

# Weekly One-Liners

22-30 April 2021



## Weekly One Liners Updates 22-30 April 2021

**Dear readers,**

**Weekly One Liners Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-30th) of **April 2021**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with which another housing finance company \_\_\_\_\_ **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.**

**Note:**

- The loans under the program will be in the funding ratio of 80:20 in which 80% of the loan is with HDFC's books and 20% with Indiabulls HFL's books).
- Indiabulls will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan and it holds 20% of the credit risk by way of direct exposure.

2. Which bank has decided to withdraw its banking services from India just within a week of Citi banks exit \_\_\_\_\_ **FirstRand Bank.**

**Note:**

- It is the second largest bank in South Africa.
- FirstRand had started its banking service in India in late 2009 but it started lending to individual customers and small and medium enterprises only in 2012.
- The bank has its only office in Mumbai and acts as a branch of FirstRand Bank South Africa.

3. In Partnership with which two banks the Aceware FinTech Services launched Kerala's first neobank called Ace Money Neobank \_\_\_\_\_ **YES Bank and ICICI Bank.**

**Note:**

- Under Ace Money, the start-ups, merchants, and enterprise entities can open present accounts, in line with the corporate
- Chqbook is India's first Neobank for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships.

4. Which bank has appointed Ernst & Young Global Limited, a multinational professional services network as its digital consultant \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Overseas Bank.**

**Note:**

- This partnership is a part of IOB's growth strategy to transform its banking services into Digital format.
- The aim of the partnership is to increase IOB's digital share in the market and to attract millennial customers.
- The Digital consultant will support IOB to focus on utilizing and adopting the new technologies and enhance its service quality and delivery to its customers.

5. Which bank has acquired 9 per cent equity stake in Techfino Capital Private Limited (TCPL), a non-banking financial company (NBFC) \_\_\_\_\_ **DCB Bank.**

**Note:**

- TCPL provides customized consumer loans in the education and healthcare sectors and is present in key metros and tier-II cities across India
- The funds raised by TCPL will be used in the enhancement of its current Tech Stack, apart from on-lending to customers.

6. Which Indian IT company has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider Digital OnUS for \$120 million, including retention bonus and earnout payments \_\_\_\_\_ **Tech Mahindra.**

**Note:**

- IT major Tech Mahindra has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider DigitalOnUS for \$120 million, including retention bonus and earnout payments.

- The acquisition will strengthen Tech Mahindra's cloud-native development, hybrid cloud infrastructure and site reliability engineering automation. The transaction is expected to close by May 15.
7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has restricted which foreign entity from on-boarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1, 2021, due to the non-compliance with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data \_\_\_\_\_ **American Express Banking Corp & Diners Club International Ltd.**

**Note:**

- American Express and Diners Club are authorized to operate card networks in India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).
  - In April 2018, RBI has made certain regulation under PSS Act for the storage of payment system data to payment system providers such as,
  - Directed to store all the data related to payment systems (full end-to-end transaction details/information collected/carried/processed as part of the message/payment instruction) in a system only in India (within October 2018).
8. As per the RBI what should be the maximum tenure for the post of MD & CEO or Whole Time Director in banks, including private sector banks, small finance banks (SFBs) and wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign banks \_\_\_\_\_ **15 years.**

**Note:**

- As per the regulator, the post of MD & CEO or WTD (whole time director) can't be held by same incumbent for more than 15 years.
  - The post of the MD & CEO or WTD cannot be held by the same incumbent for more than 15 years.
  - Thereafter, the individual will be eligible for re-appointment as MD & CEO or WTD in the same bank, if considered necessary and desirable by the board, after a minimum gap of three years, subject to meeting other conditions
9. In April 2021, the Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of which cooperative bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited.**

**Note:**

- On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.
  - According to the regulator, the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in the full and public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.
10. Which e-commerce payment platform has launched a new video-based wealth community called Wealth Community \_\_\_\_\_ **Paytm.**

**Note:**

- 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.
11. In association with which company the BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) has launched ConQR - on Card solution to offer an easy payment solution for cardholders \_\_\_\_\_ **MasterCard.**

**Note:**

- This solution uses a Mastercard patented technology which enables cardholders/SMEs to accept cashless payments using their cards.
  - By doing so, QR on card makes payments more flexible and empowers cardholders (mainly small merchants) to spend and earn on the same card.
12. Which Public sector bank has entered into pact with Chennai-based angel investment group 'The Chennai Angles' for financing start-ups under the bank's loan product Ind Spring Board \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Bank.**

**Note:**

- Under this project, Indian Bank will support start-ups by extending credit facilities up to ₹50 crore for working capital needs and also fund term-loan requirements for acquiring fixed assets for their units.
13. The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited based in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra.**

**Note:**

- On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.

- According to the regulator, the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in the full and public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.
- 14. Axis Direct – the flagship brand of Axis Securities, a fully-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank has launched evolutionary mobile app- ‘Axis Direct RING’ to facilitate which type of investment \_\_\_\_\_ **Stock Market.****
- Note:**
- RING is built on the latest Technology Stack above a robust Order Management and Risk Management system.
  - RING technology scans over 25,000 stock market instruments in real-time and identifies opportunities for you to invest.
- 15. The CII- Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has set a target to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by which year \_\_\_\_\_ **2050.****
- Note:**
- As part of this mission, more than 250 leading organisations from Indian building sector have committed to achieve Net Zero status for their new and existing buildings.
  - CII demonstrated India’s first platinum-rated green building – CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre at Hyderabad in the year 2004, which triggered the green building movement in India.
- 16. According to Asian Development Outlook, 2021 released by the Asian Development Bank what will be the growth rate of Indian Economy in the current fiscal year (2021-22) \_\_\_\_\_ **11 percent.****
- Note:**
- For FY2022, India’s GDP is expected to expand at 7%.
  - Further, it said the gross domestic product (GDP) of South Asia is expected to rebound to 9.5% this year, following a contraction of 6% in 2020, before moderating to 6.6% next year (2022).
- 17. How much capital has been infused in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) through issue of equity shares by the Government of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 200 crore.****
- Note:**
- After the capital infusion, the government’s holding in IFCI was increased from 61.02 per cent to 63.8 per cent.
  - In the budget of FY21, the government had committed for funding Rs 200 crore to IFCI.
  - In March 2020 also, the government infused Rs 200 crore.
- 18. According to the Annual Report of Asian Development Bank (ADB) released in April 2021, what amount ADB had provided to India in supporting the response to tackle covid-19 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$1.5 billion.****
- Note:**
- The \$1.5 billion financing to India is a part of the ADB’s \$16.1 billion pandemic response in 2020 through a \$20 billion assistance package announced by ADB in April 2020 to help its 26 member countries in managing the pandemic.
  - In 2020, ADB has committed to provide \$31.6 billion to help Asia and the Pacific to tackle Covid-19 outbreak and to support a green, sustainable recovery from the pandemic and address long term development challenges.
- 19. Which Bank has launched a digital and contactless banking platform, especially for retail merchants named as ‘Merchant Stack’ \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank.****
- Note:**
- The service, christened 'merchant stack', is targeted at the over 2 crore retail merchants in the country to render banking services digitally.
  - The banking services under Merchant Stack will include zero-balance current account, instant credit facilities, 'digital store management' facility, loyalty programme, and value-added services like alliances with e-commerce and digital marketing platforms.
- 20. Which bank has emerged as the top arranger of corporate bond deals in 2020-21 (FY21) \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank.****
- Note:**
- However, for the last quarter of FY21, i.e January- March 2021, Axis Bank was the top arranger of corporate bond deals while HDFC was second in the last quarter.
  - Axis Bank managed 16 deals worth Rs. 106.6 billion while HDFC Bank had 19 deals worth around Rs 70.4 billion.
- 21. Which bank has approved the reclassification of New India Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) from promoter category to public category investor \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank.****
- Note:**
- As of April 22, 2021, 0.67 per cent of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the Axis bank was held by NIACL.



- The approval of the stock exchanges, statutory/regulatory authorities and shareholders of the bank are also subjected to reclassification.
22. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide telecom services to the bank at a competitive rate \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Bank.**
- Note:**
- The MoU was signed in the presence of the executive director of Indian Bank and chief general manager of BSNL Chennai Telephones.
  - Indian bank already uses the service of BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) for the Wide Area Network (WAN) across India.
23. By which year the IT major Wipro has announced its plan to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions \_\_\_\_\_ **2040.**
- Note:**
- The targets fixed by the company are in accordance with the Paris Agreement's objective to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the globally accepted Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

### Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Sankha Ghosh passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Poet.**
- Note:**
- Ghosh was one of most important names in Bengali poetry and, together with Shakti Chattopadhyay, Alokaranjan Dasgupta and Sunil Gangopadhyay, was said to have carried on the baton from the poets of the early part of the 20th century, such as Jibanananda Das and Buddhadev Basu.
  - He was awarded the Jnanpith Award in 2016 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011.
  - Considered an authority on Tagore, Ghosh was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for his poetry collection Babarer Prarthana.
2. Famous sportsperson Suhas Kulkarni was associated with which sports who passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Table Tennis.**
- Note:**
- After his retirement from active sports he contributed to the sport as a Coach.
  - He has played in the Masters Table Tennis Tournaments at National and International level.
  - He won the national Masters TT Championship 2019 held in Indore.
3. Padma Bhushan awardee Rajan Mishra passed away recently he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **classical singer.**
- Note:**
- Rajan Mishra was a famous classical singer from 'Banaras Gharana' of India.
  - He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the field of art in 2007.
  - Their proclaimed works include 'Bhairav Se Bhairavi Tak', 'Bhaktimala', 'Durgati Nashini Durga', 'Aarti kijai hanuman lala ki', and more.
4. National award winner Waman Bhonsle passed away recently he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Film Editor.**
- Note:**
- He won the best editing award at the 25th National Film award for "Inkaar".
  - In his four-decade-long career, he worked with several noted filmmakers including Subhash Ghai, Shekar Kapur, Mahesh Bhatt, Gulzaar, Raj Sippy, Anil Ganguly, Sunil Dutt, others.
5. Renowned personality Jagdish Khattar passed away recently, he was former Managing Director of which vehicle manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_ **Maruti Suzuki.**
- Note:**
- Khattar (79), a former bureaucrat, was considered as one of the most high profile leaders of the Indian automotive industry, laying the foundation for Maruti's future growth after the government began its disinvestment in 2002 and gradually exited from its joint venture with Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC).
  - He had joined the then Maruti Udyog Ltd in July 1993 as director (marketing) and went on to become executive director (marketing) in the next six years.
6. Renowned personality Krishnamurthy Santhanam passed away recently he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Nuclear scientist.**
- Note:**

- He was deeply associated with DRDO, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA).
  - Santhanam was the field director of Defence Research and Development Organization during the tests of Pokhran-II.
  - He was awarded with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award, in 1999 by the Government of India.
7. Renowned personality and Padma Shri awardee Manzoor Ahtesham passed away recently he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Hindi litterateur.**
- Note:**
- Incidentally, Ahthesham's first story was titled "Ramzan Ki Maut" and he died in the holy month currently underway.
8. Renowned personality Michael Collins passed away recently; he was a famous \_\_\_\_\_ **Astronaut.**
- Note:**
- He stayed behind in the command module of Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969, while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin traveled to the lunar surface to become the first humans to walk on the moon.
  - Often described as the "forgotten" third astronaut on the historic mission, Collins remained alone for more than 21 hours until his two colleagues returned in the lunar module.
9. Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee Manoj Das passed away recently he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **writer.**
- Note:**
- Manoj Das was awarded Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020 for his contribution in the field of Literature & Education.
  - He was teaching English Literature and the Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo at the Sri Aurobindo International University.

### Important Days

1. What is the theme of the International Mother Earth Day 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Restore Our Earth.**
- Note:**
- Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day is observed globally on 22 April every year.
  - The Day will be celebrated all over the world to spread awareness for Earth's wellbeing and to encourage people to support environmental protection.
  - World Earth Day 2021 will mark the 51st Anniversary of the day since it started being observed in 1970.
2. World Book Copyrights Day is celebrated very year on which date by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) \_\_\_\_\_ **23rd April.**
- Note:**
- As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day 2021, UNESCO has created a 'Bookface' challenge.
  - The first World Book and Copyrights Day was celebrated in 1995.
  - The UNESCO decided to celebrate the World Book and Copyrights Day on April 23 to commemorate the death anniversary of William Shakespeare.
  - As per UNESCO, the city of Tbilisi in Georgia was selected as the World Book Capital for 2021.
3. The World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **26th April.**
- Note:**
- The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000.
  - The day this is id dedicated to the Small and medium-sized enterprises.
  - SMEs account for 90% of all companies worldwide and 70% of global employment that's why World IP Day 2021 is carrying the theme "IP and SMEs: Taking your ideas to market."
4. The International Jazz Day is celebrated every year on which date to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role in uniting people in all corners of the globe \_\_\_\_\_ **30th April.**

**Note:**

- The 2021 celebration marks the 10th Anniversary of International Jazz Day. The day was created on the idea of jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock.
- The musical form of Jazz was developed by African Americans.
- It was influenced by both European harmonic structure and African rhythms. It originated in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

5. Ayushman Bharat Diwas is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **30th April**.

**Note:**

- On that day in 2018 Ayushman Bharat Yojna was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide healthcare benefits to crores of Indians who can't afford proper medical facilities.
- The flagship scheme of the Narendra Modi government was launched along the lines of a universal health coverage to meet one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations - "leave no one behind."
- The Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2021 Theme is "Seva Bhi – Rozgar Bhi".

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as External Auditor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for a three-year term starting 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Girish Chandra Murmu**.

**Note:**

- The appointment was made during an election process held at the OPCW Conference of State Parties held on April 21, 2021.
- India was also selected as a member of the Executive council of the OPCW representing the Asia group for another 2-year term.
- It is an intergovernmental organisation and Implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29th April 1997.

2. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) for a term of five years \_\_\_\_\_ **Arun Raste**.

**Note:**

- He succeeded Vijay Kumar.
- Arun Raste is currently working as an executive director in National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
- He has also worked in organisations like IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NABARD, ACC Cement, and a non-profit NGO IRFT.

3. Who became the first woman to appointed as chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) \_\_\_\_\_ **Rekha M Menon**.

**Note:**

- Accenture India's chairperson, Rekha M Menon has been appointed as chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), becoming the first woman to take the top role in the software lobby group's 30-year history.
- She succeeds U B Pravin Rao, chief operating officer of Infosys as Nasscom's chairperson. TCS President Krishnan Ramanujam will be the vice-chairperson.

4. Who has been appointed as the part-time chairman and additional independent director of the private sector lender HDFC Bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Atanu Chakraborty**.

**Note:**

- He retired as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020. Prior to that, he served as Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- Chakraborty, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, has been appointed for a period of three years with effect from May 5, 2021 or the date of his taking charge, whichever is later.

5. Who has been appointed as the new finance secretary of India whose appointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet \_\_\_\_\_ **TV Somanathan**.

**Note:**

- He is a 1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.
- The senior-most officer among all secretaries in the Finance Ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary.

6. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Earth Movers Limited, (BEML) \_\_\_\_\_ **Amit Banerjee**.

**Note:**

- The PESB announced on meeting held on April 26, 2021. Currently, he is serving as Director (Rail & Metro), BEML Limited.
- In his professional career spanning over three decades in BEML, Shri Banerjee has worked in R&D and manufacturing functions.

7. Name the Indian cricketers who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Japanese Sportswear brand ASICS \_\_\_\_\_ **Ravindra Jadeja.**

**Note:**

- ASICS focuses on sporting gear for the running category.
- ASICS has been working with young and fresh athletic talent across various genres of sports.
- In India, ASICS is promoted by actor Tiger Shroff. In Asia, ASICS currently has over 55 stores across India, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

8. Amitabh Chaudhry has been reappointed as Managing Director and CEO of which bank for three years with effect from January 1, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank.**

**Note:**

- The appointment will be subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shareholders of the bank, the filing added.
- Chaudhry was appointed as Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Axis Bank for a period of three years, with effect from January 1, 2019 up to December 31, 2021.

**Important News – India**

1. What is India's rank in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects \_\_\_\_\_ **87<sup>th</sup>.**

**Note:**

- The report was published by the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- The report, prepared in collaboration with Accenture, also draws on insights from ETI.
- The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, with Sweden in the first place, followed by Norway and Denmark. "China (68) and India (87), which collectively account for a third of global energy demand, have both made strong improvements over the past decade, despite coal continuing to play a significant role in their energy mix.

2. Who represented Delhi and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF) 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Arvind Kejriwal.**

**Note:**

- It is a forum of 40 top cities of world including London, Tokyo and New York.
- The WCCF 2021 Forum was hosted by London.
- The WCCF is an annual summit attended by the deputy mayors for culture and heads of culture from the member cities & it will be hosted by each member City annually.
- The theme of WCCF 2021 is "The Future of Culture".

3. The Indian Air Force Commanders Conference 2021 took place in New Delhi, what was the theme of the conference \_\_\_\_\_ **Reorienting for the Future.**

**Note:**

- The theme of the conference was – 'Reorienting for the Future'.
- Other subjects of discussions were identifying challenges across all threat domains, incorporation of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence & 5G into the service.

4. Which became the only Indian University to make it to the list of World's Top 100 Educational Institutions in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu.**

**Note:**

- Apart from Amrita Vishwa University, two Indian Universities namely Karnataka-based JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research and Punjab-based Lovely Professional University were ranked in the list with a place in the 100-200 grouping.
- At the global level, University of Manchester (UK), University of Sydney (Australia) & RMIT University (Australia) grabbed the top 3 places.



5. With Which IIT the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development in the institute \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Khargpur**.

**Note:**

- The centre will act as an incubation hub for creation & development of technological products.
- The Accelerator Centre will act similar to Central govt's "ASHA-India initiative".
- About Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA):
- Minister of State Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)– Hardeep Singh Puri.

6. Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of Indian Air Force (IAF), Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria recently visited to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **France**.

**Note:**

- During his visit he flagged off four Rafale aircraft for India.
- During his visit to France, he flagged off the four Rafale fighter jets for India from a Merignac airbase in France.
- These jets once inducted into service will complete the first Rafale squadron No. 17 Golden Arrows based at Ambala.
- The next(2nd) squadron will be based in Hasimara air base in West Bengal.

7. What is India's rank in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes \_\_\_\_\_ **49<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- The Chandler Good Government Index shows the importance of measuring and investing in governance capabilities that matter.
- It highlights a key need for 'pracademics' in government – people who combine a rigorous understanding of research and data with a practical and grounded sense of what governments need to do to succeed.
- Finland has topped the CGGI list, in which each country is measured across over 50 open data points.

8. Which becomes the fourth country with which India has decided to hold '2+2 ministerial dialogue' between foreign, defence ministers \_\_\_\_\_ **Russia**.

**Note:**

- 2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries.
- It is a format of dialogue where the defence/foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country.

9. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has certified around 14, 491 Hectares of land as 'Organic Area' under the 'Large Area Certification (LAC)' scheme in \_\_\_\_\_ **Car Nicobar and Nancowry Islands**.

**Note:**

- It became the 1st large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification.
- LAC is a certification programme under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's (DAC&FW) flagship scheme 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)'.
- The organic certification will help farmers in getting direct access to the emerging organic food market of the country.

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has signed an MoU with Microsoft Corporation to offer skill development training to around 1.6 lakh students and unemployed youths across more than 300 colleges and skill development centres \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- This is the biggest and first of its kind initiative by a state government to cover all the graduates of the state.
- Microsoft will collaborate with the Higher Education department to provide scalable skilling experience which includes, access to the 40 courses and certifications on Microsoft's learning resource centre, Microsoft Learn.

2. With which state the Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed its first solar power purchase agreement for the sale of 100 Mw solar power with a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for 25 years \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat.**

**Note:**

- CIL entered into a PPA and supply the 100 Mw power generated to GUVNL within 18 months with a capital investment of Rs 442 crore.
- The 100 MW project will be executed through a Solar EPC Contractor (engineering, procurement, and construction).
- CIL plans for 3,000 Mw of solar power generation by 2024 and it plans to invest nearly Rs13,500 crore in solar power projects through the company's internal resources, Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV), and bank loans.

3. Which state government has launched 'Covid Emergency Loan Scheme' for new and old entrepreneurs supplying medicines, oxygen and other medical facilities to Covid-19 patients \_\_\_\_\_ **Haryana.**

**Note:**

- For this, the State Government has set up a fund of Rs 500 crore.
- Under the scheme, Haryana Government will help businessmen, presently working in the state, to increase their current production or to set up new units to meet various requirements to tackle Covid-19 pandemic.

4. Which state government has approved 'HARIHAR Scheme' under which a job will be provided to abandoned, surrendered children and turned 18-year-old while living in child-care institutions \_\_\_\_\_ **Haryana.**

**Note:**

- The children abandoned when below 5 years of age and surrendered before turning one-year-old will be eligible for benefits of HARIHAR initiative of the Haryana government. Under the policy, eligible children will get benefits of education, employment, and financial support.
- The policy provides for free schooling, higher education, technical education, skill development and industrial training, apart from financial assistance up to the age of 25 years or marriage, whichever is earlier, and one-time interest-free loan for buying a house in Haryana.

5. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has established a 'Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI)' in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttarakhand.**

**Note:**

- The institute was inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat along with Union Minister of State for Sports Kiren Rijiju.
- The Mountaineering and Skiing Institute of ITBP at Auli, will independently run this institution.

6. Which state government announced to appoint oxygen nurses to curb wastage of oxygen at hospitals \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra.**

**Note:**

- The primary job of an oxygen nurse is to monitor the requirement of oxygen every 2-4 hours round the clock, its use among patients and to ensure minimum wastage.
- Instruction has been issued to all government medical colleges and hospitals to set up a dedicated team of nurses.

### Important News – World

1. Which country ranked at first position in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects \_\_\_\_\_ **Sweden.**

**Note:**

- The report has been prepared in collaboration with Accenture, also draws on insights from ETI.
- The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, with Sweden in the first place, followed by Norway and Denmark. "China (68) and India (87), which collectively account for a third of global energy demand, have both made strong improvements over the past decade, despite coal continuing to play a significant role in their energy mix.

2. Which city has been selected as the World Book Capital for 2021 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) \_\_\_\_\_ **Tbilisi, Georgia.**

**Note:**

- As per UNESCO, the city of Tbilisi in Georgia was selected as the World Book Capital for 2021.
- World Book Day is celebrated by UNESCO on April 23, every year.
- As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day 2021, UNESCO has created a 'Bookface' challenge.

3. The 6th Global Forum on TB Vaccines will be convened in which city from 22 – 24 February 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Toulouse, France.**

**Note:**

- The 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines was held virtually from 20th April to 22nd April 2021.
- It was attended by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**).
- The forum is convened by Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Vaccines in association with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) & TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI).

4. Which city hosted the World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF) 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **London.**

**Note:**

- It is a forum of 40 top cities of world including London, Tokyo and New York.
- The WCCF is an annual summit attended by the deputy mayors for culture and heads of culture from the member cities & it will be hosted by each member City annually.
- The theme of WCCF 2021 is "The Future of Culture".

5. For how much time in row Norway tops in the World Press Freedom Index 2021 released by international journalism not-for-profit body Reporters Without Borders \_\_\_\_\_ **5th time.**

**Note:**

- The index was topped by Norway for the 5th time in a row followed by Finland & Sweden.
- India with a score of 46.56 ranked at 142nd Rank. Also, in 2020 India was ranked at 142nd.
- India has been classified as a country with a 'bad' environment for Press Freedom, it shared the classification with Brazil, Mexico & Russia.

6. Which University finds top position in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **University of Manchester, UK.**

**Note:**

- At the global level, University of Manchester (UK), University of Sydney (Australia) & RMIT University (Australia) grabbed the top 3 places.
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu became the only Indian University to make it to the list of World's Top 100 Educational Institutions for sustainability.
- It was ranked 81st (overall ranking) in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021.

7. Which of the following is not a member country of 'Net Zero Producers Forum' being set up to support implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**

**Note:**

- Saudi Arabia decided to join the forum.
- Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest crude exporter.
- SA aims to reduce its carbon emissions by generating 50% of the country's energy from renewables by 2030.
- U.S President Joe Biden unveiled plans to cut emissions by 50%-52% from 2005 levels at the start of a two-day climate summit kicked off on Earth Day and attended virtually by leaders of 40 countries including big emitters China, India and Russia.

8. Which country will build World's most powerful weather, climate-change forecasting supercomputer \_\_\_\_\_ **United Kingdom.**

**Note:**

- Likely to be operational in 2022, the supercomputer will provide accurate warnings on severe weather and help protect from impact of increasingly extreme storms, floods and snow in the UK.
- In February 2020, the UK government had announced funding of £1.2 billion (about ₹12,400 crore) to develop this supercomputer, which is expected to be one of the top 25 supercomputers in the world.

9. Which organization has released the report, “Gender Bias & Inclusion in Advertising in India” that analyzed Indian Women’s position in Televisions & Advertisements \_\_\_\_\_ **UNICEF**.

**Note:**

- The research conducted by UNICEF with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media measures the level and type of gender stereotyping found in Indian advertisements on TV and YouTube, through analysis of over 1,000 most viewed advertisements in 2019.
- The ads were provided and translated by the India Chapter of the International Advertising Association (IAA). UNICEF shared that IAA will be working with members to launch campaigns to deconstruct harmful stereotypes.

10. Which country has topped the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes \_\_\_\_\_ **Finland**.

**Note:**

- The index 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.
- India has been ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.

11. Which country has launched NEO-01, robot prototype capable of catching space debris with net \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.

**Note:**

- The NEO-01, which will also peer into deep space to observe small celestial bodies, was launched on the government's Long March 6 rocket along with a handful of satellites, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.
- The 30kg robot developed by Shenzhen-based Origin Space will pave the way for future technologies capable of mining on asteroids, according to the company.

12. Along with India and Australia which country has launched the ‘Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)’ to build a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the Indo-Pacific region \_\_\_\_\_

**Japan.****Note:**

- It will reduce the dependency of the 3 countries on China and counter its dominance on Trade.
- During the initial stages, SCRI will focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience & holding investment promotion events for stakeholders to diversify their supply chains.

13. Which became the first country in the world to permit self-driving cars on motorways \_\_\_\_\_ **United Kingdom**.

**Note:**

- In order to make safe use of the self-driving vehicle system, the transport ministry of the UK was working on specific wording to update its country’s highway code.
- For keeping the cars within a lane, a technology called Automated Lane Keeping Systems (ALKS) will be used as it uses sensors and software to guide the self-driving cars to accelerate and brake without manual input.

### Honor & Awards

1. Which state has won the “E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021” ranking first under Category I \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.

**Note:**



- The award recognises the efforts of UP in implementing the e-applications developed by the Centre and other applications developed by the State Government.
  - Uttar Pradesh was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh in 2nd rank and Odisha and Tamil Nadu in 3rd rank.
  - The award was instituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj(MoPR) to promote the use of ICT in monitoring the works of gram panchayats.
2. Who become the first Indian and Asian woman to be chosen for the 2021 'WILD Innovator Award' given by the 'WILD ELEMENTS Foundation' \_\_\_\_\_ **Krithi K Karanth.**
- Note:**
- This award given by the 'WILD ELEMENTS Foundation' brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to "disrupt the status quo and identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation.
3. Along with Jio Platform which company have figured in Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 Most Influential Companies \_\_\_\_\_ **Byju's.**
- Note:**
- It listed Jio Platforms under the Innovators category alongside Zoom, Adidas, TikTok, Ikea, Moderna and Netflix.
  - Byju's was listed alongside Tesla, Huawei, Shopify, Airbnb and DiDi Chuxing in the Disruptors category.

### Sports News

1. Arjun Kalyan held from which state who became India's 68th Chess Grand Master (GM) after winning against Dragan Kotic of Montenegro in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" in Serbia \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu.**
- Note:**
- In order to qualify for the title of GM, a player must achieve 3 GrandMaster norms in events covering a minimum of 27 games and an ELO(Electric Light Orchestra) rating of at least 2500 at any point in their career.
  - Arjun Kalyan already had 4 GM norms under his belt but his ELO was 2477. After playing a steady chess in the three closed round robin event he crossed the 2500 mark to become India's 68th GM.
2. Who become the first Indian women to scale the Mount Annapurna 10th highest mountain peak in the world \_\_\_\_\_ **Priyanka Mohite.**
- Note:**
- Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, becoming the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat.
  - Priyanka has also climbed the world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 metres) in 2013, Mount Lhotse (8,516 metres) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 metres) and also Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres) in 2016.
3. Name the Indian boxer who won a bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St Petersburg, Russia \_\_\_\_\_ **Amit Panghal.**
- Note:**
- Amit, a world championship silver-medallist, lost 5-0 to the Uzbek, who is also the reigning Olympic champion.
  - This was the Indian's second loss to Zoirov after the 2019 world championships. In that event, he had lost to Zoirov in the finals.
4. Which Football Club has won the League Cup final in London \_\_\_\_\_ **Manchester City.**
- Note:**
- The final was played in front of 8,000 supporters, including 2,000 from each club - and it was a delight to hear noise inside Wembley's vast arena once more.
  - City's victory equalled Liverpool's achievement in the early 1980s of winning the competition four years in a row, as well as matching the Reds' overall tally of eight triumphs, and manager Pep Guardiola said his players are motivated by such milestones.

5. According to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) which country will host the World Table Tennis Championship 2021 for the first time \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.

**Note:**

- This is for the 1st time USA will host the World Table Tennis Championship.
- The decision was made at a meeting of the ITTF executive committee on April 11.
- It is to be noted that, 2020 World Table Tennis Championship in Busan, South Korea was cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic.

6. Who has won the 68th Edition of Barcelona Open \_\_\_\_\_ **Rafael Nadal**.

**Note:**

- This is the 12th Barcelona Open Title for Rafael Nadal.
- The 2021 Barcelona Open (sponsored by Banc Sabadell) took place from April 17-25, 2021 at Real Club de Tenis Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- Rafael Nadal won his 1st Barcelona Title in the year 2005.
- Barcelona Open is an annual tennis tournament for male professional players and is played on clay courts.

7. AIBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2021 was held in which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Poland**.

**Note:**

- India topped the overall medals tally by winning 11 Medals (8 Gold, 3 Bronze).
- The AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships is an biennial event, around 414 boxers from 52 countries participated in the 2021 edition.

8. Name the Indian boxer the only one from the Indian Men's Boxing Contingent to win a Gold Medal (56 Kg) at the event \_\_\_\_\_ **Sachin**.

**Note:**

- India topped the overall medals tally by winning 11 Medals (8 Gold, 3 Bronze).
- The AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships is an biennial event, around 414 boxers from 52 countries participated in the 2021 edition.
- Indian Boxer Sachin who hails from Bhiwani, Haryana was the only one from the Indian Men's Boxing Contingent to win a Gold Medal (56 Kg) at the event.

9. Who has won the GM round robin Rujna Zora-3 2021 chess tournament which concluded in Serbia \_\_\_\_\_ **Arjun Kalyan**.

**Note:**

- The 18-year-old Kalyan is a B. Com. student at the SRM College (Vadapalani) in Chennai.
- He is coached by IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov.

### Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled "The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times" \_\_\_\_\_ **Amitav Ghosh**.

**Note:**

- It will be Published by Harper Collins India.
- The Book is written in the Structure of a fable about Mahaprabhu, the living mountain.
- It is a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature leading to an environment collapse.
- The book will also be published simultaneously in Hindi and as an ebook and an audio book.

### Science and Defence

1. Which IIT has successfully commercialized its flagship healthcare product COVIRAP the novel diagnostic technology to zero on infectious diseases including COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kharagpur**.

**Note:**

- The product, developed by lead researchers Professor Suman Chakraborty, Dr Arindam Mondal and their research group, has been licensed for commercialisation to the Rapid Diagnostic Group of Companies, India and Bramerton Holdings LLC, USA.

2. Bilateral Naval Exercise titled as 'VARUNA-2021' was conducted between India and which country \_\_\_\_\_ **France**.

**Note:**

- The exercise will be conducted from 25th to 27th April 2021.
- INS Kolkata, INS Tarkash, INS Talwar and Chetak integral helicopters will participate in the exercise
- It was initiated in 1983 as Indo-French naval cooperation plays a key role in the two countries' joint vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

3. The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) collaborated with Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of which IIT to mutually promote Technology based Startups \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur**.

**Note:**

- The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) collaborated with Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT-Kanpur to mutually promote Technology based Startups.
- Under this collaboration, SICCI-SIIC conducts a Launchpad Competition – "SICCI-SIIC INNOVATION LAUNCHPAD".

4. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), successfully test-fired the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) from which air craft \_\_\_\_\_ **Tejas**.

**Note:**

- This adds the Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in the air-to-air weapons package of India's indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas.
- The trials also aimed to validate the enhanced capability of the already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas.

5. Name the community service centre that has been set up to bring all data on board India's first dedicated solar space mission to a single web-based interface \_\_\_\_\_ **Aditya L1**.

**Note:**

- It is a joint effort of Indian Space Research Organisation and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences.
- It will allow every interested individual to perform scientific analysis of the data.
- It is slated to develop specific tools to assist guest observers and researchers to prepare observing proposals for Aditya-L1 observations.

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