

## Weekly Current Affairs 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### 1. Distribution of e-property cards under SVAMITVA scheme

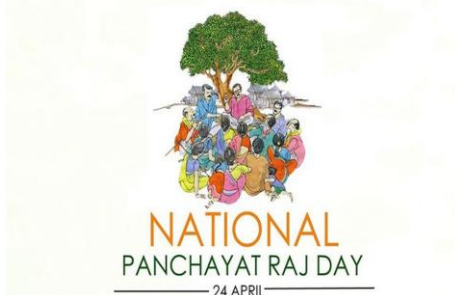


## SVAMITVA SCHEME

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

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the distribution of e-property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme on National Panchayati Raj Day.
- Under the scheme, the entire village's properties are surveyed by drone and property cards are distributed to the owners. 4.09 lakh people were given such e-property cards in more than 5 thousand villages.
- **About SVAMITVA scheme:** SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) was launched by the Prime Minister on 24th April 2020 as a Central Sector Scheme to promote a socio-economically empowered and self-reliant rural India.
- It paves the way for using the property as a financial asset by villagers for availing loans and other financial benefits.
- The Scheme will cover around 6.62 Lakh villages of the entire country during 2021-2025.
- The pilot phase of the Scheme was implemented during 2020–2021 in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and select villages of Punjab and Rajasthan.

### 2. National Panchayat Awards 2021



- **About National Panchayati Raj Day:** It is the national day of Panchayati Raj System in India celebrated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on **24 April annually**.
- Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2010.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the National Panchayat Awards 2021** on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj day.
- **The Awards were given under various categories including** the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (to 224 Panchayats), Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (to 30 Gram Panchayats), Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (to 29 Gram Panchayats), Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (to 30 Gram Panchayats) and e-Panchayat Puraskar (to 12 States).
- The Award money ranging from 5 to 50 lakh rupees was transferred electronically to the awardee Panchayats.

### 3. Leaders' Summit on Climate



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Leaders' Summit on Climate at the invitation of the President of U.S.A. Joseph R. Biden, which was held virtually on 22-23 April 2021.
- The theme of the summit was "**Our Collective Sprint to 2030**".
- India's ambitious renewable energy target is 450 Gigawatts by 2030.
- India's per capita carbon footprint is 60 percent lower than the global average.
- PM Modi announced the 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.
- The Summit was a part of a series of global meetings focusing on climate issues, being held in the run up to COP26 in November 2021.
- **Note:** The US has joined the **India-Sweden climate initiative**, the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, LeadIT.

### 4. "Reaching Zero" Forum on Malaria Elimination

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare chaired the "Reaching Zero" forum on malaria elimination to celebrate World Malaria Day.
- **Every year, 25<sup>th</sup> April is observed as 'World Malaria Day'.**
- This year's theme for the day is "**Reaching the Zero Malaria target.**"



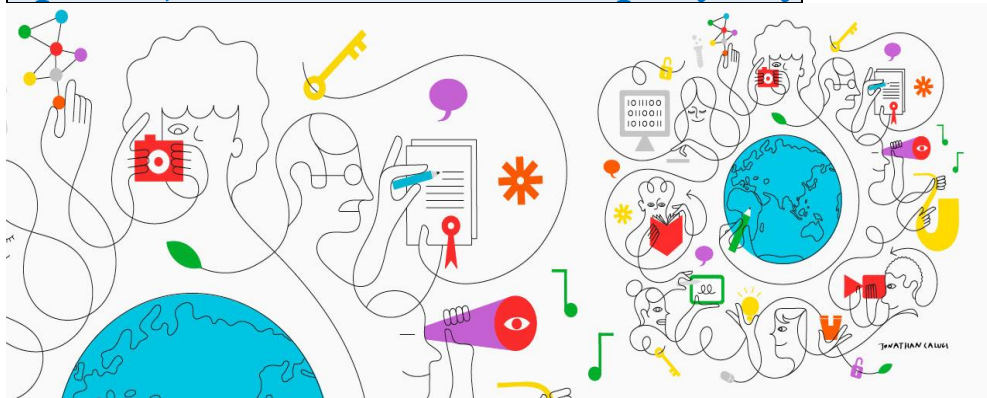
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been among the 18 Global leaders who endorsed the Malaria Elimination roadmap of Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance at the East Asia Summit held in Malaysia in 2015. It was then that the alliance leadership set the goal of ensuring that the Region becomes free of malaria by 2030.
- Government's efforts have resulted in 84.5% reduction in malaria cases and 83.6% reduction in deaths in 2020 compared to 2015.
- In 2020, as many as 116 districts in the Country reported zero malaria cases.

## 5. 'Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021'



- Rumana Sinha Sehgal, Software-engineer turned social entrepreneur from Hyderabad, has been awarded the prestigious 'Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021' by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace.
- Her work has been recognised in the fields of developing innovative and functional 'green' products by recycling varied materials and creative use of non-biodegradable materials.
- She is also the recipient of the Nationwide Award -under 50- Business Leader 2021 for social entrepreneurship by Business Mint.
- At the Influencer Summit in January this year, she also received the 'International Influencer of the year 2021'.
- She has won the ReX Karmaveer Chakra (silver) and Global Fellowship award 2019 for her work in the zone of women and child empowerment.
- She was also crowned the 'Mrs Universe Successful 2018'.

## 6. April 26, World Intellectual Property Day



- In 2000, WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation)'s member states designated April 26 – the day on which the WIPO Convention came into force in 1970 – as World IP Day with the aim of increasing general understanding of IP.
- In 2021, the World Intellectual Property Day (IP) is being celebrated under the theme: **‘IP and SMEs: Taking your Ideas to Market’**.
- **Intellectual property (IP)** refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.
- IP is protected in law by, for example, patents, copyright and trademarks, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create. By striking the right balance between the interests of innovators and the wider public interest, the IP system aims to foster an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish.

## 7. 551 PSA Oxygen Generation Plants to be set up in public health facilities across the country through PM CARES



- In line with Prime Minister's direction of boosting availability of oxygen to hospitals, the PM CARES Fund has given in-principle approval for allocation of funds for installation of 551 dedicated **Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants** inside public health facilities in the country.
- These dedicated plants will be established in identified Government hospitals in district headquarters in various States/UTs.
- The procurement will be done through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



- **Note:** The PM CARES Fund had earlier this year allocated Rs.201.58 crores for installation of additional 162 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants inside public health facilities in the country

## 8. #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge



- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology announced a **#FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge** to accelerate adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) In Government.
- The **#FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge** calls upon FOSS innovators, technology entrepreneurs and Indian Startups to submit implementable open source product innovations in CRM and ERP with possible applications for Govtech in Health, Education, Agriculture, Urban Governance etc.
- To increase awareness about the usage of FOSS in governance and Government functioning, and adoption of FOSS, a virtual roundtable discussion '**Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in Government**' was organized by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with Omidyar Network India.**
- **Note:** India is well positioned to become a vibrant hub for Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) innovations, due to the large number of 4G data subscribers in India, 96% of whom access the digital world via open-source based mobile operating systems (primarily Android).
- Some of India's largest-government projects (including Aadhaar) and many technology start-ups have also been built using FOSS.
- Acknowledging the huge potential of FOSS, the Government of India had issued a **Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software in 2015.**

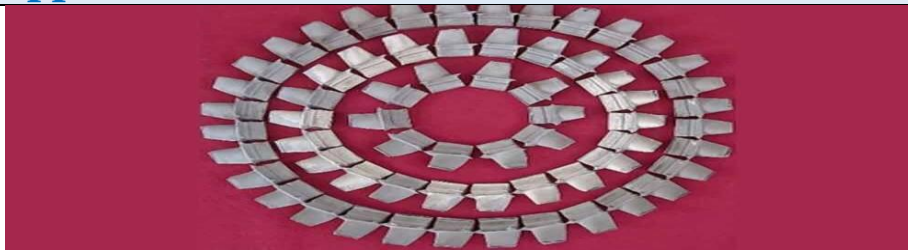
## 9. 'VARUNA-2021' exercise



- The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021' is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea from 25th to 27th April 2021.

- The three day exercise will see high tempo-naval operations at sea, including advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises, intense fixed and rotary wing flying operations, tactical manoeuvres, surface and anti-air weapon firings, underway replenishment and other maritime security operations.
- On completion of exercise VARUNA-21, to consolidate accrued best practices and enhance interoperability, Indian Navy's guided missile frigate INS Tarkash will continue to exercise with the French Navy's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) from 28th April to 1st May 2021.
- VARUNA-21 highlights growing bonhomie and showcases increased levels of synergy, coordination and inter-operability between the two friendly navies. These interactions further underscore the shared values as partner navies, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

## 10. Single Crystal Blades for helicopter engine application



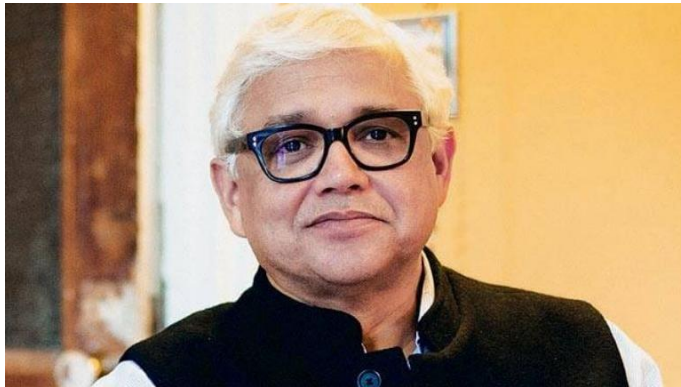
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed single crystal blades technology and supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as part of their indigenous helicopter development program for helicopter engine application.
- It is part of a program taken up by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premium laboratory of DRDO, to develop five sets (300 in number) of single crystal high pressure turbine (HPT) blades using a nickel-based super alloy. The supply of the remaining four sets will be completed in due course.
- Helicopters used in strategic and defence applications need compact and powerful aero-engines for their reliable operation at extreme conditions. To achieve this, state-of-the-art Single Crystal Blades having complex shape and geometry, manufactured out of Nickel based superalloys capable of withstanding high temperatures of operation are used.
- **Note:** Very few countries in the world such as the **USA, UK, France and Russia** have the capability to design and manufacture such Single Crystal (SX) components.

## 11. Rekha Menon becomes first woman chairperson of NASSCOM

- Rekha M. Menon, Chairperson and senior managing director at Accenture India, was appointed as the chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2021-22.
- In the 30-year history of NASSCOM, she became the first woman to head the IT industry's apex body.

- **About National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM):** It is an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group focused mainly on Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing industry. Established in 1988, NASSCOM is a non-profit organisation.

## 12. 'The Living Mountain': A Fable for Our Times



- It is a fable for the current times: a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature, leading to an environmental collapse.
- HarperCollins

Publishers India will publish *The Living Mountain* as a special standalone edition in January 2022 under its prestigious Fourth Estate imprint.

- Amitav Ghosh is an Indian writer and the winner of the 54th Jnanpith award, best known for his work in English fiction.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government in 2007.

## 13. Community service centre to make data from India's first solar space mission accessible for analysis



- A community service centre has been set up to bring all data on board **India's first dedicated solar space mission** to a single web-based interface enabling the users to quickly look at the data and identify the interesting science cases.
- The service centre called **Aditya-L1 Support Cell (AL1SC)**, a joint effort of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** an autonomous institute of the **Department of Science & Technology**, Government of India will be used by the guest observers in analyzing science data and preparing science observing proposals.
- **AL1SC** set up at the transit campus of **ARIES** at Haldwani, Uttarakhand, will jointly work with **ISRO** to maximize utilization of science data from **Aditya-L1** and facilitate India's first dedicated solar space mission- Aditya-L1.



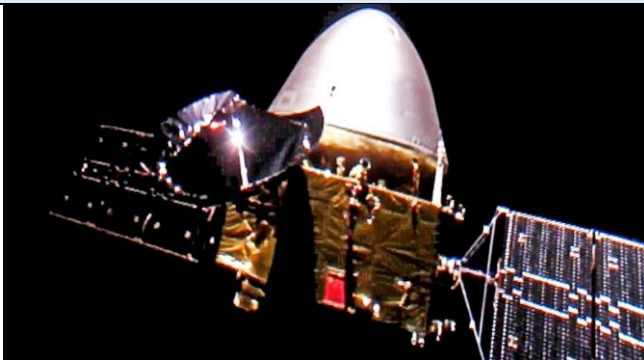
- The centre will also provide the co-aligned data from other observatories around the world that can complement the data obtained from Aditya-L1 allowing users to accomplish the science goals beyond the capabilities of the Aditya-L1.

#### **14. Australia-India-Japan Trade Ministers' Joint Statement on launch of Supply Chain Resilience initiative**



- The Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience initiative in a Trilateral Ministerial Meeting held virtually on 27.04.2021.
- Mr. Dan Tehan, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Piyush Goyal, India's Minister for Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Kajiyama Hiroshi, Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry held a Ministerial videoconference.
- The Ministers launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). The Ministers instructed their officials to implement the following as initial projects of SCRI and further develop the Initiative: (i) sharing of best practices on supply chain resilience; and (ii) holding investment promotion events and buyer-seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to explore the possibility of diversification of their supply chains.
- The Ministers decided to convene at least once a year to provide guidance to the implementation of the SCRI as well as to consult on how to develop the Initiative.

#### **15. China's first Mars Rover named 'Zhurong'**



- China has named its first Mars rover 'Zhurong' after the traditional fire god.



- China launched its Mars probe - Tianwen-1 on July 23, 2020. The spacecraft, consisting of an orbiter, a lander and a rover, entered the parking orbit of Mars on February 24, 2021.
- The Tianwen-1 aims to map the morphology and geological structure, investigate surface soil characteristics and water-ice distribution, analyze the surface material composition, measure the ionosphere and the characteristics of the Martian climate and environment at the surface and perceive the physical fields.
- **Note:** China would become the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a robot rover on Mars.

## 16. 93rd Academy Awards (Oscar award 2021)



- The 93rd Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored the best films of 2020 and early 2021. It took place in Los Angeles on April 25, 2021.
- **Note:** Nomadland won three awards. The film won Best Picture, Best Actress for Frances McDormand and Best Director for Chloe Zhao. Chloe is the second woman to win this year in the Academy's 93 years of giving awards.
- In the 'In Memoriam' section of the 93rd Academy Awards, actor Irrfan Khan and costume designer Bhanu Athaiya were honoured. The two legends passed away in 2020.
- **Main Winners of 93rd Academy Awards:**

Award	Winner
Best Picture	Nomadland
Best Director	Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)
Best Actress	Frances McDormand (Nomadland)
Best Actor	Anthony Hopkins (The Father)
Best Supporting Actress	Youn Yuh-jung (Minari)
Best Supporting Actor	Daniel Kaluuya (Judas And The Black Messiah)

Best Original Screenplay	Promising Young Woman
Best Adapted Screenplay	The Father
Best Animated Feature Film	Soul
Best International Feature Film	Another Round
Best Original Score	Soul
Best Original Song	Fight For You (Judas And The Black Messiah)
Best Documentary Feature	My Octopus Teacher
Best Sound	Sound of Metal
Best Cinematography	Mank
Best Film Editing	Sound of Metal
Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award	Tyler Perry

**17. Rafael Nadal wins 12th Barcelona Open Title 2021**



- Spain’s Rafael Nadal won the 12th Barcelona Open Title 2021. He defeated Greece’s Stefanos Tsitsipas.
- Rafael Nadal secured his first title of the year 2021 and 87th of his career.

**18. SIPRI Report: India 3<sup>rd</sup> highest military spender in 2020**



- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute released its “Trends in world Military Expenditure, 2020” report. According to the report, India was the third largest military spender in the world in 2020, behind only the US and China.

- The US accounted for 39 percent of the money spent on the military globally, China accounted for 13 percent, and India accounted for 3.7 percent of the globe's share.
- The military expenditure of India has grown by 2.1% and that of China has grown by 1.9%. The military Expenditure of the US has grown by 4.4%.
- Global military expenditure rose to \$1981 billion in 2020, an increase of 2.6 percent from 2019.

Rank	Country	Spending
1	US	USD 778 Billion
2	China	USD 252 Billion
3	India	USD 72.9 Billion

- **About Stockholm International Peace Research Institute:** It is an international institute based in Stockholm. It was founded in 1966 and provides data, analysis and recommendations for armed conflict, military expenditure, and arms trade as well as disarmament and arms control.

## 19. Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness (An Indian Army initiative in partnership with HPCL)



- As part of the Indian Army's sustained initiative to secure a better future for Ladakhi youth, the Leh based Corps of Indian Army, signed an MoU with corporate partner **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and executing agency **National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation, (NIEDO)** at Leh.
- The project Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness has been conceptualized to secure a better future for the youth of UT of Ladakh and is a full-time residential program to mentor and guide them for a period of twelve months for entrance examinations of various Medical and Engineering Colleges spread across in India.
- The program under the aegis of Indian Army will be executed by Kanpur based NGO, National Integrity & Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO). Army would oversee the overall operations to include administration and logistics with requisite funding support through Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).





- **Facts about Ladakh:**  
**Union territory established:** 31 October 2019  
**Capital** Leh, Kargil  
**Lieutenant Governor:** Radha Krishna Mathur

## 20. DRDO conducts maiden trial of Python-5 Air to Air Missile



- Tejas, India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, added the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its air-to-air weapons capability on April 27, 2021.
- Trials were also aimed to validate enhanced capability of already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas.
- 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).

## 21. UK becomes first country to announce regulation of use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways



- Britain's transport ministry said that it was working on specific wording to update the country's highway code for the safe use of self-driving vehicle systems. It added that the ministry will start with Automated Lane Keeping Systems (ALKS) - which use sensors and software to keep cars within a lane, allowing them to accelerate and brake without driver input.
- According to the government, the use of ALKS would be restricted to motorways, at speeds under 60 km per hour. The UK government wants to be at the forefront of rolling out autonomous driving technology and the transport ministry forecasts by 2035 around 40% of new UK cars could have self-driving capabilities, creating up to 38,000 new skilled jobs.

## 22. Central Government appoints Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth as a Director on the Central Board of RBI



- The Central Government has appointed Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India.
- A 1987-batch Karnataka cadre IAS officer, Seth assumed charge of the Department of Economic Affairs in April 16, 2021.
- Seth replaces Tarun Bajaj, who was appointed as Revenue Secretary.

## 23. Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021: India ranked 49th



- India has been ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021 among 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
- India's index score stood at 0.516.
  - Rank 1:** Finland
  - Rank 2:** Switzerland
  - Rank 3:** Singapore

**Rank 49:** India

- The **Chandler Institute of Governance**, headquartered in Singapore, releases the **Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI)**.
- The CGGI is the index of effective governance in the world. It ranks 104 countries in terms of their government capabilities and outcomes.
- The CGGI focuses on seven pillars: Leadership and Foresight, Robust Laws and Policies, Strong Institutions, Financial Stewardship, Attractive Marketplace, Global Influence and Reputation and Helping People Rise.

## 24. 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 cyber space with the G-7 Digital Ministers.
- **Note:** The United Kingdom has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the G7 Summit as a guest, along with Australia, South Korea and South Africa.
- The G7 Summit is to be held on June 11-13, 2021.



- **Facts about G7:** The heads of government of the member states, as well as the representatives of the European Union, meet at the annual G7 Summit.
- **Founded:** 1975



- **Members:** United Kingdom, United States, Japan, France, Germany, Canada, Italy.

## 25. Central Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Budni (Madhya Pradesh) tests the first-ever electric Tractor in the Institute



- The institute received the application for an electric tractor under Confidential Test initially.
- Accordingly, the institute has tested the tractor & released the Draft Test Report in February 2021. After the release of the draft test report, the manufacturer has requested for conversion of the nature of the test from “Confidential to Commercial” and the competent authority has accepted the request of the manufacturer. Accordingly, the Test Report was released as a Commercial Test Report.
- The Institute has obtained the NABL Certificate of Accreditation for CMVR Test Laboratory on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## 26. 1 Lakh Portable Oxygen Concentrators to be procured from PM CARES fund



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned the procurement of 1 Lakh Portable Oxygen Concentrators from the PM CARES Fund.
- The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to discuss the measures needed to improve Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) Supply for COVID management.

- In addition to the earlier sanctioned 713 PSA plants under PM CARES Fund, 500 new Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants have been sanctioned under PM CARES Fund.
- These 500 PSA plants will be established with transfer of the indigenous technology developed by **DRDO and CSIR** to the domestic manufacturers.

## 27. Krithi Karanth becomes first Indian woman to get 'Wild Innovator Award'



- Dr Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 'WILD Innovator Award'.
- This award was given by the '**WILD ELEMENTS Foundation**' brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to disrupt the status quo and identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation.
- The Foundation's distinctive approach to addressing climate change is the "Power of Three," recognising the interconnectedness of animal kind, humankind, and plant kind for the future planetary wellness of our shared home.

## 28. Secretary, DoE in Finance Ministry T V Somanathan designated as new Finance Secretary



- IAS Officer T V Somanathan who is serving as Secretary, Department of Expenditure (DoE) in the Finance Ministry has been designated as the Finance Secretary.
- He is a 1987 batch IAS Officer of Tamil Nadu Cadre.