

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – April 2021

S. No	Topics	Page No
1	Important Days	2
2	Important Banking News	5
3	Important Financial & Economy Affairs	17
4	Important Business News	21
5	Important State Wise News	28
6	Important National News	42
7	Important International News	69
8	Important Appointments	80
9	Important Awards and Honours	84
10	Important MOU's	88
11	Important Summit & Conference	94
12	Important Defence News	99
13	Important Science and Technology	101
14	Important Environment News	109
15	Important Rankings and Indexes	111
16	Important Books and Authors	117
17	Important Peoples' in News	118
18	Important Mergers and Acquisitions	120
19	Important Web portals and Mobile Apps	124
20	Important Sports News	126
21	Important Obituaries	135

Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Others
April 1	Odisha Foundation Day (Utkala Dibasa)	86th statehood day
April 2	International Children's Book Day	The Music of Words
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day (Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2007)	Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World
April 4	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress (Declared by the UNGA on 8 December 2005)
April 5	National Maritime Day	First celebrated in 1964.
April 5	International Day of Conscience (Resolution was adopted on 31 July 2019 by the UN General Assembly)	Let Conscience Light up our World
April 6	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Declared the day by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2013
April 7	World Health Day	Building a fairer, healthier world (First World Health Assembly held in 1948)
April 9	Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas)	2021 marks 56th CRPF Valour Day
April 9	ICCR 71st Foundation Day	Unveiled 'Little Guru' app, world's first Gamified Sanskrit learning App
April 10	World Homeopathy Day (2021 marks the 266th birthday of Samuel Hanhemann)	Homoeopathy – Roadmap for Integrative Medicine
April 10	Survey Day	
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	Anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi declared as Safe Motherhood Day in 2003

April 11	World Parkinson's Day	Day marks the birthday of Dr James Parkinson from London
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight	The day remembers the first human space flight on April 12, 1961. It was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly on 7 April 2011
April 13	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	Massacre of Amritsar incident was happened on April 13, 1919
April 14	Ambedkar Remembrance Day (Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti)	2021 marks 130th birth anniversary
April 14	World Knowledge Day	In 2017, Government of Maharashtra observed 14 April as Knowledge Day
April 14	World Chagas Disease Day	First World Chagas Disease Day was observed on 14 April 2020
April 15	World Art Day	First World Art Day was held on April 15th, 2012
April 15	National Titanic Remembrance Day	Titanic sank into North Atlantic Ocean in April 1912
April 10 - 16	World Homeopathy Week	Homeopathy- Roadmap for Integrative Medicine
April 16	World Voice Day	One World Many Voices
April 17	World Haemophilia Day	Adapting to Change, sustaining care in a new world
April 18	International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day)	Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures (Italy has the highest number of Unesco heritage sites)
April 20	UN Chinese Language Day	Established by The UN Department of Public Information established the day in 2010
April 21	National Civil Service Day	
April 21	Administrative Professionals Day	Also known as Secretaries Day or Admin Day
April 21	World Creativity and Innovation Day (1st UN World Creativity and	United Nations recognized the day in April 2017.

	Innovation Day was celebrated in 2018)	
April 25 - 21	World Creativity and Innovation Week	
April 22	International Mother Earth Day	Restore Our Earth (The day was established in 2009 by the UNGA)
April 23	World Book Day (Tbilisi has been chosen to be the World Book Capital in 2021)	To share a story (1 st World Book Day was celebrated on April 23, 1995)
April 23	UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day	23 April mark the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare.
Last Saturday of April	World Veterinary Day	'The Veterinarian Response to the Covid-19 Crisis
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	First National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated in 2010.
April 24	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	Declared by the UN General Assembly
April 24	World Day for Laboratory Animals	
April 25	National DNA Day	It was first celebrated on April 25, 2003
April 25	World Malaria Day	It was established in My 2007
April 25	International Delegate's Day	UN organized the first official Day on April 25, 2020
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	Established by the World Intellectual Property Organization
April 28	World Day for Safety and Health at Work (The day is promoted by the ILO since 2003)	Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises – Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems
April 28	International Workers' Memorial Day (International Commemoration Day for Dead)	Health and Safety is a fundamental workers right (The day has been organized by the International Trade Union Confederation since 1996)
April 29	International Dance Day	Purpose of dance

April 30	National Honesty Day	
April 30	International Jazz Day	The Day was declared by the UNESCO in 2011.

Important Banking News

RBI

RBI increases deadline to process recurring online transactions with AFA to 30th September 2021

- The **Reserve Bank of India, RBI**, extended the deadline to process recurring online transactions with additional factor of authentication, AFA, to **30th September of this year from the last date fixed**.
- The RBI said, to prevent any inconvenience to the customers, it has decided to extend the timeline for the **stakeholders to migrate** to the framework by six months.
- The framework regarding it mandated the use of AFA during registration and first transaction, with relaxation for **subsequent transactions up to a limit of Rs 5,000**.
- **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** and payment gateways had sought additional time to comply with the RBI directive on automatic recurring payment.
- On **4th December last year**, the RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that the processing of recurring transactions, domestic or cross-border, using cards or prepaid payment instruments or unified payments interface not compliant with AFA would not be continued beyond **31 st March, 2021**.

RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo retires against expectations of second extension

- Against expectations of getting a second extension, the **senior-most deputy governor BP Kanungo** retired from the **Reserve Bank on completion of his one-year extension**.
- **Kanungo joined the RBI in 1982** and was in charge of **currency management, external investments, operations, payment, and settlement system, among others, during the four-year term as the deputy governor, which began in April 2017**.
- The government had appointed him as a deputy governor in March 2017 when Urjit Patel was the governor and he took charge on April 3, 2017, for a three-year term ending April 2, 2020, but was given a one-year extension.
- There was an expectation that he might get a second extension after the government had cancelled interviews for the post of the deputy governor, scheduled for March 10.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged and GDP growth for FY 2021-22 forecast to be 10.5 per cent

- **Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das** noted that the monetary policy committee voted unanimously to leave the repo rate and reverse repo rate unchanged at **4 and 3.3.5 per cent, respectively**.
- Announcing the **bi-monthly monetary policy** after **the three-day-long meeting of the monetary policy committee**, the Governor said the committee also unanimously decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to sustain growth and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

RBI twin the deposit limit of payments banks to Rs.2 lakh

- “With a view to furthering financial inclusion and to expand the ability of payments banks to cater to the growing needs of their customers, the current limit on maximum end of day balance of **Rs.1 lakh per individual customer** is being **increased to Rs.2 lakh**,” RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das reported.

RBI decided to enhance aggregate limit of WMA for States, UTs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to enhance the aggregate limit of **ways and means advance (WMA)** limit for **all States and Union Territories to Rs.47,010 crore**, which is an increase of **46 per cent** from the current limit of **Rs.32,225 crore**.

About Ways and Means Advances:

- **Under Section 17(5) of RBI Act, 1934**, the RBI provides **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** to the States banking with it to help them to tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.

RBI put forward mandatory interoperability of full KYC prepaid instruments

- The **RBI** had issued guidelines in **October 2018** for the adoption of interoperability voluntarily for **full-KYC PPIs**.
- Further, as a confidence-boosting measure and to bring uniformity across **PPI issuers**, it is now proposed to **allow cash withdrawals** for **full KYC PPIs of non-bank PPI issuers**.

Prepaid payment instrument PPI:

- **Open system:** PPIs under this system can only be issued by banking institutions that have been **approved by the RBI**.
- These instruments can be used to facilitate **purchases, remittances; cash withdrawals**, etc. examples of PPIs issued under this system are **debit cards and credit cards**.

RBI planned to dispense Rs.50,000-cr refinance to all-India financial institutions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will provide refinance aggregating **Rs.50,000 crore** to **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)**.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development will get **Rs.25,000 crore**, National Housing Bank **Rs.10,000 crore**, and Small Industries Development Bank of India **Rs.15,000 crore**.

Financial institution provides refinance facilities:

- "It has been decided to provide special refinance facilities for a **total amount of Rs 50,000 crore** to **NABARD, SIDBI and NHB** to enable them to meet sectoral credit needs" RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in his media statement.

Refinance facility of RBI:

- **RBI** also offers refinance facility **to help out the exporters**.
- It allows **scheduled commercial banks (except Regional Rural Banks)** to refinance up to **1% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)** of each bank.
- Repo rate under **LAF (Liquidity Adjustment Facility)** is applicable for this facility.

RBI raise G-SAP for orderly G-Sec market

- In Q1, RBI to conduct **G-SAP aggregating Rs.1-lakh crore**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to put in place a secondary market **Government Security Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) 1.0** for orderly evolution of the **yield curve amid comfortable liquidity**.

G SAP:

- The **GreenSock Animation Platform (GSAP)** is a popular set of **JavaScript tools** for building animations **on the web**.
- Anything you see in your web browser can be animated with GSAP.
- You simply write short snippets of JavaScript code that define how elements should **animate and what the timing should be**.

G-sec market:

- The **g-sec market is dominated by institutional investors** such as banks, mutual funds, and insurance companies.
- These **entities trade** in lot sizes of **Rs 5 crore or more**.
- Retail investors can directly open their gilt accounts with RBI, and trade in government securities.

RBI decides to publish Financial Inclusion Index annually

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to publish the **Financial Inclusion Index**.
- To begin with, The FI index will be published annually in July for the previous financial year.
- **RBI's Governor Shaktikanta Das** said, Financial Inclusion has been a thrust area for the Government, RBI and other regulators, with **significant progress** made over the years.
- This index will be used to measure the extent of financial inclusion in the country.
- It will use **various parameters** and shall reflect the broadening and deepening of financial inclusion in the country.
- **Financial Inclusion** has been viewed as a key enabler for achieving inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

RBI restricts American Express Banking Corp, Diners Club International Ltd to adding new customers

- **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed restrictions on **American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Limited** from adding new customers to their card networks from **1st of next month**.
- RBI said, these entities have been found non-compliant with the directions on **Storage of Payment System Data**.
- The apex bank clarified that the order will not impact existing customers.
- The RBI indicated that both these service providers had failed to comply with directions **regarding mandatory storage of customer data** within systems in India.

RBI : article for monitoring movement of funds between banks and ARCs

- Introduction of a bad bank may help **"shape the operations"** of the **existing asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)**, an RBI paper said, noting that a sizable bulk of assets bought by such entities has not been resolved for a long time.
- The paper, published in the central bank's monthly bulletin for April, also flagged risks of an excessive reliance on banks by the ARC industry.

- It said **banks supply nonperforming assets (NPAs) to the ARCs**, hold shareholding in these entities and also lend to them, which makes it necessary to monitor if there is a "circuitous movement of funds between banks and these institutions (ARCs)".
- In her **Budget speech for FY22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** had declared that a new ARC will be created to hold the sour assets of the state-run lenders and resolve such assets professionally.

RBI allows 15-year tenure for MD & CEO for private banks

- In a major reform step, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has capped the **tenure of bank MD and CEOs** with immediate effect.
- In a circular to all the commercial banks, the RBI said that the posts of **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Whole Time Director (WTD)** cannot be held for **more than 15 years**.
- Further, the MD and CEO or WTD who is also a promoter or a major shareholder, cannot hold these posts for **more than 12 years**.
- Banks will have to comply with the instructions by **October 1, 2021**.
- The central bank further said that the extant instructions on upper age limit for MD & CEO and WTDs in the private sector banks would continue and no person can continue as MD & CEO or WTD beyond the age of **70 years**.

RBI issued guidelines: UCBs and NBFCs to appoint auditors for 3 years

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **guidelines for appointment of Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs)/Statutory Auditors (SAs)** in commercial **banks**, urban co-operative **banks** and non-**banking** finance companies from FY22 onwards, whereby they will have to **appoint SCAs/SAs** for a continuous period of **three years**.
- A Circular on '**Guidelines for Appointment of Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs)/ Statutory Auditors (SAs) of Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs), UCBs and NBFCs (including HFCs)**' has been issued.
- These guidelines provide necessary instructions for appointment of SCAs/SAs, the number of auditors, their eligibility criteria, tenure and rotation, etc. while ensuring the independence of auditors.
- However, non-deposit taking **NBFCs with asset size below Rs 1,000 crore** have the option to continue with their extant procedure.
- As the guidelines are being implemented for the first time for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and NBFCs from 2021-22**, "they shall have the flexibility to adopt these guidelines from the second half of FY 2021-22, in order to ensure that there is no disruption".

Policy Rates

Parameter	Percentage
Repo Rate	4%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%

Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio	3%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	18%

SBI

SBI inks \$1-billion loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation

- Country's largest lender, State Bank of India, has raised **\$1 billion from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to extend loans to the supply chain of Japanese automobile industry in India.
- The virtual signing ceremony event was held in the presence of Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI along with senior executives of SBI, Hayashi Nobumitsu, Deputy Governor (JBIC) and Ayukawa Kenichi, CEO & MD of Maruti Suzuki.
- The loan is in the form of **refinance against the funding support provided to the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers of Japanese automobiles 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.
- Earlier in October 2020, SBI inked a similar agreement for \$1 billion with JBIC.

World Bank

World Bank approves USD 32 million project to upgrade health services in Mizoram

- The **World Bank Board of Executive Directors** has approved a **USD 32 million project** to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, a World Bank statement said.
- The project titled "**Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project**" will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Mizoram Health department and its subsidiaries, the statement said.
- It will improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by the state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive **quality assurance programme** which would enable quality certification of health facilities, it said.

World Bank, AIIB sanctioned loan for USD 300 million canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab

- The **World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** have approved a loan for **USD 300 million (about Rs 2,190 crore) canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab.**
- The project is aimed at ensuring quality drinking water and minimizes water losses for Amritsar and Ludhiana, according to a Punjab government statement.
- 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**, according to an official spokesperson.

- In the Amritsar project, the source of surface water supply is **Upper Bari Doab Canal and a 440 MLD (million litres per day)** water treatment plant will be constructed in village Vallah, Amritsar for treating the surface water, the spokesperson added.

World Bank assist Bangladesh to provide USD 250 mn for jobs, COVID-19 pandemic

- The government of **Bangladesh** signed an agreement for **USD 250 million** financing from the World Bank to help create more and better jobs, recover faster from the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience to future crises.
- This was the third and the last in the series of credits totaling **USD 750 million** under the **Programmatic Jobs Development policy** focusing on creation of inclusive and quality jobs while supporting the government in responding to the **COVID-19 crisis**.
- It supports policies to modernize the trade and investment regime; improve social protection for workers; and help youth, women, and vulnerable people access quality jobs, said the press release issued by the World Bank.
- **World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan Mercy Tembon** said that this financing supports government policies to protect those most affected by the pandemic.
- He said it will create more and better jobs as Bangladesh continues its journey towards its vision of becoming an **upper-middle income country**.

ADB

ADB sanctioned \$1.5-billion fiscal support to India for pandemic situation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** said it has provided **\$ 1.5 billion** to India to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The institution had announced a package of **\$ 20 billion in April 2020** to provide financial support to 26 countries to help fight the pandemic, it said in a release.
- "ADB's \$ 16.1 billion pandemic response in **2020**, through a **\$ 20 billion package** announced in April 2020, was provided in various ways, most notably via a new COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option which had provided quick-disbursing fiscal support to 26 countries, including \$ 1.5 billion to India, by the end of the year," it said.
- Out of the \$ 16.1 billion, \$ 2.9 billion was for the private sector, which included direct support to companies, as well as through trade and supply chain finance to keep trade networks functioning.
- ADB committed a record \$ 31.6 billion in 2020 to help Asia and the Pacific tackle the COVID-19 outbreak; support a green, sustainable recovery from the pandemic; and address long-term development challenges.
- The **\$ 31.6 billion ADB** committed from its own resources in 2020 was 32 per cent higher than 2019's \$ 24 billion

Other Banking News

Union Bank Of India launches "Uni-Carbon Card"

- **On March 26, 2021, Union Bank of India launched "UNI – CARBON CARD"**, an HPCL co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI.

- It is a **unique HPCL co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI.**
- It will play a role in **creating an opportunity to create value for the customers.**
- The card has been **designed in joint association with Union Bank of India and HPCL and Rupay.**
- The Union Bank HPCL Co-branded credit card is first of its kind with HPCL, a major player in fuel retail.

Dutch development bank FMO infuse \$137 mn in India's Green Growth Equity Fund

- **Dutch development bank FMO will invest \$137 million (about Rs.1,000 crore) in India's Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF),** managed by EverSource Capital, while the fund aims to raise a total of **\$940 million.**
- GGEF is raising the capital to invest in the country's green infrastructure sectors such as renewable energy, transport, resource efficiency and energy services.
- The fund will also invest in value chain, water, waste and transport sectors that promote low carbon and climate-resilient initiatives.
- The fund-raising was approved by **South Korea-based Green Climate Fund's (GCF)** board, the world's largest dedicated climate fund, **EverSource Capital and FMO.**

Jeep India and Axis Bank jointly launch Jeep Financial Services

- **Jeep India has tied up with Axis Bank to launch Jeep Financial Services,** which will curate financial solutions for **Jeep customers and Jeep brand dealers.**
- **"Formation of this entity strategically supports the anticipated growth in Jeep India's business and a consequent rise in its customer base,"** the two companies mentioned in the statement.
- **Jeep brand dealers** will also benefit from this partnership as they will enjoy special interest rates and will contribute to a more seamless retail process, the statement further mentioned.
- Axis Bank and Jeep India will get access to each other's growing customer database.
- Jeep customers will be serviced from the bank's **4,586 branches** spread across India and also via on-site counters at high footfall Jeep brand dealerships.

China Development Bank to extend loan to Sri Lanka: USD 500 million

- **Sri Lanka inked an agreement with the state-run China Development Bank for a loan of USD 500 million,** less than a month after it signed a currency swap deal worth **USD 1.5 billion with Beijing,** to ensure fiscal stability in the country amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic.
- **"China is a loyal friend, and reflecting the depth of our friendship, has been generously extending its helping hand to Sri Lanka when difficult challenges confronted us,"** according to a statement released by the **Sri Lankan embassy in Beijing.**
- **"This USD 500 million loan was a part of the USD 1 billion loan (signed before),** out of which USD 500 million was released last year," it said.
- The loan will infuse much-needed foreign currency to the Lankan economy in order to face the COVID-19 challenges, it said.

Deutsche Bank provide loan Rs.600 crore to NCDC

- Leading German lender Deutsche Bank AG will lend €68.87 million (nearly ₹600 crore) to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a development finance statutory institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, for financing farmer cooperative initiatives in the country.
- The loan agreement between Deutsche Bank and NCDC is expected to be signed in presence of Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and other dignitaries.
- "It is for the first time a German bank is coming forward to lend us Rs.600 crore, which may seem less as compared to the Rs.3,000 crore exposures we have to Sumitomo Mitsubishi Bank of Japan.

Paytm Payments Bank records 970 m digital transactions in March

- On average opening 1 million savings and current accounts a month.
- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), , announced that it has become the top enabler of digital payments in the country by registering over 970 million digital transactions in March.
- PPBL said that the record growth in digital transactions is largely owed to transactions in Paytm Wallet, Paytm FASTag, Paytm UPI, and internet banking over the last several quarters.
- PPBL is opening on an average 1 million savings and current accounts a month.
- With over 64 million accounts, the bank's total deposits have crossed over Rs.3200 crores.

NHB unveiled Rs.10,000-crore Special Refinance Facility-SRF 2021

- National Housing Bank (NHB) has rolled out a Rs.10,000-crore 'Special Refinance Facility-2021' (SRF-2021) to provide short term refinance support to housing finance companies (HFCs) and other eligible Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank will provide additional special liquidity facility of Rs.10,000 crore to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) and National Housing Bank (NHB).
- The RBI kept the repo rate, the key interest rate at which it lends to commercial banks, unchanged at 4%. The central bank's rate setting committee was unanimous in its decision to stand pat on interest rates.

HDFC Bank decided to raise Rs 50,000 crore through bonds within 12 months

- HDFC Bank said it is planning to raise up Rs 50,000 crore during the next 12 months through issuing bonds.
- The bank's board of directors will take up the proposal at its meeting on April 17, it said in a regulatory filing.
- "The bank proposes to raise funds by issuing perpetual debt instruments (part of additional tier-I capital), tier-II capital bonds and long-term bonds (financing of infrastructure and affordable housing) up to a total amount of Rs 50,000 crore over the period of the next 12 months through the private placement mode," HDFC Bank said.
- Perpetual bonds carry no maturity date, so they may be treated as equity, not as debt.

Eight applicants queued for universal bank, small finance bank licenses

- As many as eight institutions and individuals have applied for on-tap licenses to set up universal banks and small finance banks.

- UAE Exchange and Financial Services, REPCO Bank and Chaitanya India Fin Credit are among the **four applicants who have applied for a universal banking license**, while VSoft Technologies, Calicut City Service Co-operative Bank and Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services have **sought small finance bank license**.
- There are **two individual applicants**, who include **Pankaj Vaish** and others, who have shown interest in setting up universal banks, and **Akhil Kumar Gupta**, who have sought on-tap licenses for universal banks, the Reserve Bank said.
- This is not the first time that UAE Exchange is attempting a banking foray.

SoftBank set to invest up to \$500 m in Swiggy

- **Food delivery platform Swiggy** is set to raise up to **\$500 million from SoftBank Vision Fund 2** at a market valuation of nearly **\$5.5 billion**, according to reliable industry sources.
- The competition is getting fierce as people order more food online in India amid the second wave of COVID-19.
- Softbank is in "advanced stages of talks to invest "up to **\$400-\$500 million**" into the food delivery startup, sources told IANS.
- This funding will be additional to **\$800 million (about Rs 5,862 crore) Swiggy** raised earlier this month with **Falcon Edge Capital, Amansa Capital, Think Investments, Carmignac and Goldman Sachs** joining as new investors.
- Swiggy was valued at \$3.7 billion when it raised funds in February last year.

Ola to launch e-scooter in July and to set up 1 lakh charging points in 400 cities

- **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**.
- Last year, Ola had announced an **Rs 2,400 crore** investment for setting up its first electric scooter factory in Tamil Nadu.
- Upon completion, the factory will create nearly 10,000 jobs and will be the world's largest scooter manufacturing facility that will initially have an annual capacity of 2 million units.
- "We will put out the factory by June, which will have the capacity to manufacture 2 million units and then we'll ramp up - **over the next 12 months** - after the factory is set up the sale will also start at the same time, so factory gets completed in June, sale starts in July," **Ola Chairman and Group CEO Bhavish Aggarwal** said.

Paytm introduced 'Wealth Community' for young investors

- **Home-grown digital financial services platform Paytm** has launched a **new video-based wealth community called the Paytm Wealth Community**.
- Paytm Wealth Community is an investing community based on video, and "will enable users to attend live sessions conducted by subject matter experts across an array of wealth topics like **Stocks, F&O, IPO, ETFs, Mutual Funds, Gold, Fixed Income, and Personal Finance**," the company said in an official release.
- "Users will be able to learn from experts, interact with them to clarify doubts, and also chat with other users on the platform to discuss various wealth-related topics," it said.

Budget proposal not affected ULIP segment of ICICI Pru Life: MD and CEO

- Optimistic about the outlook for the life insurance industry, **NS Kannan, Managing Director and CEO, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**, said as of now Covid-related claims for the sector are under control.
- In an interview with **BusinessLine**, he said while there continues to be demand for protection and health products, underwriting norms have become stricter for retail protection.

Talks with DBS Bank DBS' to buy Citi's consumer banking business in India

- “**Talks with DBS Bank** is at an advanced stage and they are keen to take up the entire consumer banking operation,” said a person familiar with the development.
- Citi declined to comment to an email query sent by **BusinessLine** on the issue.
- “At this juncture, the details are still unclear.

Neobank Fi partnership with Federal Bank to open instant savings account

- The **savings account**, to be issued in three minutes, is aimed at digital-first millennials.
- **Fi**, the Bengaluru-based **neobank** for salaried millennials, has announced its **partnership with Federal Bank** to issue an **instant savings account** equipped with a debit card, in three minutes.
- Founded in 2019, Fi is the brainchild of ex-Googleers who pioneered Gpay, Sujith Narayanan and Sumit Gwalani.
- It offers an **interactive, personalized, and transparent digital banking experience**.
- Users gain access to a **new-age savings account and money management tools** with features that help users know their money, grow their money and organize their funds.
- Fi aims to assist a **consumer's financial journey beyond digital payments** to other services — insurance, lending, and investment opportunities.
- Commenting on the launch, **Sujith Narayanan, CEO& Cofounder, Fi**, said, “We are excited to introduce a proposition that reimagines the way digital-first millennials perceive and interact with their money.
- Fi aims to be a meaningful partner in their money aspiration journey, enabling them to simplify finances and demystify savings.
- Our platform leverages cutting-edge tech and data science for deriving actionable insights that empower users to take control and do more with their finances.
- We look forward to delivering a first-of-its-kind, personalized, flexible and transparent banking experience and building long-term customer relationships.”

UP-based Shivalik SFB came up for operations

- **Uttar Pradesh-based Shivalik Small Finance Bank** has commenced operations as a **small finance bank with effect from April 26, according to the Reserve Bank of India**.
- The Reserve Bank had issued a licence to the bank **under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to carry on the business of small finance banks in India, the RBI said.

- Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. was granted an in-principle approval for transition into a small finance bank, as announced in the press release on January 6, 2020, **under the “Scheme on voluntary transition of Urban Co-operative Bank into a Small Finance Bank”** issued on September 27, 2018.

Despite pandemic, TMB attains the impressive performance in FY21

- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)** has reported an impressive performance on many parameters in **FY21** that include strong growth in net profit, good asset quality and higher business.
- The **Tuticorin-based bank's net profit grew 48 per cent at Rs.603 crore in 2020-21** as compared to **Rs.408 crore** in 2019-20.

IRDAI demands insurers to settle Covid related cashless insurance claims within 1 hour

- **Insurance regulator IRDAI** has directed insurers to approve **Covid-related cashless claims within 60 minutes** of receiving appropriate documents from the claimant.
- IRDAI announced the new rules after the **Delhi High Court** directed it to inform insurers to hasten the process of cashless claims so that hospital beds can be freed **quickly for new patients**.
- IRDAI also said that the decision on authorization for cashless treatment for COVID-19 claims shall be communicated to the hospital within a period of 60 minutes from the time of receipt of authorization request.
- Decision on the final discharge of patients covered in COVID-19 claims shall be communicated to the network provider within a **period of one hour** from the time of receipt of the final bill along with all necessary requirements from the hospital.
- It was earlier reported that network hospitals are turning back Covid patients with cashless insurance.

ICICI Bank unveils contactless banking platform for merchants

- **India's second largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank**, announced the launch of a comprehensive digital banking service that aims to empower **over two crore offline and online retailers** in the country.
- According to data from the Reserve Bank of India, the market for merchant services is expected to **increase 45 per cent to Rs 31 lakh crore by financial year 2022**, and ICICI bank intends to grab a large share of this market with its new offering, it said.
- “We believe that the self-employed and the MSME segment form the backbone of the Indian economy.
- There are over two crore merchants in the country with approximately **\$780 billion** in value of transactions in 2020.

Resolution to appoint Samit Ghosh as MD and CEO, Ujjivan Financial Services not approved by requisite share of votes

- A special resolution to appoint **Samit Ghosh as chief executive officer of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd.** was defeated as it **didn't get the requisite share of votes**.
- Ghosh, founder of Ujjivan, is currently **non-executive chairman**.
- According to details available on the stock exchange, the proposal for appointment Ghosh only received 70.5% votes in favour.
- Since this was a special resolution, it needs **75% votes in favour to be passed**.

- 75% of votes from the public non-institutional category were against the resolution. 13.87% of votes from the public institution category were also against the resolution.
- A special resolution to **reappoint Abhijit Sen** as independent director for a period of five years was also defeated with 30% shareholders rejecting the proposal.
- The major shareholders of Ujjivan Financial Services included Aberdeen Standard Investments, NewQuest Asia Investments, International Finance Corporation, among others.
- The public non-institutional investor category includes high net worth investors.
- Ghosh is the founder of Ujjivan Financial Services, which started operations as a non-bank microfinance lender in 2005.
- In 2017, it launched **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank after getting a licence from the RBI**.
- Subsequently, the lending business was transferred to the bank and Ujjivan Financial Services is now a holding company.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
United Nations General Assembly	New York	Volkan Bozkır
International Labour Organization	Geneva	General Guy Ryder
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris	Audrey Azoulay
Reserve Bank of India	Mumbai	Shaktikanta Das
Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Tokyo, Japan	Tadashi Maeda
State Bank of India	Mumbai	Dinesh Kumar Khara
World Bank	Washington DC	David Malpass
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Beijing, China	Jin Liqun
Asian Development Bank	Manila, Philippines	Masatsugu Asakawa
Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Rajkiran Rai G
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)	Mumbai	Mukesh Kumar Surana
Dutch development bank FMO	The Hague, Netherlands	Peter van Mierlo

Axis Bank	Mumbai	Amitabh Chaudhry
China Development Bank	Beijing, China	Herbert Johnson
Deutsche Bank	Frankfurt, Germany	Christian Sewing
National Cooperative Development Corporation	New Delhi	Sundeep Kumar Nayak
Paytm Payments Bank	Noida	Satish Kumar Gupta
National Housing Bank	New Delhi	Dakshita Das
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	Sashidhar Jagdishan
REPCO Bank	Chennai	Yashpal Gupta
Chaitanya India Fin Credit	Bengaluru	Anand Rao
UAE Exchange and Financial Services	Abu Dhabi	Promoth Manghat
Swiggy	Bengaluru	Sriharsha Majety Rahul Jaimini
SoftBank	Tokyo, Japan	Masayoshi Son
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	Mumbai	N. S. Kannan
DBS Bank	Singapore	Piyush Gupta
Federal Bank	Aluva, Kerala	Shyam Srinivasan
Shivalik Small Finance Bank	Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh	Suveer Kumar Gupta
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	Tuticorin, Tamilnadu	K V Rama Moorthy
Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)	Hyderabad	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakhshi
Ujjivan Financial Services	Bengaluru	Samit Ghosh

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Organization	GDP – FY 21	GDP - FY 22
CRISIL	-7%	11%
UNESCAP	-7.7%	7%
IMF	-8%	12.5%
Ind - Ra	-7.6%	10.1%
Asian Development Bank	-	11% & 7% (FY 23)

- For FY21= -7%
- For FY22= +11%
- CRISIL is a subsidiary of **American company S&P Global**.

UNESCAP reports India's Economic Growth Rate at 7% in 2021-22

- The **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** has estimated the **GDP growth rate of India at 7% in 2021-22**, in its latest report titled **Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021**.
- For the previous fiscal 2020-21, **UNESCAP estimated a contraction of 7.7%** for India on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.

India tempts total FDI inflow of USD 72.12 billion during April 2020 to January, 2021

- **India has attracted a total FDI inflow of USD 72.12 billion** during **April 2020 to January, 2021**.
- It is the highest ever for the first ten months of a **financial year and 15 per cent higher** compared to the **first ten months of 2019-20**.
- Measures taken by the government on **FDI policy reforms**, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in **increased FDI inflows**.
- **FDI equity inflow grew by 28 per cent** in the **first ten months of 2020-21** compared to the year ago period.
- Singapore is the top investor country with 30.28 per cent of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by the **US and UAE** for the first ten months of 2020-21.
- Japan has been leading the list of investor countries with 29.09 per cent of the total **FDI Equity inflows** during January this year followed by **Singapore and the US**. **Computer Software** and Hardware has emerged as the top sector during the first ten months of 2020-21.

IMF reforms its growth projection for India to 12.5 per cent for FY 2021-22

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has upgraded its growth projection for India to 12.5 per cent for the **Financial Year 2021-22**.
- In its **latest World Economic Outlook report**, the IMF has pegged **India's GDP** to grow **1 per cent higher than its previous report** published in January this year.
- The **Washington based International Financial Institution** has projected a contraction of 8 per cent in the growth in the last fiscal while it has forecasted a growth of **6.9 per cent** in the next financial year **beginning in 2022**.
- The IMF has also said that inflation will taper down to **4.9 per cent in the current financial year**.

IMF Projects growth rate for Bangladesh - 5 percent

- The **International Monetary Fund** has projected a **5 percent growth rate** for Bangladesh for the year 2021.
- In its latest **World Economic Outlook** released ahead of the spring meeting, the IMF projected that the **Bangladesh economy will grow at 7.5 percent in the year 2022**.
- Consequently, the GDP of Bangladesh is projected to grow from USD 329 billion in 2020 to USD 352 billion in 2021.

- The per capita GDP of Bangladesh currently at USD 1998 in 2020 will grow to USD 2122 in the year 2021 and USD 2330 in the year 2022.
- The IMF also made an upward revision in the global growth rate projection to 6 percent for the year 2021 and 4.4 percent for 2022.
- The report noted that an additional 95 million people are estimated to have fallen into extreme poverty in 2020.
- Commenting on the high growth rate projection in the **World Economic Outlook report**, **IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath** said that the 1.9 trillion dollar US stimulus and adapting to the continuing pandemic by the countries has contributed substantially to the positive change in the growth outlook.

Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation provides India's First Green Bonds

- The **Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC)** has issued **India's first Green Municipal bond**.
- The green bond was listed on the **BSE bond platform** on April 08, 2021.
- It opened for a subscription on March 31, 2021.
- GMC has raised **Rs. 150 crore at a cost of 8.1 percent through the issuance of green bonds**.
- The money will be used to clean up dirty water by setting up a tertiary water treatment plant to benefit industries in Ghaziabad and supply piped water through water-meters to places like Sahibabad.

Indian pharma exports raise up at 18% to 24.44 billion dollars in FY 21

- **India's pharma exports jumped over 18 percent to 24.4 billion dollars** during the last financial year in comparison to the 2020 fiscal year.
- According to the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India data, North America was the largest exporting region for Indian pharmaceutical companies with **more than 34 percent exports to the region**.
- Country-wise, exports to Canada registered the **highest growth of 30 percent**, followed by South Africa at 28%.
- The US and Mexico also recorded a healthy growth of 12.6, and 21.4 percent respectively.

Ind Ra predicts India's FY22 GDP growth forecast to 10.1 per cent

- **India Ratings and Research** revised down India's **FY22 real GDP growth** forecast to **10.1 per cent**, from **earlier projection of 10.4 per cent**, citing the second wave of COVID-19 infections and slower pace of vaccination.
- At a time when large parts of the country are experiencing tremendous pressure on medical infrastructure, the agency said it expects the second wave to start subsiding by mid-May.
- Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank maintained its **10.5 per cent GDP growth estimate**, but Governor Shaktikanta Das has flagged the rising cases as the biggest impediment to recovery.
- Other brokerages and analysts have also been revising down their forecasts in the light of the second wave.
- The economy is estimated to have contracted by **7.6 per cent in FY21**.

ADB projected India GDP growth to rebound to 11% in FY21-22, moderate to 7% in FY22-23

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has **projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound strongly to 11 per cent in current fiscal** on the back of continued economic recovery boosted by increased public investment, vaccine rollout and surge in domestic demand.

- The IMF forecast pitches India as the fastest-growing major economy and the only one expected to record a double-digit recovery from pandemic-hit 2020. China's economy is seen growing 8.4% in 2021 and 5.6% in 2022.

ADB projected growth rate of Bangladesh for FY 2020-21 to 5.5-6.0 per cent

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has cut down the projected **GDP growth rate** of Bangladesh by at least 1 per cent from **its earlier figure of 6.8 per cent for the FY 2020-21**.
- The reduction in the projected figure is attributed to the recent surge in pandemic and lockdowns to control the spread of the Coronavirus.
- However, the growth rate is projected to pick up at **6.8 per cent in 2021-22 and 7.2 per cent in 2022-23**, said the ADB in its latest **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021** released.
- Country Director of **ADB Manmohan Parkash** said that the government of Bangladesh managed the first wave of COVID 19 in 2020 well with stimulus packages and other economic policies.
- Future economic growth will depend on recovery in domestic economic activities boosted by the implementation of the stimulus packages, rising inflow of remittances and rebound in the global trade.

Govt frond GPF, other non-government PF interest rate unchanged at 7.1%

- Government has left the **GPF and other non-government PF** interest rates unchanged at **7.1 percent**.
- **The Department of Economic Affairs** said that GPF and other Special Deposit Scheme interest rates of 7.1 percent will be applicable **for April to June quarter of the current financial year**.
- The government has decided to maintain the status quo on **General Provident Fund (GPF)** and other non-government PF, gratuity funds interest rate at 7.1 percent.
- The deposits made under the Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident, Superannuation and Gratuity Funds will also bear interest at **7.1 percent with effect from April 1, 2021**.
- The decision is in-line with its earlier decision to keep interest rate on small savings schemes such as **Public Provident Fund (PPF)**, NSC, etc unchanged for the current quarter.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
CRISIL	Mumbai	Ashu Suyash
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	Bangkok, Thailand	Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
International Monetary Fund	Washington D.C	Kristalina Georgieva
India Ratings and Research	Mumbai	Rohit Sawhney

Important Business News

Central Govt. suggests upto 25 % tax concession on purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate

- Centre has proposed up to 25 percent tax concession on the purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate.
- The Road, Transport and Highways Ministry has published the draft rules regarding concession in motor vehicle tax against scrapped vehicles.
- Under the draft rules, people will get 25 percent concession on the purchase of personal vehicles with vehicle scrappage certificate while on the purchase of commercial vehicles, the tax relief will be 15 percent.
- In case of personal vehicles, the tax concessions will be available upto eight years while for commercial vehicles; it will be upto 15 years.
- The period will be reckoned from the date of first registration.
- The government has invited suggestions from various stakeholders on the draft rules within a period of 30 days.
- The rules are proposed to come into force from 1st of October this year.

Digital payments surge: UPI transactions cross Rs 5 lakh crore in March

- Homegrown digital payments innovation United Payments Interface (UPI) has processed Rs 5.04 lakh crore in transaction value an all time high during March 2021, showed data shared by regulator National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- This is a 18 per cent rise from Rs 4.25 lakh crore in February.
- In terms of volume, UPI has seen transactions on its platform more than double to 2.73 billion when compared to 1.25 billion in March 2020.
- Also, UPI transactions have jumped by 20 per cent from 2.29 billion in February.
- For the financial year 2020-21, total transaction value on its network stood at Rs 34.19 lakh crore.
- When it comes to UPI payments, PhonePe, and Google Pay, have the lion's share.

BSE StAR MF proceedings 9.38 crore transactions in FY 2020-21

- In spite of a tumultuous fiscal, BSE StAR MF processed over 9.38 crore transactions amounting to Rs. 3,33,095 cr in the financial year 2020-21.
- It is 63% more as compared to 5.75 cr in FY 2019-20.
- Last month it has schooled new high by recording 1 crore monthly transactions, the highest ever on the platform.
- It is India's largest and leading Mutual Funds Distributor platform.
- The platform also recorded the highest number of new SIPS registrations 5.45 lakh in a single month in March 2021 as compared to previous best of 4.97 lakh in Feb '21.
- In the past quarter, Jan to March 2021, BSE StAR MF added 15.45 lakh new SIPs.

NPCI transfers Bharat Bill Payments business to its new subordinate company NBBL

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has transferred all its **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** transaction business to **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI.
- All licensed bill processors on the **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU)**, i.e. the banks and payment aggregators, have been directed to start accounting their billing transactions under **NBBL from April 1 2021**.
- The decision to set up a separate subsidiary for bill payment business aims to scale growth of the interoperable bill platform by giving it increased autonomy in operations and on boarding of new billers.
- **BBPS** is an interoperable **bill payments platform set up in 2013**, for use by banks, fintech companies and biller merchants to automate bill collection and request solutions.

Facebook and Google jointly plans to launch 2 new undersea internet cables from US West Coast to Singapore and Indonesia

- **Technology giant** Facebook and Google have planned to lay two huge **subsea cables**, called **Echo and Bifrost**, to provide vital new connections between the **Asia-Pacific region and North America**.
- The **Echo and Bifrost trans-Pacific cables will link the** U.S. West Coast to Singapore and Indonesia, and increase the data capacity between the regions by 70% and improve internet reliability.
- **Facebook** will be investing in both cables, but Google will invest only in Echo.
- **Google and Facebook** have partnered with leading regional and global partners to implement the project, including **Indonesian firms Telin and XL Axiata, and Singapore-based Keppel**.
- The Echo project is to be completed by late 2023, while **Bifrost** is set to be finished by late 2024.

Digital healthcare platform Practo launches online consultations in 15 vernacular languages

- 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.

Flipkart make partnership with Adani Group, to create 2,500 direct jobs

- **Flipkart** informed it has entered into a **commercial partnership with the Adani Group to strengthen logistics** and data centre capabilities of the **Walmart-owned company** and create about **2,500 direct jobs**.
- In this **two-pronged partnership, Flipkart will work with Adani Logistics Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, to strengthen its supply chain infrastructure and further enhance its ability to serve its rapidly growing base of customers, a statement said.
- It added that Flipkart will also set up its third data centre at Adaniconnex's Chennai-based facility, leveraging the latter's expertise and industry-leading data centre technology solutions.
- Adaniconnex is a new joint venture formed between **EdgeConneX and Adani Enterprises Ltd**.

Microsoft to obtain speech-recognition firm Nuance for USD 16 billion

- **Microsoft** is reportedly acquiring speech-recognition company Nuance Communications for nearly **USD 16 billion** and the deal could be announced (US time), the media reported.

- According to a **CNBC report citing sources**, Microsoft first approached Nuance in December last year.
- At about **USD 56 per share for Nuance**, the acquisition value could be nearly **USD 16 billion**.
- At USD 16 billion, Nuance would be Microsoft's second largest acquisition after LinkedIn that the company bought in 2016 for USD 27 billion.
- According to the report, Nuance could expand Microsoft's capabilities in voice software.
- Nuance is a US multinational computer software technology corporation, headquartered in Burlington, Massachusetts, that provides speech recognition and artificial intelligence.

Tesla to start manufacturing in India: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said American electric car major Tesla has a golden opportunity** to set up its manufacturing facility in India given the country's thrust on e-vehicles.
- Tesla is already sourcing various auto components from Indian automakers and setting up base here would be economically viable for it, **Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Gadkari** said while addressing a session at the **Raisina Dialogue**.
- "I will suggest them (Tesla) that it will be golden opportunity for them to start manufacturing facility in India because as the automobile components are concerned, already Tesla is taking a lot of components from the Indian manufacturers.
- So there will be availability," the minister said. At the same time, the Indian market will be good for Tesla also, he added.

Wipro declared robust hiring plan, skill-based bonuses for existing employees

- **Wipro will embark on a robust hiring plan (with a YoY growth in recruitments)**, and offer skill-based bonuses and salary increments for **senior employees after the IT services firm** adopted a new operating model last quarter with a more linear structure.
- **Wipro's top leadership** said during a press conference that the skill-based bonuses will be released as soon as this week and will be essentially for domains like **data analytics, cyber security and based on individual performances**.
- The salary increments, promotion cycles are likely to be effective June 2021.
- The company added a total of 14,826 employees during FY20-21, which included hiring **3,000 graduates** during the last quarter.
- The **Bengaluru-based IT services provider** reported the best fourth-quarter results in a decade, **CEO Thierry Delaporte** said, with the **net profit growing by 27.7% YoY to Rs 2972 crore**.
- The operating margin for Q4, FY21 saw an expansion by 344 basis points YoY at 21%.

Amazon planned to use USD 250 million fund, to focus on digitising small and medium businesses

- **E-commerce giant Amazon** announced a **USD 250 million (about Rs 1,873 crore) fund** that will focus on digitising small and medium businesses, and driving innovation in the areas of agri-tech and health-tech in India.
- "**Small and medium-sized businesses** are often the engine and the lifeblood of economies and I think it's true in India as well.

- And we are very passionate about trying to enable acceleration of SMBs in fuelling innovation and the economy in India," **Amazon Web Services CEO Andrew Jassy** said.
- 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.

Infant, Toddler and Caregiver Training and Capacity Building Programme Launched

- On **April 13, 2021**, The **'Infant Toddler and Caregiver-friendly Neighbourhoods (ITCN) Training and Capacity Building Programme'** was launched.
- It was launched virtually by the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** in partnership with **Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF)**.
- **Purpose :**
- The Programme is designed to **help build capacities of city officials and young professionals** for developing **young children and family-friendly neighbourhoods within cities** in India.
- Under the programme, city officials and young professionals are proposed to be skilled through **certified training and capacity building modules**.
- **Objectives :**
- embedding the learnings from **the inventory of knowledge developed by NIUA and BvLF** within the on-going and proposed **urban development initiatives at neighbourhood and city level**.
- **hand holding participants** to embed learnings into the various initiatives of the cities which take into account the everyday needs of young children and caregivers.

DoT gets Rs 2,307 cr from Jio, Airtel by assigning some spectrum

- **The Department of Telecom** successfully completed the assignment of frequencies to successful bidders of the **Spectrum Auction, 2021**.
- Frequency assignment letters were issued to successful bidders.
- The frequency assignment was accompanied by a frequency harmonization exercise, whereby spectrum blocks assigned to Telecom Service Providers, TSPs in the current spectrum auction have been made contiguous with the spectrum blocks already held by them, wherever possible, in various bands in different Licensed Service Areas, LSAs.
- **The harmonization of spectrum** was accomplished in 19 LSAs in 800 MHz band, 8 LSAs in 900 MHz band, 21 LSAs in 1800 MHz band, 3 LSAs in 2100 MHz band, and 16 LSAs in 2300 MHz band.
- The harmonization exercise facilitates more efficient utilization of **spectrum held by TSPs**, leading to **improved Quality of Service** for consumers.

Elon Musk's SpaceX bags \$2.89 billion moon lander contract, announced by NASA

- **NASA awarded billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's space company SpaceX a \$2.9 billion contract to build a spacecraft** to bring astronauts to the moon as early as 2024, the agency said, picking it over **Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin** and defense contractor Dynetics Inc.
- Elon Musk's rocket company has been chosen to build the human lander that will drop those astronauts onto the lunar surface.
- It will do so as part of the **Artemis programme**, which not only aims to put the **first woman and person of colour on the Moon** – but now the first commercial lander, too.
- The contract is worth **\$2.89 billion to SpaceX**, and Nasa noted that total price is fixed and dependent on reaching certain milestones.

Indian Oil starts to supply of no cost oxygen at to hospitals in Delhi, Haryana & Punjab

- **Indian Oil** has begun the supply of **150 Metric Tonnes of Oxygen** at no cost to **various hospitals in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab**.
- The first batch of the lifesaver **medical grade Oxygen** was dispatched to **Maha Durga Charitable Trust Hospital, New Delhi**.
- **Delhi is already facing an oxygen emergency situation**.
- In the face of a massive surge in demand for medical oxygen during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, Indian Oil has diverted the high-purity oxygen used in its **Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) Unit** to produce medical-grade liquid oxygen at its Panipat Refinery and Petrochemical Complex.

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC raise DRHP for IPO

- **Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd** has filed a draft red herring prospectus with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India** to raise funds via initial public offering.
- Aditya Birla Capital Ltd and Sun Life (India) AMC said that they will together sell a **13.5% stake** in their asset management joint venture - Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd.
- Aditya Birla Capital will sell up to 2.88 million shares held by it in the asset management business, while Sun Life (India) AMC will sell up to 36.03 million shares.
- Aditya Birla Capital holds **51% stake in the AMC**, and the remaining **49% is held by Sun Life**.

ReNew Power projects 105-megawatt solar project in Gujarat

- **ReNew Power** informed it has commissioned a **105 megawatt (MW) solar generation** facility in Gujarat.
- 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**, a company statement said.
- This project located in the Patan district of Gujarat, takes ReNew's total operational solar capacity in the state to 145 MW and total aggregate solar capacity to **4.7 GW across India**.
- Since March, ReNew Power has announced commissioning of **over 500 MW** of combined wind and solar energy projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

- "The 105 MW Gujarat project commissioning is a significant step forward for ReNew Power.
- The project has been commissioned amidst a COVID-19 surge and reflects the commitment of our team to contribute towards India's ambition of achieving **450 GW of clean energy by 2030**," said Founder, Chairman and CEO of **ReNew Power, Sumant Sinha**.

Bharat Biotech now ready to sell Covaxin at Rs 600 to States, Rs 1200 to private hospitals

- **Bharat Biotech** has announced the cost of **COVAXIN** for State governments and Private Hospitals.
- It will cost **600 rupees per dose for State Governments** and **1200 rupees per dose for Private Hospitals**.
- The price of vaccines for export is 15 to 20 dollars.

Xiaomi launches Rs 1.2 lakh TV, flagship Mi 11 Ultra phones

- The **Indian market's largest smartphone-seller Xiaomi** introduced its **flagship smartphone, the Mi 11 Ultra (5G)**, for the local market with a **Rs 69,999 price tag**.
- At this price band, Mi's new offering will compete against the likes of the **Apple iPhone and the Samsung Galaxy S series**.
- The Chinese company also launched another premium segment product in a **75-inch smartTV the QLED TV 75 at Rs 1, 19,999**.
- Mi's pricey TV offering features a **75-inch QLED 4K UHD panel** with **3,840 x 2,160** resolutions and a 178-degree viewing angle for wide visibility, according to the specifications.
- The model also runs an Android 10 operating system and bundles **Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and YouTube apps**.
- The Mi 11 Ultra has two displays: a 6.81-inch WQHD alongside a Samsung E4 AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and Corning Gorilla Glass Victus.

LinkedIn list of best workplaces for 2021: top spot bags by TCS, Cognizant, Accenture

- IT services companies including **Tata Consultancy Services, Accenture, Cognizant, Infosys, Wipro** are some of the top workplaces in India in 2021, as per a survey by professional networking platform, LinkedIn.
- With the rapid acceleration of digitization undertaken by many sectors, the IT firms have provided a positive revenue guidance outlook for FY22 and expect a **double-digit growth and expansion in operating margins**.
- The IT service majors have also stated that the hiring momentum will remain strong during this fiscal with skill-based talent in demand especially as the companies grow their digital businesses.
- **As per the LinkedIn survey**, the emergence of the remote workplace model has especially made **the tech services firm a favourite among the employees** since these companies have said that they are looking at a permanent hybrid model in the future.

Hero MotoCorp unveils virtual showroom to sell vehicles amid coronavirus pandemic

- The country's top two-wheeler maker **Hero MotoCorp** said it has launched a virtual showroom feature to help customers buy its motorcycles and scooters through a seamless **digital experience amid rising in COVID-19 cases** in the country.

- The virtual showroom would enable customers to discover, engage and purchase the company's motorcycles and scooters digitally, **Hero MotoCorp** said in a statement.
- Providing a **360-degree view of the space and the product**, the feature allows customers to easily browse and explore the design, features, and technical details of each model right from the comfort of their homes, it added.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal pledges Rs 150 crore to help India fight against COVID-19

- **Vedanta said its Chairman Anil Agarwal** has pledged **Rs 150 crore** to help India in its fight against deadly COVID-19 second wave.
- The amount is over and above **Rs 201 crore** that was spent by Vedanta Group in 2020, it said in a statement.
- "**Anil Agarwal has pledged Rs 150 crore** to help the country in its fight against the rapidly spreading second wave of COVID-19," Vedanta said.
- The company will create **additional capacity of 1,000 critical care beds in 10 cities** across the country in an effort to support the Centre and states in **this challenging time**.
- The critical care beds will be placed in state-of-the-art **'field hospitals'** which will be attached to recognized and reputed hospitals.
- Each facility will have 100 beds in an air-conditioned tent with full electrical support and designed specifically for COVID care.

Revision Points:

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
National Payments Corporation of India	Mumbai	Dilip Asbe
Bombay Stock Exchange	Mumbai	Ashishkumar Chauhan
Facebook	California	Mark Zuckerberg
Google	California	Sundar Pichai
Practo	Bengaluru	Shashank ND
Flipkart	Bengaluru	Kalyan Krishnamurthy
Adani Logistics Ltd	Ahmedaba	Mrithyunjay Chandilya
Microsoft	Washington D.C.	Satya Nadella
Tesla	California	Elon Musk
Wipro	Bengaluru	Thierry Delaporte
Amazon	Washington D.C.	Jeff Bezos
SpaceX	California	Gwynne Shotwell
Indian Oil	New Delhi	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC		A. Balasubramanian

Securities and Exchange Board of India	Mumbai	Ajay Tyagi
ReNew Power	Gurugram	Sumant Sinha
Bharat Biotech	Hyderabad	Krishna Ella
Apple	California	Tim Cook
Tata Consultancy Services	Mumbai	Rajesh Gopinathan
Accenture	Dublin, Ireland	Julie Sweet
Cognizant	New Jersey	Brian Humphries
Infosys	Bengaluru	Salil Parekh
LinkedIn	California	Ryan Roslansky
Hero MotoCorp	New Delhi	Pawan Munjal
Vedanta	Mumbai	Anil Agarwal

Important State Wise News

List of Festivals

Festivals	Place
Ugadi	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh
Yugadi	Karnataka
Gudi Padava	Maharashtra
Vishu	Kerala
Vaisakhi	Punjab
Pana Sankranthi	Odisha
Bohag Bihu	Assam
Puthandu	Tamil Nadu
Poila Boishakh	West Bengal

Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister unveils AP Amul Project in Guntur

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched AP Amul Project in Guntur district and outlined **Rs.4,000 crore** plans to strengthen the **milk supply chain**.
- The Chief Minister said the project was started following an **MoU with Amul on July 21, 2020** for the empowerment of women self help groups by encouraging the setting up of milk cooperatives in government sector.

- Through the AP-Amul project, 9,899 villages across the State will be brought under milk production, where **Bulk Milk Cooling Units (BMCU) and Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCU)** will be set up.
- **GCMMF (Amul) MD RS Sodhi and Sabarkanta Co-operative Society MD BM Patel** were among those who participated through video conference.

Delhi

ITBP-run Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre to become operational in Delhi

- **Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital at Chhatarpur in South Delhi** will start functioning.
- **Standard Operating Procedure** for admission of patients will be strictly followed and all laid down protocols will be adhered to.
- **ITBP DG, SS Deswal** said that no walk-in admissions will be allowed in this Centre and only patients referred by District Surveillance Officers will be admitted.
- **ITBP** said patients will be first reporting at the reception, after initial documentation, physical examination will be done and they will then be admitted to **the Hospital** at their allotted bed.
- A kit will be provided to them after their admission.
- All medical treatment, medicines, food and other facilities will be **provided free of cost**.
- Services of stress counselors will also be provided.
- The Home Ministry has designated ITBP as the nodal force for **operationalizing the Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre at Radha Soami Beas, Chhatarpur in the National Capital**.

Gujarat

Foot marchers of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' reach Dhaman, Gujarat

- **Mahatma Gandhi** during his historic **Dandi March of 1930**, left for Daman from Wanj in the morning of 3rd April.
- The foot marchers of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** have reached Dhaman on the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Dandi Padyatris** are getting a warm welcome at every turn passing by.
- Women children and local residents are welcoming the **Padyatris by eradicating** the wall of caste and religion.
- **In Dhaman, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang** joined the Padyatris and traveled on foot to Navsari.
- During the Dandi March of 1930, Mahatma Gandhi left for Dhaman in the morning of 3rd April.
- **Dandi Padyatris of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav** are proceeding on the same route.
- There is a lot of enthusiasm in the atmosphere.
- There are paths decorated with **flowers, children and girls dressed as Gandhi and Bharat Mata** are also involved in the yatra.
- Women are showering flowers to welcome the padyatris.
- **Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang** joined padyatris in Dhaman and walked up to **Navsari** on the historic path of Mahatma Gandhi.

IFFCO's new oxygen plant in Gujarat: Sadananda Gowda

- **Union Chemicals & Fertilizers Minister Sadananda Gowda** has said that **cooperative fertilizer company IFFCO's** new oxygen plant at **Kalol in Gujarat** will enhance the **daily production capacity of medical grade Oxygen** by **33 thousand litres per day**.
- The Minister informed that the company has also agreed to **set up 3 more Oxygen plants each at Aonla & Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh and Paradeep in Odisha**.
- Mr. Gowda also urged other urea companies to explore possibilities of setting up of oxygen plants in their existing manufacturing units.
- He said the current COVID situation demands a united fight against it.

Gujarat govt declared free vaccinations for all above 18 years of age from May 1

- **Gujarat government** will provide **free vaccinations for all above 18 years of age from 1st of May**.
- This decision was taken during the high level core committee meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Vijay Rupnai at Gandhinagar**.
- State government has placed the order for **one and half crore doses of vaccines for the third phase of vaccination in the state starting from 1st May**.
- These include the order for one crore doses of covishield vaccine from Pune based SII and 50 lakh doses of Covaxin vaccine from Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech.
- Gujarat has 6 thousand government and private vaccination centers.
- Meanwhile, Gujarat has recorded 14,296 new cases of Covid19.
- 6727 patients recovered during the last 24 hours and were discharged from the hospitals.

Gujarat CM encourages use of Ayurvedic, Homeopathic medicines to COVID-19

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** has encouraged the **state health and Ayush department** for maximum use of **Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medicines** to win the war against Covid19.
- He said that these will also help in increasing immunity of the people against the Coronavirus pandemic in the state.
- Presiding over the state-level Core Committee meeting at Gandhinagar, **Mr. Rupani** has directed the administration to order and distribute about 60 thousand kilogram of '**Amrit peya Ukala**' and '**Sanshamani-vati**' and **10- lakh doses of Homeopathic Arsenicum album-30 medicines**.
- Meanwhile, Gujarat has recorded 14340 new cases.
- According to the state health department, **7727 patients** recovered during the last 24 hours.
- Maximum 5619 new cases of Covid19 reported from **Ahmedabad, while Surat** recorded 1472 new cases.
- 158 patients lost their lives.
- With these, the death toll due to Covid19 in the state has reached up to 6486.

- Gujarat has now 1 lakh 21 thousand 461 active cases at present, out of which 412 patients are on ventilator.
- Meanwhile, 1 lakh 59 thousand 93 persons were vaccinated in the state.
- Now, Gujarat has vaccinated 1 crore 14 lakh 54 thousand 629 persons till now.

Haryana

Haryana CM approves purchase of 200 acres of land for AIIMS

- **Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal** has approved the purchase of 200 acres of land for the AIIMS to be set up in **Rewari**, as well as the purchase of land for other seven projects.
- The Chief Minister was presiding over the meeting of the **High Power Land Purchase Committee** to buy the land available on e-Bhoomi portal for nine projects at Chandigarh.
- This approval was given after the landowners agreed on the price.
- Haryana Deputy Chief Minister, Sh. Dushyant Chautala was also present in the meeting.
- The Deputy Commissioners and landowners of the respective districts also joined the meeting through video conferencing.
- For the AIIMS to be built in Rewari, the committee approved the purchase of 200 acres of land at the rate of **Rs. 40 lakh per acre**.
- For identifying the land for this project, the concerned Deputy Commissioner was asked to prepare a detailed report of the available land.

Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

Center approves Rs 780 crore project for upgradation of Kargil Zaskar road

- **Union Government** has approved a **780 Crore rupees project** for upgradation of Kargil Zaskar road.
- The **2 lane Kargil Zaskar NH 301 road** is sanctioned under EPC mode.
- **Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari** approved the upgradation of the 780 Crore project.
- **Zaskar- Kargil** road was declared National Highway in 2017 by the Centre.
- This road from Zaskar valley, also connects Suru valley, Sankoo valley of Kargil Ladakh with the Highway.
- The road will be a key for economic development of the remote region of Ladakh.
- MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyail said, Modi government is fulfilling the major assurances given to Ladakh.
- After becoming Union Territory the pace of progress has been multiplied by initiation of various projects like **Zojjila Tunnel Construction**, Improved Air Connectivity and increase in the total road length by sanctioning **various projects** under CRF, PMGSY and other schemes.

Kargil: Training & Awareness Programme organised for Self Help Groups under National Rural Livelihood Mission

- In Kargil Ladakh, **Rural Development Department Kargil** organised **one-day Training and Awareness Programme** for **Self Help Groups** under National Rural Livelihood Mission at Sankoo block.

- The training was imparted by **Mrs Razia Banoo from Agriculture Department and Dr Rigzin Dolkar from KVK Kargil (SUKAST)** on Onion Cultivation and other agricultural activities and SHG Formation and Agriculture as a means to boost these SHGs to earn and increase their livelihood.

LG RK Mathur initiates National Training programme on Packaging in Leh

- In **Leh, Ladakh** Lieutenant Governor **RK Mathur** has launched a **National Training programme on Packaging**.
- This programme is organized under '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' in association with **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** and **Indian Institute of Packaging for products** from UT Ladakh.
- LG RK Mathur mentioned, with most women participation annually India is doing over fifty thousand crore home based business.
- While taking examples from **Punjab and Kolhapuri** leather goods and shoes, Mr. Mathur appealed that Ladakh has lots of potential in leather products.
- He advised the participants to look back to traditional handicrafts and other products for inspiration and earn money.
- He said, **Likir village in Leh** will be developed as Crafts Village to promote home made products, while **Raj Niwas** will have an exhibition of **Ladakhi products** to popularize them.
- Mr Mathur said, Ladakh handicrafts have a scope of a hundred crore rupees turnover in the coming Ten years of time.

J&K LG to share his thoughts through radio programme "Awaam Ki Awaaz"

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** will share his thoughts through the first episode of the **monthly Radio Broadcast** titled "**Awaam Ki Awaaz**".
- It will be carried by all the **AIR stations of Jammu and Kashmir** apart from Doordarshan channels of DD-Kashir and DDK Jammu.
- The initiative is a leap towards strengthening the concept of "**Jan Bhagidhari**" by inviting the participation of people of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The "**Awaam Ki Baat**" is a half an hour long radio broadcast and will be aired every third Sunday of a month.
- It is one of the many sequential steps of broader programmes taken by the J&K Government.
- Awaam Ki Baat is the novel initiative of **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** which aims at disseminating the progressive steps taken by his administration and seeks feedback from the public.
- Now, with this initiative, the J&K administration is giving a determined push to strengthen the govt-public relationship by inviting suggestions from the public and seeking their active participation in the policy formation.

J&K: Five Gram Panchayats won National Panchayat Awards-2021

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, **five Gram Panchayats** have bagged prestigious **National Panchayat Awards-2021**.

- Gram Panchayat Kangroosa of district Baramulla and Gram Panchayat Hakermulla of district Budgam won **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP)**.
- Gram Panchayat Kootah of Kathua district was conferred with Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (**NDRGGSP**), Gram Panchayat Panzgam A, of Kupwara district won Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (**GPDPA**), while, Gram Panchayat Achabal A, of Baramulla district bagged Child Friendly Gram Panchayat Award (**CFGPA**).
- **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** applauded the Sarpanches and other PRI members of the **Awardee Panchayats** for putting in outstanding efforts for the effective and efficient delivery of public services for transformation of rural J&K.

Jharkhand

'Health Safety Week' starts in Jharkhand to break chain of COVID-19

- In **Jharkhand**, the **"Health Safety Week"** begins from April 22 to break the chain of **COVID-19 infection**.
- People have been advised to stay home and not to move out without necessary work.
- Essential services and medical services continue to function.
- In Jharkhand the Health Safety Week has begun from **6 am in the morning April 22 till 6 am in the morning on April 29**, while unnecessary movement has been restricted in the State, only essential services, medical services, agricultural, industrial, and mining and construction activities have been permitted.
- The **State Level Bankers Committee** has decided to reduce the working hours of all public sector banks in **Jharkhand to 4 hours from 10 am in the morning to 2 pm** in the afternoon to break the chain of spread of COVID-19 infection.
- The State Government has requested people to not panic in the situation and follow the mandatory restrictions.
- Meanwhile, the **State Government has facilitated 2124 oxygen** supported hospital beds in the most affected areas to handle the COVID pandemic situation.
- A **300-bedded oxygen concentrator** supporter special COVID-19 ward has become functional in Ranchi.

Kerala

'Vishu' - festival of harvest – celebrated by Keralites across globe

- **Keralites across the globe are celebrating, "Vishu the festival** of harvest and prosperity.
- Vishu, is the astronomical **New Year of the state** marking the sun's transit into the **Medam Rashi** .
- Lord Krishna is worshipped in this auspicious day that resonates with symbolism of abundance in every sense.
- The day begins with **"Vishukkani"** the first thing to be seen on this day , comprises of **lord Krishna adored with fruits and vegetables, kani konna flowers, gold ,coins etc.**
- Elders of the family offer their blessings in the form of Vishu kaineettam.
- In major temples such as Guruvayur, Sree padmanabhaswamy temple , Sabarimala etc vishu kani and special rituals will be held.

- Amid covid pandemic, Vishu is being celebrated under strict restrictions this time.
- Authorities had urged to restrict the celebrations to their own home and to avoid crowding in temples.

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh CM ensured large oxygen plants will be set up in all divisional headquarters of state

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has said that large oxygen plants are to be set up **in all divisional headquarters of the state**.
- He was addressing a review meeting with the core group regarding prevention and arrangements for containing the spread of Covid-19.
- The state reported 13,417 fresh COVID cases while 11,577 patients recovered from the infection.
- Chief Minister Mr Chouhan said that the pace of infection has come down in the state. The Chief Minister informed that the availability of oxygen in the state is continuously increasing.
- Meanwhile, the number of active cases in the state rose to 94,276.
- With 98 patients succumbing to the infection, the death toll reached 5,319.
- Both Indore and Bhopal have more than 13,000 active cases.
- The growth rate of infection cases in 8 districts of Shajapur, Panna, Agar-Malwa, Umaria, Katni, Rajgarh, Anuppur and Guna has decreased.
- Under the **Kill Corona Campaign, 12 thousand 800 survey teams** are doing survey work in the state.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra: Shistura Hiranyakeshi in Sindhudurg Became Fifth Biological Heritage Site

- The **Maharashtra** government has declared an area at **Amboli in Western ghats** in **Sindhudurg district** as a biodiversity heritage site, following the discovery of a rare freshwater fish species.
- The new freshwater fish species called '**Schistura Hiranyakeshi**' was discovered in a pond at the **Mahadev Temple** at Amboli in Sawantwadi tehsil of Sindhudurg district by **Tejas Thackeray** (son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray), long with his team.
- The 2.11 hector area has been declared as '**Shistura Hiranyakeshi Biological Heritage Site**', under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, making it the fifth area in Maharashtra.

Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari initiates mobile COVID RT-PCR test laboratory in Nagpur

- **Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated a mobile **Covid RT-PCR test laboratory in Nagpur**.
- **Operated by Spice Health and Nagpur Municipal Corporation**, this lab has capacity to test 3 thousand samples per day and can give reports within 24 hours.
- He said that this facility will enable patients to diagnose the disease early.
- The Minister, while expecting to lower the time interval for obtaining the test report, said that the lab should work to get the **report within 12 hours**.

- Since this report will be available on mobile, there is no need to come in person here.
- Apart from Nagpur city, COVID samples from districts like Bhandara, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli in East Vidarbha will also be tested in this laboratory.
- In view of the shortage of oxygen in hospitals of Nagpur city, Gadkari informed that **200 Ventilators have arrived and soon 500 oxygen concentrators** will also be provided, all of which will be distributed in rural Vidarbha.
- He expected that this move would ensure uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen in Nagpur.
- The lab will test samples at a **cost of Rs 425**.
- A team of medical technicians is working in this mobile lab.
- The lab is available in the service of Nagpur's citizens from itself.

Maharashtra govt asked everyone on Maharashtra Day celebration in simple manner

- **Maharashtra government** has asked everyone to celebration **Maharashtra Day** in a simple manner on **May 1**.
- Various restrictions have been imposed in the state under the break the chain guidelines and it will continue till 7 am on **1st May**.
- Due to which, flag hoisting function will only be carried out at the office of district collectors in district headquarters.
- State government has asked that only the Parent Minister of district, Divisional Commissioner, District Collector, Police Commissioner, ZP's CEO, Municipal Commissioner should attend the functions and no other guests should be invited.
- State has clarified that any kind of cultural or social programmes should not be organised at any place.
- It has also urged everyone to follow covid guidelines during the function.

Manipur

77th Anniversary of Flag Hoisting Day observed at Manipur

- The **77th Anniversary of Flag Hoisting Day** was observed at **INA Martyr's Memorial Complex at Moirang of Manipur** with **Chief Minister N. Biren Singh** unfurling the **Indian Tricolour Flag** and led the other in paying floral tribute to the Statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose installed inside the complex.
- It was on **14th April, 1944** that the flag of the **Indian National Army** was hoisted for the first time on Indian soil at Moirang.

Meghalaya

Meghalaya attain the target of Har Ghar Jal by December next year under JJM

- **Meghalaya** has planned to achieve the target of **Har Ghar Jal by December next year under Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- Jal Shakti Ministry said, the annual action plan meeting on planning and implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission in Meghalaya** was held through video conferencing.
- The mission is a **flagship program** of the Central government to provide household **tap water connection to every rural household** of the country by **2024**.

- Meghalaya has five lakh 89 thousand rural households, out of which tap connections are provided to 16 per cent rural households.
- The State has provided 87 thousand tap connections on 2020-21.

Nagaland

Nagaland Governor conducts sensitization-cum-consultation meeting with all tribal hoho leaders of State

- In view of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, **Nagaland Governor R. N. Ravi** held a sensitization-cum-consultation meeting with all the **tribal hoho leaders** of the **State at Raj Bhavan in Kohima**.
- A press release from the **PRO Raj Bhavan stated that Governor Ravi** recalled the significant contributions of the tribal leaders and their cooperation with the State Government in combating the **first wave** of COVID-19.
- He observed that cooperation of the **tribal leaders** is crucial as the pandemic cannot be successfully fought by the Government alone.
- Ravi therefore, urged the community leaders to encourage and ensure people to observe COVID-19 appropriate behaviours.
- The Governor also appreciated the valuable practical suggestions given by the tribal leaders based on their experiences and observations.
- He said the suggestions will be conveyed to the State Government for necessary action.
- **The Governor will meet GBs**, Church leaders and leaders of other faith based organizations of the State in the coming days.

Odisha

Vice president make an appearance in Bhubaneswar on two-day visit to Odisha

- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** arrived at capital Bhubaneswar on a two days visit to Odisha.
- He was received at the airport by the **Governor of Odisha Prof Ganeshi Lal**, Chief **Minister Naveen Patnaik** and other top level officials.
- The Vice president is scheduled to attend a book release function at the Raj Bhawan in capital Bhubaneswar a short while from now before proceeding to the **twin city of Cuttack to inaugurate the 600th birth anniversary of Adikavi Sarala Das**.
- He will also attend as chief guest at the convocation of **Utkal University in Bhubaneswar**.

V Prez Venkaiah Naidu mentioned that Medium of instruction up to primary school level must be the mother tongue or local language

- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** has said that the medium of instruction up to the primary school level must be **the mother tongue or the local language**.
- He said, many studies have catalogued the advantages of studying in mother tongue during early schooling.

- **Attending the 600 birth anniversary of the renowned Odia sage-poet Adikabi Sarala Das** in Cuttack in Orissa, the Vice President also called upon administration and judiciary to use local language to effectively communicate with the people.
- Referring to Adikabi Sarala Das as the father of modern Odia language, the Vice-President said that the poet was a pioneer in democratizing literature through the use of colloquial language as early as in the **15 century**.

Odisha government announces free vaccination to above 18 years of age

- The **Odisha government** has **announced free vaccination** for people **above 18 years of age**.
- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** said that the State Government will incur an expenditure of two thousand crore rupees to meet the goal.
- Ahead of the phase three of the nationwide vaccination drive to be rolled out from the first of May, the state government has geared up to inoculate about **1.93 crore people in the age group of 18 to 44 years**.
- Accordingly, it has placed orders before the Serum Institute of India for supply of **377 lakh doses of Covishield and Bharat Biotech** for supply of a **little more than 10 lakh doses of Covaxin**, while designating Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited as the nodal agency for vaccine procurement.

Punjab

Punjab CM assured ex-gratia, govt job for family members of martyr sepoy Prabhjit and Amardeep Singh

- **Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh** has announced **ex-gratia compensation of 50 lakh rupees**, along with a government job each to the family of **Sepoy Prabhjit Singh** and **Sepoy Amardeep Singh** of 21 PUNJAB, who laid down their lives in the line of duty.
- Both the soldiers were reported killed in an avalanche in Siachen glacier.
- **Captain Amarinder Singh** said that their utmost dedication to defend the country's unity and integrity, even putting their lives at risk, would inspire their fellow soldiers to perform their duties with far more devotion and commitment.
- Sepoy Prabhjit Singh hailed from **Village Hakamwala in Mansa** district and is survived by his parents and one elder brother.
- While Sepoy Amardeep Singh, a native of village Karamgarh in Barnala District, is survived by his father and a younger sister.

Punjab Govt pays Rs.10,085 cr online directly to farmers for buying wheat

- With wheat harvesting in full swing in Punjab and Haryana, farmers, for the first time, have started receiving **minimum support price (MSP)** payment directly in their bank accounts under the **Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme (DBT)**.
- The government data shows **Rs.5,385 crore** has been transferred so far in the ongoing procurement season by the **Central and State procurement agencies** to farmers against purchase of their crops in both the States.
- In **Punjab**, **Rs.2,600 crore** has been paid to accounts of farmers till April 20 under the scheme.
- In **Haryana**, **Rs.2,785 crore** have been transferred directly to the accounts of farmers.

- Punjab Food Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu said “under the DBT scheme payments more than Rs.2,600 crore has been paid to the accounts of farmers till April 20”.

Sikkim

Sikkim: State Skill development Ministry to organize 1st regional workshop on PMKVY 3 at Gangtok

- Union ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship or MSDE will organize the first regional workshop to understand provisions of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0** or PMKVY 3.0 and to effectively implement the scheme in the NorthEast Region (NER) at **Gangtok, Sikkim**.
- The states covered include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The workshop is aimed at learning from the best practices and understanding the challenges related to PMKVY 3.0 and to build a detailed understanding on the use of the **Skill India Portal**.
- Some participants will attend the event through videoconferencing.

Rajasthan

Rajasthan Marked first state to launch “Health Insurance for All” its residents

- The state government of Rajasthan has launched a cashless medical insurance scheme titled “**Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**”, aimed at providing medical relief to all residents of the state.
- Under this scheme, each family in the state can claim up to Rs. 5 lakh every year for medical expenses.
- With this, **Rajasthan has become the first state in the country**, where **each family will get health insurance of Rs 5 lakh each year**.

Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana:

- In a major development in the healthcare sector, Rajasthan government has started the registration process for its flagship ‘**Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**’, which entails each family of the country’s north-western state claim medical expenses up to **Rs five lakh every year**.
- **Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** had announced Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana in the state budget 2021-22.

Tamil Nadu

‘Tamizh Puththandu’ celebrated across Tamil Nadu

- **Tamizh Puththaandu**, the **first day of the Chithirai month** marks the beginning of the Tamil Calendar.
- It is an auspicious occasion for **new projects and new ventures in family and social circles**.
- Covid restrictions are in place in the State, people are celebrating the festival with Covid Appropriate Behaviour.
- In keeping with tradition houses are decorated with **rangolis at the doorsteps** and mango leaf festoons are hung at the entrance .Food with six different tastes are made at home.
- **Sweet,salt, bitter, sour, spicy and thuvarpu dishes** are traditional menus for the day.

- The **vadai payasam pachadi** or a **yoghurt** based dish is generally prepared with mango.
- **Mango, jackfruit and banana, the mukkani dish** are considered to be the tastiest.
- People visit temples to pay obeisance and also visit friends and families.
- Chithirai is also the summer season of the year where the heat begins to rise above normalcy.
- With south and western districts of the State are pleasant because of the summer rains northern districts face the heat of the season.

Tamil Nadu govt planned to reopen Vedanta's oxygen manufacturing plant at Tuticorin

- **Tamilnadu Government** after considering the **urgent need for increased oxygen production** has decided to **reopen Vedanta's oxygen manufacturing plant at Tuticorin**.
- The Vedanta group approached the Supreme Court to allow production of oxygen through its plant in Tuticorin.
- In an **all party meeting headed by Chief Minister Palanisamy** at the State Secretariat, Five resolutions including reopening of Vedanta production plant were passed.
- The all party meeting has resolved to allow the plant to manufacture the much needed requirement of oxygen in the State.
- The Government will render power supply to the plant for the manufacture of **1050 tonnes of oxygen** for a period of four months.
- All parties also resolved to prioritise the requirement of oxygen for the **State and the remaining oxygen would be sent to other states**.
- The government also said that members of different groups which oppose the industry will be given a place in the expert group to monitor oxygen production along with the **District administration**.
- The resolution states that according to the requirement the period of four months would be increased however the copper smelting plant will not be allowed to reopen.
- According to the State Government in the High Court, only **35 tonnes of oxygen out of the 1050 tonnes of oxygen manufactured everyday** in the plant is for medical use.
- The oxygen manufactured from the plant would be given for medical purposes to the **hospitals free of cost**.

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh govt inaugurates unique gift scheme to promote covid vaccination

- **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a **unique gift scheme to promote covid vaccination** in the state.
- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has asked officials to make all preparations to deal with the growing number of Corona infections.
- **World Health Day on 7th April**, the state government will conduct a **lucky draw** for those who have taken the vaccine.
- Additional chief secretary health **Amit Mohan Prasad** said that in those districts where **more than 25,000 beneficiaries** have taken both doses of vaccine they will be eligible for this gift scheme.
- 4 gifts will be given to the beneficiaries after the lucky draw.

- 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.

Second Shahi Snan come about at Kumbh Mela in Haridwar

- **Second Shahi Snan** takes place at **Kumbh Mela in Haridwar** on the auspicious occasion of **Somavati Amavasya**.
- Devotees from different parts of the country reached **Haridwar** to take holy dip in the river Ganga at various **GHATS** in the city.
- **Second Shahi Snan of Mahakumbh** which is being organised here after 12 years.
- All the Sant Akhadas are taking part in the Shahi Snan according to the time allotted to them by the administration.
- **Nepal's last King Gyanendra Beer Vikram Shah Dev** is also at **Mahakubh for Shahi Snan**.
- Special arrangements have been made in Haridwar as devotees from across the country are reaching here for holy dip.
- The administration has imposed a number of restrictions to prevent the growing infection of Corona.

UP govt to invoke National Security Act, Gangster Act

- **Uttar Pradesh government** has said that it will invoke **National Security Act and Gangster Act** on those persons who are involved in **black marketing and holding of necessary medicines, oxygen and injections required for covid treatment**.
- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** assured that there is no dearth of oxygen for patients in the state and government is doing its best to provide oxygen to all hospitals.
- The Chief Minister said that very soon the state will get **1.25 lakh doses of remdesivir injection**.
- He directed officials to double the number of covid beds in each and every district of the state.
- The health department of the state issued new guidelines to the private and government hospitals for better management of treatment.
- Now private hospitals are allowed to take admissions of covid **patients up to 90 percent** of their covid beds capacity and 10 percent will be reserved for reference admissions.

West Bengal

Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Ariz Aftab unveiled two SVEEP Trams in Kolkata

- The **Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Ariz Aftab** launched **two SVEEP Trams** in Kolkata to increase voters' **awareness** and to encourage more and more eligible electors to exercise their democratic rights.
- The trams will run in **Kolkata North and Kolkata South** constituencies which will be going for polls in the last two phases of ongoing assembly elections.
- **Mr Aftab said EVM and VVPAT** demonstrations will be done inside and no tickets will be required to board the trams.
- Ramp and wheelchair facilities for **PWD voters** are also available.

Revision Points

State	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra (Retd.)
Assam	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Sushri Anusuiya Uikey
Delhi	Arvind Kejriwal	
Goa	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Manohar Lal	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

List of Governors & Administrators

Union Territory	Lt. Governor & Administrator
-----------------	------------------------------

Andaman and Nicobar Island	Admiral D K Joshi
Chandigarh	V.P. Singh Badnore
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Praful Patel
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal
Jammu and Kashmir	Manoj Sinha
Lakshadweep	Praful Patel
Puducherry	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)
Ladakh	Radha Krishna Mathur

Important National News

First half of FY22 - Government pegs market borrowing at Rs 7.24 lakh crore

- On March 31, 2021, The government announced it will borrow Rs 7.24 lakh crore in the first half of 2021-22 fiscal to meet resources to perk up the economy hit by the coronavirus pandemic.
- According to the Budget 2021-22, the government's gross borrowing was estimated at Rs 12.05 lakh crore in the financial year beginning April 1.
- In the first half of 2021-22, borrowing Rs 7.24 lakh crore, which is 60.06 per cent of the gross issuances.
- The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills

Government announces Rs 14,500-crore capital infusion in 4 Public Sector Banks

- On March 31, 2021, The government announced capital infusion totalling Rs 14,500 crore in four public sector banks (PSBs) through zero-coupon bonds.
- The four public sector banks (PSBs) namely Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank in 2020-21, by issuing non-interest bearing bonds to these banks.
- The government will charge Rs 4,800 crore in Central Bank of India, Rs 4,100 crore in Indian Overseas Bank, Rs 3,000 crore in Bank of India and Rs 2,600 crore in UCO Bank.
- These securities will be issued in six different maturities and will be issued at par for the amount as per the application made by the eligible banks.
- Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 announced a capital infusion of Rs 20,000 public sector banks for the current financial year 2021-2022.

Note :

- Previously in December, the government infused Rs 5,500 crore in Punjab and Sind Bank.

Government extends Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to June 30, 2021

- On March 31, 2021, The government extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till June 30 2021, or till such time that an amount of Rs. 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the Scheme.
- Also it expanded its scope to cover enterprises in hospitality, travel and tourism, leisure and sporting sectors.

- **About Modified Rules :**

- The limit of credit has been **enhanced 40 percent of outstanding loans as on Feb 29, 2020 as against 20 per cent earlier.**
- The collateral free loan guarantee scheme, announced as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, would now also cover borrowers with **total credit outstanding up to Rs 500 crore, with overdues for 60 days or less on February 29 as compared to 30 days overdue earlier.**
- The tenor of loans granted under ECLGS 3.0 will be 6 years including a moratorium period of 2 years. The tenor of loans under the previous version, ECLGS 2.0, was five years with a 12-month moratorium
- This modification provides an incentive to MLIs (member lending institutions) to enable availability of additional funding facilities to the eligible beneficiaries.
- The revised operational guidelines would be **issued by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).**

Cabinet Approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the Central Sector Scheme called **"Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)"** with an outlay of **Rs.10900 crore.**
- Scheme will be implemented over a **six year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27.**
- The **Project Management Agency (PMA)** shall implement the scheme.
- PMA will be responsible for appraisal of **applications/ proposals**, verification of eligibility for support, scrutiny of claims eligible for disbursement of incentive.
- The PLI scheme will support creation of **global food manufacturing champions and support Indian brands of food products** in the international markets.

Government announced Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for Q1 of FY 2021-22 (April-June)

- The rate of interest on **Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter (April-June) of 2021-22** will remain unchanged as the **last quarter (January-March) of 2020-2021.**
- Earlier on March 31, 2021, the Government had announced a cut in interest rates on various small savings schemes sharply by **40-110 basis points.**
- However, the orders issued were withdrawn by the government on **April 01, 2021.**
- This marks the fourth consecutive quarter that the government has maintained the rates on such schemes that are effective **from April 1 and remain in effect till June 30, 2021.**

Rate on Interest on Small Saving Schemes:

- Savings deposit rate has been revised **from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent annually**
- Public Provident Fund rate has been **cut down to 6.4 per cent from 7.1 per cent annually.**
- The interest rate on National Savings Certificates has been reduced to **5.9 per cent from existing 6.8 percent** and **Kisan Vikas Patra** will give a yield of 6.2 percent and mature in 138 months.
- The girl child savings scheme **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana** account will offer **6.9 percent** interest rate instead of **earlier 7.6 per cent.**

- Senior citizen savings schemes rate has been lowered from **7.4 per cent to 6.5 per cent quarterly**.

Deadline for Linking PAN-Aadhaar Extended to June, 30 2021

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has extended the last date for the mandatory linking of the **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** with **Aadhaar number** till **June, 30 2021**.
- Earlier this deadline was **March, 31 2021**.
- The extension has been done keeping in mind the difficulties arising out of the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

AYUSH Ministry asks applications for Prime Minister's Yoga Awards

- **The Ministry of AYUSH** has invited applications for the **Prime Minister's Yoga Awards (PMYA)**.
- The nomination process for this year has begun from the **30th of March** and the last date for the submission of the entries is the **30th of April**.
- Due to the **COVID-19, pandemic** the applications for the award were not invited in 2020.
- However like previous years, the **AYUSH Ministry** will be felicitating the achievers and unsung heroes and institutions of the **domain of Yoga**, from different parts of the country and across the world with the **Prime Minister's Yoga Awards**.
- The award will be hosted on the **MyGov platform**, and consists of **two National categories** for the entities of Indian origin and two International categories for the entities of Indian or foreign origin.
- **The Ministry of AYUSH** said that the winners will be felicitated with a trophy, certificate, and a **cash award of 25 lakh rupees**, which will be announced on the **International Day of Yoga on the 21st of June 2021**.
- In-case of joint winners, the awards would be divided among the winners.

Govt unveils All-India Survey of Migrant Workers

- Government launched the **All-India Survey of Migrant Workers and All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey**.
- The Labour and Employment Ministry said, the objective of the **All-India Survey of Migrant Workers** is to study the kind of **employment-related migration** undertaken by workers.
- The survey will provide the details of working and living conditions **faced by Migrant Workers and impact of COVID 19 on their world of work**.
- The All-India Quarterly Establishment-based **Employment Survey will provide the employment estimates** for establishments employing ten or more workers as well as those employing nine or less workers.
- The survey will provide crucial data on the changes in employment situation across the selected sectors on a quarterly basis.
- The Ministry said these surveys will plug-in the data gap on various aspects of **labour and employment** and will aid evidence-based policy making processes.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates new cruise service connecting Hazira port in Surat and Diu Island

- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Independent charge) Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a **new cruise service connecting Hazira port in Surat and Diu Island**.

- He flagged off this service virtually via video conference.
- A cruise ship will leave Hazira **every Monday and Wednesday** and reach Diu -next day in the morning.
- Return journey will take place on the same day in the evening from Diu and end at Hazira- **next day in the morning**.
- One side journey will **take 13 to 14 hours time**.
- A **300 passenger capacity** cruise ship will have 16 cabins.
- It will make **two round trips** during the week.
- It will take passengers to high-sea on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Cruise ship has latest facilities including a gaming lounge, VIP lounge, entertainment on deck etc.
- Around four months ago, a ropax ferry service connecting Hazira (Surat) and Ghogha in Bhavnagar district was launched.
- It has so far carried **one lakh passengers** in addition to thousands of vehicles.

India's biggest floating solar power plant project developed at Ramagundam in Telangana

- **India's biggest floating solar power plant** with a capacity of **100 MW** will be set up at **Ramagundam in Telangana**.
- The project, expected to be opened in May, is being set up at Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir.
- The solar project is **commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)**.
- The project, which is estimated to cost around 423 crore rupees, will have **4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels**.
- The solar panels will cover **450-acre areas** of the reservoir and can be expanded in the future.
- NTPC's efforts to set up floating solar power projects are aimed at reducing its carbon footprints and accelerate its green energy production to 30 percent of its capacity.
- The **world's largest solar power plant with 600 MW capacities** is being set up on **Omkareshwar Dam on Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh**.
- **The project costing 3,000 crore rupees** is expected to start power generation only by 2022-23.

India committed to regional cooperation under BIMSTEC framework: S Jaishankar

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** has said that India remains committed to further building the momentum of **regional cooperation** under the **BIMSTEC framework** and make the organization stronger, vibrant, more effective and result-oriented.
- Delivering a statement at the **17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting** being held virtually, **Dr Jaishankar** expressed confidence that BIMSTEC would scale new heights in the times to come with the collective efforts and spirit of cooperation.
- He said, **BIMSTEC** enjoys the unique strength of connecting **South and South-East Asia** and it has steadily gained prominence in the **Indian foreign policy**.
- Dr Jaishankar said, participation of BIMSTEC leaders at Indian Government's swearing-in ceremony in **May 2019** was a testament to it.
- He said, BIMSTEC over the years has emerged as a promising sub-regional grouping with growing strategic and economic interests of the Member States, as well as of the international community in the Bay of Bengal region.

- The Minister said, our collective resolve to impart a **fresh dynamism to BIMSTEC** has rejuvenated the organization.
- He expressed happiness that the region is witnessing **rapid economic growth with growing political and economic cooperation** among the Member States.

CWC counsel political parties not to utilize service of children for election campaign

- In the **Union Territory of Puducherry the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)** here advised political parties not to utilize the service of **Children in Electioneering**.
- **Child Welfare Committee chairperson Ashokan** in a release said that the commission received complaints that children are being used by political parties for their election campaign and as per the directions of the **National Child Welfare Commission**; the election department was directed to **monitor the campaigning of political parties** and to initiate action if children are used for campaign.
- He said a **5 year old boy** was badly injured in his hand when he took a cracker which was not busted when the political parties lit it and it busted in his hands.
- A report on the incident was sought from the **Karaikal Collector** for further action, he said.

TRIFED unveils "Sankalp se Siddhi"- Village and Digital Connect Drive

- **TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has now launched **"Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village and Digital Connect Drive**.
- It is a **100 day drive** which was started from 1st of this month.
- The drive will entail **150 teams visiting ten villages each of which 10 in each region** from **TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies, visiting ten villages each**.
- The main aim of this drive is to activate the **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** in these villages.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs in a statement said that 100 villages in each region and 1500 villages in the country will be covered in the next 100 days.
- 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.

Center announces Birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar on April 14 as public holiday from 2021

- 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, under **Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881**.
- On 14 April 2021, India will celebrate the **130th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar**.

Center needs TV channels to generate greater awareness on message of 'Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi'

- **The Information and Broadcasting Ministry** has urged **private TV channels** to generate greater awareness on the message of **Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi** by disseminating messages for **COVID-appropriate behavior and vaccination** of eligible persons.
- The Ministry issued an advisory to all private television channels in view of the rising COVID-19 cases in the country.
- It has reiterated the **leadership role played by the TV channels** in spreading message in the public interest.
- The advisory also cited **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** meeting to review the emerging situation, where it was decided to focus on a **five-fold strategy of Testing, Tracing, Treatment, COVID appropriate behavior and Vaccination**.

PM Modi hails completion of Arch closure of Chenab Bridge

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has lauded the completion of Arch closure of the **Chenab Bridge**.
- It is the **world's highest Railway Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Mr Modi mentioned that capability and trust of the countrymen is setting an example before the world.
- He added that this feat of construction does not only showcase the **growing prowess of India** in the field of modern engineering and technology but also is an example of changing work culture marked by the ethos of '**Sankalp Se Siddhi**'.

PM Chaired High-level meeting to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will chair a meeting of the **High-Level Committee** to commemorate the **400th Birth Anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur** through video conferencing.
- **Home Minister Amit Shah** will also attend the meeting.
- The meeting will discuss the year-long calendar of events planned to mark this special occasion.
- The **High Level Committee** was constituted by the Centre on **24th October** last year, to approve policies, plans and programs related to the commemoration of the birth anniversary.
- It has **70 members** including the **Prime Minister as Chairman**.

Union Ministers Dr Harsh Vardhan and Arjun Munda jointly inaugurates Tribal Health Collaborative-'Anamaya'

- **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan** and **Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda** launched '**Anamaya**'- the **Tribal Health Collaborative** through video conference.
- A multi-stakeholder initiative supported by **Piramal Foundation** and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**, **Anameya**' will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities.
- On the occasion, **Dr Vardhan** said, in the past one year, several efforts have been made by the **Health Ministry to jointly address** the health gaps of the tribal communities with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- 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.

Union Cabinet approved PLI Scheme for Air Conditioners and LED Lights

- 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 Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules** will reduce import dependence in a strategic sector like electricity and will also support the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- Addressing the media in New Delhi after the Cabinet Meeting, **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said that the scheme will add an additional 10 thousand 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 said direct employment of **about 30 thousand** and **Indirect employment** of about 1 lakh 20 thousand persons will be generated.

First online PDOT Programme for migrant workers unveiled to supplement physical training

- The first online **Pre-Departure Orientation Training, PDOT Programme** for migrant workers was launched to supplement physical training being held in PDOT Centres.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** in association with Protector of Emigrants, Mumbai and other POEs has taken this initiative in view of Covid restrictions and to take advantage of technology.
- **Online PDOT** will continue even after COVID restrictions are eased to facilitate prospective migrants, who are not in a position to attend the **training in-person**, and to expand its reach.
- **PDO training** would help migrant workers to know about the culture, language and regulations of the destination country to ensure their safety and security.
- The **initiative** will provide prospective migrants with better skills and empower them further as they embark on the journey of migration.

Nearly 68% loans under PMMY accord to women entrepreneurs

- **More than 28 crore 68 lakh loans** for an amount of **nearly 15 lakh crore rupees** have been sanctioned since launch of **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana**.
- The Yojana was launched in 2015 for providing loans upto **10 Lakh rupees** to **non-corporate, non-farm, small and micro-enterprises**.
- Finance Ministry has said that **about 68 percent of loans** have been given to women entrepreneurs and about 51 percent of loans have been given to **SC, ST and OBC borrowers**.
- **The Ministry of Labour and Employment** has said that this yojana has helped in generation of 1 crore 12 lakh net additional employment from 2015 to 2018.
- Women have accounted for **62 percent** of this estimated increase in employment.

Over Rs. 250 crore sanctioned for augmenting healthcare facilities in North East State

- **Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region, DoNER Dr. Jitendra Singh** has said that **more than Rs. 250 crore** had been sanctioned for augmenting healthcare facilities in the **North-Eastern States for effective management of COVID-19**.
- Chairing a meeting of the **Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of DoNER in New Delhi, Dr Singh** said that the fund has greatly helped in developing infrastructure for management of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

India Russia Friendship Car Rally: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh flags off

- **Minister of State in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh** flagged off **India Russia Friendship Car Rally 2021**.
- The event was **organized by International Friendship Car Rally Association, IFCRA** in New Delhi.
- The Car rally will take place in Russia from **18th to 20th April**.
- This is the **5th IFCRA edition** and there are **14 participants from IFCRA** India representing the North East.

- Dr Singh said that Russia has been a reliable partner of **India and joint sporting events** will further strengthen the bonds of friendship.
- He said that diplomatic, social and cultural ties with Russia scaled new heights under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Minister hoped that participants from the North East region in this event will further add to growing bilateral ties.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurates SARTHAQ initiative

- **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched an **initiative SARTHAQ** which will help in the implementation of **National Education Policy in the country**.
- The students and teachers' holistic advancement through quality education, SARTHAQ has been initiated as a part of the **Amrit Mahotsav celebrations**.
- The Education Minister said it will pave the way for the children and youths to meet the diverse **national and global challenges**.
- He said it will also help them to **imbibe 21st century skills, indian tradition, culture and value system as envisioned in National Education Policy**.
- He said, the implementation of SARTHAQ would benefit all stakeholders including 25 crore students, 15 lakh schools, 94 lakh teachers.
- He urged all the stakeholders to use this plan as a guiding light to undertake transformational reforms in the school education sector.
- The Minister chaired a high level meeting on implementation of National Education Policy.
- Secretary, Higher Education, Amit Khare and other officials were present in the meeting.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana completes six years

- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana** has completed six years.
- It is a scheme under which loans of **upto 10 Lakh rupees** are provided to the **non-corporate, non-farm, small and micro enterprises**.
- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana was launched on 8th April 2015.
- In these years, **More than 28 crore 68 lakh loans have been sanctioned**.
- The amount of these loans is around 15 lakh crore rupees with about 52,000 rupees being the average ticket size of the loans.
- Finance Ministry has said that under this scheme almost 24percent of loans have been given to new entrepreneurs; **about 68 percent of loans have been given to women entrepreneurs and about 51percent of loans have been given to SC, ST and OBC borrowers**.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment has said that this yojana has helped in generation of 1 crore 12 lakh net additional employment from 2015 to 2018.
- Women have accounted for 62 percent of this estimated increase in employment.

PM Modi makes virtual summit with his Dutch Counterpart

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has said that India and the **Netherlands** are working together for a supply chain in **Indo-pacific region**.
- Holding the **Virtual Summit** with the **Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte**, **Mr Modi** mentioned, the relationship between the two countries is based on the shared values of democracy and rule of law.
- He said, they are also developing convergence in new areas like **Indo-Pacific resilient** supply chains and global digital governance.
- **Mr Modi** added that establishment of a fast track mechanism for investment promotion also gives new momentum to strong economic cooperation between the two countries.
- He expressed confidence that post covid period many news opportunities will be generated in which **like-minded countries** can enhance mutual collaborations.

India, Netherlands lauds the launch of strategic partnership in water sector

- **India and the Netherlands** have announced the launch of the **strategic partnership** in the water sector to further intensify ongoing cooperation and better coherence in the area.
- **India - Netherlands Virtual Summit held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte**, Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Sandeep Chakravorty said that both leaders have agreed to elevate the joint working group on water to a Ministerial Level.
- They also discussed broadening **bilateral cooperation in new areas of water including water budgeting**, cost effective decentralized treatment technology, converting wastewater to energy and river hazard management.
- He said both sides have announced the setting up of a fast track mechanism to facilitate bilateral trade and to resolve issues of **Dutch and Indian companies**.

NITI Aayog unveils Online Dispute Resolution handbook

- **NITI Aayog** will launch the first-of-its kind **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) handbook** in India.
- ODR is the resolution of disputes outside courts, particularly of **small and medium-value cases**, using **digital technology and techniques of alternate dispute resolution** such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.
- Supreme Court Judge, Justice **D Y Chandrachud** will deliver the opening address and launch the handbook.

Rajnath Singh make talks with Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** held a meeting with the **Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev** in New Delhi.
- During the meeting, the two Ministers exchanged views to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation in various fields.
- They agreed that both sides must look at the possibility of defence industrial collaboration of mutual interest.
- The **Defence Minister of Kazakhstan thanked Rajnath Singh** for the opportunity given to the Kazakh troops for deployment as part of the Indian battalion in the **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**.

- Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar and other officials were also present in the meeting.

MoS in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh promotes 'Teeka Utsav'

- **Minister of State in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh** called for celebrating the **Teeka Utsav** by facilitating vaccination among those who are entitled to receive the jab.
- Dr Singh, in the four days, the drive has to be carried out at multiple levels including personal level, social level and administrative level.
- He said, as responsible citizens, it is the obligation of each person to act as a catalyst in the **Vaccination Drive**.
- He said, those who have recovered from **COVID should take upon the responsibility** to spread awareness about the disease.

PM aware people to follow four principles 'Each One, Vaccinate One' , 'Each One , Treat One' , 'Each One, Save One' to fight in pandemic situation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** appealed to everyone to follow a fourfold principle as the nation **kick-starts four day special vaccination drive, Teeka Utsav**.
- **Emphasising** on the need to follow both personal and social hygiene, Mr. Modi urged citizens to imbibe these four principles which include '**Each One, Vaccinate One**', '**Each One , Treat One**' , '**Each One, Save One**' , and people led creation of Micro Containment Zones.
- The Prime Minister said the 'Teeka Utsav' is the beginning of the second big war against Corona Pandemic.
- He also urged citizens to ensure zero wastage of COVID vaccines and asked those eligible to be vaccinated to get their jabs.
- Mr. Modi said during this time we have to move towards optimum utilization of the country's vaccination capacity.
- He added that this will also in a way increase our vaccination capacity.
- The Prime Minister asserted that the **Nation's success** in the fight against the pandemic will be determined by the fact that people don't step outside their houses without pressing needs.

VP introduces commemorative postage stamp of former Chief of Brahma Kumaris Rajyogini Dadi Janki

- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** released a commemorative postage stamp in the memory of **former Chief of Brahma Kumaris Rajyogini Dadi Janki** in New Delhi.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Naidu said, what makes **Brahma Kumaris** so special is that the organization is led by women.
- He said they have demonstrated that spiritual attainments transcend gender-based distinction.
- The Vice President said, society needs to be **educated on equal rights to women in every field**, not merely in letter, but in spirit, as well.
- He said, spirituality is the basis of all religions and the same spiritual thread binds them together. Mr Naidu said, we should draw inspiration from **Dadi Janki's life** which was dedicated to God and to selfless service of humanity.
- Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was also present on the occasion.

Jitendra Singh unveils 75 series Pension awareness to mark 75 years of India's independence

- **Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh** launched **75 series Pension awareness** to mark **75 years of India's independence**.
- As a part of the **Amrut Mahotsav**, the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare will organize a wide range of activities.
- Dr Jitendra Singh said, it will be a highly innovative and creative method of observing the 75th year of India's independence by dedicating it to the cause of pensioners and elder citizens.
- He said this would personify the real essence of **Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav** by addressing the elder citizens through one of the youngest mediums of social platforms.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh initiates IAF Commanders' Conference 2021

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **First bi-annual Indian Air Force, IAF Commanders' Conference 2021 at Air Headquarters Vayu Bhawan in New Delhi**.
- The conference of apex level leadership is aimed at addressing the issues of IAF's operational capabilities in the times to come.
- A series of discussions would be conducted over a period of three days to address strategies and policies related to capabilities that would give **IAF a significant** edge over its adversaries.
- Various welfare and Human Resource measures to improve HR and administrative efficiency will also be discussed.
- Air Force Commanders' Conference is a bi-annual conference held at **Subroto Hall, Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan**.
- The Conference provides a forum to the senior leadership of the IAF to discuss critical issues pertaining to **Operations, Maintenance and Administration**.
- The conference is attended by the Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief of all Commands of IAF, all Principal Staff Officers and all Director Generals posted at Air Headquarters.

Various regions of our country celebrate traditional New Year

- Various regions of the country are **celebrating traditional New Year** in the form of **Ugadi, Gudi Padava, Chaitra Sukladi, Cheti Chand, Vishu, Puthandu and Bohag Bihu**.
- According to the **Luni-Solar calendar**, the first day of the full moon of Chaitra is the beginning of the hindu new year.
- People of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana call it '**Ugadi**', and in **Karnataka, it is 'Yugadi'**.
- In Maharashtra, it is celebrated as '**Gudi Padwa**', and in Tamil Nadu, it is observed as 'Puthandu'.
- In Kerala, the day is celebrated as '**Vishu**', In Punjab it is '**Vaisakhi**' and in Odisha, it is called '**Pana Sankranthi**'.
- In West Bengal, it is called '**Poila Boishakh**' and in Assam, '**Bohag Bihu**'.
- Telugu speaking people across the world are celebrating their Telugu New Year day, Ugaadi.
- Though the COVID Pandemic situation dampens the gaiety, people are observing the customary festivities with traditional fervour.

- The festival is being celebrated across the two Telugu states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar.

EdCIL reward highest ever dividend of Rs 12.5 Cr for 2019-20

- **EdCIL (India) Limited, a Mini Ratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprises** under **Ministry of Education**, paid a highest ever dividend of 12.5 Crore rupees for the year 2019-20.
- **Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** received the dividend cheque from **CMD of EdCIL Manoj Kumar** in the presence of **Additional Secretary (Technical Education)** Dr. Rakesh Ranjan and other officials of the Ministry and EdCIL.
- The company registered a turnover of 326 Crore rupees and a Profit before tax of **56 Crore rupees** during the year 2019-20.
- EdCIL offers Project Management and Consultancy solutions across education verticals covering ICT or IT Solutions, Online Testing and Assessment Services, Advisory Services, Infrastructure, Procurement and Overseas Education Services.
- The company is executing a mega-project of the Ministry of Education called Study in India to increase the number of inbound foreign students to India.
- The program includes setting-up of a large portal, call centre, social media campaign, branding, event management and setting-up of facilitation centres.

PM Modi interact with Intel CEO through video conferencing

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** interacted with **Chief Executive Officer of Intel**, Pat Gelsinger through video conferencing.
- Both had extensive discussions on the role of technology in furthering human progress.
- Mr Modi and Mr Gelsinger also discussed the Digital India efforts and investment opportunities in India.

Siachen Warriors celebrate 37th Siachen Day

- The **Siachen Warriors** celebrated the **37th Siachen Day** with tremendous zeal and enthusiasm.
- **Brigadier Gurpal Singh** laid a wreath and paid homage to the martyrs at the **Siachen War Memorial, Base Camp** to commemorate their courage and fortitude in securing the highest and coldest battlefield of the World.
- On this day in 1984, Indian troops first unfurled the tricolour at **Bilafond Lalaunching Operation Meghdoot**.
- Since then, it has been a saga of valour and audacity not only in the face of the enemy but also in the face of icy peaks with extreme weather.
- To this day, the Siachen Soldier continues to guard the Frozen Frontier with determination and resolve against all odds.
- The Siachen Day honours all the Siachen Warriors who served their motherland while successfully thwarting enemy designs over the years.

FM N Sitharaman virtual meet with President World Bank Group David Malpass

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and President World Bank Group David Malpass** met through virtual mode.
- Ms Sitharaman and Mr Malpass discussed various issues including Covid Vaccination, economic recovery, **World Bank Group lending envelope** for India and India's strategy of green resilient and inclusive development.
- The Finance Minister shared the measures being taken by India to contain the spread of the second wave of pandemic including the five pillared strategy of test, track, treat, vaccination and covid appropriate behaviour.
- She also shared measures taken by Government of India including **distribution of LED bulbs**, ethanol blending programme under **National BioFuel Policy**, voluntary vehicle scrapping policy, incentivisation of Electric Vehicles to achieve green, resilient and inclusive development.
- Ms Sitharaman welcomed the initiative of the World **Bank Group** for increasing lending space for India to enhance availability of finance for development.

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Aahaar Kranti mission

- **Government has launched Aahaar Kranti**, a mission dedicated to **spread awareness about nutrition**.
- It is designed to address the peculiar problem of hunger and diseases in abundance, being faced by India and the world.
- Studies show that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories it consumes.
- However, many in the country are still malnourished.
- The root cause of this strange phenomenon is a lack of nutritional awareness.
- Keeping this in mind, **Aahaar Kranti has been launched with the motto of Uttam Aahaar- Uttam Vichaar or Good Diet- Good Cognition**.
- Launching the initiative, **Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan** said, when the country is reeling under the onslaught of pandemic COVID -19, a balanced diet serves as a special tool to reduce the impact of the pandemic.
- He stressed on the need to create awareness about the importance of a balanced diet saying it has become more vital than ever before.
- The movement proposes to address the problem by working to rouse **the people to the values and richness of India's traditional diet**, to the healing powers of local fruits and vegetables and to the miracles of a balanced diet.
- **Vijnana Bharati, Global Indian Scientists and Technocrats Forum, Vigyan Prasar, and Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark** have come together to launch this mission.

Law Minister introduces Online Grievance Management Portal of National Commission for Scheduled Castes

- **Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the **Online Grievance Management Portal** of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes**.
- Presently the complaints of victims, who are members of Scheduled Caste are processed manually in the commission.
- The new mechanism has been introduced to handle the complaints in online mode from the victim.

- The **National Commission for Scheduled Castes** is an Indian constitutional body established with a view to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Prasad said, this launching of **Online Grievance Management Portal** is especially important as the nation is observing the birth anniversary of one of India's great luminaries **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**.
- Mr Prasad said, Dr. Ambedkar worked for the upliftment of the marginalised and downtrodden sections of the society.
- The Minister opined that digital India needs to be a mass movement in the country.
- Addressing the gathering, **Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Rattan Lal Kataria** said that the portal will make it easier for the Scheduled Castes population to register their complaint from any part of the country.
- He said, the portal will enable them to file their application and other atrocity and services related

Piyush Goyal leads first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council

- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** chaired the first meeting of the **National Startup Advisory Council**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** had constituted this Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.
- Mr Goyal said that this council will act as the guiding light for many **budding startup** entrepreneurs in India.
- Appreciating the work done by the startups in all sectors, for finding innovative solutions to various problems, Mr Goyal said that India is a hub of innovation and out-of-the-box thinking.
- He said that Startup movement has stirred the entrepreneurial spirit in the last 5 years.
- The Minister described the Startups as the **New Champions of Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- He said, India has the potential to become **World's largest and most innovative startup ecosystem**.

Govt planned - 100 new hospitals to have their own oxygen plant under PM-CARES fund

- Union Health Ministry has said that **100 new Hospitals** in the country will have their own **Oxygen plant** under **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund**.
- The decision was taken at a meeting of **Empowered Group 2 (EG2)** which was held to review the availability of essential medical equipment and oxygen during COVID.
- The Ministry said, **Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA)** plants manufacture oxygen and help hospitals become self-sufficient in their requirement for medical oxygen.
- It said, **162 PSA plants** sanctioned under **PM-CARES** are being closely reviewed for early completion of 100 percent of the plants to enhance self-generation of oxygen in hospitals especially in remote areas.
- The **Empowered Group 2** has directed the Health Ministry to identify **100 hospitals** in far flung locations for consideration of sanction for installation of PSA plants.

Secretary MeitY launches three new initiatives of NIXI

- **Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Ajay Prakash Sawhney** inaugurated three path breaking initiatives for **National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI**.
- These initiatives are **IP Guru, NIXI Academy and NIXI-IP-INDEX**.

- The IP Guru is a group to extend support to all the Indian entities who are finding it technically challenging to migrate and adopt **Internet Protocol version, IPv6**.
- In addition to this the group will help in identifying and hiring agency that will help end customer by providing necessary technical support to adopt IPv6.
- The **NIXI Academy** has been created to educate technical and non-technical people in India about technologies like IPv6 which will lead to better management of Internet resources in the country.
- The **NIXI-IP-INDEX portal** has been launched to showcase **IPv6 adoption rate** in India and across the world.

Housing & Urban Affairs Minister unveils EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge** through video conferencing.
- **EatSmart Cities Challenge** is an opportunity for India to play a pioneering role in developing the concept of integrating food systems into city planning and development.
- Mr Puri said, this movement will nudge the urban populace to make the **right food choices** and help build a healthier and happier nation.
- The **EatSmart Cities Challenge** is envisioned as a competition among cities to recognize their efforts in adopting and scaling up various initiatives under **Eat Right India**.
- The **challenge** is open to all **Smart Cities, capital cities of States and Union Territories, and cities with a population of more than five lakh**.
- The Transport 4 All Challenge aims to bring together cities, citizen groups, and start-ups to develop solutions that improve public transport to better serve the needs of all citizens.
- Mr Puri said that COVID-19 has brought the entire world to a halt with transport being one of the worst-hit sectors.
- He added that the **Transport4All Digital Innovation Challenge** will support cities to recover from this mobility crisis.

World 1st affordable and long-lasting hygiene product DuroKea Series unveiled by Education Minister

- **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched **World 1st affordable and long-lasting hygiene product DuroKea Series**.
- This next generation **DuroKea antimicrobial technology** starts at 189 rupees, kills 99.99 per cent of germs instantly and leaves behind the long-lasting protective nanoscale coating up to 35 days till next wash.
- Researcher from **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad** has developed these innovative technologies to combat COVID-19 virus spreading.
- Mr Pokhriyal said that Durokea Product is aligned with the vision of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to attain self-reliance.
- He said, the unique property of **DuroKea range** is to ensure instant killing, within **60 second and prolonged protection** which is an immense necessity during this current pandemic situation.

- The Minister said, this revolutionary antimicrobial property of DuroKea products has been tested and certified by Indian Government accredited lab and field-tested at the **IIT Hyderabad campus**.

Tourism and Culture Minister initiates first-ever online exhibition on Ramayana

- **Tourism and Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel** has inaugurated the first-ever online exhibition on Ramayana.
- The weblink for the online exhibition is www.nmvirtual.in/Virtual_Tour/Ramayan.
- Mr Patel addressed a webinar '**India's Heritage: Powering Tourism**' on the occasion of **World Heritage Day 2021**.
- The online exhibition showcases **forty nine miniature paintings collections of National Museum, New Delhi** from different art schools of India.
- Mr Patel said that India has a unique heritage of **temples, dance, music, shastras** which cannot be found anywhere in the world.
- He said, protecting these invaluable inheritances for future generations is a collective responsibility and requires a renewed focus on community participation and awareness.
- The Minister said, it is the responsibility of **the younger generation to carry forward the task** of promoting the vast heritage of the country with proper facts and timelines.

DRDO to build its dedicated Corona hospital in New Delhi

- The dedicated **Covid hospital re-established by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** will become operational.
- The hospital has been established near **Domestic Airport Terminal** in New Delhi.
- It has **500 ICU beds**.
- **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan** said that **250 beds** will be ready and it will be increased to 500 within a few days.
- He said, all beds are equipped with oxygen facilities and sufficient number of ventilators is available.
- A medical team drawn from **the Armed Forces** will look after the facility.
- The facility will be available free of cost.
- The person required in this hospital needs to bring an **RT-PCR Covid positive report** and **Aadhar card**.
- There will be a large number of monitoring equipment, ventilators, basic testing facilities, and air-conditioning in this hospital, **as per the WHO standards**.

162 Pressure Swing Adsorption Oxygen plants - installation in public health facilities in all States

- **The Health Ministry** said that **162 Pressure Swing Adsorption, PSA oxygen plants** have been **sanctioned by Government of India** for installation in public health facilities in all States and these will **augment medical oxygen capacity** by over **154 Metric Tonnes**.
- The Ministry said, out of **162 PSA plants sanctioned by the Centre**, **33** have already been installed, 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.

- The Health Ministry said, States have appreciated the installation of PSA Oxygen plants in their public health facilities.
- It said, in addition to **162 plants already sanctioned**, they have requested the Government of India for more than 100 **such additional plants** which are also being sanctioned.
- Out of **162 PSA Oxygen plants**, **33 have been installed**.
- By the end of this month, 59 will be installed and by the end of next month 80 will be installed.
- The Ministry said, the entire cost of 162 PSA Oxygen plants amounting to over 201 crore rupees has been borne by the Central Government.

Gallantry Awards portal organised Innovative Tributes to Bravehearts competition

- The **Gallantry Awards portal** has organized **Innovative Tributes to Bravehearts competition** wherein it is inviting participants from all over India to recommend unique and innovative tributes to salute the **Bravehearts** of the nation.
- The **objective of this competition** is to find a series of befitting **tribute messages** for the **Gallantry Awardees**.
- The competition is being held **from 15th April to 15th May 2021**.
- Entries received as a part of the competition would be judged on the basis of elements of creativity, originality, composition and simplicity and how well they highlight the vision and objectives of the **Gallantry Awards portal**.
- 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.

Centre increase insurance scheme for health workers under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package for one year

- **Central government** has extended the insurance scheme under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package** for health workers for a period of one year.
- **Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harshvardhan** said that Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package has provided a safety net to the dependents of corona warriors who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package:

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016 is a scheme launched by the Narendra Modi led Government of India in December 2016 on the lines of the Income declaration scheme, 2016 launched earlier in the year.

The cover that is provided by the accident insurance scheme is mentioned below:

- Accidental death because of COVID-19 duty.
- Death due to COVID-19.

PM Modi admires step taken by Tata Group to mitigate oxygen crisis

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has lauded the efforts of **Tata Group** for importing **24 cryogenic containers** to transport liquid oxygen and help in easing the oxygen shortage in the country.
- The **Prime Minister appreciated the step taken by the Tata Group** to mitigate the oxygen crisis and strengthen the health infrastructure in the country.

- Mr. Modi said, together, the people of India will fight Covid-19.

Labour Ministry restarts 20 Control Rooms to diminish problems of migrant workers

- **The Ministry of Labour and Employment** has rejuvenated the **20 control rooms** in view of the resurgence of Coronavirus cases and imposition of certain restrictions by various state governments.
- The steps have been taken to address wage related grievances of workers and to mitigate the problems of migrant workers.
- **Secretary of Labour and Employment Ministry, Apurva Chandra** said, this facility was launched in April last year and it is revived again to resolve the issues of migrant workers.
- The Ministry has informed that the aggrieved workers can access these **control rooms through email, mobile and whatsapp.**
- The functioning of all 20 call centers is being monitored and supervised by the **Chief Labour Commissioner** on a daily basis.

Cabinet nods ex-post facto approval for Govt amendments to Finance Bill, 2021

- The **Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for the Government amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021** enacted on 28th March this year as the **Finance Act, 2021.**
- The amendments were essential to clarify and rationalize the proposals further and address stakeholders concerns arising out of amendments proposed in the Finance Bill.
- The **Government amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021** shall provide equity and inclusiveness to all the taxpayers by addressing stakeholders concerns **arising out of amendments proposed in the Bill.**
- The Government amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021 are tax proposals which shall generate timely revenue for the Government and streamline existing provisions by addressing grievances of the taxpayers.

Covishield to cost Rs 400 for state govt hospitals and Rs 600 for govt hospitals

- **Serum Institute of India** has announced the price for its **COVISHIELD vaccine** for State governments and Private Hospitals in the country.
- The Vaccine will cost **400 rupees per dose** for the state governments whereas **Private Hospitals** will have to **pay 600 rupees** for each dose.
- The announcement by the manufacturer of the **COVISHIELD vaccine** in India comes in light of the recent relaxation given by the Centre to accelerate the vaccination drive in the country.
- Under the new provisions the vaccine manufacturers and suppliers will be **selling 50 per cent** of their COVID vaccines to the Centre whereas the remaining 50 per cent will be given to **State governments and Private Hospitals in open market.**
- Serum Institute in a media statement released said that the new directive will help in scaling up the production of vaccines and will also ease its procurement by the **state administrations, private hospitals and vaccination centres.**

India's export of Agricultural and allied commodities expressed an impressive increase of 18.49 per cent during 2020-2021

- India has witnessed an impressive increase of almost **18.5 per cent in export of Agricultural and allied products** during **April 2020 to February 2021** as compared to the same period, the previous year.
- The country had witnessed **tremendous growth of 727 per cent in Wheat export and 132 per cent in Non-Basmati Rice export**, despite the prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Some other commodities that posted significant positive growth in exports include cereals, soya meal, spices, sugar, raw cotton, fresh vegetable, processed vegetables and alcoholic beverages.
- India took care not to disturb the world food supply chain and continued to export even during the pandemic.
- The export of Agricultural and allied commodities during **April 2020 to February 2021 was over Rs 2 lakh 70 thousand crore.**
- The imports of Agricultural and allied commodities during this period witnessed a slight increase of 2.93 per cent.
- During this period, despite COVID-19, the balance of trade in agriculture has favorably increased.

PM Modi declared India-US partnership on clean energy and climate change

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced a **US-India partnership on clean energy and climate change.**
- Addressing Leaders' Climate Summit, **Mr Modi** announced launch of India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership, which can be a **template of green collaborations to help developing countries** access to affordable green finance and clean technologies.
- Mr Modi said, together, we will help mobilize investments, demonstrate clean technologies, and enable green collaborations.
- Underlining that the concrete action is needed for **humanity to combat Climate Change**, he said, we need such action at a high speed, on a large scale, and with a global scope.
- The Prime Minister said, India's ambitious renewable energy target of **450 Gigawatts by 2030 shows our commitment.**
- Mr Modi said, despite our development challenges, we have taken many bold steps on clean energy, energy efficiency, afforestation and biodiversity.

Central Govt handles States and UTs to ensure free inter-state movement of oxygen-carrying vehicles

- The **Center has directed States and Union Territories** to ensure that there should be no restriction imposed on the movement of **Medical Oxygen between the States and transport authorities** shall be instructed to allow free inter-state movement of oxygen-carrying vehicles.
- **Union Home Secretary and Chairman of National Executive Committee Ajay Kumar Bhalla** have written a letter to Secretaries of Ministries and all the Chief Secretaries and Administrators of States and Union Territories in this regard.
- Mr Bhalla also directed to ensure that no authority shall attach the **oxygen-carrying vehicles** passing through the district or areas for making supplies specific to any particular district or areas.
- It said, there shall be free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles into the city, without any restriction of timing.

- Earlier, the Center had prohibited the **supply of Oxygen for industrial purposes** by manufacturers and suppliers from April 23 till further orders.
- However, this prohibition will not apply to the supply of oxygen for nine industries.
- These are Ampoules and Vials, Pharmaceutical, Petroleum refineries, Steel plants, Nuclear energy facilities, Oxygen cylinder manufacturers, Wastewater treatment plants, Food and water purification and Process industries which require uninterrupted operation of furnaces.

1st Oxygen Express with Liquid Medical Oxygen tankers - journey for Mumbai from Visakhapatnam

- The **first Oxygen Express with Liquid Medical Oxygen tankers** will start its journey for **Mumbai from Visakhapatnam tonight**.
- The Railway Ministry said, tankers filled with Liquid Medical Oxygen at Visakhapatnam are being transported through **Ro-Ro service of Railways**.
- The Ministry said, Railway is running Oxygen Express in response to its fight against COVID-19.
- **Another Oxygen Express** started its journey from **Lucknow to Bokaro** via Varanasi to fulfil the requirements of **Medical Oxygen in Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Ministry said, for the movement of the train, a green corridor was created between **Lucknow to Varanasi**.
- The distance of **270 Kilometre** was covered by the train in four hours 20 minutes with an **average speed of over 62 kilometre per hour**.
- Transportation of Oxygen through Trains is faster over long distances than road transport.

PM Modi greets US President Joe Biden for joining LeadIT

- The **US has joined the India-Sweden climate initiative**, the **Leadership Group for Industry Transition, LeadIT**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed **US President Joe Biden** for joining LeadIT.
- The Prime Minister said it will help us meet **Paris Agreement goals**, strengthen competitiveness and create new sustainable jobs.

Indian Navy processing the mission of 'Oxygen Express' to Island territories

- As part of the nation's fight against COVID 19, Indian Navy ships under Headquarters, Southern Naval Command at Kochi are progressing with the mission of **OXYGEN EXPRESS** in order to render support to the local administration of the **Union Territory of Lakshadweep (UTL)**.
- 25 Apr 21, INS Sharda, based at Kochi, undertook transfer of essential medical supplies to the capital of UTL, Kavaratti.
- The stores consisted of **35 Oxygen cylinders**, **Rapid Antigen Detection Test (RADT)** kits, **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**, masks and other items to fight the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The disembarkation of stores was coordinated by personnel from INS Dweeprakshak at Kavaratti.
- The ship then continued with her mission to the island of Minicoy for disembarkation of Oxygen cylinders and medical supplies.

EAM, Defence Minister announces grief over demise of nuclear scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** has expressed grief over the demise of an Indian nuclear scientist **Krishnamurthy Santhanam**.
- Dr Jaishankar said, K.Santhanam was deeply associated with **Defence Research and Development Organization**, Department of Atomic Energy and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- He said, Krishnamurthy Santhanam was a key figure in the **Pokhran -2, 1998** tests.
- Dr Jaishankar said he educated a generation in the **Ministry of External Affairs on technology** regimes and export controls.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has said that he is deeply anguished by the demise of **Dr. K. Santhanam**.
- Mr Singh said, he will be remembered for his remarkable efforts and contribution in the field of Science and Technology in India. He said, Dr. Santhanam was associated with institutions like **DRDO, DAE and IDSA**.
- Defence Minister said, his role in successful 1998 nuclear tests was noteworthy

Revised COVID-19 guidelines released for Ayurveda, Unani practitioners by Ministry of Ayush

- Responding to the need of fresh guidelines in the face of the emergence of the second wave of the pandemic, **Ministry of Ayush** released **revised guidelines for Ayurveda and Unani Practitioners** for COVID-19 Patients in Home Isolation and Ayurveda and Unani Preventive Measures for self-care during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- These Guidelines and Advisories were developed through an extensive consultative process by the **Empowered Committee within the Interdisciplinary Ayush Research and Development Task Force** setup by the Ministry of Ayush.
- The Ministry of Ayush issued an advisory on **29th January last year** on how to protect oneself from COVID-19 and how to stay healthy.
- In this context, the **Ministry of Ayush** has also promoted use of ready-made formulation like **AyushKwath Ayurveda** which is a simple admixture of four herbal ingredients.

Ministry of Steel said that Over 3,130 MTs of Liquid Medical oxygen supplied by steel Plants to various states

- **Ministry of Steel** has said that over **3,130 Metric Tonnes of Liquid Medical oxygen** was supplied by **steel Plants** to various states.
- It said that steel plants have been able to enhance the supply of liquid medical oxygen by taking various initiatives.
- This includes reduction in the **production of Nitrogen and Argon and production of only liquid medical oxygen in most plants**.
- The Ministry said that through continuous engagement with steel producers, safety stock of liquid medical oxygen of steel plants has been reduced to 0.5 days instead of the earlier 3.5 days.
- To facilitate faster movement of liquid medical oxygen, **the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** has directed that a certain number of nitrogen and argon tankers be converted to carry oxygen.
- **The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization** has issued permission for conversion.
- This will remove a major bottleneck in transporting oxygen to states.
- **Bhilai Steel Plant** is enhancing liquid oxygen production by **15 MT**.

- The Steel Ministry has said that similar directions have been given to other Central Public Sector Enterprises owned steel plants to explore the possibility of enhancing their capacity.

Indian Army inaugurates Ladakh Ignited Minds project

- **To provide better educational opportunities for Ladakhi students**, the Indian Army has initiated the project **Ladakh Ignited Minds**.
- A Centre of Excellence and Wellness.
- **On behalf of Indian Army, Fire and Fury Corps** has signed a couple of **MoUs** with partner **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and executing agency, a Kanpur based NGO, **National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO)**, in Leh.
- Our correspondent reports that the project is aimed at providing better training facilities to disadvantaged Ladakhi students to give them opportunity to study in niche educational institutes.
- In its continuous efforts to maintain cordial Civil and Defence relations and better future for Ladakhi youth, the **Indian Army began a project called, Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness, in Ladakh**.
- Fire and Fury Corps of Indian Army with the support of HPCL and execution agency NIEDO will provide a holistic training for Ladakhi youth.
- In the first batch, comprising **20 girls, 45 students from Leh and Kargil districts**, would get training for **JEE and NEET entrance examinations**.
- **Fire and Fury signed MoUs with HPCL's J&K Chief Regional Manager Mr. Prince Singh and NIEDO's CEO Dr. Rohit Srivastav** in the presence of the 14 Corps GoC Lt.Gen PGK Menon, Member of Parliament Jamyang.

Railways makes 4,000 Covid Care coaches with almost 64,000 beds

- **Railways** has made nearly **four thousand Covid Care coaches** with almost 64 thousand beds ready for use by States.
- Railway Ministry said, at present 169 coaches have been handed over to various states for Covid care.
- It has deployed Covid Care Coaches in **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi** to assist the states in view of rising corona cases in the country.
- In Delhi, Railways has catered to the full demand of State Governments' for 75 Covid Care coaches with a capacity of **one thousand 200 beds**.
- The Ministry said, 50 coaches are positioned at Shakurbasti and 25 Coaches at Anand Vihar stations.
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, ten coaches each are placed at Faizabad, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Bareilly and Nazibabad totalling to a capacity of **800 beds**.
- The Ministry said, new demand for Covid coaches have come from Nagpur District.
- In this direction, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Divisional Railway Manager, Nagpur and Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation.
- The Railways are also mobilising isolation Coaches at Ajni ICD area in Maharashtra as per the State demand.

Health Minister initiates blood donation camps at 13 different locations in four states

- **Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated **blood donation camps** at **13 different locations** in **Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh**.
- The blood donation camps are being organized by the Competent Foundation with the help of various associations, **NGOs and blood banks to fulfill the blood demand during COVID pandemic**.
- He appreciated the efforts of the foundation to organize blood donation camps with more strength and expansion for fulfilling the blood requirement due to COVID pandemic.
- **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** exhorted masses to at least donate blood once a year.
- He also said that in 2021, the country is better prepared mentally and physically with more experience to beat the COVID pandemic as compared to last year.
- The Minister appreciated the fact that this blood donation camp has been set up following all COVID protocols, guidelines and SOPs.

National Fertilizers Limited directs to set up four Oxygen plants

- **National Fertilizers Limited** has ordered the setting up of **four Oxygen plants**.
- These plants will be set up in government hospitals in Noida, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Bhopal.
- Each plant will have a capacity of **70 cylinders per day**.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund marks its applications cross Rs. 8,000 crore

- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund** has crossed the **eight thousand crore mark**.
- The investment will give a boost to several agricultural projects which will unlock value for farmers across the country.
- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has informed that a **total of eight thousand 665 applications** worth **eight thousand 216 crore rupees** have been received for the fund.
- The largest share of 58 per cent has been contributed by **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies** followed by agri-entrepreneurs and individual farmers.
- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has brought farmers and agri-businesses together with newer partnership models.
- The fund will facilitate medium and long-term debt financing facilities for investment in agricultural projects through interest subvention and credit guarantee.
- **Under the scheme, one lakh crore rupees** will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3 percent per annum and credit guarantee coverage for loans up to two Crore rupees.

Serum Institute of India drop the price of Covishield from Rs 400 to Rs 300 for states

- Serum Institute of India has dropped the price of **COVISHIELD** vaccine by **Rs 100** for the state government.
- **Serum's CEO Adar Poonawala** said that, as a philanthropic gesture, serum institute will provide COVISHIELD to states in **Rs 300** with immediate effect.
- This will save thousands of crores of state funds going forward.

- He said, this will enable more vaccinations and save countless lives.
- Serum had priced Covishield at **Rs 400 for state government** hospitals and **Rs 600 for private hospitals**.

PM Modi approved one lakh Portable Oxygen Concentrators under PM Cares Fund

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has sanctioned the procurement of **one lakh Portable Oxygen Concentrators from the PM Cares Fund**.
- The decision was taken at a **high-level meeting chaired by Mr. Modi** to discuss the measures needed to improve **Liquid Medical Oxygen Supply for COVID management**.
- The Prime Minister instructed that these Oxygen Concentrators should be procured at the earliest and provided in States with high case burden.
- In addition to the earlier sanctioned **713 Pressure Swing Adsorption, PSA oxygen plants under PM Cares Fund, 500 new PSA oxygen plants have been sanctioned under PM CARES Fund**.
- The PSA plants will augment the supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen at hospitals in district headquarters and Tier 2 cities.
- These **500 PSA plants** will be established with transfer of the indigenous technology developed by **DRDO** and CSIR to the domestic manufacturers.

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga conducts online Yoga training programmes

- **The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga** under **Ayush Ministry** is offering **online Yoga training programmes**.
- These online Yoga training programmes are **health-promoter and anxiety-relieving**.
- They offer a positive pathway to overcome the activity crisis faced by many people who are constrained to stay at home due to the pandemic.
- The [tide over physical and emotional constraints imposed by the pandemic.

Cabinet approves customs co-operation agreement with the UK

- The Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and the **United Kingdom on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters**.
- The agreement would provide a legal framework for sharing information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of the two countries.
- It would help in proper application of Customs laws, prevention and investigation of Customs offences and the facilitation of legitimate trade.
- The agreement takes care of **Indian Customs' concerns** and requirements, particularly in the area of exchange of information on the correctness of the Customs value, tariff classification and origin of the goods traded between the two countries.

Covaxin Prices for State govts reduced from 600 to 400 rupees

- **Bharat Biotech** reduced the cost of **COVAXIN** vaccine for State governments.

- It will now cost **400 rupees per dose for State Governments** instead of the earlier **announced price of 600 rupees per dose.**
- Bharat Biotech has said the decision has been taken recognizing enormous challenges being faced by the public health care system.
- The **COVAXIN will cost 1200 rupees per dose for Private Hospitals.**
- The price of vaccines for **export is 15 to 20 dollar.**
- Earlier, the price of Covishield vaccine for states was also **reduced from 400 to 300 rupees.**

NCW unveiled WhatsApp helpline number for pregnant women

- The **National Commission for Women** has launched a **WhatsApp helpline number for providing emergency medical assistance to pregnant women.**
- The number is **9354954224.**
- The move came after NCW noticed that pregnant women were facing difficulty in accessing medical aid.
- Expectant mothers from across the country can reach out to the Commission through this number which will be functional round the clock.
- A dedicated team is looking after **speedy redressal of grievances.**
- The commission can also be reached on the email **helpatncw@gmail.com.**

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad speak for India at G-7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting

- **Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad** represented India at the **G-7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting.**
- He spoke about India's efforts to bring digital inclusion and empower ordinary citizens through the use of technology under the **Digital India programme.**
- The Minister also shared India's views on ensuring trust in the digital ecosystem, securing data privacy of users and creating a safe cyberspace with the **G-7 Digital Ministers.**

Govt acquires over 258 lakh tonnes of Wheat benefiting more than 25 lakh farmers so far

- Government has said that the procurement of **Wheat in Rabi Marketing Season 2021-22** is going on smoothly in **States and Union Territories.**
- The Consumer Affairs Ministry said, over **258 lakh tonnes** of Wheat has been procured in the ongoing Rabi Marketing Season, benefitting **over 25 lakh farmers.**
- The procurement of Wheat has recently commenced in **Rabi Marketing Season** in the **States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, MadhyaPradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir at Minimum Support Price.**
- The Ministry said that Paddy procurement in the ongoing season **Kharif 2020-21** is continuing smoothly in the procuring States with purchase of over **715 lakh tonnes** of paddy against the last year corresponding purchase of 651 lakh tonnes.
- The Ministry said, more than one crore seven lakh farmers have already been benefited from the ongoing **Kharif Marketing Season procurement Operations with MSP value** of more than one lakh 35 thousand crore rupees.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launches NanoSniffer, a microsensor based explosive trace detector

- On April 09, 2021, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched NanoSniffer, the world's first Microsensor-based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD).
- It has been developed by NanoSniff Technologies.
- It is being marketed by Vehant Technologies, a spin-off from a former IIT Delhi incubated startup Kritikal Solutions.

NEP Implementation Plan for School Education

- On April 08, 2021, The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal chaired a high-level meeting on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy has developed an indicative and suggestive Implementation Plan for School Education, called 'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)'.

About SARTHAQ :

- SARTHAQ has been developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy to assist States and UTs with the goals and objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Revision Points

Portfolio	Union Minister	Constituency
Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Narendra Modi	Varanasi
Ministry of Defence	Rajnath Singh	Lucknow
Ministry of Home Affairs	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises	Nitin Gadkari	Nagpur
Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers	DV Sadananda Gowda	Bangalore North
Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution	Piyush Goyal (Additional charge)	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena
Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad	Patna Sahib

Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Narendra Singh Tomar (Additional charge)	Morena
Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Thaawar Chand Gehlot	RS
Ministry of External Affairs	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	RS (Gujarat)
Ministry of Human Resource Development	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Haridwar
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti
Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Dr Harsh Vardhan	Chandni Chowk
Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Prakash Javadekar	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines		Dharwad
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli
Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai

Important International News

EAM S Jaishankar make discussion with Tajikistan Defence Minister Colonel General Sherali Mirzo

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** held discussions with **Tajikistan Defence Minister Colonel General Sherali Mirzo**.
- The talks were held on the sidelines of the **Heart of Asia Ministerial conference in Dushanbe**.
- Dr Jaishankar said the discussions were focused on further strengthening defence and security cooperation between **India and Tajikistan**.

Vikram Misri, India's Ambassador to China interacts with representatives of Indian industry in Shanghai

- **India's Ambassador to China Vikram Misri** interacted with representatives of Indian industry in **Shanghai**.
- He will also launch **India@75 celebrations** in Shanghai.
- The event was attended by more than **30 representatives representing 8 sectors such as textiles, pharma, electronics, manufacturing, chemicals, IT, banking etc**.
- Ambassador Misri discussed the issues related to business risk in the **fluid current geopolitical scenario**.
- He also discussed the general issues faced by the businesses such as flights and visas for their **Indian employees who want to come back to China**.
- Amid a geopolitical tussle including tensions in technology and trade, with the western countries led by the **US, Chinese companies and businesses** are facing sanctions on various counts.
- China has also announced tit for tat sanctions, affecting the whole business environment.
- Amid the border tensions in Ladakh, India had tightened regulatory requirements last year for investments from China and **banned more than 200 Chinese apps** which were considered "**prejudicial to sovereignty, security of state and public order**".
- Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, global trade flows have been slowed, although there has still been strong demand for medical equipment and supplies which has largely contributed to **China becoming India's top trade partner in 2020**.

2000 Bangladeshi students to receive Muktijoddha Scholarships

- The **India Bangladesh** ties are historic and multi-dimensional.
- India is keen to support the national effort of Bangladesh for the betterment of their own people.
- In order to further the people to people ties between the two countries, India provides scholarships for the descendants of the **Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh**.
- The government of India has announced **scholarships to 2000 descendants of the**

BIMSTEC concludes Connectivity master plan for Bay of Bengal region

- The virtual meeting of the Foreign Ministers of **Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** grouping finalised a major Connectivity master plan for the Bay of Bengal region.

- The **seven-member regional grouping** namely **India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar** will take up the Master plan for transport connectivity for adoption in the next summit of the organization to be hosted by Sri Lanka in a few months from now.
- **The meeting also endorsed three MoUs/agreements** relating to convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters, cooperation between diplomatic and training academies and establishment of **BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility in Colombo**.
- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** expressed India's commitment to take the BIMSTEC to new heights.
- The connectivity master plan is the outcome of more than a decade of consultations among the member states.
- The study conducted by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2007 and 2014**, identified **166 connectivity projects** at an estimated cost of **USD 50 billion** out of which **65 projects** were identified as priority projects.

Spicy, Juicy, Lip-smacking Good Indian Food at 7 day long India Food Week in Beijing

- **Any Indian Food Festival is every foodie's heaven!** It's not just about eating but to have an experience.
- Beijingers got another opportunity to experience the soul of India, this time through its food as they flocked to the **7 day-long Indian Food Week** organized at a five-star hotel in Beijing which concluded.
- Indians, Chinese and foreigners of other nationalities alike savored diverse delicacies, anecdotal **Indian masala tea, Indian chaat, panipuris and chowmein along with delectable desserts like kulfi**.
- There was something for everyone.
- There was a special counter for Salads which offered a **variety of salads**.
- Live counters were a special attraction which allowed the foodies to adjust the taste as per their choice.
- Beautifully decorated food stalls presented dishes from different Indian states giving a glimpse of **mini-India** to the visitors.
- Indian in plenty, they not only enjoyed the food but also got a glimpse of India's culture and its diversity through a range of tastes on their plates.
- They said, there is no better way to experience the soul of India than trying out its **variety of food on offer**.

Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov came to New Delhi for two-day visit to India

- **Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov** will begin a **two-day visit to India**.
- The visit will present an opportunity to discuss aspects of bilateral ties and review preparations for the pending **India-Russia annual summit** later this year.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi** had said that the visit will be a unique opportunity to discuss **important aspects of our bilateral ties**, also to review preparations for the next India Russia annual summit and also perhaps 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.

Three Rafale fighter jets - Fourth batch land in India from France

- The fourth batch of three **IAF Rafales** landed in India on March 31, 2021, after a direct ferry from **Istres Air Base in France**.
- These Rafales were refuelled **mid-air by UAE Air Force tankers**.
- **Five extra Rafale jets** are scheduled to be ferried to India by the end of April 2021.
- With this new arrival of the three jets, the total Rafale fleet with **Indian Air Force** has increased to 14.

Russia Become World's First Covid-19 Vaccine For Animals - 'Carnivac-Cov'

- **Russia** has become the **first country** in the world to register the coronavirus vaccine for animals.
- The vaccine, called '**Carnivac-Cov**', would be able to **protect vulnerable species and thwart viral mutations**.
- Carnivac-Cov is the world's first & the only anti-**#COVID_19 vaccine for animals**.

PM Modi with Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan inaugurate range of Indian projects in Seychelles

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan** will jointly inaugurate a range of **Indian projects in Seychelles** virtually.
- The high level event will feature **joint e-inauguration** of the new Magistrates' Court Building, and handing over of a Fast Patrol Vessel to Seychelles Coast Guard.
- It also includes handing over of a **Solar Power Plant and inauguration of 10 High Impact Community Development Projects**.
- The **new Magistrates' Court Building** in the capital city Victoria is **India's first major civil infrastructure project** in Seychelles built with grant assistance.
- It is a state of the art building which will substantially enhance the capacity of the Seychelles judicial system and aid in better delivery of judicial services.
- The **Fast Patrol Vessel**, which is a modern and fully equipped naval ship, has been made in India and is being gifted to Seychelles under Indian grant assistance to strengthen its maritime surveillance capabilities.

PM Modi holds Virtual Summit with his Netherlands counterpart

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will hold a **Virtual Summit** with his **Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte**.
- During the Summit, the two leaders will discuss in detail the **bilateral cooperation and look at new ways of strengthening the relationship**.
- They will also exchange views on the regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- The Summit follows the recent victory of Prime Minister Rutte in the parliamentary elections and will sustain the momentum in the bilateral relationship provided by **regular high-level interactions**.
- India and the Netherlands share cordial and friendly relations underpinned by shared values of democracy, rule of law and freedom.
- The Netherlands is home to the largest Indian diaspora in continental Europe.

ICCR Foundation Day marked at Indian Embassy in Seoul

- **ICCR Foundation Day** was celebrated at **Indian Embassy in Seoul** also.

- **Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan**, highlighted the role of ICCR in promotion of Cultural Diplomacy and India's Soft Power.
- She said, over the years, ICCR has worked to propagate an image of India that augments its natural historical appeal, boosting cultural diplomacy and foreign policy" mentioned Ambassador Ranganathan.
- **Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR** noted, "During the last over 6 years, ICCR has received a new thrust under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has shown keen interest to build onto India's 'soft' power strengths".

Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' to be unveiled in Bangladesh

- A **Sanskrit learning app** will be launched in Bangladesh by the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC)** of the **High Commission of India**.
- The Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the **Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)** to promote Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists and historians across the world.
- The Sanskrit learning app '**Little Guru**' is based on an interactive platform which will make Sanskrit learning easy, entertaining and fun.
- This app will help people who are already learning Sanskrit or those who are desirous to learn Sanskrit to do so in an easy manner based on games, competition, rewards, peer to peer interactions, etc.
- This App combines education with entertainment, said a press release issued by the High Commission of India.

"Little Guru" app launched at Indian Embassy in Beijing

- The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** celebrated its **71st Foundation Day**.
- **Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre at Indian Embassy in Beijing** celebrated ICCR Foundation Day in the presence of a huge gathering of ICCR scholars in China and their disciples who learnt Indian dance and music.
- The ICCR has unveiled '**Little Guru**' app, **world's first Gamified Sanskrit learning App** which was **jointly launched in Beijing by Ambassador Vikram Misri and renowned Chinese scholar on Sanskrit and India studies, Professor Wang Bangwei**.
- Many Sanskrit Professors from Peking University and the students were also present.
- **Ambassador Vikram Misri** highlighted ICCR's role in promoting cultural, academic, and intellectual exchanges between India and the rest of the world.
- He said nearly **300 students in China** in the last few years have availed ICCR scholarships and hoped that more Chinese students will avail of these scholarships.
- Appreciating the launch of the Sanskrit Guru App, Prof. Wang said that outside India, China has a very long history of Sanskrit research along with studies on Buddhism.
- He said, Sanskrit is a basic language of **Indian culture and heritage** and a way to introduce Indian culture to people adding that **India and Chinese** scholars can collaborate in this field to deepen understanding between the two peoples.

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan unveils construction of trans-border trade center

- **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan** have launched the construction of an **international center for trade and economic cooperation** named 'Central Asia' on the borders of the two countries, the Uzbek Government.
- **Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov and his Kazakh counterpart Askar Mamim**, laid a capsule at the construction site of the logistic centre, which is located in the vicinity of the **border check post Gisht Kuprik**.
- According to a News release on Kazakh Prime Minister's official website, the center, which occupies **400 hectares of land**, will have a capacity of accommodating **35,000 people** and 5,000 trucks per day in both directions.
- The center is intended to become a large industrial, trade and logistics platform for the implementation of joint investment projects of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the news release said.
- It added that the most promising areas of industrial cooperation are the manufacturing sector, agro-industrial complex and light industry.
- Kazakhstan is Uzbekistan's third largest trade partner after China and Russia.

EAM Jaishankar meet and talk with French counterpart in New Delhi

- **French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian** arrived in New Delhi on a **three day visit to India**.
- During the visit, Mr Le Drian will hold talks with **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- The visiting dignitary will call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- He will also meet **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar** at a panel discussion on Climate Change.
- **Mr Le Drian** will also participate in the **Raisina Dialogue**.
- He is scheduled to visit Bengaluru also.
- India and France enjoys a strategic partnership since 1998 which has been marked by regular high level exchanges and growing cooperation in diverse areas.
- Mr Le Drian's visit will pave the way for further strengthening of the partnership across trade, defence, climate, migration and mobility, education and health sectors in the post-Covid context.

Air Force chief RKS Bhadauria on a five day visit to France for defence cooperation

- Marking the continuity of growing **bilateral defence cooperation with the French Air and Space Force, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria** left for **France** on a **five day official visit**.
- 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 hold meetings and discussions with senior military leadership of France and visit operational facilities and air bases.
- The two Air Forces have seen significant operational interaction in the recent past.

Australia opens travel bubble with New Zealand - first time in more than a year

- Tearful reunions filled Auckland airport as **Australia** opened the travel **bubble with New Zealand** for the first time in more than a year.
- The long-awaited **Australia-New Zealand travel bubble means visitors no longer need to quarantine on arrival.**
- Thousands of passengers were booked to fly between the two nations.
- Both countries have contained COVID outbreaks and kept infection rates low, largely due to tight restrictions.
- **Italy initiates First ever mega Food Park & Food processing unit in India**
- **Italy** has launched its **first ever mega food park project in India**, comprising of food processing facilities, in a bid to further strengthen ties between the two nations.
- The pilot project named “**The Mega Food Park**” was launched virtually on April 17, 2021 at **Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat.**
- The project will develop a synergy between agriculture and industry of both countries, besides focusing on the research and development of newer, efficient technologies in the sector.

India, US to correlate efforts for stability in Afghanistan

- **India and the US** will coordinate their efforts for **stability in Afghanistan.**
- **US State Department spokesperson Ned Price** said that **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** and his **US counterpart Anthony Blinken** have agreed that the two nations will coordinate on efforts to promote stability in Afghanistan.
- Washington and NATO have announced to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan.
- Price said Mr Blinken spoke to Dr Jaishankar to reaffirm the importance of the US-India relationship and cooperation on regional security issues.
- State Department spokesperson said, the two leaders agreed on close and frequent coordination in support of a lasting peace and development for the **people of Afghanistan.**
- Other issues discussed between the two leaders include the restoration of democracy in Myanmar, Covid-19 and climate change, for which President Joe Biden is convening a global summit.
- Dr Jaishankar said that their conversation covered recent developments in India's immediate and extended neighbourhood, health cooperation and UNSC agenda.

India-EU Leaders' Meeting in virtual format scheduled on May 8th

- The **India-EU Leaders' Meeting** will be held in a virtual format on 8th of next month.
- **MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi** said, in view of the COVID-19 situation, it has been decided to hold the meeting virtually in consultation with the EU and Portuguese leadership.
- He said, the **India-EU Leaders' Meeting in the EU27 format**, the first time that such a meeting is being held, reflects the shared ambition of both sides to further deepen the **Strategic Partnership.**

Webinar-cum-Expo conducted between Ministry of Defence and Ministry of National Defence Vietnam

- A **webinar cum expo** was organized between the **Ministry of Defence and Ministry of National Defence Vietnam.**

- The **theme of the webinar was India - Vietnam Defence Cooperation**.
- **Various Indian companies** such as Bharat Electronics Limited, Bharat Forge, Economic Explosives Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Goa Shipyards Limited, HBL Power Systems, Larsen and Toubro Limited, Mahindra Defence, MKU, SMPP, Tata Advanced Systems made company and product presentations. Thirty-seven companies set up virtual exhibition stalls in the expo.
- **Ambassador of India to Vietnam Pranay Verma**, Chief of General Department of Defence Industries Vietnam Lieutenant General **Tran Hong Minh** and other senior officials from both sides participated in the webinar.

India's demographic advantage to overtake China's by 2035, reported by China's central bank

- **China's demographic transition** owing particularly to its stricter birth policies has grappled it with the problem of ageing population and dwindling work-force.
- A report released by the **People's Bank of China (PBOC), China's central bank**, said that China should immediately liberalize its birth policies to tackle the problems of an ageing population and plan to compete economically with a demographically **young India and an immigration-friendly US**.
- In a detailed section on India, the report said the gap between the two countries is narrowing.
- As two big countries in Asia, China's economic growth has been faster than India's for a long time but in recent years, China's demographic dividend fading, India's economic growth has tended to approach **China's, the report said**.
- In a rare frank assessment, it added that China's ageing population and the declining birth rate will become more serious in 10 years while India's demographic structure will be further optimised.

Nine Bangladeshis in Forbes 30 under 30 lists of innovators in 10 industries for Asia

- **Nine Bangladeshis** feature in the **Forbes 30 under 30 lists of innovators in 10 industries for Asia**.
- Forbes announced its **6th annual 30 under 30 Asia list for 2021 featuring 300 young entrepreneurs, leaders and trailblazers across Asia**.
- The list includes people who are finding new opportunities amidst the challenging environment brought out by the COVID pandemic.
- The nine Bangladeshis have been included under the categories enterprise technology, social impact and retail and e-commerce.
- Earlier, between 2016 till 2020 nine Bangladeshis were listed in the Forbes 30 under 30 lists for Asia.
- **Shehzad Noo Taus Priyo and Motasim Bir Rahman** co-founded Gaze which builds API for visual recognition with AI supporting features.
- The **AWARENESS 360** is an **NGO** founded by **Shomy Chowdhury and Rijve Arefin** which works on personal hygiene issues like hand washing, sanitation etc.
- Ahmed Imtiaz Jami has supported 1 million people to help overcome poverty.
- It has provided support for education, health and nutrition through the **NGO OBHIZATRIK**.
- **Morin Talukder's e-commerce venture Pickaboo** lists quality products and helps in fast delivery of products.

- Mir Sakib's startup company Cramstack helps industries with natural language driven search interfaces to analyse and visualise data.
- The list is announced for ten categories including arts, entertainment and sports, Finance and venture capital, media, marketing and advertising, enterprise technology, social impact and consumer technology among others.
- Each category lists 30 young individuals **under 30 years** of age making their mark in the respective categories.
- The list was compiled through a rigorous process of selection from more than **2500 online nominations**, said the Forbes.

Chinese President Xi Jinping took part in US-led Climate Summit

- **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, Xie Zhenhua**, 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.

Myanmar Army Chief took part in ASEAN meeting in Jakarta

- The **Head of the Military government of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing** will embark on his first foreign visit after the **coup to Indonesia to participate in the ASEAN leaders meeting**.
- Quoting diplomats and officials in Jakarta, the Reuters reported that **seven Southeast Asian leaders from the 10 nation ASEAN grouping** are likely to take part in the summit meeting called to discuss the crisis caused by the military takeover of the government on February 1.
- **Thailand and the Philippines** announced that they will send their Foreign Ministers for the meeting.
- The ASEAN meeting is the first concerted international effort to find a solution to the crisis where at least **739 protestors** have been killed since the protests began after the military take over on **February 1**.

EU plans to set global standards for AI

- The **European Commission** announced tough draft rules on the use of **artificial intelligence**, including a ban on most surveillance, in an attempt to **set global standards** for a key technology dominated by China and the United States.
- The rules, which envisage hefty fines for violations and set strict safeguards for **high-risk applications**, could help the **EU take the lead in regulating AI**, which critics say has harmful social effects and can be exploited by repressive governments.
- The move comes as **China moves ahead in the AI race**, while the Covid-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of algorithms and internet-connected gadgets in daily life.

- "On artificial intelligence, trust is a must, not a nice to have.
- With these landmark rules, the EU is spearheading the development of new global norms to make sure AI can be trusted," **European tech chief Margrethe Vestager** said in a statement.

UK now ready to consider digital currency 'Bitcoin'

- **British authorities** are exploring the possibility of creating a **new digital currency** that **Treasury chief Rishi Sunak** indicated could be **known as Bitcoin**".
- **The Bank of England and the Treasury** said that they will work together to assess the benefits of a central bank digital currency, at a time when cash payments are generally on the decline, partly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The bank said the **new currency**, if it comes to pass, would be a new form of digital money for use by households and businesses and would exist alongside **cash and bank deposits**, rather than replacing them.
- Digital currencies, which are only available in digital or electronic form, are already being explored or even implemented in several other countries, with many proponents drawing inspiration from the **success of Bitcoin and other so-called cryptocurrencies**.

Sichuan Airlines does a "U-Turn" - plan to resume cargo services to India

- **China's state-run Sichuan Airlines** retracted its **announcement to suspend the cargo flights to India** taking crucial supplies like oxygen concentrators to India after it created controversy.
- In a **"U-Turn"** within hours of the cancellation, it said that it was working out a **new plan** to resume the services as reported by the state media.
- A logistics arm under Sichuan Airlines said that it was discussing a new plan to resume cargo services to India, as the country has been going through COVID-19 resurgence, state media reported.
- The sudden cancellation by Sichuan Airlines against the backdrop of China's offer for assistance to India in COVID management caused embarrassment for Chinese government.
- **Prasar Bharati Correspondent in Beijing reported** that, Chinese Foreign Ministry did not comment on the cancellation at the regular press briefing.
- Instead, it suggested checking with the company concerned.

US President Joe Biden announced to provide assistance to India to deal with COVID-19 pandemic

- **US President Joe Biden** assured **to provide assistance to India to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic**.
- Mr. Biden said he spoke with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and pledged America's full support to provide emergency assistance and resources in the fight against COVID-19.
- He said, India was there for America, and America will be there for India.

WHO Launches global immunization strategy to save 50 million lives by 2030

- **A UN-led global immunization strategy** was unveiled to reach **more than 50 million children** who have missed lifesaving jabs against measles and other diseases because of COVID-19 disruption.

- **WHO, along with UNICEF and the vaccine alliance Gavi**, said their **new global strategy** has the potential to save 50 million lives within less than a decade.
- **WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said, to avoid multiple outbreaks of life-threatening diseases like measles, yellow fever and diphtheria, it must be ensured that routine vaccination services are protected in every country in the world.
- A WHO survey showed more than one third of countries were still seeing disruptions to their routine immunization services.
- The joint statement said, around 60 mass vaccination campaigns were currently postponed in 50 countries, putting 228 million people, mostly children, at risk of diseases such as measles and polio.

PM Modi thanked Japan for provide the Covid-19 assistance

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga** discussed cooperation in key areas, including creating resilient supply chains and ensuring reliable supply of critical materials, to overcome challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- During a phone conversation, the two leaders discussed the Covid-19 situation in each other's country and close **India-Japan cooperation to overcome regional and global challenges** due to the pandemic.
- Such bilateral cooperation includes "working together to create resilient, diversified and trustworthy supply chains, ensuring reliable supply of critical materials and technologies, and developing new partnerships in manufacturing and skill development", the external affairs ministry said in a readout.

Revision Points

Country	Capital	Currency	Head
Georgia	Tbilisi	Lari	Irakli Garibashvili
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Sheikh Hasina
Japan	Tokyo	Yen	Yoshihide Suga
China	Beijing	Renminbi	Xi Jinping
UK	London	Pound Sterling	Boris Johnson
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	Somoni	Kokhir Rasulzoda
Nepal	Kathmandu	Rupee	K.P.Sharma Oli
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum	Lotay Tshering
Sri Lanka	Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte	Rupee	Mahinda Rajapaksa
Thailand	Bangkok	Baht	Prayut Chan-o-cha
Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw	Kyat	Aung San Suu Kyi

Russia	Moscow	Ruble	Vladimir Putin
France	Paris	Euro	Emmanuel Macron
Seychelles	Victoria	Rupee	Wavel Ramkalawan
Netherlands	Amsterdam	Euro	Mark Rutte
Israel	Jerusalem	Shekel	Reuven Rivlin
Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan	Tenge	Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	So'm	Shavkat Mirziyoyev
Australia	Canberra	Dollar	Scott Morrison
Italy	Rome	Euro	Sergio Mattarella
USA	Washington, D.C.	Dollar	Joe Biden
Afghanistan	Kabul	Afghani	Ashraf Ghani
Vietnam	Hanoi	Dong	Nguyen Xuan Phuc
Kosovo	Pristina	Euro	Vjosa Osmani
Niger	Niamey	CFA Franc	Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou
Pakistan	Islamabad	Rupee	Arif Alvi
Cuba	Havana	Peso	Miguel Díaz-Canel
Haiti	Port-au-Prince	Gourde	Jovenel Moïse
Germany	Berlin	Euro	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
New Zealand	Wellington	Dollar	Jacinda Ardern
Brazil	Brasilia	Real	Jair Bolsonaro
Taiwan	Taipei	Dollar	Tsai Ing-wen
Portugal	Libson	Euro	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
Iran	Tehran	Rial	Hassan Rouhani
Rwanda	Kigali	Franc	Édouard Ngirente
Ireland	Dublin	Euro	Micheál Martin
Sweden	Stockholm	Krona	Stefan Löfven
Spain	Madrid	Euro	Pedro Sánchez
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	Manat	Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow
Norway	Oslo	Krone	Erna Solberg
Denmark	Copenhagen	Krone	Mette Frederiksen
Austria	Vienna	Euro	Alexander Van der Bellen
Finland	Helsinki	Euro	Sauli Niinistö
Iceland	Reykjavík	Krona	Guðni Th. Jóhannesson
Zimbabwe	Harare	US Dollar	Emmerson Mnangagwa

Singapore	Singapore City	Dollar	Halimah Yacob
Madagascar	Antananarivo	Ariary	Andry Rajoelina

Important Appointments

National Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Subhash Kumar	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (Additional charge)	Shashi Shanker
Mukhmeet S. Bhatia	Director General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation	Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
Manjinder Singh	Chief of Staff, Headquarters Western Command.	
Dr. Urjit Patel	Additional Director of Britannia Industries	
Khushru Jijina	Executive Director, Piramal Enterprises Ltd (PEL)	Managing Director, Piramal Capital
Mallika Srinivasan	Chairperson, Public Enterprises Selection Board	Chairman and Managing Director, Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd
Subhash Kumar	Chairman and Managing Director, ONGC (Additional Charge)	ONGC's Finance Director
Shivashankarappa S Sahukar (Member, KPSC)	Chairman, Karnataka Public Service Commission	Shadakshari Swamy
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador, Digit Insurance	
Justice N V Ramana	48th Chief Justice of India	SA Bobde
Ajai Seth	Economic Affairs Secretary	Tarun Bajaj (Revenue Secretary)
S Ramann	Chairman and Managing Director, Small Industries Development Bank of India	He is the CEO of National E-Governance Services Ltd,
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador, Vivo	

KN Selvakumar	Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS).	Appointed by Tamil Nadu Governor and Chancellor Banwarilal Purohit
Subha Tatavarti	Chief Technology Officer, Wipro	
BP Acharya	Advisor, National Animal Resource Facility for BioMedical Research	Appointed by Indian Council of Medical Research
Sushil Chandra	Chief Election Commissioner of India	Sunil Arora
Vivek Kanade	Managing Director Operations, Siemens Healthcare India	
Kalpana Sampat	Managing Director and CEO, Pramerica Life Insurance	She was the CEO for Swiss Reinsurance Co, India branch
K. Madhavan	President, Walt Disney Company India and Star India	Uday Shankar
Poonam Gupta (First woman director general of NCAER)	Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	Shekhar Shah
Jyothi Biju Nair	Deputy General Manager, IDBI Bank	Pawan Agrawal
Krishna Prasad	Group Editorial Officer, The Hindu Group Publishing Pvt. Ltd	
Ajai Seth	Economic Affairs Secretary, Finance Ministry	Tarun Bajaj
Manish Sisodia	Nodal Minister for Covid-19 situation - Delhi	
Rajeev Srivastava	Head - Products and Business Development, HDFC securities	
Atanu Chakraborty	Part time Chairman, HDFC Bank	
Rekha M Menon (Head, Accenture India)	First woman Chairperson, Nasscom	Pravin Kumar Rao, (Chief Operating Officer at Infosys)
M M Murugappan	Non-executive chairman, Cyient	B V R Mohan Reddy (Former Chairman of Nasscom and president of HYSEA)
Neeraj Dhawan	Managing Director, Experian India	

Ernst & Young	Digital consultant, Indian Overseas Bank	
GC Murmu	External auditor, India's Comptroller and Auditor General	
Roland Bouchara	CEO & MD, Roland Bouchara	
James Gerard Ryan	President – Controls & Cables Global Operations (except India), Suprajit Engineering	
Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor	Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court	
T V Somanathan	Finance Secretary	He is the Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry
Vaishali S Hiwase (First woman Officer Executive Engineer)	Officer Commanding of a Road Construction Company	Appointed by Border Roads Organisation
Milind Kulkarni	Chief Technical officer, Vikram Solar	
Niraj Bajaj	Chairman, Bajaj Auto	Rahul Bajaj

International Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Pham Minh Chinh	Vietnam's next Prime Minister	
Yongsung Kim	Head of global sales and distribution, Ola Electric	
Aravind Viswanathan	Chief Financial Officer, Tanla Platforms Limited	Senior Vice-President and CFO – iDEAS Global Business Line, Wipro
Vjosa Osmani	President, Kosovo	
Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou	Prime Minister, Niger	Brigi Rafini
Smriti Mathur	Senior Director and Head of People Organisation in India, Pegasystems Inc.,	
Bui Thanh Son	Foreign Minister of Vietnam	

Shaukat Tareen	Finance minister, Pakistan	Appointed by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan
Deepika Bhan	President – Packaged Foods, Tata Consumer Products	
Miguel Díaz-Canel	Elected President, Cuba	Raúl Castro
Martin Uhlarik	Global Design Head, Tata Motors	He had joined Tata Motors back in 2016 as the Head of Design in the UK
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Executive Chairperson, Biocon Ltd
Olusegun (Segun) Ogunsanya	MD & CEO, Airtel Africa	Raghunath Mandava
Amitabh Chaudhry	MD & CEO, Axis Bank	

Resignation/Retirement

Name of the Person	Designation
Jeh Wadia	Managing director, Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company
BP Kanungo (Retired)	RBI deputy governor
Byung Tae Yea	CEO, SsangYong Motor
Joseph Jouthe	Prime Minister, Haiti
BVR Mohan Reddy	Founder and Executive Chairman of Cyient

DDMA appointed senior bureaucrats as nodal officials to oversee oxygen supply

- Amid shortage of medical oxygen in several hospitals across the city, the DDMA appointed two senior bureaucrats as nodal officers to ensure smooth movement of tankers and facilitate oxygen supply to city hospitals.
- It has also directed the Delhi Police to provide security to the tankers from manufacturers' sites to various health facilities here.
- The move comes hours after Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged that the police officials in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana were blocking oxygen transport to the national capital, and urged the Centre to ensure normal supply even if that meant taking the help of paramilitary forces.

Haryana State Govt appointed HSIIDC MD Anurag Agrawal & Director MSME, Dr. Vikas Gupta for mapping of liquid oxygen manufacturing plants

- **Haryana Government** has appointed the **Managing Director of Haryana State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Anurag Agrawal and Director, MSME, Dr. Vikas Gupta** for mapping of liquid oxygen manufacturing plants and monitoring their production and diversion to **medical use**.
- **Mr Anurag Aggarwal** will be responsible for Industrial Estates and **Dr Vikas Gupta** for the rest of the State for mapping of liquid oxygen manufacturing plants and monitoring their production and diversion to medical use.
- Giving this information the government spokesperson informed that the **Ministry of Home Affairs under the Disaster Management Act, 2005** had issued directions that the use of liquid oxygen is not allowed for any non-medical purpose and that all units manufacturing liquid oxygen shall maximize their production and make it available to the Government for medical purposes only with immediate effect and until further orders.

Guidance Bureau Executive Director appointed for monitor Covid hospitals

- In a bid to monitor preventive measures taken against the spread of **Covid-19**, the **State government** has appointed **Dr Darez Ahamed**, Executive Director of Guidance Bureau, to monitor private healthcare institutions, Covid hospitals, medical college hospitals and listed hospitals which have the coverage of **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme** in and around Chennai, along with **MA Siddique, Secretary of Commercial Taxes**, who has been nominated as special coordinator for Greater Chennai Corporation.

Important Awards and Honours

Winner	Prize	Awarded By/Theme/Purpose
Super Star Rajinikanth	51st Dadasaheb Phalke Awards	
Biswa Bhusan Harichandan (Andhra Pradesh Governor)	Kalinga Ratna award	Instituted by Sarala Sahitya Sansad
Professor Suman Chakraborty	30th GD Birla Award	By the K. K. Birla Foundation
Ramanathapuram Forest Range Officer S Sathish	International Ranger Award	By the IUCN, WCPA, IRF, Global Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Allies.
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	ICC 'Player of the Month' award for Marc	
Chloe Zhao	Top prize at the Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards	For her feature film "Nomadland" (First Asian woman to win the trophy)

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	Indian Society for Training & Development award	For Innovative Training Practices 2019-20
Kane Williamson	Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for the fourth time	Claimed the award, along with the International Test Player of the Year and the Redpath Cup
Vajrala VL Narasimha Rao	Mana Telugu Tejam National Legendary Award	Legal Service
Roberto Benigni	Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement Award	At the 78th Venice International Film Festival
One Million for One Billion (1M1B) Foundation	Lead Z Teacher Awards	
Marathi film "Puglya"	Best Foreign Language Feature award	At Moscow International Film Festival, 2021
Rumana Sinha Sehgal	Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021	By the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace
Geevarghese Mar Coorilos Metropolitan (Diocese of Mumbai)	Golden Lantern Award	
Absolute Proof	2021 Razzie Awards (Worst movies and performances of the year)	Pro-Donald Trump film bagged the worst acting title for Lindell
Pramod Payyannur	Thilakan award	For his cultural mission 'Theatrum Farme'
Kovai.co	Bootstrapped SaaS startup of the Year	By SaaSBoomi at the inaugural edition of SaaSBoomi awards.
Biocon Biologics' New Monoclonal Antibodies Manufacturing Facility	ISPE's 2021 Facility of the Year Honorable Mention Award	

CM K Chandrasekhar Rao congratulates winners of panchayat awards

- Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao felicitated village, mandal, and zilla parishad members, who bagged the **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) awards**.
- Among those felicitated at **Pragathi Bhavan** included Parlapally (Karimnagar district) **Sarpanch M Bharathi**, Haridas Nagar (Rajanna-Sircilla) **Sarpanch T Amrutha**, Malyala (Siddipet) **Sarpanch D Vajravva**, Mittapelli (Siddipet) **Sarpanch Vanga Laxmi**, Ruyyadi (Adilabad) **Sarpanch P Pothareddy**, Chakrapur (Mahbubnagar) **Sarpanch K Sailaja**, Sundilla (Peddapalli) **Sarpanch Dasari Laxmi**, and Mohinikunta (Rajanna Sircilla) **Sarpanch Kalvakuntla**

Vanaja.Korutla (Jagtial district) **MPP Thota Narayana**, Dharmaram (Peddapalli) **MPP Mutyala Karuna**, Sangareddy
Zilla Parishad

Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy to honour best performing volunteers With awards

- **Elaborate arrangements** have been made for **honouring gram and ward volunteers** with **Seva Mitra, Seva Ratna and Seva Vajra Awards on the eve of Ugadi**.
- **Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** will present the awards to the best performing volunteers at an award ceremony organized at **Murali Resorts in Poranki of Penamaluru Constituency near Vijayawada**.
- **Special Chief Secretary** (Village and Ward Secretariats department) **Ajay Jain** will give introduction to the award ceremony followed by screening of a short documentary on the volunteers.
- The Chief Minister will address the gathering and launch cash incentive distribution and release a booklet.
- The objective of the awards is to recognize the efforts and services rendered by the village and ward volunteers and encourage them to do better.
- A total 2,22,900 volunteers under three categories will be felicitated.

Education Minister RP 'Nishank' give out AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment to winners

- **Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** presented the **AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment** to the winners in New Delhi.
- Mr Pokhriyal welcomed the initiative of **All India Council for Technical Education, AICTE** for instituting the **Lilawati Awards** and stressed that such innovative steps shall be a great motivation for girls to join higher education.
- He said, this initiative will pave a path towards equality in education and innovation for women.
- He also informed that the Government has launched the **Udaan scheme** which aims to **enable girls of weaker socio-economic status** at school level to gain access to higher education.
- He said, the government has also started **Pragati Yojana** to give young women opportunity to further their technical education.
- The **Education Minister** highlighted that the **new National Educational Policy** has greatly emphasized on gender equality and students should participate in such initiatives to promote women empowerment.
- Based on the theme '**Women Empowerment**', AICTE finalized the winners from a total of 456 entries who competed across **6 sub themes, which include, Women's Health, Self-Defense, Sanitation and Hygiene, Literacy, Women Entrepreneurship and Legal Awareness**.

BAFTA Awards 2021: 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom' picks two awards

- The unconventional 74th edition of the **British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs)** held its **first of two ceremonies on April 10**, with the second one scheduled for the subsequent day.
- **'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom'** was the big winner on the opening night, taking home two golden masks.
- According to Variety, the first night of the 2021 BAFTAs, which was hosted virtually from **London's Royal Albert Hall** by TV and BBC radio presenter **Clara Amfo**, was a mostly craft-centered affair that also yielded wins for **'Mank', 'Tenet' and 'Sound of Metal'**.

- During the ceremony, eight primarily craft-focussed awards were handed out, including casting, costume, makeup and hair, production design, sound, special visual effects, British short film, and British short animation.
- The remaining awards -- including the performance and best film categories will be handed out on the second night.

Six firms for investment deals selects by Indywood Startup Awards 2021

- **Six firms for investment deals** selects by **Indywood Startup Awards 2021**
- These include **education startup** (Futuristic Skill Training Provider) - RobotGuru Education Technologies Pvt Ltd; **technology startup** (Advanced Marine Technology Provider) - EyeROV (IROV Technologies Private Limited); **social impact startup** - AllAbout Innovations (Wolf), **innovative startup**- iBoson Improvements Non-public Restricted; **promising startup** (e-commerce platform for do-it-yourself manufacturers) – Garga M-Commerce, and **schooling startup** (On-line Educating Resolution Supplier) – Tutorhow Scientific Edutech Pvt Ltd.
- As many as 20 startups have been recognized and honoured on the maiden version of **Indywood Startup Awards 2021**, organized by **Aries Worldwide Maritime Analysis Institute** powered by Indywood Billionaires Membership.
- **Indywood Billionaires Membership startup awards 2021** present enterprise collaboration alternatives to excellent startups that construct modern merchandise and options and have excessive potential to generate wealth, employment and show measurable social influence.
- In addition to providing organizations an opportunity to pitch their merchandise in the entrance of traders, AIMRI would additionally open incubation prospects for deserving tasks.

FICCI HR score 2021 Awards conferred

- **FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council in association with IIM-Trichy** hosted the first-ever **Awards ceremony** which felicitated the **HR Managers** and the team who had excelled in their fields.
- The event saw the participation from hundreds of companies and the winners were announced.
- **Awards were given for** SME Best HR Practices, SME Best HR Leader, Large Corporates Best HR Executive, Large Corporates Best HR Manager, Large Corporates Best HR Leader, 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 (Banking) and Lifetime Achievement Award.

AP panchayat raj department conferred 17 awards

- The **State Panchayat Raj department** has bagged **17 awards** announced by the **Union Panchayat Raj Ministry**.
- The **awards are under different categories**, including Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Purashkar, Gram Panchayat Development Plans, Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award and e-Panchayat Puraskar.
- While **Guntur and Krishna districts got awards** in the district level,
- **Sadum** (Chittoor district),
- **Kakinada Rural** (East Godavari),
- **Penugonda** (Anantapur) and

- **Vijayawada Rural** (Krishna district) got awards in the mandal level.
- **Renimakulapalle** (Chittoor),
- **Tallapalme** (Nellore),
- **Kondepalli** (Prakasam),
- **Tada Kandriga** (Nellore),
- **Peddalabudu** (Visakhapatnam),
- **Gullapalli** (Guntur)
- **Varkuru** (Kurnool),
- **Pennabarthi** (Nellore),
- **G Ragampeta** (East Godavari),
- **Vellanti** (Nellore) got awards under different categories in the gram panchayat level.
- **Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy** said it bagged **15 awards last year**.

'Nomadland' bags top honours at Independent Spirit Awards, Riz Ahmed best actor

- **Chloe Zhao's** meditative drama "**Nomadland**" continued its **winning streak** this award season by **bagging best picture, best director and other awards at the 36th annual Film Independent Spirit Awards**.
- The story, about a woman who embarks on a nomadic journey through American west after she loses her job, has emerged as the Oscars frontrunner after winning accolades at **Producer's Guild of America (PGA) Awards, British Academy Film and Television Awards (BAFTA)** and **Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards**.
- **Nomadland also won Zhao** the best editing trophy while the **best cinematography** honour went to its cinematographer Joshua James Richards.
- Hosted by '**Saturday Night Live**' cast member **Melissa Villaseñor**, the awards were broadcasted live on IFC channel on April 22, three days before the Oscars.

Important MOU's

NCML inks pact with Agriculture Skill Council

- **NCML** signs MoU with **Agriculture Skill Council** of India for **skill development** in **agriculture sector**.
- "This will **give** impetus to **agriculture** growth through **skill** enhancement of workforce and **make Agriculture** a sought after occupation amongst the youth", says **Satender Singh Arya** CEO, **ASCI**.

Maruti Suzuki partners Karnataka Bank

- **The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki** India said it has **partnered with Karnataka Bank** to offer **vehicle financing options for potential car buyers**.
- The company said it has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Mangaluru-headquartered private sector lender**.
- Customers can avail the benefits across 858 branches of Karnataka Bank at metro, urban, semi-urban and rural locations.

- Under the collaboration, customers can avail loans up to 85 per cent of the on-road price of all new cars from **Maruti Suzuki ARENA and NEXA showrooms**.
- Customers can opt for tenure of up to **84 months for their loans**, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement.

Spices Board India under Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed MoU with UNDP India's Accelerator Lab

- **Spices Board India under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and UNDP India's Accelerator Lab** signed a MoU with the aim to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade.
- **Blockchain** is a decentralized process of **recording transactions** on an open and shared electronic ledger.
- This allows for ease and transparency in data management across a **complex network, including, farmers, brokers, distributors, processors, retailers, regulators, and consumers, thus simplifying the supply chain**.
- It will allow farmers just as all other members of the supply chain to access the information which further makes the entire supply chain more efficient and equitable.
- **UNDP and Spices Board India** are working towards integrating the **Blockchain Traceability** Interface with the e-Spice Bazaar portal developed by Spices Board India for connecting spices farmers with markets.
- Design of the **Blockchain interface** is expected to be completed by next month.

Vedanta signed MoU with research institutes for value-creation from bauxite residue

- **Vedanta, India's largest producer of aluminium** and its value-added products, has signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) for value-creation from bauxite residue (red mud), which is a by-product generated during processing of bauxite into alumina using the Bayer process.
- Bauxite is the primary ore for **aluminium**, that undergoes an intermediate refining stage to produce alumina, which then undergoes **electrolysis for producing aluminium**.
- Abundantly available on the Earth's crust, mining of bauxite is one of the most inherently sustainable mining processes.
- Approximately three tonnes of bauxite produce one tonne of alumina, and around two tonnes of alumina are required to produce one tonne of aluminium.

OneWeb signs MoU with Kazakhstan Government

- **The company OneWeb** has signed an **MoU with the Kazakhstan government and local partners**.
- Bharti group-backed **low earth orbit (LEO)** satellite communications company **OneWeb** said it has partnered with the Kazakhstan government to accelerate connectivity in the country.
- **OneWeb, a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator, co-owned by Bharti Global and the UK government**, has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kazakhstan government and local partners to drive the Central Asian nation's ambitions to **digitize its economy boost connectivity** and become a pioneer in satellite communications.

Facebook partners CleanMax to make 100% renewable energy in India

- **Facebook** is partnering with Mumbai-based **clean energy** company, **CleanMax**, to set up 32 megawatts (MW) wind **power** project in **Karnataka**.
- While **CleanMax** will own and operate the project, **Facebook** will buy **power** off the grid via environmental attribute certificates.

India and France Inks Agreement for cooperation on Gaganyaan Mission

- **Indian space agency, ISRO** has signed an agreement with the space agency of **France CNES** for cooperation in its **first human space mission, Gaganyaan**.
- Under the agreement, CNES will provide equipment developed by it, tested and still operating aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)** to Indian crews.
- It will also supply fireproof carry bags made in France to shield equipment from shocks and radiation.
- **CNES** will train Indian flight physicians and **CAPCOM mission control** teams at French facilities.

Indian Oil make partnership with Consumerfed for 5 kg LPG cylinders sales

- The **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** launched the sale of a **free trade licence (FTL)** 5-kg LPG cylinders at the M/s Pilot Service Station (IOCL petrol bunk) on the Bandar Road.
- IOCL (Vijayawada Division) **LPG Senior Manager V.V.S. Chakravarthy** launched the sale.
- Petrol bunk managing partner M.V.V. Satyanarayana said the cost of the cylinder including gas has been fixed at **Rs.1441.50**.
- The cylinders would be sold at the station round the clock.
- The cylinders can be purchased without submitting any proof of identity, **Mr. Satyanarayana** said.
- Petrol bunk managing partner K. Venkatappaiah, IOCL sales officer (LPG) G.V.V. Mukteswara Rao, sales officer S. Prabhu Sunder, Indane Gas distributor Lokesh, Vijayawada Press Club president N. Chalapathi Rao and others were present on the occasion.

India and Germany sign agreement for Technical Cooperation on Cities combating plastic entering the marine environment

- **The Government of India and Germany** have signed an agreement for **Technical Cooperation** in enhancing practices to prevent plastic entering the marine environment on April 19, 2021, at a virtual ceremony in New Delhi.
- The project titled '**Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment**' will be implemented for a period of three and a half years.
- The outcome of the project is completely in line with the **objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban** focusing on sustainable solid waste management and Prime Minister Modi's vision to phase out single use plastic by 2022.
- The agreement was signed between the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, Government of India and **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India** on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.
- It will be undertaken at the national level (at MoHUA), select states (Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and in the cities of Kanpur, Kochi and Port Blair.

Cabinet approved MoU between ICAI and CA ANZ

- The **Cabinet approved** a fresh **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, (CA ANZ)**.
- It intends to **develop mutually beneficial relationships** in the best interest of members, students and their organizations and is expected to provide an opportunity to the **ICAI members to expand their professional horizons** and to **foster working relations** between the two accounting institutes.
- The two accountancy institutes will have an opportunity to play the leadership role in addressing new challenges facing the profession in a globalized environment.
- The engagement between the **two Institutes** is expected to result in greater employment opportunities for Indian Chartered Accountants and also greater remittances back to India.
- The MoU provides for mutual recognition of qualification of members of other bodies, who have achieved membership by completing the Examination, professional program and practical experience membership requirements of the two parties.

Cabinet approved MoU between CCI and CADE

- Cabinet approved the **MoU between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil, (CADE)**.
- **Section 18 of the Competition Act, 2002 permits CCI** to enter into any Memorandum or arrangement with any agency of any foreign country for the purpose of discharging its duties or performing its functions under the Act.
- CCI has entered into the MoUs with the **Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice of USA**, Director General Competition of European Union, Federal Antimonopoly Service of Russia, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Competition Bureau of Canada and BRICS Competition Authorities.

Cabinet nods ex post facto approval to MoU between DG of Trade Remedies, India and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission

- The Cabinet gave ex post facto approval to the **Memorandum of Understanding MoU between the Director General of Trade Remedies, India and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission** on the establishment of a framework of cooperation in the area of trade remedial measures signed on 27th of last month at Dhaka.
- The **primary objective of the MoU** is to promote cooperation between the two countries in the area of **Trade Remedies**, covering the broad activities related to exchange of information, undertaking capacity building activities and activities in accordance with various provisions of **World Trade Organization** in the area of anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures in bilateral trade.
- The MoU seeks to foster better cooperation between the **relevant authorities of both the countries** so as to discourage unfair trade practices and promote rule based bilateral trading.

Hero joins hands with Taiwan's Gogoro

- **Hero MotoCorp** has formed a partnership with **Taiwan's Gogoro Inc** to develop **electric vehicles** for the Indian market.

- The two companies will establish a battery swapping joint venture to bring **Gogoro's battery swapping platform** to India and will collaborate on EV development to bring **Hero-branded, powered-by-Gogoro Network** vehicles to the domestic auto market.
- With this partnership, **Hero MotorCorp** will make its first direct entry into the **EV space**, which at present is dominated by another **Hero Group company, Hero Electric, and Hero MotoCorp-backed start-up Ather Energy**.
- Hero's main rivals, **Bajaj Auto and TVS Motor Company**, also already have a small presence in this fast growing category.
- India's two-wheeler EV market saw a 1.6-fold increase in FY21, from 24,839 units sold in FY20 to 40,837 in FY21. Experts believe EVs may account for 25-30 percent of total two-wheeler sales by 2030.

Indian Bank and Chennai Angels sign ink pact for start-up financing

- Public sector lender Indian Bank has entered into a pact with **Chennai-based angel investment group 'The Chennai Angels For** financing start-ups under the **bank's loan product Ind SpringBoard**.
- Under this project, Indian Bank will support start-ups by extending credit facilities up to **Rs.50 crore** for working capital needs and also fund term-loan requirements for acquiring fixed assets for their units, said the bank in a statement.

Oberoi Group and EESL signed an MoU

- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture of PSUs under the **Ministry of Power**, announced it has signed a **MoU** with **The Oberoi Group** to augment its sustainability initiatives.
- EESL said that it will assist The Oberoi Group in implementing **several energy-efficient initiatives**, including clean energy systems across its properties through its **Building Energy Efficiency Program (BEEP)**.
- These initiatives will help reduce the group's overall carbon footprint and strengthen its energy conservation efforts, the company said.

Indian Bank and BSNL signed an MoU

- **Indian Bank signed an MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** to provide seamless telecom services to the bank at a competitive rate.
- The release said, the MoU was signed in the presence of executive director of Indian Bank and chief general manager of BSNL, **Chennai Telephones** and will provide access to latest technologies at great competitive rates.
- The bank is already using services of **BSNL** and **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited** for its Wide Area Network across the country **Dr VK Sanjeevi**, chief general manager of Chennai Telephones said that BSNL and its subsidiary MTNL is connecting 5,000 branches and ATMs of Indian Bank.

To raise farmers income, Agriculture Ministry signs MoU with Microsoft for a pilot project in 100 villages of six states

- **Union Agriculture Ministry has signed an MoU with Microsoft for a pilot project in 100 villages of six states**.
- This project will carry out various tasks for the betterment of farmers in the selected villages, which will enhance their income.
- This will also reduce the input costs for farmers and make farming easy.

- These states are **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.**
- Microsoft will develop farmer interface for smart and well-organized agriculture, including post-harvest management and distribution.
- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** said, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** idea of **digital agriculture** is now taking shape.
- He said, since taking over as the Prime Minister in 2014, Mr Modi has laid great emphasis on the use of modern technologies in farming sector to enhance farmers income.
- He said, the agricultural economy is the backbone of the country and any loss to agriculture is a loss for the country.
- Mr Tomar said, the agriculture sector has contributed positively to the country's economy even in adverse conditions like Corona epidemic.

Switch Mobility signed an inks pact with TVS Supply Chain for sustainable logistics network

- **Switch Mobility** Ltd, an electric vehicle arm of Ashok Leyland Ltd, and **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** has entered into an agreement for establishing a **sustainable logistics network.**
- Under the arrangement, TVS Supply Chain Solutions will operate **1,000 e-light commercial vehicles** through their partners for its logistics operations provided **by Switch Mobility.**
- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions** has over two decades of experience in providing supply chain solutions across the globe through their fully integrated service offerings.

Assam Govt signs two MOUs with Bhutan & Nagaland

- **The Assam Government** has signed **two MOUs** in Guwahati with **Bhutan and Nagaland** for **procurement of oxygen.**
- A **new oxygen plant** is being **set up in Bhutan.**
- The Assam government has also come to know of an oxygen plant in Dimapur in Nagaland and both the states have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

DRDO to build 500 Medical Oxygen Plants within 3 months

- **Defence Research & Development Organisation, DRDO** will set up **500 Medical Oxygen Plants** within 3 months under the **PM CARES Fund.**
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed that the **Medical Oxygen Plant technology** developed by DRDO for On-Board Oxygen Generation for Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas will now help in fighting the current crisis of Oxygen for the COVID-19 patients.
- Mr. Singh appreciated the DRDO for using its technology to generate much needed oxygen for COVID-19 patients which he said will help in overcoming the present crisis.

Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog jointly signed an agreement with Dassault Systemes Foundation

- **Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog** signed an agreement with **Dassault Systemes Foundation** to jointly work towards providing a **digitally rich ecosystem of Innovation** among aspiring young minds across the country.
- The **Atal Tinkering Labs** has played a pivotal role in fostering creativity and imagination amongst school children.

- **Dassault Systemes Fondation** is dedicated to transform the future of education and research in India with **3D technologies**.
- The fondation will contribute to the Atal Tinkering Labs program in three broad areas - project based, self-paced learning content, hackathons and challenges and inter-country academia collaborations.
- Under this agreement, Dassault Systemes Fondation will design and organize innovative challenges, hackathons for Atal Tinkering Labs, promoting problem solving skills and innovation culture amongst students and teachers.

Important Summit & Conference

India participate in second Sherpas meeting of G7, guest countries

- The **second meeting** of the **Sherpas of G7 and guest countries** was held.
- **India's G7 Sherpa Suresh Prabhu** attended the meeting.
- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson **Arindam Bagchi** said the priority issues under the UK's **G7 Presidency agenda** were discussed, including preparations for the **COP26 Summit** and global health cooperation.
- Mr Bagchi also said that India has been invited as a guest country of the G7 by the UK this year, along with **Australia, South Korea and South Africa**.

Finance Minister attends 103rd Development Committee Meeting of World Bank-IMF Virtually

- On April 09, 2021, Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** participated in the **103rd Meeting of the Development Committee** through video conferencing.
- The items on the agenda :
- **WBG and International Monetary Fund** Support for Debt Relief Under the Common Framework and Beyond.
- COVID-19 pandemic: World Bank Group Support for Fair and Affordable Access to Vaccines by Developing Countries
- From COVID-19 Crisis Response to Resilient Recovery – Saving Lives and Livelihoods while Supporting **Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID)**.
- The Government has announced Aatma Nirbhar Packages of ₹ 27.1 trillion, amounting to more than 13 percent of the GDP. These packages were meant not only to provide social protection to the poor and vulnerable but also to push forward the economic reforms.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends Second Virtual G20 Finance Ministers

- **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** participated virtually in the **Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting**.
- It was **held under the Italian Presidency** here to **discuss policy responses to global challenges to restore strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth**.
- The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors discussed Updates of the G20 Action Plan in response to COVID-19.

- In that Meeting They also **discussed supporting the financing needs of the most vulnerable economies, the progress on the international taxation agenda, promoting greener transitions and the pandemic related financial regulation issues.**
- Nirmala Sitharaman urged all G20 members to ensure equitable access and widespread distribution of vaccines.
- Nirmala Sitharaman reflected on the global growth projections and underlined the need for continued coordination amidst the persistence of uncertainties associated with the virus.
- The Finance Minister said that the G20 Action Plan has served as a good guidance tool and shaping recovery is the mainstay of its current update.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Raisina Dialogue 2021

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the Dialogue through a video message.
- **President of Rwanda Paul Kagame and Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen** will also join the inaugural session as Chief Guests.
- **Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison** will also participate in the conference, in one of the subsequent sessions.
- The 4 day Dialogue will be held virtually.
- It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, held annually since 2016.
- It is jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation.
- The **theme** for the 2021 Edition is **"#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control"**.
- Over the course of four days, the Dialogue will have panel conversations on five thematic pillars - Whose Multilateralism? Reconstructing the UN and Beyond, Securing and Diversifying Supply Chains, Global 'Public Bads': Holding Actors and Nations to Account, Infodemic: Navigating a 'No-Truth' World in the Age of Big Brother and The Green Stimulus: Investing in Gender, Growth, and Development.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Commanders' Conference 2021

- **On April 15, 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **First bi-annual Indian Air Force, IAF Commanders' Conference 2021.**
- It was **held at Air Headquarters Vayu Bhawan in New Delhi.**

Aim :

- The conference of **apex level leadership is aimed at addressing the issues of IAF's operational capabilities in the times to come.**
- It would be conducted over a period of **three days to address strategies and policies related to capabilities** that would give IAF a significant edge over its adversaries.
- It is a **bi-annual conference held at Subroto Hall, Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan.**

Purpose :

- The Conference **provides a forum to the senior leadership of the IAF to discuss critical issues pertaining to Operations, Maintenance and Administration.**

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs ICMR's One Health Symposium

- On April 12, 2021, **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** chaired ICMR's International Symposium titled **One Health in India: Research informing biosafety, preparedness and response 'through video conference.**
- He launched a special **issue of ICMR's Indian Journal of Medical Research** which discusses the One Health approach, corroborating multi sectoral research informing regarding biosafety, preparedness and response and has original articles, viewpoints, perspectives and reviews from the eminent experts in the field.
- The Commission's secretariat will be hosted by ICMR and will also be supported by the **National One Health Institute, which will be located in Nagpur.**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal chairs first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council

- On April 15, 2021, **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** chaired the **first meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council.**
- It is constituted by the Department for **Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.**

Aim :

- To advise the Government on measures needed to build a **strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.**
- This council will act as the guiding light for many **budding startup entrepreneurs** in India.
- **Piyush Goyal** mentioned this is the first time in our nation's history where such a **high-powered team of people from the private sector and the government have come together.**

PM Modi to attend Leaders' Summit on Climate on April 22

- **On April 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will participate in the **Leaders' Summit on Climate** hosted by US President **Joe Biden.**
- A total of **40 world leaders** had been invited for the **two-day virtual Summit** to galvanize efforts by the major economies to tackle the climate crisis.
- This Summit **coincides with the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Paris Agreement on climate change for signature.**
- **Theme** of the Summit is **Our Collective Sprint to 2030.**
- The summit is one of several major climate-related events in the run-up to COP-26, a global event scheduled for November 2021.
- The leaders participating in the Summit represent countries which are members of the Major Economies Forum and those vulnerable to climate change.

Objectives of the Summit :

- Using the technology available to adapt to climate change but also reduce emissions.
- Use nature-based solutions to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Protect lives and livelihoods by finding ways to adapt to climate change.
- Build new businesses and industries.

- The Leaders will exchange views on enhancing climate actions, mobilizing finance towards climate mitigation and adaptation including nature based solutions, climate security as well as technological innovations for clean energy.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar speaks in video conferencing with Foreign Minister of Portugal Augusto Santos Silva

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** had a conversation with **Foreign Minister of Portugal Augusto Santos Silva** through video conferencing.
- The Ministers reviewed the preparation for **India-European Union Summit**.
- Dr Jaishankar expressed confidence that both will produce strong outcomes.

NTIPRIT conducts webinar on NavIC Opportunities for the Telecom Industry

- On April 28, 2021, National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), the apex training institute of Department of Telecommunications, Government of India conducted a webinar.
- The topic of the webinar is "NavIC Opportunities for the Telecom Industry" in collaboration with ISRO and Telecom Industry.

About NavIC:

- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system **established and maintained by ISRO**.
- It covers India and a region extending up to 1,500 km beyond Indian mainland (primary coverage area).
- It provides position accuracy better than 20 m (20) and timing accuracy better than 50 ns (20).
- The actual measurements demonstrate accuracy better than 5 m and 20 ns respectively.

Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021 concluded

- The **Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021**, themed '**Reorienting for the Future**' concluded at Air headquarters in New Delhi.
- The three day conference saw detailed deliberations on ways and means to enhance the operational capabilities of the IAF.
- Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief of the seven commands and key appointments from Air headquarters attended the conference.
- The conference was **addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**.
- The Chief of Defence Staff, Navy Chief and Army Chief also addressed the conference and interacted with the commanders on subjects of future war-fighting through joint planning and integration of service capabilities.
- The actions and follow-up plans for implementing the directions given by Prime Minister during the Combined Commanders' Conference were discussed by the participants.
- The **other key subjects** included reorientation of the **Indian Air Force** for future challenges across all threat domains, and the roadmap for effective utilisation of assets and future inductions.
- The contours of the operational philosophy and organizational aspects of Air Defence and Joint Command Structures were also discussed.

Revision Points

Conference/Summits	Venue/Host Country	Chaired By/Theme/Addressed By/Others
2 nd meeting of the Sherpas of G7 and guest countries	-	Attended by Suresh Prabhu
103 rd Meeting of the Development Committee	-	Attended by Nirmala Sitharaman
2 nd Virtual G20 Finance Ministers	-	Attended by Nirmala Sitharaman
Raisina Dialogue 2021	-	ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control
IAF Commanders' Conference 2021	New Delhi	Inaugurated by Rajnath Singh
One Health in India: Research informing biosafety, preparedness and response	-	Chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan
1 st meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council	-	Chaired by Piyush Goyal
Leaders' Summit on Climate	Hosted by US President Joe Biden	Our Collective Sprint to 2030
Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021	Addressed by Rajnath Singh	Reorienting for the Future

Important Defence News

India and US carry out military drill Vajra Prahar 2021 in Himachal Pradesh

- Special forces of India and the US carried out a joint military exercise at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh in March 2021.
- It was the 11th edition of the exercise 'Vajra Prahar' which is aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.

Aim :

- **Enhancing interoperability between the two sides** and sharing the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- It is a bilateral military exercises and defence exchanges are an important facet of deepening bilateral defence cooperation between friendly countries.

- **India and the US carried out a two-day naval exercise** in the eastern Indian Ocean Region on March 28 and 29.
- The Indian Navy deployed its warship Shivalik and long-range maritime patrol aircraft P8I in the 'PASSEX' exercise
- Meanwhile the US Navy was represented by USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group.

Note :

- **Earlier, In February, the Indian and US Armies carried out 'Exercise Yudh Abhyas' at Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan,** to focus on counter terrorism operations under the mandate of the United Nations.

Shantir Ogroshena -2021' - Indian Army to participate in Multinational Military Exercise in Bangladesh

- **Indian Army will participate in Multinational Military Exercise namely SHANTIR OGROSHENA -2021.**
- It will be held in Bangladesh from April 04 to 12, 2021.

Purpose :

- To **commemorate the birth centenary of Bangladesh Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mark glorious 50 years of liberation.**
- Indian Army contingent comprising of 30 personnel including Junior Commissioned Officers, Officers, and Jawans of a battalion from the Dogra regiment will be participating in the exercise
- The USA, UK, Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore will also attend the exercise as Military observers.

Note :

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi visited Bangladesh on March 26 and 27** during which he attended the **golden jubilee celebration** of independence of that country.

Light weight Bullet Proof Jacket developed by DRDO lab

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has congratulated DRDO and DMSRDE Kanpur for developing a LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket.
- Mr Singh said, India needs more such innovative product design and development to realize the dream of **Atma Nirbhar Bharat.**
- **DMSRDE Kanpur, a DRDO laboratory** has developed a **LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket** weighing **9 kg meeting the qualitative requirements of Indian Army.**
- The **Front Hard Armour Panel jacket** was tested successfully at **TBRL Chandigarh** and met relevant BIS standards.

Fourth batch of three Rafale fighter jets land in India from France

- The **fourth batch of three Rafale fighter jets landed in India** after flying **non-stop from Istres Air Base France.**
- The Rafale fighter jets were provided mid-air refuelling by air force tankers of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
- **Five extra Rafale jets** will be **ferried to India by the end of April.**
- With the arrival of the three jets, the size of the Rafale fleet has increased to 14.
- The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 of the aircraft at a cost of Rs 59,000 crore.
- The first Rafale squadron is based in Ambala air force station.

- A second batch of three Rafale jets arrived in India on November 3, while a third batch of another three jets joined the IAF on January 27.

To boost Seychelles' maritime security India gifts Rs 100 crore patrol vessel PS Zoroaster

- On April 08, 2021, India formally handed over Rs 100 crore patrol vessel "PS Zoroaster" to Seychelles.
- The virtual summit was held between Indian PM Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan.
- The PS Zoroaster is the fourth made-in-India patrol boat to be gifted to Seychelles since 2005.
- The other vessels gifted by India include PS Topaz (2005), PS Constant (2014), Patrol Boat Hermes (2016).

About PS Zoroaster :

- The 48.9-metre patrol boat was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering at a cost of Rs.100 crore.
- It has a top speed of 35 knots and an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles.
- The vessel will be used for multi-purpose operations, such as patrolling, anti-smuggling and anti-poaching operations, and search and rescue.

Eighth India-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' Begins

- On April 16, 2021, The 8th India-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek.
- This is a two-week military exercise in Bishkek with a focus on counter-terror drills.
- It was initiated first in 2011, the two-week long exercise focuses on high-altitude, mountains and counter-extremism.
- the Indian contingent for the Exercise and felicitated their role as a bridge in promoting shared mountain and nomadic-heritage of the two peoples.
- A ceremonial parade graced the occasion along with a display of equipment and weapons and a visit to the training arena and barracks.

VARUNA – 2021 India-France Naval Exercise to begin in Arabian Sea

- From April, 25 to 27 2021, The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'Varuna-2021' has started in the Arabian Sea.
- The three-days exercise between the navies of two countries will be seeing high tempo-level operations at the sea, which will include advanced anti-submarine and air defence exercises, tactical manoeuvres, intense fixed and rotary wing flying operations.
- The aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle with its carrier air wing (Rafale marine, E-2C Hawkeye, hélicoptères Caïman marine and Dauphin), "one multi-mission frigate, Provence, one air defence destroyer, Chevalier Paul, and one command and supply ship, Var

DRDO develops single crystal blades

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed single crystal blades that are used in helicopter engines.
- It has supplied 60 of them to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the company's indigenous helicopter development program.

- This single crystal blades technology has been **developed by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL)**, one of the DRDO's laboratories.
- The DRDO will develop a **total five sets (300 blades) of single crystal blades**.
- Helicopters need compact and powerful aero-engines for operating at extreme conditions and to achieve this, state-of-the-art single crystal blades having complex shape and geometry, manufactured out of nickel based super-alloys capable of withstanding high temperatures of operation are used.

About Single crystal blades :

- Single crystal blades having complex shape and geometry are manufactured out of nickel-based superalloys that are capable of withstanding high temperatures.
- Few countries such as the US, the UK, France and Russia have the capability to design and manufacture single crystal components.

DRDO Conducts Maiden Trial of Python-5 Air to Air Missile

- **On April 27, 2021, the DRDO successfully fired the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) from Tejas aircraft, at Goa.**
- Trials were also **aimed to validate the enhanced capability of the already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas.**
- It is a **series of missile trials to validate its performance** under extremely challenging scenarios.
- The missiles were fired from Tejas aircraft of **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) flown by Indian Air Force (IAF) Test pilots belonging to National Flight Test Centre (NFTC).**
- Python-5 air-to-air missile (AAM) has been **manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Israel**
- It is one of the most sophisticated guided missiles in the world.

Important Science and Technology News

DPIIT upgrades of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum made online

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has revamped its Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) portal.**
- This has been done with a view to **enhancing ease of doing business and transparency**
- The upgraded portal offers a single IEM for one company to capture details of all its locations and sectors.
- This Single form will **facilitate the filling of investment intentions (IEM-Part A) and reporting of commencement of production (IEM-Part B) in a seamless manner**
- The G2B portal can be accessed at <http://services.dipp.gov.in> for the purpose of submitting applications and obtaining the IEM certificate.

CBIC notifies ICEGATE as a common portal for bills of entry, registration

- On march 29, 2021, The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notified ICEGATE or Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway as the common customs electronic portal
- It is for all customs related documentation and duty payments.
- The changes form part of the move to making the customs processing of bills of entry and declarations more electronic, paperless and seamless, so as to facilitate trade.

Women-led startup develops product for reliable low-cost internet in rural areas

- **Astrome**, Bangalore based a women-led startup, has developed an **innovative wireless product that gives fibre-like bandwidth at fraction of cost of fibre to help telecom operators deliver reliable low-cost internet services to suburban and rural areas.**
- It is a **wireless backhaul product that can deliver low-cost, high data capacity, and wide reach.**
- The wireless product, called **GigaMesh**, could enable telecom operators to deploy quality, high-speed rural telecom infrastructure at five times lower cost.
- Astrome is the deep tech startup incubated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and supported by DST-ABI women startup programme of the department of science and technology (DST)
- Astrome received the ITU SME Award for the Most Promising Innovative Solution in Connectivity, a major recognition for this product from the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU).**
- They also got selected by a prestigious 5G accelerator programe called EvoNexus (sponsored by Qualcomm) which will help them launch their product in the global market.

Ministry of Jal Shakti deploys sensor-based IoT devices to monitor rural drinking water supply systems

- To **monitor the rural drinking water supply systems in villages, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has decided to take the digital route to use sensor-based IoT devices**
- It is to effectively **monitor the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in more than six lakh villages.**
- For this Purpose **National Jal Jeevan Mission in collaboration with Tata Community Initiatives Trust (TCIT) and Tata Trusts.**
- It is recently completed pilot projects in several remote villages of **five States i.e. Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh.**

Key feature of these pilots:

- To ensure regular tap water to every home, real-time measurement and monitoring is critical for rural drinking water supply schemes.
- Enormous gains in terms of operational efficiencies, cost reduction, grievance redressal, etc,

Solar Physicists of ARIES Develop a New Novel Technique for Tracking the Solar Eruptions

- **Solar Physicists of ARIES** have developed a **New Novel Technique called CMEs Identification in Inner Solar Corona (CIISCO) to detect and track the accelerating solar eruption in the lower corona.**

- This algorithm is **based on the use of parabolic Hough transform to automatically detect the presence of parabolic profiles in the height-time plots of the solar eruption.**
- It will be **used in India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1, launched in 2022.**
- Aditya-L1 being **built in collaboration between the ISRO & Various Research Institutes.**
- Aditya-L1, will be observing this region of the solar corona. After the launch of Aditya-L1, implementation of CIISCO on the Aditya-L1 data will provide new insight into the CME properties in this less explored region.
- The research led by Mr. Ritesh Patel, Dr. Vaibhav Pant and Prof. Dipankar Banerjee from ARIES, Nainital, an autonomous institute under DST, Government of India, along with their collaborators from Royal Observatory of Belgium have led to the development of an algorithm.
- This research has been **published in the Solar Physics journal.**

Bharat Dynamics Limited Starts flags off Akash Missile for Delivery to Indian Army

- **On April 01, 2021 (BDL) Started flags off Akash Missile for Delivery to Indian Army.**
- It was **flagged off by Lt Gen A P Singh, AVSM, Director General and Senior Colonel Commandant, Army Air Defence**
- BDL manufactures Akash Missiles both for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- The Akash Weapon System, **designed and developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) with 96% indigenous content**
- It is **manufactured by BDL at its Hyderabad Unit.**

DRDO develops bullet-proof jacket for Indian Army

- **On April 01, 2021, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed a lightweight bullet-proof jacket for Indian Army.**
- It weighs around **nine kilogrammes and meets** the qualitative requirements of the Indian Army
- The jacket has been developed by the **Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE).**
- The front hard armour panel bullet proof jacket was tested at Terminal Ballistics Research Lab in Chandigarh and it met relevant standards of the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards).
- This jacket reduces the weight of medium sized bullet proof jackets from 10.4 kilograms to nine kilograms.

In Delhi DRDO to set up Covid-19 hospital with 500 beds, ICU facilities

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO will set up a Covid-19 hospital with 500 beds equipped with ICU facilities in Delhi Cantonment.**
- The doctors would be **provided by both military and paramilitary forces for treating patients.**
- The **first 250 beds would be ready in the first 7 days and doctors would be provided by both military and paramilitary forces for treating patients.**
- The **facility will help treat the serious patients.**
- This will **increase the bed capacity in the city.**

China opens 5G signal station at world's highest radar location

- China has opened a 5G signal base at the Ganbala radar station in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet
- It is the world's highest manually operated radar station at an elevation of 5,374 meters.
- The mountain is located in Nagarze County in Tibet which is in the vicinity of borders with India and Bhutan.

Purpose :

- The stable and high-speed 5G signal enables the soldiers in the deep mountains to keep up with the information society, leaving the monotonous and boring life on the border
- It is part of efforts to improve training and on-duty conditions for soldiers stationed in border areas.

Piyush Goyal Launches Electronic Marketplace e-SANTA For Aqua Farmers

- On April 13, 2021, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal virtually inaugurated e-SANTA.
- It is an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers.

About e-SANTA :

- e-SANTA is a completely paperless and end-to-end electronic trade platform between farmers and exporters.
- e-SANTA will raise income, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality levels, traceability, and provide new options for the aqua farmers.
- The platform will enable the farmers to get a better price and the exporters to directly purchase quality products from the farmers enhancing traceability, a key factor in international trade.
- e-SANTA is a digital bridge to end the market divide and will act as an alternative marketing tool between farmers and buyers by eliminating middlemen.
- The term e-SANTA was coined for the web portal, meaning Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture.
- National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

e-SANTA will RAISE the lives and income of farmers by

1. Reducing risk
2. Awareness of products and markets,
3. Increase in income,
4. Shielding against the wrong practice,
5. Ease of processes

NITI Aayog Launches Poshan Gyan', a Digital Repository on Nutrition Information

- On April 13, 2021, NITI Aayog launched a national digital repository on health and nutrition, called "Poshan Gyan.
- It is a national digital repository on health and nutrition.
- Poshan Gyan has been unveiled by NITI Aayog in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University.
- The website can be accessed through : <https://poshangyan.niti.gov.in/>

- **About Poshan Gyan :**
- The repository introduces a unique **crowdsourcing feature** that allows anyone to submit communication material for inclusion on the website, followed by a review by a designated committee.
- The portal highlights the **“Theme of the Month” (in line with MoHFW and MoWCD guidelines to promote key topics)**.
- The Poshan Gyan repository was conceptualized as a resource, enabling search of communication materials on **14 thematic areas of health and nutrition** across diverse languages, media types, target audiences and sources.
- Content for the repository was sourced from the **Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Women and Child Development and developmental organizations**.
- The website provides an **intuitive interface (multi-parametric search, multiple downloads at a point in time, easy sharing of materials via social media and easy viewing on any type of smartphone)**.
- It also provides links to other important sites and resources, such as **the webpages of MoHFW, MoWCD, NITI Aayog, AnemiaMukt Bharat, EatRightIndia and others**.

Secretary MeitY Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney inaugurates three new initiatives of NIXI

- On April 15, 2021, **Sh. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, IAS, Secretary Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) & Chairman NIXI** inaugurated three path breaking initiatives for **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**.

Three Initiatives are :

- IP Guru,
- NIXI Academy
- NIXI-IP-INDEX

About IP Guru :

- The IP Guru is a group to **extend support to all the Indian entities** finding it technically challenging to migrate and adopt **Internet Protocol version, IPv6**.
- The group will help in **identifying and hiring agencies** that will help end customers by providing necessary **technical support to adopt IPv6**.

About NIXI Academy :

- It has been created to **educate technical and non-technical people** in India about technologies.
- **About NIXI-IP-INDEX portal :**
- It has been launched to showcase **IPv6 adoption rate in India and across the world**.

Education Minister launches “World 1st affordable and long-lasting hygiene product DuroKea Series

- Union Minister of Education **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** launched **“World 1st affordable and long-lasting hygiene product DuroKea Series Virtually**.
- It was **developed by IIT Hyderabad researchers**.
- IIT Hyderabad has developed **innovative DuroKea long-lasting technologies to combat COVID-19 virus spreading**.

Research Team :

- This is a **highly effective and affordable research innovation from IIT Hyderabad**.

- It was developed by a team led by Dr. Jyotsnendu Giri, Department of Biomedical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad. Dr. Sunil Kumar Yadava, Dr. Qasim M, Ms. Meenakshi Chauhan, and Ms. Ruby Singh, Ms. Suparna Basu, Ms. Uzma Hasan, Mr. Jayakkumar and Dr. Purandhi Roopmani has a common vision with this innovation.
- DuroKea antimicrobial technology starts at Rs. 189, kills 99.99% of germs instantly and leaves behind the long-lasting protective nanoscale coating up to 35 days till next wash.
- The unique property of DuroKea range is to ensure instant killing (within 60 sec) and prolonged protection which is an immense necessity during this current pandemic situation.

Iran launches advanced IR-6 uranium enrichment centrifuges

- **On April 10, 2021, Iran celebrated its National Day of Nuclear Technology**, with an event held simultaneously in **Tehran** and in nuclear sites in different Iranian cities, in which **advanced IR-6 centrifuges started operating**.
- **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the 164 IR-6 semi-industrial centrifuges** were injected with gas and became fully operational at Iran's uranium enrichment plant in Natanz, and 30 IR-6S centrifuges entered the first phase of gas injection at the same plant.
- The manufacturing and assembly of **the first prototype of IR-9S and IR-9-1B centrifuges, currently under mechanical testing**.
- Under the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran is restricted to use only a number of uranium enrichment centrifuges of first generation (IR-1) until year 2025.

DRDO develops SpO2 based Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed SpO2 (Blood Oxygen Saturation) supplemental Oxygen Delivery System** for soldiers posted at **extreme high-altitude areas**.
- It was **Developed by Defence Bioengineering & ElectroMedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru of DRDO**.
- The system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO2 levels and prevents the person from sinking into a state of Hypoxia.
- This **automatic system can also prove to be a boon during the current Covid-19 situation**.
- Since the system is indigenously developed for operation in field conditions, it is unique with its dual qualities of being robust & cheap and is already in bulk production with the industry.
- With its SpO2 availability and simple to use facility by a common person, the system shall greatly reduce the workload and exposure time of doctors and paramedics to monitor the SpO2 levels of the patient.

India's 40th Scientific Expedition To Antarctica Returns To Capetown

- **On April 10, 2021, The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA) hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences** successfully returned to Cape Town, after completing a journey of **around 12 thousand nautical miles in 94 days**.
- The 40-ISEA comprised Indian scientists, engineers, doctors, and technicians, who began their journey from the **Mormugao Port of Goa to Antarctica on 7 January, 2021**.
- The team reached its **destination station Bharati on 27 February, 2021, and Maitri on 8 March, 2021**.

- On the way to Antarctica, the voyage team deployed four autonomous Ocean Observing DWS (Directional Wave Spectra) wave drifters between **35 degree and 50 degree south latitudes** in collaboration with Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.
- The expedition positioned a team of 20 personnel at Bharati led by Atul Suresh Kulkarni from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism and 21 personnel at Maitri led by Ravindra Santosh from the Indian Meteorological Department.

ISRO to support eight joint research projects of IIT-D

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will support **eight joint research projects** mooted by the **space technology cell (STC)** of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.
- Space Technology Cell (STC), which **was set up in the year 2019 as part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between ISRO and IIT Delhi.**
- The ISRO will support the **projects under its “respond” programme for varying duration of one to three years.**
- The eight collaborative research projects on which the scientists from different ISRO centres and IIT, Delhi, will work jointly include application for aerospace, space and hydro-extremes to bring about applications for drought and flood forecasting.
- The unit will establish an Indian Land Data Assimilation System (ILDAS) for identifying hydrologic extremes.

Names of eight joint research projects of IIT-D :

- Establishing a Coupled Indian Land Data Assimilation System (ILDAS) for identifying hydrologic extremes.
- Classical Trajectory Monte Carlo Simulations of the Plasma dynamics in electrodeless plasma thruster.
- Analysis of Variable Stiffness Composite Honeycomb Sandwich Structures with Embedded Delamination.
- Indigenous Sensor based Real Time Flood Warning Smart System.
- Impact of Satellite Observations in a Coupled System for Predicting Storm Tides and its Coastal Inundation.
- Development of a Numerical Simulator for Micro-fabricated Electro-spray Thrusters.
- Designing Speciality Glasses Employing Machine Learning and Meta-Heuristic Optimization.
- Low-Pressure Systems (LPSs) and their nonlinear interaction with other scales in the atmosphere through the lens of Scale Energetics.

Russia's Space Agency Roscosmos, to launch its own space station in 2025

- **On April 20, 2021, Russian space agency Roscosmos** announced that it will **launch its own space station in 2025.**
- Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov informed in recent days that **Moscow was considering whether to leave the ISS programme from 2025.**

About ISS :

- **International Space Station (ISS)** which is currently in orbit is one of the **most ambitious international collaborations in human history.**
- The ISS was **launched in 1998 with cooperation between Russia, the US, Japan, Canada and the European Space Agency.**

SpaceX rocket ship launches 4 astronauts on NASA mission to ISS

- On April 23, 2021, NASA and Elon Musk's commercial rocket company SpaceX launched a new four-astronaut team on a flight to the International Space Station the first crew ever propelled into orbit by a rocket booster recycled from a previous spaceflight.
- The company's Crew Dragon capsule Endeavour, also making its second flight, streaked into the darkened pre-dawn sky atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket as its nine Merlin engines from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

China names first Mars rover 'Zhurong'

- On April 24, 2021, China's first Mars rover will be named Zhurong after a traditional fire god.
- The rover is aboard the Tianwen-1 probe that arrived in Mars orbit on February 24 and is due to land in May to look for evidence of life.
- It is part of Chinese space plans that include launching a crewed orbital station and landing a human on the moon.
- China in 2019 became the first country to land a space probe on the little-explored far side of the moon and in December returned lunar rocks to Earth for the first time since the 1970s.
- Tianwen-1's goals include analysing and mapping the Martian surface and geology, looking for water ice and studying the climate and surface environment.

CSIR-CMERI indigenously developed Oxygen enrichment technology

- On April 25, 2021, CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, in association with MSME-DI, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Government of India jointly organised a Webinar on 'Oxygen Enrichment' Technology.
- Oxygen Enrichment' Technology, effective for treating COVID- 10 Patients.
- The unit is capable of delivering medical air in the range of up to 15 LPM with oxygen purity of more than 90%.
- This unit can even deliver up to 70 LPM at a purity of around 30%.

About CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute :

- It is a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- This institute is the only national level research institute in the field of mechanical engineering in India.
- It was founded to develop national mechanical engineering technology, particularly in order to help Indian industries.

OneWeb launches Batch of 36 LEO satellites from Russian cosmodrome

- OneWeb, a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator, launched another batch of 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia.
- It is co-owned by Bharti Global and the UK government.
- The latest launch takes OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation to 182 satellites.
- These would form part of OneWeb's 648 LEO satellite fleet that will deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity.
- It will enable OneWeb to offer services across the UK, Alaska, Northern Europe, Greenland, Iceland, the Arctic seas and Canada.

China launches robot prototype NEO-01

- **On April 27, 2021, China launched NEO-01** into low earth orbit.
- The NEO-01, which looks into **deep space and observes small celestial bodies**, was launched by the government's **Long March 6 rocket** with a small number of satellites.
- It is a **30kg robot developed by Shenzhen-based Origin Space will pave the way for future technologies capable of mining asteroids.**
- NEO-01 will use a **large net** to capture debris left behind by other spacecraft and then burn it using its electric propulsion system.
- China was stepping up efforts to land a probe on a near-Earth asteroid to collect samples, and also expediting a plan to build a defence system against near-Earth asteroids.
- Beijing has grand space ambitions, aiming to catch up with Russia and the United States and transform China into a major space power by 2030.

UK to get world's most powerful weather, climate change forecasting supercomputer by 2022

- **Microsoft and the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office** have decided to team up to **build the most powerful supercomputer** in the world to forecast weather and climate change.
- The supercomputer, which is most likely to be **operational in 2022.**
- It will also **help in protection from the impact of increasingly extreme floods, storms, and snow in the UK.**
- The UK Government, in February 2020, announced the funding of about **1.2 billion pounds (Rs. 12,400 crores)** for developing this supercomputer, which has been expected to be one of the top 25 supercomputers in the world.
- The Met Office will provide the highest quality weather and climate datasets as well as more accurate forecasts that will enable the decisions to allow people to stay safe.
- This will be a unique opportunity that will help in keeping not just the Met office but the UK at the forefront of high-performance computing and environmental modeling.

Important Environment News

New species of butterfly discovered *Nacaduba sinhala ramaswamii* sadasivan

- The discovery of the **species six line blue butterfly *Nacaduba sinhala ramaswamii* Sadasivan, 2021** in the **Agasthyamalais in the Western Ghats.**
- It is the **first time that a butterfly species was discovered by an all-Indian research team from the Western Ghats.**
- It has now found a place in the **Journal of Threatened Taxa.**
- The new taxon of Lycaenid butterflies belonging to the **genus *Nacaduba***

About Researchers Team :

- Team comprises **Kalesh Sadasivan and Baiju K. representing the Travancore Nature History Society, Rahul Khot of the Bombay Natural History Society, and Ramasamy Naicker from Theni.**

About the Butterfly :

- Line Blues are small butterflies belonging to the subfamily **Lycaenidae**

- Their distribution ranges from **India and Sri Lanka to the whole of southeastern Asia, Australia and Samoa.**

In Maharashtra New Plant Species Discovered Named After Sharad Pawar

- A **new species of flowering plants**, recently discovered in south Maharashtra's Kolhapur district.
- It belongs to the **genus 'Argyreia'**.
- It has been **named after National Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar.**
- The species has been named '**Argyreia sharadchandraji**' in recognition of Mr Pawar's contribution as Union agriculture minister.

Researchers :

- Dr Pramod R Lawand
- Dr Vinod B Shimpale.
- Their research paper **Argyreia sharadchandraji (Convolvulaceae)**, a new species from the Western Ghats, India was recently published in the Journal of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy.

About 'Argyreia' Species :

- **Totally 40 sub- species of the Argyreia genus** are found in India.
- **Out 40, 17 are endemic to India**, and now we have discovered an 18th one in the Allamprabhu Sacred Grove in Ramling hills.

Avian species count reaches 1,340 : New Species Three-banded rosefinch Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- Scientists from the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) Speckled a New Avian Species three-banded rosefinch.**
- It was made in the hilly, coniferous forests of the Sela Pass in Arunachal Pradesh, about 3800 meters above sea level.
- **India's avian biodiversity count to a total of 1,340 species.**
- It Belongs to the **Family - Fringillidae**
- This is **seed-eating passerine birds** with a distinctively conical bill.
- The team comprises **BNHS assistant director Girish Jathar and researchers Atharva Singh and Himadri Sekhar Mondal.**
- They **published their findings in the latest issue of the journal Indian Birds**
- The **three-banded rosefinch was the fifth new species recorded during the year 2021.**

New species of insect discovered in Kosovo - Potamophylax coronavirus

- Professor **Halil Ibrahim** has discovered a **new insect species named Potamophylax coronavirus** found in **Kosovo's western Bjeshket e Nemuna (Accursed Mountains) national park.**
- As an associate professor of the **Natural Sciences Faculty at Pristina University, Prof Ibrahim collected the species,** which turned out to be endemic to the national park, 75 miles (120km) west of the capital Pristina, and found it was quite different from the other species in the Balkans.
- It is considerably **smaller, and lives in a different habitat, in open, high-altitude zones, some 2,000 metres (6,500ft) above sea level.**

Important Rankings and Indexes

Index	India's rank	Top	Presented By
Gender Gap Report 2021	140th	Iceland Afghanistan (Worst)	World Economic Forum
Inclusive Internet Index	49th	Sweden	Economist Intelligence Unit
World Press Freedom Index	142nd	Norway	Reporters Without Borders
Global Energy Transition Index	87th	Sweden	World Economic Forum
SIPRI Military Expenditure Database	3rd	USA	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
the Chandler Good Government Index	49th	Finland Venezuela (Last)	Chandler Institute of Governance

WEF's gender gap index 2021 : India ranks 140 among 156 nations

- India has slipped 28 places to rank 140th among 156 countries in the WorldEconomic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- In 2020, India ranked 112th among 153 countries.
- In the 2021 Global Gender Gap Report, India emerged as the third-worst performing country in South Asia.
- India has closed 62.5 percent of its gender gap till date.
- For the 12th time, Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world.
- Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report.

The top 10 most gender-equal countries :

- Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Rwanda, Sweden, Ireland and Switzerland.
- In regions, South Asia is the second-lowest performer on the index, with 62.3 percent of its overall gender gap closed.

Global Gender Gap Report :

- The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum.
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2021 is the 15th edition of the annual publication by WEF.
- It is an index designed to measure gender equality.

- To compare countries' gender gaps across **four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership**

Forbes' Annual Billionaire list Jeff Bezos tops & Mukesh Ambani ranks 10th

- On April 06, 2021, The 35th edition Forbes World's Billionaires list was released.
- It comprised a record-breaking 2,755 billionaires.
- Forbes' 35th annual list of the world's billionaires is **topped by Amazon CEO and Founder Jeff Bezos for the fourth year in a row.**
- **Mukesh Ambani ranked at 10th position with a total net worth of USD 84.5 billion.**
- India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world after the United States and China, as per a new list by the prestigious Forbes magazine.

Top five billionaires in 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

Facebook-EIU : India Ranked 49th In World Internet Inclusion Index 2021

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU)**, in partnership with Facebook, has released the **Inclusive Internet Index 2021.**
- The index measures the **extent to which the internet is available and affordable by region, and highlights additional insight into how people around the world are using the web.**
- **India is tied with Thailand in 49th place** this year on the scores of internet availability.
- The '**Inclusive Internet Index**' surveyed **120 countries**, representing **98 percent of global GDP** and **96 percent of global 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

World Press Freedom Index 2021 : Norway Tops , India Ranks 142

- **On April 20, 2021**, In the latest **World Press Freedom Index 2021**, **India** was placed at **142nd position among 180 countries**.
- The World Press Freedom Index 2021 **published by the international journalism not-for profit body, Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**.
- The index **to evaluate the press freedom situation in 180 countries and territories**.
- In **2020 Index India is ranked 142 Position**.
- In **2021 Norway is ranked number 1 in the index**, followed by Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Costa Rica.
- India's neighbour Pakistan ranks at 145.
- At the bottom of the index is Eritrea, with North Korea, Turkmenistan and China preceding it.

India Ranks 87th In Global Energy Transition Index 2021 ; Sweden Tops

- **On April 21, 2021**, **India** was placed at the **87th (Score 53) position among 115 countries in the 2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI)**, released.
- The report **Published from the World Economic Forum (WEF)** and prepared in collaboration with Accenture also draws on insights from ETI.
- The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, and **Sweden has a score of 79 is in the first position** followed by Norway (2nd) and Denmark (3rd).
- As per the report, 92 out of 115 countries tracked on the ETI increased their aggregate score over the past 10 years, which affirms the positive direction and steady momentum of the global energy transition.

List of Top 10 Countries :

Rank	Country
1	Sweden
2	Norway
3	Denmark
4	Switzerland

5	Austria
6	Finland
7	UK
8	New Zealand
9	France
10	Iceland

- **Zimbabwe is the last ranked** country in the index.

About the Index :

- The index benchmarks 115 countries on the current performance of their energy systems across three dimensions: economic development and growth, environmental sustainability, and energy security and access indicators and their readiness to transition to secure, sustainable, affordable, and inclusive energy systems.

India is world's 3rd largest military spender in World in 2020; US Tops

- **On April 26, 2021, India** was retained as the **third biggest military spender in the world in 2020** according to new data titled 'SIPRI Military Expenditure Database.
- It is published by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.

List of Top 5 Nations :

- United States (\$778 billion)
- China (\$252 billion)
- India (\$72.9 billion)
- Russia (\$61.7 billion)
- United Kingdom (\$59.2 billion)
- The three countries were ahead of Russia and Saudi Arabia together made up the world's top military spenders, accounting for 62% of the global military.

India ranked 49th in CGGI 2021

- Among **104 nations** India has been placed at **49th position** in the **Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021**.
- **Finland** has topped the **CGGI 2021** list.
- **Venezuela** is the **last ranked country** in the **CGGI 2021**.

Rank	Score	Country
1	0.848	Finland

2	0.839	Switzerland
3	0.834	Singapore

- **India** had scored 0.516 and ranked **49th position** in CGGI 2021 Index.

About CGGI INDEX :

- In that Index each country is measured across over 50 open data points.
- The CGGI is an **annual index developed by the Chandler Institute of Governance based in Singapore**
- That **measures the effectiveness of governments in 104 countries across the world in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.**
- The Chandler Good Government Index shows the importance of measuring and investing in governance capabilities that matter.
- The index focuses on seven pillars:
 1. Leadership and foresight
 2. Robust laws and policies
 3. Strong institutions
 4. Financial stewardship
 5. Attractive marketplace
 6. Global influence and reputation
 7. Helping people rise.

Important Schemes List

Centre launches Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- **Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal** launched the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**.
- The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for **proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.**
- An amount of **945 crore rupees** corpus will be divided over the **next 4 years** for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.
- The scheme is expected to support an estimated **3,600 startups through 300 incubators.**
- Mr Goyal said that the SISFS will Secure seed funding, Inspire innovation, Support transformative ideas, Facilitate implementation, and Start startup revolution.
- He said that this Scheme will create a robust startup ecosystem, particularly in **Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns of India**, which are often deprived of adequate funding.
- The Minister said that he would like to especially encourage innovators from rural areas to come forward and benefit from this scheme.

About Startup India:

- **Startup India** is an initiative of the Government of India.
- The campaign was first announced by **Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi** during his speech on 15 August 2015.
- **Address from the Red Fort, in New Delhi.**
- The action plan of this initiative is focusing on three areas: **Simplification and Handholding.**
- **Official website:** startupindia.gov.in
- **Launch year:** 2016
- **Launched by** (prime minister): Narendra Modi
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Eligibility for Startup India:

- **Being incorporated or registered** in India for less than seven years and for **biotechnology startups up to 10 years** from its date of incorporation.
- Annual turnover not exceeding **Rs 25 crores** in any of the preceding financial years.

PM Modi initiate the distribution of e-property cards under SVAMITVA scheme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch the distribution of **e-property cards** under the **SVAMITVA scheme**.
- In a virtual event over four lakh property owners will be given their e-property cards which will also mark the rolling out of the **SVAMITVA scheme** for implementation across the country.
- Prime Minister will also confer the **National Panchayat Awards 2021** on the occasion of **National Panchayati Raj day**.
- The **award money ranging from 5 to 50 lakh** will be directly transferred to the bank account of the Panchayats concerned on a real time basis.
- **Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** will also attend the event.
- **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme** was launched by the Prime Minister on 24th April last year as a Central Sector Scheme to promote a socio-economically empowered and self-reliant rural India.

About SVAMITVA scheme:

- The **Svमित्वा Yojana** was launched on **24 April 2020** with an aim to provide an **integrated property validation solution** for rural India.
- This scheme attempts to end property disputes in villages by demarcating the property of the villagers and providing them with the certificate of ownership of their property.
- The **SVAMITVA scheme** was **launched by the Prime Minister** on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, April 24, earlier this year and the distribution of property cards began on October 11.
- The SVAMITVA scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

Govt extends deadline to making payment for Vivad Se Vishwas scheme till June 30

- **Government** has extended certain timelines in order to give **respite to taxpayers** in difficult COVID times.
- It has extended the deadline for making payment under **tax dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas by two months till 30th of June.**
- Time limit for passing of any order for assessment or reassessment under the **Income Tax Act** has been **extended till 30th June.**
- Finance Ministry said the decision was taken following requests received from taxpayers, tax consultants, and other stakeholders that various time barring dates, which were earlier extended to 30th April, may be further extended.

Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh under its new Muktijoddha Scholarship scheme.

- The scheme was launched in 2017 during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India.
- **Under this scheme, 1000 students** each from the **Higher Secondary and Undergraduate categories** have started **receiving the amount** of scholarship for this year directly in their account.
- The **new scheme was aimed to benefit 10,000 students** from Bangladesh over a period of five years.
- The **scholarship carries an amount of 20,000 Taka** for students of Higher Secondary and 50,000 Taka to Undergraduate category students, who are direct descendants of Muktijoddhas or Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh.

ABOUT THE SCHEME:

- The '**Muktijoddha scholarship scheme**' was started in the year 2006 for the descendents of Muktijoddhas.
- Originally, Scholarships were awarded to Higher Secondary and Undergraduate level students.
- Undergraduate students were awarded **Tk 24,000 per year** for four years and **higher secondary students were awarded Tk 10,000 per year for two years.**

Important Books and Authors

Authors	Books
Mohan Kanda (Former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh)	Agriculture in India (Published by BSP Books Private Limited)
Nitin Gokhale (Published by Bloomsbury)	Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life
Dr Shailendra Kumar Joshi (Published by Shri Maruthi)	Suparipalan (Telugu translation of "Echo T Calling: Towards People-Centric Governance – SK Joshi)
Prachand praveer (Published by D.K.Printworld)	Cinema Through Rasa: A Tryst with Masterpieces in the Light of Rasa Siddhanta (Translated by the author Geeta Mirji Narayan)
Edited by Yatindra Mishra	Akhtari: The Life and Music of Begum Akhtar

(Published by HarperCollins India)	(Originally written in Hindi, is now available in English)
Bharat Sundaresan (Published by Penguin India)	Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me
Kishor Makwana (Released by PM Modi)	Dr. Ambedkar Jivan Darshan, Dr. Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan, Dr. Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan and Dr. Ambedkar Aayam Darshan
JK Rowling (Published by Hachette Children’s Group and Scholastic)	The Christmas Pig
Aakash Ranison	Climate Change Explained – for one and all
Jnanpith Awardee Amitav Ghosh	The Living Mountain (Published by HarperCollins Publishers)
Jhumpa Lahiri	Whereabouts (Published by the Hamish Hamilton imprint of Penguin Random House) (English translation of Italian novel ‘las Dove Mi Trovo’)

Important Peoples' in News

WWE Hall of Fame 2021 The Great Khali formally inducted

- On April 07, 2021, The **Great Khali** was inducted into the **WWE Hall of Fame Class of 2021**.

About Great Khali :

- He is **India's one-time World Heavyweight Champion**.
- The **official name of "The Great Khali" is Dalip Singh Rana**.
- He is arguably the biggest Indian wrestling star.
- He is 7'1" tall.
- Khali is the **first Indian world champion in WWE**.
- He made his professional wrestling debut in 2000.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas to present at BAFTA awards 2021

- Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas** has been announced as **one of the presenters** for the 74th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards.
- The **annual award ceremony**, which has been delayed from its usual February date due to the coronavirus pandemic, is scheduled to take place on **April 10 and 11 at the Royal Albert Hall here**.

- Chopra Jonas will be joined by other presenters, which include Phoebe Dynevor, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Cynthia Erivo, Hugh Grant, Richard E Grant, Tom Hiddleston, Felicity Jones, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, James McAvoy, David Oyelowo, and Pedro Pascal, the BAFTA announced.

Railway Minister declared Rs 50,000 award for Mayur Shelke for exemplary act of bravery

- **Railway Minister Piyush Goyal** has announced a **50 thousand rupees award for Mayur Shelke** for exemplary acts of bravery.
- On the 19th of this month, Mayur showed exceptional courage in saving a precious life by rescuing a child who had slipped and fallen on the tracks from the platform.
- **Mayur Shelke** in absolute disregard of **his own life rescued the child by running in front of the oncoming train** and lifted the child to safety by placing him on the platform.
- Mayur Shelke works as a **Pointsman at Vangni Railway station** in Mumbai Division of Central Railway.

Puma ropes in Washington Sundar & Devdutt Padikkal as Brand Ambassadors

- **Global sportswear brand Puma** has roped in Indian cricketers **Washington Sundar and Devdutt Padikkal as the brand ambassador.**
- The duo will be joining the company's roster of **brand ambassadors that include Indian captain Virat Kohli; wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul; women's national cricketer, Sushma Verma and veteran cricketer Yuvraj Singh.**
- Puma India, which recently announced its **partnership with Royal Challengers Bangalore, has been consistently investing in India's sport ecosystem.**

Tamil Nadu's Arjun Kalyan becomes 68th Indian Grandmaster

- **Tamil Nadu teenager Arjun Kalyan** became **India's 68th Chess Grandmaster.**
- He crossed the **2500 ELO mark** after beating **Dragan Kosic in the fifth round of GM Round Robin "Rujna Zore-3" in Serbia.**
- The **18-year-old from Chennai** had come close to achieving the feat last week.
- Arjun is **coached by IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov.**

Social worker in Odisha opens oxygen bank to lend cylinders for free to needy patients

- In the midst of a dangerous second wave, a **city-based social worker Atif Alam** has opened a **medical oxygen bank to lend oxygen cylinders** to needy patients **free of cost.**
- The **33-year-old man** who runs a social organization '**Social Star Club**', started the oxygen bank earlier this month and it **currently has 45 cylinders in stock.**
- Last year in May when the Covid cases were on the rise, Atif through his organization had started providing oxygen cylinders, medicated beds, air beds and wheelchairs to patients in need on a rotation basis.
- He had five oxygen cylinders then.
- When people came to know about Atif's philanthropic works, some of his well-wishers and patrons offered to donate oxygen cylinders.

Important Acquisitions and Mergers

ATL to acquire WKTL for Rs 3,370 crore

- On March 27, 2021 Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) signed a definitive agreement with Essel InfraProjects Limited (EIL) to acquire Warora-Kurnool Transmission Limited (WKTL) for an enterprise value of Rs 3,370 crore.
- The cumulative network of ATL will reach 17,200 circuit kilometre of which 12,350 ckt kms network is already operational and 4,850 ckt kms (including this asset) is in various stages of execution.
- ATL has already received the approval from Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for substitution of original awardee in the contract.

Reliance Infra sells Reliance centre at Santacruz to Yes Bank for Rs 1,200 cr

- On April 01, 2021, Anil Ambani Group's Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) sold its headquarters (HQ) in Mumbai's Santacruz to YES Bank for Rs 1,200 crore.
- YES Bank, currently operates from One Indiabulls Centre in central Mumbai, will convert the building into its corporate head office.
- Yes Bank took over the possession of the Santacruz building, which till last year served as the company's headquarter, and two other smaller properties owned by the company after it failed to repay dues of Rs 2,892 crore.
- The state-run Power Grid Corporation of India for an enterprise value of Rs 900 crore.
- In January, Reliance Infrastructure completed the sale of its entire 74% holding in a power transmission joint venture with Power Grid Corporation of India, namely Parbati Koldam Transmission Company, for an enterprise value of Rs 900 crore.
- It also completed the sale of its Delhi-Agra road project to Cube Highways and Infrastructure III Pte for an enterprise value over Rs 3,600 crore.

Byju's to acquire Aakash Educational Services for \$1 billion

- On April 05, 2021, The country's most valued online education firm, Byju's, acquired Blackstone Group-backed Aakash Educational Services (AESL) for an estimated \$1 billion cash and stock deal.
- Byju's aims to grow aggressively and bolster its presence across new edtech categories in India.
- Byju's had acquired Aakash Educational Services Ltd (AESL) for about \$1 billion, to enter the competitive test preparation market, where it competed with Unacademy and Amazon India.
- Unacademy had acquired six test prep platforms, while Amazon India forayed into the segment with Amazon Academy.

CCI approves proposed combination relating to acquisition of PAMPL, PTCPL & PRAPL by SAMC

- On April 06, 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination relating to acquisition of Principal Asset Management Private Limited, Principal Trustee Company Private Limited and Principal Retirement Advisors Private Limited by Sundaram Asset Management Company Limited.
- It relates to the acquisition of 100% of the issued and paid-up equity share capital.

About the proposed combination :

- The schemes of the Principal Mutual Fund (PMF) shall be transferred to **Sundaram Mutual Fund (SMF)** and the trusteeship and management of the PMF schemes shall be transferred to Sundaram Trustee Company Limited (STCL) and SAMC.
- PAMPL is engaged in the business of **providing asset management services to the PMF and operating/ managing the PMF schemes.**
- PTCPL is engaged in the business of providing trusteeship services to the PMF.

HDFC to acquires 10% stake in Kerala-based asset management firm

- **On April 06, 2021, Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) acquired 9.9 per cent stake in Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Ltd.**
- The Corporation has **invested in 3,88,303 equity shares of Rs 10 each of Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Limited** representing 9.9 per cent of its share capital issued on a private placement basis.

Axis Bank becomes co-promoter of Max Life Insurance

- **On April 06, 2021, Axis Bank Ltd** informed it has become **co-promoters of Max Life Insurance Company Limited**, after completion of **the acquisition of 12.99% stake** collectively by the Axis Entities in the company.
- Axis Bank and its **two subsidiaries Axis Capital Limited and Axis Securities Limited** will collectively own 12.99% stake in Max Life after the consummation of the deal.
- The Axis Entities have a **right to acquire an additional stake of up to 7% in Max Life, in one or more tranches**, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** gave its formal approval in **February of 2021.**

CCI approved Rising Sun Holdings' acquisition of 60% stake in Magma Fincorp

- **On April 12, 2021, The Competition Commission of India** approved **Adar Poonawalla-led Rising Sun Holdings Pvt Ltd.'s acquisition of a 60% stake in Magma Fincorp.**
- The commission approves the acquisition of **shareholding in Magma Fincorp Ltd. by Rising Sun Holdings, Sanjay Chamria and Mayank Poddar.**
- The transaction would result in a **total capital infusion of 3,456 crore into Magma Fincorp.**
- Rising Sun is part of Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla's Rising Sun group of companies. It is present in the financial services sector through its subsidiary, Poonawalla Finance Private Limited, which is a systemically important **non-deposit taking non-banking finance company (NBFC).**

Note :

- **Adar Poonawalla is also the CEO of the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines, including Covishield.**
- Magma Fincorp is a systemically important non-deposit taking NBFC **engaged in financing commercial projects, agriculture and small and medium enterprises, mortgage finance and general insurance.**
- The firm **focuses on providing these services in rural and semi-urban areas.**

CCI approves acquisition of 89.6% stake in Gangavaram port by Adani Ports

- On April 13, 2021, **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved billionaire **Gautam Adani-controlled Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones Ltd's** acquisition of **89.6%** stake in Gangavaram Port Ltd.
- It was under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002**.
- Adani Ports and SEZ had announced the acquisition of **58.1%** stake in the port located in the northern part of Andhra Pradesh, from **D.V.S. Raju and family for Rs.3,604 crore**.
- Adani Ports had also announced the acquisition of **Warburg Pincus's 31.5% stake in Gangavaram**.

About Gangavaram Port :

- **Gangavaram Port** is the **second-largest non-major port** in Andhra Pradesh with a **64 MMT** capacity established under a concession from the state government that extends till **2059**.

Flipkart acquired Cleartrip

- **Indian e-commerce company, Flipkart** announced that it will be **acquiring Cleartrip**, an **online travel technology company**.
- The e-commerce made the announcement that it will acquire **100% of Cleartrip's shareholding**, as the company further enhances its investments to strengthen its **digital commerce offerings for customers**.
- Under the terms of the agreement, **Cleartrip operations** will be **acquired by Flipkart**.
- However, Cleartrip will continue to operate as a separate brand, retaining all employees while working closely with **Flipkart to further develop technology solutions** which will be focused on making travel easier for customers.
- The deal closing is still subject to applicable regulatory approvals, according to Flipkart.

Bharti Airtel unit Nettle acquires 100% stake in OneWeb India

- Nettle Infrastructure Investments, a wholly-owned arm of **Bharti Airtel** has **acquired 100% stake in OneWeb India Communications Pvt Ltd**.

About OneWeb :

- OneWeb was incorporated on **04 February 2020** to carry on business activities and **network services associated with the communications industry**.
- OneWeb is a **low earth orbit (LEO)** satellite communications operator, co-owned by **Bharti Global and the UK government**.
- Recently, OneWeb launched **36 satellites by Arianespace** from the **Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia**, paving the way for launching **high-speed satellite broadband services** in key global markets from late-2021, and in India by mid-2022.

Quess Corporation to acquire 30% stake in Conneqt from Tata Sons for Rs.208 crore

- On **April 16, 2021**, **Quess Corp**, a business services platform, will **acquire the remaining 30% equity stake in Conneqt Business Solutions** from **Tata Sons** for **Rs.208 crore**.
- **Conneqt will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Quess**.

- **Quess had acquired 51% of Conneqt in November 2017** and further increased its stake in Conneqt from 51% to 70% in May 2019 via infusion of primary capital.
- **Conneqt is a customer lifecycle management (CLM) and BPM services firm** that runs 21 delivery centers and employs over 29,000 people.

Government of Ghana to acquire 100% stake in AirtelTigo

- The government of **Ghana, Bharti Airtel and Millicom International Cellular S.A.** announced **execution of the definitive agreement for transfer of AirtelTigo.**
- The government of Ghana will **acquire 100% shares of AirtelTigo, along with all customers, assets and liabilities.**

Note :

- Earlier this month, **Bharti Airtel had entered into an agreement with Reliance Jio Infocomm to acquire the right to use spectrum in the 800-megahertz (MHz) band** in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Mumbai circles through spectrum trading.

Blackstone planned to buy majority stake in Mphasis

- Blackstone said that the private equity funds managed by it have entered into definitive agreements to acquire a majority stake in **Mphasis Ltd.**
- A wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, UC Investments and other long-term investors will co-invest along with Blackstone.
- **Mphasis** is one of the leading providers of information technology services, specializing in cloud and digital solutions.
- It has deep domain expertise in **banking, financial services and insurance sectors (BFSI)** and serves **35 of the top 50 US BFSI firms.**
- Mphasis also has long-term relationships with multiple marquee global customers.

Revision Points

Company	Merging Company
Adani Transmission Limited	Essel InfraProjects Limited
Reliance Infrastructure	YES Bank
Byju's	Aakash Educational Services
PAMPL, PTCPL & PRAPL	Sundaram Asset Management Company
HDFC	Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Ltd (10%)
Axis Bank Ltd	Insurance Company Limited (12.99%)
Adar Poonawalla-led Rising Sun Holdings Pvt Ltd	Magma Fincorp
Adani Ports	Gangavaram port (89.6%)
Flipkart	Cleartrip (100%)
Bharti Airtel	OneWeb India Communications Pvt Ltd (100%)

Quess Corporation	Conneqt (30%)
Blackstone	Mphasis

Important Web Portals and Mobile Apps

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform

- On April 05, 2021, **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union health minister** virtually launched the **Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)**.
- The Integrated Health Information Platform is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)**.
- India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system.
- It is the **world's biggest online disease surveillance** platform.
- **NCDC and WHO** are associated with the development of the platform.
- The National Digital Health Mission and fully compatible with the other digital information systems presently being used in India.
- A health information system developed for real-time, case-based information, integrated analytics, advanced visualization capability.
- **IHP to track 33 diseases** now as compared to the earlier 18 diseases.
- It is an advanced digital platform for scouting the earliest signs of disease spread in the smallest of villages and blocks in the country will immensely help in nipping in the bud any potential outbreak or epidemic.

CJI launches top court's SUPACE - AI-driven research portal

- On April 06, 2021, The Supreme Court unveiled its **Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal SUPACE**, designed to make research easier for judges, thereby easing their workload.
- The AI portal Supreme Court Portal For Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE) was launched in the presence of **incumbent CJI Bobde, Justice Nagrewara Rao, and CJI designate Justice N V Ramana**.
- It is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
- Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases.
- **Justice L Nageshwara Rao**, who is also the **chairman of the SC's Artificial Intelligence Committee**, delivered the opening address during the virtual launch of SUPACE.
- **Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde** was the **first-ever chairman** of the Artificial Intelligence Committee.
- **CJI Bobde first spoke of the use of AI** to assist the Supreme Court soon after he took oath as the Chief Justice in 2019

Narendra Singh Tomar launches Madhukranti portal and Honey Corners of NAFED in New Delhi

- On April 07, 2021, The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched **Madhukranti portal** and **Honey Corners** of **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, NAFED** in **New Delhi**.
- **Madhukranti portal** is an initiative of **National Bee Board**
- It is under the **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission**.
- **MoU** between the **National Bee Board** and **Indian Bank** was signed for this project.
- **Indian Bank** is the technical and banking partner for the development of the digital platform.
- **Honey Corner** is a specially designed space in **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)** stores dedicated to sale of honey.

Ramesh Pokhriyal launches 'MyNEP2020' Platform for Digital Consultation

- **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** launched the **"MyNEP2020" Platform** of the **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)**.
- **MyNEP 2020 Web Portal** of the **NCTE** will be **operational from April 1 to May 15, 2021**.

About the Platform :

- The platform seeks to invite suggestions/inputs/membership from the stakeholders for preparing a draft for the development of **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** and **National Mission for Mentoring Program membership (NMM)**.
- This exercise of digital consultation envisages the participation of teachers, education professionals, academicians, and other stakeholders in preparing the documents on teacher policy for sustainable and positive change in the **Teacher's Education Sector**.

Government launches community mental-health digital platform MANAS

- The **Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India **Prof. K VijayRaghavan** has virtually launched the **"MANAS" App** to promote wellbeing across age groups.

About MANAS :

- **MANAS** stands for **Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System**.
- **MANAS** was initiated by the Office of the **Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India. It was jointly executed by **NIMHANS Bengaluru, AFMC Pune and C-DAC Bengaluru**.
- The app **MANAS** is developed under **the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)**, to promote wellbeing across age groups.

Features of MANAS :

- **MANAS** is a **comprehensive, scalable, and national digital wellbeing platform and an app** developed to augment mental well-being of Indian citizens.

- MANAS App integrates the **health and wellness efforts** of various government ministries, scientifically validated indigenous tools with **gamified interfaces developed/researched** by various National bodies and Research institutions.

RBL Bank & Mastercard partner to launch “Pay by Bank App “

- On April 15, RBL Bank and Mastercard revealed their partnership to introduce the Pay by Bank App, a mobile-based **consumer-friendly payment** solution that will be the first of its kind in India.
- It is a first-of-its-kind mobile-based customer-friendly payment solution, launched to suit the **growing demand for digital, contactless payments** to ensure social distancing norms amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Through this RBL Bank account holders will be able to make **contactless transactions** across the world through their **mobile banking application both in-store and online.**
- The payment application includes **bill payments and personal payments via the mobile banking application.**

Revision Points

Applications/Web portals	Launched By/Developed By
Integrated Health Information Platform	Health Minister Harsh Vardhan
SUPACE (AI Portal)	The Supreme Court
Madhukranti portal	Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar
'MyNEP2020' Platform	HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
MANAS	Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI K VijayRaghavan
Pay by Bank App	RBL Bank and Mastercard

Important Sports News

Cricket

In ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League standings India move to 7th position

- India has been moved up to **seventh position** on the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Men's Cricket World Cup **Super League standings** after their **seven-run win over England** in the third ODI.
- Despite the loss, **England remained the top-ranked team** in the standings with **40 points.**
- **India has scored 29 points.**
- The **Super League started on July 30, 2020 with England's three-match series** against Ireland.
- It includes the 12 full members of the ICC along with the Netherlands.
- Teams that finish within the top eight will gain automatic qualification for the 2023 World Cup which is scheduled to be held in India

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Lizelle Lee win ICC Players of the Month for March 2021

- On **April 13, 2021**, The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for March 2021.
- In Men's Category, **ICC Men's Player of the Month : Bhuvneshwar Kumar**
- In the women's category, **ICC Women's Player of the Month for March : Lizelle Lee**

Football

9 cities in Australia, New Zealand to host 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

- The **2023 Women's World Cup** of football will be spread across nine cities in Australia and New Zealand.
- The opening match will be held at Eden Park in Auckland, with Sydney's Stadium Australia hosting the final.
- The **two semi-final** matches will be split between Australia and New Zealand.
- It will be the **first-of-a-kind World Cup**, co-hosted by members of different confederations.
- **Australia** joined the **Asian confederation** after qualifying for the 2006 men's World Cup, leaving **New Zealand** as the **largest member of the Oceania confederation**.
- This **World Cup** will also be the first to feature **32 teams**, up from the **24** that participated in the 2019 women's tournament in France.

Hosting Cities :

1. Adelaide
2. Brisbane
3. Melbourne
4. Perth
5. Sydney
6. Auckland
7. Dunedin
8. Hamilton
9. Wellington
10. New Zealand

FIFA suspends PFF , Chad football associations

- On **April 07, 2021**, FIFA suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) and Chadian Football Association (FTFA) after concerns over the governance of the two member associations.

Note :

- Pakistan was **previously suspended from October 2017 to March 2018** after FIFA objected to a court decision to appoint an outside administrator to run the PFF after another dispute over a contested election.

- A group of **football officials led by Ashfaq Hussain**, which was elected by the Supreme Court in 2018 to run the PFF but was not recognised by FIFA, took over the headquarters recently and seized control from the **FIFA Normalisation Committee headed by Haroon Malik**.
- The **Chadian Ministry of Youth and Sports** had stripped the country's FA of its powers on March 10 following concerns over the way it was being run and a breakdown in communication.

Others

India's latest discus throw sensation - Kamalpreet Kaur

- An **Indian Women discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur** booked for the **Tokyo Olympic Games** after she sent the **discus to 65.06 metres** in her first and only legal throw at the **24th Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships** held in **Patiala**.
- Kamalpreet **set a new national record and breached the Olympic qualification mark of 63.50m** in the process.
- She **broke the previous record of 64.76 set by Krishna Poonia in 2012**.

About Kamalpreet Kaur :

- Kamalpreet comes from **Badal village in the Sri Muktsar Sahib district of Punjab**.
- Kamalpreet started taking the sport seriously in 2014 and her initial **training began at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in her village**.
- she became the **under-18 and under-20 national champion in 2016**.
- In 2017, **she finished sixth at the 29th World University Games**.
- At Asian Athletics Championships in Doha in 2019, she finished fifth.

South Asian Wushu Championship Kerala-based Aniyam Midhun Wins Gold

- On March 30 & 31, 2021, **Aniyam Midhun of Kerala won the gold medal** in the 70-kg category at the **South Asian Wushu Championship 2021**.
- It was held in **Nepal**.
- He is the **first Wushu player** from southern India to reach the Indian team.

About Aniyam Midhun :

- Midhun belongs to **Nattika village in Thrissur district of Kerala**.
- Midhun is a **black belt in karate** and he is also a national champion in wushu as well as kickboxing. In fact, the 28-year-old was introduced to wushu when he was in **fifth standard and hasn't looked back since**.
- He is currently training with **veteran coach Kuldeep Handu who is an Arjuna Award winner** and the Indian wushu head coach.
- He is also a **state-level boxer** and when he is not competing in competitions, he trains close to 70 students back home in Thrissur.

Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent host 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships

- On March 02, 2021, the 2023 men's boxing World Championships will be held in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent.
- International Boxing Association (AIBA) President Umar Kremlev confirmed Tashkent as the host city during a visit to Uzbekistan.

Note :

- The city of Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan.
- For first time Uzbekistan host 22nd edition of 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships

2021 Miami Open Tennis Tournament : Hubert Hurkacz of Poland and Ashleigh Barty of Australia wins

- The 2021 Miami Open Tennis Tournament Hubert Hurkacz of Poland defeated Italian teenager Jannik Sinner in straight sets.
- The 36th edition of the Miami Open was starting from March 23 to April 4, 2021
- It was held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.
- This is the first ATP Masters title of his career.
- In addition to that this is the second title of the season.

List of winners :

Winners Title	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Single	Hubert Hurkacz (Poland)	Jannik Sinner (Italy)
Men's Double	Nikola Pietrangeli/ Mate Pavic	Dan Evans/Neal Skupski
Women's Single	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Bianca Andreescu (Canada)
Women's Double	Shuko Aoyama/ Ena Shibahara	Hayley Carter /Luisa Stefani

Four sailors from India qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021

- In a historic first for the country, Four Indian sailors qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.
- The pair of Ganapathy Chengappa, Varun Thakkar, and Vishnu Saravanan made the cut during an ongoing Asian Qualifiers in Oman on April 8, 2021.
- This was after Nethra Kumanan on April 7 became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics in the laser radial event in the Mussanah Open Championship.
- It is an Asian Olympic Qualifying event.

Sports Minister inaugurates Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Rowing discipline in Srinagar

- On April 10, 2021, Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Shri Kiren Rijju inaugurated Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Rowing discipline at the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy in Srinagar.
- There are currently 24 KISCEs across 23 States and Union Territories and each of them focuses on Olympics sports discipline.
- This is one of the two KISCEs from Jammu & Kashmir itself, with the Maulana Azad Stadium for Fencing discipline in Jammu.
- A consolidated amount of Rs. 5.08 crores have been approved for the 2 centres in Jammu & Kashmir.

Indian Army Officer Breaks two Guinness World Records For Fastest Solo Cycling

- Indian Army's Lieutenant Colonel Bharat Pannu has earned two Guinness World Records for his fastest solo cycling.
- The first record was created when Lt Col Pannu cycled from Leh to Manali (472 km distance) on October 10, 2020, in just 35 hours and 25 minutes.
- He created a second record when he cycled the 5,942-km-long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes.
- He Started This cycling event from India Gate in New Delhi on October 16, and it ended back at the same spot on October 30.

Asian Wrestling Championships 2021: India clinches one Gold, two Bronze medals

- On April 16, 2021, Olympics-bound Indian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Anshu Malik clinched their maiden Asian Championship titles at Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- It is being held from April 13 to 18, 2021.
- India has a rich haul of seven medals from the women's event as the country won four gold, a silver and two bronze medals in this edition.
- Sarita Mor clinched the sole gold medal for India by defending the women's 59 kg title.
- The 25-year-old wrestler from Haryana made a spectacular comeback in the final stages of her final bout with Mongolia's Shoovdor Baatarjav to score 9 straight points, taking the final score to 10-7.
- Two other Indian women wrestlers-Seema Bisla (50kg) and Pooja (76kg) won one bronze medal each in their respective weight categories.

In F1 Grand Prix 2021, Max Verstappen Wins Emilia Romagna

- On April 18, 2021, Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) won the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021.
- It was held in Imola, Italy.
- This win is his first victory of the season.
- The seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton finished second, following the crash and sustaining damage involving Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas.
- Lando Norris (McLaren – Great Britain) took third place.
- The race was the second round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.

Senior Asian Wrestling Championship - India Clinches 14 medal including 5 Gold, 3 Silver and Six Bronze at 2021

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

List of **GOLD MEDAL** Winners :

1. Ravi Kumar Dahiya – 57 kg Men's freestyle
2. Vinesh Phogat – 53 kg Women's freestyle
3. Anshu Malik – 57 kg Women's freestyle
4. Sarita Mor – 59 kg Women's freestyle
5. Divya Kakran – 72 kg Women's freestyle

List of **SILVER MEDAL** Winners :

1. Bajrang Punia – 65 kg Men's freestyle
2. Deepak Punia – 86 kg Men's freestyle
3. Sakshi Malik – 65 kg Women's freestyle

List of **BRONZE MEDAL** Winners :

1. Karan Mor – 70 kg Men's freestyle
2. Narsingh Yadav – 79 kg Men's freestyle
3. Sanjeet – 92 kg Men's freestyle
4. Satyawart Kadian – 97 kg Men's freestyle
5. Seema Bisla – 50 kg Women's freestyle
6. Pooja Sihag – 76 kg Women's freestyle

Stefanos Tsitsipas Wins Maiden Masters 1000 Crown In Monte-Carlo

- **On April 18, 2021, the 2021 Rolex Monte Carlo Masters singles title**, In Tennis, **Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) beat Andrey Rublev (Russia)** in a straight-sets 6-3 6-3.
- Including this win, Tsitsipas has claimed the **first ATP Masters 1000 trophy of his career**.
- In Men's Double Event Winner is Nikola Mektić /Mate Pavic (Croatia) Beat Dan Evans / Neal Skupski, (United Kingdom) 6-3, 4-6, [10-7]

ITBP sets up water sports & adventure training institute in Uttarakhand

- A **Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI)** has been established by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand.
- **On April 16, 2021, The institute was inaugurated by Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.**
- ITBP's Mountaineering and Skiing Institute at Auli, will independently run this institution.

- It will impart training in aero, water and land-related sports and adventure activities.
- Currently, three ITBP teams - kayaking, canoeing and rowing - have been deployed here, in which around 59 sports persons are available.
- This institution will boost national and international tourism and it will increase opportunity of employment for the people of the state.

2021 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships : India Clinches Historic Win with 11 Medals

- From April 13 to 23, 2021, The 2021 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships was held in Kielce, Poland.
- It is a 10-day biennial event
- It witnessed 414 boxers from 52 countries.
- From India, eight boxers competed in the finals
- Eight Boxers including 7 female players and one male.
- In that, India ended the tournament with 11 medals (8 gold & 3 bronze) to finish top in the medal table.
- The previous best outing for India had come in the 2018 edition where they won 10 medals.

List of Winners :

Gold Medal Winners

1. Gitika – 48kg
2. Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu – 51kg
3. Poonam Pinia – 57kg
4. Vinka – 60kg
5. Arundhati Choudhary – 69kg
6. Thokchom Sanamacha Chanu – 75kg
7. Alfiya Pathan – +81kg
8. Sachin – 56kg

Bronze Medal Winners

1. Bishwamitra Chongtham – 49kg
2. Ankit Narwal – 64kg
3. Vishal Gupta – 91kg

In November 2021 Houston to Host Table Tennis World Championships

- The ITTF World Table Tennis Championships, the Harris County Houston Sports Authority has announced that it will host the event November 23–29, 2021, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.
- It will be the first time the United States has hosted the tournament.
- The rescheduled event will coincide with and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic mission between the United States and China that was dubbed “Ping Pong Diplomacy.”
- The Decision was made at a meeting of the ITTF executive committee on April 11.

Rafael Nadal Wins 12th Barcelona Open Title

- On April 25, 2021, Rafael Nadal defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-7(6), 7-5.
- He collected a record-extending 12th Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell trophy.
- The Barcelona Open Title 2021 held from April 17 to 25, 2021, at Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, Spain.

About Barcelona Open :

- The Barcelona Open is an annual tennis tournament for male professional players.
- The event has been held in Barcelona, Spain every year from 1953, and is played on clay courts at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona.

Archery World Cup: Atanu Das, Deepika Kumari Wins Gold

- On April 25, 2021, Indian Archery newly-wedded couple Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari won individual gold medals at the ongoing Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Guatemala.
- Atanu Das outclassed Spanish World Cup debutant Daniel Castro 6-4 to claim his maiden individual World Cup medal.
- Deepika defeated Mackenzie Brown of the USA 6-5, via the tie breaker, in the gold medal matches.
- Atanu has also won the mixed category with Ankita.
- India produced its best-ever performance in the Archery World Cup with 3 gold and 1 bronze medal.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	New Delhi	SS Deswal
IFFCO	New Delhi	B.S.Nakai
Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Matam Venkata Rao
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai	Partha Pratim Sengupta
Bank of India	Mumbai	P R Rajagopal
National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company	Mumbai	Durgesh Pandey
NITI Aayog	New Delhi	Amitabh Kant
EdCIL (India) Limited	New Delhi	Manoj Kumar
Serum Institute of India	Pune	Adar Poonawalla
Defence Research and Development Organisation	New Delhi	G Satheesh Reddy
National Integrity and Educational Development Organization	Kanpur	Rohit Srivastava
Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	Dhaka	Tenzin Lekphell

Indian Council for Cultural Relations	New Delhi	Vinay Sahasrabuddhe
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation	New Delhi	Subhash Kumar
Employees' State Insurance Corporation	New Delhi	Prem Narayan Arora
Britannia Industries	Bengaluru	Varun Berry
Piramal Enterprises Ltd	Mumbai	Ajay Piramal
Public Enterprises Selection Board	New Delhi	Mallika Srinivasan
Digit Insurance	Bengaluru	Vijay Kumar
Small Industries Development Bank of India	Lucknow	Sivasubramanian Ramann
Siemens Healthcare India	Mumbai	Sunil Mathur
Pramerica Life Insurance	Guragaon	Kalpna Sampat
Walt Disney Company India and Star India	Mumbai	K. Madhavan
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	New Delhi	Poonam Gupta
HDFC securities	Mumbai	Dhiraj Relli
Nasscom	New Delhi	Rekha M Menon
Cyient	Hyderabad	Krishna Bodanapu
Bajaj Auto	Pune	Niraj Bajaj
Tata Motors	Mumbai	Guenter Butschek
National Collateral Management Services Limited	Gurgaon	Sanjay Kaul
Karnataka Bank	Mangalore	Mahabaleshwara M. S
Maruti Suzuki	New Delhi	Kenichi Ayukawa
Spices Board India	Kochi	D. Sathiyam
UNDP	New York	Achim Steiner
OneWeb	London	Adrián Steckel
CleanMax	Mumbai	Sushant Arora
Competition Commission of India	New Delhi	Ashok Kumar Gupta
Indian Bank	Chennai	Padmaja Chunduru
Energy Efficiency Services Limited	New Delhi	Rajat Sud
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	New Delhi	Pravin Kumar Purwar
Ashok Leyland	Chennai	Vipin Sondhi

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs	New Delhi	M. Ajit Kumar
International Telecommunication Union	Geneva	Houlin Zhao
Bharat Dynamics Limited	Hyderabad	Siddharth Mishra
Indian Space Research Organisation	Bengaluru	Kailasavadivoo Sivan
Roscosmos	Moscow	Dmitry Rogozin
CSIR-CMERI	Durgapur	Shekhar C. Mande
World Economic Forum	Cologny	Børge Brende
Reporters Without Borders	Paris	Christophe Deloire
International Cricket Council	Dubai	Greg Barclay
Pakistan Football Federation	Lahore	Haroon Malik
FIFA	Zurich	Gianni Infantino
Sports Authority of India	New Delhi	Sandip Pradhan
Angel Broking	Mumbai	Vinay Agrawal
Central Bureau of Investigation	New Delhi	Praveen Sinha
Adobe	California	Shantanu Narayen
Adani Transmission Limited	Ahmedabad	Anil Kumar Sardana
Essel InfraProjects Limited	Mumbai	S.N Sunkari
Byju	Bengaluru	Byju Raveendran
Max Life Insurance	Gurugram	Prashant Tripathy
Cleartrip	Mumbai	Stuart Crighton
Bharti Airtel	New Delhi	Sunil Bharti Mittal
Mphasis	Bengaluru	Nitin Rakesh
RBL Bank	Mumbai	Vishwavir Ahuja
Mastercard	New York	Michael Miebach
WHO	Geneva	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Important Obituaries

Name	Field
Beverly Cleary	American writer (Children's Author)
Didier Ratsiraka	Madagascar's former President
Walter Anthony Gustavo 'Wag'	Lieutenant General, Indian Army

Pinto	
Digvijaysinh Zala	Former Union Environment Minister and Gujarat MLA
Shashikala Om Prakash Saigal	Actress
Isamu Akasaki	Japanese physicist (co-winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in physics)
Bhagwati Singh	Founder member of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and former UP minister
Utkal Keshari' Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab	Odisha Itihaas (Hindi translation) (translated into Hindi by Shri. Shankarlal Purohit)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi(First published in 2018)	Exam Warriors (Updated Version)
Radheshyam Khemka (Editor of Kalyan)	President of Gita Press
Chandra Nayudu	India's first female Cricket commentator
Fatima R Zakaria	Journalist-author
Prince Philip	Philip was the longest-serving consort of any British monarch (Husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom)
Sanjay Chakravarty	Shooting coach (Dronacharya Awardee and the Dadoji Konddev Award from Maharashtra)
Satish Kaul	Punjabi Mahabharat
IA Rehman	Pakistani human rights defender and journalist
Awadh Yogesh Praveen	Historian (Encyclopedia of Lucknow)
Balbir Singh Junior	Hockey Player (Silver medal- winning 1958 Asian Games Indian hockey team)
Ranjit Sinha	Former CBI Director
Dr. Kakarla Subba Rao	Radiologist and former Director of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad
G.V.G. Krishnamurty	Former Chief Election Commissioner
Vinay Agrawal	Chief Executive Officer of Angel Broking
Vivek	Tamil film actor and Padma Shri awardee
Sara Begum Kabori	Bangladeshi actor
Ahmed Hussain	Former India international footballer
G Venkatasubbaish	Kannada lexicographer

Bachi Singh Rawat	Former Union minister and senior BJP leader
Sumitra Bhave	7-time National Award winner Marathi film-maker and writer
Charles Geschke	Adobe co-founder and PDF developer
Maidavolu Narasimham	Former Reserve Bank of India Governor (Padma Vibhushan in 2000, India's executive director at the World Bank & IMF)
Walter F Mondale	Former vice-president and liberal leader (42nd Vice President of the USA)
Shankha Ghosh	Bengali poet (Padma Bhusha – 2011, Jnanpith Award – 2016, Sahitya Akademi – 1977 (Babarar Prarthana), Sahitya Akademi- 1999)
Kishore Nandlaskar	Actor
Idriss Deby Itno	President of the Republic of Chad
Farid Sabri of the Sabri Brothers	Qawwali singer
Amit Mistry	Gujarati and Hindi film actor
Shravan Rathod (Popularly known as Nadeem-Shravan)	Music Composer
M Narasimham	Former Reserve Bank of India governor (India's executive director at the World Bank, IMF & ADB)
M. Shantanagoudar	Supreme Court judge
Arun Chaudhary	Former Chief of Sashastra Seema Bal
Pandit Rajan Mishra	Classical music singer (Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Gandharva National Award and the National Tansen Samman)
Jagdish Khattar	Former managing director of Maruti Suzuki India
Krishnamurti Santhanam	Nuclear scientist (Padma Bhushan in 1999)
Dadudan Pratapdan Gadhvi (Kavi Dad)	Gujarati poet and folk singer
Manoj Das	Indian author (Odia and English) (Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020)
Sanjay Kumar	Senior Indian Information Service officer
Michael Collins	American astronaut