with establishing the alternative medicine method known as Homeopathy. Hahnemann will celebrate his 266th birthday in 2021.
- On the occasion of #WorldHomoeopathyDay, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), Ministry of AYUSH, held a two-day scientific conference in New Delhi on April 10 and 11, 2021.
- The conference's theme is "Homoeopathy – A Roadmap for Integrative Medicine."
- The aim of this meeting is for policymakers and experts to share their experiences in order to identify strategic steps for the successful and efficient integration of homoeopathy into integrative medicine.

**National Safe Motherhood Day: 11 April**



- Every year on April 11th, National Safe Motherhood Day is observed. The White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI) has developed National Safe Motherhood Day to ensure that women have sufficient access to treatment during pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal services.

- The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi, the father of the country.
- The Government of India proclaimed April 11th, the anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi's birth, as National Safe Motherhood Day in 2003, at the behest of WRAI, an alliance of 1800 organisations. India is the first country in the world to declare a National Safe Motherhood Day on a social level.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- White Ribbon Alliance India was launched in 1999.

### World Parkinson's Day: April 11



- Every year on April 11th, World Parkinson's Day is commemorated to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease, a progressive nervous system disorder.
- Dr. James Parkinson of London, who was the first to systematically identify the six individuals with Parkinson Disease symptoms, was born on this day.

### International Day of Human Space Flight observed globally on 12 April



- Every year on April 12th, the International Day of Human Space Flight is commemorated around the world. On April 7, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating April 12 as International Day of Human Space Flight.
- The first human space flight was carried out on April 12, 1961, by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen who became the first person to travel into space.
- This landmark event paved the way for all of humanity to profit from space exploration. The first Space Shuttle Columbia, STS-1, was launched on April 12, 1981, and is also commemorated on this date.

### 102 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre



- The On April 13, 1919, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, occurred. This year marks the 102nd anniversary of the terror attack that brought the world to a halt.
- The garden at Jallianwalabagh has been turned into a memorial. Thousands of people come to pay their respects to the martyred men and women who died for the country on that fateful day.
- Acting Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer directed British Indian Army troops in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab, to fire their rifles into a crowd of unarmed Indian civilians. The British India army officer General Dyer thought the people gathered for such a cause were anti-national.
- He ordered his 50 soldiers, which included Sikhs, Gurkhas, Baluchis, and Rajputs, to fire on the unarmed men and women. The numbers are staggering: 379 men and women were killed and 1100 wounded due to no fault of their own.

**World Chagas Disease Day: 14 April**



- The 14th of April is designated as World Chagas Disease Day to raise public awareness and visibility about Chagas Disease (also known as American trypanosomiasis or silent or silent disease) and the resources required for its prevention, control, or elimination.
- At the 72nd World Health Assembly on May 24, 2019, the WHO approved the declaration of Chagas Disease Day. It is one of the World Health Organization's 11 official global public health campaigns.
- On April 14, 2020, the first World Chagas Disease Day was observed. Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas, a Brazilian doctor who diagnosed the first case on April 14, 1909, is honoured on this day.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director general of WHO: Tedros Adhanom.
- WHO founded: 7 April 1948.

**Ambedkar Jayanti: 14 April**





- Ambedkar Jayanti (also known as Bhim Jayanti) is an annual festival commemorating Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's birth on April 14, 1891.
- Since 2015, the day has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India. The 130th anniversary of Babasaheb's birth will be celebrated in 2021. The Indian Constitution's Father (chief architect) is Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.
- He was the country's first Law and Justice Minister since independence. Dr. Bhim was posthumously awarded the country's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1990.

**International Turban Day: April 13**



- Since 2004, the International Turban Day has been observed annually on April 13 to raise awareness of the strict requirement that Sikhs wear the turban as a mandatory part of their faith.

- Turban Day in 2021 coincides with Guru Nanak Dev's 552nd birthday and the Baisakhi festival. The turban, also known as "dastar," "pagri," or "pag," is a head-covering garment worn by both men and some women.

**World Voice Day: 16 April**



- Every year on April 16, World Voice Day (WVD) is observed around the world to highlight the immense significance of the voice in everyone's everyday lives.
- The Day is a worldwide annual celebration honouring the human voice's limitless potential. The aim is to spread the word about the voice phenomena to individuals, scientists, and other funding organisations.
- ONE WORLD | MANY VOICES is the theme for 2021.
- In 1999, World Voice Day was established as Brazilian National Voice Day.

**World Hemophilia Day: 17 April**



**ADAPTING TO CHANGE**

Sustaining care in a new world

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

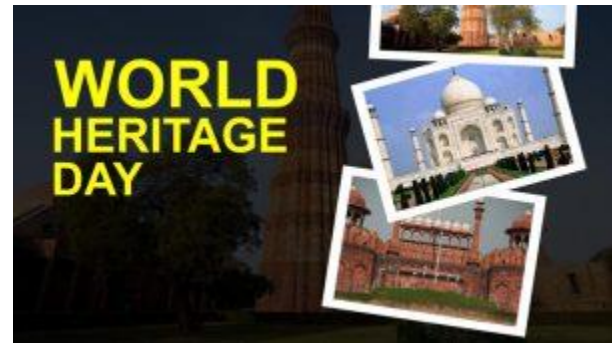


- Every year on April 17th, the world commemorates World Hemophilia Day. Hemophilia and other bleeding disorders are raised consciousness on this day. The date was chosen to commemorate the birthday of World Federation of Hemophilia founder Frank Schnabel. World Haemophilia Day is in its 30th year this year.
- “Adapting to Change: Sustaining Treatment in a Modern Environment” is the theme for World Hemophilia Day in 2021. The day has been observed since 1989, when Frank Schnabel, the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia, was born.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- World Federation of Hemophilia Founder: Frank Schnabel.
- World Federation of Hemophilia Founded: 1963.
- World Federation of Hemophilia Headquarters location: Montreal, Canada.

**World Heritage Day observed globally on 18 April**



- Every year on April 18th, the world celebrates World Heritage Day. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of the cultural heritage that we see all around us.
- The theme for this year's conference, "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures," represents the need to respond to global demands for greater inclusion and diversity.
- In 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) declared April 18th to be World Heritage Day. The General Assembly of UNESCO approved it in 1983 with the aim of raising consciousness about the value of cultural heritage, landmarks, and their preservation.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UNESCO formation: 4 November 1946;
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Director-General: Audrey Azoulay;
- Headquarters of International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS): Paris, France;
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Founded: 1965;
- President of International Council on Monuments and Sites: Toshiyuki Kono.

**World Liver Day observed globally on 19 April**



- Every year on April 19th, World Liver Day is observed to raise awareness about the body's second largest organ. With the exception of the brain, the liver is the second largest and most complex organ in the body.
- Hepatitis A, B, and C, as well as alcohol and drugs, can cause liver disease. Consumption of tainted food and water, unhealthy sexual habits, and substance misuse are all causes of viral hepatitis.

## UN Chinese Language Day observed globally on 20 April



- Every year on April 20th, the United Nations celebrates Chinese Language Day around the world. Cangjie, a legendary figure who is thought to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago, has been honoured on this day.
- The first Chinese Language Day was held on November 12th, 2010, but the date has been moved to April 20th since 2011.

- The day honours multilingualism and cultural diversity while also encouraging fair use of the organization's six official working languages.

## World Creativity and Innovation Day: 21 April



- **Day** Every year on April 21, the world celebrates World Creativity and Innovation Day. This day is observed to raise awareness about the value of creativity and innovation in problem-solving in the pursuit of the United Nations' sustainable development goals, also known as the "world goals."
- The day's main goal is to inspire people to try new things, make new choices, and think creatively. It is creativity that keeps the world turning.
- On May 25, 2001, in Toronto, Canada, World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) was created. Marci Segal, a Canadian, was the day's organiser. In 1977, Segal was a student at the International Center for Studies in Creativity, where he was researching creativity.

## National Civil Services Day: 21 April



- Every year on April 21, India commemorates "Civil Services Day." It's a day to recognise the outstanding work performed by public administration officers in different agencies of the federal and state governments.
- The Indian government designated April 21 as National Civil Service Day since it was on this date in 1947 that the country's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, addressed the newly named Administrative Services Officers.
- The historic event took place at Delhi's Metcalf House. In his speech, he referred to civil servants as India's "Steel Frame."

- Restore Our Earth is the theme of the 2021 International Mother Earth Day.
- In 1970, approximately 20 million Americans understood that preserving Mother Earth was an absolute necessity. As a result, Earth Day was observed for the first time this year.
- Every year, billions of people all over the world take part in various events such as tree planting, cleaning drives, and other activities to help Mother Nature.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UNEP Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- UNEP Head: Inger Andersen.
- UNEP Founder: Maurice Strong.
- UNEP Founded: 5 June 1972, Nairobi, Kenya.

**International Mother Earth Day: 22 April**



- Every year on April 22nd, the world celebrates Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day. The day will be commemorated around the world to raise awareness about the state of the planet and to inspire people to support environmental conservation.
- The 51st anniversary of World Earth Day, which began in 1970, will be celebrated in 2021. In 2009, the United Nations renamed Earth Day as International Mother Earth Day.

**International Girls in ICT Day: 22 April**



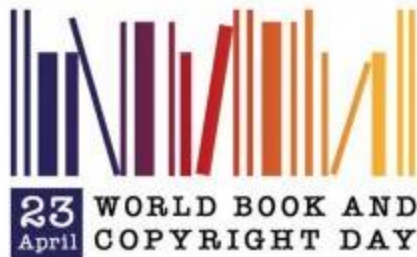
- The fourth Thursday in April is designated as International Girls in ICT Day. The date for this year's International Girls in ICT Day is April 22nd, 2021. The aim of International Girls in ICT Day is to spur a global movement to increase the representation of women and girls in technology.
- Let us recommit to the objective of equal access to education in science, technology,

engineering, and math for young women and girls today.

- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) of the United Nations is emphasizing the importance of promoting technology career opportunities for girls and women in the world's fastest-growing industry.



## World Book and Copyright Day: 23 April



- The World Book and Copyright Day (also known as the "International Day of the Book" or "World Book Day") is an annual event hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on April 23 to encourage reading, writing, and copyright.
- The date of April 23 was chosen because it commemorates the birth and death of many notable writers. On April 23, for example, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Josep Pla all died, while Manuel Mejia Vallejo and Maurice Druon were born.
- Every year, as part of the Day, UNESCO names the World Book Capital for a one-year duration, beginning on April 23. Tbilisi, Georgia, has been named the World Book Capital for 2021.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Director-General of UNESCO: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO formation: 4 November 1946.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.

## UN English Language Day & UN Spanish Language Day

- Every year on April 23, the United Nations celebrates English and Spanish Language Days.
- The 23rd of April has been selected as both the birthday and death date of William Shakespeare in English.
- The day was chosen for the Spanish Language since it is also known as Hispanic Day in Spain, which encompasses the entire Spanish-speaking world.

## World Veterinary Day 2021: 24 April



- Every year on the fourth Saturday in April, the World Veterinary Day is commemorated. The date for 2021 is April 24, 2021. 'Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 crisis' is the theme of the World Veterinary Day in 2021.
- The World Veterinary Association (WVA) established the day in 2000 to honour veterinarians' contributions to animal and human health.



**International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace**



- On April 24, the world commemorates the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.
- The United Nations (UN) first observed the 'International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace' on April 24, 2019.
- The aim of the day is to raise awareness about the benefits of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through educational and public awareness events.
- The Assembly declared the day while recognising the importance of maintaining multilateralism and international cooperation in promoting and supporting the UN's three pillars of peace, security, development, and human rights.
- The Day is a reaffirmation of the UN Charter and its principles of resolving disputes among countries through peaceful means.

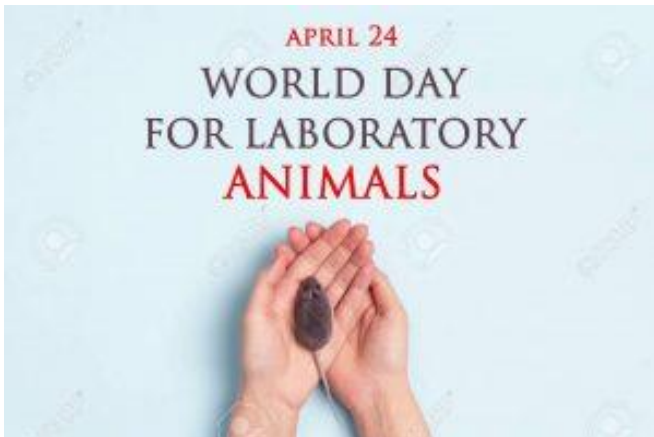
**National Panchayati Raj Day: 24 April**



- 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.
- In April 2010, India commemorates the first National Panchayati Raj Day, also known as National Local Government Day.
- With the institutionalisation of Panchayati Raj through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, which took effect on April 24, 1993, a watershed moment in the history of decentralisation of power to the grassroots was reached.
- The National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is observed on April 24th every year by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, as the 73rd Constitutional Amendment entered into force on that day. In 1959, during the tenure of late Prime Minister Jawarharlal Nehru, Rajasthan became the first state to implement the Panchayati Raj System.

**World Day for Laboratory Animals: 24 April**





- Every year on April 24, the World Day for Animals in Laboratories (WDAIL), also known as World Lab Animal Day or World Day for Laboratory Animals, is observed.
- The National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) founded the day in 1979 as a "international day of commemoration" for animals in laboratories.
- WDAIL's mission is to end animal cruelty in laboratories around the world and encourage the use of innovative experimental non-animal methods in their place. Aside from that, from April 20 to April 26, the "World Week for Animals in Laboratories" (Lab Animal Week) is observed.

**World Malaria Day: 25 April**



- Every year on April 25, the world commemorates World Malaria Day (WMD) to honour the contributions of people all over the world to combat malaria. The 60th session of

the World Health Assembly, WHO's decision-making body, formed the Day in May 2007. 'Reaching the zero malaria goal' is the theme of World Malaria Day 2021.

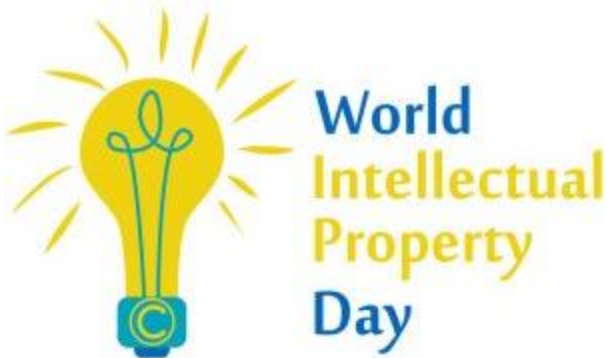
- World Malaria Day grew out of Africa Malaria Day, which took place for the first time in 2008. It is essentially a commemoration that African governments have conducted since 2001. They worked toward achieving the progress goal of controlling malaria and lowering mortality rates in African countries.

**International Delegate’s Day: 25 April**



- Every year on April 25th, the world celebrates International Delegates Day. This day is commemorated to raise awareness of the position of Member States' members and delegates at the United Nations.
- The first day of the San Francisco Conference, also known as the United Nations Conference on International Organization, is commemorated on International Delegates Day. Delegates from 50 countries met in San Francisco for the first time on April 25, 1945.
- The conference took place after the destruction of World War II. The aim of the delegates was to establish an organisation that would restore world peace and establish rules for the postwar world order.

**World Intellectual Property Day: 26 April**



- Every year on April 26th, the world commemorates World Intellectual Property Day. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) founded it in 2000 to "raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks, and designs affect everyday life" and "celebrate innovation and the contribution of creators and innovators to the growth of societies around the world."
- 'Intellectual property and small businesses: Bringing big ideas to market' is the theme for 2021.
- According to WIPO, the date of April 26 was selected as World Intellectual Property Day because it corresponds with the date on which the World Intellectual Property Organization Convention came into force in 1970. **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**
- Headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- CEO of World Intellectual Property Organization: Daren Tang.

**International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day**



- Every year on April 26th, the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is commemorated to raise awareness of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the dangers of nuclear technology in general.
- On April 26, 2016, the United Nations (UN) declared a day to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1986 nuclear disaster. On this day in 1986, a reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine exploded, causing catastrophic damage.

**World Day for Safety and Health at Work: 28 April**



- Every year on April 28th, the world commemorates World Day for Workplace Safety and Health. This day is observed around the world to encourage the prevention of workplace accidents and illnesses, as well as to raise awareness about the importance of workplace health and safety.

- “Anticipate, plan, and adapt to emergencies – Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems,” is the theme for 2021.
- The World Day for Workplace Safety and Health is an annual international initiative that promotes safe, secure, and fair working conditions. It has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003 on April 28.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- President of International Labour Organization: Guy Ryder.
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919.

#### Workers’ Memorial Day: 28 April



- Every year on April 28, Workers' Memorial Day, also known as International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers, is observed. Since 1996, the International Trade Union Confederation has coordinated the day around the world.
- Theme 2021: ‘Worker health and safety is a basic right.’
- Its aim is to commemorate workers killed in workplace injuries or by occupational diseases,

as well as to honour victims of workplace accidents and diseases, by organising worldwide mobilizations and awareness campaigns on this date.

#### International Dance Day observed globally on 29 April



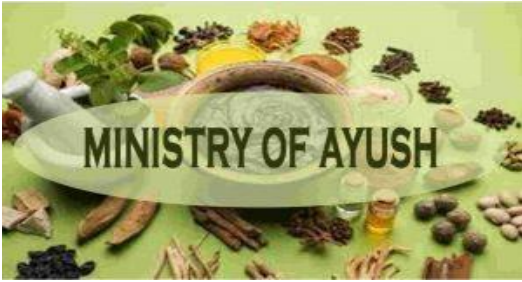
- Every year on April 29th, the world celebrates International Dance Day. Via activities and festivals, the day honours the value and significance of dance and promotes involvement and education in the art form.
- The date of April 29 has been chosen because it is the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the father of modern ballet.
- The theme for International Dance Day 2021 is ‘Dance for a Purpose.’
- The Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), UNESCO's main partner for the performing arts, established the day in 1982.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- International Theatre Institute Founded: 1948.
- Headquarters of International Theatre Institute: Paris, France.

## Topic 2: Agreements

**AYUSH Ministry in collab with Vinoba SevaPratishthan organizes ‘Ayurveda Parav’**



- Vinoba SevaPratishthan (VSP), in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, successfully organised a 3-day “Ayurveda Paravin Bhubaneswar” to support Ayurveda as the mainstream treatment for prevalent lifestyle-related diseases.
- This one-of-a-kind project aims to increase not only public acceptance of Ayurveda, but also to popularise Ayurveda as the primary treatment option for today's lifestyle diseases.
- This programme received full funding from the Ministry of AYUSH. Nearly 25 research papers were presented by experts and researchers during this Parv. The initiative generated tremendous response as thousands of patients turned up and showed their trust towards Ayurveda medication. They did get their diagnosis and consequent medicine.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of AYUSH: Shripad Yesso Naik.

**ICICI Bank, PhonePe Tie Up For Issuance Of FASTags**



- **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.
- PhonePe users, who may be customers of any bank, will have a fully digitised experience as they don't have to visit physical stores or toll locations to buy a FASTag.
- ICICI Bank is the first bank to partner with PhonePe for the issuance of FASTag. NPCI, IHMCL and NHAI are working together to make toll payments fully digital.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- CEO of Phonepe: Sameer Nigam
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**Bharti AXA Life and Fincare SFB join hands for bancassurance partnership**





- Fincare Small Finance Bank and Bharti Axa Life have formed a bancassurance partnership in which the bank will offer insurance products to its customers. This partnership would make life insurance options available to over 26.5 lakh Fincare Small Finance Bank customers, providing them with financial protection.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance will give Fincare Small Finance Bank customers a comprehensive suite of life insurance products, including cover, savings, and investment plans, through its 747 branches and digital network presence across the world.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Parag Raja;
- MD & CEO Fincare Small Finance Bank: Rajeev Yadav.

### India sign MoU with France for cooperation on Gaganyaan Mission



- ISRO, India's space agency, has signed an agreement with CNES, France's space agency, to collaborate on Gaganyaan, India's first human space flight. At French facilities, CNES will train Indian flight physicians and CAPCOM mission control teams.

- In August 2018, the Gaganyaan orbital spacecraft project was launched. It was originally planned to launch astronauts from Indian soil in 2022 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- CNES will provide Indian crews with equipment that it has built, tested, and is still in use aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
- It will also include French-made fireproof carry bags to protect equipment from shocks and radiation.
- The agreement calls for the CNES to assist with the implementation of a scientific experiment plan for validation flights, the sharing of knowledge on food packaging and nutrition, and, most importantly, the use of French tools, consumables, and medical instruments by Indian astronauts.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.

### RBL Bank Mastercard partner to offer first-of its-kind payment functionality



- RBL Bank and Mastercard have announced a collaboration to introduce the 'Pay by Bank App,' a mobile-based consumer-friendly payment solution that will be the first of its kind in India.
- RBL Bank account holders can now use their mobile banking app to make contactless



payments anywhere in the world, both in-store and online.

- This feature will be available at all Mastercard-accepting merchants that accept contactless and online payments around the world.
- The 'Pay by Bank App' guarantees that a bank customer's payment credentials are never revealed to the seller, ensuring that the transaction is fully secure. Customers will continue to receive the Mastercard consumer protection benefits that they currently enjoy on their debit cards.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- RBL Bank Founded: August 1943;
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- RBL Bank MD & CEO: Vishwavir Ahuja.
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Mastercard President: Michael Miebach.

**LIC ties up with Paytm to handle digital payments**



**भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम**  
**LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA**

- The state-run Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has chosen Paytm, a local payments company, to handle its digital payments.
- As the bulk of its payments have switched to digital modes, the country's largest life insurer has found a new contract after previously partnering with another payment gateway.

- The new agreement calls for a simple payment mechanism, a wider variety of payment options, and more payment channel players (wallets, banks, and so on). Following the COVID-19 pandemic, LIC has seen an increase in e-payments.
- The PSU insurer collects premiums worth Rs 60,000 crore through digital channels, which excludes bank payments.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- LIC Chairperson: M R Kumar;
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma;
- Paytm Founded: 2009.

**India-Germany enter into agreement to prevent plastic waste entering oceans**



- At a virtual ceremony in New Delhi, the governments of India and Germany signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement aimed at improving practises to prevent plastic from entering the marine environment.
- The three-and-a-half-year initiative, named "Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment," will be introduced.

- The project's outcome is fully in line with the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, which focuses on sustainable solid waste management, as well as Prime Minister Modi's goal of eliminating single-use plastic by 2022.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Germany  
Capital: Berlin, Currency: Euro, Chancellor: Angela Merkel.

**Australia announces partnership with India for Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**



- Under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, Australia has declared a grant of Rs 81.2 million (AUD 1.4 million) (IPOI).
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the IPOI at the East Asia Summit in November 2019, and Australia is collaborating with New Delhi on the initiative's marine ecology pillar.
- The initiative will contribute to the development of a free, accessible, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.
- The Australia-India relationship The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership is at the heart of both countries' "common vision."

- The business or organisation must be based in either India or Australia and have partners in both countries to be eligible for the grant.
- In 2020-21, up to \$350,00 is expected to be eligible for allocation. All applications will be judged on the basis of merit.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Australia Capital: Canberra.
- Australia Currency: Australian dollar.
- Australia PM: Scott Morrison.

**Indian Army signs MoU with HPCL & NIEDO for Ladakh Ignited Minds project**



- 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.
- To ensure a better future for the youth of the UT of Ladakh, the project Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness was conceived.
- National Integrity & Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO), a Kanpur-based NGO, will

carry out the programme under the auspices of the Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps.

- Governors & Administrators of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

## Topic 3: Appointment

**Subhash Kumar takes additional charge as CMD of ONGC**



- On April 1, 2021, Subhash Kumar was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). At ONGC, he is the Director (Finance).
- Kumar succeeds Shashi Shanker, the current CMD, who will retire on March 31, 2021.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation  
Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, Delhi.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation CEO: Shashi Shanker (1 Oct 2017–).
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation  
Founder: Government of India.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Founded: 14 August 1956.

**Mukhmeet S. Bhatia takes over as Director-General of ESIC**



- Mukhmeet S. Bhatia, a senior IAS officer, was named Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on April 4, 2021. He is a Jharkhand cadre IAS officer from 1990.
- He previously served as an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs. Under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, ESIC is a Statutory and Autonomous Body.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation  
Founded: 24 February 1952.
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation  
Headquarters: New Delhi.

**Mallika Srinivasan appointed chairperson of PESB**



- Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited, has been appointed chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), according to a personnel ministry order.
- The appointment of a private sector expert as the head of the PESB, which is responsible for the appointment of top management positions in the Central Public Sector Enterprises, is a first (CPSEs).
- Srinivasan's appointment as chairperson of the PESB has been approved by the Cabinet Appointments Committee for a term of three years from the date of assumption of charge, or until he reaches the age of 65.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions: Narendra Modi.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions: Jitendra Singh.

**Urjit Patel appointed as additional director of Britannia**



- Dr. Urjit Patel, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been named as an Additional Director of Britannia Industries, effective March 31, 2021, for a five-year term. The appointment has been approved by the company's board of directors, according to the company.
- At their meeting on March 31, 2021, the company's Board of Directors approved the appointment of Dr. Urjit Patel as an additional director in the category of non-executive and independent director, with effect from March 31, 2021, for a period of 5 years, i.e., until March 30, 2026, subject to the approval of the company's shareholders.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Britannia CEO: Varun Berry;
- Britannia Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Britannia Founded: 1892.

**Adil Zainulbhai appointed chairman of Capacity Building Commission**





- Adil Zainulbhai, the former chairman of the Quality Council of India (QCI), has been appointed chairman of the Capacity Building Commission.
- The government has approved a commission to train civil servants at all levels under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), also known as "Mission Karmayogi."
- To track and evaluate the implementation of plans and develop shared resources, the authorised Capacity Building Commission will coordinate with and supervise all government offices and training institutes. A Chairperson and two Members will make up the Commission.

### Digit Insurance roped Virat Kohli as brand ambassador



- Cricketer Virat Kohli has been appointed as a brand ambassador for Digit Insurance. Kohli has previously invested in Digit Insurance. With a valuation of \$1.9 billion, Digit Insurance, a general insurance corporation, became the first unicorn of 2021.
- The business hopes to spread the idea of "making insurance easy" by partnering with the cricketer. Before he decided to become the brand's face, Digit was able to convince the Indian Men's Cricket Team Captain to invest in the business.

### RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo retires



- After his term as deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India expired on April 2, BP Kanungo stepped down, putting an end to any hopes of his tenure being extended.
- In 2017, he was appointed deputy governor for a three-year term. In 2020, his term was extended for another year. Rajeshwar Rao, M.K. Jain, and Michael Patra are the RBI's other deputy governors.

### Shabir Khandwawala appointed new BCCI ACU chief



- Shabir Hussein ShekhadamKhandwawala, the current BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit chief, previously served as the Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP).
- The 70-year-old, an IPS officer from the 1973 batch, succeeds Ajit Singh, whose term ended on March 31.
- Khandwawala served as an advisor for the Essar Group after retiring as Gujarat DGP in late 2010. He was also a member of the central government's Lokpal Search Committee.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Secretary of BCCI: Jay Shah.
- President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly.
- Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.

**Justice N V Ramana to assume charge as next CJI**

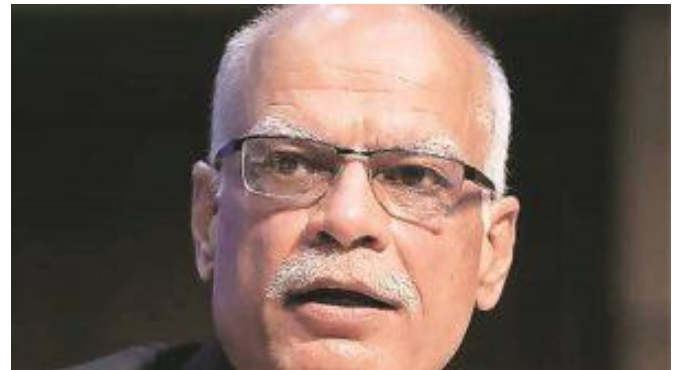


- Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, the most senior Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as India's next Chief Justice (CJI).
- Justice Ramana will succeed incumbent Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as the 48th Chief Justice of India. From April 24, 2021, to August 26, 2022, he will be in charge of the office.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Supreme Court of India Established: 26 January 1950.

**Cabinet Appoints Tarun Bajaj as new Revenue Secretary**



- Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, the most senior Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as India's next Chief Justice (CJI).
- Justice Ramana will succeed incumbent Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as the 48th Chief Justice of India. From April 24, 2021, to August 26, 2022, he will be in charge of the office.

**Chintan Vaishnav appointed as Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission**



- Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, a well-known socio-technologist, has been named the project director of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the government's flagship initiative under NITI Aayog.
- Later this month, Vaishnav will succeed Ramanathan Ramanan. Since June 2017, Ramanan has served as AIM's first mission chief.
- Vaishnav is currently a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He graduated from MIT with a PhD in technology, management, and policy.

**Govt Appoints S Ramann as SIDBI CMD**



- S Ramann has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of the Small Industries

Development Bank of India by the government (SIDBI). Ramann is the CEO of National E-Governance Services Ltd, India's first Information Utility, and is a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer.

- The appointment is for three years, or until further orders, from the date he assumes the charge. His name had been suggested for the role by the Banks Board Bureau, the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- SIDBI set up on 2nd April 1990;
- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

**Poonam Gupta to head NCAER as its first woman DG**



- Poonam Gupta will be the current director-general of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, a policy think tank (NCAER).
- Gupta will succeed Shekhar Shah, the current head of the think tank, as the first woman to hold the position. Gupta is currently the World Bank's lead economist in Washington, DC.
- She was the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and a professor of macroeconomics at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations before joining the World Bank in 2013. (ICRIER).

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- NCAER Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NCAER Founded: 1956.

## Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra named as next Chief Election Commissioner



- Sushil Chandra, the current Election Commissioner (EC), has been elected as India's next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). With impact from April 13, 2021, he will be in charge. He will succeed Sunil Arora, the current CEC, who will step down on April 12, 2021.
- The Indian Election Commission has three members: a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. Rajiv Kumar and Sushil Chandra are the two ECs.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Election Commission Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- First executive of Election Commission: Sukumar Sen.

## Siddharth Longjam appointed new NADA DG



- Siddharth Singh Longjam, an IAS officer, will take over as Director-General of the National Anti-Doping Agency. Longjam is currently the joint secretary of the sports ministry and the CEO of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, which has been suspended (NDTL).
- He will succeed Navin Agarwal, who cites the launch of the Athletes Biological Passport (ABP) for around 60 elite Indian athletes as one of his career highlights.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- NADA Headquarters location: New Delhi;
- NADA Founded: 24 November 2005.

## Prime Minister of Haiti Joseph Jouthe Resigns



- Haiti's Prime Minister, Joseph Jouthe, has resigned as a result of instability in the region, which has been fueled by an uptick in killings and kidnappings in recent days.



- From March 4, 2020, to April 14, 2021, Joseph Jouthe was the Prime Minister of Haiti. Claude Joseph has been nominated as the new Prime Minister of Haiti by President Jovenel Moise.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince; Currency: Haitian gourde.

### RBI approves re-appointment of Murali Natarajan as DCB Bank MD and CEO



- The Reserve Bank of India has approved Murali M. Natrajan's re-appointment as Managing Director and CEO of DCB Bank for a term of one year beginning April 29, 2021.
- In May 2009, he was appointed MD and CEO of DCB Bank. Natrajan worked for international banks Standard Chartered and Citibank before joining DCB.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- DCB Bank Headquarters: Maharashtra.
- DCB Bank Founded: 1930.

### Puma ropes in Washington Sundar, DevduttPadikkal as brand ambassadors



- Cricketers Washington Sundar and DevduttPadikkal have signed long-term sponsorship deals with global sportswear company Puma. Puma India has regularly invested in India's sports ecosystem, most recently announcing a collaboration with Royal Challengers Bangalore.
- The two will join Indian captain Virat Kohli, wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul, women's national cricketer Sushma Verma, and veteran cricketer Yuvraj Singh on the company's list of brand ambassadors.

### CAG GC Murmu selected as external auditor for Hague



- The Hague-based Conference of State Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has appointed India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), GC Murmu, as the external auditor for a three-year term beginning in 2021.
- India was also re-elected to the OPCW's executive council as the Asia group's representative for another two-year term.

**Rekha Menon takes over as first woman chairperson of Nasscom**



- Rekha M Menon, the chairperson of Accenture India, has been appointed chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), making her the first woman to lead the software lobby organisation in its 30-year history.
- She takes over as chairperson of Nasscom from U B Pravin Rao, the chief operating officer of Infosys. The vice-chairperson will be TCS President Krishnan Ramanujam.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- NASSCOM Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NASSCOM Founded: 1 March 1988.

**RBI approves Atanu Chakraborty as HDFC Bank’s part-time chairman**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Atanu Chakraborty, a former Economic Affairs Secretary, as part-time chairman and additional independent director of HDFC Bank. In April 2020, he stepped down as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs.
- He was Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management before that (DIPAM).
- Chakraborty, a Gujarat cadre IAS officer from the 1985 batch, has been named for a three-year term, beginning May 5, 2021, or the date of his taking charge, whichever comes first.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan (Succeeds Aditya Puri).
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.

**Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana takes oath as 48th CJI**



- On April 24, 2021, Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana was sworn in as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI). President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Justice Ramana during a short ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, who left office on April 23, 2021, is his successor. Justice Ramana will be Chief Justice until August 26, 2022.

## PESB selects Amit Banerjee as CMD of BEML



- Amit Banerjee was appointed Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), an Indian Public Sector Undertaking, by the Public Enterprise Selection Board.
- The PESB made the announcement at a meeting on April 26, 2021. He is currently employed by BEML Limited as Director (Rail & Metro).
- Shri Banerjee has worked in R&D and manufacturing functions for BEML over the course of his three-decade career. His background includes the design and construction of a variety of items, including SSEMU, Metro cars, and Catenary Maintenance Vehicles, among others.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited  
Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited Founded: May 1964.

## Arun Raste named new MD & CEO of NCDEX



- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved Arun Raste's appointment as MD and CEO of the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) for a five-year term.
- Raste is currently an Executive Director with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and prior to that, he worked for IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NABARD, ACC Cement, and a non-profit NGO called IRFT.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- NCDEX Founded: 15 December 2003.
- NCDEX Headquarters: Mumbai.
- NCDEX Owner: Government of India (100%).

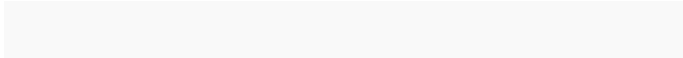
## Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja becomes ASICS brand ambassador



- ASICS, a Japanese sportswear company, has named Ravindra Jadeja, an all-rounder for the Indian cricket team and the Chennai Super

Kings, as its brand ambassador. The business, which specialises in running apparel.

- ASICS has been working with young and emerging athletes in a variety of sports genres. Actor Tiger Shroff promotes ASICS in India. ASICS has over 55 stores in Asia, including India, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.



**Topic4: Award**

**Legendary Actor Rajinikanth to be honoured with 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award**



The Rajinikanth, the legendary actor, has been chosen to receive the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Awards, India's highest film honour.

- Rajinikanth, the legendary actor, will win the Dadasaheb Phalke award for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema in 2019. On May 3, 2021, Rajinikanth will win the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- Rajinikanth is the 12th South Indian to be honoured with this honour. Dr. Rajkumar, Akkineni Nageshwar Rao, and K Balachander have all been honoured in the past. In the past, the iconic actor has received the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards.

**Andhra Pradesh Governor BiswabhusanHarichandan Receives Kalinga Ratna Samman**



- Andhra Pradesh Governor BiswabhusanHarichandan, who was born in Odisha, was awarded the Kalinga Ratna Samman for the year 2021.
- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presented Biswabhusan with the prestigious award at the Sarala Bhawan in Cuttack on the Sarala Sahitya Sansad's 40th annual day.
- A silver idol of Goddess Saraswati, a copper plaque, and a shawl are carried by the Kalinga Ratna Samman.

**Alfred Aho Wins the 2020 ACM Turing Award**





- Gussman, Lawrence Alfred V. Aho, Professor Emeritus of Computer Science, has received the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award, dubbed the "Nobel Prize of Computing" informally. Aho shares the honour with Jeffrey David Ullman, a long-time collaborator.
- The Turing Award holds a \$1 million reward, with Google, Inc. providing financial support. Alan M. Turing, a British mathematician who formulated the mathematical foundations and limits of computation, is honoured with this award.

## Suman Chakraborty to get 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research



- 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.

- Instituted in **1991**, the award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the **age of 50** for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science or technology. It carries a cash prize of **₹5 lakh**.
- The recipient is chosen by a selection board, whose present head is professor Chandrima Shaha, the president of the **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**.

## Dutee Chand selected for inaugural Chhattisgarh Veerni Award



- The Chhattisgarh state government has chosen Indian sprinter Dutee Chand for the inaugural edition of the Chhattisgarh Veerni Award. The award, which honours Indian women's achievements in various fields, including sports, will be presented virtually on April 14, 2021.
- At the World University Games in Italy in 2019, the Odisha sprinter became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal. She won silver medals in the 100 and 200 metres at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. Aside from that, Dutee holds the national record in the 100m with a time of 11.22 seconds.

## Indian Business Tycoon Yusuffali MA Gets Top Civilian Award In UAE



- Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, has presented Yusuffali MA, an Indian-origin businessman, and 11 other individuals with Abu Dhabi's highest civilian award for their noble and charitable contributions to the city.
- MrYusuffali, who was born in Kerala, received the prestigious award for his outstanding contribution to Abu Dhabi's market, industry, and support for various philanthropic initiatives.
- The Crown Prince honouredMrYusuffali, the Chairman and Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group, which operates hypermarkets and retail businesses in a number of countries.

## Guneet Monga conferred with Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters honour



- Guneet Monga, a well-known filmmaker, will be knighted in the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres). It is France's second highest civilian honour, having previously been bestowed upon Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Bruce Willis.
- Guneet has a long list of critically acclaimed films under her belt as a director. Masaan, Lunchbox, Haraamkhor, Peddlers, and the Oscar-winning short film documentary Era, End of Sentence are among the films on the list.

## 74th Edition of BAFTA Awards 2021 announced



The British Academy of Film and Television Arts has declared the nominees for the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) for the year 2021. BAFTA 2021 is the 74th edition of the annual award, which recognises the best domestic and international films released in 2020 and early 2021.

**Kane Williamson awarded Sir Richard Hadlee medal**



- Kane Williamson, a star cricketer from New Zealand, was recently honoured with the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal. In the last six years, he has won four Sir Richard Hadlee awards.
- The Women's team all-rounder Amelia Kerr was also recognised at the New Zealand Cricket Awards for the 2020-21 season, along with upcoming star Devon Conway. Devon Conway, meanwhile, was named Men's Player of the Year in both ODIs and T20s.
- Fin Allen, who is 21 years old, was awarded the Super Smash Player of the Year award for his incredible strike rate of 193.

**Seville to be host city for Laureus World Sports Awards 2021**



- Due to the raging COVID-19 pandemic, the 22nd Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in a virtual ceremony in Seville, Spain.

- The awards show, which will include presentations and related news reports, will be broadcast live on Laureus social media sites and will be open to the world's media.
- A jury of 69 members of the Laureus World Sports Academy chooses the winners of the Laureus World Sports Awards. The most recent was in Barcelona in 2007, which was quite some time ago.
- Rafael Nadal, Lewis Hamilton, LeBron James, Robert Lewandowski (Sportsman), Naomi Osaka, and Federica Brignone are among the many big names who have had a memorable year and will be in contention for the awards.

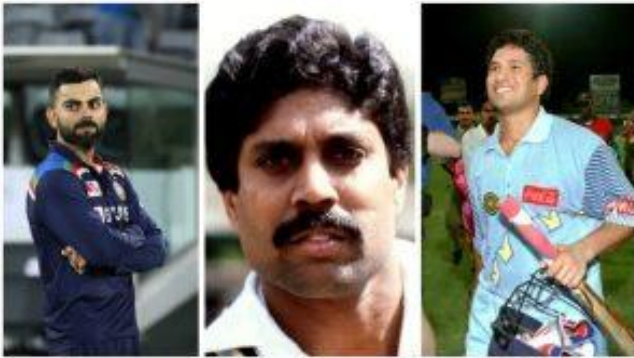
**Marathi film Puglya wins Best Foreign Feature at Moscow Film Fest**



- At the Moscow International Film Festival in 2021, the Marathi film "Puglya" won the Best Foreign Language Feature award. Under the banner Abraham Films, Vinod Sam Peter directed and produced the film Puglya.
- This film has already earned over 45 awards and accolades from various international film festivals. In India, the film has yet to be released. The story revolves around a pug and two young people, both around the age of ten.

**Wisden Award 2021 announced**





- The Wisden Almanack's 2021 edition includes five ODI cricketers of the decade to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first One-Day International.
- Between 1971 and 2021, one cricketer from each decade was chosen, with the Indian captain receiving the award for the decade of 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.

**Lifetime Achievement Award received by Roberto Benigni**



- At the 78th Venice International Film Festival, which runs from September 1 to 11, director Roberto Benigni will be honoured with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement. The news about the two-time Oscar-winning actor-director was reported by the organisers.
- The filmmaker won Academy Awards for Best Actor (first for a non-English speaking male performance) and Best International Feature Film for his role in and direction of the Holocaust comedy-drama Life Is Beautiful (1997).
- He received a David di Donatello Award for his performance in Matteo Garrone's live-action Pinocchio.

**Rumana Sinha Sehgal won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021**





- The Diplomatic Mission Global Peace has awarded Rumana Sinha Sehgal, a software engineer turned entrepreneur from Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021.
- Her contribution to the field of creating creative and practical green goods through the recycling of various materials and non-biodegradable materials was practically recognised.
- National Award for Social Entrepreneurship - Under 50 - Business Leader 2021
- The Influencer Summit in January 2021 will crown the 'International Influencer of the Year 2021.'
- For her work in the field of women's and children's empowerment, she received the ReXKarmaveer Chakra (silver) and the Global Fellowship Award 2019.
- Mrs. Universe Effective 2018 was named after her.

- The funds will be transferred in real-time to the concerned Panchayats' bank accounts. This is the first time this has been achieved.

**The National Panchayat Awards 2021 are being conferred under the following categories:**

- DeenDayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar to 224 panchayats,
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to 30-gram panchayats, Gram
- Panchayat Development Plan Award to 29-gram panchayats, Child-friendly Gram
- Panchayat Award to 30 Gram Panchayats and e-Panchayat Puraskar to 12 states.

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



- On April 25, 2021, the 93rd Academy Awards ceremony, also known as the Oscars Award, was held in Los Angeles.
- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences bestows the prize on a yearly basis (AMPAS). The best films of 2020 and early 2021 were honoured at the Oscars in 2021.
- With three nominations, the American drama "Nomadland" took home the most. Chloe Zhao, who directed "Nomadland," was named best

**National Panchayat Awards 2021**



- PM Modi presented the National Panchayat Awards 2021. The award money (as Grants-in-Aid) will be transferred by the Prime Minister with the click of a button, ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh.

director, making her only the second woman and the first woman of colour to do so.

- In the “In Memoriam” montage shown at the ceremony, Indian actors Irrfan Khan and Bhanu Athaiya were honoured.

**Uttar Pradesh won e-panchayat award**



- The Uttar Pradesh government took first place in Category I of the "E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021." Assam and Chhattisgarh came in second and seventh, respectively, followed by Odisha and Tamil Nadu.
- Every year, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj honours states that make the most of information technology to keep track of gramme panchayats' jobs.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UP Capital: Lucknow;
- UP Governor: Anandiben Patel;
- UP Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath.

**Krithi Karanth becomes 1st Indian woman to get ‘Wild Innovator Award’**



- Dr. Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS) in Bengaluru, has been named the first Indian and Asian woman to receive the ‘WILD Innovator Award’ in 2021.
- The “WILD ELEMENTS Foundation” has created a group of innovators, supporters, and allies to “disrupt the status quo and find alternatives to global sustainability and conservation,” according to the award.
- The "Power of Three" is the Foundation's unique approach to resolving climate change, which recognises the interconnectedness of animal, human, and plantkind for the potential ecological wellness of our shared home.

**Topic 5: Banking News**

**SBI inks USD 1 billion loan agreement with Japan Bank**



- State Bank of India, India's largest lender, has received \$1 billion from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to lend to the Japanese automotive industry's supply chain in India.
- The loan is a refinancing of the funding assistance given to Japanese car producers, suppliers, and dealers in India.
- This partnership between SBI and JBIC will allow the bank to expand credit to the entire supply chain at a time when people prefer personal transportation.
- SBI and JBIC's combined loan facility has now grown to \$2 billion. SBI and JBIC had previously agreed to a \$1 billion deal in October 2020.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

**RBI extends deadline for processing auto-debit payments by 6 months**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend the deadline for processing recurring online transactions by six months, until September 30, 2021.
- In December 2020, the RBI issued a directive to all banks, including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways, stating that the processing of recurring transactions (domestic or cross-border) using cards, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), or the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) would be stopped after March 31, 2021 if they did not comply with the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

**Axis Bank to sell UK arm to tech platform**



- Axis Bank, a private sector lender, has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with

OpenPayd Holdings Ltd to sell a 100 percent stake in its subsidiary, Axis Bank UK Limited.

- The deal is subject to approval by the UK Financial Regulator, the Prudential Regulation Authority, and was signed on March 31, 2021. (PRA).
- The transaction's consideration or valuation will be the completion net asset value (the bank's book value on the date of completion) plus a fixed premium of \$5,500,000.
- The sale is expected to be completed by September 30, 2021, pending approval of a 'Change in Control' by the UK Financial Regulator, the PRA.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Axis Bank Commenced operations: 1994.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Axis Bank Tagline: Dil Se Open.
- Axis Bank MD and CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry.

**RBI to release Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) annually**



- Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will issue an annual "Financial Inclusion Index" (FI

Index) in July for the fiscal year that ended in March the previous year.

- The FI Index will be focused on a number of factors and will represent the country's broadening and deepening of financial inclusion, according to a statement from the RBI on its regulatory and developmental policies.
- The government, the Reserve Bank, and other regulators have made considerable progress in the field of financial inclusion over the years. The Reserve Bank of India proposes to create and publish a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) based on multiple parameters to measure the degree of financial inclusion in the country.

**RBI increases WMA limits for the State Governments/UTs**



- On the recommendation of a committee led by Shri Sudhir Shrivastava, the Reserve Bank of India raised the cap for Way and Means Advances (WMA) for State Governments/UTs from Rs. 32,225 crore (fixed in February 2016) to Rs. 47,010 crore. This is a 46 percent rise over the previous year.
- The RBI has extended the enhanced interim WMA cap of 51,560 crores for another six months, from April 1, 2021, to September 30, 2021 (a 60% increase in the current limits



approved by the Reserve Bank during the previous fiscal to help states/UTs tide over the difficulties they faced during the pandemic).

**RBI enhances maximum balance limit per account in Payments Banks**



- The Reserve Bank of India has increased the maximum balance per individual customer in Payments Bank from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh at the end of the day.
- The decision was made to support Payments Bank's efforts to promote financial inclusion and to increase their ability to meet the needs of their customers, which include MSMEs, small traders, and merchants.
- Payments banks are allowed to keep a maximum balance of 1 lakh per individual customer under the current "Guidelines for Licensing of Payments Banks," which were released on November 27, 2014.
- Based on a review of the performance of payments banks and with a view to encouraging their efforts for financial inclusion and to expand their ability to cater to the needs of their customers, including MSMEs, small traders and merchants.

**RBI enhances Loan limit under Priority Sector Lending against eNWR/NWR**

- The Reserve Bank of India has increased the loan limit for agricultural produce pledged/hypothecated by Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)/electronic-NWRs (e-NWRs) provided by warehouses registered and controlled by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 75 lakh per borrower (WDRA).
- The Priority Sector loan cap of 50 lakh per borrower, backed by other Warehouse Receipts, will remain unchanged. A separate circular will be published in this regard.
- With a view to encourage farm credit to individual farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce and leverage the inherent safety of NWRs/(e-NWRs) issued by warehouses registered and regulated by WDRA.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority Established: 2010.
- Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority HQ: New Delhi.

**SBI MF becomes first mutual fund company to cross Rs 5 lakh crore AAUM**



- SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd has announced that it has crossed the Rs. 5 lakh crore average assets under management (AAUM) mark, making it the first mutual fund house in India to do so. During the financial year 2020-21, SBI MF saw a 35 percent increase in average AUM, increasing from Rs 3.73 lakh crore to Rs 5.04 lakh crore.
- The business, which is a joint venture between India's largest lender, State Bank of India, and Europe's largest asset manager, Amundi, is a joint venture between India's largest lender, State Bank of India, and Europe's largest asset manager, Amundi. Over the last year, the fund house's SIP book has grown by 17% to 1,382 crores from 1,180 crores.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- SBI Funds Management Founded: 7 February 1992.

**Airtel Payments Bank announces 'Rewards123' savings account**



- Airtel Payments Bank has unveiled the latest 'Rewards123' savings account, which offers perks and incentives to customers. The Rewards123 Savings Account is designed to provide you with a range of benefits when you invest and transact online.
- The company claims that its newly launched savings account is intended to provide consistent value over the year, with guaranteed returns on various forms of digital transactions.
- Users with annual earnings of up to 960 rupees will receive several benefits from Airtel Payments Bank's Rewards123 savings bank account, according to the company. In addition to that, users will get **1%** cashback when they load **₹1,000 through UPI** in their account. Users will get a maximum of **₹10** per month as a part of this benefit.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Airtel Payments Bank's MD and CEO: Nubrata Biswas.
- Airtel Payments Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Airtel Payments Bank Founded: January 2017.

**Axis Bank becomes co-promoter of Max Life Insurance**



- Axis Bank Ltd has announced that it has become a co-promoter of Max Life Insurance Company Limited, following the completion of the Axis Entities' collective purchase of a 12.99 percent stake in the company. After the deal closes, Axis Bank and its two subsidiaries, Axis Capital Limited and Axis Securities Limited, will hold a combined 12.99 percent stake in Max Life.
- Subject to regulatory approvals, the Axis Entities have the right to purchase an additional stake in Max Life of up to 7% in one or more tranches. In February 2021, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) gave its formal approval.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Max Life Insurance CEO: Prashant Tripathy;
- Max Life Insurance Founded: 2001;
- Max Life Insurance Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry;
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 1993.

**RBI to set up Regulations Review Authority for one year**

- From May 1, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will create a new Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) to review the central bank's regulations, circulars, reporting processes, and enforcement procedures in order to streamline and improve them. The RRA will be in place for a year unless the RBI decides to extend the deadline.
- The head of the Regulations Review Authority will be M Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- RRA will be in charge of eliminating any redundancies or duplications in regulatory and supervisory directives in order to improve their effectiveness.
- It must be noted that prior to this, a similar RRA was set up by RBI on **April 1, 1999**, for a period of one year to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems, based on the feedback from the public, banks, and financial institutions.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

**Punjab National Bank launches digital initiative PNB@Ease**



- The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a digital initiative called "PNB@Ease," in which customers can initiate and authorise all bank branch transactions. Customers will be able to access all banking facilities from a single location.
- PNB also announced other digital initiatives on its 127th foundation day, including the instant opening of online savings accounts via video-KYC, insta pre-approved loan, instaDemat account, and insurance facility via internet and mobile banking.
- Customers will be able to access all banking services under one roof, he said, and PNB@Ease outlets will help the bank expand its distribution capabilities while lowering the cost of customer acquisition.
- The service may range from opening a savings account to applying for different loans and more, all without the need to visit a branch or seek assistance from bank employees.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Punjab National Bank MD and CEO: S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao.
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Cancel Licence of SambandhFinserve**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a show-cause notice to fraud-hit SambandhFinserve Pvt Ltd. before cancelling its licence after its networth fell below the regulatory minimum and its financial condition deteriorated beyond redemption in recent months. Sambandh is a non-bank financial institution (NBFC-MFI).
- Deepak Kindo, the Managing Director and CEO of Sambandh, was arrested by Chennai's Economic Offence Wing for allegedly being the key perpetrator of the scam.
- According to RBI regulations, NBFCs must maintain minimum capital levels of not less than 15% of their total risk-weighted assets, consisting of Tier I and Tier II capital.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- SambandhFinserve Private Limited founded: 1992;
- SambandhFinserve Private Limited Headquarters: Odisha.

**RBI allows commercial banks to pay up to 50% of pre-Covid dividends**





- Commercial banks will pay dividends on equity shares for FY21 from income for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, subject to certain conditions and limits set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The new RBI notification enables commercial banks to pay dividends of up to 50% of the amount calculated according to the dividend payout ratio. This suggests that banks will pay up to 50% more in dividends than they did before the Covid scenario.

**RBI Caps Tenure of Private Banks MD & CEO at 15 Years**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set a limit of 15 years for Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of commercial banks. The same restriction would apply to full-time directors (WTD). This means that no one will hold the same position for more than 15 years.
- All Private Sector Banks, including Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and wholly owned subsidiaries of Foreign Banks, will be subject to the revised instructions. It will not, however, apply to international banks that have branches in India.

**RBI cancels licence of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank**



- Due to insufficient funds, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the licence of Maharashtra-based Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited.
- Subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961, any depositor is entitled to a deposit insurance claim sum of his or her deposits up to a monetary limit of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC upon liquidation.

**Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited Begins Operations**



**A multi-state bank**

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited, based in Uttar Pradesh, began operations as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) on April 26, 2021.
- It should be recalled that the Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB) was the first urban co-operative bank (UCB) in India to

be granted a Small Finance Bank licence by the Reserve Bank of India (SFB).

- The RBI has granted the bank a licence to operate as a small finance bank in India under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand make up the Shivalik SFB's operational area.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited MD and CEO: Suveer Kumar Gupta.

**PhonePe becomes 1st player to cross billion-transaction mark on UPI**



- PhonePe, a digital payments and financial services company headquartered in Bengaluru, has been the first to cross one billion transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure.
- The company achieved the feat in March 2021, when total transactions on its platform totaled around 1.3 billion across wallet, card, and UPI payment instruments.
- PhonePe, which first achieved market leadership on UPI in December, last year, has seen its transaction count rise steadily, on the back of increasing merchant payments. Overall UPI transactions processed by PhonePe rose

from 902.03 million in December 2020 to 975.53 million in February 2021.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- CEO of Phonepe: Sameer Nigam
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**NPCI transfers Bharat Bill Payments business to its new subsidiary NBBL**



- The All of the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) transaction company has been transferred to NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI.
- From April 1, 2021, all approved bill processors on the Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU), i.e. banks and payment aggregators, must begin accounting their billing transactions under NBBL.
- The decision to create a separate division for bill payment aims to help the interoperable bill platform scale its development by allowing it more control in terms of operations and onboarding new billers. BBPS is an interoperable bill payment platform that was developed in 2013 for banks, fintech firms, and biller merchants to use to automate bill collection and request solutions.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO: DilipAsbe.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.

## World Bank, AIIB approve loan for USD 300 million projects to Punjab



- 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 aims to provide Amritsar and Ludhiana with safe drinking water and reduce water losses.
- 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.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: JinLiqun.

- Headquarters of AIIB: Beijing, China.
- AIIB established: 16 January 2016.
- Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh.
- Punjab Governor: V.P.SinghBadnore.

## World Bank approves USD 32 million projects to Mizoram



- The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a USD 32 million project to enhance Mizoram's management ability and health-care quality.
- The “Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project” aims to improve the Mizoram Health Department's governance and management structure, as well as that of its subsidiaries.
- The state government's efforts to provide quality healthcare to the poor and disadvantaged, as well as those living in remote areas, will be aided by this initiative.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.
- Chief Minister of Mizoram: Pu Zoramthanga; Governor: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.



**Amazon launches \$250-million Venture Fund for Digitizing SMEs in India**



- Amazon has launched the "Amazon Smbhav Investment Fund," a \$250 million (Rs 1,873 crore) venture fund to invest in Indian startups

and entrepreneurs, with an emphasis on digitising SMEs. The Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund was launched with the aim of attracting the best ideas and empowering entrepreneurs in the country to join this vision.

- Amazon invested in Gurugram-based M1xchange, which connects SMEs with banks and financiers, as part of its first investment through the 'Smbhav' fund.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Amazon.com Inc founder and CEO, Jeff Bezos.
- Amazon.com Inc Founded: 5 July 1994.
- Amazon.com Inc Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States.

**Topic 6: Books and Author**

**Vice President releases book 'Suparipalana' by Dr Shailendra Joshi**

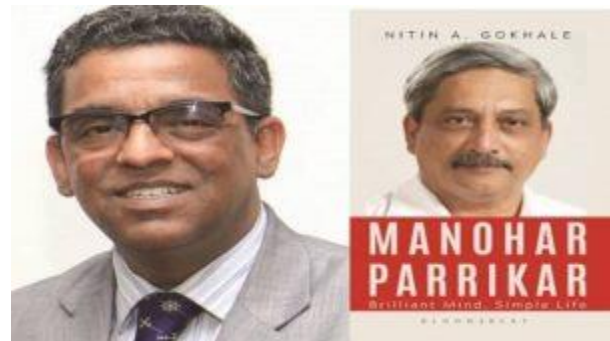


- Dr. Shailendra Joshi, a former civil servant, has written a book called "Suparipalana," which was published by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- Former Telangana Chief Secretary Shri S K Joshi's book "Echo T Calling: Towards People-

Centric Governance" was translated into Telugu as "Suparipalana."

- Shri Annavarapu Brahmaiah is the book's translator, and Shri Maruthi is the editor.

**A book titled 'Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life' by Nitin Gokhale**



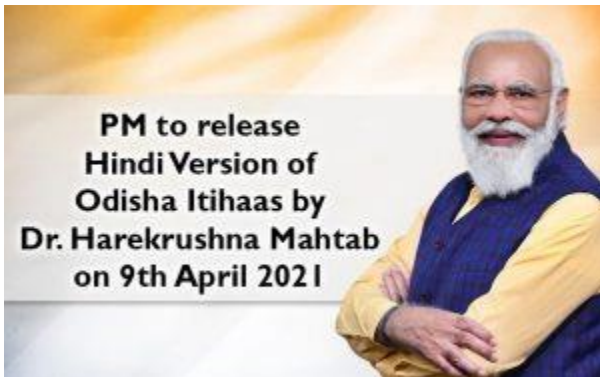
- Nitin Gokhale has written a new book titled "Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life." Bloomsbury is the publisher of the novel. It's an



effort to capture Parrikar's persona — the guy, the politician, and the nationalist — in a single picture.

- Gokhale is a well-known author, media teacher, and the founder of BharatShakti.in, a specialised defense-related website, and StratNewsGlobal.com.
- The author tells the storey of Parrikar's contribution to nation-building and service to Goan society, from his days as an IIT student to his time as a social worker to his current role as India's defence minister, in this novel. The book is a tribute to Parrikar, India's former defence minister and four-time chief minister of Goa, the first IIT-ian to become a chief minister.

**PM Modi to release Hindi version of 'Odisha Itihaas' by Dr HarekrushnaMahtab**



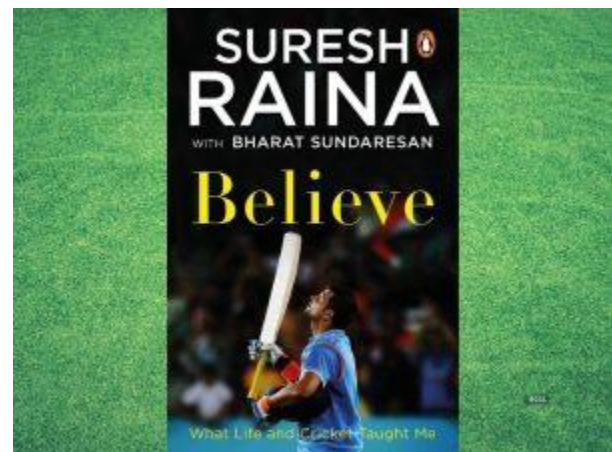
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will release the Hindi translation of the book '**Odisha Itihaas**', written by **Utkal KeshariHarekrushnaMahtab**, on 9th April at the **Ambedkar International Center**.
- The event marking the release of the Hindi version has been organised by the HarekrushnaMahtab Foundation.

**PM Modi released 4 books related to Babasaheb Ambedkar**



- On the occasion of his birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to India's first law minister and the architect of the Indian Constitution, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, by releasing four books about his life.
- PM Modi spoke via video conferencing at the Association of Indian Universities' 95th Annual Meet and National Seminar of Vice-Chancellors, where he also launched four books written by Kishor Makwana about Dr. BR Ambedkar.
- Dr. Ambedkar Jivan Darshan, Dr. Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan, Dr. Ambedkar Rashtra Darshan, and Dr. Ambedkar Aayam Darshan are the four books that the prime minister will release.

**Suresh Raina's memoir 'Believe' to release in 2021**



- The much-anticipated Suresh Raina autobiography, titled "Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me," is scheduled to be released

in May 2021. The biography will be published by the prestigious publishing house, Penguin India, and is co-authored by Raina and sports author Bharat Sundaresan.

- Raina's meteoric rise in the Indian cricket team and the challenges he faced on his way to becoming a record-breaking batsman are expected to be chronicled in the novel. The book can also help to unravel Raina's early days as a promising cricketer in Uttar Pradesh.



- On the occasion of Earth Day, climate activist and author Aakash Ranison has released a new e-book titled "Climate Change Explained – for One and All."
- The author outlines the consequences of climate change in the e-book and hopes to inspire readers to take quick, sustainable steps to mitigate its effects.
- The book contains a mix of statistics, data, and knowledge about climate change, including topics such as "Greenhouse effect," "Global Warming," and "Carbon Footprint," as well as their impact on the planet in the near future.

**‘The Christmas Pig’: JK Rowling to release new children’s book in October**



- This autumn, JK Rowling will release a new novel, a festive children's tale with all new characters. The plot revolves around a young boy named Jack and his toy Dur Pig, who mysteriously vanishes on Christmas Eve.
- On October 12th, the book will be published worldwide. Rowling's first children's book since Harry Potter is "The Christmas Pig."

**A new book title “Living Mountain” by Amitav Ghosh**

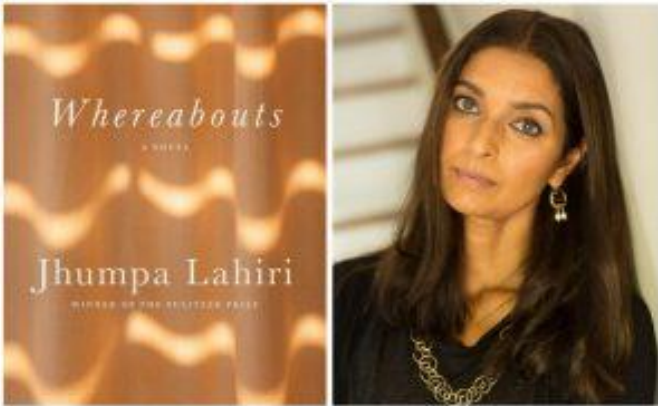


- “The Living Mountain” is a new storey written during the pandemic by Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author Amitav Ghosh. It's a cautionary tale about how humans have systematically manipulated nature, leading to environmental collapse in our time.

**Aakash Ranison launches his E-Book “Climate Change Explained – For One And All”**

- The Living Mountain will be published as a special standalone edition by HarperCollins Publishers India in January 2022 under its prestigious Fourth Estate imprint. The book will also be released in Hindi, as well as as an ebook and an audiobook.

**Jhumpa Lahiri Comes Out With New Novel 'Whereabouts'**



- Jhumpa Lahiri, a well-known American author, has released a new novel titled "Whereabouts." The book is an English version of Jhumpa Lahiri's 2018 novel "Ias Dove Mi Trovo," which was written by the author and released in Italy.
- The novel was translated by the author herself into English. The novel follows an unidentified female protagonist as she looks back on her life over the course of 45 years, glancing sideways, back and forth, chronicling life, relationships, and the burdens of relationships in brief, concise chapters.

**Topic 7: Defence News**

**Indian Army to participate in Military Exercise SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021**



- From April 4 to 12, 2021, Bangladesh will host a multinational military exercise dubbed "SHANTIR OGROSHENA" 2021 (Front Runner of the Peace).
- The exercise's theme is "Robust Peacekeeping Operations." The exercise is being held to

commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's "Father of the Nation," and to mark the country's glorious 50 years of independence.

- Along with a contingent from the Royal Bhutan Army, the Sri Lankan Army, and the Bangladesh Army, the Indian Army is taking part in this multinational exercise.
- The Indian contingent will consist of 30 people, including officers, JCOs, and jawans from the DOGRA Regiment's Battalion.
- Military observers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey, the Kingdom of Saudi



Arabia, Kuwait, and Singapore will attend the exercise.

**4th batch of three Rafale fighter jets land in India**



- The fourth batch of three Rafale fighter jets arrived in India after flying nonstop from Istres Air Base in France, bolstering the Indian Air Force's strike capability (IAF). Air force tankers from the United Arab Emirates refuelled the Rafale fighter jets in mid-flight (UAE).
- The three Rafale fighter jets that flew from France to India were expected to land at Jamnagar Air Base. The Hammer missiles also improved the ability of planes armed with them to carry out air-to-ground attacks like the one in Balakot.

**Lightweight Bullet Proof Jacket developed by DRDO lab**

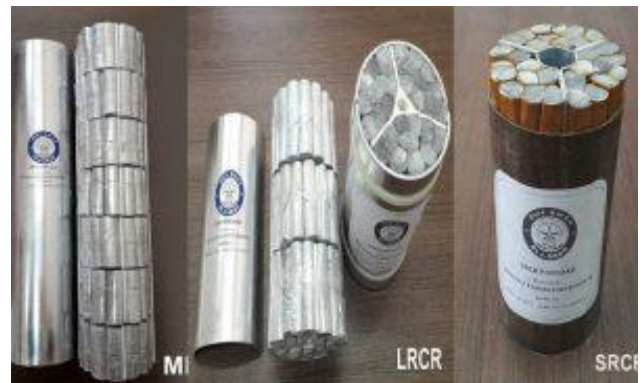


- DRDO and DMSRDE Kanpur have been congratulated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for designing a LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket. To realise AtmaNirbhar Bharat's dream, India requires more creative product design and production.
- A LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket weighing 9 kg has been developed by DMSRDE Kanpur, a DRDO laboratory, to meet the qualitative requirements of the Indian Army.
- The Front Hard Armour Panel jacket was tested successfully at TBRL Chandigarh and met applicable BIS requirements.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.

**DRDO develops Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard naval ships**



- To protect naval ships from missile attack, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed Advanced Chaff Technology.
- The DRDO lab's development of Advanced Chaff Technology is another step in the direction of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



- Chaff is a passive, expendable electronic countermeasure technology that is used to defend naval ships from enemy radar and radio frequency (RF) missile seekers all over the world.
- The significance of this invention stems from the fact that a small amount of chaff material deployed in the air serves as a decoy to divert enemy missiles and protect the ships.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.

### 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' Flags off



- The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was launched at the Special Forces Brigade of the Kyrgyz Republic's National Guards in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital.
- The two-week special operations exercise, which began in 2011, focuses on high-altitude combat, mountain warfare, and counter-extremism drills.
- The Indian contingent for the exercise praised their role as a link in promoting both countries' common mountain and nomadic heritage. The

event was marked by a ceremonial procession, a show of equipment and arms, and a visit to the training arena and barracks.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Kyrgyzstan Capital: Bishkek.
- Kyrgyzstan President: SadyrJaparov.
- Kyrgyzstan Currency: Kyrgyzstani som.

### DRDO develops supplemental oxygen delivery system for soldiers



- Soldiers working in extremely high altitude areas and COVID-19 patients will benefit from a SpO2-based supplementary oxygen delivery system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- This automated device provides additional oxygen depending on the person's SpO2 (blood oxygen saturation) levels and keeps them from falling into a state of hypoxia, which is usually fatal.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.

- DRDO Established: 1958.

## 19th India-French Naval Exercise “VARUNA” begins



- The 19th edition of the bilateral Indian-French naval exercise 'VARUNA-2021' was held in the Arabian Sea from April 25 to 27, 2021.
- Both navies' units will conduct high-tempo naval operations at sea during the three-day exercise, which will include advanced air defence and anti-submarine drills, vigorous fixed and rotary wing flying operations, tactical manoeuvres, surface and anti-air arms firings, underway replenishment, and other maritime security operations.
- The Indian Navy will send the guided-missile stealth destroyer INS Kolkata, guided-missile frigates INS Tarkash and INS Talwar, Fleet Support Ship INS Deepak, Seaking 42B and Chetak integral helicopters, a Kalvari class submarine, and P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft to the exercise.
- The French Navy will be embodied by the Aircraft Carrier Charles-de-Gaulle, which will be equipped with a Rafale-M bomber, E2C Hawkeye aircraft, and Caman M and Dauphin helicopters, as well as the Horizon-class Air Defence Destroyer Chevalier Paul, the Aquitaine-class multi-mission frigate FNS Provence, and the Command and Supply Ship Combat.

## India Joins Rescue Ops For Missing Indonesian Submarine “KRI Nanggala-402”



- The Indian Navy has entered the search for an Indonesian submarine and its 53-member crew that has been missing for more than four days. After its 44-year-old submarine, KRI Nanggala-402, went missing while performing a torpedo drill north of the island of Bali, Indonesia sought help from India.
- The Deep-Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSVR) of the Indian Navy set sail from Visakhapatnam.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Indonesia President: Joko Widodo;
- Indonesia Capital: Jakarta;
- Indonesia Currency: Indonesian rupiah.

## DRDO develops single crystal blades for helicopter engines



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed single-

crystal blade technology for helicopters and has supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for engine application as part of their indigenous helicopter development programme. A total of five sets of single-crystal blades (300 blades) will be developed by the DRDO.

- The Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) has embarked on a project to produce five sets of single-crystal high-pressure turbine (HPT) blades using a nickel-based superalloy.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.

**DRDO Conducts Maiden Trial of Python-5 Air to Air Missile Using LCA Tejas**



- The 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) was successfully test-fired from Tejas aircraft by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Goa. The Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) is now part of India's indigenously produced Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas' air-to-air weapons kit.
- The trials also aimed to verify the enhanced capability of the Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas, which had already been integrated. The Python-5 air-to-air missile (AAM) is one of the most advanced guided missiles in the world, manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Israel.

**Topic 8: Economy**

**Govt pegs market borrowing at Rs 7.24 lakh crore in 1st half of FY22**



- To meet capital to revive the economy hit by the coronavirus pandemic, the government has agreed to borrow Rs 7.24 lakh crore in the first half of fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22). This borrowing accounts for 60.06 percent of fiscal 2021-22 gross issuances.
- According to Budget 2021-22, the expected gross borrowing for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021 is Rs 12.05 lakh crore. To finance its fiscal deficit, the government uses dated securities and treasury bills to collect capital from the market.

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.

**UNESCAP: India’s Economic Growth Of 7% in 2021-22**



- According to the latest update from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), India's economy is expected to expand by 7% in 2021-22, compared to a contraction of 7.7% in the previous fiscal year due to the pandemic's effect on normal business operation.
- Maintaining low borrowing rates while keeping non-performing loans under control will be difficult, according to the study.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UNESCAP Founded: 28 March 1947.
- UNESCAP Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand.

**GST revenue collection in March 2021**

**World Bank raises GDP growth projection for India to 10.1% for FY22**



- Due to a strong turnaround in private consumption and investment growth, the World Bank has revised upward its GDP growth forecasts for India by 4.7 percentage points to 10.1 percent for the financial year 2021-22. The bank had previously forecasted GDP growth of 5.4% for FY22.
- Aside from that, the World Bank predicts an 8.5% contraction in the economy in FY21 (2020-21). India's economic growth is expected to be 5.8% in FY23, according to the multilateral organisation (2022-23).

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**





- The economic recovery in India is gaining traction. GST receipts for the month of March surpassed Rs 1.23 lakh crore, a new high since the Goods and Services Tax was implemented in July 2017.
- The total GST revenue received in March 2021 reached a new high of 1,23,902 crores, with CGST accounting for 22,973 crore, SGST for 29,329 crore, IGST for 62,842 crore, and Cess accounting for 8,757 crore.

**List of GST Collection previous months**

- February 2021: Rs 1,13,143 crore
- January 2021: ₹ 1,19,847 crore
- December- Rs 1,15,174 crore
- Novemeber: ₹1.04 lakh crore
- October 2020: ₹ 1,05,155 crore

**IMF revises GDP growth forecast of India to 12.5% for FY22**



- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised the Indian economy's growth forecast for fiscal year 2021-22 by 100 basis points to 12.5 percent. The GDP growth rate for FY23 is estimated to be 6.9%.
- The revised forecast was published in the IMF's World Economic Outlook. In FY22, India is the only big global economy predicted to develop by double digits.

**RBI Monetary Policy: Policy Rate unchanged**



- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) six-member monetary policy committee, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, agreed to hold main lending rates unchanged for the fifth time in a row at its April 2021 policy review meeting, held between April 5 and 7, 2021.
- In the wake of a new wave of coronavirus infections, the Reserve Bank of India is likely to keep policy rates unchanged.

**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%

**Nomura slashes India’s GDP forecast to 12.6% in FY22**



- Amid rising coronavirus cases and higher inflation, the Japanese brokerage firm Nomura has revised India's GDP forecast for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) to 12.6 percent from 13.5 percent previously.

- Nomura forecasts 11.5 percent GDP growth for the calendar year, down from 12.4 percent previously.

**Rating Agencies downgrade India’s GDP forecasts for FY22**



- Leading brokerages have downgraded India's GDP growth forecasts for the current fiscal year 2021-22, citing the revival of COVID-19 cases as a challenge to economic recovery. Local lockdowns have pushed the current fiscal year's growth rate to as low as 10%, jeopardising the fragile recovery.

**Given below in the GDP growth forecast by several rating agencies for FY22:**

Agencies	FY22 (revised estimate)	FY22 (previous estimate)
Nomura	12.6%	13.5%
JP Morgan	11%	13%
UBS	10%	11.5%

Citi Research	12%	12.5%
---------------	-----	-------

**Care Ratings Projects India’s GDP growth forecast at 10.2% for FY22**



- India's GDP growth forecast has been lowered to 10.2% in 2021-22 by Care Ratings (FY22). This was previously projected to be between 10.7% and 10.9 percent.
- This decrease in GDP is attributed to the fact that economic activity is being harmed across the world as a result of state-imposed restrictions in response to an increase in COVID-19 incidents.

**ICRA Slashes India’s GDP Forecast by 0.5% to 10.5% in FY22**



- India's growth estimate for 2021-22 has been lowered by 0.5 percent on the upper end, with the economy now expected to rise 10-10.5 percent in 2021-22, down from 10-11 percent previously forecast.
- The downward revision in the forecast follows the reintroduction of lockdowns and restrictions as a result of rising COVID-19 events.

**S&P Projects India’s GDP Growth Forecast at 11% in FY22**



- The Indian economy is expected to rise at a rate of 11% in the current fiscal year, 2021-22, according to S&P Global Ratings (FY22).
- India currently has a ‘BBB-’ sovereign ranking from S&P, with a positive outlook. The S&P forecasted an 8% contraction in the Indian economy for 2020-21.

**Fitch Ratings Affirms India’s Sovereign Rating at ‘BBB-’**



- The sovereign rating of India has remained unchanged at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook, according to Fitch Ratings.
- Fitch previously forecasted a 7.5% contraction in GDP in 2020-21, followed by 12.8% growth in FY22 and 5.8% growth in FY23.

## Ind-Ra Projects India's GDP Growth Rate at 10.1% in FY22



- India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 (2021-22) has been lowered to 10.1 percent by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).
- This was previously estimated by Ind-Ra to be 10.4%. The lower estimate is due to the second wave of COVID-19 infections and a slower vaccine schedule.
- The economy is expected to contract by 7.6 percent in FY21 (2020-21). The Fitch Group's Ind-Ra is a wholly-owned company.

## SBI Research Projects India's GDP Growth Rate at 10.4% for FY22



- India's GDP growth rate for FY22 (2021-22) has been revised by the State Bank of India (SBI) Research to 10.4 percent.
- It had previously estimated this to be 11%. Because of the rising COVID-19-related curbs across states, the downward projection was made.

## Goldman Sachs Downgrade India's GDP Growth Forecast to 10.5% for FY22



- Goldman Sachs, a Wall Street brokerage, lowered India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22) to 10.5 percent from 10.9 percent previously.
- The downward revision is attributed to an increase in pandemic cases and a slew of main states declaring tighter lockdowns, all of which have a negative impact on economic activity.

## Oxford Economics Projects India's FY22 GDP Growth Forecast to 10.2%





- Oxford Economics, a global forecasting company, has lowered India's GDP growth estimate for fiscal 2021-22 to 10.2 percent.
- It had previously expected 11.8 percent. The country's extreme health burden, low vaccination rate, and lack of a convincing government plan to combat the pandemic all contributed to the downward revision.

**ADB Projects India’s GDP to grow 11% in FY22**



- 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%

The rate is focused on a "solid" vaccine drive being carried out across the world, but the ADB warns that the recent increase in COVID cases may jeopardise the country's economic recovery.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa; Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- ADB Established: 9 December 1966.

**IHS Markit Estimates GDP Growth Rate of India at 9.6% for FY22**



- The Indian economy is expected to rise at a rate of 9.6% in FY22, according to London-based financial services firm IHS Markit (2021-22).
- The revision is focused on factors such as the ongoing lockdown and mobility restrictions, as well as concerns of a time extension and expansion to more Indian cities.

**Topic 9: International News**

**Russia registers world's 1st Covid vaccine Carnivac-Cov for animals**



- Russia's agriculture safety watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor has registered the world's first animal vaccine against the novel coronavirus. Carnivac-Cov is the name of an animal vaccine created by a Rosselkhoznadzor (Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance) unit.
- Immunity continues for six months after vaccination, but the dose's creators are still looking into it. According to Russian scientists, using this vaccine will help prevent virus mutations. According to Russian scientists, using this vaccine will help prevent virus mutations. It is the first and only product on the market that prevents Covid-19 in animals.

**Carl Bildt appointed WHO special envoy for ACT-Accelerator**

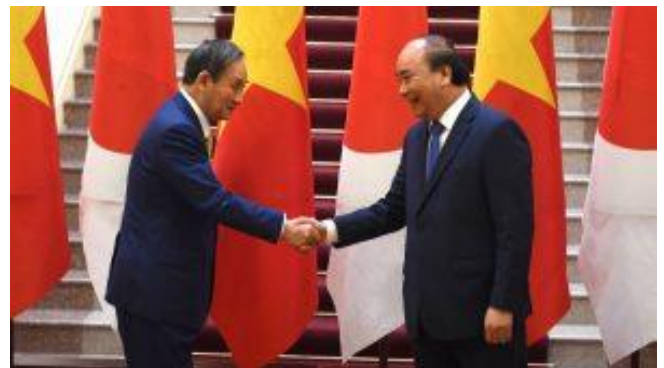


- Carl Bildt has been appointed WHO Special Envoy for the Access to COVID-19 Tools

Accelerator by World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (ACT-Accelerator).

- In the position of special envoy, Bildt succeeds Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Andrew Witty. In his new position, he will help lead the ACT-collective Accelerator's activism, mobilising support and resources so that it can meet its 2021 plan.
- According to the WHO website, the ACT-Accelerator is a pioneering global partnership aimed at accelerating the growth, distribution, and equitable access to novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) studies, treatments, and vaccines.
- Governments, scientists, corporations, civil society, philanthropists, and public health organisations are all represented.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CEPI, FIND, Gavi, The Global Fund, Unitaid, Wellcome, the WHO, and the World Bank are among these organisations.

**Vietnam National Assembly selects PM & President**



- Pham Minh Chinh, a Communist Party member with a background as a security official, was elected as Vietnam's next Prime Minister by the country's legislature. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the outgoing Prime Minister, has been appointed the new President.

- The nearly 500 members of the National Assembly ratified the Communist Party's leadership choices taken at its national congress in January.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi.
- Vietnam Currency: Vietnamese dong.

### Kosovo's parliament elects Vjosa Osmani as president



- Vjosa Osmani was elected president of Kosovo by the country's parliament. In the third round of voting in the Kosovo Assembly, Osmani won 71 votes from lawmakers.
- In the 120-member parliament, 82 deputies voted, but 11 of their votes were declared invalid. The 38-year-old lawmaker received a doctorate from Pittsburgh University in the United States after studying law at the University of Pristina in Kosovo.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Kosovo Capital: Pristina.
- Kosovo Currency: Euro.

### Niger President Bazoum Names Mahamadou as New Prime Minister



- 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.
- He was the chief of staff to former President Mahamadou Issoufou between 2015 and 2021. He was sworn as Niger's first democratic transition of power since independence in 1960.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Niger Capital: Niamey.
- Niger Currency: West African CFA franc.

### Singapore becomes first country to ratify mega free trade agreement 'RCEP'





- Singapore has ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement, which was negotiated by China. As a result, Singapore became the first of the 15 participating countries to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- To take effect, the RCEP must be ratified by at least six ASEAN and three non-ASEAN member states. RCEP will be the world's largest free trade agreement once adopted, representing about one-third of the world's population and about 30% of the global economy.
- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a multi-nation trade agreement that includes ten ASEAN economies as well as Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar.
- Capital of Singapore: Singapore.
- PM of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.

**United Arab Emirates names its first female astronaut**



- On April 10th, the United Arab Emirates announced the names of the next two astronauts in its space programme, including the country's first female astronaut. Noura al-Matroushi is the first female astronaut from the United Arab Emirates. There was no detail

about her or her male counterpart, Mohammed al-Mulla, in the announcement.

- Al-Matroushi works as an engineer for the National Petroleum Construction Company in Abu Dhabi. Al-Mulla is a Dubai police pilot and the director of their training section. The two are scheduled to train at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Hazzaa Al-Mansoori was the UAE's first astronaut in 2019. He was on the International Space Station for a week.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.

**Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' unveiled in Bangladesh**



- The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh has launched a Sanskrit learning app called "Little Guru" in Bangladesh.
- The Sanskrit learning app is part of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations' (ICCR) global campaign to promote the Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists, and historians.



- Little Guru, a Sanskrit learning app, is built on an interactive platform that makes learning Sanskrit easy, entertaining, and enjoyable.
- This app will assist people who are already learning Sanskrit or who want to learn Sanskrit in a fun and easy way using games, competition, prizes, peer-to-peer interactions, and other methods.
- According to a press release issued by the Indian High Commission, this app blends education and entertainment.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.

**US President Biden announces complete troop withdrawal from Afghanistan**



- All American troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan by September 11 this year, according to US President Joe Biden, putting the country's longest war to a close.
- Before the 20th anniversary of the heinous assault on September 11, US soldiers, as well as forces deployed by our NATO (North Atlantic

Treaty Organization) Allies and operational partners, will be out of Afghanistan (2001).

- Biden and his team are fine-tuning a national plan to track and counter major terrorist threats not only in Afghanistan, but in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere.
- Biden met with former US presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush before making the announcement.
- On February 29, 2020, the US and the Taliban signed a historic agreement in Doha to bring permanent peace to war-torn Afghanistan and enable US troops to return home from America's longest war.

**Indian-American Congressman Introduces Resolution "To Honour" BR Ambedkar**



- For the second year in a row, an Indian-American Congressman has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives to honour Bhimrao Ambedkar, India's Constitution's architect, on his 130th birthday, so that young leaders around the world can be motivated by his vision for equality.
- Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to economics, political science, civil rights, religious harmony, and jurisprudence, according to the resolution, have had a profound influence on citizens of all

castes, races, genders, religions, and backgrounds around the world, promoting democratic ideals, unfettered equality, and justice for people of all castes, races, genders, religions, and backgrounds.

## New Zealand Makes World's 1st Climate Change Law For Financial Firms



- New Zealand is about to become the world's first nation to enact legislation requiring financial institutions to report on how their operations impact climate change.
- The aim is to get the financial sector on board with the country's efforts to become carbon neutral by 2050.
- In September of last year, the New Zealand government announced its plans to force the financial sector to make disclosures, stating that those who were unable to do so would be required to provide explanations.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Prime minister of New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern.
- Capital of New Zealand: Wellington.
- The currency of New Zealand: New Zealand dollar.

## Miguel Díaz-Canel to succeed Raúl Castro as the President of Cuba

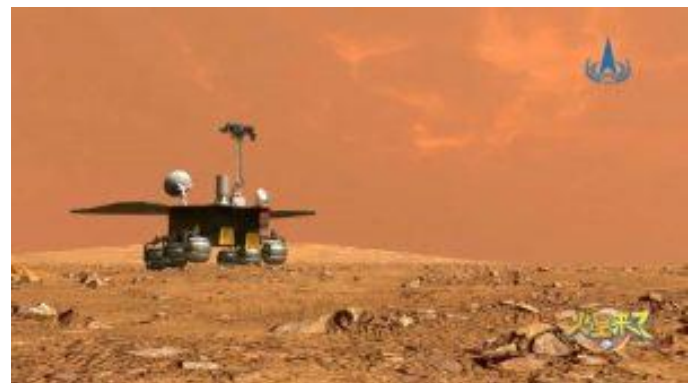


- Following Raul Castro's resignation, Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel was sworn in as the "First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba." The Communist Party Secretary is the most influential position in Cuba's ruling party.
- Daz-Canel now holds Cuba's two most powerful positions: party chairman and president of the nation.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Cuba Capital: Havana;
- Cuba Continent: North America;
- Cuba Currency: Cuban peso.

## China names its first-ever Mars rover "Zhurong"



- Ahead of a landing attempt on Mars in May, China has named its first-ever Mars rover "Zhurong" after an ancient fire god.

- The name was announced at the sixth China Space Day in Nanjing by the China National Space Administration (CNSA). “Huoxing,” the Chinese word for Mars, literally means “fire star.”

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.

### China Launches Robot Prototype ‘NEO-01’ Clear Space Debris



- On its Long March 6 rocket, the Chinese government launched a robot prototype known as 'NEO-01' into Earth's low orbit.
- Origin Space, a Shenzhen-based space mining start-up, created the 30kg robot prototype.
- Tiny celestial bodies in deep space will be observed, and space debris removal methods will be tested.
- NEO-01 will collect debris left behind by other spacecraft with a wide net and then burn it with its electric propulsion system.

## Topic 10: Miscellaneous News

### PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to June 30



- In light of the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the central government has extended the deadline for connecting the Aadhaar number to the permanent account number (PAN) to June 30, 2021.
- The previous deadline had been March 31. Those who miss the deadline face a penalty of up to Rs 1,000 and their PAN will become null, according to the government.
- The deadlines for issuing notices under Section 148 of the Income Tax Act of 1961, passing consequential orders for direction given by the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP), and processing



equalisation levy statements have all been pushed back until April 30, 2021.

- Last week, the government passed the Finance Bill 2021 in the Lok Sabha, which included a new section 234H that makes an individual liable to a late fee of up to Rs 1,000 if their PAN is not linked to Aadhaar.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UIDAI Founded: 28 January 2009;
- UIDAI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- UIDAI CEO: Saurabh Garg.

**West Central Railway becomes first fully electrified Indian Railways zone**



- After CCRS Inspection and Commissioning of electrification of Kota – Chittaurgarh railway section (Srinagar – Jalindri) in the state of Rajasthan, Indian Railways' West Central Railway zone becomes fully electrified!
- West Central Railways is the country's first fully electrified railway zone. The electrified network of the zonal railway now totals 3012 kilometres.
- Trains passing through this railway section can now run at a faster pace, according to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal. The electrification of this railway section would have a number of

benefits, including fuel savings, reduced travel time, and environmental protection.

**J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurates Tulip Festival**



- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Tulip Festival in Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley. On the Zabarwan Mountains' foothills, over 15 lakh flowers of more than 64 varieties are in full bloom.
- The Asia's largest tulip garden, located at the foothills of the Zabarwan hills on the banks of the world-famous Dal Lake in Srinagar, hosts a five-day Tulip Festival.
- The Tulip Garden first opened its doors to visitors and the general public on March 25th.
- The Tulip Festival was cancelled last year due to COVID-19's extraordinary situation.
- This time, however, the Tulip Festival is being staged on a grand scale in order to draw a larger number of visitors.
- The Tulip Festival, which runs from April 3 to 7, will feature Kashmiri folk music as well as a painting competition.

**Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launches "NanoSniffer"**





- The world's first Microsensor-based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD) named "NanoSniffer" was introduced by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank."
- NanoSniff Technologies, a startup incubated at IIT Bombay, created the ETD. Vehant Technologies, a spin-off from Kritikal Solutions, a former IIT Delhi incubated company, is marketing it.

**Indian Army Officer Bharat Pannu Breaks 2 Guinness World Records**



- From October 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Bharat Pannu of the Indian Army has set two Guinness World Records for his fastest solo cycling feats. Lt Col Pannu set the first record when he cycled from Leh to Manali (472 km) in 35 hours and 25 minutes on October 10, 2020.

- Lt Col Pannu set a new record by cycling the 5,942-kilometer 'Golden Quadrilateral' route in 14 days, 23 hours, and 52 minutes, connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.

**'Lost golden city of Luxor' discovered by archaeologists in Egypt**



- Archaeologists in Egypt have found the 'lost golden city of Luxor.' Amenhotep III founded the 3,400-year-old royal city, which was abandoned by his heretic son, Akhenaten, and contains stunningly preserved remains.
- Egyptologist Betsy Bryan has dubbed the find "the second most significant discovery after Tutankhamun's tomb."
- When Akhenaten moved his capital from the 'golden city' to Amarna, he promoted a strikingly different style of Egyptian art. He is seen here with his three daughters and wife, Nefertiti.

**"Online Grievance Management Portal" launched**



- The “Online Grievance Management Portal of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)” was launched by Union Ministers for Communication, Information Technology, and Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The NCSC Grievance Management Portal will make it easier for our country's Scheduled Castes population to file a complaint from anywhere in the country.
- They will be able to submit their application as well as other atrocity and service-related complaints online and have them answered in a timely manner via the portal.
- Through this portal, the NCSC aims to streamline grievance redressal, especially for the Scheduled Caste population.
- The portal, which was created in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, will allow for end-to-end e-filing and monitoring of complaints and grievances.

**HGCO19 an mRNA Vaccine Candidate**



- The clinical trials of India's mRNA-based covid-19 vaccine candidate, HGCO19, developed by Pune-based biotechnology firm Genvova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd, have earned additional government funding.
- DBT's dedicated Mission Implementation Unit at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council approved additional funding under Mission Covid Suraksha—The Indian covid-19 Vaccine Development Mission on Tuesday, according to the ministry of science and technology's department of biotechnology (DBT) (BIRAC).
- All applications submitted in response to the ‘Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)’ under Mission COVID Suraksha for the production of covid-19 vaccine candidate(s)’ were evaluated multiple times.

**Microsoft buys AI speech tech company Nuance for \$19.7 billion**



- After LinkedIn, Microsoft has made its second-largest acquisition. Nuance, an AI speech technology company, was purchased by the tech giant for \$19.7 billion. Microsoft's voice recognition capabilities would benefit from the change, as well as its position in the health-care industry.
- Nuance is best known for its Dragon app, which uses deep learning to transcribe expression. LinkedIn was acquired by Microsoft for \$26 billion in 2016.
- The deal will bring together solutions and skills to offer new cloud and AI technologies to healthcare and other sectors, and it will be the next phase in Microsoft's industry-specific cloud strategy.
- Nuance is a leader in the real-world implementation of enterprise AI, providing the AI layer at the healthcare point of delivery.
- Multiple clinical speech recognition software as a service (SaaS) offering based on Microsoft Azure are among Nuance's offerings. The company's technologies integrate with key healthcare systems and are currently used in 77 percent of hospitals in the United States.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;

- Nuance CEO: Mark D. Benjamin;
- Nuance Headquarters: Massachusetts, United States;
- Nuance Founded: 1992, United States.

**Railways to run 'Oxygen Express' trains via green corridors**



- Priyanka Mohite of Satara in western Maharashtra has climbed Mt Annapurna, the world's tenth highest mountain peak, becoming the first Indian woman to do so.
- Mount Annapurna is a Himalayan massif in Nepal with one peak over 8,000 metres and is considered one of the most difficult mountains to climb.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal;
- Indian Railways Founded: 16 April 1853, India;
- Indian Railways Headquarters: New Delhi.

**Priyanka Mohite becomes first Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna**





- **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.

### ITBP Water Sports & Adventure Institute inaugurated in Tehri



- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has founded the Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI) at Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand.
- Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju jointly inaugurated the institute on Friday.
- This institution, which will include instruction in aero, water, and land-related sports and

adventure activities, will be managed independently by the ITBP's Mountaineering and Skiing Institute in Auli. **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ITBP Founded: 24 October 1962.
- ITBP Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- ITBP DG: S SDeswal.

### UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham leads global vaccination drive



- David Beckham, a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, is leading a global campaign to boost vaccine interest and persuade parents to vaccinate their children against deadly diseases.
- Beckham speaks out about the loss of daily activities due to COVID-19, such as hugs with family, spending time with friends, and being with the people we love, in a powerful video released ahead of World Immunization Week, and urges parents to get vaccinated so that their children are healthy.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America.
- UNICEF Executive Director: Henrietta H. Fore.



## Topic 11: National News

### Govt further extends Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to June 30, 2021



- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 3.0) has been extended by the Central Government for another three months, until June 30, 2021, or until a sum of Rs. 3 lakh crore is approved under the Scheme.
- In addition, the government has made several changes to the ECLGS system in order to contribute even more to economic recovery.
- As of February 29, 2020, the collateral cap has been increased to 40% of outstanding loans. This cap was previously set at 20%.
- Borrowers with cumulative credit outstanding up to Rs 500 crore and overdues of 60 days or less on February 29, 2020, as opposed to 30 days previously, will now be covered by the scheme.

- The tenor of loans issued under ECLGS 3.0 is 6 years, with a 2-year moratorium on principal repayment. The tenor in ECLGS 2.0 was five years with a 12-month moratorium.
- The scheme also includes an opportunity for MLIs (member lending institutions) to make additional funding available to qualified beneficiaries.
- The ECLGS was announced as part of the Central Government's AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package to provide MSMEs, business enterprises, individual loans for business purposes, and MUDRA borrowers with completely guaranteed and collateral-free additional credit.

### Government announces Rs 14,500 crore capital infusion in 4 PSBs



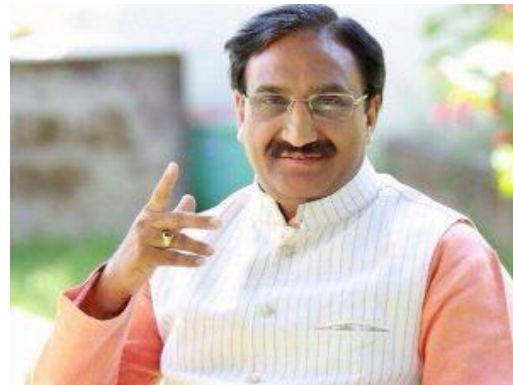
- In 2020-21, the Central Government plans to invest Rs 14,500 crore in four state-owned

banks, including the Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India, and UCO Bank, by issuing non-interest bearing bonds.

- This infusion would bring the government's cumulative capital infusion in public sector banks to Rs 20,000 crore for the current fiscal year 2020-21. It had previously invested Rs 5,500 crore in Punjab and Sind Bank in December 2020.
- The Recapitalisation bonds will have six separate maturities, and the special securities will be “at par” for the sum as determined by the qualifying banks' application.
- Banks require capital to meet the mandatory reserve requirements laid out by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, make provisions for bad loans and kick-start the lending cycle when demand revives in the economy.

- The government, on the other hand, revoked the orders on April 1, 2021. This is the fourth quarter in a row that the government has held the rates on these schemes, which go into operation on April 1 and run until June 30, 2021.

**Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ launched “MyNEP2020” platform of NCTE Web Portal**



- The “MyNEP2020” Platform of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Web Portal has been launched by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ and will be operational from April 1 to May 15, 2021.
- The platform aims to gather feedback, data, and membership from stakeholders in order to draught a draught for the creation of National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and membership in the National Mission for Mentoring Program (NMM).
- Teachers, education experts, academicians, and other stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of teacher policy documents in order to achieve long-term and substantive progress in the Teacher Education Sector.
- For preparing the documents on the above two major recommendations of NEP 2020, NCTE will work in close consultation with individuals/organizations. The expert committee will extensively review the inputs

**Centre withdraws order cutting interest rates on small savings schemes**



- For the first quarter of 2021-22, the government has withdrawn its order cutting interest rates on small savings schemes such as National Savings Certificates (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF).
- On March 31, 2021, the Finance Ministry announced a 50-110 basis point reduction in interest rates for small savings schemes. Small savings scheme interest rates are announced on a quarterly basis.

collected during the consultation period and will finally formulate the drafts for public review.

**GoI declares 14th April, the birthday of Dr B R Ambedkar as a public holiday**



- Dr. BR Ambedkar's birthday, April 14, has been declared a national holiday by the central government. Dr. B R Ambedkar sculpted the Indian Constitution, and every year the country commemorates his birthday as Ambedkar Jayanti.
- The government has proclaimed the 14th of April a public holiday beginning this year. On April 14, 2021, it will be Ambedkar's 130th birthday.

**India completes arch of world’s highest railway bridge in J&K**



- The structure of the world's highest railway bridge, which soars 359 metres above the

Chenab river's bed in Jammu and Kashmir, has been completed.

- The 1.3-kilometer-long bridge, which is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project, is being built at a cost of Rs 1,486 crores to improve connectivity in the Kashmir Valley.

**Features of the Arch of the iconic Chenab Bridge:**

- In 2002, the Chenab bridge project was designated as a national project.
- As part of the USBRL project to link the Kashmir valley to the rest of the country, Indian Railways is building the iconic Arch Bridge on the Chenab River.
- The length of this bridge is 1315 metres.
- This is the world's highest railway bridge, rising 359 metres above the riverbed level.
- The most advanced 'Tekla' structural detailing tools available.
- Structural steel was appropriate for temperatures ranging from -10°C to 40°C.
- The bridge was designed to withstand winds of up to 266 km/h.

**Dr Harsh Vardhan and Arjun Munda launches Tribal Health Collaborative ‘Anamaya’**





- 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)**.
- Anamaya is a multi-stakeholder project that brings together the efforts of various government agencies and organisations to improve the health and nutrition of India's tribal communities.
- The Ministry will participate in the Collaborative by establishing a National Council on Tribal Health to guide policy initiatives in tribal health, establishing a Health Cell to closely track healthcare delivery in tribal areas, and devising mechanisms to enforce the Tribal Health Action Plan.

- During the virtual launch of SUPACE, Justice L Nageshwara Rao, who is also the chairman of the Supreme Court's Artificial Intelligence Committee, gave the opening address.
- The Artificial Intelligence Committee was chaired for the first time by Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde.
- Soon after taking the oath as Chief Justice in 2019, CJI Bobde stated the use of AI to assist the Supreme Court.

**Tika Utsav: COVID-19 Vaccination Drive**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently urged state chief ministers to organise a "Tika Utsav."
- Tika Utsav is a festival dedicated to vaccines. It will take place between April 11th and 14th, 2021. The festival's key goal is to have as many people vaccinated as possible. It will also concentrate on ensuring that no COVID-19 vaccine is wasted.
- Three states are currently obtaining the maximum amount of COVID-19 doses. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat are the three states.

**CJI launches top court’s AI-driven research portal ‘SUPACE’**



- The Supreme Court of India has opened “SUPACE,” an artificial intelligence portal (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency). The SC intends to use machine learning to deal with the massive quantities of data received at the time of case filing through this portal.



- COVAXIN and COVISHIELD are the two most popular COVID-19 vaccines used in India right now.
- So far, India has shipped 64 million doses of vaccines to 84 countries in the **Caribbean, Africa, and Asia**. The major recipient countries of the Indian COVID-19 vaccines are **Mexico, Canada, and Brazil**.
- The Gov has planned to cover 250 million people included in the “high priority” category by July 2021 under its vaccination programme.

**India gifts Rs 100 crore patrol vessel “PS Zoroaster” to Seychelles**



- During the virtual summit between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan, India formally handed over the Rs 100 crore patrol vessel "PS Zoroaster" to the Seychelles.
- Since 2005, the PS Zoroaster is the fourth patrol boat built in India for the Seychelles. PS Topaz (2005), PS Constant (2014), and Patrol Boat Hermes are among the other vessels gifted by India (2016).
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering constructed the 48.9-meter patrol boat at a cost of Rs 100 crore.
- The ship can travel at 35 knots and has a range of 1,500 nautical miles. It will be used for multi-purpose operations, such as patrolling, anti-

smuggling and anti-poaching operations, and search and rescue.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Seychelles Capital: Victoria.
- Seychelles Currency: Seychellois rupee.
- Seychelles Continent: Africa.

**Ramesh Pokhriyal launches implementation plan ‘SARTHAQ’**



- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal presided over a high-level meeting on the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and unveiled the ‘Students’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)’ implementation plan for school education.
- SARTHAQ is an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education created by the Department of School Education and Literacy. It was released as part of the celebrations leading up to the Amrit Mahotsav on the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- The plan keeps in mind the concurrent nature of education and adheres to the spirit of federalism. States and UTs are given the

flexibility to adapt this plan with local contextualisation and also modify it as per their needs and requirements.

**Mental-Health Digital Platform MANAS Launched**



- Prof. K Vijay Raghavan, the Government of India's Principal Scientific Adviser, has launched a mobile app called "MANAS" to cater to citizens' mental well-being on scalable, stable, and digital platforms.
- The Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System (MANAS) is an acronym for Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.
- MANAS is a project of the Government of India's Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser. NIMHANS Bengaluru, AFMC Pune, and C-DAC Bengaluru collaborated on the project.
- The Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) created MANAS to encourage health among people of all ages.

**Piyush Goyal Launches “e-SANTA”, an Electronic Marketplace For Aqua Farmers**



- Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, has launched e-SANTA, an electronic marketplace that will link aqua farmers and buyers. Aqua farmers' revenue, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality standards, and traceability are all goals of e-SANTA.
- Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA Farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture (e-SANTA) is an acronym for Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA Farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture.
- The Marine Products Export Development Authority's extension arm, the National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA), is used here.
- By removing middlemen, it will serve as an alternative marketing method for farmers and buyers.
- The platform would assist farmers in obtaining a better price and exporters in purchasing high-quality products directly.

**Gender Samvaad event launched by Ministry of Rural Development**



- The Gender Samvaad Event was recently launched by the Ministry of Rural Development. It's a collaborative effort between DAY-NRLM and IWWAGE.
- The main goal of the Gender Samvaad event was to raise awareness about the DAY-gender-related NRLM's interventions. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission is the acronym for Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- The Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing women and girls in the workplace.
- It provides opportunities to understand the best practices of other states to improve women agencies.
- Facilitating women's access to land rights and participation in Farmer Producer Organizations, for example, as well as building strong structures for public service delivery and best practises in food, nutrition, health, and water and sanitation.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Union Minister of Rural Development: Narendra Singh Tomar.

**Italy launches first ever mega food park in India**



- Italy has opened its first-ever mega food park in India, in Fanidhar, Gujarat's Mehsana district. The project focuses on the research and development of new and more productive technologies in the field, with the aim of creating synergy between agriculture and industry in the two countries.
- Italy also hopes to take advantage of the vast opportunities presented by the Indian market. This is the first Italian-Indian food park project, a food-processing initiative that serves as a cornerstone of the India-Italy partnership.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Italy Capital: Rome;
- Italy Currency: Euro;
- Italy President: Sergio Mattarella

**Piyush Goyal launches the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**



- The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme was introduced by Union Minister Piyush Goyal (SISFS). The Fund aims to help entrepreneurs with proof of concept, prototype creation, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- The government has authorised a corpus of Rs. 945 crore for the fund, which will be divided over the next four years, starting April 1, 2021, to provide seed funding to qualified startups through eligible incubators across India. Via 300 incubators, the programme is projected to fund an estimated 3,600 startups.

### Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurates first-ever online exhibition on Ramayana



- On the occasion of World Heritage Day 2021, Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture ( I/C), Prahlad Singh Patel, digitally inaugurated the first-ever Online Exhibition on Maharishi Valmiki's epic Ramayana.
- “Rama Katha: The Story of Rama Through Indian Miniatures” is the title of the online exhibition. It features 49 miniature painting collections from various Indian art schools spanning the 17th to 19th centuries. The painting was taken from the National Museum in New Delhi for collection.

### India elected to 3 bodies of U.N. Economic and Social Council



UNITED NATIONS

- India has been elected to three UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) bodies by acclamation for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022. These are the UN Bodies:
- The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is a non-profit organisation dedicated to preventing crime and (CCPCJ)
- The UN Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment's Executive Board (UN Women)
- The World Food Programme's Executive Board (WFP)

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- UN Economic and Social Council President: Munir Akram;
- UN Economic and Social Council Headquarters: New York, USA.

### PM Modi Launches Extension of ‘SVAMITVA scheme’ Across India





## SVAMITVA SCHEME

Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology In Village Areas

- On National Panchayati Raj Day, April 24, 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi used video

conferencing to initiate the distribution of e-property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme. Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) is an acronym for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas.

- The launch marked the beginning of the SVAMITVA scheme's introduction across the world. During the case, approximately 4.09 lakh property owners were issued their e-property cards in over 5,000 villages.

## Topic 12: Obituaries

### Japanese Nobel laureate Isamu Akasaki passes away



- Isamu Akasaki, a Japanese physicist and co-winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics, has died. Akasaki, a professor at the university, was honoured for his contribution to the development of vivid, energy-efficient white light sources known as LED lamps.
- In 1997, the Japanese government awarded him the Medal with Purple Ribbon, which is given to those who have contributed to academic and artistic advancements.
- Akasaki, a professor at Meiji University, shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with Hiroshi Amano, a physicist at the University of Nagoya, and Shuji Nakamura, a professor at the University of

California, Santa Barbara, in 2014. He collaborated with Amano on the production of gallium nitride crystals, and in 1989, he produced the world's first blue LED.

### Veteran film and TV actress Shashikala passes away



- Shashikala Om Prakash Saigal, a veteran film and television actress, has died. Shashikala, as she was more commonly called by her first name, has appeared in over 100 films as various supporting characters.
- In 2007, the Indian government awarded Shashikala the prestigious Padma Shri award for her outstanding contribution to the world of cinema and the arts.

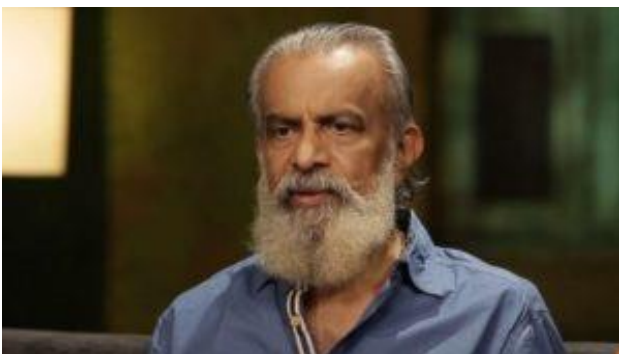
- In 2009, she was also honoured with the V. Shantaram Awards' prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Shashikala has won two Filmfare awards for her performances in Aarti and Gumrah.

**Samajwadi Party founder member Bhagwati Singh passes away**



- Bhagwati Singh, a founding member of the Samajwadi Party and a former UP minister, died. He was 89 years old when he died.
- Singh's last rites will not be performed because he promised to donate his body to the King George Medical University.

**Malayalam screenwriter P. Balachandran passes away**

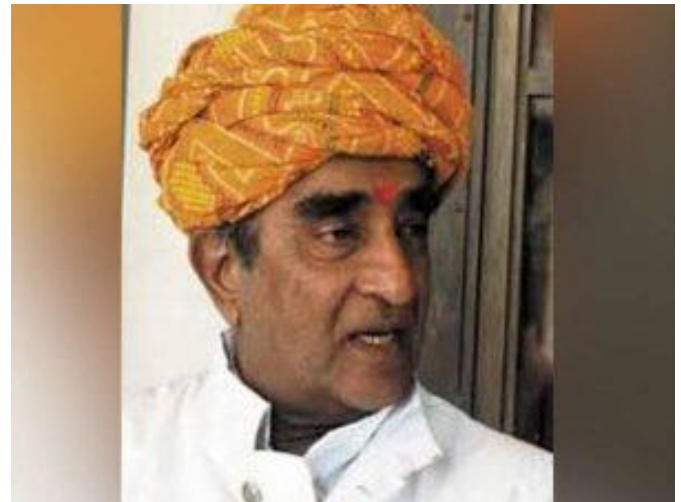


- P. Balachandran, a Malayalam screenwriter, filmmaker, dramatist, and actor, has died. In the year 1989, he received the Kerala Sahitya

Akademi Award and the Kerala Professional Nataka Award for his play Paavam Usman.

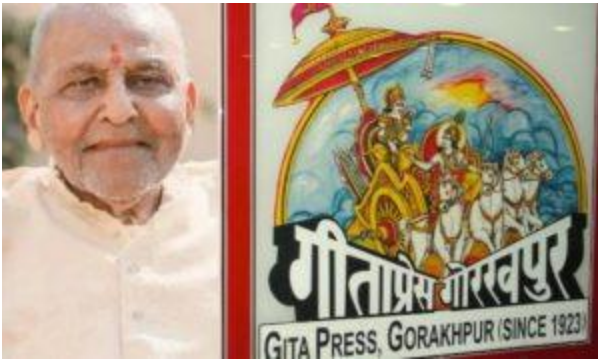
- Ulladakkam (1991), Pavithram (1994), Agnidevan (1995), Punaradhivasam (2000), and KammattiPaadam are just a few of Balachandran's scripts (2016). Ivan Megharoopan is his directorial debut (2012). He's also appeared in a few films, the most well-known of which is Trivandrum Lodge (2012).

**Former Union Minister and Gujarat MLA DigvijaysinhZala passes away**



- DigvijaysinhZala, a former Union Environment Minister and MLA from Gujarat's Wankaner, has died.
- From 1982 to 1984, the veteran Congress leader served as India's first Environment Minister under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

**Gita Press president Radheshyam Khemka passes away**



- Radheshyam Khemka, the president of Gita Press, passed away. He is credited with bringing Sanatan literature to a wider audience.
- Khemka was the editor of the prestigious 'Kalyan' journal, which was printed at the press for 38 years. He last edited the April 2021 edition of the journal. Gita Press is the world's largest publisher of Hindu religious texts.

**India's first female cricket commentator Chandra Naidu passes away**



- Chandra Naidu, India's first female cricket commentator, has died. She was the daughter of CK Naidu, India's first Test captain.
- In 1977, she did her first commentary during a match in Indore between national champions Bombay (now Mumbai) and MCC. She also

wrote a book about her late father, CK Nayudu, who was a famous cricketer, titled "CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers."

**Renowned journalist, Padma awardee Fatima Rafiq Zakaria passes away**



- Fatima Rafiq Zakaria, a Padma Shri recipient, renowned journalist, academician, and chairman of the Maulana Azad Educational Trust and the Khairul Islam Trust in Mumbai, died. In 2006, she was awarded the Padma Shri for her contributions to education.
- Ms Zakaria was also awarded the Sarojini Naidu Integration Award for Journalism in 1983, in recognition of her contributions to education.

**Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, passes away**



- The husband of Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, has died. In June, the 99-year-old royal died just months before his 100th birthday. At the age of 96, he stepped down from public service.



- He was the longest-serving royal consort in British history, having spent decades by Queen Elizabeth II's side.

**Legendary shooting coach Sanjay Chakravarty Passes away**



- Sanjay Chakravarty, a legendary shooting coach, died of Covid-19. Abhinav Bindra, Gagan Narang, Anjali Bhagwat, Suma Shirur, Deepali Deshpande, Anuja Jung, and Ayonika Paul were among the best Indian shooters trained by the Dronacharya awardee.

**Hockey Player Balbir Singh Junior passed away**



- Balbir Singh Junior, a member of the Indian hockey team that won silver at the 1958 Asian Games, has died.
- He enlisted in the Army as an emergency commissioned officer in 1962. He played in national hockey tournaments for the Services hockey team in Delhi. Singh left the army as a Major in 1984 and moved to Chandigarh.

**Eminent Historian Yogesh Praveen passes away**



- Yogesh Praveen is an eminent historian and an expert on Awadh, especially Lucknow. He educated the public about Avadh's rich heritage and culture through his books and essays. In 2019, he received the Padma Shri award.
- His books' titles, such as 'Dastan-e-Avadh,' 'Tajdare-Avadh,' 'Bahar-e-Avadh,' 'Gulistan-e-Avadh,' 'Doobta Avadh,' 'Dastan-e-Lucknow,' and 'Aapka Lucknow,' reveal a long-standing love affair with the region.'

**Former election commissioner G.V.G. Krishnamurthy passes away**



- Former election commissioner, **GVG Krishnamurthy** passed away due to age-related ailments. An Indian Legal Service officer, Krishnamurthy became the election commissioner in **October 1993 to September 1996**.



**India sign MoU with France for cooperation on Gaganyaan Mission**



- Dr. Kakarla Subba Rao, a renowned radiologist and the first director of the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Hyderabad, has died.
- Rao was awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government in 2000 for his contributions to medicine.
- He founded the Telugu Association of North America (TANA), which serves as an umbrella organisation for Telugu speakers in the United States.

**Former CBI Chief Ranjit Sinha passes away**



- Ranjit Sinha, the former Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), has died. He was a Bihar cadre 1974-batch IPS officer who served as CBI Director from December 3, 2012 to December 2, 2014.

- Sinha had previously served as Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Railway Protection Force, and several other senior positions in the CBI in Patna and Delhi before being named Director of the CBI.

**Adobe co-founder and PDF developer Charles Geschke passes away**



- Charles Geschke, an American computer scientist best known as the co-founder of Adobe Inc, a graphics and publishing software corporation, has died. In 1982, Geschke and a friend, John Warnock, co-founded Adobe.
- Chuck Geschke, as he was known, also contributed to the creation of the common Portable Document Format (PDF).

**Veteran actor Satish Kaul passes away**



- Satish Kaul, a veteran actor who appeared in over 300 Punjabi and Hindi films and played Lord Indra in the TV show Mahabharat, has died.

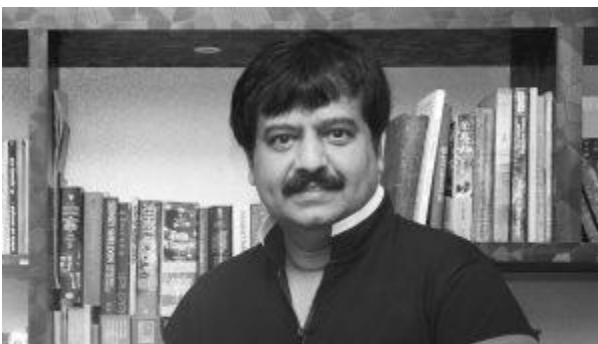
- In the early 1970s, the actor split his time between Hindi and Punjabi films. Ram Lakhan, PyaarTohHona Hi Tha, and Aunty No 1 are some of his well-known Bollywood films.

**Former Footballer Ahmed Hussain Passes Away**



- Ahmed Hussain Lala, a former India international football defender, died of COVID-19. He competed for India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, where they came in fourth place. He was also a member of the Indian team that won the gold medal at the Asian Games in 1951.
- Ahmed also competed in the Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan, in 1958, where India placed fourth. Ahmed represented Hyderabad City Police, Mohun Bagan, and Mohammedan Sporting Club in club football. He won two Santosh Trophies, three Durand Cups, and six Rovers Cups throughout his career.

**Veteran Tamil actor and comedian Vivek passes away**



- Vivek, a well-known Tamil actor and comedian, has died. In the late 1980s, he was launched by legendary filmmaker K Balachander. He went on to become one of Tamil cinema's most in-demand comedy actors in the 1990s, and he has maintained a foothold in the industry.
- In 2009, the actor received the Padma Shri award for his outstanding contribution to Tamil cinema. He appeared in over 200 films. He most recently appeared in Dharala Prabhu, a Tamil remake of the Hindi film Vicky Donor.

**Veteran Kannada writer GanjamVenkatasubbiah passes away**



- GanjamVenkatasubbiah, a veteran Kannada writer who was also a grammarian, editor, lexicographer, and literary critic, died recently. He was 107 years old.
- In his literary circles, he was recognised as a walking encyclopaedia of Kannada language and culture.

**National Award-winning filmmaker Sumitra Bhave passes away**



- Sumitra Bhave, a well-known Marathi filmmaker, has died. Sumitra Bhave and filmmaker Sunil Sukthankar were a famous duo in Marathi cinema and theatre. She was recognised for her unconventional material as well as how she dealt with social problems in her films.
- Sumitra and Sunil directed several famous films together, including Doghi, Dahavi Fa, Vastupurush, Devrai, Badha, Ek Cup Chya, Samhita, Astu, and Kaasav.
- In the categories of Best Non-Feature Film on Family Welfare, Best Educational / Motivational / Instructional Film, Best Film on Other Social Issues, and Best Feature Film, they have won National Film Awards.

**Former Union Minister Bachi Singh Rawat Passes Away**



- Bachi Singh Rawat, a senior BJP leader and former Union Minister, has died. He was a four-time Member of Parliament from Uttarakhand's Almora-Pithoragarh constituency.

- In the Atal Bihari Vajpayee administration, he was the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology.

**Former RBI Governor MaidavoluNarasimham passes away**



- MaidavoluNarasimham, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has died. He was dubbed the "Father of Indian Banking Reforms" by many.
- From May 2, 1977, to November 30, 1977, he was the RBI's 13th Governor. He was well-known for chairing two powerful banking and financial sector reform committees.

**Former US Vice President Walter Mondale Passes Away**

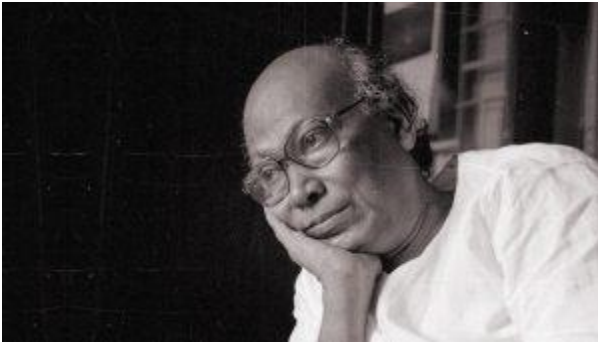


- Walter Mondale, a former American politician, diplomat, and lawyer who served as the 42nd Vice President of the United States, has died.



- From 1977 to 1981, he was Vice President under President Jimmy Carter. From 1993 to 1996, he was the United States' ambassador to Japan under Bill Clinton.

**Eminent Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh passes away**



- Shankha Ghosh, a well-known Bengali poet, died as a result of COVID-19 complications. Kuntak was the pen name he used.
- For his contributions to Bengali literature, he received various awards, including the Padma Bhushan in 2011, the Jnanpith Award in 2016, and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for his book "BabarerPrarthana," as well as Saraswati Samman and Rabindra Puraskar.

**Chad President IdrissDeby passes away**



- IdrissDebyltno, the President of the Republic of Chad, died on the battlefield after a clash with rebels in which he was wounded.
- He had governed the Central African country for more than three decades and had also been

proclaimed the winner of the presidential election in 2021, allowing him to extend his reign for another six years. Deby was elected for the first time in 1996 and 2001. Following that, he won in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021.

**Veteran actor Kishore Nandlaskar passes away**



- Kishore Nandlaskar, a veteran actor who appeared in both Marathi and Hindi films, died as a result of COVID-19 complications.
- In 1982, he made his Marathi film debut in "Navare Sagle Gadhav," followed by roles in "BhavishyachiAishiTaishi: The Prediction," "Gaon Thor PudhariChor," and "JaraJapun Kara."
- Nandlaskar is best known for his appearances in Hindi films such as Khakee (2004), Vaastav: The Truth (1999), Singham (2011), JisDesh Mein Ganga Rehta Hain (2000), Simmba (2018), and others. He most recently appeared in Mahesh Manjrekar's web series "1962: The War In The Hills."

**Renowned Qawwali Singer Farid Sabri Passes Away**





- Farid Sabri of the popular Sabri Brothers duo, a Qawwali singer, has died. The Sabri Brothers (Farid and Amin Sabri) were known for songs like "Der Na Ho Jaye KahinDer Na Ho Jaye" and "EkMulakatZaruri Hai Sanam," which are still popular today.
- The brothers and their father, Saeed Sabri, sang qawwali at a number of events in India and abroad.

**Padma awardee winning Indian Islamic Scholar Maulana Wahiduddin passes away**



- Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, a well-known Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader, and author, died as a result of Covid-19 complications.
- He has written over 200 books on various aspects of Islam, but is best known for his

commentary on the Quran and its English, Hindi, and Urdu translations.

- He received many prestigious awards, including the Padma Vibhushan (2021), Padma Bhushan (2000), and the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award (2009).

**Music Composer Shraavan Rathod of “Nadeem-Shraavan” Fame Passes Away**



- Coronavirus complications claimed the life of veteran music composer Shraavan Rathod of Nadeem-Shraavan fame. Nadeem-Shraavan (Nadeem Saifi and Shraavan Rathod) were one of the most sought-after composer duos in the 1990s.
- They collaborated on songs for films like Aashiqui (1990), Saajan (1991), Hum Hain RahiPyaarKe (1993), Pardes (1997), and Raja Hindustani (1996), among others.
- In the 2000s, the Nadeem-Shraavan duo split up, but they reunited in 2009 to compose for David Dhawan's Do Knot Disturb.

**Veteran Gujarati and Hindi Film Actor Amit Mistry Passes Away**



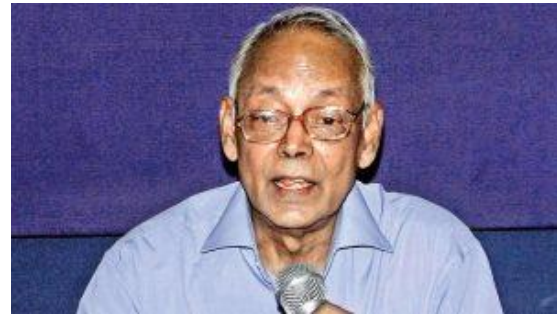
- Amit Mistry, a famous Gujarati and Hindi film actor who was most recently seen in the Amazon Prime Video series "Bandish Bandits," has died. The actor was a well-known figure in Gujarati theatre.
- He was also known for memorable roles in Bollywood films such as Kya Kehna, EkChalis Ki Last Local, 99, Shor In The City, YamlaPagla Deewana, and A Gentleman, as well as television shows such as Tenali Rama, Ssshhh...Koi Hai, Maddam Sir, and Shubh Mangal Savadhan, as well as OTT shows.

**Supreme Court judge MM Shantanagoudar passes away**



- 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.

**Veteran Indian Nuclear Scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam Passes away**



- Krishnamurthy Santhanam, an Indian nuclear scientist who was a key figure in the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, has died.
- He worked closely with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA).

**Doyen of Indian Classical Music Pandit Rajan Mishra Passes Away**



- Pandit Rajan Mishra, a well-known Hindustani classical singer from India's "Banaras Gharana," has died.
- He was an Indian classical singer who sang in the khyal style. In the field of photography, Mishra received the Padma Bhushan award in 2007.

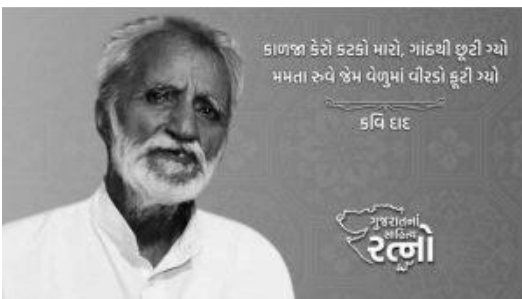
- The Sangeet NatakAkademi Award, the Gandharwa National Award, and the National Tansen Samman were all given to Pandit Rajan Mishra.

**Former Maruti Suzuki MD Jagdish Khattar Passes Away**



- Jagdish Khattar, Maruti Suzuki's former Managing Director, died recently. From 1993 to 2007, he worked at Maruti Suzuki India Limited. He is credited with turning Maruti into India's largest automobile manufacturer.
- Khattar joined Maruti as a Director in July 1993 and was promoted to Managing Director in 1999, first as a government nominee and then as a Suzuki Motor Corporation nominee in May 2002.
- After leaving Maruti in October 2007, Khattar started his own business, Carnation Auto.

**Renowned Gujarati poet and folk singer Dadudan Gadhvi Passes Away**



- DadudanPratapdan Gadhvi, a veteran Gujarati poet and folk singer, has died. He was 80 years old at the time. Kavi Dad was another name for him.
- In 2021, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for his contributions to literature and education. He also composed songs for 15 Gujarati films.

**Noted Odia and English Author Manoj Das Passes Away**



- Manoj Das, an eminent Indian educationist, influential columnist, and prolific author who wrote in both Odia and English, has died.
- Das' first book was a collection of poems called "SatavdiraArtanada," which was written in Odia while he was in high school.
- For his contributions to literature and education, he was awarded the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2020.

**Topic 13: Ranks & Reports**

**India ranks 140th in WEF’s gender gap index 2021**



- In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021, India has dropped 28 places to number 140 out of 156 countries. India was ranked 112th out of 153 countries in 2020.
- For the 12th time, Iceland has topped the index as the world's most gender-equal nation. Afghanistan is the report's worst-performing region.
- Iceland, Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Rwanda, Sweden, Ireland, and Switzerland are among the countries included.
- The World Economic Forum's annual release, the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, is in its 15th edition.
- The World Economic Forum launched the Global Gender Gap Index in 2006 to compare gender differences across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health, and political leadership.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologne, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Founder: Klaus Schwab.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971.

**Jeff Bezos tops Forbes’ Annual Billionaire list fourth year in a row**



- For the fourth year in a row, Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon.com Inc, has topped Forbes' annual list of the world's billionaires. Mukesh Ambani, India's richest billionaire, came in 10th position with a total net worth of USD 84.5 billion.
- On April 6, 2021, Forbes announced the 35th edition of the World's Billionaires list, which included a record-breaking 2,755 billionaires. The wealth is calculated based on stock prices and exchange rates as of 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

**Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020 published**



- ShanghaiRanking Consultancy has announced the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) for 2020. According to the published Academic Ranking of World Universities, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore) is the best higher education institute in India, while Calcutta University is the best university in the region (ARWU 2020).
- Indian institutes do not even make the top 100 list; the best higher education institute in the country (IISc Bangalore) is in the 501-600 range.

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



- The Inclusive Internet Index 2021 was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in collaboration with Facebook. India is currently ranked 49th in the world. It is ranked alongside Thailand.
- This index assesses the availability and affordability of the internet in each country, as well as providing further insight into how people use the internet around the world.
- Sweden, the United States, Spain, Australia, and Hong Kong are the top five countries.
- The 'Inclusive Internet Index' polled 120 countries, accounting for 98% of global GDP and 96% of global population.
- The overall Index score is determined by four factors: availability, affordability, relevance, and readiness. Facebook commissioned The Economist Intelligence Unit to create the Inclusive Internet Index.

**Henley Passport Index 2021 released**



- The Henley Passport Index released its list of the most strong passports on April 17 in the midst of the rising COVID-19 cases and resulting restrictions on international travel, as several countries are banning individuals from the worst-affected countries.
- India is ranked 84th on the list, with Indian people having visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to over 58 countries. Japan, Singapore, Germany, and South Korea are the top three countries in the world.
- The Henley Passport Index publishes a list of the most travel-friendly passports in the world. The index assigns points to countries based on the strength of their passports.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- International Air Transport Association Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.
- International Air Transport Association Founded: 19 April 1945.
- International Air Transport Association Leader: William M. Walsh.
- Henley & Partners Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom.
- Henley & Partners Founded: 1997.
- Henley & Partners Chairman: Christian Kalin.

- Henley & Partners CEO: Juerg Steffen.

**India Ranks 142 in World Press Freedom Index 2021**



- In the new World Press Freedom Index 2021, published on April 20, 2021, India was ranked 142nd out of 180 countries. India was ranked 142nd in 2020 as well.
- For the fifth year in a row, Norway has held the top position, with Finland and Denmark coming in second and third, respectively. At 180th spot, Eritrea is at the bottom of the index.
- Every year, the international journalism non-profit organisation "Reporters Without Borders (RSF)" publishes the index to assess the state of press freedom in 180 countries and territories.

**India Ranks 87th in WEF Global Energy Transition Index 2021**



- In the 2021 Energy Transition Index, India is ranked 87th out of 115 countries (ETI).
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) released a study prepared in collaboration with Accenture to monitor countries' current energy system output across various aspects.

- The 10th edition of the index was won by Sweden, which was followed by Norway (2nd) and Denmark (3rd), Switzerland (4), and Austria (5). (5).
- Finland (number six), the United Kingdom (number seven), New Zealand (number eight), France (number nine), and Iceland (number ten) are among the top ten countries in the ranking (10).
- Zimbabwe is the index's bottom-ranking nation.

- These five countries spent 62 percent of all military spending in the world.
- In 2020, global military spending is expected to reach \$1981 billion. In actual terms, this represents a 2.6% improvement over the previous year.

## India Ranks 49th in Chandler Good Government Index 2021



CHANDLER  
GOOD GOVERNMENT  
INDEX

- In the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021, India is ranked 49th out of 104 countries.
- Finland is ranked first in the CGGI Index 2021, while Venezuela is ranked 104th.
- The Chandler Institute of Governance, based in Singapore, publishes the Chandler Good Governance Index.
- Leadership and foresight, strong structures, robust laws and regulations, attractive market place, financial stewardship, helping people grow, global impact and credibility are the seven pillars on which the index is built.

## India third highest military spender in 2020



- According to new data released on April 26, 2021 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) named "SIPRI Military Expenditure Database," India remained the world's third largest military spender in 2020.
- According to the latest survey, the United States (\$778 billion), China (\$252 billion), India (\$72.9 billion), Russia (\$61.7 billion), and the United Kingdom (\$59.2 billion) will be the top five spenders in 2020.

## Topic 14: Schemes & Committee

### Dr. Harsh Vardhan approves National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021



- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Union Health Minister, has approved the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021. The strategy aims to reduce the high cost of treating rare diseases by focusing more on indigenous science and local drug development.
- The policy also emphasises early screening and prevention through primary and secondary health-care infrastructure, such as Health and Wellness Centers and District Early Intervention Centers.
- A provision for financial assistance up to Rs.20 lakh under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi's Umbrella Scheme is proposed for the treatment of rare diseases that need a one-time treatment (diseases listed under Group 1 in the policy).

**TRIFED launches “Sankalp se Siddhi”- Village and Digital Connect Drive**



- Sankalp Se Siddhi – Village & Digital Connect Drive has been initiated by the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED). The drive began on April 1st and will last 100 days.
- The drive involves 150 teams visiting ten villages each, with ten teams from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies visiting ten villages each in each area.
- The main goal of this drive is to get the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras up and running. In a statement, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said that in the next 100 days, 100 villages in each area and 1500 villages across the country will be protected.
- They'll also recognise tribal artisans and other groups and enlist them as suppliers, giving them access to larger markets through the Tribes India network, which includes both physical stores and TribesIndia.com.
- Sankalp Se Siddhi is expected to contribute to a complete transformation of the tribal ecosystem across the region.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda.

**NITI Aayog launches ‘Poshan Gyan’, a digital repository on health, nutrition**





- NITI Aayog and Ashoka University unveiled "Poshan Gyan," a national digital archive on health and nutrition, in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change. The website can be accessed via the following link: <https://poshangyan.niti.gov.in/>
- The repository is unique in that it has a crowdsourcing function that allows everyone to apply contact content for inclusion on the website, which is then reviewed by a committee.
- The Poshan Gyan repository allows users to search for contact materials on 14 health and nutrition-related topics in a variety of languages, media formats, target audiences, and sources.
- The repository's content comes from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Women and Child Development, as well as other developmental organisations.

**‘Aahaar Kranti’ mission launched by Health Ministry**



- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Union Health Minister, has launched Aahaar Kranti, a campaign to raise nutrition awareness. It is intended to solve India's and the world's unique issue of widespread hunger and disease.
- The movement proposes to solve the issue by educating people about the importance and diversity of India's traditional diet, as well as the healing properties of local fruits and vegetables and the wonders of a well-balanced diet. This mission is being launched by Vijnana Bharati, Global Indian Scientists and Technocrats Forum, Vigyan Prasar, and PravasiBharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark.

**RBI sets up committee to review working of ARCs**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a six-member panel to conduct a thorough analysis of Asset Reconstruction Companies' (ARCs) operations in the financial sector ecosystem.

- Sudarshan Sen, the former Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India, will lead the jury.

**Other members of the panel include:**

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

**Government Extends ‘Vivad se Vishwas’ scheme  
Deadline till 30 June 2021**



- To offer relief to taxpayers suffering difficulties due to the pandemic, the government has extended the deadline for making payments under the direct tax dispute resolution scheme ‘Vivad Se Vishwas’ by two months until June 30, 2021.
- The Ministry of Finance has now extended the deadline for the fourth time since the scheme's inception. The deadline was first extended from March 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020, then again to December 31, 2020, and finally to March 31, 2021.

**Topic 15: Science & Technology**

**Facebook and Google to build new cables under the sea called ‘Echo’ and ‘Bifrost’**



- Facebook and Google plan to build new subsea cables connecting the United States to Singapore and Indonesia.
- Facebook has teamed up with leading regional and global partners to develop the Echo and Bifrost subsea cables, which will provide crucial new connections between Asia and North America.
- Google, on the other hand, is just investing in Echo. The capacity of the transpacific system

will be increased by 70% as a result of these cables.

- While regulatory approvals are still pending, these cables are expected to provide much-needed Internet bandwidth, redundancy, and reliability once completed. The announcements come as the Covid-19 pandemic has heightened the need for dependable Internet connectivity.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.
- Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.

**Paytm Money opens new R&D centre in Pune**



- Paytm Money, an online investment platform, has opened a new R&D centre in Pune, Maharashtra, to drive product innovation, especially in the areas of equity, mutual funds, and digital gold.
- In order to develop new wealth products and services, the organisation expects to employ over 250 engineers and data scientists.
- In FY21, Paytm Money aims to reach over 10 million users and 75 million annual transactions, with the majority of users hailing from small towns and cities.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;

- Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.
- Paytm Money CEO: Varun Sridhar.

**IIT Kanpur develops touch-sensitive watch for the visually impaired**



- The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) has created a novel touch-sensitive watch for visually impaired people to use to accurately sense time.
- Professor Siddhartha Panda and Vishwaraj Srivastava of IIT Kanpur designed the watch.
- The watch we created is a haptic watch with a tactile interface that allows visually impaired people to quickly read the time.
- The watch has tactile hour indicators of different shapes that make it easy for visually impaired people to recognise them.
- The user has to touch and scan the touch-sensitive watch’s hour indicators and with the help of different vibration patterns, the watch communicates back the time information that is easily perceived by the user. This way, the person is able to read the time.

**Russian Vaccine Sputnik V gets emergency use authorisation in India**





- The DCGA, the country's drug regulator, has authorised the Russian vaccine Sputnik V for emergency use. After Covishield and Covaxin, it is also the third vaccine to receive emergency use authorization from the FDA.
- Last year, the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Russia established the vaccine.
- Dr Reddy's Lab is conducting SPUTNIK V clinical trials in India. Dr Reddy's Lab, a multinational Indian pharmaceutical company headquartered in Hyderabad, has also signed a deal with the Russian Direct Investment Fund, RDIF, for the supply of Russian vaccines in India.
- SPUTNIK V was recommended for emergency use authorization by the Indian drug regulator's Subject Expert Committee yesterday.
- In clinical trials in the world, the vaccine has shown promising results.
- The Sputnik V vaccine is said to be 91.6 percent safe, according to RDIF. In February of this year, Dr. Reddy's applied for emergency use of Sputnik-V.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.

- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.

**A 'Healthy normal' Monsoon forecasts by Skymet**



- The monsoon forecast for 2021 has been published by Skymet. The upcoming monsoon is expected to be 103 percent (with a +/- 5% error margin) of the long period average (LPA) of 880.6 mm for the four-month period from June to September, according to Skymet.
- The plains of North India, as well as a few parts of northeast India, are at risk of rain shortages during the season.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole is defined by a temperature difference between the western and eastern parts of the Indian Ocean. It's forecasted to be marginally negative. The monsoon is usually aided by a positive dipole.

**Indian expedition to Antarctica returns to Cape Town**





- The Ministry of Earth Sciences' 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA) successfully returned to Cape Town after completing a journey of approximately 12,000 nautical miles in 94 days, including stopovers.
- This accomplishment brings India's scientific endeavour on the continent of peace and cooperation to a close after four decades of progress.
- On February 27, the team arrived at Bharati station in Antarctica, and on March 8, they arrived at Maitri station. India's permanent research base stations in Antarctica are Bharati and Maitri.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Minister of Earth Sciences: Dr Harsh Vardhan.

### NASA Awards \$2.9 billion contract to SpaceX



- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States has chosen Elon Musk's SpaceX to build the first commercial lander and send the next two US astronauts to the moon as part of its Artemis programme.
- This contract is worth \$2.89 billion in total.
- By 2024, SpaceX will build a spacecraft called the "SpaceX Starship" that will land alongside two US astronauts, one of whom will be a woman, at the lunar south pole site.

- As part of the Artemis initiative, NASA hopes to send the first person of colour to the moon's surface.
- The United States sent 12 astronauts to the moon between 1969 and 1972.

### NASA's Ingenuity Helicopter Takes Flight On Mars



- NASA's tiny helicopter Ingenuity successfully flew on Mars, marking the first powered flight on another planet and dubbed "our Wright Brothers' moment" by a top engineer.
- The autonomous flight's data and photos were sent 173 million miles (278 million kilometres) back to Earth, where they were received by NASA's network of ground antennas and processed about three hours later.
- Since radio signals take too long to pass between the planets for any human operator to interfere, Ingenuity was on autopilot for the duration of its journey, out of sight, direct control, or communication with the men and women on Earth who had ordered it aloft.
- Even a piece of wing fabric from the Wright Flyer, which made similar history in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903, was borne by the mini 4-pound (1.8-kilogram) copter.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Acting Administrator of NASA: Steve Jurczyk.

- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

## NASA's Perseverance Mars rover extracts first oxygen from Red Planet



- According to NASA, the mission was completed by a toaster-sized experimental instrument onboard Perseverance known as the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE). The atmosphere of Mars is 96% carbon dioxide.
- MOXIE operates by separating oxygen atoms from carbon dioxide molecules (one carbon atom plus two oxygen atoms). Over the course of a Martian year, MOXIE is supposed to remove oxygen at least nine more times (nearly two years on Earth).

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Acting Administrator of NASA: Steve Jurczyk.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

## Topic 16: Sports News

### Lewis Hamilton won Bahrain Grand Prix 2021



- With victory in the Bahrain Grand Prix 2021, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton got his quest for an eighth world championship off to an exciting start.
- Hamilton celebrates his 96th career victory. V Bottas (Mercedes) and Max Verstappen (Red Bull) are in second and third place, respectively.

### AniyanMidhun wins gold at South Asian Wushu tourney



- Nattika's AniyanMidhun won gold at the South Asian Wushu Championship, which ended on March 31 in Nepal. In the championship, the 28-year-old youth competed in the 70-kg category for his country.
- He is the first Wushu player from the state of Tamil Nadu to make the Indian team. Midhun

holds a black belt in karate as well as national titles in wushu and kickboxing.

- In reality, when he was in fifth grade, the 28-year-old was introduced to wushu and hasn't looked back since. He is currently working with veteran coach Kuldeep Handu, the Indian wushu head coach and an Arjuna Award recipient.

## Tashkent to host 2023 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships



- During his visit to Uzbekistan, President of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Umar Kremlev officially announced that the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships will be held in Tashkent in 2023.
- The AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships will be held in Tashkent in 2023, following a competitive bid presentation by the Uzbek Boxing Federation. The AIBA Board of Directors voted in favour of the nominee city for a major event.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Uzbekistan Capital: Tashkent.
- Uzbekistan President: ShavkatMirziyoyev.
- Uzbekistan Currency: Uzbekistani so'm.

### Hurkacz beats Sinner to win Miami Open



- Hubert Hurkacz of Poland won the Miami Open final 7-6 (4), 6-4 against Jannik Sinner of Italy, who was 19 years old at the time. Hurkacz won the Masters 1000 for the first time in his country.
- Since Tomas Berdych in Paris in 2005, the world number 37 is the lowest-ranked player to win a Masters tournament.

### FIFA suspends Pakistan and Chad football federations



- Owing to allegations of outside interference, FIFA has suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) and the Chadian Football Association (FTFA) with immediate effect. Once



the relevant government decisions have been reversed, the suspension will be lifted.

- A group of football officials led by Ashfaq Hussain, who were elected by the Supreme Court to run the PFF in 2018 but were not recognised by FIFA, recently took charge of the headquarters from the FIFA Normalisation Committee led by Haroon Malik.
- On March 10, the Chadian Ministry of Youth and Sports stripped the country's Football Association of its rights, citing questions about how it was managed and a breakdown of communication.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino; Founded: 21 May 1904.
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.

**Kiren Rijju inaugurates Khelo India State Centre of Excellence in Srinagar**



- Kiren Rijju, the Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, opened the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) for Rowing at the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy at Nehru Park in Srinagar's world-famous Dal Lake.

- This is one of Jammu and Kashmir's two KISCEs. The other is Jammu's Maulana Azad Stadium, which is dedicated to the sport of fencing.
- Each of the 24 KISCEs, which are spread across 23 states and union territories, focuses on an Olympic sport discipline. This is a continuous effort to get existing centres from the states and union territories up to world-class standards, with the aim of helping India succeed at the Olympics.

**Bhuvneshwar Kumar wins ICC Players of the Month award**



- Bhuvneshwar Kumar, an Indian seamer, was named ICC Player of the Month in March for his outstanding performance in a limited-overs series against England. After the award's inception earlier this year, Bhuvneshwar has become the third Indian to receive it.
- Lizelle Lee of South Africa was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for March after scoring a century and two half-centuries in four One-Day Internationals against India to climb to the top of the Women's ODI batting rankings.

**Max Verstappen Wins Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021**





- The Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021 was won by Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) in Imola, Italy.
- This victory is his first of the season. The race was part of the 2021 Formula One World Championship's second round.
- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), the seven-time Formula One champion, finished second after colliding with Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas and sustaining damage. Lando Norris (McLaren – United Kingdom) finished seventh.

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



- Almaty, Kazakhstan hosted the 2021 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships from April 13 to 18, 2021.

- The Asian Wrestling Championships were held for the 34th time. India came in third position on the medal table with 14 medals.
- Five gold, three silver, and six bronze medals are among the awards. Iran and Kazakhstan tied for first place in the medal count with 17 each.

**India's MirabaiChanu creates a new Clean and Jerk world record in Tashkent**



- At the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, MirabaiChanu set a new World Record in the women's 49kg Clean and Jerk with a huge 119 kg lift. The 26-year-old Indian took third place in the competition.
- Hou Zhihui of China won the gold medal after setting a new world record in snatch. The Asian Games, which take place every four years, are the world's second-largest multi-sport event after the Olympics.

**Stefanos Tsitsipas Wins Monte Carlo 2021 Title**



- After a flawless performance against Andrey Rublev in Monte Carlo, Stefanos Tsitsipas has won his first ATP Masters 1000 series. Rafael Nadal had denied him in Toronto, and Novak Djokovic had defeated him in Madrid, so the Greek star had lost his previous two finals at this stage.
- Rublev advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating 11-time Monte Carlo champion Rafael Nadal. Rublev advanced to the final after defeating Roberto Bautista Agut, Rafael Nadal, and Dan Evans, but was unable to defeat Tsitsipas.

**Tamil Nadu’s Arjun Kalyan becomes 68th Indian Grandmaster**



- Arjun Kalyan of Tamil Nadu became India's 68th Chess Grandmaster after defeating Dragan Kotic in the fifth round of the GM Round Robin "Rujna Zore-3" in Serbia.
- Arjun started playing chess at the age of nine and earned his FIDE ranking a year later, under the tutelage of IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov. In 1988, Viswanathan Anand was named the country's first Grandmaster.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- The World Chess Federation, known as FIDE headquarters: Lausanne (Switzerland).

**Rafael Nadal clinches 12th Barcelona Open title**



- Rafael Nadal won the Barcelona Open for the 12th time, defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-7, 7-5. Nadal won his 87th career title, and his 61st on clay.
- This is Nadal's second tournament in which he has won 12 or more titles. In the FedEx ATP Rankings, the 13-time Roland Garros champion will return to No. 2.

**Manchester City won League Cup football tournament**



- Manchester City won the League Cup for a record-equaling fourth time in a row at Wembley, defeating a disappointing Tottenham Hotspur side.
- Liverpool won the competition four years in a row in the early 1980s, and City equaled the feat.

## Topic 17: State News

Utkal Divas or Odisha Day is celebrated on 1 April



- Every year on April 1st, Utkal Divas or UtkalaDibasha commemorates the founding of the Odisha state after a long struggle to be recognised as an independent state. Odisha was a part of the Bengal presidency under British rule, which included what is now Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha.
- The state was originally known as Orissa, but in March 2011, the Lok Sabha passed the Orissa Bill and the Constitution Bill (113th amendment), renaming it Odisha.
- People's continued struggle paid off on April 1, 1936, when the new province of Odisha was created. **Sir John Hubbak** was the first governor of the state. Notable leaders from that movement are UtkalaGouraba, Madhusudan Das, Utkala Mani, Gopabandhu Das, Fakir Mohan Senapati, Pandita Nilakantha Das, and many others.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik.
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar.
- Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

**Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam in Uttar Pradesh lists itself at BSE**



- Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam was placed on the BSE and used BSE BOND to successfully collect Rs. 150 crores by issuing Municipal Bonds on a Private Placement Basis. This is the country's first-ever green bond issuance by a municipal corporation.
- The funds will be used to construct a tertiary sewage treatment plant in Ghaziabad's Indirapuram. The funds will be used to partially finance the project, which is valued at Rs 240 crore. After treatment, this treatment plant would enable sewage water to be used in industries.
- Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam is the state of Uttar Pradesh's second municipal corporation to collect funds. Lucknow Municipal Corporation had previously been listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow.
- Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath.

**Maharashtra: Amboli named as a biodiversity heritage site**





- The Maharashtra government has designated an area near Amboli in the Western Ghats of Sindhudurg district as a biodiversity heritage site, where a rare freshwater fish species was discovered.
- Tejas Thackeray, the son of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and a wildlife researcher, and his team discovered a new freshwater fish species, Schistura Hiranyakeshi, near Amboli in Sindhudurg district's Sawantwadi tehsil.
- The state government declared the Amboli region a biodiversity heritage site in a notification. Schistura is a tiny and colourful fish that thrives in oxygen-rich water and streams.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai.
- Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

**Rajasthan becomes the 1st state to provide free health insurance to all**



- Rajasthan has become the first state in the world to provide free health insurance to all of its residents.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot revealed this proposal in the state budget for 2021-22. The Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Programme, the state's cashless "mediclaime" scheme, has begun registration.
- Per family will be covered for up to 5 lakhs in annual health insurance.
- Registration for the Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme began on April 1, and the scheme will begin benefiting residents on May 1.
- In this health insurance cover, **1576 packages** and procedures for the treatment of various diseases have been included.
- The cost of treatment related to OPD, examination, medicines and related package of 15 days after discharge will also be included in the free treatment before the patient is admitted to the hospital.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

**India's biggest floating solar power plant to be set up in Telangana**





- Ramagundam in Telangana will be home to India's largest floating solar power plant. It is scheduled to open in May of 2021. The project's cost is expected to be Rs 423 crores. A total of 4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels will be installed at the power plant.
- At the Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant reservoir, a solar power plant is being built.
- In 450 acres of the reservoir, a solar power plant will be built.
- NTPC has commissioned the project (National Thermal Power Corporation).
- Through this solar power plant, NTPC hopes to reduce its carbon footprint and increase its green energy output to 30% of its total capacity.
- The solar power plant has a capacity of 100 MW.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Telangana Capital: Hyderabad.
- Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan.
- Telangana Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao.

**Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'mask abhiyan' against Covid-19**

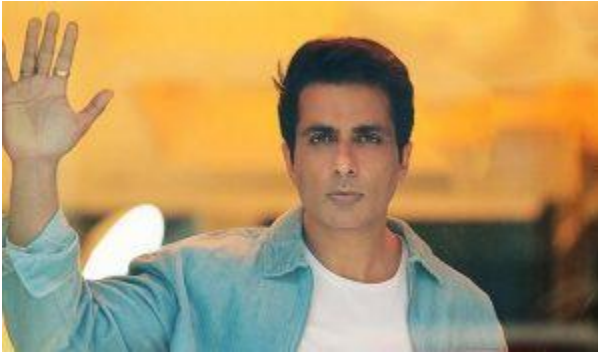


- In response to the rising number of cases of coronavirus, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a 14-day "Mask Abhiyan" and urged people to strictly follow the safety guidelines. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked for their help in making wearing a mask a ritual to combat the virus's current resurgence. Under the Epidemic Diseases Act-1897, an amendment to the Odisha Covid-19 Regulations is being proposed.
- To ensure that the 14-day mask Abhiyan produces results, the state government increased the fines for violators from 1,000 to 2000 rupees yesterday. Meanwhile, the state's covid-19 active caseload mounted further to about 6000 with the detection of 1282 fresh cases yesterday, even as the state surpassed a milestone in administering more than 40 lakh vaccine doses as of date.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik.
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar.
- Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

**Punjab appoints SonuSood as state’s covid vaccination ambassador**



- The anti-coronavirus vaccination programme in Punjab has appointed Bollywood actor SonuSood as its brand ambassador. Last year, during the coronavirus-induced lockdown, the actor assisted refugees in returning to their home states.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sood was thrust into the national spotlight for feeding thousands of underprivileged citizens. During his meeting with Punjab Chief Minister, the actor presented the Punjab Chief Minister with his book, "I Am No Messiah," which he claims captures his journey from Moga to Mumbai. **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**
- Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh.
- Punjab Governor: V.P.SinghBadnore.

**Ghaziabad issues India’s first municipal green bonds**



- Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN) has declared that India's first Green Municipal Bond issue was successfully raised and listed. GNN raised a total of 150 crores at an interest rate of 8.1 percent.
- Money will be used to clean up polluted water by constructing a tertiary water treatment plant and supplying piped water to places like Sahibabad through water metres.
- According to India Ratings, Ghaziabad is debt-free and has sustained a revenue surplus in recent years.

**Maharashtra gets India’s first floating LNG storage and regasification unit**



- The first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) in India has arrived at H-Jaigarh

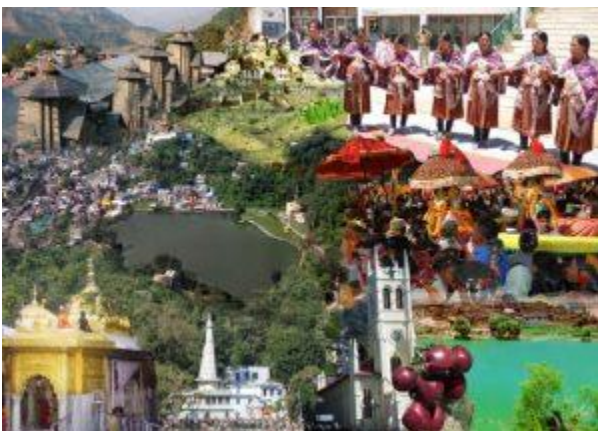
Energy's Terminal in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district, on the country's west coast.

- The aim of FSRU-based LNG Terminals is to “improve the speed of natural gas import capability in an environmentally friendly and productive manner.” The port is Maharashtra's first deepwater, private port that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Höegh Giant will supply regasified LNG to the Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline, which connects the LNG terminal to the national gas grid and is 56 kilometres long. The facility will also deliver LNG through truck loading facilities for onshore distribution, the facility is also capable to reload LNG onto small-scale LNG vessels for bunkering services.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai.
- Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

**Himachal Day is observed on 15th April**



- Himachal Pradesh celebrates Himachal Day on April 15th. On this day, the state became a full-fledged state.

- The princely states of Mandi, Chamba, Mahasu, and Sirmour were merged into four districts, resulting in the establishment of Himachal Pradesh as a Union Territory in 1948.
- Himachal Pradesh was established as India's 18th state in 1971, with Shimla as its capital.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of HP: Jairam Thakur; Governor of HP: Bandaru Dattatraya.

**Pohela Boishakh (Subho Noboborsho) 2021**



- Pohela Boishakh, also known as Bengali New Year, is the Bengali people's traditional New Year's Day.
- According to the lunisolar Bengali calendar, the festival takes place on the first day of the first month, Baishakh. In India, however, the festival is held every year on April 14 or 15.
- Pohela means "first" in Bengali, and Boishakh is the Bengali calendar's first month. Processions, fairs, and family time are also part of the festivities. On this day, Bengalis all over the world greet each other with Shubho Noboborsho, a Bengali greeting.

**Punjab All Set to become 'Har Ghar Jal' State by 2022**





- Punjab State reaffirmed its pledge to meet the 'Har Ghar Jal' deadline by 2022 as scheduled. Punjab has 34.73 lakh rural households, with 25.88 lakh (74.5%) having access to running water.
- In 2021-22, the state plans to instal 8.87 lakh tap connections, ensuring that every rural household has access to water. In Punjab, four districts, 29 blocks, 5,715 panchayats, and 6,003 villages have been designated as 'Har GharJals,' meaning that every rural household has access to running water.
- Punjab has developed a well-equipped digital 24-hour call centre with Interactive Voice Responsive System to ensure transparency and accountability. In December 2020, the analogue grievance redress system was upgraded. The redressal rate was 97.76 percent last year.
- The Executive Engineer is reminded of pending complaints on a daily basis via SMS, Whatsappmessages, e-mail, and over the phone.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh.
- Punjab Governor: V.P.SinghBadnore.

**AP launched Jagananna Vidya Deevana Scheme**

- YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, recently announced the first tranche of Rs 672 crores under the Jagananna Vidya Deevana Scheme for the fiscal year 2021-22. The fees for 10.88 lakh students is refunded as a result of this.
- The Jagananna Vidya Deevana Scheme has so far disbursed a total of Rs 4, 879 crores.
- The Jagananna Vidya Deevana Scheme's key goal is to offer scholarships to all students who are unable to pay their fees due to financial hardship.
- The programme is primarily aimed at students pursuing higher education. It aims to reimburse more than 14 lakh students in the state for their fees.
- The scheme will directly credit the amount into the accounts of students' mothers. Earlier, the money was transferred to the owners of the colleges.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Andhra Pradesh Governor: BiswabhusanHarichandan;
- Andhra Pradesh Chief minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy.

**JMM first party to declare name of electoral bonds donor**





- The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is the first political party to reveal the identity of the individual that donated to it through electoral bonds. In the party's contribution report for 2019-20, a donation of Rs 1 crore was declared.
- The donation was made by Hindalco, an aluminium and copper manufacturing firm,

according to the contribution report of the ruling party in Jharkhand.

- The association stated in a new report that donations via electoral bonds were the most common and influential source of income for national and regional political parties in 2019-20.
- This raises the question as to whether political parties are aware of the identity of the donors who have contributions through electoral bonds, as can be seen in this case.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren;  
Governor: Shrimati Droupadi Murmu.

**Topic 18: Summits & Conferences**

**Nirmala Sitharaman attends 103rd Development Committee Meeting of World Bank-IMF**



- Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, attended the 103rd Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary through video conferencing. She

discussed the steps taken to tackle COVID-19, including social assistance for the poor and disabled, as well as relief for businesses in legislative and regulatory enforcement matters, during the meeting.

- Support for Debt Relief Under the Common Framework and Beyond from the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund
- Pandemic of COVID-19: World Bank Group Support for Developing Countries' Fair and Affordable Access to Vaccines.
- Saving Lives and Livelihoods while Supporting Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development: From COVID-19 Crisis Response to Resilient Recovery (GRID).
- During the meeting, Sitharaman also stated that the Indian government has announced

AatmaNirbhar Packages worth Rs 27.1 trillion, or more than 13% of the country's GDP. These packages will provide social security for the poor and disabled while also pushing structural reforms forward.

## India-Netherlands Virtual Summit



- A virtual summit was held between India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte. During the virtual summit, the two leaders reviewed existing bilateral engagements and discussed ways to deepen and diversify the partnership in areas such as trade and economy, water management, agriculture, smart cities, science and technology, healthcare, and space.
- Apart from that, the two Prime Ministers decided to form a 'Strategic Partnership on Water' to enhance Indo-Dutch cooperation in the water sector and to elevate the Joint Working Group on Water to Ministerial status.
- They also discussed regional and global issues like climate change, extremism, and the Covid-19 pandemic, and decided to take advantage of emerging convergences in new areas like the Indo-Pacific, Resilient Supply Chains, and Global Digital Governance.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Netherlands  
Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro.

## Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Commanders' Conference 2021



- The First Bi-Annual Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021 was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Air Headquarters Vayu Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Both Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief of all IAF Commands, all Principal Staff Officers, and all Director Generals posted at Air Headquarters are expected to attend the meeting.
- Over the course of three days, a series of meetings will be held to resolve tactics and policies related to technologies that would offer the IAF a major advantage over its adversaries.
- Various welfare and HR steps to increase HR and administrative performance will be addressed as well. The Conference offers a forum for the IAF's senior leadership to address important operational, maintenance, and administrative issues.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

## PM Modi Inaugurates 6th Raisina Dialogue



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi used video conferencing to kick off the “Raisina Dialogue” in 2021.
- The Raisina Dialogue 2021 is the sixth edition of the annual dialogue, which will be held in full digital form for the first time due to the coronavirus pandemic, from April 13 to 16, 2021. Since 2016, the Raisina Dialogue has been India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the think-tank Observer Research Foundation are co-organizing the four-day dialogue.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Minister of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar.

**PM Modi Participates in Leaders’ Summit on Climate**



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the "Leaders' Summit on Climate," which was organised by US President Joe Biden.
- The two-day conference will take place practically on April 22-23, 2021, on the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change being opened for signature.
- The summit's theme was "Our Collective Sprint to 2030."
- Biden has invited a total of 40 national leaders to participate in the two-day virtual climate summit.
- The Summit takes place in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which will be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

**Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 held**



- In Boao, Hainan Province, south China, the opening ceremony for the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 took place.
- The conference's theme is "A World in Transition: Working Together to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation."

- The forum, which is now in its 20th year, has not only played a unique role in bringing countries together and presenting valuable

"Boao ideas," but it has also engaged countries in resolving global challenges and fostering global growth and prosperity.

# SECTION 2

## Detailed Analysis of Important Events



## TOPIC 1: Economics

### What are Military Farms?

Mains Paper 3: Economics Of Animal-Rearing

#### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Military farms, Project Freiswal

**Mains level :** NA

Military farms have been closed after 132 years of service.

*Read till the end to know what Project Freiswal is.*

#### What are Military Farms?

- The farms were established solely for the purpose of supplying hygienic cow milk to troops stationed in British India garrisons.
- On February 1, 1889, the first military farm was founded in Allahabad.
- Following independence, the farms thrived, with 30,000 head of cattle spread over 130 farms across India.
- In the late 1990s, they also formed themselves in Leh and Kargil.

#### Why are they shutdown?

- The main duty was to manage vast swaths of defence property, as well as to produce and supply baled hay to animal holding units.
- Several recommendations to close the farms have been made in the past.

- Their closure was recommended by the Quarter Master General branch in 2012.
- In December 2016, a committee chaired by Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (retd) was tasked with recommending steps to improve combat readiness and rebalance defence spending in the armed forces.

#### Their significance

- For more than a century, the farms have consistently produced 3.5 billion litres of milk and 25,000 metric tonnes of hay.
- It is credited with developing artificial insemination for cattle and introducing organised dairying in India, as well as providing outstanding service during the 1971 war.
- It also supplied milk to the Northern Command on the Western and Eastern fronts, as well as during the Kargil operations.

#### Another initiative: Project Freiswal

- Via interbreeding, selection, and progeny testing of bulls, it uses Friesian-Sahiwal cross-breeds as a foundation for the evolution of a new milch strain dubbed "Frieswal."
- It was first used on November 3, 1987, at Meerut's Military Farm School and Research Centre.
- Its aim was to look into the genetics of Holstein x Sahiwal crossbreeds as well as other significant indigenous cattle breeds in order to develop them through selection.

## Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code

Mains Paper 3: Effects Of Liberalization On The Economy, Changes In Industrial Policy and their effects on Industrial Growth

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** HSN Code

**Mains level :** Not Much

It has been made mandatory for a GST taxpayer having a turnover of more than Rs 5 crore in the preceding financial year, to furnish 6 digits HSN Code (Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code). This comes into effect from April 1.

**HSN code**

- The World Customs Organization established the Harmonized System, or simply 'HS,' which is a six-digit identification code (WCO).
- It is a multipurpose foreign commodity nomenclature known as the "common economic language" for products.
- Over 200 countries depend on the system to set customs tariffs, collect foreign trade data, formulate trade policies, and monitor products.
- The scheme aids in the harmonisation of customs and exchange practises, lowering foreign trade costs.

**What makes the 6 digit code?**

- Numbers are organised in a legal and logical structure with well-defined rules to achieve standardised classification in a six-digit code.
- The first two digits represent the HS Chapter, the next two represent the HS heading, and the last two represent the HS subheading.

- For eg, the HS Code for pineapple is 0804.30, which indicates that it belongs to Chapter 08 (Edible fruit & nuts, peel of citrus/melons), Heading 04 (Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, and other fresh or dried fruits), and Subheading 30 (Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, and other fresh or dried fruits) (Pineapples).

**Sadabahar: A mango variety that bears fruits round the year**

Mains Paper 3: Major Crops & Cropping Patterns

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Sadabahar mango

**Mains level :** GMO crops



A farmer from Kota, Rajasthan, has developed a round-the-year dwarf variety of mango called Sadabahar, which is resistant to most major diseases and common mango disorders.

Try this PYQ:

**Q. With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements:**

1. GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (CSP 2018)**

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Sadabahar**

- The fruit has a sweeter flavour than langra, and since it is a dwarf variety, it is ideal for kitchen planting, high-density plantation, and can also be grown in pots for a few years.
- Furthermore, the flesh of the fruits, which are available all year, is a deep orange colour with a sweet taste, and the pulp contains very little fibre, distinguishing it from other varieties.
- Mango contains a wealth of nutrients that are extremely beneficial to one's wellbeing.
- The National Innovation Foundation (NIF), an autonomous organisation of the Department of Science and Technology in India, has verified this variety.

## Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP)

Mains Paper 3: Indian Economy

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP)

**Mains level :** Open market operations

**What is the first phase of operation?**

- The RBI has announced that the first phase of G-SAP 1.0 operations will begin on April 15, 2021.
- The purchase of five dated securities for a total of Rs 25,000 crore will be the first phase.
- The first step of the G-SAP purchase will be conducted using the multiple price process, in which bidders pay the rate at which they bid.
- The RBI has announced the acquisition of four G-Sec securities with varying maturities.
- The RBI will continue to deploy routine operations in addition to the G-SAP programme.
- Longer-term repo/reverse repo auctions, forex operations, and open market operations, including special OMOs, will all fall under the LAF.
- This is to ensure that the liquidity conditions evolve in consonance with the stance of monetary policy.

**What are the concerns?**

- Interest rates – The RBI's decision to keep the yield low is good news for the government because it lowers overall borrowing costs.
- However, the RBI's decision to artificially lower interest rates in the financial system has raised concerns.
- Interest rates should be determined by demand and supply in a stable economic environment.
- It should not be artificially suppressed by the central bank; this may cause distortions and other problems.
- Savers are people who save money. Lower interest rates would benefit large, well-rated businesses that can issue bonds to raise funds, as well as the government.
- Low interest rates combined with high inflation, on the other hand, are a structural concern for savers.
- If inflation adjusted rates or real rates are taken into account, savers are still having negative returns on their deposits.
- Rupee – The government's decision to buy large amounts of bonds in order to hold interest rates down is bad news for the local currency.
- The Indian Rupee has been under pressure after the Reserve Bank of India announced a huge Rs 1 lakh crore bond purchase programme.
- Fears of investors withdrawing capital from India in a low-interest setting are weighing on the rupee.

## Production of Poppy Straw

Mains Paper 3: Major Crops & Cropping Patterns

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Not Much

**Mains level :** Opium cultivation

The Central government has decided to rope in the private sector to commence production of concentrated poppy straw from India's opium crop.

**What is the move?**

- The step aims to increase the yield of alkaloids, which are used in medicine and exported to a number of countries.
- India is one of the few countries allowed to cultivate the opium poppy crop for export and alkaloids extraction, but it currently only extracts alkaloids from opium gum at Revenue Department-controlled facilities.
- Farmers harvest gum from opium pods by manually lancing them and selling it to government factories.
- After trial cultivation reports submitted last year by two private firms showed higher alkaloids extraction using condensed poppy straw, the Ministry has decided to turn to new technologies (CPS).

**Opium Poppy**

- Since ancient times, the milky fluid that seeps from cuts in the unripe poppy seed pod has been scraped off and air-dried to produce opium.
- A multi-bladed instrument is used to incise the seedpod first.
- This allows the opium "gum" to escape.



- A curved spatula is used to extract the semi-dried "gum," which is then dried in open wooden boxes.
- For sale, the dried opium resin is packaged in bags or rolled into balls.

### Why such a move?

- Over the years, India's opium crop acreage has gradually decreased.
- The CPS extraction method is expected to reduce the sporadic reliance on imports of codeine (an opium derivative) for medical purposes.

### Amendments to NDPS Act

- The three historically opium-growing states are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, where poppy crop cultivation is permitted based on annual licences granted by the Central Bureau of Narcotics.
- Although enlisting private players to produce CPS and extract alkaloids from it is likely to necessitate changes to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, it is also likely to necessitate amendments to the NDPS Act.
- The Revenue Department has decided to appoint a consultant to help frame the bidding parameters and concession agreements for the same.

## RBI extends Ways and Means credit for States, UTs

Mains Paper 3: Indian Economy

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF)

**Mains level :** Paper 3- RBI extends WMA scheme

### About Ways and Means credit

- Simply put, it is a borrowing facility provided by the RBI for both the federal government and the states.
- WMAs are short-term advances given by the RBI to the government to help it deal with any discrepancies between receipts and payments.
- 
- The RBI Act of 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the federal government and state governments if they are repayable "not later than three months from the date of the advance."

### Extension of the scheme

- Given the prevalence of COVID-19, the RBI agreed to keep the current interim Ways and Means Advances (WMA) scheme cap of 51,560 crore for all States/UTs for another six months.
- The RBI revised the WMA Scheme of States and Union Territories based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on WMA to State Governments, 2021, headed by Sudhir Shrivastava (UTs).
- The Committee's WMA cap, calculated based on total expenditure by States and UTs, is Rs 47,010 crore.

### What RBI said about SDR

- The Special Drawing Facility (SDF) used by state governments and UTs will continue to be connected to the amount of marketable

securities issued by the government of India, according to the RBI.

- SDF will continue to be available to net annual incremental contributions in the Consolidated

Sinking Fund (CSF) and Guarantee Redemption Fund (GRF), with no upper cap.

- CSF and GRF are reserve funds held with the Reserve Bank of India by some state governments.

## TOPIC 2: Enviro & Diversity

### ‘Seechewal Model’ of wastewater management

Mains Paper 3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution & Degradation, Eia

#### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Seechewal model

**Mains level :** Wastewater management

A new wastewater treatment plant opened recently in a village in Punjab’s Patiala district uses a unique method devised to treat, recycle and reuse wastewater.

#### Seechewal Model

- The plant in the village of Patiala aims to achieve the following objective using the ‘Seechewal Model’ of wastewater management:

1. Recycling and reusing the treated wastewater for irrigation
  2. Preventing further contamination of groundwater
- The model is based on the pipe-and-pump method of removing heavy solid particles, oil, and other materials from water.
  - Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal invented it, and it was first used in Seechewal, Punjab.
  - The project's aim is to use four-well wastewater treatment systems to incorporate a variety of processes for reuse other than human consumption.
  - The water wells must be cleaned on a regular basis; otherwise, they will contain extremely poor effluents with high suspended solids, which will damage the built wetland and cause bed clogging.
  - The accumulated material must be emptied on a regular basis to ensure continuous and efficient activity.

#### Benefits offered

- The project would minimise the use of freshwater by giving farmers the option of using treated water. With effective water recycle-reuse-recharge technologies, it will strive for water sustainability.”
- The project has strengthened neighbourhood collectives by engaging, empowering, and evolving community-based water management processes.

## Indus and Ganges river dolphins are two different species

Mains Paper 3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution & Degradation, Eia

### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Gangetic and Indus Dolphin

**Mains level :** Not Much

Detailed analysis of South Asian river dolphins has revealed that the Indus and Ganges River dolphins are not one, but two separate species.

### About Gangetic Dolphin

- A diverse range of marine life, including the Gangetic dolphin, can be found in the Gangetic river system (*Platanista gangetica*).
- It's one of five river dolphin species distributed around the world.
- It is primarily found in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems.

- An adult dolphin can weigh anywhere from 70 to 90 kilogrammes. The Gangetic dolphin's breeding season runs from January to June.
- They eat a variety of fish, invertebrates, and other animals.

### Indus Dolphin is the divergent specie

- They are currently listed as two subspecies of *Platanista gangetica*. The Indus and Ganges river dolphins may have diverged about 550,000 years ago, according to the report.
- The results were published in *Marine Mammal Science* last month after an international team analysed body development, skull morphology, tooth counts, coloration, and genetic makeup.

### Conservation status

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed both the Indus and Ganges River dolphins as endangered species (IUCN).
- It is the country's national aquatic animal, and the government granted it non-human personhood status in 2017.
- The Wildlife Protection Act's Schedule I also protects it (1972).
- The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) in Bihar is the only Gangetic dolphin sanctuary in India.
- The IUCN has listed it as endangered on the Red List of Threatened Species.
- Physical barriers such as dams and barrages built across rivers, as well as dwindling river flows, greatly decreased gene flow, rendering the species vulnerable.

## Places in news: Thwaites Glacier

Mains Paper 1: Climatic Change

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Thwaites Glacier

**Mains level :** Glacial melting and sea level rise

The melting of Antarctica’s Thwaites Glacier – also called the “Doomsday Glacier”– has long been a cause of concern because of its high potential of speeding up the global sea-level rise happening due to climate change.

**Thwaites Glacier**

- The Thwaites Glacier is 120 km wide at its widest point, fast-moving, and melts rapidly over time.
- It contains enough water to lift the global sea level by more than half a metre due to its size (1.9 lakh square kilometres).
- According to studies, the volume of ice that flows out of it has nearly doubled in the last 30 years.
- Per year, the melting of Thwaites contributes 4% to global sea-level rise. In 200-900 years, it is predicted to fall into the sea.
- Thwaites is vital for Antarctica because it prevents ice from flowing freely into the ocean behind it. Thwaites is known as the Doomsday Glacier because of the danger it faces — and presents.

**What have previous studies said?**

- A fast-growing cavity in the glacier was discovered in a 2019 study by New York University. And, last year, researchers discovered warm water underneath the ice.

- At Thwaites' "grounding zone" or "grounding line," water was just two degrees above zero, according to the report.
- The grounding line is the point under a glacier where the ice shifts from completely settling on bedrock to floating on the ocean as an ice shelf.
- The line's position indicates how quickly a glacier is retreating.
- Glaciers melt and lose weight, causing them to float away from the ground they once occupied. The grounding line retreats as a result of this.
- That exposes more of a glacier’s underside to seawater, increasing the melting rate resulting in the glacier speeding up, stretching out, and thinning, causing the grounding line to retreat ever further.

**What has the new study revealed?**

- An uncrewed submarine was used in a recent Gothenburg study to make observations underneath the Thwaites glacier front.
- The "Ran" submersible measured the strength, temperature, salinity, and oxygen content of the ocean currents that flow underneath the glacier, among other things.
- Deepwater flows from Pine Island Bay via a deep connection to the east, a connection that was previously believed to be obscured by an underwater ridge.

**Why this is a cause of worry?**

- Warm water is entering the glacier's pinning points from all sides, affecting the areas where the ice is bound to the seabed and the ice sheet finds stability.
- This might exacerbate the situation for Thwaites, whose ice shelf is already receding.



## TOPIC 3: Governance

### Emergency use nod for Virafin

Mains Paper 2: Health & Education

#### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Type 1 interferons

**Mains level :** Paper 2- Emergency use approval of Virafin

#### About the drug

- It is used to treat chronic hepatitis B and C patients.
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given Zydus Cadila's antiviral drug Virafin emergency use approval to treat moderate COVID-19 disease in adults.
- When given early in the course of COVID, Virafin will help patients recover more quickly and prevent many of the complications.
- When given early on, it decreases viral load dramatically and can aid in disease control.

#### Findings of the clinical trials

- The antiviral Virafin [a pegylated interferon alpha-2b (PegIFN)] will be administered in a

single dose subcutaneous regimen, making treatment more comfortable for patients.

- When given early in the course of COVID, Virafin will help patients recover more quickly and prevent many of the complications.
- The drug was able to produce “better clinical progress in patients suffering from COVID-19” in phase-3 trials.
- “A higher proportion (91.15 percent) of patients given the drug were RT-PCR negative by day seven, indicating faster viral clearance,” according to the report.
- In moderate COVID-19 patients, the medication shortened the period of supplemental oxygen to 56 hours from 84 hours.

#### How the drug works

- Many viral infections are combated by type I interferons, which are the body's first line of defence.
- The ability to generate interferon alpha in response to viral infections declines with age, which may explain why older people have a higher mortality rate.
- When given early in the course of the disease, the medication will compensate for the deficiency and aid in recovery.

## TOPIC 4: History

## Person in news: Jyotirao Phule (1827 –1890)

Mains Paper 1: Modern Indian History

### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Jyotiba Phule

**Mains level :** Social reformers in India

The Prime Minister has paid tribute to the great social reformer, thinker, philosopher and writer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his birth anniversary.

### Mahatma Phule

- JotiraoGovindrao Phule was a Maharashtra-based social activist, thinker, and anti-caste social reformer.
- His contributions were diverse, including the abolition of untouchability and the caste system, as well as his attempts to educate women and oppressed caste members.
- He and his partner, Savitribai Phule, were pioneers in India when it came to women's education. In 1848, Phule founded his first girls' school in Pune, at TatyasahebBhide's residence, Bhidewada.
- He and his followers founded the SatyashodhakSamaj (Society of Truth Seekers) to help people from oppressed castes gain equal rights.
- This organisation, which worked for the upliftment of the oppressed groups, welcomed people of all faiths and castes.

- Phule is known as a key figure in Maharashtra's social reform movement. Maharashtrian social activist VithalraoKrishnajiVandekar conferred the honorific Mahttm title on him in 1888.

### His social work

Phule's social activism included many fields, including the eradication of untouchability and the caste system, education of women and the Dalits, and welfare of downtrodden women.

#### 1. Education

- At the age of 21, Phule paid a visit to a Christian missionary-run girls' school in Ahmadnagar.
- He recognised that women and exploited castes were at a disadvantage in Indian society, and that education was critical to their emancipation.
- Savitribai Phule was taught reading and writing by Phule before the couple established Pune's first indigenously run school for girls.
- His work was not well received by Pune's conservative upper caste society. However, several Indians and Europeans generously assisted him.

#### 2. Women's welfare

- Untouchables were not allowed to pollute others with their shadows, and they were required to carry a broom on their backs to wipe the route they had travelled.
- He saw young widows shave their heads and refuse to experience any joy in their lives. He saw untouchable women being forced to perform nude dances.
- After seeing all of these social evils that promoted injustice, he decided to educate women.

- In 1863, he promoted widow remarriage and established a home for pregnant dominant caste widows to give birth in a safe and secure environment.
- His orphanage was established in an effort to minimize infanticide rates.
- He founded an infanticide prevention centre with his longtime friend Sadashiv Ballal Govande and Savitribai.
- Phule attempted to remove the stigma of social untouchability that surrounded the oppressed castes by opening his home and allowing members of the exploited castes to use his water well.

### 3. Views on religion and caste

- Phule recast the Aryan invasion theory, claiming that the Aryan conquerors of India were actually barbaric oppressors of the indigenous population.
- He believed they developed the caste system as a basis for subjugation and social division in order to ensure their Brahmin successors' dominance.
- The eventual Muslim conquests of the Indian subcontinent, he saw as more of the same, as an oppressive alien dictatorship.
- However, he saw the British as comparatively enlightened and opposed to the varnashrama dharma scheme instigated and then perpetuated by the previous invaders.
- He thanked Christian missionaries and British colonists in his book Gulamgiri for teaching the oppressed castes that they are deserving of all human rights.
- His assault on the Vedas, Hinduism's most sacred scriptures, was the beginning of his

criticism of the caste system. He regarded them as a type of delusory consciousness.

- He is credited with coining the term 'Dalit' (broken, crushed) to describe people who did not fit into the conventional varna structure.
- In cities, he called for making primary education mandatory. He also requested special incentives to encourage more people from lower castes to enrol in high schools and colleges.

### SatyashodhakSamaj

- Phule founded SatyashodhakSamaj on September 24, 1873, to focus on the rights of oppressed groups such as women, Shudras, and Dalits.
- The samaj used this to condemn idolatry and the caste system.
- SatyashodhakSamaj promoted critical thought and argued that priests were unnecessary.
- SatyashodhakSamaj was founded on the principles of human well-being, happiness, harmony, equality, and simple religious principles and rituals.
- A Pune-based newspaper, Deenbandhu, provided the voice for the views of the Samaj.
- Muslims, Brahmins, and government officials were among the samaj's founders. The organization's leading members and financial backers came from Phule's own Mali caste.

### Published works

- Tiritiya Ratna, 1855
- Manav Mahammad (Muhammad) (Abhang)
- Gulamgiri, 1873
- Sarvajanic Satya Dharma Poostak, April 1889
- Sarvajanic Satya Dharmapustak, 1891

## TOPIC 5: Polity

### OCI card holders no longer required to carry old passports for India travel

Mains Paper 2: Indian Diaspora

#### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** PIO, OCI

**Mains level :** Indian Diaspora

People of Indian origin (PIO) and the Indian diaspora having Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards are now not required to carry their old, expired passports for travel to India.

*UPSC can ask statement based question in prelims based on the definition and privileges of OCI card-holders.*

#### Who is an Overseas Citizen?

- An OCI is a category introduced by the government in 2005.
- Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who fall into certain categories as specified by the Citizenship Act of 1955 are qualified to apply for OCI cards.
- Until 2015, when the government combined the two groups, some incentives for PIO and OCI cardholders were different.

- A person who was a citizen of India on or after January 26, 1950, or who was qualified to become a citizen of India on that date, or who is the child or grandchild of such a person, according to the MHA, is an OCI.
- An applicant is not valid for an OCI card if he, his parents, or grandparents have ever been citizens of Pakistan or Bangladesh, according to Section 7A of the OCI card laws.

#### Privileges to an OCI

- OCI cardholders are allowed to visit India multiple times, receive a multipurpose lifetime visa, and are not required to register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) no matter how long they are in the country.
- Individuals who have been registered as OCIs for five years are entitled to apply for Indian citizenship.
- OCI cardholders are given special immigration counters at all Indian international airports.
- OCI cardholders in India can open special bank accounts, purchase non-farm property and exercise ownership rights, and apply for a driver's licence and a PAN card.
- OCI cardholders, on the other hand, do not have voting rights, are unable to work for the government, and are unable to buy agricultural or farmland.
- They are therefore unable to run for public office or fly to restricted areas without prior approval from the government.

#### Why such a move?

- Certain OCI card rules had caused inconvenience to members of the Indian



diaspora who planned to travel to India during the pandemic.

- He claimed that some passengers were denied boarding on flights to India and were sent back from airports because they did not have their old foreign passports, as required by government regulations.
- The OCI card provides an Indian-origin foreign national with several entries and a multi-purpose lifetime visa to visit India, among other benefits.
- Those under the age of 20 and those over the age of 50 must renew their OCI card every time their passport is renewed, according to the terms of the OCI card, which grants the cardholder a lifetime visa to India.

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level : SUOPACE**

**Mains level : Not Much**

The Supreme Court has unveiled its Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal SUPACE, designed to make research easier for judges, thereby easing their workload.

**SUPACE**

- The SUPACE is a tool developed by former Chief Justice of India S A Bobde that gathers relevant facts and laws and makes them accessible to a judge.
- The Supreme Court's mechanism isn't meant to make decisions; rather, it's meant to process evidence and make them accessible to judges who are considering a case.
- The Chief Justice of the United States had previously said that AI is to the intellect what muscle memory is to the mind.

**Its' utility**

- SUPACE will deliver outcomes that are tailored to the needs of the case and the judge's thinking style.
- This will save you time. It will assist the judiciary and courts in reducing case delays and pendency.
- AI would make the basic right to access to justice more streamlined, cost-effective, and time-bound.
- It will make the delivery of services more straightforward and cost-effective.

**Back2Basics: PIO vs. OCI**

A PERSON OF INDIAN ORIGIN (PIO)	PIO VS OCI	OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Means a <b>foreign citizen</b> (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal)</li> <li>&gt; A <b>foreign citizen whose one of the parents/ grandparents/ great grandparents was born and a permanent resident</b> of India</li> <li>&gt; Who is a <b>spouse</b> of a citizen of India or a PIO</li> </ul>		<p>A <b>foreign national</b>, who was <b>eligible to become citizen of India on 26.01.1950</b> or was a citizen of India on or at anytime after <b>26.01.1950</b> or belonged to a territory that became part of India after <b>15.08.1947</b> is <b>eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)</b>. Minor children of such person are also eligible for OCI. However, if the applicant had ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she will not be eligible for OCI.</p>
<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PIO card holders <b>do not require a visa to visit India</b> for a period of 15 years from the date of issue of the PIO card.</li> <li>2. They are <b>exempted from registration at FRRO/ FRO</b> if their <b>stay does not exceeds 180 days</b>. In case if the stay exceeds 180 days, they shall have to register with FRRO/ FRO within the next 30 days</li> <li>3. They <b>enjoy parity with NRIs in economic, financial and educational benefits</b></li> <li>4. All <b>future benefits</b> that would be exempted to NRIs would also be available to the <b>PIO card holders</b></li> </ol>		<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <p>OCIs are <b>entitled to a multipurpose, multiple entry, lifelong visa</b> allowing them to visit India at any time, for any length of time and for any purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Exempted from police reporting</b> for any length of stay in the country</li> <li>&gt; <b>Have also been granted all rights in the economic, financial and education fields in parity with NRIs</b> except, the right to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties</li> </ul>

**Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE)**

Mains Paper 2: Executive & Judiciary

## Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

Mains Paper 2: Indian Constitution - historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure

### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** CVC

**Mains level :** Not Much

The CVC has modified the guidelines pertaining to the transfer and posting of officials in the vigilance units of government organisations, restricting their tenure to three years at one place.

*Revise all statutory and constitutional bodies from your Polity Book at least 2-3 times before the prelims.*

### Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- The CVC is an apex government body that was founded in 1964 to combat government corruption.
- The CVC received statutory status in 2003 when Parliament passed a law giving it that status.
- It has the status of an autonomous entity, independent of any executive authority, and is responsible for overseeing all vigilance activity conducted by the Indian government.
- It provides guidance to different authorities within central government agencies on how to prepare, carry out, study, and reform their vigilance work.

### Its establishment

- On the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, it was established by Government Resolution on February 11, 1964.
- India's first Chief Vigilance Commissioner, N Srinivasa Rau, was chosen.

### Composition

- The Commission shall consist of:
  1. A Central Vigilance Commissioner – Chairperson;
  2. Not more than two Vigilance Commissioners – Members.
- The President may select the CVC and other VCs on the advice of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member), and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of People (Lok Sabha).

## Sushil Chandra appointed Chief Election Commissioner

Mains Paper 2: Indian Constitution - historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure

### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Chief Election Commissioner

**Mains level :** Not Much

The President has appointed Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra to take over as Chief Election Commissioner.

### Chief Election Commissioner

- The Election Commission of India is led by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).
- The ECI is a constitutionally mandated body charged with conducting free and fair elections to national and state legislatures, as well as presidential and vice-presidential elections.
- Article 324 of the Indian Constitution confers this authority on the Election Commission of India.

- A member of the Indian Civil Service, typically (but not always) from the Indian Administrative Service, serves as the country's CEC.

**His/ Her Removal**

- When the President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner, it is extremely difficult to revoke his or her authority.
- For disorderly conduct or inappropriate behaviour, two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha must present and vote against him.

**TOPIC 6: Science Tech Art & Culture**

**Muon G-2 Experiment**

Mains Paper 3: Awareness In The Fields Of It, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology, Pharma Sector & Health Science

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Muan

**Mains level :** Particle physics and its various anomalies

The results from the Muon g-2 experiment show that fundamental particles called muons behave in a way that is not predicted by the Standard Model of particle physics.

*After genetics, AI and the blockchain, Particle Physics is making several headlines these days. This is something intuitive.*

What is Muon?

- The “muon g-2” experiment at Fermilab, an American particle accelerator, has published preliminary findings.
- These findings highlight the peculiar behaviour of the muon, an elementary particle.
- The muon is a heavier relative of the electron, and its magnetic moment, dubbed "g," is expected to be 2.
- The muon is no longer the only particle in the universe.
- It's submerged in a sea where quantum effects cause particles to appear and disappear at random intervals.
- As a result of its encounters with these short-lived excitations, its g value changes.

**Main characteristic: Anomalous magnetic moment**

- This correction, known as the anomalous magnetic moment, is calculated very precisely by the Standard Model of particle physics.

- The muon g-2 experiment determined the magnitude of the anomaly and revealed that "g" differed from the sum predicted by the Standard Model.
- That is, while the Standard Model calculates a value of 2.00233183620, the experimental results suggest a value of 2.00233184122.
- When the findings are combined with those from a 20-year-old experiment, they have tested "g" to a precision of around 4.2 sigma.
- This causes physicists to take notice, but it isn't yet important enough to be considered a breakthrough, which needs a 5 sigma significance.

**The g factor**

- The fat electron is another name for the muon.
- It is abundantly developed in Fermilab experiments and naturally occurs in cosmic ray showers.
- The muon, like the electron, has a magnetic moment, which causes it to spin and precess, or wobble, slightly when put in a magnetic field, similar to the axis of a spinning top.
- The g component, or internal magnetic moment, decides the magnitude of this wobble.
- The muon interacts with the external world as it spins, and is made up of short-lived particles that pop in and out of a vacuum.

**Monkeydactyl: the flying reptile with the 'oldest opposable thumbs'**

Mains Paper 3: Awareness In The Fields Of It, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology, Pharma Sector & Health Science

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Monkeydactyl

**Mains level :** Evolution of natural history



Researchers have described a pterosaur species with opposable thumbs, which could likely be the earliest-known instance of the limb.

**Monkeydactyl**

- Pterosaurs were reptiles that were close relatives of dinosaurs and the first animals to develop powered flight after insects.
- They developed into a variety of animals, some as large as an F-16 fighter jet and others as small as paper planes.
- The latest pterosaur fossil was discovered in Liaoning, China's Tiaojishan Formation, and is estimated to be 160 million years old.
- *Kunpengopterus antipollicatus*, also known as "Monkeydactyl," has been identified by an international team of researchers from China, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Japan.



**What has the team found?**

- The name "Antipollicatus" means "opposite thumbs" in ancient Greek, and it was given to the pterosaur because the researchers' findings may be the first observation of a pterosaur with an opposed thumb.
- According to the researchers, K. antipollicatus may have grasped with its paw, which is possibly an adaptation for arboreal life.

**What makes it special?**

- The thumb's opposability allows the species to "simultaneously flex, abduct, and medially rotate the thumb" so that the tip of the thumb can meet the tips of the other fingers.
- Some primitive monkeys and primates, including humans, had opposable thumbs. Humans, on the other hand, have a thumb that is comparatively long and distally located, as well as bigger thumb muscles.
- This suggests that humans have a better tip-to-tip accuracy grip on smaller objects than non-human primates.
- This is the reason that humans are able to hold a pen, unscrew an earring stopper, or put a thread through a needle hole.
- Primates' grasping hands evolved as a result of their existence in the forest, where an opposable thumb made it easier for the common ancestor of all primates to stick to tree branches.

**Try this PYQ:**

**Q. Some species of plants are insectivorous. Why?**

*(a) Their growth in shady and dark places does not allow them to undertake sufficient photosynthesis and thus they depend on insects for nutrition*

*(b) They are adapted to grow in nitrogen deficient soils and thus depend on insects for sufficient nitrogenous nutrition*

*(c) They cannot synthesize certain vitamins themselves and depend on the insects digested by them*

*(d) They have remained in that particular stage of evolution as living fossils, a link between autotrophs and heterotrophs*

**[pib] Narrow-Line Seyfert 1 (NLS1) Galaxy**

Mains Paper 3: Awareness In The Fields Of It, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology, Pharma Sector & Health Science

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** NLS1 Galaxy

**Mains level :** Black holes and gravitation waves

Astronomers have discovered a new active galaxy identified as the farthest gamma-ray emitting galaxy that has so far been stumbled upon. This active galaxy called the Narrow-Line Seyfert 1 (NLS1) galaxy.

**Try this PYQ:**

**Q. Recently, scientists observed the merger of giant 'blackholes' billions of light-years away from the Earth. What is the significance of this observation?**

(a) 'Higgs boson particles' were detected.

(b) 'Gravitational waves' were detected.

(c) Possibility of inter-galactic space travel through 'wormhole' was confirmed.

(d) It enabled scientists to understand 'singularity'.

**NLS1 Galaxy**

- About 25,000 luminous Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey have been studied by Indian scientists (SDSS).
- They classified it as a NLS1 galaxy that emits gamma rays, which is an unusual occurrence in space.
- It's about 31 billion light-years away, which opens up possibilities for finding more gamma-ray emitting galaxies waiting to reach us.

**What makes it intriguing?**

- It has been understood that most other galaxies are moving away from us since 1929, when Edwin Hubble discovered that the Universe is expanding.
- These galaxies' light is red-shifted, which means it is shifted to longer (and hence redder) wavelengths.
- Scientists have been attempting to track down such red-shifted galaxies in order to gain a better understanding of the early Universe.
- AGN propelled by massive black holes and hosted in a giant elliptical galaxy typically create powerful relativistic jets, or sources of particles in the Universe travelling near the speed of light.

**Why NLS1 is unique?**

- NLS1s are a special type of AGN that is guided by a low-mass black hole and is located in a spiral galaxy.
- Currently, gamma-ray emission has been observed in around a dozen NLS1 galaxies, a subclass of AGN discovered four decades ago.
- They're all at redshifts less than one, and there's no way to find NLS1 at redshifts greater than one yet.
- This observation opens up a new way to search for NLS1 galaxies that emit gamma rays in the early Universe.

**Species in news: Azhdarchid Pterosaurs**

Mains Paper 3: Awareness In The Fields Of It, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology, Pharma Sector & Health Science

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Azhdarchid pterosaurs

**Mains level :** Not Much



Azhdarchid pterosaurs, the giant reptiles that flew in the skies nearly 65 million years ago, had necks longer than that of a giraffe (i.e. more than 6fts).

**What are pterosaurs?**

- Pterosaurs are reptiles that are close relatives of dinosaurs and were the first creatures to develop powered flight after insects.
- Pterosaurs ranged in size from the size of an F-16 fighter jet to the size of a paper aeroplane.
- Pterosaurs died out 65-66 million years ago (at the end of the Cretaceous period), leaving no descendants.
- One explanation for this is that few pterosaurs lived in areas where fossils grow, resulting in poor preservation of their bones.

*Revise the geological timescale from your NCERT textbook.*

**Azhdarchid pterosaurs**

- They were a type of pterosaur, and one of their distinguishing features was their size, especially their long necks.

- With wingspans of more than 30 feet, some of these pterosaurs were the largest creatures to have soared in the sky.
- According to a Scientific American blog, the name azhdarchid is derived from Azhdarcho, a Central Asian type named by Russian ornithologist and palaeontologist in 1984.

**What have the researchers found?**

- The researchers were interested in learning more about how the reptile's long neck worked and how it supported the pterosaur's body, enabling them to catch and consume large prey animals.

**Tiki Formation in Madhya Pradesh**

Mains Paper 3: Awareness In The Fields Of It, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology, Pharma Sector & Health Science

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Cynodonts

**Mains level :** NA

The Tiki Formation in Madhya Pradesh, a treasure trove of vertebrate fossils, has now yielded a new species and two genera of cynodonts, small rat-like animals that lived about 220 million years ago.

**Tiki Formation**

- In Madhya Pradesh, the Tiki Formation is a Late Triassic geologic formation.

- Dinosaur remains are among the fossils discovered in the formation, but none have yet been assigned to a particular genus.
- In the Tiki Formation, phytosaur fossils from the genus *Volcanosuchus* have also been discovered.
- The Tiki Formation inspired the genera *Tikiodon*, *Tikitherium*, and *Tikisuchus*, as well as the species *Rewaconodontikiensis*, *Hyperodapedontikiensis*, and *Parvodustikiensis*.

**Findings of the new study**



- The scale, crown shape, and cusp structure of the fossil teeth were studied and compared to previously described cynodonts.
- Cynodonts are significant in evolutionary studies since they are the ancestors of modern mammals.
- We can see how their molar and premolar teeth evolved and changed over time by observing them.
- The shape of their crowns indicates that these creatures are intermediate types that are very similar to the mammalian line of evolution.
- Synapsids are a group of egg-laying vertebrates (amniotes) that includes cynodonts and living mammals.
- Cynodonts have a close relationship with living mammals, as shown by their bones.

**What is the Whitest Paint?**

Mains Paper 3: Awareness In The Fields Of It, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology, Pharma Sector & Health Science

**Note4Students**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Whitest paint and its composition

**Mains level :** NA

Engineers in the US have created what they are calling the whitest paint yet.

**What is the whitest paint?**

- The scientists developed an ultra-white paint that pushed the boundaries of what white paint can be.
- This older formulation contained calcium carbonate, while the new one contains barium sulphate, which gives it a whiter appearance.
- The newest paint is whiter and makes the surfaces it is applied to cleaner than previous formulations.
- If this new paint was used to cover a 1,000-square-foot roof, it could provide 10 kilowatts of cooling capacity.
- For an hour, most ovens consume about 2.3 kilowatts, while a 3 tonne 12 Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) air conditioner consumes about 3 kilowatts.

*The researchers have claimed that this paint may be the closest equivalent to the blackest black paint called "Vantablack" which is able to absorb up to 99.9 per cent of visible light.*



**What determines if a colour absorbs or reflects light?**

- To grasp how this works, keep in mind that when an object is seen by the eye, it is either due to natural or artificial light in the room.
- There are seven different colours in this light (Violet, Indigo, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange and Red or VIBGYOR).
- Light, in particular, is made up of various coloured wavelengths.
- If a person is looking at a green sofa, that is because the fabric or material it is made of is able to absorb all colours except green.
- This means that the fabric's molecules represent the green-colored wavelengths that the human eye sees.
- Therefore, the colour of any object or thing is determined by the wavelength the molecules are not able to absorb.

**Try this PYQ:**

**Q.Rainbow is produced when sunlight falls on drops of rain. Which of the following physical phenomena are responsible for this?**

1. Dispersion
2. Refraction
3. Internal reflection

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

**What determines which wavelength of light will be reflected and absorbed?**

- This is determined by the arrangement of electrons in an atom (an atom is made up of electrons, protons, and neutrons, and is the building block of life).
- All in the known universe is made up of these three particles, including mountains, planets, humans, pizza, and cake).
- When an object is black, that is because it has absorbed all of the wavelengths and so no light is reflected from it.
- As a result of consuming all wavelengths, darker surfaces appear to heat up more quickly (during absorption the light energy is converted into heat energy).

**So, what makes the paint so white?**

There are two features:

1. One is the paint's high concentration of barium sulphate, a chemical compound that is often used to whiten picture paper and cosmetics.
2. The team also used various sizes of this chemical compound particles, which means that different sizes disperse different quantities of light.

In this way, the varying size of particles of the compound makes sure that the paint can scatter more of the light spectrum from the sun.

## TOPIC 7: Security Issues

## Exercise 'ShantirOgroshena'

Mains Paper 3: Various Security Forces, Agencies & Their Mandates

### Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Exercise 'ShantirOgroshena'

**Mains level :** NA

Indian Army team comprising officers, junior commissioned officers (JCOs) and soldiers from the Dogra regiment will participate in the multilateral exercise 'ShantirOgroshena' (front runner of peace).

*The name very much suggests that the exercise is hosted by Bangladesh. But one must note, it's a multilateral exercise.*

### ShantirOgroshena

- The Indian Army will take part in the SHANTIR OGROSHENA -2021 Multinational Military Exercise in Bangladesh.
- The nine-day exercise will begin on the 4th of this month to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's Father of the Nation, and to mark the country's glorious 50 years of independence.
- The exercise's theme is "Robust Peacekeeping Operations." Throughout the exercise, military observers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Singapore will be present.
- Throughout the exercise, military observers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Singapore will be present.

# SECTION 3

## Practice Questions with Answers

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1) Rajasthan Diwas 2021 is observed on which of the following date?

- A) March 3
- B) March 4
- C) March 30
- D) March 12
- E) March 27

- A) 8
- B) 4
- C) 5
- D) 6
- E) 7

2) SBI has inked a \_\_\_\_\_ billion loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

- A) 3.5
- B) 3
- C) 2.5
- D) 1
- E) 1.5

- A) 1
- B) 5
- C) 2
- D) 3
- E) 4

3) As per the First half of FY22 the Government has pegged the market borrowing at Rs \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore.

- A) 6.5
- B) 6.36
- C) 6.50
- D) 7.15
- E) 7.24

5) Government extends Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to June 30, 2021 or such time till amount of \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore is sanctioned.

- A) 1
  - B) 5
  - C) 2
  - D) 3
  - E) 4
- 6) India and which country will carry out military drill Vajra Prahar 2021 in Himachal Pradesh?
- A) France
  - B) Germany
  - C) US
  - D) UK
  - E) France

4) The Government has announced Rs 14,500-crore capital infusion in \_\_\_\_\_ Public Sector Banks.

7) DPIIT has recently upgraded which of the following portals?

- A) International relations



- B) Environment Compliance
- C) Investor Alliance
- D) Defence Procurement
- E) Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum

**8) Didier Ratsiraka who passed away recently was the president of which country?**

- A) Ethiopia
- B) Madagascar
- C) Sudan
- D) Algiers
- E) Nigeria

**9) CBIC has notified which of the following as a common portal for bills of entry and registration?**

- A) PRAGATI
- B) SRUM
- C) SCORES
- D) ICEGATE
- E) SPICE+

**10) Which women-led startup, has developed an innovative wireless product that gives fibre-like bandwidth at fraction of cost of fibre?**

- A) GigaMesh
- B) ZoomGo
- C) Astrone

- D) Nexon
- E) Women Plus

**11) International Day for Awareness on Mine and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on which of the following date?**

- A) April 1
- B) April 12
- C) April 4
- D) April 3
- E) April 5

**12) Facebook and which company have jointly planned to launch 2 new undersea internet cables from the US West Coast to Singapore and Indonesia?**

- A) Nvidia
- B) Microsoft
- C) Intel
- D) Google
- E) Amazon

**13) Which company has unveiled the “Sankalp se Siddhi”- Village and Digital Connect Drive?**

- A) ASSOCHAM
- B) FICCI
- C) CII
- D) IFFCO
- E) TRIFED

**14) The Central Government has announced the Birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar as a public holiday with effect from 2021, The birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar celebrated on which date?**

- A) April 3
- B) April 14
- C) April 5
- D) April 6
- E) April 7

**15) National Maritime Day is observed on which of the following date?**

- A) April 8
- B) April 11
- C) April 3
- D) April 5
- E) April 7

**16) The Foreign Minister of which country will come to New Delhi for a two-day visit to India?**

- A) Denmark
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) Japan
- E) Russia

**17) The government of which state will inaugurate a unique gift scheme to promote covid vaccination?**

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Bihar
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Haryana

**18) Foot marchers of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' have reached which of the following state recently?**

- A) Haryana
- B) Gujarat
- C) Bihar
- D) Chhattisgarh
- E) Madhya Pradesh

**19) The ShisturaHiranyakeshi in Sindhudurg has Become the \_\_\_\_ Biological Heritage Site.**

- A) 9th
- B) 8th
- C) 7th
- D) 4th
- E) 5th

**20) CRISIL has reported India's GDP rate at -7% for FY21 and \_\_\_\_\_ per cent for FY22.**

A) 9.6

B) 9.5

C) 11

D) 10.5

E) 10.2

**21) PM Chaired High-level meeting will commemorate the \_\_\_\_\_ birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.**

A) 460th

B) 520th

C) 400th

D) 412th

E) 500th

**22) Which of the following institution has decided to publish Financial Inclusion Index annually?**

A) NHB

B) SEBI

C) SIDBI

D) RBI

E) ICICI

**23) Union Cabinet has approved PLI Scheme for Air Conditioners and LED Lights with an annual outlay of \_\_\_\_\_ crores.**

A) 2500

B) 3000

C) 3500

D) 4000

E) 4500

**24) The \_\_\_\_\_ online PDOT Programme for migrant workers has recently been unveiled to supplement physical training.**

A) 5th

B) 1st

C) 2nd

D) 3rd

E) 4th

**25) Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ loans under PMMY have been accredited to women entrepreneurs.**

A) 58%

B) 60%

C) 68%

D) 65%

E) 62%

**26) Who among the following along with Seychelles President WavelRamkalawan will inaugurate a range of Indian projects in Seychelles?**

A) Nirmala Sitharman

B) Prahlad Patel

C) NS Tomar

D) Narendra Modi

E) S. Jaishankar

**27) Which State Skill development Ministry will organize 1st regional workshop on PMKVY 3 at Gangtok ?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Chattisgarh
- D) Haryana
- E) Sikkim

**28) The IMF has Projected the growth rate for Bangladesh -at \_\_\_\_percent.**

- A) 7
- B) 5
- C) 5.5
- D) 6
- E) 6.5

**29) Union Ministers Dr Harsh Vardhan and Arjun Munda have jointly inaugurated Tribal Health Collaborative \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Anand
- B) Suraksha
- C) Sukhamaya
- D) Aabhav
- E) Anameya

**30) Digital healthcare platform Practo has launched online consultations in \_\_\_\_ vernacular languages.**

- A) 13
- B) 14
- C) 15
- D) 12
- E) 11

**31) B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day is observed on which date?**

- A) April 11
- B) April 2
- C) April 14
- D) April 3
- E) April 4

**32) 'Vishu' – festival of harvest has been celebrated by which state recently?**

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Haryana
- D) Kerala
- E) Uttar Pradesh

**33) World Chagas Disease Day is Observed on which date?**

- A) April 1



- B) April 3
- C) April 4
- D) April 5
- E) April 14

**34) EdCIL has received the highest reward ever dividend of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ Crores for 2019-20.**

- A) 9.5
- B) 8.5
- C) 12.5
- D) 11.5
- E) 10.5

**35) Who among the following recently interacted with Intel CEO through video conferencing?**

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) NS Tomar
- C) Prahlad Patel
- D) Narendra Modi
- E) Amit Shah

**36) Siachen Warriors will celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ Siachen Day.**

- A) 30th
- B) 37th
- C) 36th
- D) 35th
- E) 34th

**37) Haryana Chief Minister has approved purchase of \_\_\_\_\_ acres of land for AIIMS.**

- A) 400
- B) 350
- C) 200
- D) 250
- E) 300

**38) Which organisation has launched the 'Poshan Gyan'?**

- A) NAFED
- B) Assocham
- C) FICCI
- D) Niti Aayog
- E) CII

**39) Satish Kaul who passed away recently was an eminent \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Lyricist
- B) Director
- C) Singer
- D) Writer
- E) Actor

**40) 'TamizhPuththandu' has recently been celebrated across which state?**

- A) Bihar

- B) Chhattisgarh  
C) Tamil Nadu  
D) Madhya Pradesh  
E) Haryana

**41) National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on which of the following date?**

- A) April 1  
B) April 3  
C) April 11  
D) April 4  
E) April 5

**42) OuhoumoudonMahadou has vowed to become as the new Prime Minister of which country?**

- A) Ethiopia  
B) Eritrea  
C) Uganda  
D) Niger  
E) Sudan

**43) Who among the following has been called to promote the 'Teeka Utsav'?**

- A) Prahlad Patel  
B) Narendra Modi  
C) NS Tomar  
D) Amit Shah  
E) Jitendra Singh

**44) Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' will be unveiled in which country?**

- A) Sri Lanka  
B) France  
C) Germany  
D) Bangladesh  
E) Vietnam

**45) LG RK Mathur has initiated the National Training programme on Packaging in which city?**

- A) Delhi  
B) Leh  
C) Surat  
D) Gwalior  
E) Pune

**46) Flipkart has made partnership with Adani Group, to create \_\_\_\_\_ direct jobs.**

- A) 4500  
B) 3500  
C) 3000  
D) 2000  
E) 2500

**47) World Parkinson's Day is observed on which date?**

- A) April 3

- B) April 4
- C) April 11
- D) April 5
- E) April 7

**48) UK's Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II recently passed away at which age?**

- A) 95
- B) 96
- C) 97
- D) 99
- E) 98

**49) Which organization has appointed BP Acharya as advisor to NARFBR?**

- A) RBI
- B) IFFCO
- C) SIDBI
- D) NAFED
- E) ICMR

**50) Who has become the first Asian woman to win top prize in DGA Awards history?**

- A) Song Dandan
- B) Lig Fu
- C) Chloe Zhao
- D) Zhao Yang

E) Ching Ming

**51) World Homeopathy Week is Observed from \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) April 7-15
- B) April 11-17
- C) April 10-16
- D) April 12-18
- E) April 13-19

**52) Who among the following will lead the first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council?**

- A) NS Tomar
- B) Amit Shah
- C) Piyush Goyal
- D) Prahlad Patel
- E) Nitin Gadkari

**53) The Government has planned \_\_\_\_\_ new hospitals to have their own oxygen plant under PM-CARES fund.**

- A) 95
- B) 90
- C) 110
- D) 120
- E) 100

**54) Secretary MeitY has launched \_\_\_\_\_ new initiatives of NIXI.**

- A) 7
- B) 3
- C) 4
- D) 5
- E) 6

- C) April 4
- D) April 5
- E) April 16

**55) Which of the following Ministry has unveiled the EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge?**

- A) Earth Sciences
- B) Finance
- C) Housing and Urban Affairs
- D) Science & Technology
- E) Education

- A) Apple
- B) HP
- C) Tesla
- D) Dell
- E) Microsoft

**56) Joseph Jouthe who resigned recently was the PM of which country?**

- A) Ethiopia
- B) Madagascar
- C) Sudan
- D) Haiti
- E) Nigeria

- 58) Which company will start manufacturing in India soon?**
- 59) Facebook-EIU : India has Ranked \_\_\_\_\_ In World Internet Inclusion Index 2021.**
- A) 53rd
  - B) 49th
  - C) 51st
  - D) 52nd
  - E) 54th

**57) World Voice Day is Observed on which of the following date?**

- A) April 1
- B) April 3

- 60) Amazon has planned to use USD \_\_\_\_ million fund, to focus on digitising small and medium businesses.**
- A) 450
  - B) 400
  - C) 350
  - D) 250
  - E) 300



**61) World Heritage Day is observed on which of the following date?**

- A) April 1
- B) April 3
- C) April 4
- D) April 18
- E) April 11

- A) April 11
- B) April 15
- C) April 3
- D) April 5
- E) April 21

**62) Kabori who passed away recently was a renowned \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Lyricist
- B) Director
- C) Actor
- D) Writer
- E) Singer

**65) Which of the following UT's LG recently shared his thoughts through radio programme "Awaam Ki Awaaz"?**

- A) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- B) Delhi
- C) Chandigarh
- D) J&K
- E) Daman & Diu

**63) \_\_\_\_\_ Pressure Swing Adsorption Oxygen plants – installation in public health facilities has been done in all States.**

- A) 125
- B) 145
- C) 135
- D) 150
- E) 162

**66) Indian pharma exports have risen up at \_\_\_\_\_% to 24.44 billion dollars in FY 21.**

- A) 14
- B) 15
- C) 18
- D) 11
- E) 12

**64) Gallantry Awards portal has been organised for Innovative Tributes to Bravehearts competition from which date?**

- A) 1.50
- B) 2.89

- C) 2.55
- D) 3.05
- E) 2.50

**68) \_\_\_\_\_ firms for investment deals have been selected by Indyywood Startup Awards 2021.**

- A) 3
- B) 5
- C) 6
- D) 4
- E) 7

**69) Which of the following organization have conferred awards to HR managers?**

- A) NAFED
- B) Niti Aayog
- C) Assocham
- D) CII
- E) FICCI

**70) PM Modi recently released \_\_\_\_\_ books related to Babasaheb Ambedkar.**

- A) 7
- B) 6
- C) 4
- D) 5
- E) 3

**71) UN Chinese Language Day is Observed on which of the following date?**

- A) April 3
- B) April 4
- C) April 20
- D) April 11
- E) April 23

**72) Indian Oil will begin the supply of \_\_\_\_\_ metric tonnes of oxygen to hospitals in Delhi, Haryana & Punjab.**

- A) 170
- B) 165
- C) 160
- D) 150
- E) 155

**73) Which country has opened a travel bubble with New Zealand – first time in more than a year?**

- A) France
- B) Tasmania
- C) US
- D) Germany
- E) Australia

**74) In F1 Grand Prix 2021 who among the following has won the Emilia Romagna ?**

- A) Arnie Simpson

- B) Max Verstappen
- C) Lando Norris
- D) Valtteri Bottas
- E) Liz Mcguire

**75) Which country has initiated the First ever mega Food Park & Food processing unit in India?**

- A) UK
- B) Israel
- C) France
- D) Italy
- E) Germany

**76) IFFCO's new oxygen plant will come up in which state?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Gujarat
- D) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Haryana

**77) Which asset management company has raised a DRHP for IPO?**

- A) Apollo Munich
- B) Aviva
- C) Religare
- D) Nippon

- E) Aditya Birla Sun Life

**78) Sivasubramanian Ramann has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of which company?**

- A) BOI
- B) NHB
- C) NABARD
- D) SIDBI
- E) ICICI

**79) Tata Consumer has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as President, Packaged Foods.**

- A) Aditi Tyagi
- B) Deepika Bhan
- C) Anand Kumar
- D) Sudesh Verma
- E) Narendra Singh

**80) Air Force chief RKS Bhadauria on a five day visit to which country for defence cooperation?**

- A) UK
- B) US
- C) Sweden
- D) Germany
- E) France

**81) National Earth Day is Observed on which date?**

- A) April 3

- B) April 4
- C) April 22
- D) April 1
- E) April 12

**82) IdrissDeby who passed away recently was the President of which country?**

- A) Ethiopia
- B) Eritrea
- C) Sudan
- D) Chad
- E) Nigeria

**83) Covishield will cost Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for state government hospitals and Rs 600 for government hospitals.**

- A) 500
- B) 350
- C) 300
- D) 450
- E) 400

**84) \_\_\_\_\_ Bangladeshis featured in Forbes 30 under 30 lists of innovators in 10 industries for Asia.**

- A) 7
- B) 8
- C) 9
- D) 11

E) 10

**85) Who among the following has been appointed as Head – Products and Business Development of HDFC Securities?**

- A) Nalin Sharma
- B) Anand Raj
- C) Neeraj Kholi
- D) Rajeev Srivastava
- E) Amar Singh

**86) The President of which country took part in the US-led Climate Summit?**

- A) US
- B) China
- C) Japan
- D) France
- E) Germany

**87) India’s export of Agricultural and allied commodities expressed an impressive increase of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent during 2020-2021.**

- A) 14.39
- B) 15.39
- C) 16.39
- D) 17.39
- E) 18.49



**88) Which company has joined hands with Taiwan's Gogoro?**

- A) Apple
- B) Nokia
- C) Hero
- D) TVS
- E) Motorola

**89) ReNew Power projects \_\_\_\_\_-megawatt solar project in Gujarat.**

- A) 85
- B) 80
- C) 90
- D) 105
- E) 100

**90) Who among the following has been selected for maiden Golden Lantern Award?**

- A) PK Kurian
- B) Malankara Jacobite
- C) Niranam
- D) CooriloseGeevarghese
- E) Mar Coorilos

**91) World Book Day is Observed on which date?**

- A) April 21
- B) April 30

- C) April 23
- D) April 24
- E) April 25

**92) Farid Sabri who passed away at 58 was an eminent \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Lyricist
- B) Actor
- C) Director
- D) Singer
- E) Writer

**93) Who among the following has declared India-US partnership on clean energy and climate change?**

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Amit Shah
- C) Prahlad Patel
- D) NS Tomar
- E) Narendra Modi

**94) UN English Language day & UN Spanish Language day is observed on which date?**

- A) April 1
- B) April 3
- C) April 4
- D) April 23
- E) April 12

**95) 1st Oxygen Express with Liquid Medical Oxygen tankers – journey for which city to Visakhapatnam ?**

- A) Pune
- B) Mumbai
- C) Surat
- D) Chennai
- E) Gwalior

**96) Which state government will invoke the National Security Act, Gangster Act ?**

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Haryana
- C) Bihar
- D) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Uttar Pradesh

**97) 'Health Safety Week' has started in which state to break the chain of COVID-19?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Chhattisgarh

**98) Ola to launch e-scooter in July and to set up \_\_\_\_\_ lakh charging points in 400 cities.**

- A) 3
- B) 2.5
- C) 2
- D) 1
- E) 1.5

**99) Myanmar Army Chief took part in ASEAN meeting in which country?**

- A) Vietnam
- B) Indonesia
- C) Germany
- D) Israel
- E) Japan

**100) The World Bank assists Bangladesh to provide USD \_\_\_\_\_ mn for jobs, COVID-19 pandemic.**

- A) 450
- B) 400
- C) 350
- D) 300
- E) 250

## ANSWERS

**1) Answer: C**

Every year on March 30th, Rajasthan Diwas is held to commemorate the state's foundation.

Rajasthan Diwas 2021 marks the state's 72nd anniversary of independence.

Rajputana was absorbed into the Dominion of India on March 30th, 1949, resulting in the creation of the state.

The state's capital was declared to be Jaipur, the state's largest city.

**2) Answer: D**

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, has received \$1 billion from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to lend to the Japanese automotive industry's supply chain in India.

Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI, along with senior SBI executives, Hayashi Nobumitsu, Deputy Governor (JBIC), and Ayukawa Kenichi, CEO & MD of Maruti Suzuki, attended the virtual signing ceremony.

The loan is a refinance of the financing assistance given to Japanese car producers, suppliers, and dealers in India.

This collaboration (between SBI and JBIC) will help the bank in extending loan facility to the entire supply chain at a time when people are preferring personal mode of transport.

Now the total loan facility between SBI and JBIC has become \$2 billion.

**3) Answer: E**

On March 31, 2021, the government announced that in the first half of the fiscal year 2021-22, it would borrow Rs 7.24 lakh crore to help the economy recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the Budget 2021-22, the government's gross borrowing for the fiscal year beginning April 1 was expected to be Rs 12.05 lakh crore.

Borrowing Rs 7.24 lakh crore in the first half of 2021-22, or 60.06 percent of total issuances

To finance its fiscal deficit, the government uses dated securities and treasury bills to collect capital from the market.

**4) Answer: B**

The government declared a capital injection of Rs 14,500 crore in four public sector banks (PSBs) via zero-coupon bonds on March 31, 2021.

By issuing non-interest bearing bonds to the four public sector banks (PSBs), namely the Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India, and UCO Bank in 2020-21.

The government will charge the Central Bank of India Rs 4,800 crore, the Indian Overseas Bank Rs 4,100 crore, Bank of India Rs 3,000 crore, and UCO Bank Rs 2,600 crore.

These securities will be issued in six different maturities and will be issued at par for the amount specified by the qualifying banks in their application.

On February 1, Nirmala Sitharaman announced a capital injection of Rs 20,000 for public sector banks for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

**5) Answer: D**

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was extended by the government on March 31, 2021, until June 30, 2021, or until a total of Rs. 3 lakh crore is authorised under the scheme.

It also broadened its reach to include businesses in the hospitality, travel and tourism, recreation, and sporting industries.

**6) Answer: C**

In March 2021, Indian and American special forces conducted a joint military exercise in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

The exercise 'Vajra Prahar,' which aims to share best practises and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and tactical tactics, was in its 11th edition.

**7) Answer: E**

The Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) portal at the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been updated.

This was done in order to improve the ease of doing business and accountability.

The upgraded portal provides a single IEM for a single organisation, allowing it to collect information from all of its locations and industries.

This single form would streamline the process of filling out investment intentions (IEM-Part A) and reporting the start of output (IEM-Part B).

The G2B portal, which can be found at <http://services.dipp.gov.in>, can be used to send applications and receive an IEM certificate.

**8) Answer: B**

Didier Ratsiraka, Madagascar's former President, died on March 28th, 2021.

He was 84 years old when he died.

Didier Ratsiraka's bio:

For his socialist policies, Didier Ratsiraka, a naval officer, was dubbed the "Red Admiral."

In 1972, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From 1975 to 1993 and 1997 to 2002, Ratsiraka served as the president of the Indian Ocean island.

In 1980, he paid a bilateral state visit to India, and in 1983, he attended the NAM Summit.

**9) Answer: D**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) announced ICEGATE, or the Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway, as the common customs electronic portal on March 29, 2021.

The reforms are part of a larger effort to make customs processing of bills of entry and declarations more electronic, paperless, and seamless in order to make trade easier.

**10) Answer: C**

Astrome, a Bangalore-based women-led startup, has created an ambitious wireless product that provides fiber-like bandwidth at a fraction of the cost of fibre, allowing telecom operators to provide affordable low-cost internet services to suburban and rural areas.

It's a low-cost, high-data-capacity wireless backhaul product with a wide range of applications.

GigaMesh, a wireless product, will enable telecom operators to deploy high-quality, high-speed rural telecom infrastructure for five times less money.

**11) Answer: C**



Every year on April 4, the United Nations commemorates the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

“Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress” is the theme for 2021.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the day on December 8, 2005, to raise concern about landmines and progress toward their abolition.

**12) Answer: D**

Facebook and Google have announced plans to lay two massive subsea cables, known as Echo and Bifrost, to provide crucial new links between Asia and North America.

The Echo and Bifrost trans-Pacific cables would link the United States' West Coast to Singapore and Indonesia, doubling data capacity and improving internet reliability.

Although Facebook will invest in both cables, Google will only invest in Echo.

To execute the project, Google and Facebook have partnered with leading regional and global partners, including Indonesian firms Telin and XL Axiata, as well as Singapore-based Keppel.

The Echo project is to be completed by late 2023, while Bifrost is set to be finished by late 2024.

**3) Answer: E**

“Sankalp se Siddhi” – Village and Digital Connect Drive has been initiated by TRIFED, which is part of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

It's a 100-day push that began on the 1st of this month.

The drive will include 150 teams visiting ten villages, with ten teams from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies visiting ten villages in each area.

The primary goal of this drive is to get the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in these villages up and running.

In a statement, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said that in the next 100 days, 100 villages in each area and 1500 villages across the country will be protected.

The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for clustering as TRIFOOD, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries- SFURTI units as larger enterprises.

**14) Answer: B**

Under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the government has declared Ambedkar Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar, which falls on 14 April every year, as a public holiday with effect from 2021.

On April 14, 2021, India will commemorate Babasaheb Ambedkar's 130th birthday.

**15) Answer: D**

The SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd, sailed from Mumbai to London (UK) on this day in 1919, kicking off Indian shipping.

Every year on April 5, India commemorates National Maritime Day. In 1959, India became a member of the International Maritime Organization, which is responsible for maritime safety and pollution prevention.

The World Maritime Theme for 2021 is dedicated to seafarers, emphasising their central position in the shipping industry's future.

**16) Answer: E**

Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, will arrive in India for a two-day visit.

The visit will provide an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and plan for the upcoming India-Russia annual summit later this year.

According to Arindam Bagchi, a spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the visit will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address important aspects of our bilateral relations, review arrangements for the next India-Russia annual summit, and possibly discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said the Russian Foreign Minister, during his visit, will hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

After India, Mr Lavrov will visit Pakistan from April 6-7.

**17) Answer: C**

The government of Uttar Pradesh has introduced a one-of-a-kind gift programme to encourage covid vaccination in the state.

Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, has directed officials to make all necessary arrangements to deal with the rising number of Corona infections.

On April 7th, World Health Day, the state government will hold a lucky draw for those who have received the vaccine.

According to Amit Mohan Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary for Health, districts with more than 25,000 beneficiaries who have received both doses of vaccine would be eligible for this gift scheme.

After the lucky draw, the recipients will receive four presents.

Where more than 25,000 or more than 50,000 beneficiaries have taken both the doses of vaccines, the number of gifts will be increased to 6 and 8.

**18) Answer: B**

In the morning of April 3rd, Mahatma Gandhi left Wanj for Daman as part of his historic Dandi March of 1930.

The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav's foot marchers have arrived in Dhaman, following in Mahatma Gandhi's footsteps.

At every stage, Dandi Padyatris are greeted with open arms.

Women, children, and locals are welcoming the Padyatris by breaking down caste and religious barriers.

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang entered the Padyatris in Dhaman and walked to Navsari on foot.

Mahatma Gandhi left for Dhaman on the morning of April 3rd, 1930, during the Dandi March.

Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav Dandi Padyatris are following the same route.

There is a lot of excitement in the air.

The yatra includes flower-bedecked roads, as well as children and girls dressed as Gandhi and Bharat Mata.

To welcome the padyatris, women are showering them with flowers.

Prem Singh Tamang, the Chief Minister of Sikkim, joined padyatris in Dhaman and walked up to Navsari on Mahatma Gandhi's historic road.

**19) Answer: E**

Following the discovery of a rare freshwater fish species, the Maharashtra government designated an area near Amboli in the Western Ghats of Sindhudurg district as a biodiversity heritage site.

Tejas Thackeray (son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray) and his team discovered a new freshwater fish species named SchisturaHiranyakeshi in a pond at the Mahadev Temple at Amboli in Sawantwadi tehsil of Sindhudurg district.

Under the Biological Diversity Act of 2002, the 2.11-hectare area has been designated as the 'ShisturaHiranyakeshi Biological Heritage Site,' making it the fifth area in Maharashtra.

**20) Answer: C**

Rating Agency CRISIL has projected India's GDP growth rate as under:

For FY21= -7%

For FY22= +11%

CRISIL is a subsidiary of American company S&P Global.

**21) Answer: C**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will use video conferencing to chair a meeting of the High-Level Committee to Commemorate Guru Tegh Bahadur's 400th Birth Anniversary.

Amit Shah, the Indian Home Minister, will also be present at the conference.

The meeting will go over the year's worth of activities scheduled to commemorate this momentous occasion.

The Centre formed the High Level Committee on the 24th of October last year to approve policies, plans, and programmes related to the birth anniversary commemoration.

It consists of 70 members, with the Prime Minister serving as Chairman.

**22) Answer: D**

The Financial Inclusion Index will be published by the Reserve Bank of India.

To begin, the FI index will be released in July of each year for the previous fiscal year.

Financial inclusion has been a priority for the government, the RBI, and other regulators, with substantial progress made over the years, according to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

This index will be used to assess the country's level of financial inclusion.

It will be based on a number of factors and will represent the country's growing financial inclusion.

Financial inclusion is widely regarded as a critical enabler for achieving inclusive and long-term growth.

**23) Answer: E**

The Union Cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme- 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt with an outlay of Rs 4,500 crore.

The National Program on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules would minimise import dependency in a strategic sector such as electricity while also supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, speaking to the media after the Cabinet Meeting in New Delhi, said the scheme would add an additional 10,000 MegaWatt capacity of integrated solar Photovoltaic manufacturing plants and will bring direct investment of around Rs 17,200 crore in solar PV manufacturing projects.

He claims that direct employment of about 30 thousand people would be created, with indirect employment of about 1 lakh 20 thousand people.

**24) Answer: B**

To complement physical training conducted in PDOT Centers, the first online Pre-Departure Orientation Training, PDOT Program for migrant workers was introduced today.

In light of Covid constraints and to take advantage of technology, the Ministry of External Affairs, in collaboration with the Protector of Emigrants, Mumbai, and other POEs, has taken this initiative.

Even after COVID constraints are relaxed, online PDOT will continue to be offered to help prospective migrants who are unable to attend in-person training and to extend its scope.

Migrant workers will benefit from PDO training to learn about the destination country's culture, language, and regulations in order to ensure their safety and security.

When they embark on their migration journey, the initiative will equip potential migrants with better skills and inspire them further.

**25) Answer: C**

After the launch of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, over 28 crore 68 lakh loans worth nearly 15 lakh crore rupees have been approved.

The Yojana was launched in 2015 to provide non-corporate, non-farm, small and micro-enterprises with loans of up to ten lakh rupees.

According to the Finance Ministry, 68 percent of loans were given to women entrepreneurs, while 51 percent were given to SC, ST, and OBC borrowers.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, this yojana has resulted in the development of 1 crore 12 lakh net additional jobs between 2015 and 2018.

62 percent of the expected growth in jobs has come from women.

**26) Answer: D**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Wavel Ramkalawan of the Seychelles would practically inaugurate a number of Indian projects in the Seychelles.

The joint e-inauguration of the new Magistrates' Court Building and the handover of a Fast Patrol Vessel to the Seychelles Coast Guard will be part of the high-level ceremony.

It also includes the commissioning of a solar power plant and the launch of ten high-impact community development projects.

The new Magistrates' Court Building in Victoria, Seychelles' capital, is India's first major civil infrastructure project in the country.



It is a cutting-edge structure that will significantly improve the ability of the Seychelles judicial system and help in improved judicial service delivery.

The Fast Patrol Vessel, a modern and fully equipped naval ship, was built in India and will be given to Seychelles as part of an Indian grant to help the country improve its maritime surveillance capabilities.

**27) Answer: E**

The first regional workshop to understand the requirements of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 or PMKVY 3.0 and to effectively enforce the scheme in the NorthEast Region (NER) will be held in Gangtok, Sikkim, by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura are among the states covered.

The workshop's aim is to learn from best practises, consider the difficulties associated with PMKVY 3.0, and gain a thorough understanding of how to use the Skill India Portal.

Videoconferencing would be used by certain attendees to attend the gathering.

**28) Answer: B**

Bangladesh is expected to rise at a rate of 5% in 2021, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Bangladesh's economy will expand at 7.5 percent in 2022, according to the IMF's new World Economic Outlook, published ahead of the spring meeting.

As a result, Bangladesh's GDP is expected to increase from USD 329 billion in 2020 to USD 352 billion in 2021.

Bangladesh's per capita GDP, which is currently USD 1998 in 2020, will rise to USD 2122 in 2021 and USD 2330 in 2022.

The IMF also increased its global growth rate forecast to 6% in 2021 and 4.4 percent in 2022.

According to the study, an additional 95 million people will be living in extreme poverty by 2020.

IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath, commenting on the World Economic Outlook report's high growth rate forecast, said that the 1.9 trillion dollar US stimulus and countries' adaptation to the ongoing pandemic have contributed significantly to the optimistic shift in the growth outlook.

**29) Answer: E**

Via a video call, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched 'Anamaya,' the Tribal Health Collaborative.

'Anameya' is a multi-stakeholder project funded by the Piramal Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). It will bring together the efforts of various government agencies and organisations to improve the health and nutrition of tribal communities.

On the occasion, Dr Vardhan said that the Health Ministry has made many attempts in the last year to work with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to resolve the health gaps in tribal communities.

He said, recently, the Tribal TB Initiative was launched by both the Ministries to fulfill the Prime Minister's goal of TB Mukt Bharat by 2025, five years ahead of the global deadline.

**30) Answer: C**

Leading digital healthcare platform Practo launched online consultations in 15 vernacular languages.

New Delhi: This initiative will allow users to choose a doctor who can speak in their preferred language including Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada and Bengali — with more to be added soon.

**31) Answer: C**

The Indian government proclaimed April 11, the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, as National Safe Motherhood Day in 2003.

White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI), an alliance of 1800 organisations, requested the declaration.

The National Safe Motherhood Program's mission is to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality while also improving maternal and neonatal health through preventive and promotional efforts as well as addressing avoidable causes of death during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum era.

**32) Answer: D**

Niger President Mohamed Bazoum has appointed OuhoumoudouMahamadou as the new Prime Minister of the country effective from April 03, 2021.

Prior to this, the 66-year-old Mahamadou served as a minister in charge of the finance and mining portfolios.

He replaces BrigiRafini, who served as the Prime Minister of Niger from 2011 to 2021.

**33) Answer: E**

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, suggested that the Teeka Utsav be commemorated by making vaccination easier for those who are eligible.

Dr. Singh, the drive must be carried out on several levels during the four days, including personal, social, and administrative.

He said that it is each person's responsibility as a responsible citizen to serve as a catalyst in the Vaccination Drive.

Those who have recovered from COVID, he believes, should take responsibility for raising concern about the disease.

**34) Answer: D**

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh will introduce a Sanskrit learning app.

The Sanskrit learning app is part of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations' (ICCR) global campaign to promote Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists, and historians.

Little Guru, a Sanskrit learning app, is built on an interactive platform that makes learning Sanskrit easy, entertaining, and enjoyable.

This app will assist people who are already learning Sanskrit or who want to learn Sanskrit in a fun and easy way using games, competition, prizes, peer-to-peer interactions, and other methods.

**35) Answer: B**

RK Mathur, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, has initiated a National Packaging Training Program in Leh.

For items from UT Ladakh, this programme is organised as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) and the Indian Institute of Packaging.

According to LG RK Mathur, India does over fifty thousand crore in home-based industry each year with the majority of women participating.

Mr. Mathur argued that Ladakh has a lot of potential in leather products, citing examples from Punjab and Kolhapuri leather goods and shoes.

He advised the participants to draw inspiration and money from traditional handicrafts and other items.

According to him, Likir village in Leh will be established as a Crafts Village to promote home-made goods, while Raj Niwas will host a Ladakhi product exhibition to popularise the region's products.

Mr Mathur claims that Ladakh handicrafts have a potential turnover of a hundred crore rupees in the next ten years.

**36) Answer: E**

Flipkart announced that it has entered into a commercial alliance with the Adani Group to improve the Walmart-owned company's logistics and data centre capabilities while also creating around 2,500 direct jobs.

Flipkart will collaborate with Adani Logistics Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, in this two-pronged alliance to improve its supply chain infrastructure and further enhance its ability to support its increasingly increasing customer base, according to a statement.

Flipkart will also establish its third data centre at Adaniconnex's Chennai facility, leveraging the latter's experience and industry-leading data centre technology solutions, according to the statement.

Adaniconnex is a new joint venture formed between EdgeConneX and Adani Enterprises Ltd.

**37) Answer: C**

Every year on April 11th, World Parkinson's Day is commemorated to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease, a progressive nervous system disorder.

Dr. James Parkinson of London, who was the first to systematically identify the six individuals with Parkinson Disease symptoms, was born on this day.

In addition, the month of April is designated as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

**38) Answer: D**

On April 09, 2021, Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom Passed away.

He was 99.

About Prince Philip :

Prince Philip was the British monarch's longest-serving consort.

He retired from the royal service in 2017 after 69 years of service serving the Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh was his official title.

In 1947, he married Elizabeth, a Greek princess.

In the post-World War II era, he was instrumental in modernising the British monarchy.

**39) Answer: E**

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has named BP Acharya, a former Telangana bureaucrat, as the advisor for the National Animal Resource Facility for BioMedical Research (NARFBR), which will be built on 100 acres near Shamirpet.

Before retiring, Acharya served as the Special Chief Secretary and the Director General of Telangana's MCRHRD Institute.

According to the ICMR, Acharya's appointment is in honour of his efforts to construct a world-class life sciences cluster in the Genome Valley, as well as his contributions to the field.

The NARFBR project is being developed with an investment of Rs 300 crore and will cater to the pharma and biopharma/vaccine industry in the country in their preclinical animal trials.

**40) Answer: C**

Chloe Zhao won the top prize at the Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards for her feature film "Nomadland," cementing the film's place as a contender for the forthcoming Academy Awards.

At the 73rd edition of the awards, the Beijing-born filmmaker became the first Asian woman to earn the trophy for best feature directing, according to Deadline.

She is also the second woman to win the top DGA Award, following Kathryn Bigelow's win for "The Hurt Locker" in 2009.

The filmmaker beat out acclaimed directors David Fincher ("Mank"), Aaron Sorkin ("The Trial of the Chicago 7"), Lee Isaac Chung ("Minari") and Emerald Fennell ("Promising Young Woman") to win the marquee award.

"Nomadland" features Academy Award winner Frances McDormand as a woman who leaves home to travel around the American West after losing her job.

**41) Answer: C**

Ambedkar Remembrance Day, also known as Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti, is celebrated on April 14 to honour B.R. Ambedkar's memory.

Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, an Indian politician and civil rights activist, was born on this day.

It is the birthday of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who was born on April 14, 1891.

Since Ambedkar fought for equality throughout his life, his birthday is observed as 'Equality Day' in India.

According to the Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India, he was a world-class lawyer, social reformer, and number one world-class scholar.

Invoking powers under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the public holiday was proclaimed.

In 2020, the centre made a similar statement, declaring April 14th as a national holiday.

This year marks the 130th anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar's birth.

**42) Answer: D**

Keralites all over the world are commemorating "Vishu," the harvest and prosperity festival.

Vishu is the state's celestial New Year, commemorating the sun's passage through the MedamRashi.

Lord Krishna is worshipped on this auspicious day, which is replete with abundance symbolism in every way.

The day begins with "Vishukkani," which consists of Lord Krishna being adored with fruits and vegetables, kanikonna flowers, gold, coins, and other objects.



The family's elders bestow their blessings in the form of Vishukaineettam.

Vishukani and special rituals will be performed in major temples such as Guruvayur, Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple, Sabarimala, and others.

Vishu is being celebrated under strict restrictions this year due to the covid pandemic.

Authorities had advised people to keep their celebrations at home and avoid crowding temples.

#### 43) Answer: E

The 14th of April is designated as World Chagas Disease Day to raise public awareness and visibility about Chagas Disease (also known as American trypanosomiasis) and the resources required to prevent, monitor, or eliminate the disease.

At the 72nd World Health Assembly on May 24, 2019, the WHO approved the declaration of Chagas Disease Day.

It is one of the World Health Organization's 11 official global public health campaigns.

On April 14, 2020, the first World Chagas Disease Day was observed.

Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas, a Brazilian doctor who diagnosed the first case on April 14, 1909, is honoured on this day.

#### 44) Answer: C

For the fiscal year 2019-20, EdCIL (India) Limited, a Mini Ratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Education, paid the highest ever dividend of 12.5 crore rupees.

In the presence of Additional Secretary (Technical Education) Dr. Rakesh Ranjan and other Ministry and EdCIL officials, Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' received the dividend cheque from EdCIL CMD Manoj Kumar.

During the fiscal year 2019-20, the company had a revenue of 326 crore rupees and a profit before tax of 56 crore rupees.

EdCIL provides Project Management and Consultancy services in the areas of ICT or IT Solutions, Online Testing and Assessment Services, Advisory Services, Infrastructure, Procurement, and Overseas Education Services in all education verticals.

The company is implementing a Ministry of Education mega-project called Study in India, which aims to increase the number of inbound international students to India.

Setting up a wide platform, contact centre, social media campaign, branding, event management, and facilitation centres are all part of the programme.

#### 45) Answer: D

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Pat Gelsinger, the Chief Executive Officer of Intel, through video conferencing.

Both spent a lot of time talking about the importance of technology in advancing human development.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Gelsinger also spoke about India's Digital India initiatives and investment opportunities.

#### 46) Answer: B

With great zeal and excitement, the Siachen Warriors commemorated the 37th Siachen Day.

At the Siachen War Memorial, Base Camp, Brigadier Gurbal Singh laid a wreath and paid tribute to the martyrs to honour their bravery and fortitude in defending the world's highest and coldest battlefield.

On this day in 1984, Indian troops at BilafondLa launching Operation Meghdoot unfurled the tricolour for the first time.

Since then, it's been a storey of bravery and audacity, not just in the face of the enemy, but also in the face of frozen peaks and harsh weather.

Against all odds, the Siachen Soldier manages to guard the Frozen Frontier with tenacity and resolve.

The Siachen Day commemorates all Siachen Warriors who have served their country thus successfully foiling enemy plans over the years.

**47) Answer: C**

Manohar Lal, the Chief Minister of Haryana, has approved the purchase of 200 acres of land in Rewari for the AIIMS, as well as the purchase of land for seven other projects.

The meeting of the High Power Land Purchase Committee to buy land available on the e-Bhoomi platform for nine projects in Chandigarh was presided over by the Chief Minister.

After the landowners reached an agreement on the amount, the approval was granted.

Sh. Dushyant Chautala, Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister, was also present at the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Commissioners and landowners from the respective districts via video conferencing.

The committee approved the purchase of 200 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 40 lakh per acre for the AIIMS to be established in Rewari.

The concerned Deputy Commissioner was asked to prepare a comprehensive report of the available land in order to locate land for this project.

**48) Answer: D**

Poshan Gyan, a national digital archive on health and nutrition, was launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change at Ashoka University.

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog, CEO Amitabh Kant, Women and Child Development Secretary Ram Mohan Mishra, and Additional Secretary Dr. Rakesh Sarwal spoke at the event.

Dr Rajiv Kumar, who launched the website, described the production of Poshan Gyan as a watershed moment.

According to him, true change can only be achieved by modifying people's behaviours on the ground.

The NITI Aayog Vice Chairman said, high malnutrition persists despite India being a food-surplus nation, which points towards a clear need for behavioural change.

**49) Answer: E**

Veteran Punjabi Mahabharat actor Satish Kaul Passed away. He was 74. He played the role of Lord Indra in the TV show Mahabharat .

**50) Answer: C**

The Tamil Calendar begins on TamizhPuththaandu, the first day of the Chithirai month.

It's a good time to start new ideas and ventures in your family and social circles.

In the state, there are Covid restrictions in place, and people are celebrating the festival in Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

Houses are traditionally decorated with rangolis on the doorsteps and mango leaf festoons hung at the front door.

At home, food with six distinct flavours is prepared.

Traditional menus for the day include sweet, salt, bitter, sour, spicy, and thuvarpu dishes.

Mango is commonly used in the preparation of vadaipayasampachadi, a yoghurt-based dish.

The mukkani dish, which contains mango, jackfruit, and banana, is thought to be the most delicious.

People pay obeisance at temples and even pay visits to friends and family.

Chithirai also marks the start of the year's summer season, when temperatures begin to rise above average.

While the summer rains make the south and western districts of the state friendly, the northern districts experience the season's heat.

### **51) Answer: C**

Every year on April 10th, World Homoeopathy Day is observed to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Hahnemann, the Founder of Homoeopathy.

The 10th of April was chosen as the start date because it is the birthday of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the German physician credited with developing homoeopathy.

Every year, between April 10th and April 16th, World Homeopathy Awareness Week is observed.

The celebration's theme this year is "Homeopathy: A Roadmap for Integrative Medicine."

It has been working to improve education and infrastructure in order to promote homoeopathy throughout the world.

The World Homeopathy Awareness Organization organises the week, which honours both homoeopaths and others who have been helped by homoeopathy.

Homeopathy is an alternative medicine system that employs small, highly diluted doses of natural substances to stimulate the body's natural healing abilities.

Throughout the week, free public activities such as seminars, media conferences, and free and reduced-cost clinics are held around the world.

### **52) Answer: C**

The National Startup Advisory Council's first meeting was chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

This Council was established by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade to advise the government on how to create a strong ecosystem for fostering innovation and startups in the country.

According to Mr. Goyal, this council will serve as a guiding light for many aspiring Indian startup entrepreneurs.

Mr Goyal said that India is a centre of creativity and out-of-the-box thinking, praising the work done by startups in all sectors for seeking creative solutions to various problems.

In the last five years, he claims, the startup movement has sparked the entrepreneurial spirit.

Startups, according to the Minister, are the "New Champions of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

India has the potential to become the world's largest and most creative startup ecosystem, according to him.

**53) Answer: E**

Under the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund, 100 new hospitals in the country will have their own oxygen facility, according to the Union Health Ministry.

The decision was reached during a meeting of Empowered Group 2 (EG2), which was convened to assess the availability of critical medical equipment and oxygen during COVID.

According to the Ministry, Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plants produce oxygen and assist hospitals in being self-sufficient in their medical oxygen needs.

According to the study, 162 PSA plants sanctioned under PM-CARES are being closely examined to ensure that 100 percent of the plants are completed on time to improve self-generation of oxygen in hospitals, especially in remote areas.

The Health Ministry has been directed by the Empowered Group 2 to select 100 hospitals in remote locations for consideration of sanction for the installation of PSA plants.

**54) Answer: B**

Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, launched three ground-breaking projects for the National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI.

IP Guru, NIXI Academy, and NIXI-IP-INDEX are three of these initiatives.

The IP Guru is a community dedicated to providing assistance to all Indian organisations that are finding it difficult to move to and implement the IPv6 Internet Protocol version.

In addition, the community will assist in finding and recruiting an organisation that will assist end users in adopting IPv6 by providing technical assistance.

The NIXI Academy was founded to educate both technical and non-technical people in India about technologies such as IPv6, which will improve the country's Internet resource management.

The NIXI-IP-INDEX portal was created to display the rate of IPv6 adoption in India and around the world.

**55) Answer: C**

Hardeep Singh Puri, the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, used video conferencing to introduce the EatSmart Cities Challenge and the Transport 4 All Challenge.

The EatSmart Cities Challenge gives India the chance to be a trailblazer in the advancement of the idea of incorporating food systems into city planning and development.

According to MrPuri, this trend will encourage urban dwellers to make better food choices, resulting in a healthier and happier country.

The EatSmart Cities Challenge is a competition between cities to recognise their efforts in implementing and scaling up various Eat Right India initiatives.

All Smart Cities, capital cities of States and Union Territories, and cities with a population of more than five lakh are qualified to participate in the challenge.



The Transportation 4 All Challenge aims to put communities, community groups, and start-ups together to create strategies that transform public transportation to better serve all citizens' needs.

COVID-19, according to MrPuri, has brought the entire world to a halt, with transportation being one of the worst-affected industries.

He also said that the Transport4All Digital Innovation Challenge would assist cities in regaining mobility.

**56) Answer: D**

Haiti's Prime Minister, Joseph Jouthe, has resigned as the country grapples with an increase in homicides and kidnappings, as well as a constitutional referendum and general election later this year.

Since March 2020, he has been the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

He did not provide a reason for his decision to resign.

Jouthe had previously attempted to submit his resignation, but it had been rejected by President JovenelMose.

Mose welcomed it this time and nominated Claude Joseph to be Haiti's next Prime Minister.

The President tweeted that Jouthe's resignation will make it possible to address the glaring problem of insecurity and continue discussions with the aim of reaching the consensus necessary for the political and institutional stability of the country.

Haiti has seen eight Prime Ministers since 2015.

**57) Answer: E**

World Voice Day is an annual celebration of the phenomenon of voice that takes place on April 16th around the world.

The aim is to show the incredible significance of the voice in everyone's everyday lives.

ONE WORLD, MANY VOICES is the theme for 2021.

World Voice Day is a global annual celebration dedicated to celebrating the human voice's limitless potential.

The aim is to spread the word about the voice phenomena to individuals, scientists, and other funding organisations.

The day is centred on contributions from head and neck surgeons, as well as other health professionals, who inspire both young and old to evaluate their vocal health and take steps to maintain healthy vocal habits.

Also something as simple as our speech is often ignored.

World Voice Day serves as a reminder to safeguard this indispensable instrument that we use on a daily basis so that it can be with us for the rest of our lives.

**58) Answer: C**

Given India's push for electric vehicles, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari believes Tesla has a golden opportunity to set up a manufacturing facility in the region.

Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari said during a session at the Raisina Dialogue that Tesla is already sourcing various auto components from Indian automakers and that establishing a base here would be economically viable for the company.

"I would propose to them (Tesla) that it would be a golden opportunity for them to set up a manufacturing

facility in India because, in terms of automotive parts, Tesla already buys a lot of them from Indian suppliers.

So there will be availability," the minister said. At the same time, the Indian market will be good for Tesla also, he added.

### 59) Answer: B

The Inclusive Internet Index 2021 was published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in collaboration with Facebook.

The index assesses the availability and affordability of the internet in each country, as well as providing additional insight into how people use the internet around the world.

This year, India is tied for 49th position with Thailand in terms of internet availability.

The 'Inclusive Internet Index' polled 120 countries, accounting for 98 percent of global GDP and 96 percent of the world's population.

The overall Index score is based on four parameters, which are:

- Availability
- Affordability
- Relevance
- Readiness

The aim of the Inclusive Internet Index is to provide researchers and policymakers with the information they need to enable users to benefit from the Internet, irrespective of their age, gender, location or background.

Top 5 Countries

- Sweden

- United States
- Spain
- Australia
- Hong Kong

### 60) Answer: D

Amazon has announced a USD 250 million (roughly Rs 1,873 crore) fund aimed at digitising small and medium enterprises and accelerating innovation in India's agri-tech and health-tech sectors.

"In many countries, small and medium-sized enterprises are the engine and lifeblood, and I believe this is true in India as well.

And we're very enthusiastic about assisting SMBs in accelerating innovation and the economy in India," said Amazon Web Services CEO Andrew Jassy.

Building on last year's announcement, Amazon is announcing a new USD 250 million Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund, Jassy, who will take over as the CEO of Amazon Inc later this year, said during the second Amazon Smbhav event.

### 61) Answer: D

The International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage Day, is an annual global commemoration held on April 18th with a variety of events including visits to monuments and heritage sites, seminars, round tables, and newspaper articles.

This year's theme is "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures."

Here you'll find everything you need to know about the day.

Every year on April 18, World Heritage Day is commemorated to honour the preservation of human

heritage and the contributions of organisations seeking to do so.

The day is dedicated to the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage through various activities undertaken by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

Italy has the highest number of Unesco heritage sites in the world.

### 62) Answer: C

On April 17, 2021, Renowned Bangladeshi actor Sara Begum Kabori passed away.

She was 70 years old.

she attained popularity and fame in Bangla cinema with films like SujonSokhi, SarengBou, Shat Bhai Champa, Arun Varun Kiran Mala and LalonFokir

Achievements :

Sara Begum Kabori was honoured with the National Film Award for her role in the film SarengBou in 1978.

She got the lifetime achievement award in 2013. She was also a freedom fighter and former member of parliament.

Kabori was fondly known as the 'MishtiMeye', the 'Sweet Girl' of Bangladesh cinema for her role in the films.

### 63) Answer: E

According to the Health Ministry, the Government of India has approved the installation of 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants in public health facilities across the country, which will increase medical oxygen capability by over 154 metric tonnes.

According to the Ministry, 33 PSA plants have already been built, with five in Madhya Pradesh, four in Himachal Pradesh, three each in Chandigarh, Gujarat, and Uttarakhand, two each in Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana, and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh, out of 162 PSA plants approved by the

States have appreciated the installation of PSA Oxygen plants in their public health facilities, according to the Ministry of Health.

It stated that, in addition to the 162 plants already authorised, they have requested and received approval from the Indian government for more than 100 additional plants.

33 PSA Oxygen plants have been built out of 162.

59 will be deployed by the end of this month, and 80 will be installed by the end of next month.

According to the Ministry, the Central Government has covered the entire expense of 162 PSA Oxygen plants, totaling over 201 crore rupees.

### 64) Answer: B

The Gallantry Awards portal is hosting an Ambitious Tributes to Bravehearts competition, in which participants from all over India are invited to submit special and innovative tributes to the nation's Bravehearts.

The aim of this contest is to come up with a set of appropriate tribute messages for the Gallantry Awardees.

The competition will take place from April 15th to May 15th, 2021.

The competition's entries will be judged on elements of imagination, originality, structure, and simplicity, as well as how well they highlight the Gallantry Awards portal's vision and objectives.

The winners of the competition will be recognized on the Gallantry Awards portal and its related social media channels.

These winners will also be given an opportunity to witness the Republic Day Parade 2022 in New Delhi.

To participate in the competition, people can visit, [https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/single\\_challenge/event/46](https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/single_challenge/event/46).

**65) Answer: D**

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will express his thoughts in the first episode of the monthly radio broadcast "Awaam Ki Awaaz."

Apart from Doordarshan channels DD-Kashir and DDK Jammu, all AIR stations in Jammu and Kashmir will broadcast it.

The initiative is a step toward improving the idea of "Jan Bhagidhari" by inviting people from Jammu and Kashmir to participate.

The "Awaam Ki Baat" is a half-hour radio programme that airs every third Sunday of the month.

It is one of the many sequential phases in the J&K government's larger programmes.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's novel programme, Awaam Ki Baat, aims to disseminate his administration's positive steps while also soliciting public input.

With this initiative, the J&K administration is making a concerted effort to improve the government-public

relationship by soliciting public input and encouraging active involvement in policymaking.

**66) Answer: C**

In contrast to the 2020 fiscal year, India's pharmaceutical exports increased by more than 18 percent to \$24.4 billion.

North America was the largest exporting area for Indian pharmaceutical firms, according to data from the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India, with more than 34% of exports to the region.

Exports to Canada grew at the fastest rate of 30%, led by South Africa at 28%.

The United States and Mexico also had stable growth rates of 12.6% and 21.4 percent, respectively.

**67) Answer: B**

Elon Musk's SpaceX beat out Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin and defence contractor Dynetics Inc. for a \$2.9 billion contract to develop a spacecraft that will take astronauts to the moon as early as 2024, NASA announced.

The human lander that will drop those astronauts onto the lunar surface will be designed by Elon Musk's rocket company.

It will do so as part of the Artemis initiative, which aims to land the first commercial lander on the Moon as well as the first woman and person of colour on the Moon.

The contract is worth \$2.89 billion to SpaceX, with Nasa stating that the overall price is set and contingent on certain targets being met.

**68) Answer: C**



IndywoodStartup Awards 2021 has chosen six companies for investment deals: education startup RobotGuru Education Technologies Pvt Ltd; technology startup EyeROV (IROV Technologies Private Limited); social impact startup AllAbout Innovations (Wolf); and creative startup iBoson Improvements. Garga M-Commerce, a promising startup (e-commerce site for do-it-yourself manufacturers), and Tutorhow Scientific Edutech Pvt Ltd, a schooling startup (On-line Educating Resolution Supplier).

The inaugural IndywoodStartup Awards 2021, organised by Aries Worldwide Maritime Analysis Institute fuelled by Indywood Billionaires Membership, acknowledged and honoured up to 20 startups.

Indywood Billionaires Club startup awards 2021 offer business partnership opportunities to excellent startups that build modern products that solutions and have a high potential to generate wealth, jobs, and demonstrate measurable social impact.

In addition to allowing businesses to pitch their products in front of investors, AIMRI will also provide opportunities for worthy projects to be incubated.

**69) Answer: E**

The first-ever Awards ceremony, organised by the FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council in collaboration with IIM-Trichy, honoured HR Managers and teams who had excelled in their fields.

The event saw the participation from hundreds of companies and the winners were announced.

Large Corporates Best HR Executive, Large Corporates Best HR Manager, Large Corporates Best HR Chief, Large Corporates Best HR Practices (Manufacturing), Large Corporates Best HR Practices (Healthcare Services), Large Corporates Best HR Practices (State-run PSU), Large Corporates Best HR Practices (IT &ITeS),

Corporates Best HR Practices (IT &ITeS), Corporates Best HR Practices (IT &ITeS), Corporates Best HR Practices (IT).

**70) Answer: C**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will deliver a video address to the Association of Indian Universities' 95th Annual Meet and National Seminar of Vice-Chancellors on April 14, 2021.

He'll also release four books on Dr. BR Ambedkar.

Shri Kishor Makwana was the poet.

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University in Ahmedabad is hosting the event.

Four books List:

- Dr. Ambedkar Jivan Darshan,
- Dr. Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan,
- Dr Ambedkar Rashtra Darshan, and
- Dr. Ambedkar Aayam Darshan

**71) Answer: C**

Every year on April 20, the United Nations commemorates Chinese Language Day.

The UN Department of Public Information created the day in 2010 to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity, as well as to encourage the fair use of all six of the organization's official working languages in the organisation.

Cangjie, a legendary figure who is thought to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago, has also been honoured on April 20.

**72) Answer: D**

Indian Oil has started supplying 150 metric tonnes of oxygen to hospitals in Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab at no cost.

The first batch of life-saving medical grade oxygen was sent to New Delhi's Maha Durga Charitable Trust Hospital.

Delhi is currently experiencing an oxygen shortage.

Indian Oil has diverted high-purity oxygen used in its Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) Unit to manufacture medical-grade liquid oxygen at its Panipat Refinery and Petrochemical Complex in response to a huge surge in demand for medical oxygen during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**73) Answer: E**

For the first time in more than a year, Auckland airport was packed with tearful reunions as Australia reopened the travel bubble with New Zealand.

Due to the long-awaited Australia-New Zealand travel bubble, travellers will no longer be required to undergo quarantine upon arrival.

Thousands of passengers had made reservations to travel between the two countries.

COVID outbreaks have been controlled in both countries, and infection rates have remained low, owing to strict regulations.

**74) Answer: B**

Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) won the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021 on April 18, 2021.

It was held in the Italian town of Imola.

This victory is his first of the season.

Lewis Hamilton, the seven-time Formula One champion, finished second after colliding with Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas and sustaining injury.

Lando Norris (McLaren – United Kingdom) finished seventh.

The race was part of the 2021 Formula One World Championship's second round.

**75) Answer: D**

In an effort to improve relations between the two countries, Italy has launched its first mega food park project in India, which will include food processing facilities.

On April 17, 2021, the pilot project "The Mega Food Park" was digitally launched at Fanidhar Mega Food Park in Gujarat.

In addition to focusing on the research and development of newer, more productive technologies in the field, the project will create a synergy between agriculture and industry in both countries.

**76) Answer: C**

Sadananda Gowda, the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, has stated that IFFCO's new oxygen plant in Kalol, Gujarat, would increase the daily production capacity of medical grade oxygen by 33 thousand litres per day.

The company has also agreed to construct three more Oxygen plants in Uttar Pradesh's Aonla&Phulpur and Odisha's Paradeep, according to the Minister.

Mr. Gowda also advised other urea producers to look into the possibility of installing oxygen plants in their existing plants.

He said that the current COVID situation necessitates a concerted effort to combat it.

**77) Answer: E**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has received a draught red herring prospectus from Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd in order to raise funds through an initial public offering.

Sun Life (India) AMC and Aditya Birla Capital Ltd have announced that they will sell a 13.5 percent stake in their asset management joint venture, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd.

Sun Life (India) AMC will sell up to 36.03 million shares, while Aditya Birla Capital will sell up to 2.88 million shares in the asset management market.

Aditya Birla Capital owns 51 percent of the AMC, while Sun Life owns the remaining 49 percent.

Aditya Birla is an Indian businessman and philanthropist. AMC Sun Life:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has registered Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company Ltd, formerly known as Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company Limited, as an investment management company.

It's a joint venture between India's Aditya Birla Group and Canada's Sun Life Financial Inc.

**78) Answer: D**

Sivasubramanian Ramann has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI, according to the bank.

According to SIDBI, the appointment will last three years, beginning April 19, 2021.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is India's main financial institution for promoting, funding, and developing micro, small, and medium-sized businesses.

Ramann was the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National E-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL), India's first information utility, prior to this appointment.

Ramann is an Indian Audit & Accounts Service (IA&AS) officer of 1991 batch.

**79) Answer: B**

Tata Consumer Products (TCP), the consumer goods business that brings together the Tata Group's major food and beverage interests under one roof, has named Deepika Bhan as its new President – Packaged Foods, India, effective April 27, 2021.

Deepika came to TCP from Hindustan Unilever, where she was the South Asia Global Brand Director for Haircare.

She has worked in Sales, Customer Marketing, Media, Brand, Category/P&L, and Category/P&L positions throughout her career, leading diverse teams spanning products and portfolios.

PepsiCo and Tata Motors are among her previous employers.

Sunil D'Souza, MD & CEO of Tata Consumer Products, said of the appointment, "We are delighted to welcome Deepika on board to lead our Foods portfolio."

Deepika will lead us through this exciting growth process as we strive to develop this company through agility, creativity, and brand strengthening.

**80) Answer: E**

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria left for France on a five-day official visit, marking the continuation of growing bilateral defence cooperation with the French Air and Space Force.

The visit will enhance potential avenues for strengthening the level of interaction between the Indian and French Air Forces.

During his visit, the Chief of Air Staff will meet and speak with France's top military officials, as well as tour operational facilities and air bases.

In the recent past, the two Air Forces have had considerable operational contact.

**81) Answer: C**

Earth Day is a celebration held every year on April 22 to show appreciation for environmental conservation.

This year's theme is "Restore Our Earth," with an emphasis on natural processes, emerging green technology, and creative thinking that can help the world's habitats recover. As a result, the theme opposes the notion that climate change can only be addressed by mitigation and adaptation.

It began on April 22, 1970, and has grown to encompass a diverse variety of activities organised worldwide by EARTHDAY.ORG, involving over 1 billion people in over 193 countries.

Every year on April 22nd, International Mother Earth Day (Earth Day) is observed to remember that the Earth and its habitats are our home, and that it is important to foster peace with nature and the Earth.

The United Nations General Assembly created the day in 2009.

Earth Day organisers support eco efforts to save the planet every year all over the world.

Participate in Earth Day events in your region to commemorate National Earth Day.

**82) Answer: D**

IdrissDebyItno, the President of the Republic of Chad, died on April 20, 2021.

Deby was 68 years old when he died.

Déby was one of Africa's longest-serving presidents, having been in power for more than three decades.

He was even proclaimed the winner of the presidential election in 2021, allowing him to remain in power for another six years.

Deby was elected for the first time in 1996 and 2001.

Following that, he won in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021.

**83) Answer: E**

The price of the COVISHIELD vaccine from the Serum Institute of India has been declared for state governments and private hospitals throughout the country.

The vaccine would cost state governments 400 rupees per dose, while private hospitals will have to pay 600 rupees per dose.

The manufacturer of the COVISHIELD vaccine in India has made the announcement in light of the Centre's recent relaxation of the vaccination campaign in the region.

Vaccine manufacturers and suppliers will sell 50% of their COVID vaccines to the Centre under the new provisions, with the remaining 50% going to state governments and private hospitals on the open market.



According to a press release from the Serum Institute, the new directive would help scale up vaccine development while also making vaccine procurement easier for state governments, private hospitals, and vaccination clinics.

**84) Answer: C**

Nine Bangladeshis have been named to Forbes' 30 under 30 lists of Asia's top innovators in ten industries.

Forbes has released its sixth annual 30 under 30 Asia list for 2021, which includes 300 young Asian entrepreneurs, leaders, and trailblazers.

The list includes people who are pursuing new opportunities in the face of the COVID pandemic's demanding climate.

The nine Bangladeshis were chosen from the categories of enterprise technology, social impact, retail, and e-commerce.

Previously, nine Bangladeshis were named to the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia lists between 2016 and 2020.

Shehzad NooTausPriyo and Motasim Bir Rahman co-founded Gaze, a company that creates visual recognition APIs with AI support.

Shomy Chowdhury and RijveArefin founded the AWARENESS 360 NGO, which focuses on personal hygiene issues such as hand washing and sanitation.

Ahmed Imtiaz Jami has helped over a million people out of poverty.

Through the NGO OBHIZATRIK, it has supported education, health, and nutrition.

Pickaboo, Morin Talukder's e-commerce company, lists high-quality goods and facilitates product distribution.

Cramstack, a startup founded by Mir Sakib, provides natural language search interfaces to help businesses analyse and visualise data.

The list includes arts, entertainment, and sports, as well as finance and venture capital, media, marketing, and advertisement, business technology, social effects, and consumer technology.

Each category features 30 young people under the age of 30 who are making waves in their respective fields.

According to Forbes, the list was compiled after a thorough process of selection from over 2500 online nominations.

**85) Answer: D**

Rajeev Srivastava has been appointed Head of Products and Business Development at HDFC Securities.

According to a tweet, Srivastava has nearly two decades of experience working with major retail companies such as ICICI Bank and PerfettiVanmelle.

He previously worked as the Chief Business Officer for Reliance Securities.

“Rajeev brings a wealth of experience in dealing with goods and outlining market strategies,” said Dhiraj Relli, MD and CEO of HDFC Securities.

He will add significant value to our product offerings while assisting our consumers in selecting from a wide range of investment choices.

Rajeev’s understanding of the markets will play a critical role in greater penetration of HSL brands for our existing and new customers.”

**86) Answer: B**

Chinese President Xi Jinping will take part in the virtual climate summit convened by US President Joe Biden in which several world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will participate. Xi's confirmation comes days after John Kerry, US special envoy on climate change, held talks with his Chinese counterpart, XieZhenhua, in Shanghai.

Chinese Foreign Ministry announced, "At the invitation of US President Joe Biden, President Xi will attend and deliver an 'important speech' at the Leaders' Summit on Climate by video link from Beijing."

The US and China are the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Xi made veiled references to the US-led West in an online speech delivered at an economic forum, rejecting what he called hegemonic powers in global governance and saying there should be no 'bossing' and 'meddling' in other countries which is seen as a continuation from Alaska meeting last month between the two countries.

**87) Answer: E**

In the period April 2020 to February 2021, India's agricultural and allied product exports increased by nearly 18.5 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

Despite the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country saw a 727 percent increase in Wheat exports and a 132 percent increase in Non-Basmati Rice exports.

Cereals, soya meal, spices, sugar, raw cotton, fresh vegetables, processed vegetables, and alcoholic beverages are among the other goods that have seen substantial increases in exports.

Even during the pandemic, India took care not to disrupt the global food supply chain and continued to export.

Agricultural and allied commodities exports totaled over Rs 2 lakh 70 thousand crore from April 2020 to February 2021.

Imports of agricultural and related commodities increased by 2.93 percent during this time span.

Despite COVID-19, the agricultural trade balance has improved favourably during this period.

**88) Answer: C**

Hero MotoCorp and Taiwan's Gogoro Inc have developed a collaboration to build electric vehicles for the Indian market.

The two companies will form a joint venture to bring Gogoro's battery swapping platform to India, as well as partner on EV production to bring Hero-branded, Gogoro Network-powered vehicles to the Indian market.

Hero MotorCorp will make its first direct entry into the electric vehicle market with this alliance, which is currently dominated by another Hero Group venture, Hero Electric, and Hero MotoCorp-backed start-up Ather Energy.

Bajaj Auto and TVS Motor Company, Hero's main competitors, have a small presence in this fast-growing segment as well.

In FY21, India's two-wheeler EV demand grew by 1.6 times, from 24,839 units sold in FY20 to 40,837 in FY21. Experts predict that by 2030, electric vehicles will account for 25-30% of total two-wheeler sales.

**89) Answer: D**

ReNew Power announced the completion of a 105 megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Gujarat.

According to a company release, the project has a 25-year power purchase agreement with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL) to provide clean electricity to the state at a tariff of Rs 2.68/kWh.

This plant, which is located in Gujarat's Patan district, brings ReNew's total operational solar capacity in the state to 145 MW, bringing the company's total solar capacity in India to 4.7 GW.

In Gujarat and Rajasthan, ReNew Power has announced the commissioning of over 500 MW of combined wind and solar energy projects since March.

"The commissioning of the 105 MW Gujarat project is a significant step forward for ReNew Power.

Founder, Chairman, and CEO of ReNew Power, Sumant Sinha, said, "The project was commissioned amidst a COVID-19 surge and reflects our team's dedication to contribute to India's ambition of achieving 450 GW of clean energy by 2030."

### 90) Answer: E

WHI, which has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, has named Geevarghese Mar Coorilos Metropolitan, Diocese of Mumbai, as the recipient of its first Golden Lantern Award.

The award is given to the metropolitan for his exceptional contributions in the areas of social, educational, and charitable endeavours.

He was chosen for the award because of his free education projects for slum children, health and care schemes for tuberculosis patients, outstanding contributions to the education sector, and the forthcoming Theo University's opening up of theology learning to women.

In mid-July, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan will present the award in Thiruvananthapuram.

### 91) Answer: C

Every year on April 23, World Book Day is commemorated.

The event is under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

On April 23, 1995, the first World Book Day was observed.

The date was chosen by UNESCO because it coincided with the death and birth dates of William Shakespeare, a world-renowned poet.

The theme for this year's World Book and Copyright Day is "To Share a Story," in honour of Covid-19.

In 2021, Tbilisi has been selected as the World Book Capital.

World Book Day, also known as World Book and Copyright Day or International Day of the Book, is celebrated on April 23rd around the world.

### 92) Answer: D

Farid Sabri of the Sabri Brothers duo, a well-known qawwali musician, died on April 21, 2021 in Jaipur.

He was 58 years old at the time.

Farid and Amin Sabri were well-known for songs like "Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin Der Na Ho Jaye" and "EkMulakatZaruri Hai Sanam."

On the song for the film Henna, he worked with his aunt, Lata Mangeshkar, and Suresh Wadkar.

His qawwali performance in the film *Sirf Tum* (1999) was also a success.

**93) Answer: E**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an alliance between the United States and India on renewable energy and climate change.

Mr Modi announced the launch of the India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership at the Leaders' Climate Summit, which will serve as a model for green partnerships to help developed countries access affordable green finance and clean technologies.

Together, we will help mobilise investments, demonstrate clean technology, and allow green partnerships, according to Mr Modi.

He stressed that concrete action is needed for humanity to fight Climate Change, saying that such action must be taken quickly, on a broad scale, and with a global reach.

India's ambitious renewable energy goal of 450 gigawatts by 2030, according to the Prime Minister, demonstrates our commitment.

Despite our growth challenges, Mr Modi said, we have taken several bold steps in the areas of renewable energy, energy conservation, afforestation, and biodiversity.

**94) Answer: D**

Every year on April 23, the United Nations celebrates English and Spanish Language Days.

The 23rd of April has been selected as both the birthday and death date of William Shakespeare in English.

The day was chosen for Spanish Language since it is also known as Hispanic Day in Spain, which encompasses the entire Spanish-speaking world.

What is the significance of the Day?

They are one of the United Nations' six official languages used by the organisation. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish are among them.

In 2010, the United Nations Department of Public Information allocated each language a day of celebration to honour multilingualism and cultural diversity while also encouraging fair use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.

**95) Answer: B**

The first Oxygen Express with Liquid Medical Oxygen tankers will leave Visakhapatnam tonight for Mumbai.

According to the Railway Ministry, tankers loaded with Liquid Medical Oxygen are being transported via Ro-Ro service from Visakhapatnam.

Railway is operating Oxygen Express in response to its battle against COVID-19, according to the Ministry.

Another Oxygen Express began its journey from Lucknow to Bokaro via Varanasi in order to meet the state's medical oxygen needs.

According to the Ministry, a green corridor was built between Lucknow and Varanasi to facilitate train movement.

The train travelled the 270-kilometer distance in four hours and 20 minutes, with an average speed of over 62 kilometres per hour.

Over long distances, train transportation of oxygen is quicker than road transport.

**96) Answer: E**



The Uttar Pradesh government has stated that those involved in black marketing and keeping of essential drugs, oxygen, and injections for covid treatment will be prosecuted under the National Security Act and the Gangster Act.

Yogi Adityanath, the state's chief minister, said that there is no shortage of oxygen for patients in the state, and that the government is working hard to ensure that oxygen is available in all hospitals.

The state would soon receive 1.25 lakh doses of remdesivir injection, according to the Chief Minister.

He ordered officials to increase the number of covid beds in each of the state's districts by a factor of two.

For improved care control, the state's health department released new recommendations to private and government hospitals.

Private hospitals will now accept covid patients up to 90% of their covid bed space, with 10% set aside for comparison admissions.

**97) Answer: C**

The "Health Safety Week" in Jharkhand starts on April 22 to break the COVID-19 infection chain.

People have been told to stay at home and not go out unless they have a job.

Care and essential services continue to operate normally.

The Health Safety Week in Jharkhand began at 6 a.m. on April 22 and will end at 6 a.m. on April 29, with only essential services, medical services, agricultural, manufacturing, mining, and construction activities permitted.

To break the chain of COVID-19 infection, the State Level Bankers Committee has agreed to reduce the working hours of all public sector banks in Jharkhand to four hours, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The state government has asked residents not to be alarmed by the situation and to adhere to the necessary restrictions.

Meanwhile, the State Government has made available 2124 oxygen-supported hospital beds in the hardest-hit areas to combat the COVID pandemic.

In Ranchi, a 300-bed oxygen concentrator supporter special COVID-19 ward has opened.

**98) Answer: D**

Ola Electric said it will bring its electric scooter to the Indian market in July this year, and is working on setting up a 'Hypercharger Network' to include one lakh charging points across 400 cities.

Ola revealed last year that it will invest Rs 2,400 crore in Tamil Nadu to build the first electric scooter factory.

The factory will generate nearly 10,000 jobs when it is finished, and it will be the world's largest scooter manufacturing plant, with an initial annual capacity of 2 million units.

"We will bring out the factory by June, which will have the capacity to produce 2 million units, and then we will ramp up – over the next 12 months – after the factory is set up, the sale will also start at the same time," Ola Chairman and Group CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said.

**99) Answer: B**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar's military government, will travel to Indonesia for the

ASEAN leaders conference, which will be his first international trip since the coup.

Seven Southeast Asian leaders from the ten-nation ASEAN grouping are expected to attend the summit meeting called to address the crisis triggered by the military takeover of the government on February 1, according to diplomats and officials in Jakarta.

Thailand and the Philippines have confirmed that their Foreign Ministers will attend the conference.

The ASEAN meeting is the first coordinated international attempt to find a solution to the crisis, which has resulted in the deaths of at least 739 protestors since the military took power on February 1.

**100) Answer: E**

Bangladesh's government has signed a loan agreement with the World Bank for USD 250 million to help create

more and better jobs, recover faster from the COVID-19 pandemic, and develop resilience to future crises.

This was the third and final credit in a series of 750 million dollars under the Programmatic Workforce Development policy, which focuses on creating inclusive and high-quality jobs while assisting the government in responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

According to a World Bank press release, it supports policies to modernise the trade and investment system, enhance worker social security, and assist youth, women, and disadvantaged people in finding quality employment.

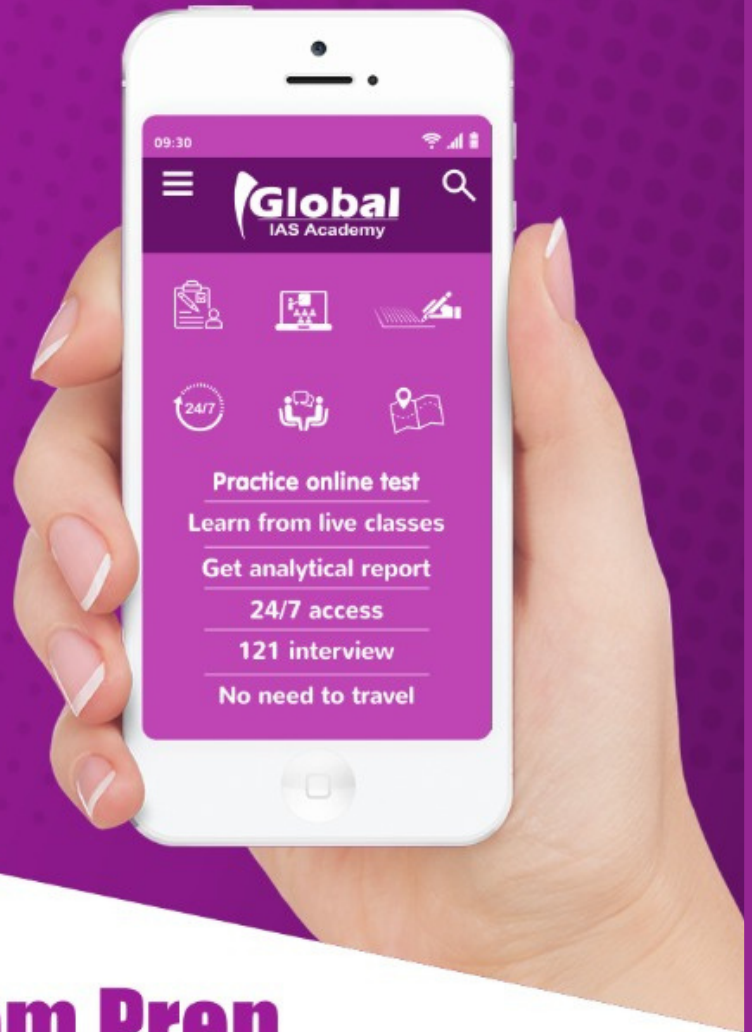
This funding, according to Mercy Tembon, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, funds government policies to protect those most affected by the pandemic.

He claims that as Bangladesh moves closer to its goal of becoming an upper-middle-income nation, more and better jobs will be created.



**DOWNLOAD**  
Our App Now

Available on Google Playstore



## IAS / KAS / PSI Exam Prep

**One Stop  
Destination for  
all your  
Exam prep**

### AMAZING FEATURES :

- Live online classes,
- 24x7 access to recorded videos
- On demand test
- Mains writing practice
- Mock test
- Daily news analysis
- Performance feedback
- And much more



[www.globaliasacademy.com](http://www.globaliasacademy.com)  
[info@globaliasacademy.com](mailto:info@globaliasacademy.com)

9964093666  
9964094666



**ADMISSIONS OPEN**

**JOIN TODAY**

**GLOBAL IAS ACADEMY**

**#22/1 First Floor, Chandra Layout Main Road  
Next to Athiguppe Metro, Vijaynagar  
BENGALURU-560040**

**Phone : 9964093666, 9964094666**

**Email: [info@globaliasacademy.com](mailto:info@globaliasacademy.com)**

**Website: [www.globaliasacademy.com](http://www.globaliasacademy.com)**