

Monthly GK Digest: May 2021



Monthly Digest May-2021

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of '**May-2021**'. This file is important for, **BBA and Hotel Management** exams.

Business & Financial Awareness

- The Ministry of Finance is set to provide **Rs. 15,000 Crore** additional amount to State Governments as Interest free 50-year loan under Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure'.

Note: The loan will be provided to the States under 'Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure'. The Scheme was launched in 2020. It aims to nudge States to spend more on infrastructure and incentivize disinvestment of State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs). The Guidelines for the scheme were released by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- 307.31 MT** target has been set up by the central government for the food grain production in the crop year 2021-22 starting from July 2021.

Note: The target of total food grains production for 2021-22 is set at a record 307.31 MT, comprising 151.43 MT in kharif season and 155.88 MT during rabi. In 2020-21, production was 303.34 MT, against the target of 301 MT. For 2021-22, the target for rice production has been fixed at 121.1 MT, wheat at 110 MT, pulses at 25MT, coarse cereals at 51.21 MT and oilseeds at 37.5MT.
- Mastercard** has partnered with Cryptocurrency exchange, Gemini & WebBank to launch a 1st of its kind, Cryptocurrency rewards credit card.

Note: Using this card, Clients will earn up to 3% in cryptocurrencies depending on their purchase. The rewards will be automatically deposited in the cardholder's Gemini account in real time. There will be no annual fee for the card and there is a 24/7 live customer support. This is a small metal card with only the cardholder's name on it.
- Central Bank of India** has launched the "Immune India Deposit Scheme" a special deposit scheme to provide an additional interest rate of 25 basis points in addition to the applicable card rate for the vaccinated people.

Note: The Immune India Deposit Scheme has a maturity of 1111 days. The senior citizens are also eligible for the extra interest as applicable.
- According to a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021 LIC is the **10th** most valuable insurance brand globally.

Note: As per the report, the total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6% from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021. However, LIC's brand value increased by almost 7% to \$8.65 billion Brand Finance is a London-based brand valuation consultancy.
- Wipro** becomes the 3rd largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization of Rs 2.65 trillion.

Note: TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of Rs. 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys. Wipro has also announced its commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius. The country's third-largest largest software services company has set an intermediate target of 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17 (April-March).
- Motilal Oswal Private Equity (MOPE) has acquired a minority stake in **Fincare Small Finance Bank** for \$ 25 million through a secondary acquisition.

Note: The key investor in Fincare SFB, True North Fund V LLP got a partial exit from the firm after the deal of MOPE with Fincare SFB. The deal was done by one of the growth capital funds of MOPE called India Business Excellence Fund-III (it was managed and advised by MOPE). Secondary Acquisition - It means the acquisition of existing shares of the company by the trust on the platform of a recognised stock exchange for cash consideration.
- Public sector company **SAIL** has entered into the league of top 100 most valued companies in terms of market capitalization globally.

Note: It regained market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 50,000 crore, after its stock climbed over 80 per cent in the past one and half month. SAIL stood at 78th position in the overall m-cap ranking with a market cap of Rs 55,529 crore. SAIL is one of the leading steel producers in India, which has 5 large integrated steel plants (Bhilai steel plant, Rourkela steel plant, Durgapur steel plant, Bokaro steel plant and IISCO) spread across 4 states in



eastern India (Chattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand).

9. **JSW Renew Energy** has signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India for supplying 540MW out of the total awarded capacity of 810 MW of blended wind power capacity.

Note: It is the single largest PPA for wind/blended wind power capacity awarded to a company. JSW Renew Energy won the contract for 810 MW of blended Wind Power Project in a competitive bidding done by SECI in September, 2020. India has set a target to raise the capacity of installed Renewable Energy (RE) generation plants to 450 GW by 2030.

10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a Rs 3 crore monetary penalty on ICICI Bank for contravention of certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio.

Note: Cause for the Penalty: For shifting of securities in May 2017 from HTM (held to maturity) category to AFS (available for sale) without explicit permission. The penalty is intended only over the ICICI bank's insufficiency in regulatory compliance and not over any agreement by the bank with its customers.

11. World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) has decided to make a debt investment of \$150 million in **Bajaj Finance Limited** in India.

Note: The loan is sanctioned for five years to essentially support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). Bajaj Finance will direct 3 times of its IFC's loan towards the MSME segment thus enabling combined funding of \$600 million/INR 4,530 crore towards MSME.

12. According to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), India's position as a recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 is **Third**.

Note: It dropped to USD 846 Billion, which is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005). India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion. China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion) for the 2nd time in six years, while Luxembourg finished 4th.

13. According to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), **Luxembourg** is the largest sources of FDI outflows in 2020.

Note: It dropped to USD 846 Billion, which is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005). India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion. China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion) for the 2nd time in six years, while Luxembourg finished 4th.

14. **Essar Steel** company has been selected by the Andhra Pradesh government as Joint Venture partner to set up a steel plant in the Kadapa district.

Note: The AP government has previously selected Liberty Steel India Limited as the JV partner for construction and development of the YSR Steel Plant. But that was cancelled based on the recommendation of SBICAP as Liberty steel India Limited was facing some financial issues. The steel plant will be set up with a capacity of 3 million tonne per annum for producing high grade Steel products.

15. **10,000 crores** will be provided by the Reserve Bank of India for three years at the repo rate to small finance banks (SFBs) to lend individuals, small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Note: The RBI incentivised SFBs to lend microfinance institutions (MFIs) by granting priority sector lending status to such exposures. Credit will be up to 10 per cent of a bank's priority-sector portfolio as of March 31, 2021. While the facility is there until March 31, 2022, loans disbursed will continue to be classified as priority-sector lending till the date of repayment/maturity, whichever is earlier.

16. The Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) of **Rs. 500 crores** asset size will be eligible for Small Finance Banks' priority sector lending (PSL).

Note: Currently, the SFB's PSL is not permitted for MFIs for on-lending. This facility is made to be available up to March 31, 2022.

17. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has been selected as the digital payments partner by the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to facilitate online transactions for all stakeholders on the eNAM platform.

Note: Under this partnership, the bank will provide payment, clearing and settlement services by integrating its payment system and portal directly with the payment interface of the eNAM platform to enable a trade facility between a buyer and seller (of agri produce). The eNAM online ecosystem will enable farmers with more power over pricing decisions, greater transparency and availability of financial support.

18. According to UN Study, Online share of retail sales jumps to **19 percent** amid lockdowns.

Note: Online sales accounted for 19% of overall retail sales in 2020, up from 16% a year earlier, according to estimates from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) based on national statistical offices in major economies. South Korea reported the highest share at 25.9%, up from 20.8% the year before. China had a 24.9% share, Britain 23.3% and the United States 14.0%.

19. The Reserve Bank of India has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial



System (NGFS) as a member. The network is located in **Paris, France**.

Note: The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) is a network of 83 central banks and financial supervisors that aims to accelerate the scaling up of green finance and develop recommendations for central banks' role for climate change. The NGFS was created in 2017 and its secretariat is hosted by the Banque de France. Its current chair is Dutch central banker Frank Elderson. The NGFS has been awarded best green initiative of the year 2020 by Centralbanking.com.

20. Tata Digital got the CCI nod to acquire 64.3% stake in BigBasket's B2B arm Supermarket Grocery Supplies.

Note: The commission said Supermarket Grocery Supplies may acquire sole control of Innovative Retail Concepts that operates BigBasket's online retail unit.

21. Lakshmi Vilas Bank bank has been excluded from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Note: A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as 'Scheduled Commercial Bank'. Last year in November, the government had approved the merger of crisis-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India.

22. Under the chairmanship of **S Janakiraman** the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has constituted a 6-member Advisory Group.

Note: On April 15, 2021, RBI formed the RRA 2.0 for a period of 1 year from May 01, 2021 to Streamline RBI's Regulations and Reduce Compliance. M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, RBI was the RRA (head).

23. Bajaj Finserv has launched 'Savdhan Rahein, Safe Rahein', a public awareness campaign on financial fraud risks to educate customers and public at large on financial fraud risks.

Note: The campaign also alerts the customers to be mindful of the various signs and means to differentiate between the genuine Bajaj Finserv entity and a fake one, whether on web or social media platforms. The brand has also gone live with the campaign on other infotainment and entertainment apps like Chingari, Josh and Jio Saavn, to effectively reach out to the regional audiences, present on these platforms.

24. The NITI Aayog, in association with Mastercard has released a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'.

Note: The report identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens. Based on five roundtable discussions held in October and November 2020, the report highlights key issues and opportunities, with inferences and recommendations on policy and capacity

building across agriculture, small business (MSMEs), urban mobility and cyber security.

25. 7.5% is India's growth forecast for the year 2021, as per the World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations recently.

Note: However, the country's outlook for the year remained "highly fragile". The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.

26. United Nations has releases the World Economic Situation and Prospects Report.

Note: The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 7.5% in 2021. It also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.

27. Asian Development Bank has launched the 'Asia Pacific Tax Hub' to enhance International Tax Cooperation.

Note: The Hub will create an open and inclusive platform for promoting strategic policy dialogue, improving knowledge sharing & strengthening coordination on tax policy and administration among ADB members and development partners. It will maximise the regional and international resources to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and international tax cooperation among ADB's Developing Member Countries (DMCs).

28. Muthoot Finance Ltd has collaborated with NIRA, a Bangalore-based fintech start-up to strengthen its digital footprint and enhance the personal loans growth.

Note: Loan Benefit under the partnership: The salaried customers could avail personal loan up to Rs 1 lakh from Muthoot Finance through the NIRA app (downloadable from Google's Play store). NIRA fintech is offering small ticket personal loans to salaried customers of India's middle class.

29. Federal Bank has entered into a strategic tie-up with Mashreq Bank of UAE, to facilitate money transfers from the UAE to India.

Note: The partnership will support Mashreq's payment product "QuickRemit", which was launched in 2017. The agreement made Mashreq bank as the first bank in the UAE to offer instant and same day credit facility to so many places, including the UK, Singapore, Philippines, Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka and majority of European countries.

30. Geojit Financial Services has entered into an agreement with **Punjab National Bank** to provide the advantage of a three-in-one account to the customers of the bank.

Note: The Three Accounts are, Savings Account, a Demat Account and a Trading Account. The new service gives all the customers who have a savings account with PNB, a PNB demat account and Geojit trading account. It helps



- to diversify investments and manage it all through one account.
31. In partnership with remittance firms – Wise and Western Union, **Google Pay** has launched International Money Transfers for its United States (US) users to transfer money to app customers in India & Singapore.
Note: Using the feature, Google Pay users in the US can transfer money to app customers in India & Singapore. Google is planning to expand the feature to around 80 countries through Wise, and around 100 through Western Union by the end of 2021.
32. According to HDFC Bank **10%** will be India's growth rate in the year 2021-22.
Note: HDFC Bank has cut India's growth projection to 10 per cent from 11.5 per cent for the current financial year, citing the adverse effect of the second Covid-19 wave. In a worst-case scenario of COVID-19, the bank has predicted the GDP rate to be at 8%.
33. According to revised estimate of Care Ratings, the GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) is **9.2%**.
Note: The domestic rating agency, Care Ratings, has revised the GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) to 9.2 per cent. This is lower than 10.2 per cent estimated earlier in April 2021.
34. **Jana Small Finance Bank** has launched the "I choose my number" feature for all its customers across India select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number.
Note: Jana Small Finance Bank has announced the launch of the "I choose my number" feature for all its customers across India. This new feature gives the bank's existing and new customers the option to select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number.
35. **Paytm** has launched 'COVID-19 Vaccine Finder,' an integrated platform to help citizens check the availability of vaccination slots – on its Mini App Store.
Note: The platform will help citizens to check the availability of vaccination slots for a specific date by individually entering different pin codes or district details along with age group (18 or 45).
36. As per the World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations recently, **10.1%** is India's growth forecast for the year 2021.
Note: However, the country's outlook for the year remained "highly fragile". The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.
37. Japanese brokerage Nomura revised its GDP growth estimate for India for the current 2021-22 fiscal to **10.8%**.
Note: It said the activity levels have dropped further to 64.5 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels in the week to May 9 as per a proprietary index, after a further 5 percentage points drop in the week. The activity levels, at present, are at par with those seen in June 2020.
38. Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth forecast for the current financial year to **9.3%**.
Note: Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth forecast for the current financial year to 9.3 per cent saying that the second wave of coronavirus infections hampers economic recovery and increases risk of longer-term scarring. Moody's, which has a 'Baa3' rating on India with a negative outlook, said obstacles to economic growth, high debt and weak financial system constrain sovereign credit profile.
39. **HDFC Bank** has acquired a 10% stake in CSC Grameen e-Store, a special purpose vehicle run by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
Note: The partnership between the country's largest private bank and CSC Grameen aims to deliver and scale access to financial services and banking products to semi-urban and rural customers.
40. **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched "DigiGold", a digital platform for customers to make investments in gold.
Note: This has been rolled out in partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold. With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank's saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app. Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends, who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.
41. The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance jointly organized a virtual seminar on Social Infrastructure Financing and the use of Digital Technologies with **New Development Bank**.
Note: This is a part of the Economic and Financial Cooperation Agenda under the Indian BRICS Chairship 2021. High-level participants from both the public and private sector were engaged in the seminar. Important issues regarding the use of Digital Technologies in the 21st century and social infrastructure financing were the key focus under the seminar.
42. An amount of **\$3.92 billion** of sovereign loans has been committed by the Asian Development Bank to India during 2020 which was ADB's highest-ever annual lending commitment to India.
Note: Since the start of its lending operations in 1986, this 2020 lending was ADB's highest-ever annual lending commitment to India. ADB also committed \$356.1 million through its non-sovereign operations to India, including 3 COVID-19 support projects to contain the disease and establish social protection measures for relief to the poor and other vulnerable groups.
43. **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)** the subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India is building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure named National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI).



Note: NADI will be owned by the Government of India, with NADI's high-speed network, the government could monitor and control all financial activity, and it will also make security easier. Its modern network infrastructure includes 5G/Edge Cloud with SDNs (software-defined networking) for connecting to the critical data centre infrastructure at the back-end.

- 44. Bank of Baroda** has recently launched a Micro-website that will serve as an emergency networking platform for all employees amid the second wave of COVID-19.

Note: Indian Public sector bank, Bank of Baroda recently launched a Micro-website that will serve as an emergency networking platform for all employees amid the second wave of COVID-19. It provides Various data, like network of plasma donors to employees and Recovered employees can also enroll themselves voluntarily as donors.

- 45.** In partnership with NABARD the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries & Agriculture (MCCIA) has launched India's 1st Agriculture Export Facilitation Center (AEFC) in **Pune**.

Note: AEFC will help in boosting Maharashtra's agricultural and food exports and will help in meeting Global Standards. It will act as a one-stop-shop for the export of agri-food productions. The center was virtually inaugurated by Dr G.R. Chintala, Chairman of NABARD.

- 46. Digit General Insurance** has partnered with PayPoint India to provide affordable COVID-19 Health Insurance policy to its customers in India's underserved regions.

Note: Post 24-hour ICU or HDU hospitalization, the COVID-19 hospitalization insurance policy offers a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh at a premium rate starting as low as Rs 487. The policy offers options of choosing a sum insured of Rs 1 lakh or Rs 2 lakh for individuals up to 65 years of age. The policyholder could avail of the Cashless claims by displaying the e-health card at the network hospitals.

- 47. Edelweiss General Insurance** has launched, Integrated Partner Onboarding Solution (IPOS) an industry-first digital end to end partner onboarding solution.

Note: IPOS is an onboarding solution for all its existing and prospective partners including Agents, Brokers and Web Aggregators. This unified, fully automated portal is dedicated to all partner-related onboarding requirements and it has multiple features like easy visualisation capabilities, a built-in learning system where partners can take up practice tests.

- 48.** Telecom company **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd** is constructing the largest international submarine cable system with India as the center of the submarine cable system.

Note: It is the 1st time in history of Fiber optic submarine telecommunications that India will be at the centre of the International network map. The submarine

cable system will consist of 2 subsea cable systems – India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) connecting India to Singapore, and India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) connecting India to the Middle East and Europe. The subsea system will provide more than 200 TBPS (TeraBytes Per Second) of capacity spanning over 16, 000 Kilometres.

- 49.** The Competition Commission of India approved the acquisition of 100% equity shares of YES Asset Management Ltd and YES Trustee Ltd by **GPL Finance and Investments Ltd**.

Note: YES AMC and YES Trustee were the wholly-owned subsidiaries of YES Bank. Through these acquisitions, GPL will acquire Yes Mutual Fund and become its sole sponsor and it marks the exit of the YES bank from the mutual fund market.

- 50. Adani Green Energy Limited** to acquire the 100 percent stake of SB Energy Holdings Limited at an enterprise valuation (EV) of \$3.5 billion, the largest acquisition in the renewable energy sector in India.

Note: Through this acquisition, AGEL will achieve a total renewable capacity of 24.3 GW and an operating renewable capacity of 4.9 GW, and it demonstrates AGEL's intent to become the world's largest solar player by 2025 and thereafter the world's largest renewable company by 2030. SB Energy is a joint venture between Japan-based SoftBank Group Corp (80%) and Bharti Group (20%) and houses 4,954 MW of renewable assets in India.

- 51.** According to the Reserve Bank of India interoperability amongst Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issued by banks and non-banks should be enabled by **31st March 2022**.

Note: Also, customers of full KYC-compliant PPIs issued by non-bank PPI issuers can withdraw a maximum of Rs 2,000 per transaction and Rs 10,000 per month per PPI. PPIs are instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, including financial services, remittances, funds transfers, against the value stored in/on such instruments. The maximum amount outstanding in respect of full-KYC PPIs (KYC-compliant PPIs) has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh.

- 52.** According to a report released by the S&P Global Market Intelligence India's position as insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific region is **second largest**.

Note: Around 335 private insurtechs are operating in AP, in which 122 of them disclose fundraise, amounting to a total of USD 3.66 billion. Almost half of them are headquartered in India and China and have collectively attracted about 78 percent of the total investment. The report stated India as the world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem, as it has at least 66 insurtech startups.

- 53. IDBI Bank** has announced to launch its fully digitized, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Agri products.



Note: This new loan processing system seamlessly integrates with data fintechs, bureau validations, document storage/retrieval, account opening/management, customer notifications, and portfolio management capabilities along with embodied policy/knock off parameters. These features of the fully digitised and automated loan processing system are further aimed at providing a superior tech-enabled banking experience to bank's MSME & Agri.customers.

54. With **Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India** the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to create an ecosystem for promoting, aiding and fostering the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME).

Note: Under this partnership, Dun & Bradstreet will provide business information services at a special price to SMEs and startups who are currently listed on BSE SME & Startups platform, or expected to be listed. Dun & Bradstreet India is a leading global provider of B2B data, insights and AI-driven platform.

55. **State Bank of India** has partnered with HyperVerge to obtain its technology called 'Video KYC solution' for onboarding customers online under COVID-19 _____.

Note: Video KYC solution will be used by SBI to achieve the 10x improvement over the regular video KYC checks performed per day per agent. HyperVerge's Video KYC solution is assisted with a high accuracy level of 99.5 percent will enable SBI to provide convenient digital banking services to citizens of India. The Video KYC solution is 100 percent compliant with Reserve Bank of India(RBI) regulations and can be supported on multiple platforms.

56. The Mahindra Rural Housing Finance (MRHFL) has partnered with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** for a cash management solution.

Note: Under the partnership, IPPB will be offering cash management and collection services to MRHFL through its access points and postal service providers. IPPB's large national network has facilitated the deployment of cash management solutions to meet the requirements of MRHFL. Using the cash management service, MRHFL customers could able to repay their monthly or quarterly loan instalments at over 1.36 lakh post offices.

57. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** bank has issued the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global.

Note: This is the first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in the country. AIF is an important business vertical at GIFT IFSC and offers huge benefits and a competitive edge for setting up a fund in IFSC at GIFT City.

58. PayCore is global payment solutions company of **Turkey** that has been onboarded by NPCI as one of the certified

partners for 'RuPay SoftPOS' to drive cashless payments across the country.

Note: Along with PayCore, NPCI aims to reduce the investment cost required by banks to reach over the MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and intends to increase the spread of 'RuPay SoftPOS' across India with its network of banks. NPCI partnered with SBI Payments and launched 'RuPay SoftPoS' to transform NFC enabled smartphones into Point of Sale (POS) terminals for merchants and retailers.

59. **FlexiLoans.com** fintech startup has partnered with financial services company Vivriti Capital to provide working capital financing to MSMEs.

Note: The partnership will be powered by FlexiLoans.com's technology and credit underwriting platform 'BiFrost', which has been integrated with Vivriti's Co-lending platform 'CredAvenue'. The aim of this initiative is to reach out to more than 10,000 MSMEs in the next 12-18 months.

60. According to ministry of Commerce and Industry the Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the country grew by **19 per cent** during 2020-21.

Note: Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the "highest ever" of USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20. In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is at the top with 29 per cent share. It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal.

61. According to ministry of Commerce and Industry **Singapore** is the top investor with 29 per cent share.

Note: Foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country grew 19 per cent to USD 59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business, the commerce and industry ministry.

62. According to 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major agricultural crops for 2020-21 the total foodgrain production in India is estimated to rise by **2.66%**.

Note: It is an increase of 7.94 MT than the production of foodgrain of 297.50 MT achieved during 2019-20. The 305.44 MT estimate is higher by 26.66 MT compared to average production of foodgrains of the previous five years (2015-16 to 2019-20). The assessment is based on data received from States.

63. Yes Bank has digitized onboarding of credit card customers by implementing TransUnion's Onboarding Solution.

Note: This solution will enable YES BANK to onboard its credit card customers seamlessly, efficiently, and quickly. TransUnion's seamless onboarding delivers a full range of identity, fraud, decisioning and credit solutions through a single platform and API calls to make integration easy and convenient for the lender.



64. In collaboration with the NPCI **ICICI Bank** has launched a facility for linking an UPI ID with its digital wallet, 'Pockets' and become the first to link e-wallet with UPI Network.

Note: By linking Pockets with UPI, ICICI enables its customers to undertake UPI transactions from their wallet balance instead of their savings account, as the users can directly use the balance in the wallet for smaller transactions. The current initiative marks a departure from the current practice which demands UPI IDs to be linked with a savings bank account.

65. The size of the Reserve Bank's balance sheet, which is reflective of activities carried out by it in pursuance of currency issue function as well as monetary policy and reserve management, has increased by **6.99 per cent** during the nine-month period ended March 31, 2021.

Note: While income for the year decreased by 10.96 per cent, the expenditure decreased by 63.10 per cent, as per the RBI's Annual Report for 2020-21. The year ended with an overall surplus of Rs 99,122 crore as against Rs 57,127.53 crore in the previous year, representing an increase of 73.51 per cent, it added.

66. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has become the first Small Finance Bank to offer its NRI customer segment the ease of account opening online.

Note: The company will also be the only one in the Small Finance Bank sector to have Virtual Relationship Managers based on time zones. The online process of account opening for NRIs can be done via smartphone or computer connected to the Internet.

67. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on **HDFC Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance found in the auto loan portfolio of the bank.

Note: As per the RBI, HDFC Bank has violated the provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. After receiving a complaint from a whistleblower, RBI conducted an examination in the marketing and sale of third-party non-financial products to the bank's auto loan customers and found that the bank was in contravention of regulatory directions.

68. Lending platform **ZebPay** has launched India's 1st lending platform under the cryptocurrency exchange for the investors to invest their coins and earn returns.

Note: Under the ZebPay Lending Platform, the investors could deposit their Bitcoins/other coins and earn returns like the bank's fixed deposits (FD). The platform will generate returns on users' crypto investments based on their selected cryptos, their token and the time period for which it is loaded.

69. **Canara Bank** has launched 3 categories of loan schemes to offer healthcare credit, business and personal loan to individuals.

Note: Canara Chikitsa healthcare credit facility offers loans from over Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 crore to registered hospitals, nursing homes, medical practitioners, diagnostic centres, pathology labs that are engaged in servicing healthcare infrastructure. Under the Canara Jeevanrekha healthcare business loan, the bank will offer loan up to Rs 2 crore at a concessional interest rate for manufacture and supply of healthcare products viz, medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders, and oxygen concentrators to registered hospitals and nursing homes or other manufacturers, and suppliers. Canara Suraksha personal loan scheme will provide loans from Rs 25,000 – Rs 5 lakh as immediate financial assistance for COVID-19 treatment.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Soli J Sorabjee passed away recently, he was former **Attorney General of India**.

Note: Sorabjee was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2002 for his defence of the freedom of expression and the protection of human rights. He was known for his contribution to the field of constitutional law. He had also helped India win in the International Court of Justice against Pakistan in the Atlantique downing case of 1999.

2. Renowned personality Pandit Debu Chaudhuri has passed away following COVID-19 related complications, he was a prominent **sitar maestro**.

Note: Pandit Debu Chaudhuri had been awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1992 for his contribution to arts. He has also won the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. He was also a teacher and writer, who penned six books. Apart from being an artist he was a disciple of Mushtaq Ali Khan.

3. National Awardee Karimanal Venkatesan Anand passed away at the age of 54 due to COVID-19 related complications, he was a veteran **cinematographer**.

Note: KV Anand started his career as a photojournalist and later joined as an assistant of award-winning cinematographer PC Sreeram. He was the founding member of the Indian Society of Cinematographers (ISC). In 1994, He debuted as the cinematographer for the Malayalam film "Thenmavin Kombath" and won the National Film Award for Best Cinematography.

4. Renowned personality Amit Mistry passed away recently, he was a veteran **Film Actor**.

Note: Actor Amit Mistry worked in TV shows like Tenali Rama, Madam Sir and played roles in many films like Yamla Pagla Deewana, Shor In The City. He was also actively involved in the theatre circuit especially in Gujarati shows. He had also acted in Gujarati films. Besides acting, he was also a dialogue writer and



- director. He was most recently seen playing the role of the protagonist's uncle in the web series Bandish Bandits.
5. Renowned personality Manas Bihari Verma passed away recently, he was a veteran **Aeronautical Scientist**.
Note: He worked as a scientist at the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) for 35 years in the aeronautical stream. He was given the responsibility for the design of the Tejas aircraft mechanical system, where he led the team responsible for the full-scale engineering development of the Tejas aircraft in the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
 6. Former Union minister Jagmohan Malhotra passed away recently he also served as governor of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: Jagmohan served two terms as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He had also served as the lieutenant governor of Delhi and governor of Goa. He belonged to BJP and served as the Union Minister for Urban Development and Tourism in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government.
 7. Oscar-winning 'Moonstruck' actress Olympia Dukakis passed away, she held from **USA**.
Note: Olympia Dukakis was an American actress, director, producer, teacher and activist who performed in over 130 stage productions, over 60 films and in 50 television series. She won an Oscar award in 1987 and won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for her performance in Moonstruck. She has also won an Obie Award for Best Actress in 1963 for her performance in Bertolt Brecht's Man Equals Man.
 8. Renowned personality Abhilasha Patil passed away recently, she was veteran **Actor**.
Note: Actress Abhilasha Patil, who featured in films like 'Good Newwz', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania' and 'Chhichhore', passed away due to Covid-19 complications. Apart from Bollywood movies, Patil also appeared in Marathi films such as 'Te Aath Diwas', 'Bayko Deta Ka Bayko', 'Prawaas', 'Pipsi' and 'Tujha Majha Arrange Marriage'.
 9. Former Union Minister Ajit Singh has passed away recently, he was associated with **Rashtriya Lok Dal**.
Note: He was the son of former Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh. Ajit Singh had served as Minister of Commerce & Industry under Prime Minister V. P. Singh; Minister of Food Processing Industries in P. V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet; Minister of Agriculture in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government and Minister of Civil Aviation in Manmohan Singh's cabinet.
 10. Renowned personality V Kalyanam passed away recently, he was former personal secretary of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
Note: Kalyanam was preserving letters written by Gandhiji, a cheque bearing his sign and other literature associated with him. He was proficient in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English. A staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he was also associated with Rajaji in the 1960s.
 11. Rajya Sabha member, Raghunath Mohapatra has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sculptor**.
Note: Hailing from Odisha, Mohapatra was awarded Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013 for his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture.
 12. Renowned personality Shesh Narayan Singh has passed away recently, he was veteran **Journalist**.
Note: Veteran senior journalist Shesh Narayan Singh has passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19. He was 70. A columnist, political commentator and an expert on foreign policy, Shesh Narain Singh had a career spanning over two decades.
 13. Arjuna Awardee Venugopal Chandrasekhar passed away due to COVID-19 related complications, he was associated with **Table Tennis**.
Note: He was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. V Chandrasekhar is popularly known as a 3 times national champion. V Chandrasekhar represented India in the Commonwealth Games in 1982. He has also served as a coach. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1982.
 14. Renowned personality Homen Borgohain passed away recently, he was a veteran litterateur of **Assamese**.
Note: His body of work includes 11 novels and four non-fiction. He won the Sahitya Akademi in 1978 for his novel Pita Putra but returned the award in 2015 to protest the growing intolerance in India. The late writer was serving as the editor-in-chief of Assamese daily Niyomiya Barta until his death.
 15. Renowned sportsperson Fortunato Franco passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: One of India's finest mid-fielders, Franco was a part of Indian football's golden era between 1960-64. Franco was a part of the 1960 Rome Olympics squad but didn't get a game. However, he was an integral part of the 1962 Asian Games gold winning team in Jakarta.
 16. Renowned personality KR Gouri Amma passed away recently she was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: The senior-most communist leader of Kerala, KR Gouri Amma, who was the first Revenue Minister in the first communist ministry of the state in 1957, has passed away due to age-related ailments. She was 102. She was the second longest-serving MLA in Kerala Legislative Assembly and also the last surviving member of the first Kerala government.
 17. Freedom fighter Anup Bhattacharya passed away recently, by profession he was a **musician**.
Note: Freedom fighter and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra musician, Anup Bhattacharya passed away. During the



- liberation war of Bangladesh, he worked as the composer and music director at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. He is also a founder member of the Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha.
18. Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam passed away recently he was a veteran **Social Activist**.
Note: He was a disciple of Acharya N.G. Ranga and former Member of Parliament. He founded the Tirupati-based Rayalaseema Seva Samithi (RASS) as a social organisation with diverse activities in the form of reaching out to the mentally challenged, caring for the children, support to widows, tribal welfare, drug addiction victims and special care to senior citizens.
19. Renowned personality Professor MS Narasimhan has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Mathematician**.
Note: He is the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in the field of science. He was graduated from Loyola College, Chennai, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay Narasimhan had also obtained PhD from Mumbai University.
20. Veteran **Media Person** Indu Jain passed away recently.
Note: She was the chairperson of the Times Group. After becoming chairman of the Times Group in 1999 she evolved a distinctive leadership style, characterised by compassion and inclusiveness, that helped propel the group to new heights. She set up The Times Foundation in 2000, with sustainable development and transformational change as its key goals.
21. Renowned personality Sunil Jain passed away recently she was a veteran **Media Person**.
Note: Jain has been with Financial Express for over a decade. He finished his Masters from the Delhi School of Economics in 1986 and started his career as a consultant. He then took charge of the export policy desk at FICCI, before getting into journalism with India Today magazine in 1991.
22. Renowned personality Dr. Krishan Kumar Aggarwal has passed away recently, by profession he was a veteran **Doctor**.
Note: He was former National President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA). In 2010, the Government of India honoured Dr.KK Aggarwal with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of medicine. He was a renowned cardiologist and has been working as the Head of the Heart Care Foundation of India.
23. Renowned personality Chaman Lal Gupta passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: He was born on 13th April 1934 in Kaleeth, Jammu, J&K. Chaman Lal Gupta served as a member of the J&K legislative Assembly in 1972 and between 2008 and 2014. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Udhampur constituency (Jammu) in 1996, 1998 and 1999.
24. Sahitya Akademi awardee Rayangala Shri Krishna Raja Narayana Perumal Ramanujam Naicker passed away recently, he was writer and novelist of **Tamil**.
Note: He was born on 16 September 1923 in Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu. Rajanarayanan was honored with Sahitya Academy award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopalla Purathu Makkal'. He is famously called by his Tamil initials as KiRa, he was known as the pioneer of 'Karisal Literature'.
25. Veteran Congress leader Jagannath Pahadia passed away recently he was former chief minister of **Rajasthan**.
Note: Jagannath Pahadia served as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 1980-81. He was the first Dalit chief minister of the Rajasthan. He was also a former Governor of Haryana and Bihar. He served as a member of the Lok Sabha for four times.
26. Renowned personality J.K. Dutt passed away recently he was former Director-General of **National Security Guards (NSG)**.
Note: The NSG condoled the death of the 1971 batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre who served the force from August 2006 to February 2009. Mr. Dutt had served the CBI and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Mr. Dutt, along with about 200 "black cat" commandos, had boarded an IL-76 aircraft of the Aviation Research Centre (ARC) to fly the first batch of the counter-terrorist strike force to Mumbai soon after the western metropolis reported multiple shootouts and public killings in the night of November 26, 2008.
27. Renowned personality Sundarlal Bahuguna passed away recently he was a veteran **Environmentalist**.
Note: The Garhwali environmentalist and Chipko movement leader was undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Rishikesh. For years, Bahuguna has been fighting for the preservation of forests in the Himalayas. Known for spearheading Chipko movement in the 1970s and anti-Tehri Dam movement in 1980s, he was awarded Padma Shri in 1981 and Padma Vibhushan in 2009.
28. Renowned personality Rajkumar Keswani passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: He had warned about irregularities that led to the Bhopal gas tragedy much before the world's worst industrial disaster took place in 1984. After starting his career as sub-editor of Sports Times during college days, Keswani went on to be associated with prominent outlets like New York Times, NDTV, Dainik Bhaskar, The Illustrated Weekly of India, Sunday, India Today and The Week.
29. Renowned personality Pandit Rewa Prasad Dwivedi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sanskrit scholar**.



Note: His original works include poetry as epics and lyrics, plays, and prose. He wrote new literature under the pseudonym "sanatana", meaning 'the eternal'. His most significant works, Sitacaritam and Svatantryasambhavam are two epic poems. He has written extensively on Sahityasastra (Poetics) and produced such great works as Kavyalankarakarika, Natyanusasanam, and Sahityasarirakam. In the early 1980s, Dwivedi organized the World Sanskrit Conference at Banaras Hindu University.

30. Former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission **Srikumar Banerjee** passed away recently (May 2021).

Note: He retired as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy in 2012. Banerjee also served as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for six years till 2010. A metallurgy engineer from the IIT Kharagpur, Banerjee joined the BARC after completing his B Tech degree, and rose to become the director of the premier scientific institution.

31. Former Indian Olympian Sakti Mazumdar passed away recently, he was associated with **Boxing**.

Note: Sakti Mazumdar had represented India in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics in the men's flyweight event. In his first fight he beat Nguyen Van Cua of Vietnam by walkover. But he was defeated by Han Soo-ann of South Korea in the next round.

32. Renowned personality O P Bhardwaj, passed away recently, he was a former coach of **Boxing**.

Note: Bhardwaj, India's first Dronacharya awardee coach in boxing had served as a national selector and was the coach of the national side from 1968 to 1989.

33. Renowned sportsman Max Mosley passed away recently, he was associated with **Formula One**.

Note: The youngest son of Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British fascist movement in the 1930s. Mosley was a racing driver, team owner and lawyer before becoming president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) in 1993.

34. Motorcycle rider Jason Dupasquier passed recently following a crash during Moto3 qualifying race for the Italian Grand Prix he held from **Switzerland**.

Note: Dupasquier was involved in an accident with Ayumu Sasaki and Jeremy Alcoba toward the end of Saturday's session, which was immediately red-flagged. Dupasquier was only 19 years old at the time of his passing.

35. Renowned personality Eric Carle passed away recently, he was veteran **Children's author**.

Note: His classic "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and other works gave millions of kids some of their earliest and most cherished literary memories. His famous picture book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" has been translated into about 66 languages. His career as an illustrator and children's author gained pace when he collaborated on "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?".

36. Renowned personality H S Doreswamy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Freedom fighter**.

Note: He ran the publication house of 'Sahitya Mandira' and the Indian nationalist newspaper 'Pauravani' that voiced the aspirations of an independent India. He joined the freedom struggle at a young age and participated in the Quit India movement. He was jailed for 14 months from 1943 to 1944.

Important Days

1. International Labour Day or International Workers' Day or May Day observed every year on **1st May**.

Note: The day, dedicated to workers and labourers across the world. Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement in the United States in the 19th Century when they demanded 8 hours working in a day. The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party in Madras in 1923.

2. World Tuna Day is observed every year on **2nd May**.

Note: Its aim was to spotlight the importance of conservation management and make sure that a system is required in place to prevent tuna stocks from crashing.

3. World Press Freedom Day is observed globally every year on **3rd May**.

Note: The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives. They risk their lives at times or may even

have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public. This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Information as a Public Good".

4. The International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed every year on **4th May**.

Note: The day is celebrated to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.

5. The World Hand Hygiene Day is observed every year on **5th May**.

Note: The day is organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness among people



across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections. The theme for 2021 is "Achieving hand hygiene at the point of care".

6. International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year on **5th May**.

Note: This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns. The theme for 2021 International Day of the Midwife is "Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives."

7. World Asthma Day is observed every year on **5th May**.

Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the chronic disease and how it can be controlled with proper treatment. This year's theme is 'Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions', which aims at clearing misconceptions related to the complications of asthma.

8. International No Diet Day is observed globally every year on **6th May**.

Note: International No Diet Day is observed on May 6, and its symbol is a light blue ribbon. It is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity. It means recognising that your body is beautiful exactly as it is and worry less about your weight, body shape and more about being healthy and active.

9. World Migratory Bird Day is officially celebrated every year on **2nd Saturday (8th May 2021)**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them. This year's World Migratory Bird Day theme is "Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!".

10. World Red Cross Day is also known as Red Crescent Day is celebrated every year on **8th May**.

Note: This date marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who is the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme of World Red Cross Day 2021 is "Together we are unstoppable".

11. World Thalassemia Day is observed every year on **8th May**.

Note: The day commemorates the struggles of the patients suffering from this genetic disorder and raise awareness about the disease and its symptoms. This year's theme of World Thalassemia Day is "Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassemia Community".

12. In India, the National Technology Day is celebrated every year on **11th May** to highlight the achievements of engineers and scientists in the field of technology and science.

Note: The day acts as a reminder of the country's technological advancements. It was first observed on May 11, 1999, and aims to commemorate the scientific

and technological achievements of Indian scientists and engineers. National Technology Day holds great importance because on this particular day in 1998, India achieved multiple notable technological progressions. The theme of the National Technology Day 2021 is "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future".

13. The International Nurses Day is observed every year on **12th May**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The celebration of International Nurses Day started in 1965 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN). The theme for this year's International Nurses Day is Nurses: A Voice to Lead-A Vision for Future Healthcare.

14. The International Day of Families is observed every year on **15th May**.

Note: This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The theme of 2021 is "**Families and New Technologies**".

15. In India, the National Dengue Day is observed every year on **16th May**.

Note: The day is an initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.

16. The International Day of Light (IDL) is celebrated every year on **16th May**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman. The message of 2021 International Day of Light is "Trust Science".

17. The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on **17th May**.

Note: The theme of 2021 is "**Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times**". The ITU was founded on 17 May 1865, when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris.

18. World Hypertension Day (WHD) is celebrated every year on **17th May**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to promote public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer. The day was held for the first time in May 2005.

19. World AIDS Vaccine Day or HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is observed every on **18th May**.

Note: The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was thus observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech. The concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day was proposed on May 18, 1997, during a commencement speech at Morgan State University



made by then-President Bill Clinton, which underlined the need for a vaccine to curb the spread of HIV.

20. The International Museum Day is celebrated every year on **19th May**.

Note: The theme of International Museum Day 2021: "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine". It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

21. World Bee Day is observed globally every year on **20th May**.

Note: The purpose of the bee day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem. About 33% of the world's food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution. The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is "Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees".

22. World Metrology Day is observed every year on **20th May**.

Note: The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is "Measurement for Health". The theme aims to create awareness about the important role of measurement in the health and wellbeing of everyone. The objective of the Metre Convention: worldwide uniformity of measurement.

23. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed globally every year on **21st May**.

Note: The day aims to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development. In the year 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.

24. Every year on **21st May** the International Tea Day is observed globally on the recommendation of India.

Note: The purpose of International Tea Day is to try to improve the condition of tea producers and tea workers. The United Nations recognised International Tea Day by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to raise awareness of the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world and promote its importance in fighting hunger and poverty.

25. In India, the National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year on **21st May**.

Note: The Day is observed to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people. Rajiv Gandhi was India's youngest

Prime Minister. He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and served the nation from 1984 to 1989.

26. The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed every year on **22nd May**.

Note: The theme of the day this year (2021) is "We're part of the solution #ForNature." Last year's (2020) theme was, "Our solutions are in nature." The United Nations General Assembly in December 2000, adopted May 22 as International Day for Biological Diversity.

27. The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed every year on **23rd May** by the United Nations.

Note: The day is observed to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a condition that affects many girls and women in developing countries. The theme of this year's observance is "Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!"

- The World Turtle Day is observed every year on **23rd May**.

Note: The day is celebrated to make people aware of turtle and tortoise and their habitats. The theme for this year "Turtles Rock!" encourages a worldwide audience to see turtles as more than just rocks with legs.

28. The Indian Commonwealth Day is celebrated every year on **24th May**.

Note: Also known as Empire Day, Commonwealth Day commemorates the formation of the British Empire in India and other colonies of Britain. This year the theme for Commonwealth Day is: Delivering a Common Future. The aim of this theme is to highlight how the 54 Commonwealth countries are innovating, connecting and transforming to help achieve essential goals like tackling climate change, promoting good governance, achieving gender equality.

29. International Missing Children's Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.

Note: This day is observed for missing children who have found their way home, remember those that are victims of crime, and continue efforts to seek out those that are still missing. 25 May is now widely referred to as Missing Children's Day, with the forget-me-not flower as its emblem.

30. World Thyroid Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.

Note: The main purpose of the WTD is to aware of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases. This day is established in 2008 as a part of the campaign led by the European Thyroid Association (ETA) and the American Thyroid Association (ATA) followed by the Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS) and Asia Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA) to commemorate the patients with Thyroid diseases and doctors and physicians who treat them.

31. International Women's Health Day is observed every year on **28th May**.



Note: Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN) and Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) launched the day. Year after year, women, girls, advocates and allies have continued to take action and stand up for sexual and reproductive rights for what they are: an indivisible and inalienable part of our human rights.

32. World Hunger Day is observed globally every year on **28th May**.

Note: The objective of this day is to raise awareness about more than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide. It is observed since 2011 to not only spread awareness about the malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through sustainable undertakings. The initiative recognizes the dire need to save nearly a quarter of a billion lives from malnourishment and chronic hunger.

33. Amnesty International Day is observed every year on **28th May**.

Note: The Amnesty International was founded on 28 May 1961 in London, following the publication of the article "The Forgotten Prisoners" in The Observer, a British newspaper, by the lawyer Peter Benenson.

34. World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) is observed every year on **29th May**.

Note: It is organised by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) in collaboration with the WGO Foundation (WGO). The theme of WDHD 2021 is "Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic."

35. International Everest Day is being observed on **29th May**.

Note: Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary had climbed Mt. Everest on this day in 1953, as the first humans to achieve the feat. Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

36. **Commit to quit** is the theme of the World No Tobacco Day 2021 observed every year by the WHO on 31st May.

Note: The annual campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form. This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what WHO is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.

New Appointments

1. **Mahesh Balasubramanian** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (KLI) for a period of 3 years starting from 1st May 2021.

Note: He has been appointed for a period of 3 years starting from 1st May 2021. He has been appointed following the retirement of G Murlidhar. KLI is in receipt of approval from the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for the appointment of Balasubramanian.

2. Vaishali S Hiwase held from **Maharashtra** who became the first woman officer to be appointed as officer commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Note: She will be responsible for providing connectivity through an Indo-China border road. She is from Maharashtra is M Tech and after successfully completing a demanding tenure in Kargil the Women Officer has taken over the command to undertake this challenge of cutting through the rocks.

3. **T Rabi Sankar** has been appointed as the 4th Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Note: ACC has cleared his appointment for a period of 3 years or till his date of superannuation. He succeeds B P Kanungo, who retired on 2nd April 2021 after serving one year extension period. RBI cannot hold more than 4 deputy governors. The other 3 Deputy Governors of RBI

are Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael D Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.

4. **Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant** has been appointed as Acting Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) with effect from April 25, 2021.

Note: He Succeeds Justice H.L. Dattu, whose tenure ended on December 2, 2020. His appointment was authorized by President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. The term of office of the NHRC Chairperson and members of the NHRC is for five years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

5. **MK Stalin** has been appointed as the chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

Note: The 68-year-old is the son of the former five-term Tamil Nadu chief minister, the late M Karunanidhi. The DMK-led alliance won 159 seats, well ahead of the majority mark of 118 seats. The party alone won 133 seats in the election.

6. **Raman Meenakshi Sundaram** has been appointed as the Director of the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR).

Note: Prior to this elevation, he was working as Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) at the institute crop Improvement Section. He is a scientist of global repute working in the area of rice biotechnology, molecular breeding, and genomics and has over 160 research



- papers in national and international journals of repute and has published several books, book chapters and popular articles.
7. **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam.
Note: He took the charge of the office with effect from May 10, 2021. The BJP party won a second straight term in the 2021 assembly polls in the state. The party won 60 seats in the 126-member Assam assembly.
 8. **N Rangasamy** has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry, for a record fourth time.
Note: N Rangasamy was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lieutenant governor (additional charge) Tamilisai Soundararajan. Prior to this, the 71-year-old served as Chief Minister of Puducherry from 2001 to 2008 as a member of the Indian National Congress and then from 2011 to 2016 as a member of AINRC.
 9. **Arun Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of state-run oil refining and marketing firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).
Note: The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's head-hunter, has picked Arun Kumar Singh as the chairman and managing director of state-run oil refining and marketing firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). Arun Kumar Singh is currently director, marketing at BPCL and holding additional charge of Director, Refineries.
 10. Indian origin immunologist **Sankar Ghosh** has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his "distinguished and continuing achievements in original research."
Note: He was among the 120 newly elected members announced by the Academy. Sankar Ghosh is the Silverstein and Hutt Family Professor of Microbiology and Chair of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
 11. **Ujjwala Singhania** has been appointed as the National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO), the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.
Note: As the 38th National President of FLO Singhania will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women. Under her leadership, FLO will carry out many interventions towards fostering larger contributions of women in India's Industrial and economic growth story.
 12. **Padmakumar M Nair** will be the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), a proposed entity for taking over bad loans of lenders, predominantly public sector banks.
Note: NARC, also called a 'bad' bank, is expected to be operational in June 2021. Nair, a career banker with SBI, has been chief general manager (CGM) in the stressed assets resolution group (SARG) of the bank since April 2020. Prior to his elevation in 2020, he worked as general manager in the SARG from 2017. He has worked mostly in the corporate banking segment in the last two decades.
 13. **Jose J Kattoor** has been appointed as the as Executive Director (ED) in the Reserve Bank of India.
Note: Prior to being promoted as ED, Mr Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka. He will look after Human Resource Management Department, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department. Mr Kattoor has, over a span of three decades, served in communication, human resource management, financial inclusion, supervision, currency management and other areas in the Reserve Bank.
 14. **Bill Nelson** has been sworn in as new NASA Administrator.
Note: Nelson will serve as NASA's chief executive officer and will be directly accountable to President Biden. In this role, he will articulate the space agency's vision, will set its programmatic and budget priorities, internal policies and assess the agency's performance.
 15. **Yes Bank** has appointed Indranil Pan as its chief economist.
Note: Private sector lender Yes Bank has appointed Indranil Pan as its chief economist. Pan joins the bank from rival IDFC First Bank. Pan and his team will provide strategic and policy-level inputs for the bank, based on macroeconomic developments at global and national level.
 16. **Gunjan Shah** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India's largest footwear retailer Bata India Ltd.
Note: He has been appointed as a whole-time director of Bata for a period of five years with effect from June 21, 2021. He will take over the new position in June and will be based in Gurugram, Haryana. Before this Gunjan Shah has been working as chief commercial officer in Britannia Industries Ltd.
 17. **Moctar Ouane** was reappointed as Prime Minister of **Mali**.
Note: He will be in charge of forming a new cabinet. He was appointed as Prime Minister of Mali in September 2020, following the military coup which overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August, 2020. The Interim Government of Mali is set to hold a constitutional



referendum on October 31, 2021 followed by elections in February, 2022.

18. The Government of India has appointed Vandita Kaul as government nominee director on the board of directors of **Bank of India**.

Note: The Government of India has appointed Vandita Kaul as government nominee director on the board of directors of Bank of India. Vandita Kaul has been working as an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services.

19. **Satoshi Uchida** has been appointed as the new Company Head of the Suzuki Motorcycle India.

Note: He has replaced Koichiro Hirao as part of Suzuki Motor Corporation's global revamp. Suzuki Motorcycle India registered its highest-ever monthly sales in April 2021, dispatching as many as 77,849 units during the month. Suzuki Motor Corporation is a Japanese multinational corporation based in Minami-Ku.

20. **Neera Tanden** has been appointed as the senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden.

Note: She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP). She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.

21. **Ramesh Powar** has been appointed as the Head Coach of Indian Women's Cricket team.

Note: Powar's candidature was finalised and recommended to the board by a three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Sulakshana Naik, Madan Lal and RP Singh.

22. Narinder Batra of India has been re-elected as the President of **International Hockey Federation (FIH)**.

Note: He is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and a member of International Olympic Committee (IOC). The FIH Congress was held virtually due to travel restrictions imposed in the wake of the ongoing pandemic. He will hold the office until 2024 as the FIH has reduced the term from four to three years due to deferment of the Congress last year.

23. Indian hockey player **P R Sreejesh** has been appointed as the a member of the FIH Athletes' Committee.

Note: Sreejesh was one of the four new members appointed by the EB which met two days before the 47th FIH Congress. Sreejesh Parattu (IND), Marlana Rybacha (POL), Mohamed Mea (RSA), and Matt Swann (AUS) are now joining the Committee. The 33-year-old Sreejesh is one of the senior-most and decorated players of the Indian team.

24. **Rajesh Bansal** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH).

Note: Rajesh Bansal was a member of the founding team of Aadhaar who played a key role in designing India's Direct Benefit transfer system, particularly for cooking fuel and electronic KYC (e KYC). He is an expert in electronic cash transfers and digital financial services and earlier he has also served in the areas of technology, financial inclusion and payment systems in RBI. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub would develop internal infrastructure to promote fintech research and facilitate engagement with innovators and start-ups.

25. Anatole Collinet Makosso has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of **Congo**.

Note: He was appointed by Denis Sassou Nguesso, the President of Congo. He replaced the former Prime Minister Clement Mouamba, who has been in office since 2016. Anatole Collinet Makosso was born in 1965 in Pointe Noire, Congo.

26. **Prashant Kumar Mishra** has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.

Note: The appointment was made in view of the impending retirement of Justice PR Ramachandra Menon who is set to demit office on May 31, 2021. He also served as Advocate General and became a judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court in December 2009.

27. **Subodh Jaiswal** has been appointed as the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Note: He was the most senior officer among the three shortlisted for the post of CBI Director. Jaiswal, along with KR Chandra and VS Kaumudi, was short-listed out of 109 officers for the top post by the high-powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Other members of the committee include Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

28. **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam** has been appointed as the Commerce Secretary, Government of India.

Note: Mr. Subrahmanyam is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre, and was sent on deputation to Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018. He served as Chief Secretary when the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories in 2019. He is a widely experienced bureaucrat having worked in Manmohan Singh Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary.

29. **Penpa Tsering** has been sworn in as the president of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), the Dharamshala-based Tibetan government-in-exile.

Note: Chief Justice Commissioner Sonam Norbu Dagpo administered the oath to Penpa Tsering, the second democratically-elected Sikyong (president) of the 17th Parliament-in-Exile of the Central Tibetan Administration. Penpa Tsering succeeded Lobsang Sangay. Penpa Tsering, 53, was the speaker of the



Parliament of the CTA for two terms between 2008 and 2016.

30. **Andy Jassy** will be the CEO of Amazon from July 2021.

Note: Andy Jassy (Amazon Web Services founder) will be replacing the current CEO of Amazon by replacing Jeff

Bezos in the second half of 2021. Andy Jassy joined Amazon in 1997 and has led Amazon's Web Services cloud team since its inception.

Important News - India

1. Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated India's first 3D printed house at **IIT Madras**.

Note: The single-storey home has been built in just five days over an area of about 600 sq. ft using 'Concrete 3D Printing' TVASTA Manufacturing Solutions, a start-up founded by IIT-M alumni in association with Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Centre for Innovation in Shelter built the 3D Printed House. The 3D Printed House would help to meet the deadline of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the 'housing for all' scheme by 2022.

2. **PepsiCo Foundation** has partnered with the not-for-profit organisation, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive and set up COVID care centres.

Note: As part of the partnership, SEEDS will drive Covid-19 vaccinations for the community at large, set up Covid care centres equipped with beds and medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders. SEEDS is a not-for-profit organization.

3. With **United Kingdom**, India has adopted 'Roadmap 2030' which aims to elevate bilateral ties to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.

Note: During the summit, the two leaders adopted 'Roadmap 2030' which aims to elevate bilateral ties to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. The UK finalised new deals/trade worth 1 Billion British Pound Sterling (GBP) to create 6,500 jobs in the UK. They also agreed/announced 9 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)/Declarations during the summit.

4. Recently, the first-ever electric tractor in India has been tested at the Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute which is located in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: This new electric tractor will be more environmentally friendly than other types of tractors. The Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Budni is a premier institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It is located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

5. On the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in **London**.

Note: The first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The

meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne.

6. The Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center' was inaugurated by MP Rahul Shewale in **Mumbai**.

Note: This center has been set up in the parking lot of Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar. This first of its kind 'Drive-in Vaccination Center' facility has been made available to the citizens at a time when people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination center.

7. With **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd** the National Dairy Development Board signed an MoU to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry.

Note: NDDDB and EESL will work to design and develop innovative energy-efficient business solutions (innovative business models) for dairy cooperative institutions. They collaborate with different agencies for adopting non-conventional energy-generating facilities for the disposal of crop residues/agricultural waste and bio waste in an environment-friendly manner.

8. 2021 G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting was held in Italy that was attended by the Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually.

Note: Mr Massimo Garavaglia, Minister of Tourism, Government of Italy Chaired the meeting. India will support the Principles for the transition to a green travel and tourism economy submitted by United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as a further contribution to the policy area "Green Transformation" to embrace sustainability in tourism.

9. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced a year-long celebrations to Mark birth centenary of **Satyajit Ray**.

Note: Satyajit Ray (May 2, 1921-April 23, 1992) was a renowned filmmaker, writer, illustrator, graphic designer and music composer. He started his career in advertising and found inspiration for his first film, Pather Panchali, while illustrating the children's version of the novel by Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyay.

10. **Rs 8,873 crore** has been released by the central govt for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to all the States for COVID-19 containment measures.



Note: The States can use up to 50 percent of the released amount for COVID-19 containment measures. It includes meeting the cost of oxygen generation and storage plants in hospitals, ventilators, strengthening ambulance services, COVID-19 hospitals, thermal scanners, personal protective equipment, testing laboratories and testing kits.

11. **Rs 15,000 crores** additional amount has been decided to provide to states as an interest free 50 year loan for spending on capital projects.

Note: The Department of Expenditure has issued fresh guidelines in this regard on the Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure for the financial year 2021-22. This helped to sustain state level capital expenditure in the pandemic year. In view of the positive response to the scheme and considering the requests of the State Governments, the Government has decided to continue the scheme in the year 2021-22.

12. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and UK.

Note: The MoU will benefit Indian students, academics, and researchers, migrants for professional and economic reasons and those willing to contribute through various projects to the economic development of both countries. It can support the innovation ecosystem in both countries by facilitating free flow of talent.

13. **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** has issued a notification mandating all State/UT Governments to issue a certificate of disability through online mode only using Unique Disability ID Portal.

Note: The requirement of a Certificate of disability is mandated under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016). Using the certificate, people with disabilities can avail benefits of different government schemes. The sector has been demanding online issuance of certificates, as people with disabilities were unable to get certificates due to prevalent restrictions in Pandemic times.

14. **CBSE** has launched 'Dost for Life', an exclusive psychological counselling app for students and parents.

Note: The new App will simultaneously cater to students and parents from CBSE-affiliated schools in different geographies across the world. The app will also provide students with other resource material such as suggestive course guides for after senior secondary education, tips on mental health and well being, and a 'corona guide' with information on daily safety protocol, learning from home and self-care.

15. According to Knight Frank's 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2021' report New Delhi ranked at **32nd** position.

Note: While Bengaluru moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked 40; Delhi and Mumbai dipped one place each in the same period. Three Chinese cities -

Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter. Shenzhen recorded the strongest performing world region with a growth of 18.9%, while New York was the weakest performing market with negative 5.8% growth.

16. According to the new report 'Renewable Energy Market Update - Outlook for 2021 and 2022' released by International Energy Agency (IEA), India's Renewable Energy capacity addition declined by almost **50%**.

Note: The decline in capacity addition in India has been attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Global level, the annual renewable capacity additions increased 45% to almost 280 GW (up from 190 GW in 2019), which is the highest year-on-year increase since 1999. China alone accounted for more than 50% of the green energy projects built in 2020.

17. Around **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary** the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced 48.32 square km area as an Eco-Sensitive Zone.

Note: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified 48.32 sq km around the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS) in Maharashtra as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ). Eco-Sensitive Zones are geographical areas within a radius of 10 kms around a protected area, a national park or a wildlife sanctuary, and are declared by the ministry under the provisions of Environment Protection Act 1986.

18. According to Union minister Nitin Gadkari **581** Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen plants will be installed in various states.

Note: NHAI will be the nodal agency for executing civil and electrical work for these facilities. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, will be the nodal agency for executing civil and electrical work for these plants and will complete them on war footing.

19. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO. UCO stands for **Used Cooking Oil**.

Note: Centre had initiated Expressions of Interest for "Procurement of Bio-diesel produced from Used Cooking Oil" on the occasion of World Biofuel Day on 10th August 2019. Such "Expressions of Interest" are being periodically released by Oil Marketing Companies. This initiative will garner substantial economic benefits for the nation by shoring up indigenous Biodiesel supply, reducing import dependence, and generating rural employment.

20. The foreign ministers of **India, 581** and **France** are set to hold a first trilateral meet in New Delhi to discuss steps to strengthen maritime security and other Indo-pacific issues.



Note: he trilateral meet was attended by heads of state of Rwanda and Denmark and other 10 foreign ministers while PM Modi was attended the opening and closing sessions of the event. The three foreign ministers will also be discussing the global security environment and the Chinese posture in the Indo-Pacific.

21. **IRDAI** has issued guidelines on Bharat Yatra Suraksha, the standard domestic travel insurance product _____.

Note: It will provide coverage for hospitalization expenses, death, permanent complete or partial disablement due to an accident, for travel through taxi, bus, train, ship, and airplane in the country. The base cover will provide coverage for hospitalization expenses ranging from Rs1 lakh to Rs10 lakh and an accidental death benefit ranging from Rs1 lakh to Rs1 crore.

22. Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) has signed a pact with business organization of **Canada** to jointly promote 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat', and facilitate investment and manufacturing in areas such as telecom and ICT.

Note: TEMA has signed a pact with Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC). TEMA will come on board as a partner organisation for CONNEXT 2021 – ICCC's 10 days-10 states virtual trade mission to India from June 11-25, 2021.

23. Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) located in **Chennai** that has developed the country's first vaccine for deadly viral nervous necrosis (VNN) disease.

Note: Scientists say the VNN disease is a serious threat affecting many marine, brackishwater and freshwater fish causing up to 100% mortality in larval and early juvenile stages. The disease is caused by nervous necrosis virus (NNV). Red-spotted grouper nervous necrosis virus (RGNNV) is the only genotype prevalent in India and most other tropical countries. The vaccine can be used in all species susceptible to VNN such as Asian seabass, milkfish, grey mullet, mangrove red snapper etc."

24. **Indian Army** has set up a Covid Management Cell to bring in greater efficiency in coordinating real-time responses to address the exponential rise in Covid cases across the country _____.

Note: In order to coordinate multiple facets of staffing and logistics support, an exclusive Covid Management Cell under a Director General rank officer has been established which reports directly to the Vice Chief of Army Staff. The force said that it help in assistance to civil administration in the form of testing, admissions in military hospitals, and transportation of critical medical equipment.

25. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **43** cities India has in the list of World's 100 most environmentally riskiest cities.

Note: Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi and Chennai. 99 of the World's 100 riskiest cities are in Asia. Lima, Peru is the only non-Asian city to be listed in the World's 100 Riskiest cities. Glasgow, Scotland was ranked as the safest city in the report.

26. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **New Delhi** is the riskiest city in India.

Note: Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi and Chennai. 99 of the World's 100 riskiest cities are in Asia. Lima, Peru is the only non-Asian city to be listed in the World's 100 Riskiest cities.

27. According to 'State of Indian Healthcare – Indian Cities through the lens of healthcare 2021' report released by Housing.com, **Pune, Maharashtra** is the healthiest city among the top 8 urban cities of India.

Note: The ranking is done with regard to parameters like number of hospital beds, ease of living, water quality, and local body performance. The top 3 cities are – Pune, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka).

28. With **Microsoft**, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has signed an MoU for digital transformation of Tribal schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Ashram Schools, and other schools under MoTA.

Note: Under the agreement, Microsoft will make the Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum available to tribal students in English and Hindi at all EMRS schools. This is to ensure inclusion and access. During the 1st phase of the program, 250 EMRS schools will be adopted by Microsoft for the purpose.

29. **India** country hosted the 'GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM (GMS)-21' in which 13 Indian Ocean Littoral Countries Participated.

Note: The theme for GMS-21 was focused on "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies". 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries (India, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand) participated in the GMS-21.

30. According to the ranking released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) **Jharkhand** ranked first among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects.

Note: The rankings were released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The ranking is based on factors like smart city plan implementation, ongoing work and tendering process, utilisation of funds and



provision of utility certificates to the Central Government.

31. Telangana health department has signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Health Authority for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Note: The guidelines for the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the State was also issued by the state Medical and health department and will be implemented by the Aarogyasri Health Care Trust. The health insurance coverage is for Rs 5 lakh for beneficiaries.

32. **Satpura Tiger Reserve** along with 5 other sites have been shortlisted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be classified as world heritage sites.

Note: Six Indian sites, under the care of Archaeological Survey of India, have been shortlisted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be classified as world heritage sites. The six Indian sites include the Satpura Tiger Reserve, the Iconic Riverfront at Varanasi, Hire Benkal, a megalithic site, Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley, Jabalpur, and the temples of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.

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Note: The six Indian sites include:

1. Satpura Tiger Reserve
2. The Iconic Riverfront at Varanasi
3. Hire Benkal, a megalithic site
4. Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra
5. Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley, Jabalpur, and
6. The temples of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.

34. India's rank in the 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) – May 2021, released by Ernst & Young Global Ltd (EY) is **Third**.

Note: The USA topped the index, while China took the 2nd Rank. India has improved its rank from 4th (in 56th RECAI) to 3rd due to its exceptional performance in the Solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) sector. Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) is a biannual report being released since 2/003.

35. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights comes under administrative control of **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has Launched 'SAMVEDNA' to Provide Psycho-Social Mental Support for Children During Covid-19.

Note: SAMVEDNA stands for Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance. The main objective is to provide psychological first-aid and

emotional support to children affected during COVID-19 Pandemic.

36. India's largest Virtual Fair in the Home, Fashion, Lifestyle, Textiles and Furniture sector, the 51st Edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (IHGF) 2021 took place in **New Delhi**.

Note: It was organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). It was inaugurated by Ravi K. Passi, Chairman of EPCH. IHGF is an exclusive Business-2-Business (B2B) online platform developed to assist buyers from all across the globe to source from India.

37. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has partnered with **NITI Aayog** for implementation of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) initiative under Van Dhan Yojna in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts.

Note: Van Dhan tribal start-ups or VDVK is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate the creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes. A dedicated team consisting of members from TRIFED and NITI aayog will be for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana.

38. Kuno National Park is located in **Madhya Pradesh** where 10 African Cheetahs will be brought from South Africa & Namibia.

Note: It is the 1st time in the world that a large carnivore will be relocated from one continent to another. As per the plan, 10 African Cheetahs will be brought from South Africa & Namibia and reintroduced in India. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved a budget of INR 1, 400 Lakh for the 2021 Fiscal under 'Project Cheetah'.

39. **National Green Tribunal** has constituted a committee to submit a report on alleged violation of norms in the construction of a reservoir across the Cauvery river at Makedatu in Karnataka.

Note: NGT bench consisting of Justice K Ramakrishnan took suo motu cognizance of newspaper report regarding the dam. Report states Karnataka proposes to construct a dam across Cauvery river even though proposal was deferred by Cauvery Water Management Authority twice in past because of opposition from Tamil Nadu government.

40. Mohali International Hockey Stadium has been renamed **Balbir Singh Senior** by the government of Punjab.

Note: He passed away at the age of 96 on 25th May 2020. Balbir Singh Senior won three Olympic gold medals from the Olympic Games held in London (1948), Helsinki (1952) and Melbourne (1956). He served as the vice-captain of the Indian team during the Helsinki (1952) and as the Captain during the Melbourne (1956) games.

41. Under chairmanship of **Nilesh Shah** the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), the



regulator of GIFT- City, constituted a 12-member expert committee on investment funds (IF).

Note: The Committee consists of leaders from the entire Fund Management ecosystem including from areas such as technology, distribution, legal, compliance, and operations. The aim is to develop a comprehensive and consistent regulatory framework for IF based on global best practices with a special focus on ease of doing business.

42. **IIM Indore** has partnered with The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) to identify the challenges across pandemic-hit sectors and to figure out ways to tackle them.

Note: For this IIM Indore has received a research grant of Rs 85.3 lakh. Covid-19 has not only impacted the health index of several countries (WHO 2020); but also created the macro-level turbulence that has severe implications for economic political social and psychological well-being. The institutions will now work together on documenting the challenges faced by these business sectors and their ways of tackling challenges.

43. The Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDM) scheme is implemented by **Ministry for Education** that has approved proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Crore students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component.

Note: Class 1-8 students who are studying in 11.20 Lakh Government and Government aided schools across India will be benefitted. Each Child will get approximately INR 100 under the One-time welfare measure. The INR 1200 Crore fund has been provided from the Cooking cost component of MDM Scheme.

44. Under the chairmanship of **Srikrishna Deva Rao** the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a 5-member Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws.

Note: The Committee is appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to reform Indian Penal Code (IPC) is set to propose a separate Section in IPC on 'Offences relating to speech and expression'. Purpose – At present there is no definition of what is 'Hate Speech' in IPC, The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws is attempting for the 1st time to define it.

Important News – State

1. The Indian Army has Inaugurated its first Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant of 56 KVA (KiloVolt-Ampere) in **Sikkim**.

Note: The Plant uses Vanadium based battery Technology and is situated at an Altitude of 16000 Ft. The project has been completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai. It was completed by a team from IIT Mumbai which was led by Professor Prakash Ghosh and troops of the Indian Army.

2. **Himachal Pradesh** government has initiated 'Parvat Dhara Yojana' to revive, recharge aquifers and conserve natural resources of water in the state.

Note: It is set to be implemented in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh. An outlay of INR 20 Crore has been set aside for implementation of the scheme. Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh will implement the scheme in forest areas. The scheme was announced in the Himachal Pradesh State Budget for the FY 2021-22.

3. **Odisha state government** has declared working journalists as Frontline Covid Warriors and have been covered under Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana.

Note: This announcement was made under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana. With these more than 6,500 journalists are to be benefitted in the state. Launched in 2018, Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a health insurance scheme that was introduced for the journalists by the Odisha state government.

4. **Tripura** state government has launched the first of its kind Auro Scholarship Programme of Sri Aurobindo Society for all the students of state.

Note: Auro Scholar is the World's first Micro Scholarship programme aimed to encourage the students to improve their learning. Sri Aurobindo Society partnered with the Government of Tripura to make the scholarship accessible to all the students of Tripura.

5. **Madhya Pradesh** State government has launched the Corona Warriors Scheme.

Note: The government will take the responsibility of family members of health workers who have passed away while on Corona duty. Their families will be given honorarium of Rs 50 lakhs by the government.

6. With **UNICEF** the **Assam State Disaster Management Agency** has jointly developed an Online Flood Reporting System, thus Assam becomes the first state to adopt digital reporting system to find out impact indicators during floods.

Note: The FRIMS jointly developed by ASDMA & UNICEF will replace the present manual system with the web cum mobile application-based technology driven system. It will help in efficient delivery of relief, ex-gratia, rehabilitation grants to the flood affected people besides tracking of damages to agricultural crops, loss of livestock, infrastructure damages etc.

7. Under the chairmanship of **Dilip Bhosale** the Maharashtra government has constituted an eight-member committee to study the Supreme Court's order striking down quota for the Maratha community.



Note: The Committee will be headed by former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court Dilip Bhosale. Other members of the panel include former state advocate general Darius Khambata, senior advocate Rafique Dada and a few serving and former government officials.

8. **Haryana** state police has come up with “COVID-19 Hospital Transport Service” for free transportation of needy infected patients from their homes to hospitals or nursing homes and back.

Note: A total of 440 vehicles are being provided for this service and every police district would get 20 SUVs for this purpose. These vehicles are being provided after the instances of either shortage of ambulances or overcharging by private ambulance service providers came to the notice of the police.

9. Rupsi airport has started its Commercial operations recently, the Airport is located in **Assam**.

Note: A trial flight was conducted on the Guwahati-Rupsi-Guwahati route by private Flybig airlines. The airport in Assam’s Kokrajhar district has been developed at a cost of Rs 69 crore under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN) scheme. It is northeast India’s 15th and Assam’s 7th airport.

10. Madhya Pradesh state government has launched the ‘Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana’ amid a rise in cases in the state.

Note: The scheme has been divided into three sections. ‘Under the first section, hospitals run by state medical colleges, district and civil hospitals and community health centres will give free treatment to COVID-19 patients. In the second section, 20 per cent ICU/HDU and isolation beds will be reserved in hospitals run by private medical colleges to give free treatment.’

11. **Puducherry** becomes the fourth state/UTs to implement the ‘**Har Ghar Jal**’ Yojna.

Note: Puducherry has become the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection. Puducherry has now become the fourth state or UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Central Government’s flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, JJM.

12. **Odisha** state government has announced ‘Manoj Das International Literary Award’ in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das.

Note: The award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year. It will carry a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh.

13. **Chhattisgarh** government has developed a web portal ‘CGTeeka’ for systematic vaccination of people in the age group 18-44 years.

Note: This web portal, developed by CHiPS, was launched by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. CGTeeka web portal has been developed on the basis of social and geographical conditions in the state. This initiative of the government would save the people from waiting in long queues.

14. **Manipur** state government has launched MOMA Market Mobile application to solve the issues of home delivery of fresh vegetables.

Note: The application was introduced by the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur. MOMA is assigned to channelize the farm producers to consumers through home delivery. Under this initiative the vegetables from various farms will be collected by the Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) working with MOMA.

15. **Uttarakhand** state police has launched a drive called “Mission Hausla” to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients.

Note: The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called “Mission Hausla” to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients. Besides this, the police are also helping the public in getting ration, ambulance, cremation of bodies as part of the mission.

16. **Himachal Pradesh** state government has launched the ‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’ program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.

Note: This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation. Yoga Bharti’s instructors would provide their services in the program. During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.

17. **Bihar** state government has launched “HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) Covid App” to monitor and track the COVID-19 patients who are in home isolation across the state.

Note: The app was developed by the Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (BELTRON) under the guidance of the Department of Health and the Department of Information Technology (DIT). The app was used on a pilot basis in five district of Bihar – Supaul, Aurangabad, Bhagalpur, Gopalganj and Nalanda.

18. **Tripura** state government has launched ‘Jagrut’ app where people get to know about various Central Government and State Government Schemes.

Note: The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura. The ‘Jagrut Tripura’ will empower citizens of Tripura.

19. “Vaidya Aapke Dwar” scheme has been launched in **Madhya Pradesh** by the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga,



Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).

Note: Through this scheme free medical consultation is given at home through live video call by AYUSH medical specialists. The scheme was virtually launched by the Madhya Pradesh State Minister for AYUSH, Shri Ramkishore Kaware on May 7, 2021. This scheme is made available through the telemedicine app named "AyushQure", so that it is accessible to the common people even at home.

20. Karnataka state has been ranked as the Number One state in establishing a Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) under the Ayushman Bharat project for the year 2020-21.

Note: HWCs are established to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas. Ayushman Bharat was launched in 2018 with its two main pillars of HWCs & Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

21. Chhattisgarh state government has a new scheme named 'Mahtari Dular Yojna' through which the government will pay for the education for those children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Note: Children studying in both government and private schools will be entitled to this stipend. The state government will also fund the education of the children who have lost the person who earns money to support their family to Covid-19.

22. Jharkhand state government has launched the 'Amrit Vahini' App and Website which enables people to book a hospital bed online.

Note: State Govt also launched a "Chatboat App" which can provide all the information related to coronavirus. Through the Amrit Vahini' App, the government of Jharkhand will provide better facilities for people with coronavirus infection.

23. Maharashtra state government has allocated 50 Acres of land to establish the National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP).

Note: The allocated land located in the Aadali village of Dodamarg taluka will be handed over to the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). The NIMP at Maharashtra will act as a one-stop centre for all the needs related to medicinal plants.

24. West Bengal state government has approved the formation of the Legislative Council.

Note: At present, only Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh have Legislative Council. Previously, West Bengal had a bicameral legislature but it was abolished by the United Front government in 1969.

25. Uttarakhand state government has launched 'Mukhya Mantri Vatsalya Yojana' for orphaned children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.

Note: The scheme is scheduled to be implemented by May 30, 2021. The State Government proposed to make arrangements for their maintenance, education and training for employment for those orphaned children up to the age of 21 years.

26. Haryana state government launched 'Sanjeevani Pariyojana' to provide for supervised and quick medical care at home for people in rural areas with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19.

Note: The pilot project is supported by Deloitte, and the implementation of the initiative will begin from Karnal district. The initiative will raise awareness about the second wave of COVID-19 and ways to treat it. The initiative will help in transforming the healthcare services provided to the people of Haryana.

27. Maharashtra state government has launched the "Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance" scheme to meet the state's oxygen needs.

Note: Units set up in Vidarbha, Marathwada, Dhule, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg regions will be eligible for incentives up to 150 per cent of their eligible fixed capital investments and units set up in the rest of Maharashtra will be eligible for up to 100 per cent general incentives. The government will also give a refund on gross SGST, stamp duty, electricity duty and unit subsidy of power cost for five years and interest subsidy for MSME units with a fixed capital investment of up to Rs 50 crore.

28. Karnataka state government has launched an online portal named 'Akanksha' to provide comprehensive details on all the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in the state.

Note: The portal was created by the Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics, Karnataka in collaboration with UNDP's (United Nations Development Programme) Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC). NITI Ayog (The National Institution for Transforming India) Chief Executive Officer, Amitabh Kant also participated in the launch virtually.

29. Madhya Pradesh state government has launched Ankur scheme under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.

Note: The Award named "Pranvayu" will be given to People who take the initiative to plant saplings. People can participate in the tree plantation drive by registering themselves on the Vayudoot app. A picture has to be uploaded while planting the sapling and another photograph after taking care of the sapling for 30 days.



30. Goa state government has launched solar-based electrification programme for rural households in the state.

Note: This project will bring electricity through renewable energy to areas in Goa where grid

connectivity is not feasible. The solar PV-based home lighting systems for households was inaugurated only two days after the agreement was signed between Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) and Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA).

Important News – World

1. Alstom is a rolling stock manufacturer of France that successfully manufactured and delivered its 100th Electric Locomotive to the Indian Railways.

Note: It successfully manufactured and delivered its 100th Electric Locomotive to the Indian Railways. It is part of the 3.5 Billion Euro contract signed between the Ministry of Railways, India & Alstom in 2015 for delivery of 800 fully electric high-powered double-section locomotives of 12,000 HorsePower (HP) (9 MW). It is the Largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Project in the Indian Railway sector.

2. The Global Forest Goals Report 2021 has been released by **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.

Note: The UN has released its Global Forest Goals Report 2021. The Report has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN. According to the report, the Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests. It provides an initial overview of the progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.

3. The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has been opened in **Portugal**.

Note: It will attract tourists and help to revive a region whose economy was devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The bridge hangs 175 meters above the fast-flowing River Paiva. It is Hidden between rock-strewn mountains covered with lush greenery and yellow flowers inside the UNESCO-recognised Arouca Geopark.

4. 44 people were killed in a stampede that occurred at a religious gathering at Mount Meron that is located in **Israel**.

Note: The tragedy struck when a large number of Jewish pilgrims had gathered at the site of the reputed tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a second-century Talmudic sage. It started after some attendees slipped on steps, which caused dozens more to fall. Authorities say at least 44 people have been killed and about 150 injured.

5. USA has approved the proposed sale of 6 Poseidon-8I (P-8I) Patrol Aircraft and other equipment to India.

Note: It is being procured by the Indian Government for use by the Indian Navy. The P-8I Patrol Aircrafts are produced by Boeing, an American Aerospace & Defense Company. In November 2019, the Defence Acquisition

Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the procurement of the P-8I Aircrafts and other equipment.

6. Portugal hosted the India-European Union Leaders' Meeting that was attended by PM Narendra Modi, held in a hybrid format.

Note: PM Modi attended the event at the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr Charles Michel. The leaders of all the 27 EU Member States, as well as the President of the European Council and the European Commission, participated in the meeting. This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format.

7. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) Meeting 2021 was held in **Tokyo**.

Note: The ASM3 2021 is the 1st meeting to be held in Asia. The theme for 2021 is 'Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'. ASM is a global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region, it is an event initiated by the Arctic Council, a high-level intergovernmental forum. Union Minister for Earth Science Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually represented India in the meeting.

8. Interpol has launched 'ID-Art' app which will help identify stolen cultural property, reduce smuggling and increase the possibility of recovering stolen works and artefacts.

Note: The 'ID-Art' app enables users — from law enforcement agencies to the general public — to get mobile access to the Interpol database of stolen works of art, create an inventory of private art collections and report cultural sites that are potentially at risk, said the Interpol. It is available for both Android and Apple devices. The app's users can immediately cross-check if an object is among the over 52,000 items registered as stolen in the Interpol's "Stolen Works of Art" database.

9. India chaired the first BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting held in 2021 in virtual format.

Note: The meeting was held under the chairmanship of India, which has assumed the BRICS Presidency in 2021. The meeting was chaired by Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment.



10. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **Jakarta** is the riskiest city in the world.

Note: According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, India has 43 of the World's 100 most environmentally riskiest cities and China has 37 most environmentally riskiest cities.

11. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **Glasgow, Scotland** is the safest city in the world.

Note: According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, India has 43 of the World's 100 most environmentally riskiest cities and China has 37 most environmentally riskiest cities. Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi and Chennai.

12. **Russia** becomes the first country in the world to all synthetic cannabinoid substances _____ **Russia**.

Note: The ban is likely to come into effect on July 1. The move comes as China tries to curb the manufacturing and trafficking of the drug.

13. **Iran** country unveiled its most powerful supercomputer named 'Simorgh', which is 100 times more powerful than the previous supercomputer of the country.

Note: The supercomputer has been developed indigenously by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT). It has been named after a mythical Phoenix-like bird 'Simurgh'.

14. **Paris, France** country hosted the Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021.

Note: Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan virtually represented India in the summit. The objective of the summit is to arrange financial resources for reviving the economy of African Continent, which has been affected by COVID-19.

15. **USA** ranked first in the 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) – May 2021, released by Ernst & Young Global Ltd (EY).

Note: The USA topped the index, while China took the 2nd Rank. India has improved its rank from 4th (in 56th RECAI) to 3rd due to its exceptional performance in the Solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) sector. Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) is a biannual report being released since 2003.

16. The 'Protected Planet Report 2020' has been released by **IUCN and UNEP** according to that around 21 million square kms have been added within the Protected & Conserved Areas of the world since 2010.

Note: According to the report around 21 million square kms (which is 7 times the size of India) have been added within the Protected & Conserved Areas of the world since 2010. It brings the total percentage of earth's land which is protected/conserved to 64%, which is just a fraction short of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (Protecting/Conserving 17% of Earth's land and 10% of its marine environments by 2020).

17. **Italy** hosted the Global G20 Health Summit along with European Commission.

Note: The summit adopted the agenda to overcome Covid-19 pandemic. It also decided to develop and endorse a Rome Declaration of principles. ACT-Accelerator is used for "Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator".

18. With **Israel**, India has signed a three-year Work Program for development in Agriculture cooperation.

Note: Under the work program, both countries will implement two initiatives namely 'Indo-Israel Agricultural Project Centre of Excellence' & 'Indo-Israel Villages of Excellence (IIVoE)'. It will benefit local farmers both through the Centers of Excellence and the Villages of Excellence. Under the IAP, 29 CoEs have been established across India in 12 states.

19. The World Health Organization (WHO) has signed an MoU with **Switzerland** to launch the first WHO BioHub Facility as part of the WHO BioHub System.

Note: The facility will allow the rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and global partners. It will be set up in Spiez, Switzerland. Under this agreement, the Spiez Biocontainment Laboratory will be made available to WHO and the lab will act as a repository for Sars-CoV-2 viruses or other pathogens with epidemic or pandemic potential.

20. **UK** has announced that it will work with the WHO other partners and nations to develop an advanced international pathogen surveillance network to identify COVID-19 variants and emerging diseases.

Note: The UK PM also claimed that the "Global Pandemic Radar," as the network was called, will ensure the early detection of new variants and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed. The Global Pandemic Radar is expected to become fully operational before the end of with the aim of significantly improving global health security going into next year.



Honor & Awards

- 1. Shyamala Ganesh** has been honoured with the 3rd highest order decoration of Japan, Order of the Rising Sun, under the class Gold and Silver Rays from the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
Note: She received the order for her contribution in spreading the Japanese culture and language in Karnataka and other parts of India and for promoting the friendship and goodwill between Japan and India. She is also the former President of the Bengaluru Chapter of Ohara-Ryu Ikebana and supported to popularise the cultural traditions of Ikebana, Japanese flower arrangements. Along with her husband Ganesh she has started a Japanese language school in 1983.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted the “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema” from 2021, which will be given every year at **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
Note: The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate, shawl along with a silver peacock medal and a scroll. The award is instituted as a part of the celebration of the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Awardee Satyajit Ray, who was born on 2nd May 1921 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Maria Ressa is an investigative journalist and media executive of **Philippines** who has been named as the 2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
Note: The \$25,000 prize “recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger,” according to UNESCO. The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist. Over a career spanning more than thirty years, Ressa has worked as CNN’s lead investigative reporter for Asia and the head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs.
- Pink** will be honoured with the Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs).
Note: The award aims to recognize artists who have achieved success on the Billboard charts and left an indelible impact on music. Pink joins previous honourees that include Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks.
- Tyler Perry** has been honored with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, an Oscar statue, at the 93rd Academy Awards 2021 Ceremony.
Note: He was honoured for his contribution towards the recovery of the entertainment industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award is presented to an individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry.
- Naomi Osaka** has been named as the “Sportswoman of the Year” at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards.
Note: This is Osaka’s second Laureus Sports Awards. In 2019, she won the “Breakthrough of the Year” award.
- Rafael Nadal** has been named as the “Sportsman of the Year” at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards.
Note: With the French Open victory in 2020, Nadal took his tally to 20 Grand Slam titles. Nadal picked up his fourth Laureus honour, having previously scooped the Breakthrough, Comeback and men's individual awards.
- Gita Mittal** has been selected for the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021.
Note: The Award will be presented at IAWJ’s Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony on May 7, 2021. She shares the honour with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico. International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) instituted this award in 2016. Justice Mittal would be the first Indian judge to receive the award.
- Anupam Kher** has won the Best Actor award in the New York City International Film Festival.
Note: The film has been directed by Prasad Kadam and produced by FNP Media. Besides Anupam, Happy Birthday stars Aahana Kumra. The film also won the Best Short Film award at the festival.
- Indian American **Tahera Qutbuddin** won the Sheikh Zayed Book Award in 2021 for his/her book titled “Arabic Oration: Art and Function”, thus became the first person from India to win the award.
Note: She became the first person from India to win the award. She won the award under the Arab Culture in Other Languages category. The awards under 8 different book categories were announced at the 15th annual Sheikh Zayed Book Award held in Abu Dhabi.
- Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted** has been conferred with the World Food Prize 2021.
Note: World Food Prize is an award that aims to recognise achievements made in the field of food and agriculture. The award is also referred to as the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture. Every year, the committee selects one person who will be awarded the title and prize money of \$250,000. Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted is a resident of Denmark and was born in Trinidad and Tobago.
- IREDA** has been conferred with the prestigious “Green Urja Award” 2021.



Note: The award was received by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director, IREDA from Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance. IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.

13. **Y Nuklu Phom** become the only Indian to the Whitley Award 2021 for his efforts toward creating “Biodiversity Peace Corridor”.

Note: His name, along with that of five others, was announced in a virtual award ceremony organised by the UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN). Worth £40,000, the award is for creating a new network of community-owned forests to protect Amur Falcons and increase biodiversity in Nagaland. He is the only Indian to win the prestigious award. The award is also known as the Green Oscar.

14. **Andrea Meza** crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020.

Note: The pageant that was held on May 16, in the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood Hotel. Meza was preceded by Miss Universe Zozobini Tunzi of South Africa. Miss India’s Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4. Brazil’s Julia Gama is the first runner-up, Peru’s Janick Maceta is the second runner-up while India’s Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic’s Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up, respectively.

15. **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** received the International Invincible Gold Medal for the year 2021.

Note: He has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life. The decision was made after due deliberations by a high-powered committee duly constituted under the leadership of Dr Tony Nader who is the global head of the Maharshi organisation. This honour will be given by the worldwide Maharishi Organization & its universities.

16. Indian scholar **Professor Shankar Balasubramanian** along with Professor David Klenerman won the 2020 Millennium Technology Prize for the development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques – Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS).

Note: It is a prestigious global science and technology prize awarded for their development of revolutionary sequencing techniques which means DNA can now be read in super-fast times. The prize, awarded by Technology Academy Finland (TAF) at two-year intervals since 2004 - when Sir Tim Berners-Lee was honoured for his discovery of the World Wide Web - to highlight the extensive impact of science and innovation on the wellbeing of society, is worth Euro 1 million.

17. Indian Choreographer **Suresh Mukund** becomes the first Indian to win the 10th Annual ‘World Choreography Award 2020.

Note: He won the award in the ‘TV REALITY SHOW/COMPETITION’ category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show ‘World of Dance’. Mukund is the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew ‘The Kings’, which won the 2019 season of World of Dance. The World Choreography Awards, famously known as the “Oscars of Dance”,

18. **Hockey India, India** has won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award.

Note: The awards were announced by the game's governing body FIH during the HockeyInvites virtual conference. It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards. The award gives recognition to numerous individuals, teams and organisations for their outstanding contributions to the sport of hockey.

19. **Shaji .N.M** has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2021 in the individual category of ‘Conservation of domesticated species’.

Note: Mr. Shaji, who conserves a wide array of around 200 tuber crops including greater yam, lesser yam, elephant foot yam, arrow root, colocasia, sweet potato, cassava and Chinese potato in his farm has received State awards seven times for his efforts. He has also received the Plant Genome Savior Reward 2015, instituted by PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi.

20. **Conor McGregor** has been emerged as the highest-paid athletes in the world for 2021 according to the list released by Forbes.

Note: This year, MMA fighter Conor McGregor tops the list with US\$180 million in total earnings, edging past the two football legends Lionel Messi (#2) and Cristiano Ronaldo (#3) who’ve been topping the charts consistently in the past few years. Read on to discover the full list and find out how much do the superstars make.

21. **Jane Goodall** has been honoured with 2021 Templeton Prize.

Note: Dr. Jane Goodall is founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, UN Messenger of Peace and world-renowned ethologist and conservationist. The Templeton Prize honors individuals whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton’s philanthropic vision – harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind’s place and purpose within it.

22. According to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List **Bernard Arnault** became the world’s richest person.

Note: He overtook Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon, whose net worth was 186 billion USD and Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla whose net worth was 147.3 billion USD. The net worth of Bernard Arnault has risen from 76 Billion USD (March



2020) to 186.3 billion USD with a massive rise of around 110 Billion USD in 14 months.

23. **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy** become the first Indian to win the Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).

Note: Rudolf V Schindler Award is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler who is considered as “the father of gastroscopy.” With this, Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner to win this award. Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India and has led the charge of educating numerous endoscopists all over the world.

24. **C.N.R. Rao** has been conferred with the International Eni Award 2020 which is also called as Energy Frontier award for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage.

Note: The award is also known as Energy Frontier award. This is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research. The Energy Frontiers award has been conferred for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes, and other materials and two-dimensional systems, including graphene, boron-nitrogen-carbon hybrid materials, and molybdenum sulfide (Molybdenite - MoS₂) for energy applications and green hydrogen production.

25. **Amartya Sen** has been conferred with Spain's top Princess of Asturias Award in the social sciences category.

Note: Amartya Sen was selected for his best-known work- “Poverty and Famines”. His research on famines and his theory of human development, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance. The award comprises a Joan Miro sculpture representing and symbolising the Award, a diploma, an insignia and a cash prize of 50,000 Euros.

26. Indian actor **Sanjay Dutt** who has been awarded with Golden Visa by UAE government _____ **Sanjay Dutt**.

Note: The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency to people with outstanding talents. In 2019, UAE implemented a new system for long-term residence visas enabling foreigners to live, work & study there without the need of a national sponsor & with 100% ownership of their business. As per reports, Sanjay Dutt is the first mainstream to receive the Golden Visa.

27. **Valeria Luiselli** has won the International Dublin Literary Award 2021 for her novel, Lost Children Archive.

Note: Lost Children Archive is the 5th novel of Valeria Luiselli and the 1st one to be written in English. Valeria Luiselli was born in Mexico City and her essay collections include Sidewalks, Faces in the Crowd, The Story of My Teeth, and Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions.

Sports News

1. **Lewis Hamilton** won the won the 2021 Spanish Grand Prix.

Note: This win is the fifth successive Spanish Grand Prix title of Lewis Hamilton and the third win of this season. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing-Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third position.

2. **Kami Rita**, Nepali climber has scaled Mount Everest for the record 25th time.

Note: Rita, 51, first scaled Everest in 1994 and has been making the trip nearly every year since then. He is one of many Sherpa guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success of the hundreds of climbers.

3. **Ashleigh Barty** has won the women's singles title in the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2021 in Stuttgart.

Note: Australian tennis star beats Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the final. She also won the women's double title partnering with Jennifer Brady. It was her first

European tournament on clay since triumphing in the 2019 French Open.

4. Due to rising Covid cases in India the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), in consultation with the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) decided to conduct the 2021 Asian Elite Men and Women Boxing Championships in **Dubai, UAE**.

Note: The tournament was scheduled to be held at Delhi's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from May 21 to 31, 2021. Now the event will be held between May 21 to June 1, 2021 and will be organized by BFI along with UAE Boxing Federation. Under the championship, the Indian women's team will be led by the MC Mary Kom (51kg) and the men's team is not yet announced.

5. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Portuguese Grand Prix 2021.

Note: He defeated Red Bull's Max Verstappen to eight points after three races. Verstappen finished second at the Algarve circuit with Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas completing the podium, and taking a bonus point for the fastest lap, after starting from pole position.



6. Indian sports person, **PV Sindhu** has been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation.

Note: The Badminton World Federation announced that India shuttler PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation. Sindhu and Li will be working alongside other athlete ambassadors from around the world to raise awareness on the topic of competition manipulation amongst athletes and encourage. The pair have been global ambassadors for BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign since April 2020.

7. Indian gymnast, **Pranati Nayak** has qualified for Tokyo Olympics through Asian quota.

Note: She has won the bronze in vault at the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship 2019. She has qualified through the Asian quota. She is the 2nd reserve after Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh of Sri Lanka for the Asian quota. Both the Gymnasts will compete in the Olympics starting on 23rd July 2021.

8. Asian Games gold medalist Colonel Gulam Mohammad Khan (retired) passed away recently, he was associated with **Riding**.

Note: From 1980 to 1990, he captained the ASC team, during which time his team won the National title six times and he became individual National Champion (Eventing) four times. As a member of the team that won the gold medal in Eventing at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi, Col Khan clinched the individual silver medal riding Goodwill.

9. Mark Selby belongs to **England** who has become the World Snooker Champion for the fourth time.

Note: He won the Championship title after defeating fellow mate Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory at a professional snooker tournament, that took place from 17 April to 3 May 2021 at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England. Prior to this, Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021.

10. **Mark Selby** won the 2021 World Snooker Championship.

Note: This is his 4th World Championship. The Championship held in Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England. The Championship was organized by the World Snooker Tour, a subsidiary of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA).

11. Indian weightlifter, **Jhilli Dalabehera** clinched gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Note: India's Jhilli Dalabehera clinched the gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. It was only a two-lifter field as Dalabehera made the most of the opportunity to better her record at the continental level.

12. **Aryna Sabalenka** won the 2021 Madrid Open women's singles title.

Note: She defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia in the final. This Sabalenka's 10th career WTA singles title, second WTA title of the season and first on clay court. Madrid Open is a professional WTA tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts.

13. **Babar Azam** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021.

Note: The ICC Player of the Month Awards recognise and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year. Along with Babar, Australian women's team wicketkeeper-batsman Alyssa Healy also bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April.

14. **Alexander Zverev** won the Men's Singles Title in Madrid Open tennis tournament 2021.

Note: This is the 2nd Madrid Open Title (previous one – 2018) & 4th Masters 1000 Title for Alexander Zverev. In the Women's Singles Category, Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka defeated World No.1 Ashleigh Barty (Australia) to clinch her maiden Madrid Open Title. The 2021 Madrid Open is the 20th edition of the Tournament in WTA.

15. Wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling held from **New Zealand** has announced that he would be retiring from international cricket after the three Tests, including the World Test Championship final against India.

Note: Watling has played 73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20Is for the BlackCaps. Watling became just the 9th wicketkeeper to hit a double hundred and the first to hit a double against England when he did so in Bay Oval in 2019. Watling has been involved in two 350-plus stands, one with Brendon McCullum in 2014 against India and the other with Kane Williamson the following year.

16. Tejaswini Shankar associated with **High Jump** who won gold at Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA.

Note: Shankar cleared the bar at 2.28m to win high jump gold, but his efforts fell short of Tokyo Olympic Games qualification standard of 2.33m. Shankar had also won the men's high jump title in the 2019 edition of the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships while the 2020 edition was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



17. In tennis, **Iga Swiatek** won the women single title in the Italian Open 2021.
Note: She defeated world number nine Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0 in just 45 minutes on the red clay of the Foro Italico. Swiatek has now won three titles, following on from Roland Garros with Adelaide in January, and now Rome, and will move into the top 10 for the first time.
18. **Rafael Nadal** won the men's single title in the Italia open tennis tournament 2021.
Note: He defeated the world number one Novak Djokovic in the final. Djokovic and Nadal were facing each other for the 57th time, having last played in the 2020 French Open final which the Spaniard won in straight sets.
19. Renowned cricketer Harry Frederick Gurney belongs to **England** who announced his retirement from the sports.
Note: He has represented the England Cricket Team in 10 One Day Internationals (ODIs) & 2 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). He picked up 11 wickets in 10 ODIs & 3 wickets in his T20I career. He has played for clubs like Nottinghamshire, Melbourne Renegades (BBL – Big Bash League), Quetta Gladiators (PSL – Pakistan Super League), and Kolkata Knight Riders (IPL – Indian Premier League).
20. Stupa Sports Analytics has partnered with **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)** to provide Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled real-time match and practice solutions.
Note: AI will help in taking Table Tennis to the next level by providing real time and in-depth analysis. During COVID-19 pandemic, ITTF collaborated with Stupa Analytics to provide online training lessons. AI analytics will help players to optimise their training, unearth new revelations, patterns and discover data driven insights.
21. AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2021 will be held in **Serbia**.
Note: The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has announced that the 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships is scheduled to be held in Belgrade, Serbia from October 26 to November 6, 2021. The previous edition of Championships was hosted by Ekaterinburg, Russia in 2019.
22. **Baljeet Kaur & Gunbala Sharma** becomes the first Indian Women Mountaineers to Summit Mount Pumori in Nepal.
Note: The two women are also the first ones to scale a mountain that is a part of the Everest Massif. Everest Massif is formed by four peaks- Mount Pumori(7,161m), Mount Nuptse(7,862 m), Mount Lhotse(8,516m) and Mount Everest(8,848.86m) together.
23. **Arjan Singh Bhullar** become the first Indian origin fighter to win an MMA world champion title.
Note: Indo-Canadian Mixed Martial Artist (MMA) Arjan Singh Bhullar defeated Brandon Vera to become the heavyweight world champion at the Singapore-based One Championship and became the first Indian-origin fighter to win an MMA world champion title. A former freestyle wrestler, Bhullar had won the 2010 Commonwealth games gold medal in New Delhi representing Canada.
24. Mountaineer, Tashi Yangjom held from **Arunachal Pradesh** becomes the first Indian Woman to Scale the World's highest Mountain, Mt Everest in 2021.
Note: Mountaineer, Tashi Yangjom from Arunachal Pradesh becomes the 1st Indian Woman Climber to Scale the World's highest Mountain, Mt Everest (Elevation of 8,849 Metres) in 2021. She was trained at the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.
25. Sporting club **Atletico Madrid** has won the 2020-21 La Liga title.
Note: Luis Suárez scored the winner for Atlético as it beat Real Madrid for the title in a wild finish that had plenty of twists with the two remaining title contenders playing at the same time. Atlético's 11th league title ended a seven-year dominance by Barcelona and Real Madrid in Spain. Since 2014, Barcelona had won the league four times and Madrid twice, including last season.
26. **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won the men's singles title at 2021 Lyon Open tennis in France.
Note: He defeated Briton Cameron Norrie by 6-3, 6-3 in final. Tsitsipas lifted his seventh career title and his second red surface win this year. Tsitsipas lost in the Barcelona final to Rafael Nadal but landed the Monte Carlo ATP with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Russian Andrey Rublev.
27. **Max Verstappen** won the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix title 2021.
Note: The 23-year-old Dutch driver started the day 14 points behind Mercedes' seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton and ended it four clear. Hamilton finished seventh, with an extra point for the fastest lap. The victory was Verstappen's second of the season and also the first time he had stood on the podium at the sport's most glamorous race.
28. **Casper Ruud** has won the Men's Singles title at Geneva Open tennis tournament.
Note: He defeated 15th-ranked Denis Shapovalov of Canada. In Geneva, the 22-year-old Ruud dropped only one set en route to the championship match against Shapovalov, who was also seeking his second tour-level title. Ruud improved to an ATP Tour-leading 32 clay-



court wins in 2020-21, ahead of Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas (26) and Chile's Cristian Garin (25).

29. **India** will host the 2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup.

Note: India was set to host the 2021 U-17 Women's World Cup before it was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This global event will be the second FIFA tournament to be hosted by India after the FIFA under-17 World Cup in 2017, which broke the record for being the most attended youth World Cup in FIFA's history.

30. Palak Kohli and Parul Parmar associated with **Badminton** were qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics 2021.

Note: They are the first Indian para shuttlers to qualify for the Tokyo Paralympics. Palak Kohli is ranked no.11 in the world and she is becoming the youngest para-badminton player in the world to qualify for Tokyo 2021 Paralympics. The pair is currently ranked number 6 in the world and has won a total of four titles together since 2019.

31. **Robert Lewandowski** awarded with Europe's Golden Shoe, as he finished as the top scorer in Europe's leading domestic leagues.

Note: He scored a record-breaking 41 goals in the Bundesliga en route to Bayern's ninth consecutive league title. By breaking Gerd Muller's single season Bundesliga record, Lewandowski became the first Bundesliga striker to win the Golden Shoe. He beat out Barcelona's Lionel Messi, Juventus's Cristiano Ronaldo,

PSG's Kylian Mbappe, and fellow Bundesliga rivals Erling Haaland (Borussia Dortmund), and Andre Silva (Eintracht Frankfurt).

32. **Chelsea** has won the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League title.

Note: Chelsea defeated Manchester City 1-0 in the final, to lift the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League title, on May 29, 2021, played at the Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal. German forward Kai Havertz scored the only goal of the football match. This is the second Champions League title for Chelsea, after winning the first won in 2012.

33. Indian Women boxer **Mary Kom** settles with silver medal at 2021 Asian Boxing Championships.

Note: The five-time Asian Championships gold medallist Mary Kom was competing in a high-octane 51kg final. This is the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships who has previously won silver in 2008. Apart from this, she won world championship titles on five occasions including 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017.

34. Indian Women boxer **Pooja Rani Bohra** won the Gold Medal in the 2021 Asian Boxing Championships in 75Kg category.

Note: She defeated Mavluda Movlonova in the gold medal clash. Meanwhile, Lalbuatsaihi (64kg) also won the silver medal in her category, losing to Milana Safronova. Anupama (+81kg) also bagged a silver medal, losing to Lazzat Kungeibayeva in the final.

Books and Authors

1. **Indrani Majumdar** translated Satyajit Ray's book titled "Another Dozen Stories" from Bengali to English.

Note: The book was released on 2nd May 2021, the 100th Birth anniversary of Satyajit Ray, one of India's greatest filmmakers. The foreword of the book was written by veteran actress Sharmila Tagore. The book was published by Penguin India.

2. **Meghan Markle** has authored the book titled "The Bench".

Note: The book is published by Random House Children's Books. The illustrations of the book are done by award-winning artist Christian Robinson. The book was inspired by the relationship between fathers and sons. The audiobook edition of the book narrated by Meghan will also be released in June.

3. **Deep Halder** has authored the book titled Bengal 2021, An Election Diary.

Note: This book speaks about the electrifying election that took place in West Bengal, amid the times of Covid-19. Deep Halder is the author of Blood Island: An Oral History of the Marichjhapi Massacre. He has been a

journalist for almost two decades, writing on issues of development at the intersection of religion, caste and politics.

4. **Kalki Koechlin** has authored the book titled "Elephant In The Womb".

Note: The book, which is yet to be released, is an illustrated non-fiction book on motherhood. It is illustrated by Valeriya Polyanychko and published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). The book narrates about pregnancy and parenting for mothers, expectant mothers, and "anyone even thinking about motherhood".

5. **Shakoor Rather** has authored the book titled "Life in the Clock Tower Valley".

Note: The book is published by Speaking Tiger, it talks about Kashmir's pristine past, its grievous present and always-uncertain future. It also includes historical and political information about Kashmir as well as environmental issues that are seldom talked about.



6. **Paul Pickering** has authored the book titled "Elephant".

Note: This book is about the love story between Natasha and the man in Paris and it explores the interface between fact and fiction. The elephant culturally symbolises India more than any other country. According to the author, his book 'Elephant' is an affirmation of 'I am my voice'. And my voice is as big as an elephant, which in turn is as big as creation.

7. **Boria Majumdar & Gautam Bhattacharya** has authored the book titled 1971: The Beginning of India's Cricketing Greatness".

Note: It is the story of a young country (India) ready and eager to make an impression on the world stage. Boria Majumdar, a Rhodes Scholar, is the author of multiple books on Indian sport and its history, and the co-author of Sachin Tendulkar's autobiography Playing It My Way. Gautam Bhattacharya, currently the Joint Editor of Kolkata's leading daily Sangbad Pratidin, has been a longstanding cricket writer and commentator and is the author of several books.

8. **Preet Mohan Singh Malik** has authored the book titled 'Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance'.

Note: The book's objective is to clarify the strategic issues behind India's decision to accept Sikkim's demand to be merged with India. The book focuses on the history of Sikkim along with the story of how it merged with India in 1975.

9. **Ruskin Bond** is the author of the book titled "All Time Favourites for Children".

Note: It will be published by **Puffin**, children's imprint of Penguin Random House. Illustrations of the book was done by Kashmira Sarode. It is a collection of short stories which will feature some of his most celebrated characters and stories like 'Rusty's Adventures', 'Grandfather's Stories' as well as new stories like 'Goldfish Don't Bark', 'Friends from the Forest' and many more. Ruskin Bond is an Indian author of British descent. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014 for his contribution to the field of literature.

10. **Kazuo Ishiguro** has authored the book titled "Klara and the Sun Novel".

Note: Klara and the Sun is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love. Kazuo Ishiguro, a British novelist was born in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1954 and moved to Britain in 1960. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2017 & also won the Man Booker prize in 1989 for his novel 'The Remains of the Day'.

11. The book titled 'Sach Kahun Toh' is an autobiography of Indian actor **Neena Gupta**.

Note: The book was written by Neena Gupta in 2020 during the lockdown, and now it is available for pre-order. In the book, she shares her life story, details the life's many choices, big milestones in her life, and her battles against stereotypes, then and now. About Neena Gupta: She won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress in Woh Chokri (1994).

12. **Shivshankar Menon** has authored the book titled 'India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present'.

Note: He was the Prime Minister's National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary, is exploring these phases in their historical context to tell the story of how India weathered the many geopolitical storms of the past in his latest book. Menon has taken a different approach to history. He underscores the seriousness of China taking Tibet in 1950, which, according to him, was a pivotal moment in India-China relations, but challenges the argument that India failed to stop the Chinese invasion.

13. **Avtar Singh Bhasin** has authored the book titled "Nehru, Tibet and China".

Note: The book based on years of meticulous archival research, this book in fascinating detail, analyses the events from 1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962 and its aftermath to explore the answers to these burning questions. On 1 October 1949, the People's Republic of China came into being and changed forever the course of Asian history.

14. **S Prakash** has authored the book titled "The Spiritual CEO".

Note: The book was published by Westland Publication. In this book, Prakash explores, in the context of Korporate Karma, Korporate DNA and spiritual alchemy, how a CEO can metamorphosis and become a "spiritual CEO".

15. **Aditya Gupta** has authored the book titled "7 Lessons from Everest - Expedition Learnings from Life and Business".

Note: The proceeds from the book will be given to NGO Child Rights and You (CRY). The campaign is initiated by The Rug Republic (a brand owned by Aditya Gupta) to extend support in ensuring care, protection and education to children amidst these trying times. It is a coffee-table book, with 350 stunning images spread over 250 pages.

16. **Ravi Shastri** has authored the book titled 'Stargazing: The Players in My Life'.

Note: The Book is about some 60 extraordinary talents that Ravi Shastri has met from across the world who have inspired him. It is co-authored by Ravi Shastri and sports journalist Ayaz Memon and illustrations are



featured by Shiva Rao and it is expected to be out in 2021.

17. Vikram Sampath has authored the book titled "Savarkar: A Contested Legacy (1924-1966)".

Note: The release of the book was announced on the occasion of the 138th birth anniversary of Veer

Savarkar, the Hindutva ideologue. The book is published by the Penguin Random House India. The book covers the life story of Veer Savarkar, one of the most contentious and iconoclastic political thinkers from 1924 to his death in 1966.

Science and Defence

1. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) launched the Joint Multinational Military Exercise 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' in **Albania**.

Note: 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' is led by the United States (US). It is an annual exercise held between US and NATO Countries to build readiness and interoperability. Around 28, 000 US & NATO forces from 26 nations participated in the drills. It is the 1st such large-scale drills since World War-II in the Western Balkans region. NATO is an International Alliance of 30 countries from North America and Europe.

2. Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT Kanpur has launched 'Mission Bharat O2' challenge to develop indigenous solutions for solving India's oxygen crisis.

Note: SIIC aims to support innovative minds of India to set up more than 20,000 oxygen generation units and work with a set of manufacturers in different regions of India with a target production capacity of 100 units per day.

3. Space company SpaceX is set to launch the "DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon", the first-ever commercial lunar payload, paid entirely in the cryptocurrency Dogecoin.

Note: The satellite is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2022 onboard the Falcon 9 rocket. The dogecoin-funded mission is led by the Canadian company Geometric Energy Corporation (GEC). SpaceX will carry a 40-kilogram cube satellite dubbed as DOGE-1, as rideshare on a Falcon 9 rocket.

4. The Researchers from IIT Madras and members of Mobile Payment Forum of India (MPFI) are set to work together for boosting digital money transactions in India.

Note: The two entities will develop voice-based solutions, especially in multiple vernacular languages to enable larger adoption of digital money transactions in India. As part of the collaboration, IIT Madras will work on key technical areas like Machine Learning (ML) & Artificial Intelligence (AI), applied to the digital payments space. The collaboration is part of MPFI's efforts to achieve 500 million active UPI users in India by 2025. At present, there are more than 100 million active UPI users every month in India.

5. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Advanced Light Helicopter **Dhruv Mk III MR** has successfully demonstrated its deck-operations capabilities.

Note: The ship-borne trials off Chennai coast in collaboration with the Indian Coast Guard concluded recently. It covered maintenance activities inside the hangar and on the deck and hot refuelling with engines running on the deck. Dhruv Mk III MR is equipped with the most advanced surveillance radar that can detect and identify ships and boats up to a range of 120 nautical miles to help the Indian Coast Guard in its duty to protect the nation from threats.

6. Technology company IBM has developed 2-nanometer chip technology for faster computing.

Note: IBM's new 2 nm chip technology helps advance the state-of-the-art in the semiconductor industry, addressing this growing demand. It is projected to achieve 45 percent higher performance, or 75 percent lower energy use, than today's most advanced 7 nm node chips.

7. Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen 1 carrying rover Zhurong landed on **Mars** successfully.

Note: This makes China only the second country after the US to send a rover to the surface of the Red Planet. The lander that carried the Zhurong rover touched down the Martian surface successfully and it landed in the Utopia Planitia region. However, when the lander entered the Martian atmosphere, the spacecraft endured "Seven Minutes of Terror" as that of the Mars Perseverance rover of NASA.

8. **European Space Agency (ESA)** is developing Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE), an interplanetary spacecraft.

Note: It is being tested at ESA's European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in the Netherlands. The Jupiter bound Spacecraft has been assembled by Airbus Friedrichshafen, Germany. It is set to be launched in 2022 on an Ariane 5 Rocket & is expected to reach Jupiter in 2029.

9. **BEML Ltd** has launched the first prototype of Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II) for the Indian Army.



Note: The equipment has been built on BEML TATRA 6X6, 'Atmanirbhar' product. It has been developed through Technology of Transfer (ToT) from Research & Development Establishment Engineers (R&DE Engineers), a lab of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation). MMME Mk-II will help in marking the mine fields at a fast rate, semi-automatically with minimal human intervention.

10. With **Axiom Space** the NASA has signed an agreement for the first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station, which will launch as soon as January 2022.

Note: The agreement, which was announced includes only a portion of the assorted exchanges required to make a flight like this a reality, but it will result in a net payment from NASA to Axiom of \$1.69 million. The agreement will allow Axiom to send a retired NASA astronaut and three passengers to the orbiting laboratory aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule for a journey of about a week in the first crewed space station mission for exclusively private interests.

11. **INS Rajput** has been decommissioned by the Indian Navy in May 2021.

Note: INS Rajput, the first destroyer of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned after over 41 years of service. The lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR. INS Rajput was constructed in the 61 Communards Shipyard in Nikolaev (present-day Ukraine) under her original Russian name 'Nadezhny' meaning 'Hope'. The keel of the ship was laid on September 11, 1976 and she was launched on September 17, 1977. The ship was commissioned as INS Rajput on May 4, 1980 at Poti, Georgia by I K Gujral, the then Ambassador of India to USSR,

12. INS Rajput, the first destroyer of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned at **Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam**.

Note: The lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR. INS Rajput was constructed in the 61 Communards Shipyard in Nikolaev under her original Russian name 'Nadezhny' meaning 'Hope'. The ship was commissioned as INS Rajput on May 4, 1980,

at Poti, Georgia by I K Gujral, the then Ambassador of India to the USSR.

13. Space agency **NASA** has decided to send first mobile robot to the Moon in late 2023 in search of ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface.

Note: The US agency, as part of its Artemis program, is planning to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in late 2023 in search of ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface. The Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER will collect data that would help NASA map resources at the lunar South Pole that could one day be harvested for long-term human exploration at the Moon.

14. In association with Monash University, **IIT Ropar** has developed a detector named 'FakeBuster' to identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.

Note: It can also find out faces manipulated on social media to defame or make a joke of someone. The 'FakeBuster' is a deep learning-based solution that helps detect if a video is manipulated or spoofed during a video-conference meeting.

15. **NATO** has conducted War Games 'Steadfast Defender 21' to improve the ability of the Allied forces.

Note: Majority of the exercise will take place in Germany, Portugal and Romania. The main objective is to improve the ability of the Allied forces to move quickly across the Atlantic and Europe to protect each other, if need arises. Around 9,000 troops from more than 20 NATO Allies and partners will take part in the exercise.

16. With **Oman**, India has renewed its MoU on military cooperation along with its annexure as well as on maritime issues.

Note: The signing ceremony of MoU on military cooperation was held at the Ministry of Defense, Muscat. The document was signed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, Oman Dr Mohammed bin Nasser Al Zaabi and Ambassador of India to Oman Munu Mahawar.

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