

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

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Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Others
May 1	International Labour Day or May Day (Peter J. McGuire proposed his idea to New York's Central Labor Union early in 1882)	India celebrated the 1 st Labour day in the year 1923 and is referred nationally as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas or Kamgar Din.
May 1	Statehood day of Gujarat and Maharashtra	In May 1, 1960, the states were formed
May 2	World Tuna Day	United Nations (UN) officially recognized the Day in 2017
First Sunday of May	World Laughter Day	It was established in 1998
May 3	World Press Freedom Day (It was Organized annually since 1993)	Information as a Public Good
May 4	International Firefighters' Day	It was instituted on January 4, 1999
First Tuesday of May	World Asthma Day	Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
May 4	Coal Miners Day	
May 5	International Midwives' Day (It was first celebrated May 7th 1991)	Follow the data: Invest in Midwives (The day was celebrated by the International Confederation of Midwives since 1992)
May 5	World Hand Hygiene Day	Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands
May 6	International No Diet Day	Its symbol is a light blue ribbon. First International No Diet Day was celebrated in the UK in 1992
May 7	World Athletics Day	The Day falls under IAAF's social responsibility project 'Athletics for a Better World'
May 7	Rabindranath Tagore birth Anniversary	He is known as the Bard of Bengal.
May 7	61st Raising Day of Border Roads Organization	BRO is a road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence

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May 8	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	'Together we are #unstoppable! (Anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant; He is also a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize)
May 8	World Thalassemia Day	Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community
Second Sunday of May	Mother's Day	Mother's Day was founded by Anna Jarvis; It was recognized in 1914.
May 11	National Technology Day (The day was observed for the first time on May 11, 1999)	Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future
May 12	International Nurses Day (It is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale)	Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A vision for future healthcare
May 15	International Day of Families (It has been held every year since 1995)	Families and New Technologies (1994 as the International Year of Families)
Third Saturday of May	Armed Forces Day	
May 16	International Day of Light	
May 16	National Dengue Day	Suggested by the Union Health Ministry
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times
May 17	World Hypertension Day	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer
May 18	International Museum Day	The Future of Museums – Recover and Reimagine
May 18	World AIDS Vaccine Day (HIV Vaccine Awareness Day)	Global Solidarity
May 20	World Bee Day. (UN. has designated the Day)	Bee Engaged - Build Back Better for Bees.
May 20	World Metrology Day	Measurement for Health
May 21	Anti-Terrorism Day	2021 commemorates Rajiv Gandhi's

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		30th death anniversary
Third Friday of May	National Endangered Species Day	Wildlife without Borders
May 21	International Tea Day	The resolution was adopted on December 21, 2019
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	We're part of the solution (Slogan - Our solutions are in nature)
May 23	World Turtle Day	Turtles Rock (It was sponsored yearly since 2000)
May 23	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now
May 25	National Missing Children's Day (It was established in 2000)	Heidy's poster represents the theme "Bringing Our Missing Children Home"
May 25	World Thyroid Day	Mother-Baby-Iodine: The Importance of Iodine on the Woman and her Baby
May 28	Menstrual Hygiene Day	Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health It was initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United in 2014
May 28	International Day of Action for Women's Health	2021 Call for Action
May 28	World Hunger Day	
May 28	Amnesty International Day	Campaign - Appeal for Amnesty
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security
May 29	International Everest Day	In 2008, Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day after Sir Edmund Hillary died
May 29	World Digestive Health Day The day was launched in 2004 to mark the 45th anniversary of the creation of	Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic

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	the World Gastroenterology Organization	
May 25 - 31	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	Commit to Quit

Important Banking News

RBI

RBI urges Rs.3 crore penalty on ICICI Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.3 crore** on **ICICI Bank** for non-compliance with its directions in the matter of shifting of securities from one category to another.
- The central bank, in a statement, said the monetary penalty has been imposed on the Bank for contravention of certain directions contained in its Master Circular on '**Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio by Banks.**'
- "This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act),**" RBI said in a statement.
- This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers, the statement added.

RBI governor announced that 2nd purchase of G-secs worth Rs 35,000 crore under G-SAP 1.0 on May 20

- **RBI** said the **second purchase of government securities worth Rs 35,000 crore under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0)** will be done on **May 20** for an orderly evolution of the yield curve as a fresh COVID-19 wave threatens to hit the economy.
- The **first purchase of Rs 25,000 crore last month received enthusiastic response** from the market, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing slew of measures to provide relief to various segments of the economy hit by the second wave of the pandemic.
- RBI will do a second **purchase of government securities (G-secs) aggregating Rs 35,000 cr in two weeks**, he said.
- To provide clarity on its **bond-buying programme through open market operations (OMO)**, Das had announced Rs 1 lakh crore target for the first quarter under the new instrument called G-SAP 1.0. On the rate of price rise, he said, food and fuel inflation have pushed core inflation.
- Expected normal monsoon forecast should help contain food price inflation, he added.

RBI Announces Term Liquidity Facility Of ₹ 50,000 Crore For Healthcare

- On **May 05, 2021**, The Reserve Bank of India will provide a **term-liquidity facility of ₹ 50,000 crore** to ease access of funds for **emergency medical services**.

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- It is the **selfless contribution of health care** professionals and other frontline workers in battling the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- Under the scheme, banks can provide fresh lending support to a wide range of entities including **vaccine manufacturers, importers and suppliers of vaccines and priority medical devices, hospitals and dispensaries, pathology labs, manufacturers and suppliers of oxygen and ventilators, importers of vaccines and Covid-related drugs, logistics firms and also patients for treatment**
- The funds will be provided for a **tenure of up to 3 years** and this lending will get priority sector classification till repayment or maturity.
- Under this Banks can give loans under this **facility till March 31, 2022**.
- Banks can create a **special loan book** and park **liquidity equal to their Covid loans at 40 basis points above the reverse repo rate**.
- Individual borrowers and small businesses with loans outstanding of up to **Rs 25 crore**, who have not taken restructuring earlier and were standard as of March 2021, will be considered for restructuring till **September 30, 2021**.
- The central bank also said it would conduct **special three-year long-term repo operations (SLTRO)** of **Rs 10,000 crore at repo rate for small finance banks (SFBs)**, to be deployed for **fresh lending of up to Rs 10 lakh per borrower**.
- This is to provide further support to **small business units, micro and small industries**.
- SFBs will be permitted to **reckon fresh lending to smaller MFIs** (with asset size of up to **Rs500 crore**) for on-lending to individual borrowers as priority sector lending.
- These MFIs must have an **asset size of Rs 500 crore**, as on 31 March 2021.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announces SLTRO for small finance banks

- On May 05, 2021, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **Governor Shaktikanta Das** announced a special **long-term repo operation (SLTRO)** for small finance banks, amid the second wave of COVID-19 cases in the country.
- The central bank will conduct the special operation of **Rs 10,000 crore at repo rate**.
- The facility will remain **open till October 31, 2021**.
- To provide further support to small business units, micro and small industries, and other unorganised sector entities.
- It has been decided to conduct **special three-year long-term repo operations** of **Rs 10,000 crore at repo rate for the SFBs**, to be deployed for **fresh lending of up to Rs 10 lakh per borrower**.

RBI directs Banks should lend to healthcare space within 30 days of availing funds

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said banks should lend to stakeholders in the COVID-related healthcare infrastructure and services within 30 days from the date of availing funds under the **Rs 50,000 crore liquidity window**.
- According to the scheme, while there is no tenor restriction, lenders will have to ensure that the amount borrowed from the central bank is backed by lending to the specified segments until the scheme's maturity.
- The scheme, which opens an **on-tap liquidity window of Rs 50,000 crore for banks with tenors of up to three years at the repo rate till March 31, 2022**, seeks to boost immediate liquidity, ramping up India's Covid-related healthcare infrastructure and services.

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- The scheme will remain operational from May 07, 2021, till March 31, 2022.
- According to **Crisil Ratings analysts**, liquidity window can help augment the bed capacity at hospitals by up to 20 per cent as credit will be available at cheaper costs.
- The agency said 354 companies it rates, with an aggregate bank exposure of **Rs 40,000 crore**, will be eligible for such loans.

RBI enable mobile wallets can be cash withdrawn from ATM & PoS terminals

- **Reserve Bank of India** has permitted **35 prepaid payments** instruments i.e. PPI.
- It **includes** Delhi Metro Card, Amazon Pay, Phonepe, Ola Money, Mobikwick wallet etc.
- Money can be loaded in these wallets, it can be transferred to another wallet or bank account or it can be used to make payment during online transactions.
- Now money from **these instruments** can be **withdrawn using an ATM**.
- The RBI's governor made this announcement after a meeting of the **Monetary Policy Committee**.
- RBI has also proposed to make interoperability mandatory for full KYC PPI.
- **Now the balance in these wallets** has been **increased to 2 lakh from 1 lakh**.
- Besides this, RBI also allowed these wallets, credit and prepaid cards to use RTGS and NEFT for money transfer.

RBI imposes monetary penalty on City Union Bank, 3 other lenders

- The **RBI** has imposed **monetary penalty** on **City Union Bank, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank** and **two other lenders** for contravention of certain directions issued by the central bank **non-compliance with certain provisions contained** in the RBI (Lending to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector) Directions, 2017 and the circulars on Educational Loan Scheme and Credit Flow to Agriculture – Agricultural Loans – Waiver of Margin/Security Requirements.
- The **RBI** has imposed **Rs 1 crore** monetary penalty on **City Union Bank**.
- RBI said it has imposed a penalty of **Rs 1 crore** on **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank**.
- The central bank imposed a penalty of **Rs 90 lakh** on **Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad**
- The apex bank has also imposed monetary penalty of **Rs 10 lakh** on **Daimler Financial Services India Private Limited, Pune**

RBI decided to transfer Rs 99,122 cr as dividend to govt

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will transfer **Rs 99,122 crore** as surplus to the central government for the nine months ended March 31 (July 2020-March 2021).
- This is much higher than what most had estimated and what the government itself had budgeted for.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** had earmarked a transfer of **Rs 53,511 crore**.
- The transfer was approved, in the meeting of the regulator's central board, during which the RBI's annual report was also approved.

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RBI imposes penalty of Rs.10 crore on HDFC Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **Rs.10 crore fine** on private sector lender **HDFC Bank Ltd** for selling vehicle-tracking devices to its auto loan customers.
- RBI stated that the decision was taken after an examination of documents pertaining to **allegations of improper lending practices** in its vehicle-financing operations.
- On 23 July 2020, Bloomberg reported that RBI had sought details about HDFC Bank's probe into the irregularities in its vehicle finance division.
- The **complaint pertained to the customers of the bank being forced to purchase a vehicle tracking device** for about **four years ended December 2019**, in a possible breach of guidelines that prohibit banks from non-financial businesses.
- **HDFC Bank executives**, including the auto loan head Ashok Khanna, had **pushed auto loan customers to buy GPS devices** costing Rs.18, 000-19,500 from 2015 to December 2019.

Policy Rates:

Parameter	Percentage
Repo Rate	4%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio	3%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	18%

SBI

SBI and EIB to invest up to Euro 100 mln in Indian SMEs concentrated on climate change, sustainability

- The **European Investment Bank** and the **country's largest lender SBI** entered into a pact to jointly pump **Euro 100 million** in equity financing into **Indian small businesses** focused on climate change and sustainability.
- An agreement got signed on the margins of the **European Union-India leaders meeting in Portugal**, where both the financial institutions agreed to back the initiative, as per a statement.
- SBI already invests in a vehicle called **Neev Funds** for its impact **investing objectives**, and the two entities have created "**Neev Fund II**" for taking ahead this partnership.
- This is one of the **EIB's first private equity investments** in India.
- "Neev Fund II will provide equity to SMEs focusing on mitigating climate risks, promoting social development, job creation, and gender equality at scale," **SBI chairman Dinesh Khara** said.
- He added that the **cooperation with EIB**, one of the world's largest providers of climate finance, will further strengthen and deepen the bond between India and the European Union.

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- The EIB and SBI will together support the **new Neev Fund II investment fund** that will unlock climate action and sustainability investment by businesses across India through new equity financing.

SBI New Delhi gets nod to open FCRA accounts

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has permitted existing **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) account holders**, including NGOs and associations, to open their “FCRA Account” in the New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB) of the State Bank of India **up to June 30, 2021**.
- State Bank of India's (SBI) New Delhi Main Branch has opened **13,729 Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** accounts till date.
- The bank stated that it has already opened accounts for **78 per cent of the applicants**.
- SBI's New Delhi Main Branch was designated to open FCRA accounts by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in October 2020.

World Bank

World Bank reported that India received USD 83 billion in remittances in 2020

- **India received over \$83 billion in remittances in 2020**, a drop of just 0.2% from the previous year, despite a pandemic that devastated the **world economy**, according to a **World Bank report**.
- In **2019**, India had received **USD 83.3 billion** in remittances.
- As per the latest World Bank data released, **China** which received **USD 59.5 billion in remittances in 2020** against **USD 68.3 billion** the previous year, is a distant second in terms of global remittances for the year.

World Bank extends USD 80.5 million to Sri Lanka

- The **World Bank** extended **USD 80.5 million** to Sri Lanka for its **COVID-19** vaccination drive.
- This useful and timely resource will help us ensure equitable vaccine deployment among the eligible populations of Sri Lanka, said **Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi**, after the agreement was signed with the global financial body.
- Sri Lanka has so far inoculated **1.1 million people** with the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine, of whom **244,000 people have been given the second dose**.
- The vaccination programme was rolled out in late January after India gifted **500,000 doses of the AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine**.

World Bank approves 600 million US Dollars for Bangladesh

- The **World Bank** approves **600 million US Dollars** for **two projects in Bangladesh**.
- It is for to **help over 1.75 million poor and vulnerable people in the country**.
- The **two projects** will work with the youth, women, disadvantaged groups, and returnee migrant workers in improving employability and livelihood opportunities, and build their resilience against future shocks.

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- **Dandan Chen, Acting World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan** stated that "In Bangladesh, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the livelihoods of thousands of people, particularly, female workers, youth, and returnee migrant workers".
- **"These two projects will help empower and mobilize rural poor people**, prepare them for the future job market and support entrepreneurial opportunities, especially for women and disadvantaged groups".

ADB

ADB records totally USD 3.92 billion loan to India in 2020

- The **Asian Development Bank** stated that, it has committed a record **USD 3.92 billion** in sovereign loans for 13 projects to **India in 2020**, including **USD 1.8 billion** in COVID-19 related projects to support the government's pandemic response.
- ADB also approved financing to help the government improve equitable access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas.

Other Banking News

Sidbi unveils loan products for oxygen companies

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi)** has launched **two quick-delivery schemes** to fund businesses in the **micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME)** segment that are helping combat the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- These schemes envisage 100 per cent funding up to an amount of **Rs 2 crore to a MSME unit** at an interest rate of **4.5-6 per cent per annum**, within 48 hours after receipt of all the documents or information.
- Borrowers can put in their applications online.
- The principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of **MSMEs has launched SHWAS (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of Covid)** and **AROG (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during Covid)**.

IDBI Bank mulls now investing in NARCL

- **IDBI Bank** is considering picking up a stake in the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** which is being set up jointly by banks to clean up their books.
- **Rakesh Sharma, MD & CEO at IDBI Bank** said that large public sector and private sector banks will be investing in NARCL, with each bank taking **less than 10 per cent stake**.
- So, IDBI Bank will also consider investing in the company, Sharma said.
- He observed that consortium loans (**Rs.500 crore and above**) will be **transferred to NARCL**.
- The quantum of stressed loans to be transferred to NARCL will be a reasonably good number so that the bank is able to reduce its gross non-performing assets, he added.

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Airtel Payments Bank: 6 percent interest on deposits of over Rs 1 lakh

- **Airtel Payments Bank** announced that customers with savings account deposits of over **Rs 1 lakh** will get an increased interest rate of 6 per cent per annum.
- The payments bank's offer comes after the RBI implemented guidelines for an enhanced **day-end savings limit of Rs 2 lakh for payments banks**.
- Airtel Payments Bank currently has over **5.5 crore** engaged users across its operations, its statement said, adding that the interest rate for accounts with less than **Rs 1 lakh deposit will be at 2.5 per cent per annum**.

Cabinet approves strategic divestment & transfer of management control in IDBI Bank

- On May 05, 2021, The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** gave its in-principle approval for **strategic divestment and transfer of management control** in IDBI Bank Ltd.
- The **Government of India (GoI)** and **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** together own over **94 per cent stake in IDBI Bank**.
- **LIC** is a promoter with management control in the bank with a **stake of 49.24 per cent**, **GoI** is the co-promoter with **45.48 percent stake**.
- The extent of respective shareholding to be divested by GoI and LIC shall be decided at the time of structuring of transaction in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

Note :

- Earlier in March, the **RBI had taken out IDBI Bank from prompt corrective action (PCA)** framework, subject to certain conditions and continuous monitoring.
- The bank was put under the **PCA framework in May 2017**.

Bajaj Finance gets RBI approval for prepaid payment business

- **Bajaj Finance** is all set to join the likes of **Paytm and Amazon** in the prepaid payment segment with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approving the **non-bank lender's foray** with perpetual validity.
- The move is **part of Bajaj Finance's** broader strategy to expand its digital offerings.
- "We wish to inform that the **RBI vide its letter dated 4 May 2021**, has granted an authorization to the Company for issuance and **operation of semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments with perpetual validity**," the company said.
- A semi-closed PPI is effectively a digital wallet but one through which transactions can flow to merchants and establishments other than the one offering the wallet services.
- The wallet will become a part of **Bajaj Pay**, which is the company's bid to provide an integrated platform for all payments solutions.
- **Semi-closed System PPIs** allow you to make payments to multiple merchants through the platform.
- **Cash withdrawal services**, however, still remain prohibited.

Jana Small Finance Bank launches 'I choose my number' feature for its customers

- Jana Small Finance Bank announced the launch of "**I choose my number**" feature for all its customers across India.

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- This new feature gives the bank's existing and new customers the option to select their favorite numbers as **their savings or current account number**.
- Numbers play a very important role in the lives of the majority of Indians.
- Some numbers are special to one, be it a **lucky number, the favorite vehicle's number plate, birthday or wedding date, a memorable phone number, etc.**
- Considering this love and obsession for numbers, this feature of Jana Small Finance Bank will allow its customers to choose their favorite numbers as the **last 10 digits of their bank account, savings or current**.
- The allocation of the account number chosen by the customer will be subject to availability of the requested number.

South Indian Bank launches video KYC for open an account

- Customers can initiate **Video KYC Account Opening** by visiting <https://videokyc.southindianbank.com>.
- The link will be available in the pre-login page of SIB Mirror+ (**Bank's** mobile App) and also in the **bank's** website.
- **South Indian Bank** has rolled out **Video KYC Accounting Opening**.
- This digital initiative helps the customer open an account through a video call just with the help of **PAN and Aadhaar number of the customer**.
- Video KYC is a hassle-free mode of account opening which allows the customer to open an account fully online, completing all KYC procedures instantly.
- KYC documents are verified, and the signature and photograph are captured in the process.

PayPal launches digital Foreign Inward Remittance Advice

- **Digital payments provider PayPal** has introduced an automated process to obtain monthly **foreign inward remittance advice (FIRA)**, allowing Indian merchants to download their **monthly digital FIRA** issued by banks.
- The automated process will not require sellers to place manual and individual requests, thereby reducing the time taken to file the paperwork.
- The initiatives at **zero cost** are aimed to empower Indian MSME exporters to seamlessly grow their business internationally.

Airtel Payments Bank launches DigiGold for digital gold investment

- **On May 13, 2021, Airtel Payments Bank** launched a digital platform **DigiGold**.
- DigiGold is launched in **partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold**.

Purpose :

- It is for customers to **make investments in gold, in partnership with digital gold provider SafeGold**.

About the Platform :

- With that Platform, Airtel Payments Bank's savings 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.
- The gold purchased by customers is stored securely by SafeGold at no additional cost and can be sold through the Airtel Thanks app at any time in a matter of a few clicks.

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- There is **no minimum investment value requirement**.
- Customers can **start investment with as low as One rupee**.

IDBI Bank introduces fully automated loan processing system

- **IDBI Bank** announced the launch of its **fully digitized loan processing system**, offering **over 50 products to MSME and agriculture sector**.
- The **Loan Processing System (LPS)** for MSME and agri products seamlessly integrates with data fintechs, bureau validations, document storage, account management and customer notifications among others, IDBI Bank said in a release.
- Bank mentioned that these features of the fully digitized and automated loan processing system are further aimed at providing a superior tech-enabled banking experience to bank's MSME and agri customers.

HSBC India launches digital banking for corporate customers

- **HSBC India** has launched **digital banking** solutions for its **corporate customers**.
- “**HSBC SmartServe** and **HSBC IntelliSign**” are first-of-its-kind **digital** solutions aimed at ensuring a quick, secure and seamless on-boarding process for **corporate clients**.
- The **API (Application Programming Interface)** enabled solutions provide an accelerated onboarding experience, replacing the documentation process with a **digital platform**, including the use of electronic signatures, as well as leveraging existing data assets to complete account opening requirements.

Equitas became first SFB to offer NRIs online account opening facility

- Equitas Small Finance Bank has touched a new milestone by becoming the **first Small Finance Bank to offer its NRI customer segment the ease of account opening online**.
- The bank will also be the only one in the **SFB** space to have virtual relationship managers based on time zones, it claimed.
- The company will also be the only one in the Small Finance Bank sector to have **Virtual Relationship Managers** based on time zones.
- **Murali Vaidyanathan, President & Country Head, Branch Banking Liabilities Product & Wealth Equitas Small Finance** noted that, “**The Digitization of Banking at ESFB** has helped to offer the services at the convenience, safety and wellbeing of our customers and employees being our paramount concern.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launches Vision LifeIncome Plus

- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI)**, the life insurance subsidiary of **Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL)**, announced the launch of a hyper-flexible savings plan - **ABSLI Vision Life Income Plus Plan** that provides guaranteed regular income plus flexible bonus pay-outs.
- This **non-linked participating individual plan** has been designed to offer various plan options which can be tailor-made to perfectly suit the customers' unique financial needs across different life-stages.

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ICICI Bank introduces new feature to link UPI ID with digital wallet

- **ICICI Bank** officially revealed the debut of a one-of-a-kind feature that allows users to **link** their **UPI** (Unified Payments Interface) IDs to their **digital wallet** 'Pockets'.
- New users, even non-**ICICI Bank** customers, can now have a **UPI ID** that is automatically linked to their 'Pockets' account.
- **Customers who already have a UPI ID** will receive a new one when they use the '**Pockets**' app.
- It will assist customers in streamlining the transactions made regularly from their **savings account**, hence reducing the number of listings on their savings account statement.

NPCI partners with PayCore for accept contactless payments

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has partnered with a **Turkish global payment solutions** company **PayCore** as a certified partner for **RuPay Soft POS** to promote contactless payments across the country.
- NPCI stated that, "This solution can be integrated into **bank or aggregator acquiring systems** to enable acquiring of **RuPay** using mobile phones enabled with NFC (near field communication-enabled) capability or add-ons".
- Using the **RuPay Soft PoS system**, the **merchants** will be able to **accept the contactless payments of up to INR 5,000 by a simple tap** and pay mechanism using their smartphones.
- This system will be providing a cost-effective acceptance to the infrastructure for the retailers at a nominal cost.
- This will also help to acceptance of digital payments in millions of underserved Indian MSMEs.

Canara Bank's board approved capital raising plan to raise up Rs.9,000 cr

- **State-run Canara Bank's board** approved a plan to raise up to **Rs 9,000 crore** in the current financial year (FY22), of which **Rs 2,500 crore** will be through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), to meet regulatory norms and support growth.
- The total amount would be raised through a mix of equity and debt instruments and is subject to market conditions and necessary approvals, the bank informed the BSE.
- The bank had raised **Rs 2,000 crore** through another QIP in **December 2020**.

YES Bank establish TransUnion's onboarding solution

- **YES BANK** announced the implementation of **TransUnion's** onboarding solution.
- This solution will enable YES BANK to **onboard its credit card** customers efficiently and quickly.
- The solution has been designed to **enable a digital, streamlined on boarding process** that delivers the experience consumers prefer such as fewer customer information fields to input, no physical paperwork, and comparatively lesser time required for completing the credit card application.
- What traditionally required an in-person interaction with customers for physical documentation and processing is now replaced with a completely digital process wherein a digital application link is sent to the customer, which the customer can complete from the comfort of their homes along with a video KYC (Know Your Customer).
- Further, the solution significantly **reduces the integration time** and effort for the Bank, while encompassing credit/risk decision workflow for digital end-to-end on boarding.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

PNB Housing Finance modifies its agreement with Punjab National Bank

- Recently **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **PNB Housing Finance** have stepped into a **new agreement**.
- **This brand agreement** gives PNB the right to withdraw their brand name from the mortgage lender.
- **PNB has an NSE of 1.40%** and PNB housing finance has an **NSE of 2.79%**.
- There might be a change in the holding pattern in the near future due to the revised brand agreement.
- As of now, PNB holds **33% of PNB housing**.
- The **existing brand arrangement** dated 07 December 2009 will continue to govern use of PNB trademark until PNB's shareholding in the Company is **30% or more**.
- According to the fresh agreement, if the shareholding of PNB goes below 30%, then PNB housing will have to pay anything **between 15 crores to 30 crores as royalty**.
- It is called a royalty clause.
- The royalty clause would be the higher amount of **2% of the profit** or **0.2% of their revenue**.

HDFC Bank and CSC jointly launches chatbot 'Eva'

- **Private lender HDFC Bank and Common Services Centers (CSCs)** jointly announced the launch of **chatbot 'Eva'** on **CSC's Digital Seva Portal** to support **Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)** in providing banking services for last-mile rural consumers.
- **Via Eva, VLEs** will get help in learning about the products and services offered by HDFC Bank, which in turn will be improving services offered to the last mile customers.
- The service will be available **24x7**.
- It will allow the VLEs in accessing accurate information pertaining to various products, processes and resolve queries about HDFC Bank's services.
- VLEs would also be to improve their business by learning about account opening, loan lead generation, and product details.

Federal Bank, Mashreq Bank of UAE sign an ink pact – to offer money transfer

- **Federal Bank, Mashreq Bank of UAE ink pact, to offer money transfer**.
- **Federal Bank** has entered into a tie-up with **Mashreq Bank**, a leading financial institution in the **UAE**, to facilitate **money transfers** to India.
- The partnership will support **Mashreq's** faster payment product, **QuickRemit**.

Public Sector Banks initiates new loans to mitigate impact of Corona

- **Public sector banks** in India have announced **various support measures** and **launch of new loan products** to mitigate the impact of Covid pandemic.
- This will include the unsecured loans of **upto 5 lakh rupees** to individuals to meet their and family members' COVID-19 treatment cost.
- The **Indian Banks Association** and **State Bank of India** jointly announced three new loan products in Mumbai.

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- The measures are designed to provide fresh lending support to vaccine manufacturers, hospitals or dispensaries, pathology labs, manufacturers and suppliers of Oxygen, Ventilators, importers of vaccines and Covid related drugs logistics firms and patients for treatment.
- Apart from **individual loan for treatment**, the other two loans include **Healthcare Business Loan** of upto 2 crore rupees and Business loans for Healthcare Facilities of upto **100 Crore rupees**.
- Healthcare business loan is for setting up oxygen plants under **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECGLS)** with 100 per cent guarantee cover of NCGTC.

Static Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
PNB Housing Finance	New Delhi	Hardayal Prasad
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris	Audrey Azoulay
Reserve Bank of India	Mumbai	Shaktikanta Das
City Union Bank	Kumbakonam	Dr. N. Kamakodi
European Investment Bank	Luxembourg	Werner Hoyer
State Bank of India	Mumbai	Dinesh Kumar Khara
World Bank	Washington DC	David Malpass
Asian Development Bank	Manila, Philippines	Masatsugu Asakawa
Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Rajkiran Rai G
Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance	Mumbai	Kamlesh Rao
Equitas Small Finance Bank	Chennai	Vasudevan PN
Common Services Centers	New Delhi	Ajay Prakash Sawhney
PayPal	San Jose, USA	Daniel H. Schulman
HSBC India	Mumbai	Surendra Roshia
YES Bank	Mumbai	Prashant Kumar
TransUnion	Chicago, USA	Chris Cartwright
Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	Sashidhar Jagdishan
Jana Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Ajay Kanwal
Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi)	Lucknow	Sivasubramanian Ramann
Mashreq Bank	Dubai	Ahmed Abdelaal

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Airtel Payments Bank	New Delhi	Anubrata Biswas
Bajaj Finance	Pune	Sanjiv Bajaj
Paytm	Noida	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
Amazon	Seattle	Andy Jassy (Designated CEO)
Indian Banks Association	Mumbai	Sunil Mehta
Federal Bank	Aluva, Kerala	Shyam Srinivasan
South Indian Bank	Thrissur	Murali Ramakrishnan
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	Tuticorin, Tamilnadu	K V Rama Moorthy
CRISIL Ratings	Mumbai	Ashu Suyash
IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Rakesh Sharma
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakhshi
Canara Bank	Bengaluru	Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
United Nations	New York	António Guterres
World Gastroenterology Organization	Milwaukee, USA	Naima Lahbabi-Amrani
Border Roads Organization	New Delhi	Rajeev Chaudhary
World Athletics (Formerly IAAF)	Stockholm, Sweden	Sebastian Coe
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	Mumbai	Dilip Asbe

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Organization	GDP – CY 22	GDP - FY 22
S & P Ratings	-	9.8%
UN	10.1%	
Moody's	-	9.3%
Barclays	-	7.7%

S&P Global Ratings Revises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 9.8% for FY22

- On May 05, 2021, **S&P Global Ratings slashed India's GDP** growth forecast for the current financial year to **9.8%** for the financial year **2021-2021 (FY22)**.
- The US-based rating agency Earlier in March 2021, the **estimate was 11** percent.

Finance Minister deliver revenue deficit grant of Rs 10,000 crore to 17 states

- The **Finance Ministry** released **Rs 9,871 crore** as **Post Devolution Revenue Deficit** grant to **17 States** for the year **2021-22**.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

- The grants were released as per the recommendations of the **Finance Commission** in monthly installments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the states post devolution.
- “The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, released the second monthly installment of **Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs 9,871 crore to 17 States**,” the Finance Ministry said in a statement.
- With this installment, the total amount released during the **first two months of the current financial year** has now reached **Rs 19,742 crore**.
- The Centre provides the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the States under **Article 275 of the Constitution**.
- The states recommended for grant are **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal**.

UN forecast: In 2022 India will be world's fastest growing major economy

- India is forecast to **grow at 10.1 per cent in 2022**, becoming the fastest growing major economy in the world, the United Nations said, but cautioned that the growth outlook of 2021 was **"highly fragile"** as the country was the "new hotbed of the pandemic."
- The United Nations, in its mid-year update of the **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)** which was first released in January 2021, projected that the Indian economy would grow at **10.1 per cent** in the calendar year 2022, **nearly double the 5.9 per cent growth forecast** for the country in the January report.
- At a growth rate of 10.1 per cent in 2022, India will be the fastest growing major economy in the world, ahead of China, which is projected to grow at 5.8 per cent, a slowdown from 8.2 per cent in 2021.

Moody's Predicted India's FY22 growth forecast as 9.3 per cent

- **Rating agency Moody's** has cut **India's gross domestic product (GDP)** forecast for **FY22 to 9.3 per cent** from the earlier projection of **13.7 percent** and has ruled out a sovereign rating upgrade – at least for now.
- The downward revision in GDP estimates comes on the back of a second wave of Covid infections across the country, which has triggered localized lockdowns and mobility curbs, except for essential services.
- “As a result of the negative impact of the second wave, we have revised our real, inflation-adjusted GDP growth forecast down to **9.3 percent from 13.7 percent for fiscal 2021 (FY22)**,” the Moody's release said.

Barclays predicts India's FY22 GDP growth at 7.7%

- **Barclays** has pegged **India's economic growth for fiscal 2021-22 (FY22)** – as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) – at **7.7 per cent** in the bear-case scenario, if the country is hit by the third wave of the Covid pandemic going ahead.
- The economic cost, it believes, could rise by at least a further **\$42.6 billion**, assuming another round of similar stringent lockdowns are imposed across the country for eight weeks later this year.

Zeta becomes 14th Indian unicorn in 2021

- **Banking technology startup Zeta** has raised **\$250 million** from **Japanese investment major SoftBank** at a valuation of **\$1.45 billion**, its co-founder and chief executive **Bhavin Turakhia**.

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- Zeta has become the 14th Indian startup to cross the valuation of \$1 billion in 2021.
- **SoftBank** has backed a slew of **Indian startups**, with many attaining the coveted 'unicorn' status with a valuation of \$1 billion or more.

About ZETA:

- The **41-year-old Turakhia** started coding at the **age of 10**, and **turned entrepreneur at 18**.
- He launched **Zeta in 2015**, after selling Direct, which he had started with his brother in 1998 for \$160 million.
- The brothers had sold their stake in a slew of ventures in 2014, including Media.
- Net which was sold for **\$900 million**.

Agriculture Minister reported Target of food grains production for 2021-22 is 307 million tonnes

- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** has said that the **target of foodgrains production for 2021-22 is 307 million tonnes**.
- Mr Tomar said while addressing the **National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2021**.
- He said, higher production targets for pulses and oilseeds are important to reduce our dependence on import and to achieve the dream of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- During the conference, the discussion was held to review and assess the preparedness for management of Kharif crops and ensuring availability of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, machinery and their repositioning at Block levels.
- Mr Tomar said, agriculture sector has shown its resilience amid the adversities of COVID-19 pandemic.
- He said, Agriculture and allied sectors have registered a continuous growth in GDP contribution.
- As per **Economic Survey 2020-21**, the share of agriculture in GDP increased from **17.8 per cent in 2019-20 to 19.9 per cent in 2020-21**.

GST Council chaired FM exempts import duty on COVID-19 related supplies

- The **GST Council**, which is headed by the **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** and comprises representatives of all states and union territories, exempted levy of I-GST on import of **Amphotericin-B**, which is used for the treatment of black fungus.
- Currently, **vaccines** attract **5 per cent GST**.
- Sitharaman said the Council decided to continue a waiver of I-GST on free COVID-19 related supplies imported from abroad.
- Also, the panel decided that the **Centre will borrow Rs 1.58 lakh crore** and pass it on to the states to make up for the shortfall in their revenues from the implementation of the GST.
- A special session of the Council will be held soon to consider extending the five-year **GST shortfall compensation period to states beyond 2022**.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
S & P Global Ratings	New York	Douglas L. Peterson
Barclays	London	Jes Staley

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Moody's	New York	Raymond W. McDaniel Jr.
Zeta	Bengaluru	Bhavin Turakhia

Important Business News

Uber declared cash incentives for vaccinating 150,000 drivers

- **Uber** unveiled a **Rs 18.5 crore (USD 2.5 million)** initiative to get **150,000 drivers** on its platform vaccinated over the **next six months**.
- The company said in a statement, car, auto and Moto drivers on its platform showing valid digital vaccination certificates would be eligible for **Rs 400 for each** of their **two Covid vaccine shots**.
- **Head of Supply & Driver Operations, Uber India South Asia, Pavan Vaish**, said, "We will soon begin communicating this initiative to drivers across all our product lines, and encourage them to take up the offer."

Facebook to introduces vaccine finder tool on mobile app in India

- **Facebook** said it is partnering with the **Indian government to roll out a vaccine finder tool** on its mobile app in India, which will help people identify places nearby to get inoculated.
- The **social media giant** had, earlier this week, announced a **USD 10 million grant for emergency response efforts** for COVID-19 situation in the country.
- "Partnering with the **Government of India, Facebook** will begin rolling out its Vaccine Finder tool on the Facebook mobile app in India available in **17 languages to help people identify places** nearby to get the vaccine," Facebook said in a post on the platform.
- In this tool, vaccine centre locations and their hours of operation have been provided by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 15.22 crore.
- Also, more than 2.45 crore people have registered themselves on the **Co-WIN digital platform** ahead of the Phase-3 of the COVID-19 vaccination for those above 18 years that is set to start from May 1.

SII endorses accepting Rs 1,732 cr for 11 crore doses of Covishield vaccine

- **Serum Institute of India (SII)** endorsed the government statement that 100 per cent advance of Rs 1,732.50 crore has been released to the company on **April 28 for 11 crore doses of the Covishield vaccine for May, June and July**.
- "We endorse this statement, & the authenticity of the information.
- We have been working closely with the Government of India for the past year & thank it for its support.
- We remain committed to ramping up our vaccine production to save every life we can," SII said.
- The company's response came after the **Health Ministry** in a statement refuted allegations that it has not placed any fresh orders for the **Covishield** vaccine with SII.

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PepsiCo Foundation partners with SEEDS to set up COVID care centres, launch vaccination drive

- **PepsiCo Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, said it has partnered with **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**.
- Under the partnership, over 1 lakh vaccines doses will be provided to communities, to be administered through the local healthcare system, while five COVID care centres will be set up for three months that will **be equipped with beds and medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders**, PepsiCo India said in a statement.
- Moreover, over **100 oxygen concentrators** will be provided to the Central government for distribution to various government hospitals across states, it added.

Govt gives nod to Telecoms for conducting trials for use & applications of 5G technology

- **Government** has given permissions to **Telecom Service Providers** for conducting trials for use and applications of **5G technology**.
- The applicants include **Bharti Airtel Limited, Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, Vodafone Idea Limited and MTNL**.
- These **Telecom Service Providers, TSP** have tied up with original equipment manufacturers and technology providers which are **Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and C-DOT**.
- In addition, **Reliance JioInfocomm Limited** will also be conducting trials using its **own indigenous technology**.
- The Communication Ministry said, at present, the duration of the trials is for a **period of six months**.
- This includes a time period of 2 months for procurement and setting up of the equipment.
- The permission letters specify that each TSP will have to conduct trials in rural and semi-urban settings also in addition to urban settings so that the benefit of **5G Technology proliferates across the country**.
- The objectives of conducting 5G trials include testing 5G spectrum propagation characteristics especially in the Indian context, testing of indigenous technology and to test 5G phones and devices.

L&T will soon deliver 22 oxygen generators to hospitals across India

- **Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** said it will soon deliver **22 oxygen generators** to various hospitals across India to address the severe crunch of oxygen for **COVID-19 patients** in the country "L&T will soon start delivering **22 oxygen generators** to various hospitals in India, where the scarcity is most acute.
- These units will absorb air from the atmosphere before converting it into medical-grade oxygen and pumping it into pre-existing pipes in the hospitals," the company said in a regulatory filing.
- L&T said of these, the parts of the first tranche of nine equipment will **reach India by May 9**.
- These will be progressively **delivered from May 15 to hospitals** that are in acute need and do not possess required infrastructure to receive bulk oxygen supply, the company added.

Accenture vow USD 25 million for pandemic relief efforts in India

- **Global IT and professional services company Accenture** said it has **pledged USD 25 million (about Rs 185 crore)** for **pandemic relief** efforts in the country.

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- This is in addition to the company's ongoing investments in people and communities, **Rekha M Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India**, said in a blog post on LinkedIn.
- Local and global efforts are already underway including **providing ventilators, oxygen concentrators, and medical kits**, she added.
- "Accenture stands in solidarity with India.
- We have made a fresh pledge of **USD 25 million (about Rs 185 crore) for pandemic relief efforts** in addition to ongoing investments in our people and communities.
- Additionally, we will be augmenting existing hospitals with **beds and ICUs and setting up portable hospitals**," she noted.

Bajaj Healthcare rollout generic favipiravir tablets for COVID-19 treatment

- **Drug firm Bajaj Healthcare** announced the launch of its **antiviral Favipiravir** tablets under the brand name '**Favijaj**' used for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 infections in the country.
- The company has received approval from India's drug regulator **DCGI to manufacture and market** the tablets, **Bajaj Healthcare** said in a BSE filing.
- "We hope the availability of an effective treatment such as **Favijaj** will considerably ease the pressure and offer patients much-needed and timely therapy options," **Bajaj Healthcare Joint MD Anil Jain** said.
- The company has successfully developed the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and the formulation for favipiravir through **its own in-house R&D team**, **Bajaj Healthcare** said.
- Shares of Bajaj Healthcare closed at **Rs 583.05 per scrip** on BSE, up steep 10.85 percent from its previous close.

Samsung vow \$5mn, Paytm to set up oxygen plants to support COVID-19 relief efforts

- **Tech giant Samsung** said it has pledged **USD 5 million (Rs 37 crore)**, while **Paytm Foundation** intends to **set up oxygen plants in 12-13 cities** as part of efforts to support India's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Samsung will donate USD 3 million to the **Centre and states of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**, and **provide USD 2 million worth of medical supplies, including 100 Oxygen Concentrators, 3,000 Oxygen Cylinders, and one million LDS syringes (to Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu)**, a statement said.
- **LDS or Low Dead Space** syringes minimize the amount of drug left in the device after injection, optimizing vaccine usage.
- The technology has demonstrated up to **20 percent greater efficiency** and if existing syringes were to deliver one million doses, LDS syringes could deliver **1.2 million doses** with the same amount of vaccine.
- Samsung has helped the manufacturer of these syringes increase production capacity, the statement said.

Serum Institute CEO to invest over USD 300 million in UK, may make inoculations

- **Serum Institute of India** is set to invest in facilities in Britain and could even manufacture inoculations in the **UK in future**, **Prime Minister Boris Johnson** said.
- Johnson's Downing Street office said the **GBP 240 million (USD 334 million) projects** would include a sales office, "clinical trials, research and development and possibly manufacturing of vaccines".

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- The **Serum Institute of India (SII)** is the world's largest vaccine maker by volume, and has been at the forefront of producing the **lower-cost AstraZeneca coronavirus** shot.
- SII has also begun phase one trials in the UK of a one-dose nasal vaccine for coronavirus.
- Downing Street said the vaccine maker's plans were part of a wider package of trade and investment deals with India worth GBP 1 billion that it expects to create over **6,500 jobs**.
- It was announced ahead of **virtual talks between Johnson and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Paytm unveiled COVID-19 vaccine finder tool

- **Fintech major Paytm** launched '**COVID-19 Vaccine Finder**' - a platform to help citizens check the availability of vaccination slots - **on its Mini App store**.
- 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+)**, a statement said.
- In case the slots are saturated for the near future, users can select the option for real-time alerts from **Paytm once any slot is free**, it added.
- "The automated process reduces the hassle and ordeal of refreshing the platform for new slots repeatedly.
- The data is sourced on a real-time basis from the **CoWIN API** where a slot can be booked to take the vaccination," it said.
- A **Paytm spokesperson** said the new feature will help users find COVID vaccine slots in their locality and set for alerts when new slots open up.
- "We believe that with the combined efforts of Government, organizations, and citizens, we are on the right track to recovery.
- Our priority is to build collective resistance to the deadly virus as a nation, thus catalyzing the process of herd immunity," the spokesperson added.

GigIndia to provide Rs 3 lakh insurance cover to active gig workers

- **GigIndia**, a **B2B gig marketplace** for on-demand work completion, will **provide free COVID health insurance** to its active gig workers covering **up to Rs 3 lakh of medical expenses**.
- Considering the adverse financial impact of COVID-19 on its gigger families, the **Pune-headquartered** firm in a release said that it is offering this insurance to active gig workers to make them feel relatively secure during these challenging times.

PayTM Foundation donates 100 concentrators with oxygen generation plant to Gujarat

- To meet the rising oxygen demand for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, the **Paytm Foundation** has **donated 100 oxygen concentrators** along with an **oxygen generation plant to Gujarat**.
- While the plant will be set up at the main civil hospital in the city, 100 oxygen concentrators will be distributed to different government-run hospitals in the state through the **Corona Sewa Yagna'** initiative being run by an NGO under the guidance of **Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat**.
- Paytm Foundation is the CSR arm of financial service firm Paytm.

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- 'We have planned to activate the oxygen generation plant at the civil hospital by next month.
- I am glad that people donated generously for this cause and we were able to raise **Rs 25 crore in a short time**.
- 'While people donated Rs 12.5 crore, we added an equal amount from our side to achieve the target,' said Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

Adani Group sets up regional headquarters in Singapore

- The **Adani Group** has opened its **regional headquarters office in Singapore** with focus on the energy, infrastructure and technology portfolios.
- **Adani Singapore (SG) Country Head Jeyakumar Janakaraj** said Singapore was an ideal choice for Adani's regional headquarters, thanks to its ideal geographic location, legal and regulatory structure.

SWAMIH completes its first residential project

- According to a statement released by the Ministry of Finance, the **residential project - 'Rivali Park'**, situated in suburban Mumbai, was the **first housing project in the country** to have received funding under the government's **SWAMIH Fund**, managed by the **SBICap ventures**.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed over possession to home buyers virtually as the Centre's **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH)** completed its **first residential project**.

About SWAMIH:

- Special Window for Completion of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH investment fund) has been **created for funding stalled projects** that are net-worth positive, **including those projects** that have been **declared as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** or are pending proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
- SWAMIH investment fund will provide **last mile funding to the stressed affordable and middle-income housing projects** in the country.

GoAir rebrands as Go First after 15 years of flying

- **Low-cost carrier GoAir** has **rebranded itself as Go First**, the company announced.
- The purpose of the revamp is to fully embrace the **ultra-low-cost airline model** to gain an advantage over its peers.
- The **carrier** is aiming at young travellers with the **rebrand**.
- The airline was preparing for an initial share sale to raise funds for its ambitious expansion plans.
- The **Go First as ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier)** would operate single aircraft type across its fleet, which currently has both **Airbus A320 and A320Neos (new engine option) planes** in operation

Unmanned Aircraft System for delivery of vaccines, medicines Operated by Blue Dart

- **Blue Dart**, a leading express logistics service provider, said it formed **Blue Dart Med-Express Consortium** with a mission of **revolutionizing the delivery of vaccines** and emergency medical supplies to the remotest parts of India using drones.

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- According to a press release from the logistics major, **Blue Dart Med-Express Consortium** is part of the 'Medicine from the Sky' project in collaboration with the Telangana government, **World Economic Forum, Niti Aayog and Healthnet Global**.
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** has granted the project with necessary exemptions and rights to fly drone flights on an experimental basis in Telangana.

Reliance Jio offers free talk time for JioPhone users

- **Jio announces free talk time offer** for **JioPhone users** during **Covid pandemic**.
- **Reliance Jio** said it is working with **Reliance Foundation** to **provide 300 free minutes** of outgoing calls per month, which amounts to **10 minutes per day**, for the entire period of the **pandemic**.
- The company stated that, The scheme will be available to **JioPhone users** who have not been able to recharge due to the ongoing pandemic.
- **Reliance Jio** is the **first company to announce free talk time** for users in the second wave of pandemic wherein many states have imposed lockdowns or lockdown-like restrictions as a desperate measure to restrict the spread of the virus.

TRAI reported Jio tops in 4G download speed, Vodafone in upload in April

- Reliance **Jio** topped the **4G speed** chart with a data **download rate** of **20.1MBbps**, while **Vodafone** was ahead of others in **upload speed** at **6.7 Mbps** in **April**, according to the latest data from telecom regulator **TRAI**.
- **Jio** has almost three times higher **download speed** compared to its closest competitor **Vodafone**.

Indian Railways reported that it commissions Wi-Fi at 6,000 Railway stations in 5 years

- **Railways commissions Wi-Fi at 6,000 Railway stations in five years**.
- **A railway has commissioned Wi-Fi at six thousand Railway stations in five years**.
- **Railway Ministry** informed,, **Indian Railways** continues to contribute to **Digital India initiative** and connect different parts of the country with high speed Wi-Fi facility.
- With the **commissioning of Wi-Fi at Hazaribagh Town** falling under **Hazaribagh** district of **Jharkhand** state in **Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway** as on **15.05.2021**, **Indian Railways commissioned Wi-Fi at 6,000 Railway stations**.

Amazon launches MINI TV a new video streaming service

- **Amazon has launched a new video streaming service**, called **miniTV**.
- The **service** offers users “professionally” created and curated content across **web series, comedy shows, tech news, food, beauty, fashion and more**.
- It is free of cost, but users will witness ads.
- It is available within the **Amazon** shopping app.

AgNext Technologies launches AI-based devices to test quality of the products

- **A Punjab-based agency, AgNext Applied sciences**, has provided you with a system based mostly on digital know-how and **synthetic intelligence (AI)** that mixes {hardware}, software programs and algorithms to check agricultural merchandise for high quality.

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- AgNext Applied sciences, **headquartered at Mohali in Punjab**, has provided you with this providing at a time when testing of produce equivalent to spices have been affected because the second part of Covid has affected the supply of manpower.
- Farmers might be disgruntled as they could really feel they don't seem to be paid the best value for the best high quality.

Prasar Bharati to launch DD International

- **India's national broadcaster, Doordarshan (DD)** is going to set up a **new international channel**, DD International, on the lines of **BBC World to present India's point of view** to the world in wake of the rising negative coverage of India's COVID-19 crisis in foreign media.
- **Prasar Bharati, the parent body of DD**, has floated an Expression of Interest (EOI) seeking suggestions to draft a detailed project report for the upcoming news channel.
- This move comes after the **government received global criticism** from the media worldwide on the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hero Group introduces ed-tech platform 'Hero Vired'

- The **Hero Group** has announced the **launch of Hero Vired**, a new **edtech company**.
- The **edtech** venture will offer an end-to-end learning ecosystem.
- It will make the learners industry-ready for the emerging jobs and professions.
- The space already includes startups, like upGrad, Udemy, Great Learning, Simplilearn, among others.
- Besides upGrad, **Hero Vired** will have to also **compete with startups** that have a **differentiated model** in skill development, including Matrix Partners-backed Pesto Tech, Sequoia-funded Scaler Academy, and Y Combinator-backed Lambda School in the global market.

Cipla unveiled RT-PCR test kit 'ViraGen' in India partnership with Ubio Biotech

- **Drug major Cipla** announced the commercialization of its **RT-PCR test kit 'ViraGen'** for COVID-19 in India, in **partnership with Ubio Biotechnology Systems**.
- "This launch will help address the current testing services and capacity issues while reaffirming the company's ongoing expansion in the diagnostic space".
- The company will **commence supply** of the **COVID-19 virus detection kit from May 25, 2021**.

MG Motor India introduced for free online medical consultation platform for customers

- **MG Motor India** launched a **platform for free online medical consultation** with doctors for its customers as part of its **COVID-19 relief initiatives**.
- To avail of the **24x7 service**, customers have to register themselves on the **carmaker's website or through the MY MG APP**.
- Through MG Healthline, MG customers can avail of free consultation with highly qualified doctors for themselves or their family members.

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- **MG Motor India Chief Commercial Officer and Senior Vice President Gaurav Gupta** mentioned, "The initiative under our overall community service umbrella MG Sewa is to support and provide a helping hand to our customers in these challenging times."

Microsoft decided to retire Internet Explorer browser on June 15, 2022

- **Internet Explorer** was once the most widely used web browser, obtaining a peak of **about 95 percent usage share by 2003**.
- Microsoft has announced to **retire** its iconic **Internet Explorer (IE) browser in June 2022**, as it envisions the future of Internet Explorer, which was launched in 1995, on Windows 10 in Microsoft Edge.
- Over the last year, Microsoft is moving away from Internet Explorer support, such as an announcement of the end of IE support by Microsoft **365 online services**.
- The company stated that, "With Microsoft Edge capable of assuming this responsibility and more, the Internet Explorer 11 desktop application will be retired and go out of support on June 15, 2022, for certain versions of Windows 10".

TCS CodeVita won Guinness title for world's largest programming competition

- **Tata Consultancy Services' programming contest, TCS CodeVita**, has won a **Guinness World Records** title for the **world's largest computer programming competition**.
- "The **ninth season** of TCS CodeVita has won a Guinness World Records title as the world's largest computer programming competition **with 136,054 participants from 34 countries**".
- The 2021 TCS CodeVita competition invited college students from around the world to pit their programming skills against each other to be ranked among the top student programmers globally.

IFSCA initiate an expert committee on Investment Funds

- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has been established as a unified regulator to develop and regulate financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the **International Financial Service Centers (IFSCs)** in India.
- The Fund Industry has been playing an increasingly important role in intermediating between seekers of capital and investors.
- IFSC has been actively engaging with stakeholders to enhance the Global reach of **GIFT-IFSC**.
- The **regulatory approach** has been to benchmark with Global Standards and adopts a facilitative framework to provide ease of operations for seeker as well as provider of capital.
- **About IFSCA:**
- **IFSCA** has been **established** as a unified regulator with a holistic vision in order to **promote ease of doing business** in IFSC and provide a world class regulatory environment.
- The **main objective** of the IFSCA is to develop a strong global connect and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform for the entire region and the global economy as a whole.

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Social media firms seek time to obey with new digital rules

- **Internet tech giants** including **Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter** could be in **trouble** as they are yet to fully comply with the new IT rules announced by the Government in February.
- **Under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IL Rules)**, prescribed by the Centre under **Section 79 of the IT Act**, social media companies and online entities, including OTT players like Netflix and Amazon Prime, were to put in place an oversight mechanism for digital media and online curated content.
- They were asked to **appoint chief compliance officers**, who would be responsible for taking down objectionable content/posts within 24 hours of receiving a complaint from competent authorities.

Amazon buys James Bond owner MGM

- **Amazon.com Inc** said that it is **buying MGM**, the fabled **US movie studio** home to the James Bond franchise, for **8.45 billion US Dollars**.
- The deal will give Amazon a huge library of films and TV shows and ramp up competition with streaming rivals led by Netflix and Disney.
- The **acquisition** is Amazon's **second-biggest** after Whole Foods Market, which it bought for 13.7 billion US Dollars in 2017.

About MGM:

- MGM, or **Metro Goldwyn Mayer**, was founded in 1924, owns the **Epix cable channel** and makes popular TV shows including "Fargo", "Vikings" and "Shark Tank."

Blade India launches air ambulance services

- **US-based helicopter transport services provider Blade's Indian** subsidiary announced the launch of **medical emergency services** across the country, amid an increasing demand for **air ambulance services** in the wake of the pandemic.
- The new services, **Blade Care**, are also open for regular air travel for people who want to travel inter-state, return to their hometowns or any other place they feel the safest.
- For a seamless, medical evacuation and **bed-to-bed transfer**, the company has **partnered with 'MyHealthcare'**, a specialty healthcare ecosystem, to manage all the medical requirements for patients on ground and with Blade being the air carrier service network.
- The brand will arrange **aero-medical charters** for such patients with a team of certified doctors, paramedics and clinicians onboard

TCS labelled as Best Big Company to work for in the UK

- **Tata Consultancy Services** stated it has been listed among **top 25 Best Big Companies** to work for in the United Kingdom and among the **Best Companies in the Consultancy sector**.

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- The **Best Big Companies** list honours **25 organizations** with at least **2,000 employees** based on an anonymous survey that assesses employee experience across engagement, culture, work environment, leadership, well being, diversity and giving back to the community.

IBF to be renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation

- The **Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)**, the apex body of broadcasters, is being **renamed Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF)**, as it expands its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital over-the-top streaming firms under one roof.
- IBDF is in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters pertaining to digital media, it added.
- Government mentioned that “The foundation will also form a self-regulatory body (SRB), as per the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.

Karnataka: Ola begins to donate doorstep delivery of o2 concentrators in Bengaluru

- **Ola Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of Ola, has partnered with **donation platform GiveIndia** to provide consumers with oxygen concentrators amid the deadly second wave of the Covid pandemic.
- The service, which will be provided for **free through the Ola app**, will **start rolling out in Bengaluru** from this week with an initial set of **500 oxygen concentrators**.
- Ola and GiveIndia will scale it up across the country with up to **10,000 concentrators** in the **coming weeks**.

LifeCell introduces OmegaScore, a critical diagnosis test – for newborn’s health

- With an aim to provide the best possible healthcare to **every child born in India**, **LifeCell** has introduced the **first-of-its-kind diagnostic test** called **Omega Score**.
- The **OmegaScore-Prenatal and OmegaScore-Newborn test** has been specially designed for Indian pregnant women as well as mothers respectively to determine the concentration of a critical omega-3 fatty acid, DHA, also known as **docosahexaenoic acid**.
- This fatty acid has been proven to be essential for the overall health and cognitive development of a child.

IFFCO to introduces Nano Urea in the market next month

- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (**IFFCO**) will launch **Nano Urea** in the market next month.
- **500-ml Nano Urea**, which costs **240 rupees**, is equivalent to **45kg of normal urea**.
- Besides reducing the cost of cultivation, it increases the yield.
- **Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister DV Sadananda Gowda** said, the Nano Urea will be a game-changer for the farming sector as it is expected to reduce the consumption of normal urea substantially thus saving a huge sum on subsidy and forex.
- It is also eco-friendly.

Paytm Plans to Launch \$3-Billion IPO

- **Digital payments provider Paytm** is all set to make its **market debut** as early as this year, with an aim to raise \$3 billion (around Rs 22,000 crore).

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- If successful, this could be the **biggest initial public offering (IPO)** by an Indian company, breaking Coal India's 2010 record of Rs 15,475 crore.
- Paytm has emerged as one of the largest digital payments players in the country and ranks third in terms of UPI payments with a **market share of around 12 per cent**.
- It aims to achieve **over 10 million users and 75 million yearly transactions** for **Paytm Money**, its stocks and mutual fund investment platform, in the financial year 2021-2022, with the majority of users from small cities and towns.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Uber	San Francisco, USA	Dara Khosrowshahi
Facebook	California, USA	Mark Zuckerberg
Serum Institute of India	Pune	Adar Poonawalla
Bharti Airtel Limited	New Delhi	Gopal Vittal
Jio Infocomm Limited	Mumbai	Atul Kansal
Vodafone Idea Limited	Gandhinagar	Ravinder Takkar
MTNL	New Delhi	Sunil Kumar
L & T	Mumbai	S. N. Subrahmanyam
Accenture	Dublin, Ireland	Julie Sweet
Bajaj Healthcare	Thane	Sajankumar R Bajaj
Samsung	Seoul, South Korea	Kim Hyn SUK
GigIndia	Pune	Sahil Sharma
GoAir	Mumbai	Kaushik Khona
Blue Dart	Mumbai	Balfour Manuel
Prasar Bharati	New Delhi	Shashi Shekhar Vempati
Hero Group	New Delhi	Rob Versloot
Cipla	Mumbai	Umang Vohra
MG Motor India	New Delhi	Rajeev Chaba
Microsoft	Washington	Satya Nadella
Tata Consultancy Services	Mumbai	Rajesh Gopinathan
International Financial Services Centres Authority	Gujarat	Injeti Srinivas
WhatsApp	California, USA	Will Cathcart
Twitter	San Francisco, USA	Jack Dorsey
Metro Goldwyn Mayer	California, USA	Marcus Loew Louis B. Mayer

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		(Founder)
Blade India	Mumbai	Amit Gupta
Ola	Bengaluru	Bhavish Aggarwal
Life Cell	Chennai	İsmet Yazici
Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative	New Delhi	B.S. Nakai

Important State Wise News

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh: PRANAYAMA started to help COVID patients to maintain oxygen level

- In **Andhra Pradesh**, many patients suffering from COVID-19 have started practicing **PRANAYAMA**, to have natural oxygen.
- As many as **850 patients** staying in **Patrunivalasa COVID Care Centre**, at **Srikakulam** in **Andhra Pradesh**, have been practicing **yoga** to improve their health under the supervision of yoga teachers.
- The district Collector, **J. Nivas** has been visiting the Yoga Centre regularly and observes that it yields positive results.

Assam

BJP-led NDA gets power in Assam for 2nd consecutive term

- In **Assam**, **BJP-led NDA** has retained power for the second consecutive term.
- The NDA has secured **75 seats in the 126-member assembly**.
- While **BJP won 60 seats**, its allies **Asom Gana Parishad** bagged 9 seats and **UPPL** 6 seats.
- Congress has won 29 seats and its ally **AIUDF** got 10 seats.
- Chief Minister and senior BJP leader won the **Majuli** seat by a margin of over 40 thousand votes.
- State BJP President **Ranjit Kumar Dass**, senior ministers **Himanta Biswa Sarma**, **Chandra Mohan Patowary**, **Ranjit Dutta**, **Parimal Suklabaidya**, **Naba Doley** and Speaker of the Assembly **Hitendra Nath Goswami** won the election.
- For Congress, legislators **Rockibul Hussain**, **Rekibuddin Ahmed**, **Rupjyoti Kurmi** were re-elected to the assembly.
- Three senior leaders of **Asom Gana Parishad** **Atul Bora**, **Keshab Mahanta** and **Phani Bhusan Choudhury** won from their seats.
- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** has said that the success of the party in the state is the victory of the people of Assam.
- The Chief Minister said that voters have endorsed the good works of the government during the last 5 years.
- He thanked Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Home Minister **Amit Shah** and other central ministers for all the support.

Assam string puppetry Performs COVID campaign for the revival

- The **COVID-19** pandemic has provided an **Assam-based trust** the opportunity to focus on a near-forgotten form of string puppetry called **Putola Nach**.

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- In collaboration with the **UNICEF-Assam**, the **Anamika Ray Memorial Trust (ARMT)** has produced **three short videos using string puppetry for creating mass awareness** on COVID appropriate behaviour.
- It is performed in **three areas with distinct characteristics**.
- These areas are
 - Barpeta-Nalbari in western Assam
 - Kalaigaon in northern Assam
 - Majuli “island” in eastern Assam.
- The puppeteers are happy to add dialogues or chants taken from bhaona.
- It **Basically Showcases Ramayana, either in its entirety and Mahabharata**

Aahaar, free meal distribution initiative in Assam

- In Assam, **Aahaar, a free meal distribution initiative** with the motto of combating **hunger- feeding future** is successful hearts in **Guwahati metropolis**.
- This initiative is being taken up by an **NGO- Care U 365** with the purpose to offer wholesome meals to roadside dwellers and their service is being acquired by the needy via their meals van.
- Hundreds of individuals have been fed by this group in Guwahati throughout COVID scenario.
- It's to be famous that this group is working actively in diversified fields like offering examine supplies to visually impaired, sanitary pad distribution, girls empowerment via technological development and coaching, neighborhood improvement initiatives in Assam

E-Sampark team provides tele-consultation to home isolation patients in Assam

- In Assam, the tele session service of the **well being division** is offering **good assistance** to nearly 60,000 COVID-19 sufferers **who've opted for dwelling isolation**.
- The **e-Sampark** staff has to date supplied tele-consultation to almost 60 thousand dwelling isolation sufferers.
- The **staff chief of the service in Assam Dr. Siddhartha Maurya, knowledgeable** that it has arranged a devoted staff to assist individuals.

HUL brings up Mission HO2PE in Assam

- **Hindustan Unilever Limited** has **rolled out Mission HO2PE in Assam**.
- Through **Mission HO2PE**, HUL has airlifted **over 5000 oxygen concentrators** into India.
- Through **Mission HO2PE**, HUL will provide access to oxygen for COVID-19 patients.
- '**Mission HO2PE**' is also being rolled out in other severely affected cities such as **New Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Lucknow, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Chandigarh**.
- HUL will also be donating **1000 concentrators** to hospitals in **nearly 20 locations across India**.

Assam appoints 'guardian ministers' for its growth

- The **Assam government** will implement the “**Guardian Ministers**” system by allocating each of the **13 ministers two to three districts** for supervision of all aspects, including policy decisions and schemes.

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- **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** appointed the **Guardian Ministers** for balanced, speedy and sustainable developments of **all 34 districts**.
- Assam's Chief Minister's Office stated that the ministers would be responsible for the implementation of state and Central government schemes in the district and would resolve issues pertaining to them.
- "The Guardian Minister would supervise the government's policy decisions, administrative reforms, and other welfare schemes for the public.
- The Guardian Minister of the district concerned would see how quickly the people can get the benefit of the government's schemes and projects".
- **Of the 13 ministers, eight ministers** including the **lone woman minister Ajanta Neog** were allocated three districts each while five other ministers' assigned two districts each.

Delhi

Delhi CM declared free rations for 2 months, Rs 5,000 aid to autorickshaw & taxi drivers

- The **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** announced that all ration card holders in the **National Capital** will be given free ration **for the next 2 months**.
- **This scheme by the government** will benefit **nearly 72 lakh ration card holders in Delhi**.
- Mr. Kejriwal also announced that all autorickshaw drivers and taxi drivers in the National Capital Territory of Delhi will be given **5000 rupees each** to provide them the much needed financial assistance during the time of the pandemic.
- The Chief Minister asserted that however the lockdown may not last for two months but the assistance has been extended by the Delhi Government to ensure food and livelihood to the poor amid the difficult times of COVID-19.

Delhi: ESIC installs oxygen generation plants at two hospitals in NCR

- The **Employees State Insurance Corporation**, under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, has **installed oxygen generation plants** at its **two hospitals in the Delhi NCR area**.
- These include a **440 litres per minute (LPM)** capacity plant at the ESIC Hospital and Medical College in Faridabad and another plant of 220 LPM capacity at **ESIC Hospital in Jhilmil, New Delhi**.
- The Corporation is actively helping fight the battle against Covid-19 by quickly converting 30 hospitals all over the country into Covid Dedicated facilities.
- These hospitals have around **4200 beds, including 300 ICU beds and 250 ventilator beds**.
- The facility has been made available to all citizens of the country.
- A dashboard has also been started to facilitate beneficiaries to know about availability of beds in these hospitals.

Gujarat

Gujarat Unit of Ayurveda Vyaspeeth unveiled "Ayurvedic Doctors on Call" service to serve Covid patients

- **Gujarat Unit of Ayurveda Vyaspeeth** has launched an **"Ayurvedic Doctors on Call"** service to serve the Covid patients in the state.

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- Under this service, **170 Ayurvedic doctors** will give **free Ayurvedic consultations** to the Covid patients on phone calls.
- The **President of Gujarat Unit- Ayurvedacharya Dr. Hitesh Jani** said that the aim of this service is to provide proper guidance to the patients, so that the burden on the hospitals can be eased.
- **Dr. Jani** said that similar services will be launched in **Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Hyderabad** very soon.
- The President of Ayurveda Vyaspeeth Vaidhya Dr. Hitesh Jani said that **170 Ayurvedic doctors of Gujarat** will provide free consultation on phone calls to the Covid patients.
- This will help to recover the Covid patients from their Home.
- Dr. Jani said that expert advice is very much necessary in Ayurvedic medicines.
- So that patients get good results.
- Dr. Jani said that Ayurvedic doctors of Gujarat are available for the entire country over the phone calls. However, we will launch similar services in **Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Hyderabad also**.

Gujarat govt asks All MLAs must allot Rs 50 lakh for health infrastructure

- **All MLAs in Gujarat** will have to allot a **minimum of 50 lakh rupees** compulsorily from their **local area development** fund to upgrade facilities at hospitals.
- Gujarat government took the decision at a meeting of the **Core Committee for Covid Control**.
- According to the Gujarat government, **every MLA** will be required to allot their local area development fund to purchase medical equipment for the hospitals.
- This will help to upgrade the medical facilities in **civil hospitals, district hospitals, community health centres, primary health centres and hospitals run by local civic bodies**.
- According to the official sources, MLAs can allot the funds to the hospitals in their constituencies.
- MLAs can also donate their grants to the hospitals run by charitable trusts on a no- profit basis.

Gujarat govt launched 'My Village - Corona Free Village' campaign

- In **Gujarat**, 'Maru Gam - Corona Mukh Gam' or **My Village - Corona Free Village - campaign** launched by the state government has **helped in checking the spread of Covid-19 in rural areas**.
- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** had launched this 15-day **campaign** on the 1st of May on the occasion of the state's foundation day.
- The campaign was launched **to check the spread of infection** due to coronavirus at village level to ensure the villagers remain free from the pandemic.

Haryana

Ayurvedic tele-medicine facility for Corona patients launches in Haryana

- **Haryana Government** has launched **Ayurvedic telemedicine facility** for Corona patients.
- **Health Minister Anil Vij** said that any patient can consult the **Ayurvedic Doctors** on phone by dialling **1075**.
- Mr Vij said, the facility has been launched after verifying the response of **Ayurvedic medicines** used on Corona patients.

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- He said, a call centre has been set up to run it and teams of senior Ayurvedic Doctors have been appointed for consultation, which will **provide service from 8 am to 10 pm**.
- The Minister said the tele consultation would be helpful for patients in isolation.

Himachal Pradesh

Pradesh plans to supply over 2 lakh tap water connections across the State

- **Himachal Pradesh** has planned to provide **over two lakh tap water connections** across the State.
- Jal Shakti Ministry said that the **Himachal Pradesh government** has also reiterated its commitment to achieve **Har Ghar Jal target by July next year**.
- The State presented their **Jal Jeevan Mission Annual Action Plan** for the current financial year before the national committee chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti through video conference.
- Himachal Pradesh **has over 17 lakh rural households**, out of which around **76 per cent** have assured tap water supply.
- The Ministry said, since the announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission in August, 2019, **over five lakh tap water connections** has been provided and so far eight thousand 458 villages in the State have been declared Har Ghar Jal.
- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** is a flagship programme of the Central Government being implemented in partnership with the States with the objective to provide tap water connection in every rural household by 2024

Himachal Pradesh CM launches 'Mukhyamantri Sewa Sanklap Helpline 1100' in Shimla

- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** launched dedicated COVID-19 Helpline '**Mukhyamantri Sewa Sanklap Helpline 1100**' for facilitating the people regarding COVID related issues in Shimla.
- The Chief Minister said, this **helpline is unique** in itself by ensuring effective use of technology in facilitating the people.
- The callers can call on **toll free number 1100 from 7 am to 10 pm** for seeking help regarding COVID related issues.
- The call executive would register the complaint and contact concerned authorities for providing necessary help to the person regarding various issues such as test, vaccination, home quarantine, medicines, ambulance and Oxygen

Pressure Swing Adsorption Oxygen Plants inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur** inaugurated pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants at **Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College in Hamirpur and Jawahar Lal Nehru Government Medical College in Chamba**.
- The CM threw open the plants virtually from Shimla.
- The plant at Chamba, which has been operational and has a capacity of **400 PLM** and the Hamirpur plant, has a capacity of **300 PLM**.
- He said both plants would ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to patients admitted in both colleges.
- The state government has taken up the matter of increasing the oxygen quota for the state from the **existing 15 MT to 30 MT** with the union government so as to meet the demand of the state.

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HP govt announced to provide free COVID treatment to beneficiaries of Himcare and PM-JAY scheme in registered private hospitals

- **Himachal Pradesh Government** will provide free treatment to COVID patients under **Himcare and Ayushman Bharat schemes** in registered private hospitals.
- According to the state government, only the beneficiaries of the **Himcare and Ayushman Bharat scheme** can avail of the facility.
- Further, the private hospitals must be designated as a dedicated COVID hospital.
- **Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** stated that, "Himachal Pradesh Government has decided to provide free treatment to beneficiaries of **Himcare and Ayushman Bharat schemes to COVID-19 patients** in registered private hospitals which have been dedicated as COVID hospitals".

Himachal Pradesh: AYUSH Dept launches statewide wellness programme 'AYUSH Ghar Dwar'

- In Himachal Pradesh, AYUSH Division launched a state-wide wellness programme '**AYUSH Ghar Dwar**' for **COVID-19 sufferers, in Sloan district**.
- The initiative aims to offer a **Holistic Healthcare Strategy** by way of AYUSH to make sure not solely bodily but in addition psychological, social and religious wellbeing to COVID sufferers by way of AYUSH.
- The Ayush Ghar Dwar program is being launched by **AYUSH Vibhag Himachal Pradesh** in **collaboration** with the **Artwork of Dwelling Group**.
- Beneath this program round 1000 digital teams might be made on totally different social media platforms by way of which educated instructors on Ayurveda will conduct digital periods on Yoga, Pranayam, Respiratory Workout routines, Meditation, therapies, medicines and practices to calm the thoughts apart from others.

Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

J&K: DDMA Srinagar unveiled 24×7 dedicated Helpline at Covid-19 War Control Room

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, the **District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)** Srinagar has launched a **24×7 dedicated Helpline** at Covid-19 War Control Room to provide real time Covid-19 related facilities to the people.
- The facility was inaugurated by **Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole**.
- The residents of **Srinagar district** can log on to the website **www.waseela.in** and can get real time information about Covid-19 related facilities.
- **People can also dial helpline no's 01942483650 and 01942483651** for any query related to Covid-19 pandemic, the basic purpose of establishing the War Control Room in Srinagar is to provide instant information to the people about the number of **isolation beds, ICU beds, and oxygen beds** available in the city hospitals.
- It would also provide information about positive cases, tests conducted, and vaccination details apart from information regarding containment zones.

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- Meanwhile, all the hospitals in Srinagar city have been connected with the Covid-19 **War Control Room** so that all the information could be timely updated on the website.
- The War Control Room will be functional round the clock for the facilitation of the general public.

1200 LPM oxygen generation plant commissioned at Gandhi Nagar Hospital

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, in pursuance of the Lieutenant Governor's directions regarding augmentation of Oxygen facilities in the hospitals, a **1200 litre per minute, LPM Oxygen Generation Plant** has been commissioned at the old block of **Govt. Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu**.
- The hospital has been notified as a designated COVID hospital.
- With the commissioning of the plant, the hospital has become self-sufficient in meeting the medical oxygen needs and it can cater to **92 beds** at a time.
- The plant will substantially augment the availability of medical oxygen in the present oxygen bank reducing the **dependence on manual oxygen cylinders**.
- **Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Anshul Garg** inspected the functioning of the newly installed Oxygen Generation Plant and directed the hospital authorities to augment the existing bed capacity for efficient management of COVID patients.

NHIDCL gives Four Critical Care Life Support Ambulances to Ladakh

- **Union Territory Ladakh** received **Four Critical Care Life Support Ambulances** from **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL)** of **Road Transport and Highways Ministry**.
- Ladakh MP **Jamyang Tsering Namgyal** flagged off the ambulances for public service.
- After Principal Secretary of UT Administration **Pawan Kotwal** inaugurated, Leh CMO Dr. Dorjey Motup received the vehicles in the presence of Leh Hill Council CEC Tashi Gyalton, MP Jamyang and Leh DC Shrikant Suse.

Jharkhand

Jharkhand becomes 1st rank for implement Smart City Mission schemes

- **Jharkhand** has clinched the **first position** in the recent ranking released by the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, Government of India, based on the progress of the implementation of the **Smart City Mission's schemes** running in **different 100 cities** of the **Country's 36 states and union territories**.
- At the same time, **Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi** has risen to **12th position** in terms of progress of the ongoing **mission plans in 100 cities**.
- On the other hand, Delhi is at number 11 in the list of States and Union Territories and Bihar at number 27 and New Delhi Municipal Corporation is at number 41 and Bihar Capital Patna at 68th position in the list of cities.
- The Urban and Housing Development Department, Government of Jharkhand informed this through a press note.

Kerala

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LDF attains 2nd consecutive term in Kerala

- In Kerala, **Left Democratic Front (LDA)** has retained power for the second consecutive term.
- Pinarayi Vijayan government has become the **first government to get the second successive term in four decades**.
- In the **140 member Assembly**, CPM has won 62 seats, CPI 17, Congress 21, IUML 15, Kerala Congress (M) 5 and JD(Secular), Kerala Congress and NCP 2 seats each.

Kerala: CPM led LDF all set to form new govt

- In Kerala, the **CPM led LDF** is all set to **form the new government**.
- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** handed over his resignation letter to **Governor Arif Mohammad Khan**.
- The CPI (M) and the LDF will soon begin discussions regarding the formation of the new government.
- The CPI (M) State Secretariat meeting scheduled to be convened will also discuss the matter in detail.
- Prior to this, members of the state politburo will also convene a meeting to discuss and decide further proceedings.

Kerala to provide about 30 lakh new tap water connections in current FY under Jal Jeevan Mission

- **Kerala** will provide about 30 lakh new tap water connections in the current financial year under **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- **Jal Shakti Ministry** said that Kerala presented their **Annual Action Plan** on planning and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Kerala has **more than 67 lakh rural households**, out of which around **more than 21 lakh households have tap water supply**.
- The Ministry said, in the last financial year, about four lakh connections were provided in Kerala.
- The State has planned to achieve the target of **'Har Ghar Jal' by 2024**.
- The Ministry has urged the State to give top priority to coverage of households in SC/ ST majority areas and Aspirational districts.
- Jal Jeevan Mission is the **flagship programme of the Central Government**, which aims to provide household tap water connection to **every rural household by 2024**.

Kerala firm introduced portable oxygen cylinders for first aid

- In Kerala, a **portable oxygen cylinder** has been introduced for use in the event of corona suffocation.
- **1.86 lakh persons** in India have been **targeted** for corona in the **previous 24 hours**.
- **Oxygen cylinders** are quite useful for corona patients.
- Portable oxygen cylinders have been introduced in this regard to help corona sufferers in their time of need.
- A **private company in Kerala** has developed a portable oxygen cylinder to avoid this.
- A cylinder of oxygen with a capacity of **10 litres costs 680 rupees**.

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh govt announces Rs, 379 crore transferred into accounts of 16,844 beneficiaries under Sambal scheme

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, **379 crore rupees** have been transferred into the accounts of **16 thousand 844 beneficiaries** under the Mukhyamantri Jan-Kalyan Sambal scheme.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

- **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** said the state government accords high priority to benefit the poor families of unorganised sector workers.
- The Chief Minister informed that in the difficult times of crisis beneficiaries of **Sambal Yojana** are also being given three months of free ration along with financial assistance.
- He called upon the beneficiaries to take precautions against the corona and to protect others along with themselves.
- Meanwhile, **Free Swastha Aahar Yojana (Healthy Food Scheme)** for the corona patients of Bhopal is also being launched.
- **Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang** said that the patient will get nutritious food on time free of cost in the hospital where he is admitted.
- Minister Sarang said that as a pilot project, this scheme has been started in **110 hospitals in Bhopal**.
- On its success, this scheme will be started in other cities of the state as well.

Madhya Pradesh govt launches New scheme to provide free treatment to poor COVID patients in the state

- The **Madhya Pradesh government** is launching a new scheme to provide free treatment to poor COVID patients.
- **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has said that under the scheme, the poor and common people of the state, including even the middle class, will be able to get free treatment for COVID-19 in the contracted private hospitals.
- The government will empanel private hospitals for treatment of COVID.
- Tests like **CT scan, medicines, injections, oxygen etc.** shall be made available free of cost.
- So far, 2 crore 42 lakh cards have been made under the **Ayushman Bharat Yojana** in the state, under which **88 percent** of the population has been covered.
- All of them will be able to get free treatment for corona in **government-contracted hospitals**.
- District collectors have been empowered to temporarily empanel private hospitals of their district under **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**.
- The government has increased the rates of **Ayushman Bharat package by 40 percent**.
- The state government will give **Rs 5000 as diagnostic advance** to every person who is receiving treatment under the scheme.

Madhya Pradesh: 'Black Fungal Infection' treatment units in OTs set up in Bhopal, Jabalpur

- **'Black fungal infection'** treatment units with **operation theatres (OTs)** will be opened in **Bhopal and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh**.
- Patients are getting infected with 'black fungal infection' during Covid treatment due to overdose of steroids.
- Doctors are removing the infected parts, such as the eyes, palate, jaws and so forth, before the infection reaches the brain.
- Even deaths have been reported from Jabalpur due to 'black fungal infection'.
- There will be separate OTs for those who become **Covid-negative** after treatment.
- According to health experts, the **symptoms of mucormycosis** include headache, fever, pain under the eyes, nasal or sinus congestion and partial loss of vision.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Centre grants Rs. 5,117 crore to Madhya Pradesh under Jal Jeevan Mission

- Jal Shakti ministry stated that, The Centre has allocated **Rs 5,117 crore to Madhya Pradesh** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, a four-fold rise than last year, and released its first tranche of Rs 1,184 crore.
- Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** had two rounds of detailed review meeting with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- The Centre has earmarked **Rs 50,000 crore** to the Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
- The ministry mentioned "In 2019-20, the Central Government allocated **Rs 571.60 crore** which was increased to Rs 1,280.13 Crore in 2020-21".

Maharashtra

Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center' unveiled in Mumbai

- The **Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center'** was inaugurated by **MP Rahul Shewale** in **Mumbai**.
- 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.
- The center also provides transportation facilities to the citizens who do not have their **own vehicles**.
- The vaccination has been started and the facility is available for **all the sections of the society**.
- **MP Rahul Shewale** informed that this facility will be provided in other multi-parking lots in the city, after assessing the success of this first project.

Supreme Court appreciated Maharashtra's oxygen model

- The **Supreme Court** has appreciated the '**Mumbai Model**' and asked Delhi and the Centre to take a look at it so that **no one in Delhi suffers oxygen shortage**.
- **P Velrasu, additional municipal commissioner (project)**, stated that they worked on various fronts to counter oxygen shortage.
- The normal demand per day for Mumbai's oxygen is **210 MT**, at peak, it was **260 MT** and now, it is **240 MT**.

Maharashtra unveiled "Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance"

- **Maharashtra** government has launched the "**Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance**" scheme to meet the state's oxygen needs.
- Special incentives will be given to oxygen producing industries under this scheme.
- At present the state's oxygen generation capacity is **1300 MT per day**.
- In order to meet the increasing demand, the state government has declared few incentives to meet the target of producing **3000 MT of oxygen per day**.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Maharashtra govt to offer free treatment to Mucormycosis patients

- **Health Minister Rajesh Tope** stated that **Patients of Mucormycosis**, a serious but rare fungal infection now affecting those suffering from coronavirus, will be treated for free under the **Maharashtra government's flagship medical insurance scheme**.
- Mucormycosis patients will be covered under the **Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana** since the medicines required to combat the fungal infection are expensive, an official statement quoted Tope as saying.
- According to the statement, he said patients will be treated free of cost at **1,000 hospitals covered under the health scheme**.
- The minister said symptoms of the disease are being seen in those COVID-19 patients who are diabetic and whose diabetes is not under control.

Nagpur based NEERI develops new technology for COVID testing

- The **National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)** has developed a simple and fast method of swab collection and processing for the RT-PCR **coronavirus test** which could be used in rural and tribal areas.
- **The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** stated that The method is simple, fast, cost-effective, patient-friendly and comfortable.
- It is well-suited for rural and tribal areas, given minimal infrastructure requirements, it said.
- The **Nagpur-based NEERI** is a constituent laboratory of **CSIR**.
- **Krishna Khairnar**, senior scientist, Environmental Virology Cell at NEERI, mentioned the swab collection method requires time.
- Moreover, since it is an invasive technique, it is a bit uncomfortable for patients.

Puducherry

Puducherry Assembly Election: Results favour of NR Congress

- In the **Union Territory of Puducherry**, So far the results of 20 constituencies have been announced officially.
- The National Democratic Alliance captured 11 seats and **Secular Democratic Alliance won in 5 seats**.
- 4 Independent candidates were also elected here.
- In the **NDA Alliance BJP won 3 seats**.
- In **Kamaraj Nagar constituency Mr Johnkumar** , and his son Richard who contested in Nellithoppu constituency won in this election.
- Namasivayam of BJP was also elected from Mannadipet.
- The **NR Congress candidates captured 8 seats** .
- The winning candidates are Theni.

Puducherry becomes 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory

- **Puducherry** has become 'Har Ghar Jal' UT by ensuring that every rural home in the **Union Territory** gets a **household tap connection**.

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- With this, the UT becomes the **fourth State/UT** after **Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands** to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under **Union Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- Despite challenges faced due to CoVid-19 pandemic, **Jal Jeevan Mission** is being implemented in partnership with States/ UTs to provide safe tap water in adequate quantities of prescribed quality on a regular and **long-term basis to every rural home by 2024**.

About Jal Jeevan Mission:

- The **Mission** was **launched on August 15, 2019**.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through **individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India**.
- The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.

Punjab

Punjab CM Capt Amarinder's Eid gift: Muslim-dominated Malerkotla becomes new district

- **Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh** announced the creation of a **new district of Malerkotla**, carving the state's only **Muslim-majority town** from Sangrur district.
- Adjoining Amargarh and Ahmedgarh will also form part of **Punjab's 23rd district**, according to the announcement at a state-level event on **Eid-ul-Fitr**.
- According to Malerkotla, which is 35 km from the Sangrur district headquarters, a district status was a pre-poll promise by the Congress.

Punjab CM announces special development grant of Rs 10 lakh to every village achieving 100 percent vaccination

- **Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh** announced a special development grant of **Rs 10 lakh to every village that achieves 100 per cent vaccination target** under the State Government's '**Corona-Mukt Pind Abhiyan**'.
- He was interacting virtually with Village Panchayats represented by more than 2,000 heads and members across over 4,000 live locations in the rural parts of the state through LED screens.
- **About 'Corona-Mukt Pind Abhiyan':**
- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, while announcing the scheme, said that there is a "**need to avoid the kind of situation that was prevailing in the villages of Uttar Pradesh**".

Sikkim

Sikkim celebrates its statehood day on May 16

- The **45th State Day of Sikkim** was observed in a brief function held here at **Chintan Bhawan**.

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- The function was attended by **Governor Ganga Prasad** as the chief guest, while **chief minister Prem Singh Tamang** was present as the **guest of honour**.
- **Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** extended greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Sikkim State Foundation Day.
- Governor, chief minister and other dignitaries offered garlands and paid rich tribute to the statue of Padma Vibhushan Late Kazi Lhendup Dorji Khangsarpa, the first chief minister of Sikkim.
- The 16th day of May is being celebrated as the State Day, the day when Sikkim became the 22nd state of the Indian Union in 1975.

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Election Results 2021: DMK leader Stalin to be sworn in as CM on May 7

- **After a decade in opposition, the DMK won** a convincing victory over arch-rival AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and the ruling party managed to emerge as a formidable opposition, overcoming the **burden of ten year anti-incumbency to an extent**.
- As counting of votes polled in the April 6 TN Assembly elections progressed, it became amply clear that the DMK was dislodging the AIADMK from the seat of power.

Tamil Nadu: MK Stalin sworn in as Chief Minister of the state

- The **Tamil Nadu cabinet led by Chief Minister MK Stalin**.
- The state **Governor Banwarilal Purohit** administered the oath of office and **secrecy to Mr Stalin** and his **33 other cabinet colleagues** at a function held in the Raj Bhavan lawns in Chennai.
- The **function was attended by** the leaders of the ruling DMK's alliance parties, opposition AIADMK coordinator O.Panneerselvam, the state BJP senior leader L.Ganesan, PMK president GK Mani and the Makkal Neethi Maiyyam leader Kamal Haasan.Mr Stalin later took the blessings of his mother, and paid homage to the party founder CN Annadurai, Dravidian Movement leader EVR Periyar, his father and former chief minister M.Karunanidhi and other senior leaders of his party.

Tamil Nadu CM announces Rs 25 lakh compensation to families of 43 medical professionals who died due to COVID-19

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin** announced **Rs 25 lakh** compensation to the families of **43 medical professionals** who died of Covid-19 while performing duty.
- The DMK government also announced incentives to frontline workers including doctors, nurses and paramedics and other staff members who are involved in **Covid duty for the months of April, May and June**.
- Doctors will receive **Rs 30,000**, **nurses and trainee doctors Rs 20,000**, and other staff members like sanitary workers, people working in CT scan department and **ambulance workers will get Rs 15,000**.
- The government also stated that **PG and trainee doctors will get Rs 20,000** for their hard work during the pandemic.

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Tamil Nadu: State govt announces financial assistance Rs.5 lakh fixed deposit for children who lost parents to Covid

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin stated that, Children who have lost their parents to COVID-19 will be given Rs.5 lakh in assistance in the form of a fixed deposit, and the sum will be given to them with interest when they turn 18.
- He said the government would bear the expenses on account of the education and accommodation of these children until they graduate from college.
- It would also ensure that they get priority in accommodation at government homes for children.
- For those who have lost one parent, Rs.3 lakh in relief will be given to the living parent.
- Those who lost a parent earlier and then the other to COVID-19 will be given Rs.5 lakh in fixed deposit, he said in a statement.

Telangana

Johnson & Johnson tie-up with Telangana based Biological E Ltd

- US pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson has joined hands with Biological E Limited (Telangana-based Pharma Company) for the manufacturing of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The company's vaccine named Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is currently approved for use in the United States, the European Union, and other nations including Thailand and South Africa.

Uttar Pradesh

Italian Ambassador to India Vincenzo de Luca installed oxygen plant at ITBP Referral Hospital at Greater Noida

- Italian Ambassador to India Vincenzo de Luca switched on an oxygen plant at ITBP Referral Hospital at Greater Noida.
- The plant will supply oxygen to more than 100 beds at a time to the Covid19 patients admitted at the centre.
- ADG ITBP Manoj Singh Rawat thanked the Italian ambassador for installing the plant.
- The plant has been installed at the hospital in just 48 hours time.
- The Ambassador while speaking on the occasion remembered the assistance by ITBP when 17 Italian Covid-19 positive tourists were taken care of by the Force at its Chhawla facility last year.

Noida Traffic Police and Fortis Hospital jointly launch 20 Auto Ambulance in city

- The Noida Traffic Police department has launched auto-rickshaw ambulances to provide additional support for Covid-19 patients in the city.
- The service can be availed by calling the helpline 9971009001.
- The autos have been equipped with oxygen cylinders, pulse-oximeters, regulators, masks, PPE kits, etc.
- While the drivers have been provided with basic patient care training by medical professionals from Fortis hospital.
- There are 20 such autos that have been converted to ambulances.

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Uttar Pradesh govt extended Essential Services Maintenance Act in state

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** extended the **Essential Services Maintenance Act** in the state, banning strikes in all departments and corporations under it for a **period of another six months**.
- ESMA, as it is commonly known, gives police the right to arrest anybody violating the Act's provisions.
- It has been invoked after taking permission from **Governor Anandiben Patel**.
- Under ESMA, employees in a long list of **"essential services"** like post and telegraph, railway, airport and port operations are prohibited from going on strike.

Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand CM declared Vatsalya Yojana for children orphaned due to Corona

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat** has announced Chief Minister **Vatsalya Yojana** for orphaned children who have **lost their parents due to Covid-19**.
- Chief Minister said that such **orphaned children** of the state will be given a maintenance allowance of **3000 rupees per month**.
- Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat mentioned that, "The government has decided that to bear the responsibility of children who have lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- For this, the state government came up with '**Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana**'.
- "According to the Union Health Ministry, there are 5,270 active coronavirus cases, 8,780 discharges/recoveries and 116 deaths.
- The scheme will be **implemented on May 30**, the day the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes seven years in office.

West Bengal

TMC comeback to power in West Bengal

- In **West Bengal**, ruling **Trinamool Congress** has retained power for the **third term** in a row but Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost her own Nandigram seat.
- Trinamool Congress has **won 209 seats** and leading at 4 seats.
- BJP has won 76 seats and is leading at one seat.
- BJP's Suwendu Adhikari defeated Mamata Banerjee by a margin of 1,956 votes in the key Nandigram constituency.
- United Front - an alliance of Left Front, Congress and the newly formed Indian Secular Front, failed miserably.
- For the first time since Independence, CPI-M has scored a duck in West Bengal.

West Bengal: Mamata Banerji to be sworn-in as CM for 3rd consecutive term

- **TMC leader Mamata Banerjee** will be sworn in as the **Chief Minister of West Bengal** for the **third time**.
- **Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar** mentioned that the swearing-in **ceremony** will be held at Raj Bhawan.

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- Due to the corona situation, the list of guests invited to the ceremony at the Rajbhawan has been kept as short as possible.
- After the swearing in of the **Chief Minister**, newly elected **MLAs of the state** will take oath in the Assembly in two phases.

Revision Points

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

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Uttarakhand	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar
Puducherry (UT)	N Rangaswamy	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

List of Governors & Administrators

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

Important National News

Centre let out in advance over Rs 8873 cr for SDRF to all States

- As a special dispensation, the Centre has released in advance over **8873 crore rupees** for **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** to all the States.
- The States can use **up to 50 percent** of the released amount for COVID-19 containment measures, that include 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.
- The **Finance Ministry** has released the amount ahead of the normal schedule of the **1st installment of SDRF**, which is generally released in the month of June.
- However, in relaxation of the normal procedure, not only the release of SDRF has been advanced, the amount has also been released without waiting for the utilization certificate.

NFAI bring out rich treasure of audio recordings on occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Dadasaheb Phalke

- On the occasion of the **151st birth anniversary** of the father of Indian cinema, **Dadasaheb Phalke**, the **National Film Archive of India (NFAI)** has published a rich treasure of audio recordings in the public domain.
- About **8000 minutes of interviews** of veteran film artists from the Indian film industry are now made available on the NFAI website.

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- Starting from the **silent era of Indian cinema**, these are the fascinating tales of journeys of actors, technicians, producers, directors and studio owners.
- Conducted mostly in the 1980s, these interviews were recorded as part of the **Oral History Project of NFAI's Research Programme** and features long interviews of pioneering film personalities, narrating the experiences about their life, stories and anecdotes from the world of cinema.

I&B Ministry assemble year-long centenary celebrations of Satyajit Ray

- In homage to the **legendary filmmaker**, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will organize year-long centenary celebrations of late **Satyajit Ray** across India and abroad.
- **Satyaji Ray** was a renowned **filmmaker, writer, illustrator, graphic designer, 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**.
- The film catapulted him into international fame.
- Ray went on to make other great films such as **Charulata, Agantuk and Nayak**.
- He was also a prolific writer, making the **famous sleuth Feluda and scientist Professor Shonku**, a popular part of Bengali Literature.
- The Government of India honoured him with the **Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award, in 1992**.

Finance Ministry planned to provide additional amount of upto Rs 15,000 cr to States

- The **Finance Ministry** has decided to provide an additional amount of **upto 15 thousand crore rupees** to States as **interest free 50 year loan** for **spending on capital projects**.
- 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**.
- Capital expenditure creates employment, especially for the poor and unskilled, has a high multiplier effect, enhances the future productive capacity of the economy and results in a higher rate of economic growth.
- The Finance Ministry said, despite the adverse financial position of the Centre, it was decided last year to launch a Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure.
- **Under the Scheme, financial assistance** is provided to the State Governments in the **form of 50-year interest free loan**.

EAM S Jaishankar to Commence on 4-day visit to London

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** will embark on a **four-day visit to London** beginning to participate in a meeting of **foreign ministers of G7 countries**.
- India has been invited to the meeting as a guest country.
- The G7 members are **Britain, US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan**.
- The meeting is expected to discuss ways to deal with the coronavirus pandemic besides several other pressing issues facing the world.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari mentioned that Govt set target of road construction of worth Rs 15 lakh cr in next 2 years

- **Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** said the government has set a target of road construction of worth **15 lakh crore rupees** in next two years.
- He said the government is giving utmost priority to the development of infrastructure.
- Addressing the **Indo-U.S. Partnership Vision Summit** through video conferencing, Mr Gadkari exuded confidence that the Ministry will **achieve a target of 40 kilometres per day** of highway construction in the current fiscal.
- He said that the Government is permitting **100 percent FDI in the road sector**.
- The Minister added that in India, projects like the National Infrastructure pipeline for 2019-2025 is the first of its kind and the government is committed to providing world class infra to its citizens and improving the quality of their lives.
- He said that under the NIP, there are over **7,300 projects** to be implemented at a total outlay of **111 lakh crore rupees by 2025**.
- Mr Gadkari said that in the new era of bilateral relations, the national interests of India and the US are converging.
- There is growing confidence between both the administrations that all outstanding trade issues will be resolved and major trade agreements will be signed soon.
- The Minister invited the US companies to invest in infrastructure and MSME sectors in India.

Govt declared some guidelines for Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

- Government has issued guidelines for '**Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)**'.
- Minister of Food Processing Industry **Narendra Singh Tomar** also launched an online portal for the PLISFPI.
- The Ministry said, as part of the Prime Minister's announcement of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, the Government has approved a new Central Sector Scheme namely PLISFPI for implementation during 2021-22 to 2026-27 with an outlay of 10 thousand 900 crore rupees.
- The aim is to support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with **India's natural resource endowment** and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets.
- The Ministry said it is inviting applications for availing sales based incentives and grants for undertaking Branding and Marketing activities abroad under the scheme from **three categories of Applicants**.
- In Category-1, the applicants are large entities who apply for Incentive based on Sales and Investment Criteria.
- Applicants under this category could undertake **Branding and Marketing activities** abroad also and apply for grant under the scheme with a common application.

Govt alarm the people: Vial for Remdesivir injection by name 'COVIPRI' is fake

- Government has said that a vial for **Remdesivir** injection by the name '**COVIPRI**' which is in circulation is fake.
- The Press Information Bureau mentioned no Remdesivir by the name **COVIPRI** exists.
- People have been advised not to buy medical supplies from unverified sources and beware of counterfeit medicines and injection.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Govt obtains 65 % more wheat in current Rabi season which compared to last year

- **Government** has said that about **65 per cent more wheat** has been procured during the current **Rabi Marketing Season** in comparison to the corresponding period last year.
- Consumer Affairs Ministry said, the procurement of Wheat is continuing smoothly in the procuring States of **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar at Minimum Support Price.**
- The Ministry said, a quantity of over **299 lakh tonnes of Wheat** has been procured against the last year corresponding purchase of around **181 lakh tonnes.**
- It said, about 29 lakh 46 thousand farmers have already benefited from the ongoing procurement operations with MSP value of over **59 thousand Crore rupees.**
- The Ministry said over **721 lakh tonnes of paddy** have been procured in the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21 and Rabi Marketing Season.
- About **one crore eight lakh farmers** have benefited from the ongoing procurement operations.

India, EU reaffirm commitment to support Afghanistan

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** and **EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell** have reaffirmed commitment to support Afghanistan in its path towards peace, security, self-reliance and prosperity.
- **Dr Jaishankar and Mr Borrell** called for **respecting and protecting the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.**
- They reaffirmed their strong and continued support to an inclusive, **Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process.**
- As representatives of the **world's largest democracies, External Affairs Minister Dr.Jaishankar and Mr.Borrell reaffirmed** that any political settlement in Afghanistan must protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Afghans, **including women, youth and minorities.**
- They reiterated that the nature of the peace settlement and its outcome will shape the future of international support and assistance.
- They jointly and firmly condemned the unacceptable level of violence perpetrated against the national forces of Afghanistan and civilians and the targeted assassinations of civil rights activists, media persons and Ulema.
- They reiterated their call for an immediate, permanent and comprehensive nationwide ceasefire.

India attains another milestone by administering more than 16 crore 4 lakh doses of covid vaccine

- **India** has scaled another peak in its effort to contain the **COVID-19 virus** with the administration of **more than 16 Crore four lakh vaccine doses** so far to its citizens.
- Union Health Ministry said, the country also administered **more than 13 Crore doses** as the first dose and more than three crore vaccine doses have been administered as the second dose.
- The Ministry said, **more than two lakh 29 thousand beneficiaries** of the **age group 18 to 44 years** received their first dose of COVID vaccine.

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- The cumulative vaccination coverage for this age group is **over six lakh 62 thousand across 12 States and Union Territories.**
- The Ministry said that **more than five crore 29 lakh beneficiaries** in the age group of over 60 years has received the first dose and over one crore 23 lakh received the 2nd dose.
- The country has administered **nearly 11 lakh 50 thousand vaccine doses till 8 pm.**
- More than six lakh 15 thousand beneficiaries were vaccinated for 1st dose and over five lakh 33 thousand beneficiaries received 2nd dose of vaccine.

28 States, UTs start to raise food grains from FCI for free distribution to poor under PMGKAY

- **Government** said that **28 States and Union Territories** have started lifting food grains from Food Corporation of India depots for free distribution of food grains to the poor under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.**
- Last month, Centre had decided to **provide free food-grains to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries** covered under **National Food Security Act, NFSA** in the month of May and June.
- Under this scheme, five kilogram per person per month food grains will be provided to the NFSA beneficiaries belonging to **both Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Householders categories.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** had stressed that it is important that the poor people of the country have nutritional support when the country is facing the second wave of coronavirus.
- The Consumer Affairs Ministry said, Food Corporation of India has already positioned sufficient food grains in all States and UTs for successful implementation of the scheme.
- It said 28 States and UTs have started lifting **foodgrains from Food Corporation of India depots and Rs. 5.88 lakh tonnes of food grains** have been supplied for further distribution to beneficiaries.
- Lakshadweep has completely lifted May and June allocation whereas Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have already lifted 100 percent of May allocation.
- The Ministry said, the rest of the States and UTs have also been sensitized to immediately start lifting the foodgrains under the scheme.
- It has advised them to encourage migrant **NFSA beneficiaries** for using the facility of portability under One Nation One Ration Card plan.
- The Ministry said, Centre will bear the entire cost of implementation of this scheme, without any sharing by States and Union Territories.

EAM Dr S Jaishankar with UK's Home Secretary Priti Patel holds meeting in London

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar**, who is on a **four day visit to the UK**, held a meeting with **Home Secretary Priti Patel** in London.
- They signed the **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** that would facilitate legal travel and encourage talent flows between the two countries.
- Dr Jaishankar mentioned, the living bridge between **India and UK** will get stronger as a result.
- He said, this is an important outcome for the **India-UK Virtual Summit.**

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Petroleum Minister flagged off 1st supply of UCO based Biodiesel blended Diesel

- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO, Used Cooking Oil based Biodiesel blended Diesel from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.
- The 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.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pradhan complimented the Oil industry on the stellar role played by them in keeping the fuel lines running despite the stiff challenges of the pandemic.
- He also lauded the OMCs for going beyond the usual business imperatives by extending support for **medical oxygen supply** to the nation in this crisis.
- Mr Pradhan also appreciated Indian Oil's leadership role in smoothening the Liquid oxygen logistics in the country through various initiatives.
- Regarding the first supply of UCO-based Biodiesel from **Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal**, the Minister termed it as landmark in **India's pursuance of Biofuels**.
- He said it will have a positive impact on the environment.
- This initiative will garner substantial economic benefits for the nation by shoring up **indigenous Biodiesel supply**, reducing import dependence, and generating rural employment.

Yoga Day promotional activities planned to conducted through digital & electronic platforms

- The **Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** have tapped into the spirit of **International Day of Yoga** to encourage the public to pursue Yoga as a daily routine for good health and well-being.
- The **two Ministries** came together to organize a **virtual event to mark 50 days** in the countdown to **International Day of Yoga 2021**.
- In view of the COVID surge all the Yoga Day promotional activities are being conducted through digital & electronic platforms to encourage participation by citizens from their respective homes.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** has, in this context, been propagating the message "**Be with Yoga, Be at Home**".

EAM S Jaishankar had a meeting with US counterpart Antony Blinken in London

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** had a meeting with his **US counterpart Antony Blinken** in London on the sidelines of **G-7 Foreign Ministers' meeting**.
- The **two leaders** had detailed discussion on the global Covid challenge, focussing on expanded vaccine production capacity and reliable supply chains.
- The meeting also covered issues of **Indo-Pacific, UN Security Council, Myanmar and climate change**.
- Dr Jaishankar expressed appreciation for the strong US support to India at this difficult time, especially oxygen and Remdesivir.
- **Dr Jaishankar is on a 4-day visit London** beginning to participate in the G-7 Foreign Ministers Meeting, at which India has been invited as a guest country.

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- He will thereafter undertake a **bilateral visit to the UK**.

Mountains to Mangroves – A Journey of 1000 Kilometers Webinar Launched

- **On April 24, 2021, The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series held its 86th webinar titled Mountains to Mangroves: A Journey of 1000 Kilometers.**
- The DekhoApnaDesh Webinar Series is **presented in technical partnership with the National e Governance Department, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**
- The objective of these Webinars is **to promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.**
- The Webinars include glimpses of the culture, heritage, handicrafts and cuisine of the destinations, in addition to the tourist spots. Concepts of Responsible Tourism, Accessible Tourism, Wildlife, Trekking, Bicycling and MotorCycle Tours, etc. have also been promoted through the Webinars.
- Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer, tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.
- The Webinar was presented by **Shri Debajit Dutta, Director &CEO of Impression Tourism Services (India) Private Limited**, expert in experiential tours, adventure tours and offers voluntary Project services & community tourism initiatives as a part of sustainable tourism practice.

Applicability of Aadhaar Government Notifies Section 142 of the Social Security Code - 2020

- **Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020** has been notified by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment covering applicability of Aadhar.**
- The notification of section will enable the Ministry of Labour and Employment to collect Aadhaar details for the database of beneficiaries under various social security schemes.
- Behind this, **the National DataBase for unorganised workers (NDUW)** is at an **advanced stage** of development by the **National Informatics Centre.**

Aim :

- The portal is aimed at **collection of data for unorganised workers including migrant workers** for the purpose of giving benefits of the various schemes of the Government.
- An **inter-state migrant worker can register himself** on the portal on the basis of submission of Aadhar alone.
- In this regard, a notification was issued by **the ministry on May 3**, which mandates the ministry and bodies working under it to seek Aadhaar number from the beneficiaries under the Social Security Code.
- The Code was passed last year by **Parliament.**

Exemption to conduct BVLOS experimental flights of drones

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has granted **conditional exemption from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 to 20 entities to conduct Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) experimental flights of drones.**
- The preliminary permission grant is envisioned to assist the supplementary framework development of subsequent UAV rules pertaining to Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone operations.

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- BVLOS trials will help create a framework for future drone deliveries and other major applications using drones.
- These exemptions are subject to complete adherence to the requirements stated in the said EOI notice and the directions/ exemptions issued (or to be issued in future) by the BEAM Committee. This conditional exemption shall be valid for period of one year

Railways bring over 2,500 MT of liquid medical oxygen to various states across country

- **Indian Railways** has delivered **2511 MT of liquid medical oxygen** in **161 tankers** to various states across the country so far.
- **Forty Oxygen Expresses** have already completed their journey.
- It is **Indian Railways Endeavour** to deliver as much liquid medical oxygen as possible in the shortest time to the requesting states.
- Till date, 174 MT has offloaded in Maharashtra, 689 MT in UP, 190 MT in Madhya Pradesh, 259 MT in Haryana, 123 MT in Telangana and 1053 MT in Delhi.
- Presently 22 tankers are on the run with more than 400 tonnes of LMO which are expected to arrive in MP, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi.

Cabinet approves allocation of additional foodgrains to NFSA beneficiaries

- The **Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** gave its approval for allocation of additional food grains to all beneficiaries of National Food Security Act for two additional months of **May and June** this year.
- The announcement towards allocation of additional foodgrain under the third phase of **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** for another period of 2 months was made by the Centre last month.
- The Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to this decision under which **5 kilograms of rice or wheat** per person per month will be given to **about 80 crore beneficiaries in the country**.
- The relief measure announced by the Centre to ensure proper nutrition and food to every person will cost nearly 26 thousand crore to it in terms of food subsidy.

INS Talwar, with 40 tonne Liquid Medical Oxygen stick out New Mangalore Port in Karnataka

- **Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Mansukh Mandaviya** has said that **INS Talwar, with 40 tonne Liquid Medical Oxygen** has reached **New Mangalore Port in Karnataka**.
- The **40 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen** filled in cryogenic containers was **donated by Bahrain**.
- Mr Mandaviya said, **New Mangalore Port** is handling the Oxygen cargo on priority basis.
- To support nation's fight against COVID-19 and as a part of operation '**Samudra Setu II**', seven Indian Naval ships including **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat** have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.
- **Operation Samudra Setu-II** has bolstered India's oxygen availability.
- **INS Talwar**, the first among the ships deployed in the operation, arrived in Mangalore from Bahrain.
- Two Liquid Oxygen Cryogenic containers of **20 Metric Tonnes** each on board.
- MEA spokesperson **Arindam Bagchi** deeply appreciated the support from Bahrain.

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- It is taking forward the close bilateral ties deep-rooted in shared history and cultural affinities.

Center brings out 2nd monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of RS 9,871 crore to 17 states

- The **Finance Ministry** released the second monthly installment of **Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs 9,871 crore for 2021-22 to 17 States**.
- With this, a **total amount of Rs 19,742 crore** has been released in the first two months of the current financial year as **Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant** to the states.
- The grants are released as per the recommendations of the **Finance Commission** in monthly installments to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post devolution.
- The **15th Finance Commission** has recommended Post Devolution Release Deficit grants to 17 States.
- **These states** are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab and Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Workplace vaccination drive in National Media Centre organized by PIB

- The **Press Information Bureau (PIB)** organized a workplace vaccination drive in the **National Media Centre, New Delhi**.
- A medical team led by **Dr Harsh Priya and Vaishak Nag** administered vaccines to about one hundred 10 people.
- The **Information and Broadcasting Ministry said, Centre** has approved the organizing of COVID-19 vaccination sessions at workplaces, **both Public and Private**, which are having about one hundred eligible beneficiaries by tagging these workplaces with an **existing COVID Vaccination Center**.
- The Ministry said, organizing vaccination at the workplace is not only convenient but also helps to avoid travel and reduces the risk of exposure to COVID-19 virus.

Ayush Ministry launches nationwide campaign to distribute AYUSH 64 & Kabasura Kudineer for fight against COVID19 pandemic

- In a concerted response to the second surge of **COVID-19 infection in the country**, the Ministry of Ayush is launching a **massive nationwide campaign** to distribute its proven poly herbal **Ayurvedic drugs AYUSH 64 and Sidha drug Kabasura Kudineer**.
- The efficacy of these drugs has been proved through robust **multi-centre clinical trials**.
- The multi stakeholder campaign being launched by **Union Minister Kiren Rijju** will ensure that medicines reach the needy in a transparent and efficient manner.
- The main collaborator in the campaign is **Sewa Bharati**.
- It is worthwhile to note that since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, the **Ministry of Ayush** has taken several initiatives toward control and mitigation of COVID 19, while also working in **close collaboration** with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in the fight against COVID 19.
- With the latest initiative of the Ministry to launch a nationwide campaign for distribution of **AYUSH-64 and Kabasura Kudineer**, India aims to strengthen its position in the fight against COVID19 pandemic.

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Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur has claimed 1.5 lakh doses of Sputnik V vaccine

- **Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur** has claimed **1.5 lakh doses of Sputnik V** have previously reached **India** and **Russian Direct Financial commitment Fund** has also tied up with regional Indian companies for bulk manufacturing.
- In reaction to a letter penned by **Congress chief Mallukarjun Kharge** to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr Thakur elaborated steps taken by the Centre to deal with the COVID pandemic.
- Mr Thakur mentioned IAF transport planes have carried out **50 sorties**, airlifting **61 oxygen containers of 1142 MT potential from abroad**.
- **Naval ships – Kolkata, Kochi, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat** – have been deployed for shipment of **liquid clinical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers** and **associated healthcare devices** from numerous nations in the Center East and South-East Asia.

Education Minister donates Rs 1.50 crore from MPLAD fund for Haridwar medical supply

- **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has **donated Rs 1.5 crore** from his **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD)** fund for the purchase of medical equipment in his Lok Sabha Constituency Haridwar to fight the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The funds will be utilized at four **Dedicated Covid Health Centres (DCHC)** at Haridwar, including Baba Barfani, Base Hospital, Mela Hospital and Civil Hospital Roorkee.

PIB reported No such approval has been given by the Government of India Bharat Biotech's vaccine for children above 12 years

- Covid 19 cases have been clocking over 4 lakh cases on a daily basis for the past few days.
- There is also fear of Coronavirus **third wave, which experts say would impact children the maximum**.
- This reason assumes significance from the point of view that most of those **above 18 years** would be covered in the vaccination drive before the beginning of the likely 3rd wave.
- Meanwhile, a message has been circulating on social media sites claiming that the government has approved **Bharat Biotech's Covaxin** for **children above 12 years**.
- This message has been shared by people and has brought sort of relief for parents, however, the government has made official statement on **this rumour**.

DCGI gives emergency nod to anti-Covid oral drug developed by DRDO

- A drug developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organization**, DRDO got the approval for emergency use by the **Drugs Controller General of India, DCGI**.
- The **oral drug** has been **developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences**, a lab of DRDO, in collaboration with **Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad**.
- **Phase III clinical trial results** have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hospitalized patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence.

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- The Institute of **Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (Inmas)** in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad, developed an anti-Covid-19 therapeutic application of the **drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG)**.
- The third phase of the clinical trial results have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hospitalized patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence.
- Higher proportion of patients treated with **2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion** in patients infected with coronavirus

Indian Railways bring nearly 5735 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen so far across country

- The **railways have delivered nearly 5,735 tonne of oxygen** in over 390 tankers to various states.
- The **Oxygen Express trains delivered 755 tonne of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) across the country.**
- More than 90 **Oxygen Express trains** have completed their journey **so far.**
- Till the time of this release **293MT of LMO** has been offloaded in **Maharashtra**, nearly 1630 MT in UP, 340 MT in **MP**, 812 MT in **Haryana**, 123 MT in **Telangana**, 40 MT in **Rajasthan**, 120 MT in **Karnataka** and more than 2383 MT in **Delhi.**
- Stations near Dehradun (**Uttarakhand**) & Pune (**Maharashtra**) are also set to receive their **First Oxygen Express.**
- While the First Oxygen Express to Uttarakhand is expected to reach 120MT of Oxygen from Tatanagar in Jharkhand.
- Oxygen Express to Pune is also set to reach with more than 50 MT of Oxygen from Angul (Orissa).

Indian Navy Sets Up COVID Care Centre at INS Kalinga, Bheemunipatnam

- As part of the Indian Navy's efforts to assist the general population of Bheemunipatnam in dealing with the devastating second Covid wave, a **60-bed Covid Care Centre** has been set up at **INS Kalinga, Bheemunipatnam.**
- This facility was dedicated to the public by **AP Tourism Minister and Bheemunipatnam MLA Shri Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao** on 11 May 2021.
- The Commanding Officer INS Kalinga stated that the COVID Care Centre has adequate facilities to provide treatment to **COVID positive patients** with moderate symptoms from Bheemunipatnam Mandal and adjoining areas.
- Administrative, logistic support food conservancy services and medical equipment is being provided by the Indian Navy.
- The COVID Centre will be manned by three doctors and 10 nursing staff provided by the Community Health Centre.
- Towards the maintenance and the running of the COVID Care Centre, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed by **Cmdr Neeraj Uday** Commanding Officer INS Kalinga and the **Superintendent of the Community Health Centre Bheemunipatnam** in the presence of the **Tourism Minister and the District Medical and Health Officer Dr G Suryanarayana.**

PM CARES Fund approved procurement of one lakh 50 thousand units of Oxycare system

- The **PM CARES Fund** has approved procurement of **1,50,000 units of Oxycare System** developed by the **Defence Research Development Organization** at a **cost of Rs 322.5 crores**, the DRDO informed.

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- It further informed that the **Oxycare System** is a **SpO2 based Oxygen Supply System** that regulates oxygen being administered to patients based on sensed SpO2 levels.
- “Under this sanction, **1, 00,000 manual and 50,000 automatic Oxycare systems** along with **NRBM (Non-rebreather mask)** masks are being procured.
- The Oxycare system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO2 levels and prevents the person from sinking into a state of Hypoxia, which can be fatal,” it added.
- The system was developed by the **Defence Bioengineering and ElectroMedical Laboratory (DEBEL)** in Bengaluru of the DRDO for soldiers posted at extreme high-altitude areas.
- The system is indigenously developed for operation in field conditions and is robust.

Union Cabinet gave nod for PLI Scheme in the field of Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage

- The **Union Cabinet** approved an **Rs 18,100-crore** plan to **incentivize battery makers** to manufacture locally as it looks to cut import dependence while giving a boost to **electric vehicle (EV)** adoption.
- This was a **Department of Heavy Industries’ proposal**, which the government expects will create direct investment of **Rs 45,000 crore**.
- Under the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme** floated by the central government, the Cabinet in November 2020 had approved **Rs 18,000 crore** for domestic manufacturing of **Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage**.
- Currently, the country’s ACC demand is being met through imports.
- The nodal ministry, thereafter, proposed a national programme on ACC battery storage to achieve manufacturing capacity of **50 GigaWatt-Hour (GWh)** of ACC and **5 GWh** of “Niche” ACC.

Centre approves transfer of ITBP land to Uttarakhand govt

- The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved transfer of **1500 square metres** of land belonging to **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Mussoorie** to the State Government of Uttarakhand for their infrastructure project, namely, '**Aerial Passenger Ropeway System**' between Dehradun and Mussoorie.
- The proposed Ropeway is a **mono-cable ropeway of 5,580 meters length** under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode between Purkul Gaon, Dehradun (Lower Terminal Station) and Library, Mussoorie (Upper Terminal Station) being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.285 crore with a carrying capacity of 1000 persons per hour per direction.
- This will considerably **reduce the traffic flow** on the road route from **Dehradun to Mussoorie**.

WHO has not associated term “Indian Variant” with B.1.617 variant of coronavirus, clarifies Health Ministry

- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** clarified that WHO has not associated the term **"Indian Variant"** with B.1.617, now classified as **"Variant of Concern"**.
- Several media reports have covered the news of the World **Health Organisation (WHO)** classifying B.1.617 as a variant of global concern.
- Some of these reports have termed the B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus as an **"Indian Variant"**.

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- This is to clarify that WHO has not associated the term "Indian Variant" with the B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus in its 32 page document.
- In fact, the word "Indian" has not been used in its report on the matter," it said.
- As per media reports, earlier the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** had said that the Indian coronavirus variant (B1617), now declared as "variant of global concern" has spread to **44 countries**.

DCGI grants life saving drug 2 DG for covid patients developed by Indian Scientists

- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has granted permission for emergency use of anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the **drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG)** developed by **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**, a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), in **collaboration** with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (**DRL**),Hyderabad.
- The **Ministry of Defence** said that as per the order, emergency use of this drug as adjunct therapy in moderate to severe COVID-19 patients is permitted.
- It added that being a generic molecule and analogue of glucose, it can be easily produced and made available in plenty in the country.

National Gallery of Modern Art begins online summer workshop- NAIMISHA 2021

- **National Gallery of Modern Art** will start a month long online summer workshop- **NAIMISHA 2021**.
- Culture Ministry has said that this unique **art fiesta** will provide a platform to create and engage with the **arts**.
- The current duration of the programme is **17th May to 13th June**.
- The **planned workshops and hosts** of related events are expected to spark imagination, creativity and interest in visual and other related arts.
- The idea behind **designing and delivering online interactive programmes** is to provide a creative outlet to children, and indeed all interested adults.

DRDO develops an Oxycare system for soldiers

- The **DRDO-developed 'Oxycare' system for soldiers**, which is used in high altitude areas where oxygen levels drop, will now be used for Covid patients.
- A **total of 1,50,000 units worth Rs 322 crore** will be purchased under the PM Cares Fund.
- **Oxycare is a SpO2-based oxygen supply system**, which regulates oxygen that is administered to patients based on the sensed SpO2 levels.
- The Ministry of Defence stated that **PM Cares Fund** has accorded sanction for procurement of 1, 50,000 units of 'Oxycare' system developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** at a cost of Rs 322.5 crore.

MyGov launches Indian Language Learning App Innovation Challenge

- **MyGov** has launched the **Innovation Challenge to create an app** that will enable individuals to **learn** simple sentences of any **Indian language** and acquire working knowledge of a **language**.

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- The objective is to **create an app** that will promote regional **language** literacy, and **create** greater cultural understanding.
- **MyGov**, the citizen engagement platform of the **Federal government** has released an **Innovation Obstacle for creating an Indian Language Understanding Application**.
- This Innovation Problem has been released to get ahead of Prime **Minister Narendra Modi's** eyesight of celebrating India's cultural diversity through larger conversation.
- MyGov has released the **Innovation Obstacle** to build an app that will permit individuals to master basic sentences of any Indian language and receive working know-how of a language.
- The objective is to generate an application that will boost regional language literacy, and build larger cultural comprehending.

Additional food grains at 5 kgs per person per month in free of cost under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

- In line with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** commitment to the poor, the Government of India has decided to allocate **free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month** to nearly **80 Crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)** over and above NFSA foodgrains for next two months i.e. May and June 2021 on the same pattern as the earlier "**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)**".
- Under this special scheme (PMGKAY), around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders (PHH), will be provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements under NFSA.
- Government of India will bear **full expenditure** of over **Rs 26,000 Crore on account of cost of food grains**, intrastate transportation etc. as part of Central assistance to States/UTs.

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:

- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** is a **food security welfare scheme** announced by the Government of India in **March 2020**, during the **COVID-19 pandemic** in India.
- The program is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution **under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

Govt reported that compare with last year 24 per cent more wheat has been procured in Rabi Marketing Season 2021-22

- **24% more wheat procured during current Rabi Marketing Season 2021-22**.
- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution **over 373.51 Lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured** against the corresponding purchase of **over 300 Lakh tonnes last year**.
- The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**, Meals and Community Distribution in a statement reported that above 373.51 Lakh a tonne of wheat has been procured from the corresponding obtain of more than 300 Lakh tonnes previous year.
- It stated, approximately 38 lakh 22 thousand farmers have already benefited from the procurement functions with MSP benefit of above 73 thousand 768 crore rupees.

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- Procurement of wheat in Rabi Advertising and marketing Period is continuing effortlessly in the procuring States which includes Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

ICMR approves CoviSelf kit – a home testing covid kit

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR** has approved **CoviSelf kit** for the purpose of **home testing**.
- It stated that all symptomatic individuals who test negative by **Rapid Antigen Test** should get themselves immediately tested by **RT-PCR**.
- The **test kit** will be **priced at Rs 250** and available in a pack of one.
- **Mylab** current production capacity is **70 lakh tests per week** and **plans to increase** its capacity to **1 Crore tests per week within 14 days**.
- ICMR also stated, “The **home testing mobile app** is available in the Google Play Store and Apple store and must be downloaded by all users.
- The mobile app is a comprehensive guide of the testing procedure and will provide 'positive' or 'negative' results to the patient”.

Indian Navy designs ‘Oxygen Recycling System’

- **Indian Navy** has designed an **Oxygen Recycling System, ORS** to **mitigate the current oxygen crisis**.
- The Diving School of the Southern **Naval Command** of the **Indian Navy** has conceptualized and designed the **System to alleviate** the existing **Oxygen** shortage.
- The ORS has been **designed by** Lieutenant Commander **Mayank Sharma** of the Diving School.
- The system's design has been patented, and an application to this effect has been filed by the Indian Navy on May 13.
- **ORS is designed to extend the life of the existing medical oxygen cylinders two to four times**, using the fact that only a small percentage of oxygen inhaled by a patient is actually absorbed by the lungs, the rest being exhaled into the atmosphere along with carbon dioxide produced by the body.

51st virtual Indian Handicrafts & Gift Fair inaugurated in Delhi

- The **51st** edition of **virtual Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, IHGF of Delhi** was **inaugurated**.
- The **fair** is the **India's largest Virtual Fair** in the Home, Fashion, Lifestyle, Textiles and Furniture sector and an exclusive **B2B online platform** is developed to assist the buyers from all across the globe to source from India.
- **During the Fair Webinars on topics** such as “**Quick Ways to Optimise Forex Operations in Turbulent Times**” and “**Seven easy ways to grow your Exports**” will be organized to provide in depth knowledge to the participants so that they can keep themselves abreast with the international trade requirements.
- Further, craft demonstrations by Artisans on blue pottery, Warli painting, screw pine craft, Kani shawls, Meenakari, artistic Textiles will also form part of the activities that are scheduled during the fair

6 Indian places added to Tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- On May 18, 2021, Six Indian sites were added to **the tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites**, the **Ministry of Culture**.

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- The submissions were made by **Archaeological Survey of India**, which is responsible for the **conservation and preservation of Indian monuments**.

The six sites are namely :

- Satpura Tiger Reserve
- Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi
- Megalithic site of Hire Benkal
- Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra
- Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur,
- Temples of Kanchipuram.
- In Addition to that **UNESCO has 48 proposals in the tentative list of India**

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches project of honey testing laboratory at IARI

- On the occasion of **World Bee Day** and in the context of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the project of setting up of a **honey testing laboratory** at the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, and New Delhi**.
- He informed, efforts are also being made for good quality honey.
- Inaugurating the project to establish a regional honey quality testing laboratory at the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)** for quality testing of honey and other products of beekeeping under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission, Union Minister Shri Tomar said that when farmers used to get a bag of DAP for **Rs. 1200, its actual price was Rs. 1700**.
- The **government** used to pay the remaining **Rs. 500**.
- Government **provides a subsidy** of just **Rs. 500 per bag** in such a situation, it would have been available for the farmers for **Rs. 1900 per bag**.

Govt revises subsidy on export of sugar for sugar season 2020-21

- **Govt** revises subsidy on export of sugar for **sugar season 2020-21** from **Rs 6000 to Rs 4000 per metric tonne**.
- In view of the increase in international prices of sugar, the government has reviewed the subsidy on the export of sugar for sugar season 2020-21 and revised it from **Rs 6000 to Rs 4000 per metric tonne**.

About sugar export:

- **India**, the **world's biggest sugar producer after Brazil**, is unlikely to **export** the sweetener for up to three years as high **production** costs price shipments out of the global market and a drought in major growing regions squeezes output.

Export subsidy:

- **Export subsidy** is a **government policy to encourage export of goods and discourage sale of goods** on the domestic market through direct payments, low-cost loans, tax relief for exporters, or government-financed international advertising.

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Ministry of Ayush organizing series of five webinars

- The Ministry of Ayush is organizing various activities in the run up to the **International Day of Yoga, 2021**.
- One among these is a **series of five webinars** that the **Ministry** is **organizing under** the broad theme of **“Be with Yoga, Be at Home**.
- It is being **organized** in collaboration with **five** renowned organizations of the country who will present one **webinar** each on a particular topic of importance in the current scenario.
- The **first** among the **series** will be held on 24 May by **The Art of Living on “Finding inner strength amidst outer crisis.”**
- All the webinars will be live-streamed on YouTube & Facebook Page of the Ministry of Ayush.
- The **other four webinars** to follow in this series **will be presented by** The Yoga Institute, Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Arham Dhyana Yog, and Kaivalyadhama Yoga Institute.

About International yoga day:

- The **International Day of Yoga** has been celebrated annually on **21 June since 2015**, following its inception in the **United Nations General Assembly in 2014**.
- Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice which originated in India.

SC's E-Committee prepared and unveiled manual for its free e-Courts Services Mobile App

- The **Supreme Court E-committee** released a **manual** for its **free e-courts mobile application** in **14 languages** for better reach among litigants and lawyers.
- The **manual has been made available in** English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, and Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu.
- The application has crossed **57 lakh downloads** on the play store so far.
- The App which acts as a **personalized digital case diary** with case details available on the handset throughout the day and free of cost.
- Through the e-Courts services mobile app- one can get **the case status and case details** of **both High Courts and District Courts**.

Six Indian places included into tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- The **Ministry of Culture** announced **Six Indian sites**, including the temples of **Kanchipuram** in Tamil Nadu, **the Ganga ghats** in Varanasi, and the **Satpura Tiger Reserve** in Madhya Pradesh, have been added to the **tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites**.
- The **six sites are namely** Satpura Tiger Reserve, Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi, Megalithic site of Hire Benkal, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur, and temples of Kanchipuram.
- **UNESCO** has **48 proposals** in the tentative list of India.
- As per Operational Guidelines, 2019, it is mandatory to put any monument/site on the Tentative List (TL) before it is considered for the final nomination dossier.

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EAM Dr S Jaishankar interact with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** met **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres** in New York and discussed the COVID challenge, underlining the importance of finding urgent and effective global vaccine solutions.
- In his **first face-to-face interaction** with the UN chief since India entered the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member in January this year, Jaishankar also mentioned that the countering terrorism and radicalization remain priorities for the entire region.
- He highlighted India's constructive role in UNSC and conveyed priorities of the country's Presidency in August.

Govt to give assistance of Rs 1500 to each Transgender person

- As the **country is fighting with COVID19**, members of the **Transgender community** have been critically affected by the pandemic majorly because of serious disruption of livelihoods.
- The current situation in the country is compelling this marginalized community into extreme distress and acute shortage of basic needs like food and health.
- The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** being the nodal ministry for Transgender Welfare has decided to provide a **subsistence allowance of Rs.1500 to each Transgender person** as immediate support to meet their basic requirements.

National Horticulture Board cleared a record 1278 pending subsidy applications

- The **Agriculture Ministry** stated its autonomous body **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** has cleared a record **1,278 pending subsidy applications** for integrated development of hi-tech commercial horticulture, including promotion of post-harvest.
- "The team NHB has worked in a campaign mode to complete this commendable task," it said in a statement.
- **Agriculture Secretary and Chairman of the Managing Committee of NHB Sanjay Agarwal** kept a regular watch on the progress and continuously guided the NHB officials, it added.
- Under the direct supervision of the ministry, the NHB has also taken a lot of steps for ease of doing business by simplification of scheme guidelines, documentation and processing process of new applications, it noted.
- According to the ministry, the NHB has released the subsidy to **357 beneficiaries, while 921 new projects** have been approved in the last one year.

More than 1 lakh Metric Tonnes of food grains distributed to over 2 crore beneficiaries under PMGKAY-3

- **The Secretary**, Department of Food & Public Distribution **Shri Shudhanshu Pandey** briefed the media persons about **PMGKAY-3** and **One Nation One Ration Card scheme** through a virtual press conference.
- Secretary stated that "**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**" (**PM-GKAY III**), department started implementation of "**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**" (**PM-GKAY III**) for two months period i.e. May and June 2021 in same pattern as earlier by providing an additional quota of free-of-cost food grains (Rice/Wheat) at a **scale of 5 Kg per person per month**, over and above their regular monthly NFSA entitlements to **about 80 Crore beneficiaries** covered under both categories of NFSA, namely **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and **Priority Householders (PHH)**.

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- The Government of India will bear all expenditure of over **Rs 26,000 Crore** on account of food subsidy and **Central assistance to states/UTs** on account of intrastate transportation etc.

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:

- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** is a food security welfare scheme announced by the **Government of India** in **March 2020**, during the COVID-19 pandemic in India.
- The program is operated by the **Department of Food and Public Distribution** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

SC constitute the 12 member national task force to streamline oxygen allocation across country

- The **Supreme Court** formed a **12-member task force** to ensure medical oxygen is delivered throughout the country in a streamlined manner.
- A **bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud** set up the task force to assess and recommend the need and distribution of oxygen throughout India.
- The **court-appointed task force** will also provide a public health response on the basis of a scientific approach on issues of essential drugs, manpower and medical care to rural areas.
- The **task force consists of 10 doctors** and the convener of the task force will be the cabinet secretary to the Centre.
- The **secretary to the health ministry is also part of the 12-member committee** formed by the Supreme Court.

PM Modi declared Rs 10 Lakh PM CARES Fund for kids orphaned due to COVID

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced a number of welfare measures for children who lost their parents to COVID-19, including ensuring a corpus of **Rs 10 lakh** when they **turn 18** and providing for their education.
- While chairing a meeting to deliberate on steps that can be taken to support children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19, PM Modi stated they will be supported under the **"PM-CARES for Children" scheme**.
- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) mentioned that fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children, and the **PM-CARES** fund will contribute through a specially designed scheme to create a corpus of **Rs 10 lakh for each** of them when **he or she reaches 18 years of age**.
- All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under **Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY)** with a **health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh**.
- The premium amount for these children till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM CARES.

Government roll out some measures to help families who lost the earning member due to Covid

- The **Centre** announced some measures to **financially help families** who lost earning members to the **corona virus disease (Covid-19)**.
- These measures are meant to **help families maintain a good standard of living**.
- The Centre also liberalized and enhanced existing schemes to cover families of contractual and casual workers.
- The central government is extending the **Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme**, meant for employment-related deaths, to those who **died due to Covid-19**.

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- Dependent family members of the deceased are entitled to pension benefits, which would be 90% of the average daily wage drawn by the employee as per the existing norms.
- The government mentioned that, the insurance benefits provided under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI) has been enhanced by **increasing the maximum benefit** from **Rs.600, 000 to Rs.700, 000**.
- The provision of minimum insurance benefit of **Rs.2.5 lakh** has been restored and will apply retrospectively from 15th February 2020 for the next three years.

MIB orders private TV channels to promote four national level COVID-19 helpline numbers

- The **Centre** issued an advisory for **private television channels**, asking them to help the government spread awareness about the corona virus disease (Covid-19) pandemic by displaying four **national level helpline numbers**.
- The government stated it wants to create awareness about three things - Covid treatment protocol, Covid-appropriate behaviour and vaccination.
- The **National Helpline of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** for Covid related queries is - **1075**, the Child Helpline Number of Ministry of Women and Child Development is - **1098**.
- For Senior Citizens, the Helpline number of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is - 14567 and it is for **Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.
- While the **Helpline number of National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)** for psychological support is - **08046110007**.

Revision Points

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

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

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Ministry of Jal Shakti

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Jodhpur

Important International News

China unveiled core module of its space station

- **China launched** the core module of **its space station**, kicking off a series of key launch missions that aim to complete the construction of the station by the end of next year.
- The **Long March-5B Y2 rocket**, carrying the **Tianhe module**, blasted off from the **Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site** on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan.
- The **Tianhe module** will act as the management and control hub of the space station **Tiangong**, meaning Heavenly Palace, with a node that could dock with up to three spacecraft at a time for short stays, or two for long, **Bai Linhou**, deputy chief designer of the space station at the **China Academy of Space Technology (CAST)** said as reported by China's state news agency

Australian govt vow 1.7 billion Australian dollars in childcare subsidies

- **Australian Government** has pledged **1.7 billion Australian dollars** in **childcare subsidies** to boost female **participation in the workplace**.
- The spending targets families with more than one child in daycare, boosting subsidies for those with two or more **children aged up to five years-old to a maximum 95% subsidy** for their second and subsequent children.
- **Australian government Treasurer Josh Frydenberg** said that the measures are targeted, and are an investment in making Australian economy stronger and boosting female working participation.
- He added that the treasury estimates the additional spending will encourage up to 300,000 in additional work hours a week - equivalent to **40,000 people** working an extra day a week and boost Australia's economic output by about 1.5 billion Australian Dollars a year.

US nods major solar energy project in California desert

- The **US government** has approved a **major solar energy project** in the **California desert** that will be capable of powering nearly **90,000 homes**.
- The Interior Department said in a statement, that the **550 million dollar Crimson Solar Project** will be sited on **2,000 acres** of federal land west of Blythe, California.
- The announcement comes as **President Joe Biden** has vowed to expand development of renewable energy projects on public lands as part of a broader agenda to fight climate change, create jobs.
- The project will include a battery storage system and will be sited on land designated for renewable energy development by the **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan**.

EU Commission endorse to ease travel restrictions on fully vaccinated tourists

- The **European Union Commission** has recommended easing restrictions on non-essential travel from overseas for those who received the last dose of an **EU-approved vaccine**.

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- **EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** that it was time to revive the **EU tourism industry** and for cross-border friendships to rekindle safely.
- The EU currently only allows non-essential travel from seven countries.
- Discussions on the plans will begin.
- The EU has already announced plans for a **digital certificate**, which would cover anyone who is either vaccinated against Covid-19, has a negative test or has recently recovered.

World's Widest Airplane Stratolaunch Roc Completes Successful Second Test Flight

- The **world's largest plane 'Stratolaunch Roc'** successfully completed test flight for a second time.
- The Stratolaunch Roc completed a successful **test flight** over the **Southern California desert**.
- The flight, which lasted over three hours, makes the company's goal of using the **giant plane to air launch hypersonic vehicles** one step closer to reality.
- The vehicle reached an **altitude of 14,000-feet (about 2.6 miles)** at a top speed of **199 mph**.
- The **dual-fuselage Roc**, which has a jaw-dropping **wingspan of 385 feet**.
- It has been designed by the **American aerospace company, Stratolaunch** and nicknamed **"Roc"**.
- The aircraft will be used to launch rockets and space vehicles from **high atmospheric locations into the stars**.

Note :

- The **first successful flight** by aircraft was undertaken in **April 2019**.

Online campaign "Stop Tokyo Olympics" gathers almost 200,000 signatures

- As public concerns mount over holding the **Tokyo Olympics Games amidst COVID-19 pandemic**, an online campaign called **"Stop Tokyo Olympics"** has gathered **almost 200,000 signatures**.
- The Games which are due to **open on July 23** have already been postponed for a year due to the coronavirus.
- **Kenji Utsunomiya**, the **online petition organizer**, wrote on his website that they strongly call for the prevention of spread of coronavirus and protection of lives and livelihood by using available resources to stop the Olympics.
- Opinion polls in Japan have also found a majority of the public is opposed to the Games.
- But, organizers have repeatedly said the Games will go ahead, unveiling detailed Covid-19 protocols for athletes and officials.
- **Pfizer Inc** and its **German partner BioNTech SE** said that they had agreed to donate their vaccine to help inoculate those participating in the Games.

China put up economic dialogue with Australia

- **China** suspended an **economic dialogue with Australia**, stepping up a pressure campaign that began over Australian support for a probe of the corona virus and has disrupted exports to the **country's biggest foreign market**.
- Relations have plunged to a **multi-decade low since Beijing blocked imports of Australian coal**, wheat and other goods over the past year.
- But it has failed to force **Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government** to offer concessions.

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- The suspension follows **Australia's decision last month**, citing “national interest,” to cancel two deals signed by the state of Victoria with China’s multibillion-dollar **“Belt and Road”** construction initiative.
- Beijing warned then it might respond.
- The step **“signals a deterioration”** in official ties but is largely symbolic, said Caitlin Byrne, a specialist on Australia’s diplomatic relations in the Asia-Pacific region.
- She said officials haven’t met under the dialogue since 2017.
- “It’s certainly an important and symbolic move, but in terms of substance, the impact here is limited,” said Byrne, director of the Griffith Asia Institute at Australia’s Griffith University.
- Beijing will **“indefinitely suspend all activities”** under the **China-Australia Strategic Economic Dialogue**, said a statement by the Cabinet’s planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission.

US calls upon WHO to ask Taiwan for World Health Assembly as observer

- The United States has called upon the **World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** to **invite Taiwan** to participate as an observer at the upcoming annual meeting of the **World Health Assembly (WHA)**, saying there is no reasonable justification for Taipei’s continued exclusion from the forum.
- Asserting that Global health and global health security challenges do not respect borders nor recognize political disputes, **US Secretary of State Antony Blinken** said that Taiwan offers valuable contributions and lessons learned from its approach to these issues and **WHO leadership** and all responsible nations should recognize that excluding the interests of **24 million people** at the WHA serves only to imperil, not advance, our shared global health objectives.
- The WHA is set to hold its **74th annual meeting** virtually from **Geneva, Switzerland, from May 24 to June 1**.

Bangladesh: country’s first test run for Metro train in Dhaka

- The test run of the **first electrical metro train** in **Bangladesh** was conducted in Dhaka.
- **Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader** inaugurated the metro rail test run virtually.
- Six coaches of the metro train imported from Japan left the workshop inside the metro rail workshop in Diabari in Dhaka to travel about **500 metres at slow speed**.
- **Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Naoki Ito** was also present on the occasion at the test site.
- He stated that the first metro and electrified train in Bangladesh will be a symbol of the changing face of Dhaka.
- After the **‘receiving inspection’**, the trains will go through a functional test followed by a performance test in August

Elisabetta Belloni - The first woman to head Italy secret service

- **Prime Minister Mario Draghi** has **appointed** diplomat **Elisabetta Belloni** as the **head** of **Italy’s** spy agency, the **first woman to lead** the Department of Information **Security (DIS)**.
- **Belloni, 62**, has since 2016 been secretary general of the foreign ministry - the top job in the diplomatic **service**

Paris city council plans to reduce car traffic in centre of French capital by 2022

- A **plan to drastically reduce car traffic** in the **centre** of the **French capital Paris** by **2022** has been **put forward** by the city council.

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- The **council** informed, low-**traffic** zones will result in a less polluted, greener, more peaceful and safer **city**.
- During the COVID pandemic, **Paris** added hundreds of kilometres of cycle lanes.

Foreign Secretary welcomes new US Charge d'Affaires Ambassador

- **Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla** welcomed **new US Charge d'Affaires Ambassador Daniel B. Smith**.
- Mr Shringla conveyed appreciation for USA's solidarity and **assistance in dealing with the current COVID pandemic situation**.
- Both agreed to work together in enhancing vaccines and essential pharma cooperation, including raw materials supply.
- Both officials said they are looking forward to maintaining the upward trajectory of the strategic partnership.

Nepal's opposition parties begins to form new government

- Nepal PM **KP Sharma Oli** lost the vote of confidence at the Lower House.
- Coalitions of more than two parties representing in the parliament, who will form Nepal's new government, have already started consultations over the next leadership.
- **Opposition leaders, Sher Bahadur Deuba, Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Upendra Yadav** had called on **President Bidya Devi Bhandari** to initiate government formation procedure, soon after the commencement of a special session of parliament.

EAM Dr S Jaishankar interact with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** met **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres** in New York and discussed the COVID challenge, underlining the importance of finding urgent and effective global vaccine solutions.
- In his **first face-to-face interaction** with the UN chief since India entered the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member in January this year, Jaishankar also mentioned that the countering terrorism and radicalization remain priorities for the entire region.
- He highlighted India's constructive role in UNSC and conveyed priorities of the country's Presidency in August.

Revision Points

Country	Capital	Currency	Head
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Sheikh Hasina
Japan	Tokyo	Yen	Yoshihide Suga
China	Beijing	Renminbi	Xi Jinping
UK	London	Pound Sterling	Boris Johnson
Nepal	Kathmandu	Rupee	K.P.Sharma Oli
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum	Lotay Tshering
Sri Lanka	Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte	Rupee	Mahinda Rajapaksa

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Russia	Moscow	Ruble	Vladimir Putin
France	Paris	Euro	Emmanuel Macron
Netherlands	Amsterdam	Euro	Mark Rutte
Israel	Jerusalem	Shekel	Reuven Rivlin
Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan	Tenge	Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
Australia	Canberra	Dollar	Scott Morrison
Italy	Rome	Euro	Sergio Mattarella
USA	Washington, D.C.	Dollar	Joe Biden
Pakistan	Islamabad	Rupee	Arif Alvi
Germany	Berlin	Euro	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
New Zealand	Wellington	Dollar	Jacinda Ardern
Brazil	Brasilia	Real	Jair Bolsonaro
Portugal	Libson	Euro	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
Ireland	Dublin	Euro	Micheál Martin
Sweden	Stockholm	Krona	Stefan Löfven
Spain	Madrid	Euro	Pedro Sánchez
Austria	Vienna	Euro	Alexander Van der Bellen
Finland	Helsinki	Euro	Sauli Niinistö
Iceland	Reykjavík	Krona	Guðni Th. Jóhannesson
Kenya	Nairobi	Shilling	Uhuru Kenyatta
Ecuador	Quito	US Dollar	Guillermo Lasso
Samoa	Apia	Tālā	Fiame Naomi Mata'afa
Syria	Damascus	Pound	Bashar al-Assad
Namibia	Windhoek	Dollar	Saara Kuugongelwa
Oman	Muscat	Rial	Haitham bin Tariq
Switzerland	Bern	Franc	Guy Parmelin
South Africa	Cape Town	Rand	Cyril Ramaphosa
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Peso	Alberto Fernández
Canada	Ottawa	Dollar	Justin Trudeau
Monaco	No Capital	Euro	Albert II
Denmark	Copenhagen	Krone	Mette Frederiksen
Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan	Tenge	Askar Mamin

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Important Appointments

National Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Mahesh Balasubramanian	Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance	G Murlidhar
Suresh Agarwal	Managing Director and CEO, Kotak General Insurance.	
Samir Seksaria	Chief Financial Officer, Tata Consultancy Services	V Ramakrishnan
Subir Chakraborty	MD and CEO, Exide Industries	Gautam Chatterjee
T Rabi Sankar	4th deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India Other three are Michael D Patra, Mukesh Kumar Jain and Rajeshwar Rao	BP Kanungo
Tripurari Sharan	Chief Secretary of Bihar	Arun Kumar Singh
Harsha Bangari	Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India (Recommended)	She is Deputy Managing Director in Exim Bank
Wayne Burgess	Head of Vehicle Design, Ola Electric	
Raman Meenakshi Sundaram	Director - Indian Institute of Rice Research	IIRR is an arm of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Mamata Banerjee	West Bengal Chief Minister	It is her 3 rd time
N Rengasamy	Chief Minister of the UT of Puducherry	It is his 3 rd time
Peshotan Dastoor	Group President and Head of Sales, UTI Mutual Fund	
N Balachandar	Chief Human Resources Officer, Ola Electric	
Praveena Kala and Harshvardhan Raghunath	Public curiosity administrators, National Commodity Clearing	Present chairman of NCCL Ramaseshan and PID Shanti Srikanth was extended for three years

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Himant Biswa Sarma	Chief minister of Assam	
Gagandeep Singh Bedi	Chennai Corporation Commissioner	Singh was instrumental in the 'e-thottam' initiative
K Pitchandi	Pro-tem Speaker of the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly	Appointed by TN Governor Banwarilal Purohit
M.K.Stalin	Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu	Edappadi K Palanisamy
V Irai Anbu	Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu	
Padmakumar M Nair	Chief executive, National Asset Reconstruction Company	He is the CEO of State Bank of India
Rajeev Ranjan	Chief Operating Officer, McDonald's India- North & East	
Rajeev Goel	Chief Financial Officer, McDonald's India- North & East	
Sudhir Sitapati	Managing director and Chief Executive Officer, Godrej Consumer Products	The appointment would be effective from October 18, 2021
Nisaba Godrej	Executive Chairperson, Godrej Consumer Products	The appointment would be effective from October 18, 2021
Satoshi Uchida	New Head, Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd	
Ramesh Powar (A Committee of Ms Sulakshana Naik, Mr Madan Lal and Mr Rudra Pratap Singh selected Powar)	India women's cricket team head	WV Raman
Gunjan Shah	Chief Executive Officer, Bata India Limited	Sandeep Kataria
Sandeep Kataria	Global CEO of Bata Brands	
P Sitaram (He is an Executive Director of IDBI Bank)	Chief Financial Officer, IDBI Bank	Ajay Sharma
Sunit Sarkar	Internal Auditor, IDBI Bank	MV Phadke
Meghna Hareendran	Wellness Officer, Tech Mahindra	
Abhay Tewari	MD & CEO, Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd	He joined the company in the year 2014 as Appointed

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		Actuary
Reema Jain	Chief Digital Officer, Vodafone Idea Ltd	
Vivek Jain	Executive Vice President of marketing, Vodafone Idea Ltd	
Mathan Babu Kasilingam	Executive Vice President of technology security, Vodafone Idea Ltd	
Jagbir Singh	CTO, Vodafone Idea Ltd	
Arvind Kumar	Managing director, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd	He is currently an executive director at IOCL
S L Jain	Managing Director, Indian Bank (Recommended by BBB)	Padmaja Chunduru
MB Rajesh	Speaker of the 15th Kerala Assembly	
Subodh Kumar Jaiswal	Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation	
Balakrishna Alse S	Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent), Karnataka Bank	Former Executive Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce
Rajesh Bansal	Chief Executive Officer, Reserve Bank of India's Innovation Hub	
CRPF chief Kuldiep Singh	Director-General, National Investigation Agency (Additional Charge)	Y C Modi
B V R Subrahmanyam (J&K Chief Secretary)	OSD in the Union Commerce Ministry	Anup Wadhawan
AK Mehta	New J&K Chief Secretary	B V R Subrahmanyam
Samant Kumar Goel	RAW Chief (Tenure Extended)	
Arvind Kumar	IB Chief (Tenure Extended)	
Himanta Biswa Sarma	Elected to BWF Council (till 2025)	
Jose J Kattoor	Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India	
Arun Kumar Singh	Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Petroleum Corporation	

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	Limited (BPCL)	
Srinandan Sundaram	Executive Director, Hindustan Unilever - Foods and Refreshment	Sudhir Tripathi
Harmohan Sahni	Chief Executive Officer, Raymond Ltd	
Jagjit Pavadia	President, International Narcotics Control Board	

International Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Manisha Kapoor	Vice President, Advertising Standards Council of India	ASCI was set up by the European Advertising Standards Alliance in 2008
K P Sharma Oli	Prime Minister, Nepal	
Dr. Robert Hentschel (Appointed by TVS Company)	Chief Executive Officer, The Norton Motorcycle Co. Ltd.	John Russell
Vittorio Urciuoli	Chief Technical Officer, The Norton Motorcycle Co. Ltd.	Appointed by TVS Company
Rajesh Agrawal	London's Deputy Mayor for Business	Re-appointed by Mayor Sadiq Khan
Neera Tanden	Senior adviser to US President Joe Biden	She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management
Tulsi Naidu	Independent director, Wipro	She is the Zurich Insurance Group CEO for Asia Pacific
Toru Saito	President & CEO, Mitsubishi Mahindra Agricultural Machinery Co Ltd, Japan	
Moeed Yusuf	Pakistan's National Security Adviser	Appointed by Pakistan PM Imran Khan
Martha Karambu Koome	Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya	1 st woman CJ of Kenya; Appointed by President Uhuru Kenyatta

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Sonali Malaviya	Managing Director, Essence	The agency has 20 offices in 12 countries
Anvee Bhutani	Oxford Student Union President	
Guillermo Lasso	President, Ecuador	Lasso defeated Andres Arauz
Fiame Naomi Mata'afa	Prime Minister, Samoa	
Arun Venkataraman	Key administrator, USA	Nominated by Joe Biden
Andy Jassy	CEO, Amazon	Jeff Bezos
David Barnea	Next head of Israel's Mossad	Yossi Cohen
Laurence des Cars	President-Director of Musée du Louvre	She is the current head of the Musée d'Orsay
Bashar al-Assad	President, Syria	
Christine Wormuth	First female Army secretary, U.S. Senate	

Resignation/Retirement

Name of the Person	Designation
Zhang Yiming	CEO of TikTok-owner ByteDance

Centre named three members on CBDT board

- ACC approves **appointment** of Anu J Singh, J B Mohaparta and Anuja Sarangi as new **members**. The Government approved **appointment** of three **members** for the Central **Board** of Direct Taxes (CBDT). CBDT is the apex policy making body for direct taxes such as Personal Income Tax and Corporate Tax.
- Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) stated that **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of **Aditya Vikram and Pramod Chandra Mody** as the CBDT members.
- The **CBDT is headed by a chairman** and can have a **maximum of six members**.
- Its chief, **Sushil Chandra**, will be in office till May 31 next year.
- Senior tax officers **Shabri Bhattasali and Arbind Modi** are the **other CBDT members**.

Important Awards and Honours

Winner	Prize	Awarded By/Theme/Purpose
Singer Pink	Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs)	Previous honourees are Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah

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		Carey and Garth Brooks
Maria Ressa of the Philippines (Investigative journalist and media executive)	2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.	Award Ceremony took place in Windhoek, Namibia
Prabnoor Singh Kohli, Tijil Gupta, and Amol Singh Cheema of Amity International School	First place in the Husky Investment Tournament	Hosted by the College of Business at Michigan Technological University
Rafael Nadal	Sportsman of the Year award	At the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards
Naomi Osaka	Sportswoman of the Year award	At the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards
Bayern Munich football team	World Team of the Year award	At the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards
Lewis Hamilton	Athlete Advocate of the Year	His first win in the Sportsman of the Year category came in 2011
Liverpool footballer Mo Salah	Sporting Inspiration Award	At the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards
Billie Jean King	Lifetime Achievement Award	At the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards
Rajeev Taranath (Classical Musician)	Basavashree award for 2019	Announced by Murugha Mutt pontiff Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru.
Dr K Kasturirangan	Basavashree award for 2020	Announced by Murugha Mutt pontiff Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru.
Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	International Invincible Gold Medal of 2021	
Nuklu Phom	Whitley Awards 2021 (Green Oscar)	For his work "Establishing a biodiversity peace corridor"
Writer T Padmanabhan	Ramakrishnan Award	
Anil Vallathol (Ezhuthachan, a textbook), Jon Samuel (Yathastu) and L.Gopikrishnan (I am my enemy)	Abu Dhabi Shakti Award for Knowledge Literature	

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Desamangalam Ramakrishnan (Can I Meet You) e. Sandhya (because she has a mother)	Abu Dhabi Shakti Award for Poetry	
Kalavoor Ravikumar's Chinese Boy	Abu Dhabi Shakti Award for children's literature	
T Pavithran (Property) and Cheramangalam Chamunni (Journals of Life)	Abu Dhabi Shakti Award for Drama	
Jane Goodall	2021 Templeton Prize	Awarded by John Templeton Foundation
Manchester City's Pep Guardiola	Manager of the year	By England's League Managers' Association.
Dr D Nageshwar Reddy (Chairman of AIG Hospitals)	Rudolf Schindler Award (The highest category in the Crystal Awards of ASGE.)	He is known as 'Father of gastroscopy'
Ruben Dias	Footballer of the year	By England's Football Writers Association
Hockey India	Etienne Glichitch Award	Announced by the FIH during the Hockey Invites virtual conference
Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (Department of General Education)	Social Media for Empowerment Awards South Asia (SM4E) award In the category 'Innovations @Covid19'.	To ensure digital education through the 'First Bell; programme
Amartya Kumar Sen	Spain's top Princess of Asturias Award	Category - Social sciences
V Karthikeyan Pandian	FIH (International Hockey Federation) President's Award.	He is the Private Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik
SpiceHealth (Founded by SpiceJet)	Gold Award at the 2021 Asia- Pacific Stevie Awards	For 'Most Valuable Medical Innovation'
Prof CNR Rao	Eni Award 2020	For research into renewable energy sources and energy storage

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Robert Lewandowski	European Golden Boot Award	
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Odisha CM announces International award in memory of Manoj Das

- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced **'Manoj Das International Literary Award'** in memory of the great litterateur who passed away at a hospital in Puducherry on April 27.
- The **international award with prize money of Rs 10 lakh will be given to Odia writers for their creative writing in English every year.**
- The Chief Minister also announced **'Manoj Kishore Sahitya Prativa Samman'** to **create interest among youths for literature.**
- The award will be given at the high school level for original creative writing in **Odia and English.**
- The **prize money for the awards will be Rs 1 lakh each.**
- Similarly, the ancestral house of Das will be taken over by the State government and converted to **'Manmath-Manoj'** memorial as per a proposal of family members in memory of the two illustrious brothers, eminent historian Manmath Nath Das and legendary writer Manoj Das.

Indian-American chemist Sumita Mitra nominated for inventor award

- **Indian-American chemist Sumita Mitra** has been nominated as a finalist in the **"Non-EPO countries"** category of the **European Inventor Award 2021** for applying nanotechnology to the production of dental materials, leading to the creation of a **new composite to repair teeth** which have many advantages over conventional materials.
- Mitra's material overcomes many of the limitations of previous dental composites, which were either too weak to be used on biting surfaces, or quickly lost their polish and became physically unattractive, according to a release.
- In addition, her invention is more versatile than other composites, and can be used in any area of the mouth, and simplifies the filling procedure for dentists.

Kalasagar awards announced to honour kathakali artists

- The **11th Kalasagar awards** for exemplary contribution in the field of traditional performing arts for the year have been announced
- The **awards will be presented on October 14 at Kunnamkulam Badhani School Palace** on the occasion of the **28th death anniversary of Kalamandalam Krishnankutty Poduval, kathakali maestro and founder of Kalasagar.**
- **Kalasagar awards** are given in honour of artists in the **field of kathakali** (vesham, music, chenda, maddalam and chutti) bharathanatyam, mohiniyattam, kuchipudi, ottanthullal, chakyarkoothu, koodiyattam, thayambaka and **panchavadyam** (thimila, maddalam, edakka, thalam and kombu).

The winners of this year's awards in kathakali are:

- **Kalamandalam Chambakara Vijayakumar** (vesham/actor),
- **Kalanilayam Rajeevan** (pattu/music),

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- **Kalamandalam Balasundaran** (chenda/percussion),
- **Sadanam Devadas** (maddalam/percussion),
- **Kalanilayam Padmanabhan** (chutti/makeup), and
- **Kalamandalam Jishnu Prathap** (chakyarkoothu).
- **Margi Ramchakyar** (koodiyattam),
- **Vinitha Nedungadi** (mohiniyattom),
- **Kalamandalam Sarojini** (bharathanatyam) and
- **Porur Haridas** (thayambaka).
- **Awards in panchavadyam:**
- **Vaikam Chandran Marar** (thimila),
- **Kalamandalam Nataraja Variyar** (maddalam),
- **Balusseri Krishnadas** (edakka), and
- **Mattanur Ajith Marar** (thalam).
- **Peramangalam Vijayan** has been selected for the award in **kombu**.

Prime Minister Hasina hands over Independence Award 2021

- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave away** the highest civilian **award** of Bangladesh '**Swadhinta Puraskar 2021**' also known as **Independence Award** to nine individuals and a research organisation.
- She handed over the **award** at her official residence Ganabandhan in Dhaka.
- The Independence Award is conferred on people or organizations for their outstanding contribution to the Liberation War of Bangladesh, Science and Technology, literature and Culture among others.
- The **award for the year 2021** included **four posthumous awards** given to AKM Bazlur Rahman, Shaheed Ahsanullah Master, Brigadier General Khurshid Uddin Ahmed, and Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu for their contribution to independence and the War of Liberation.
- **Dr. Mrinmoy Guha Neogi** received the **honour for his contribution to Science and Technology** while **Mohadeb Saha** was bestowed with the **award for his contribution to the field of literature**.
- **Ataur Rahman and Gazi Mazharul Anwar** got the **award for Culture** and **Prof. M Amjad Hossain** for **Social Work**.
- **Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council** received the **award in the research and training category**.

3 Indian peacekeepers among 129 personnel to be honoured with UN's prestigious medal

- **Three Indian peacekeepers**, who laid down their lives while serving in **UN peacekeeping missions** last year, are among **129 military, police and civilian personnel** honoured with a prestigious UN medal awarded posthumously for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.
- **Corporal Yuvraj Singh** who served with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and two civilian peacekeepers **Ivan Michael Picardo**, who served with UNMISS, and **Mulchand Yadav**, who worked for the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) were **honoured posthumously** with the Dag Hammarskjold Medal during a sombre virtual ceremony here on the occasion of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

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- **India is the 5th largest contributor** of uniformed personnel to **UN peacekeeping** with more than 5,500 military and police serving in peace operations in Abyei, Cyprus, Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan and the Western Sahara, according to the UN.

Important MOU's

JSW Renew Energy sign pact with SECI for selling 540 MW green energy

- **JSW Renew Energy**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **JSW Future Energy**, has **signed** agreement with **Solar Energy Corporation of India** to **sell 540 MW** of the overall awarded capacity of **810 MW**.
- **JSW Future Energy** had won the wind **power** project by bidding **Rs.3 per kwh**, sources said.
- JSW Energy marked its entry into the wind power generation sector by winning **810 MW projects** in the auction conducted by **SECI in August 2020**.
- Sources aware of the developments said talks are currently underway between the company and SECI to sign a PPA for the remaining capacity won in the auction.
- The company was awarded the wind project against its quote of **Rs 3 per unit**.

India, UK elevate bilateral ties to adopt comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Roadmap 2030

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his **British counterpart Boris Johnson** have adopted an ambitious '**Roadmap 2030**' to elevate bilateral ties to a '**Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**'.
- The Roadmap will pave the way for a **deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years** in the areas of people to people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health.
- In a **Virtual Summit** held, the two leaders discussed the Covid19 situation and ongoing cooperation in the fight against the pandemic, including the successful partnership on vaccines.
- **Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Johnson** for the prompt medical assistance provided by the UK in the wake of the severe second wave of Covid19 in India.
- Prime Minister Johnson appreciated India's role in extending assistance to the UK and other countries over the last year, including by way of supply of pharmaceuticals and vaccines.

NDDB sign MoU with EESL to offer energy efficient solutions to dairy industry

- **The National Dairy Development Board** said it has signed an agreement with **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** to **promote** efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on **May 5 at Ananda, Gujarat** by **NDDB Executive Director Meenesh Shah** and **EESL Director (Projects) Venkatesh Dwivedi** in the presence of senior officials, it said in a statement.
- As per the agreement, EESL will conceptualize, propose and design technically sound alternate energy generation solutions for plants in the dairy cooperative sector across the country.
- It will also arrange necessary technical and funding support for the design, development and operation of the non-conventional energy generation models.

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- Whereas **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** will extend its expertise in dairy business/dairy plant management/other related activities to facilitate /support conceptualising, development and implementation of the alternate energy generation models.

Oil and Gas PSUs and Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust signed MoU

- **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** were signed between the **Oil and Gas PSUs, Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL** and **Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust for Construction and Redevelopment** of Shri Badrinath Dham as a Spiritual Smart hill Town.
- The **MoUs** were signed in the **presence of** Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Tirath Singh Rawat, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Tourism Minister of Uttarakhand Satpal Maharaj, Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor, Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand Om Prakash, and senior officers of the Petroleum Ministry, Uttarakhand Government and Oil and Gas PSUs.

Cabinet nods MoU between India and UK on Migration & Mobility Partnership

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the signing of an **MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership** between **India and the UK**.
- It is aimed at liberalizing issuance of visas promoting mobility of students, researchers and skilled professionals and strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.
- 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.

Cipla signed ink pact with US-based Eli Lilly

- **Drug major Cipla** has inked a pact with **US-based Eli Lilly And Company** to manufacture and produce baricitinib in the country for the **treatment of COVID-19**.
- The Mumbai-based company said it has signed a royalty-free, non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreement with Eli Lilly for baricitinib.
- Baricitinib has already received a restricted emergency use approval by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)**, Ministry of Health, India, for use in combination with remdesivir for the treatment of suspected or laboratory confirmed COVID-19 in hospitalised adults requiring supplemental oxygen, invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).
- This collaboration is a step further in the company's efforts to enhance access to critical treatments for patients affected by the pandemic.

Geojit sign an ink pact with PNB

- **Geojit Financial Services** has entered into an agreement with **Punjab National Bank** to provide a **three-in-one account** to the latter's customers.
- The new service gives customers who **have** a savings account with PNB, a **PNB demat account** and **Geojit trading account**.

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- Saving and Demat accounts can be opened online in PNB with a hassle free approach.
- The **3-in-1 account** makes it easier for PNB customers to transfer funds real time via the payment gateway facility from their savings accounts to meet their investment needs.

Cabinet approves signing of MoU between ICAI and QFCA

- The **Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA).
- This MoU will benefit the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Qatar Financial Centre Authority.
- The MoU would enhance cooperation between the Institutes to work together to strengthen the Accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar.
- ICAI has an active **Chapter in Doha, Qatar** which was established in the year 1981 and is the oldest among the **36 overseas Chapters of the ICAI**.
- The membership of the Chapter has grown steadily since its founding days and presently has over **300 members** who hold key positions in various private and public companies and are actively involved in support and development of the accounting profession in Qatar.

OneWeb announced an agreement with SoftBank to roll out satellite communication services

- **SoftBank** and **OneWeb** will jointly engage in technical and product development for **Japan and global markets**.
- **SoftBank Corp** and Sunil Mittal-backed **OneWeb**, announced an **agreement** for mutual cooperation to promote **OneWeb's satellite communication services** in the global and Japan markets.

Tribal Affairs Ministry sign MOU with Microsoft

- **Tribal Affairs Ministry** and **Microsoft** have signed a MoU for digital transformation of **Tribal Schools** such as Eklavya Model Residential **Schools** and Ashram **Schools**.
- Under the program, 250 Eklavya Model Residential **school**, EMRS have been adopted by **Microsoft** out of which 50 EMRS **schools** will be given intensive training.
- This MOU will support the digital transformation of schools such as **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** and Ashram Schools, among others under the Ministry at an online event '**Empowering Youth For Success**'.
- Under affirmative action initiative, Microsoft will make AI curriculum available to tribal students in both English and Hindi at all EMRS schools under the Ministry to skill educators and students in next-generation technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

Eli Lilly sign ink pact with Natco Pharma

- **Drug firm Eli Lilly** said it has signed a voluntary licensing agreement with **Natco Pharma** to further expedite the **availability of baricitinib for COVID-19 patients in India**.

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- The company has issued an **additional royalty-free**, non-exclusive voluntary license to Natco Pharma and the Hyderabad-based company will be collaborating with Eli Lilly to further accelerate and expand the availability of baricitinib in India during this pandemic.
- Eli Lilly and Company has received permission for restricted emergency use by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**, for baricitinib to be used in combination with remdesivir for the treatment of suspected or laboratory confirmed COVID-19 in hospitalized adults requiring supplemental oxygen, invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation.

BDR Pharmaceuticals signed ink pact with Eli Lilly

- **Drug firm BDR Pharma** stated it has inked a licensing pact with **Eli Lilly And Company** for the manufacturing and distribution of **Baricitinib** for the treatment of COVID-19 in India.
- The company mentioned it has entered into a royalty-free, limited and non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreement with Eli Lilly and Company.
- Eli Lilly has received the permission for the drug for restricted emergency use from **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization**, a division of the **Ministry of Health**.

India and Oman renew MoU on military cooperation

- The ministry stated that, "India and Oman renewed the **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** on military cooperation along with its annexure as well as on maritime issues on May 20".
- The **document was signed by** Secretary-General of Oman's defence ministry **Dr Mohammed bin Nasser Al Zaabi** and Indian Ambassador **Munu Mahawar**.
- The MoU on cooperation on maritime issues was signed at the maritime security centre by Commander of Royal Navy of Oman Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi and Mahawar.

Dun & Bradstreet India, BSE sign MOU

- **Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India**, a global provider of **B2B data**, insights, and AI-driven platforms, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with BSE to create an ecosystem for promoting, aiding, and fostering the **growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** in the country.
- The partnership will help SMEs in India to increase their visibility, expand access to global markets, find potential customers, uncover new suppliers and channel partners, manage risk and identify growth opportunities.

NHA signs MoU with Telangana Govt

- The **National Health Authority, NHA** has signed an **MoU** with **Telangana Government** for implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** in the state with immediate effect.
- The **Ayushman Bharat scheme** has been integrated with the existing state scheme '**Aarogyasri**' and this converged scheme is being called Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri.
- NHA will provide several auxiliary support to State Health Agency including related to fraud and abuse control.

About Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:

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- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** of the Government of India aims to **provide free access to healthcare** for 50 crore people in the country.
- People using the program access their own primary care services from a family doctor.
- **Launched:** 23 September 2018
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Cabinet gives nod for MoUs entered into by ICoAI & ICSI with foreign countries

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has granted ex-post facto approval to the **Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** entered into by **Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI)** and **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** with various Foreign Countries/Organizations.
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (**ICoAI**) and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (**ICSI**) have signed MoUs with foreign organizations namely **Institute of Public Accountants (IPA)**, Australia, Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, UK (CISI), Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), UK, Institute of Certified Management Accountants, Sri Lanka and Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA), UK.
- The signed MoUs would help in advancement of the goals on equity, public accountability and innovation among the beneficiaries' countries.

IIM Indore joins hands with GIZ

- In line with its mission to stay contextually relevant and contribute to nation building, **Indian Institute of Management Indore** has joined hands with **The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)**, **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**, to connect the dots across myriad sectors to understand how they grappled with COVID-19 for forthcoming pandemic preparedness.
- For this, IIM Indore has received a research **grant of Rs 85.3 lakh**.

WHO and Switzerland signed an agreement to launch first WHO BioHub Facility

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **Switzerland** May 25, 2021 signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to launch a **BioHub facility for pathogen storage, sharing and analysis**.
- The move is significant in the view of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the need to underline the importance of sharing pathogen information to assess risks and launch countermeasures.
- The **BioHub** will **enable member states** to share biological materials with and via the BioHub under **pre-agreed conditions, including biosafety, biosecurity, and other applicable regulations**.
- This will ensure timeliness and predictability in response activities.

India and EIB signed finance contract for second tranche of 150 mn Euro for Pune Metro Rail

- The **Government of India** and **European Investment Bank (EIB)** signed the finance contract for second tranche of **150 million Euro** for Pune Metro Rail project through a virtual signing ceremony.
- Additional Secretary in the **Ministry of Finance**, **K. Rajaraman** signed the loan on behalf of Government of India and **Mr. Christian Kettel Thomsen**, Vice-President, signed the loan on behalf of EIB.

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- The Ministry of Finance in a statement said, the project aims to provide an efficient, safe, economic and pollution-free **Mass Rapid Transit System** in a densely populated area in the city of Pune served with heterogeneous traffic options.
- The financing from EIB will help to fund construction and operation of **Corridor 1- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to Swargate** and Corridor 2 -Vanaz to Ramvadi, totaling about 31.25 kilometer and purchase of a related fleet of metro cars.
- Further, the project will serve a large population which consists of the working class in providing urban mobility for their livelihood.
- The **Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd** is the implementing agency for this project.

Important Summit & Conference

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

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

India, UK unveil 10-year road map For Enhance bilateral trade partnership

- **On May 04, 201, The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson** held a virtual Summit meeting.
- During the meeting , **Both Countries Leaders are unveiled an ambitious 10-year road map to elevate the India-UK bilateral relationship** to a comprehensive strategic partnership.
- It is paving the way for a **stronger engagement in areas such as trade and economy, defence and security, and health**.
- The UK prime minister announced a **new India-UK trade investment worth £1 billion**.
- During the summit meeting, **India and the UK inked nine pacts**, including
- These pacts were in areas such as migration and mobility, digital and technology, telecommunications, energy and medicines, counter-terrorism, besides agreeing to boost collaboration in dealing with climate change through a new partnership on renewables and power.
- They also launched an **enhanced trade partnership (ETP), which would include negotiating a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA)** and an interim trade agreement for delivering early gains.
- Both nations will **work towards a road map for concluding pre-FTA discussions by year-end**
- Both countries set an **ambitious target of more than doubling the bilateral trade by 2030**.

India, France, Australian Holds First-ever Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue in London

- **On May 04, 2021, The first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue** held in **London, UK**.

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- It 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.
- The **G7 meeting is the first in-person interaction of foreign ministers of the grouping amid the pandemic.**
- The **last such meet was in France in 2019.**
- **G7 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.**
- For the G7 FMs meet this year, the UK as the host had invited India, Australia, South Korea, South Africa and the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- The France-India-Australia trilateral was **launched in September 2020 at foreign secretaries' level with three joint priorities: maritime security, environment, and multilateralism.**
- The **focus of the three countries is expectedly also on Indo-Pacific as well.**
- Both France and Australia are part of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) announced by India in 2019.

PM Modi participates India-European Council Meeting Virtually

- **On May 08, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the India-EU Leaders' Meeting at Virtually.**
- The Prime Minister attended the event at the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr. Charles Michel.
- This is the **first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU27 format.**
- In that Meeting, **all the 27 EU Member States as well as the President of the European Council and the European Commission Participated.**

Purpose :

- It is to **strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership based on a shared commitment to democracy, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and multilateralism.**
- Both India & EU welcomed the decision to resume negotiations for balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements.

In that Meeting, They exchanged views on key thematic areas :

- Foreign policy and security;
- COVID-19, climate and environment; and
- Trade, connectivity and technology.
- The leaders launched an ambitious and comprehensive '**Connectivity Partnership**' which is **focused on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity.**
- The Partnership is based on the shared principles of social, economic, fiscal, climate and environmental sustainability, and respect for international law and commitments.
- India and the EU also agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation on digital and emerging technologies such as 5G, AI, Quantum and High-Performance Computing including through the early operationalization of the Joint Task Force on AI and the Digital Investment Forum.
- A **finance contract of 150 million Euro for the Pune Metro Rail Project was signed by the Finance Ministry, and the European Investment Bank.**

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4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue held virtually in New Delhi

- The **fourth India-Swiss Financial Dialogue** was held here virtually through video conferencing.
- **Ajay Seth, Secretary Economic Affairs** led the Indian delegation.
- The delegation from the Swiss side was led by **Daniela Stoffel, State Secretary**, and State Secretariat for International Finance, Switzerland, said an official press release.
- The Indian delegation included representatives from the Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Financial Services and Ministry of External Affairs.
- The dialogue, inter-alia, covered sharing of experiences by both countries for collaboration on various aspects including investments, **International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)**, **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**, **FinTech**, **sustainable finance** and **cross border financial services**.
- Further, matters relating to **G20**, **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy were discussed along with infrastructure financing, read the release.

India Seats 1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting

- The **first BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting** was held on 11-12 May 2021 in **Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi** in virtual format.
- **India** has assumed the **BRICS Presidency** this year.
- The Meeting **Chaired by Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment**.
- **About the Meeting :**
- The prime agenda for the **discussions were Promoting Social Security Agreements amongst BRICS Nations, Formalization of labour markets**.
- Apart from representatives of member nations and the representatives of **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and **International Social Security Agency (ISSA)** also attended the meeting.
- **BRICS : Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**

India participates in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial

- **India** Participated in the **3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3)** - the global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the **Arctic region** On **May 08th and 09th 2021**.

Theme of 2021 :

- Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'.

Purpose :

- The meeting is designed to provide opportunities to various stakeholders, including academia, indigenous communities, governments and policymakers, to enhance collective understanding of the Arctic region, emphasize and engage in constant monitoring, and strengthen observations.
- The first two meetings ASM1 and ASM2 were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018

About ASM3 :

- 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) jointly organised by **Iceland and Japan**.

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- It is the **first Ministerial meeting** being held in Asia (Tokyo in Japan)
- India shared its plans to contribute observing systems in the Arctic, both in-situ and by remote sensing.
- It would deploy open ocean mooring in the Arctic for long-term monitoring of upper ocean variables and marine meteorological parameters.
- The launch of NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite mission, in collaboration with the USA, is underway.
- NISER aims to conduct global measurements of the cause and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging. India's contributions to the Sustained Arctic Observational Network (SAON).

G-7 ministers meet to hold first in-person talks in two years

- **Foreign and development ministers** from the **Group of Seven** leading industrial nations will be meeting in London this week in their first face-to-face discussions in two years, with U.S. Secretary of **State Antony Blinken holding talks with British host Dominic Raab.**
- The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and a post-Brexit trade deal are likely to feature in the discussions between **Blinken and Raab.**
- A possible prisoner exchange deal with Iran is also likely to feature in their talks.
- Speculation has mounted that the United States and the U.K. are in discussions with Iran over the release of prisoners, which could see the release of **British-Iranian woman Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.**

PM Modi to take part in European Council meeting

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will participate in the meeting of the **European Council as a special invitee.**
- The India-EU Leaders' Meeting is being hosted by **Prime Minister of Portugal António Costa.**
- Portugal currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- Mr Modi will **participate** in the meeting along with the Heads of State or Government, of all the **27 EU Member States.**
- The leaders will exchange views on the COVID-19 pandemic and healthcare cooperation, fostering sustainable and inclusive growth, strengthening the India-EU economic partnership as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- The India-EU Leaders' Meeting is an unprecedented opportunity for discussion with all the leaders of the EU Member States.
- It is a significant political milestone and will further build on the momentum witnessed in the relationship since the **15th India-EU Summit in July last year.**

Union Health Minister chaired 74th World Health Assembly

- Union Health Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** chairs **74th World Health Assembly.**
- Director-General of the World Health Organization **Dr Tedros** was also present on the occasion.
- **Highlighting the achievements of the 148th session**, which was held from **18th January to 26th January 2021**, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** noted that the Board called for further efforts to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19

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vaccines through the COVAX Facility and encouraged WHO to work closely with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to identify the zoonotic source of the virus.

- The Board emphasized the importance of adopting a **'One Health'** approach following consideration of a report on anti-microbial resistance and welcomed **Member State's participation** in the revision of the Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance.”

2nd BRICS Sherpas' and Sous Sherpas' meeting concluded

- **Under India's Chairship**, BRICS countries held **second Sherpas and Sous Sherpas' meeting** for four days from **May 25 to May 28**, wherein they discussed the preparations for the upcoming meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers, which is scheduled to be held on **June 1**.
- The meeting was **chaired by** Indian delegates, Secretary (CPV & OIA) **Sanjay Bhattacharyya** and Additional Secretary (Economic Relations), **P. Harish**, as India's BRICS Sherpa and Sous Sherpa respectively.
- **BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa)** partners appreciated the positive leadership of Indian Chair in advancing intra-BRICS cooperation, despite challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.
- "They negotiated key deliverables for **India's BRICS 2021 Chair ship**, including outcome documents for the Foreign Ministers' meeting.
- The Ministers had **exchanged views** on major international and regional issues in the political, security, economic, trade, financial and sustainable development spheres.

Union Health Minister chairs 33rd meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries opening session

- **Dr. Harshvardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** chaired the opening session of the **33rd meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries** through video conference.
- **Agenda of the Meet** - 'Ensuring Equitable Access to Vaccines and Building Resilience for Health Systems and Emergencies'
- Health minister stated that, **"My motto has always been 'Health for those without wealth'"**
- He pointed out how **India's thrust on telemedicine** would show the way.
- "In India, such hurdles were overcome by **the extensive use of technology**."
- **Our National telemedicine platform eSanjeevaniOPD** has been one such remarkable initiative which facilitated **over 5 million consultations** in a short span of 14 months.

Revision Points

Conference/Summits	Venue/Host Country	Chaired By/Theme/Addressed By/Others
G-7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting	Virtual	Represented by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad
First-ever Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue (India, France &	London	Attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar

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Australia)		
India-EU Leaders' Meeting	Virtual	Attended by PM Modi
4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue	Virtual	Led by Ajay Seth, , Secretary Economic Affairs
1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting	New Delhi	Chaired by Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment.
3rd Arctic Science Ministerial	Organised by Iceland and Japan	Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'.
European Council Meeting	Virtual	Hosted by Prime Minister of Portugal António Costa.
74th World Health Assembly	Virtual	Chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan
2nd BRICS Sherpas' and Sous Sherpas' meeting	Virtual	Chaired by Sanjay Bhattacharyya & P. Harish
33rd meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries	Virtual	Chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan

Important Defence News

US Army-led NATO military exercises DEFENDER-Europe 21 launched in Albania

- On April 26, 2021, The US-Army led multinational, joint exercise 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' was kicked off in Albania.
- It will be conducted in more than 30 training areas in 12 countries during April, May and June, including Western Balkan countries.
- This was the annual US-led military exercises.
- It will consist of 28,000 forces from 26 nations, including the United States, NATO countries and their allies.
- It is designed to build readiness and interoperability between US and NATO and partner militaries.
- **About DEFENDER - Europe :**
- DEFENDER-Europe is an annual large-scale U.S. Army-led, multinational exercise, defensive in nature and focused on deterring aggression, which this year focuses on building operational readiness and interoperability with NATO and a greater number of allies and partners over a wider area of operations than ever before.

Indian Navy unveiled Op Samudra Setu-II for Shipment of Oxygen-filled Containers to India

- Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II to augment the ongoing national mission for meeting the Oxygen requirements.

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- Mission deployed Indian Naval warships will undertake shipment of **liquid Oxygen filled cryogenic containers** and associated medical equipment in support of the nation's fight against COVID-19.
- Two ships **INS Kolkata** and **INS Talwar** have entered port of Manama, Bahrain for embarking and transporting 40MT of liquid oxygen to Mumbai.
- **INS Jalashwa** is enroute to Bangkok and **INS Airavat** to Singapore for similar missions.
- Last year Indian Navy had launched Operation Samudra Setu as part of the **Vande Bharat Mission** and repatriated approx 4000 (3992) stranded and distressed Indian citizens from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Iran.

To Fight War Against Covid-19 Indian Armed Forces Launches 'Operation CO-JEET'

- **India's armed forces** have launched a **special operation** called '**CO-JEET** against COVID-19.
- The three services have been pressed into service to **help restore oxygen supply chains, set up COVID beds and provide help to the civilian administration.**
- CO-JEET" to aid anti-COVID-19 efforts, like **strengthening medical infrastructure and oxygen supply chains, as well as take measures to ensure mental wellbeing of people.**
- Spearheading efforts is **Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) Lt Gen. Dr Madhuri Kanitkar.**
- Lt Gen Kanitkar, who is the **third woman to become a three-star general** in the armed forces, is working round the clock to strategise and monitor steps to provide relief to COVID-19 patients.

Indian Army clarifies, Defence Ministry has nod to total of 50 Armed Force Medical Services

- **Indian Army** has clarified that the **Defence Ministry** has approved a **total of 50 Armed Force Medical Services, AFMS hospitals** including 42 Army, **five Air Force and three Navy** designated as **Dedicated and Mixed COVID Hospitals.**
- Besides the entitled clientele of the AFMS, serving **personnel, dependents, veterans, and their dependents, civilians** may also be admitted subject to referral by the local health authority after ascertaining bed availability at these facilities.
- **Indian Army** Informed, has come to its notice that there is a full list of **AFMS Hospitals** being circulated in SocialMedia claiming that all these hospitals are open for admitting COVID positive civilian patients.

Indian Army Launches First Solar Plant in North Sikkim

- **On April 30, 2021, Indian Army** has recently **inaugurated the first green solar energy plant** in Sikkim.
- The facility, which uses **vanadium-based battery technology.**
- It was **built at an altitude of 16000 ft. in the northern part of the state and has a capacity of 56 KVA.**
- Lt. Col P. Khongsai, Public Relation Officer (Defence) Guwahati, informed that the **project was commissioned in collaboration with IIT Mumbai.**
- The plant will **not only be environment friendly** but also ensure the well-being of the army personnel who work in forward areas under challenging climate.
- The plant is **expected to produce at least 15 lakh units of electricity annually or about 1.25 lakh units per month.**

About Vanadium :

- **Vanadium**, in India, was **first found in January 2021 in Arunachal Pradesh.**

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- **India currently consumes 4 percent of Vanadium** in the world.
- **China is the largest producer of Vanadium.**
- Vanadium, a transitional metal and a good conductor of heat and electricity, is used to strengthen steel, make nuclear reactors, space vehicles, steel alloys, and create renewable sources of energy.

Indian Navy established 150 bed covid care centre in Odisha

- **On May 07, 2021, Covid Care Centre** established to **treat COVID positive patients of Khurda District** by Indian Navy at its **ab-initio Training Establishment, INS Chilka**, under the aegis of Naval Officer -in- Charge (Odisha) was **inaugurated by Mr SK Mohanty, District Collector, Khurda District.**
- The **150 bed isolation centre** with an **additional 15 bed oxygen facility** at **INHS Nivarini**, the naval hospital, is all geared up for treating mild symptomatic Covid positive Patients.
- Dedicated doctors/ paramedical staff from the district medical authorities along with personnel from the station community will be **functioning 24x7 at the COVID Care Centre to provide adequate facilities and care to all its patients.**
- The District Collector during his address appreciated the Indian Navy for playing a crucial role of support in the battle against COVID-19.
- He also apprised that this facility for Khurda district will not only enable better treatment to the infected people, but the support from the Indian Navy will also boost up their confidence.
- This is a **sterling example of Civil - Military cooperation towards a common aim, provide succour to COVID positive patients.**

In southern Arabian Sea Indian and Indonesian navies carry out military drill

- **On May 08, 2021, The navies of India and Indonesia** carried out a **military drill in the Southern Arabian Sea.**
- It is **focused on further improving their interoperability.**
- The Indian Navy was represented at the '**Passage**' exercise by **INS Sharda, an offshore patrol vessel (OPV)**, and the Indonesian Navy was represented by **KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a corvette.**

Aim :

- The exercise was aimed at **improving interoperability and understanding between both the friendly navies.**
- The '**Passage**' exercises are regularly **conducted by the Indian Navy with friendly foreign navies.**

BEML Initiates mechanical minefield marking equipment for Indian Army

- For Indian Army , **Bharat Earth Movers limited** has rolled out the **first prototype of mechanical minefield marking equipment Mk-II.**
- It has been built on **BEML TATRA 6x6** an '**Atmanirbhar**' product.
- The equipment has been developed through **Technology of Transfer (ToT)** from **Research & Development Establishment Engineers (R&DE Engineers), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**

Benefits :

- **MK-II will greatly benefit Indian army to mark/fence minefields.**

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- The system is designed to operate in plains of Punjab, as well as semi-desert & desert of Rajasthan, in all weather conditions.
- BEML is expected to receive the orders of more than 55 systems from MoD (Ministry of Defence) after the successful trial evaluation.

INS Rajput, Indian Navy's first destroyer, to be decommissioned

- On May 21, 2021, INS Rajput, the first destroyer of the Indian Navy, will be decommissioned after over 41 years of service.
- It was the lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR.
- The ship had the motto "Raj Karega Rajput"
- INS Rajput was constructed in the 61 Communards Shipyard in Nikolaev (present-day Ukraine) 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 USSR.
- Captain Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani as her first Commanding Officer.
- The ship participated in several operations aimed at keeping the nation secure and also participated in numerous bilateral and multinational exercises.
- It was also the first Indian Naval Ship to be affiliated with an Indian Army regiment, the Rajput Regiment.

Important Science and Technology News

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates India's first 3D printed house at IIT-M

- On April 27, 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the country's first 3D printed house at IIT, Madras.
- The single-storey home has a built-in area of 600 sq. ft. and a functional space comprising a single bedroom, hall, and kitchen.
- It has been built in just five days.
- The entire ensemble is designed, developed, and realised by Tvasta's indigenous 'Concrete 3D Printing' Technology, which was developed by the faculty members and alumni of the IIT-Madras back in 2018.
- It was developed in association with Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Centre for Innovation in Shelter.
- The 3D Printed House would help to meet the deadline of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'housing for all' scheme by 2022.

Indian Scientists develop high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean

- Indian Scientists have developed a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean MACS 1407.
- It is suitable for cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states.

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- Scientists from **MACS- Agharkar Research Institute, Pune**, in collaboration with **Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi** have developed this higher yielding varieties and improved practices for the cultivation of soybean.
- The new variety **MACS 1407** gives 39 quintals per hectare and it is also resistant to major insect pests like girdle beetle, leaf miner, white fly and defoliators.
- It is suitable for rain-fed conditions of north- east India.

Scientists Discover The Smallest Black Hole In The Milky Way Galaxy Dubbed 'The Unicorn'

- **Scientists** have discovered the smallest-known black hole in the **Milky Way galaxy** and the closest to our solar system.
- It was **nicknamed 'the Unicorn.'**
- The black hole is roughly three times the mass of our sun.
- The black hole is **located about 1,500 light years** - the distance light travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km) - from Earth.
- A **luminous star called a red giant orbits** with the **black hole in a so-called binary star system** named **V723 Mon.**

World's largest aeroplane by Stratolaunch completes test flight

- The **world's largest aeroplane, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles** and facilitate easy access to space, soared into clear skies over **California's Mojave Desert.**
- The company **Stratolaunch designed it to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space.**
- The aircraft named 'Roc' features a twin-fuselage design and the longest wingspan ever flown, at 385 feet (117 m), surpassing the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat of 321 feet (98 m).
- The **Stratolaunch is intended to carry a 550,000-pound payload** and will be able to **launch rockets from high altitude.**

IBM Unveils World's First 2 Nanometer Chip Technology

- **On May 06, 2021, IBM** unveiled a breakthrough in **semiconductor design and process** with the development of the **world's first chip announced with 2 nanometer (nm) nanosheet technology.**
- Semiconductors play critical roles in everything from computing, to appliances, to communication devices, transportation systems, and critical infrastructure.
- **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.**
- The potential benefits of these advanced 2 nm chips could include:
 - **Quadrupling cell phone battery life**, only requiring users to charge their devices every four days.
 - **Slashing the carbon footprint of data centers**, which account for one percent of global energy use. Changing all of their servers to 2 nm-based processors could potentially reduce that number significantly.

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- **Drastically speeding up a laptop's functions**, ranging from quicker processing in applications, to assisting in language translation more easily, to faster internet access.
- **Contributing to faster object detection and reaction time** in autonomous vehicles like self-driving cars.
- **VINCOV-19- Novel antibody engineered product to treat COVID-19 cleared for clinical trials**
- **VINCOV-19- Novel antibody engineered product to treat COVID-19 cleared for clinical trials**
- It is a **collaborative effort of the University of Hyderabad (UoH), CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and Vins Bioproducts Ltd.**
- It got **approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI)** for clinical trials to test against the COVID-19 pandemic.

About VINCOV-19 :

- VINCOV-19 is an **antibody product obtained after immunisation of horses with inactivated SARS-CoV-2 virus in combination with adjuvants.**
- It has a high neutralising capacity against SARS-CoV-2.

DRDO develops AI tool for COVID detection in chest X-rays

- **DRDO has developed an artificial intelligence Named ATMAN**, based on intelligent software that **helps in Covid detection.**
- The Software uses **Chest X-rays and classifies those into normal, Covid19, pneumonia classes with the help of sample images** that are limited in number (a few hundreds).
- The tool was **developed by DRDO's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), with the support of 5C Network & HCG Academics.**
- The ATMAN AI is an **artificial intelligence tool for chest X-ray screening as triaging tool in COVID-19 diagnosis** which is a method for **rapid identification and assessment of lung involvement, according to a statement issued by HCG Academics.**
- **Triaging COVID suspect patients using X-ray is fast, cost-effective and efficient.**
- The algorithm showed an **accuracy of 96.73 percent.**
- It can be a useful tool especially in **smaller towns in our country owing to lack of easy access to CT scans.**
- The tool would help in **automatically detecting radiological findings indicative of COVID-19 in seconds**, enabling physicians and radiologists to more effectively triage the cases, especially in an emergency environment.

NITI Aayog set up CovAid portal for real-time monitoring of relief

- The **NITI Aayog has set up a dedicated portal CovAid for tracking all aid coming via missions or by individual organisations.**
- It can be tracked **online end-to-end till distribution by the donors.**
- **HLL Lifecare Limited and Concor** have been engaged for logistical support.
- The **Indian Red Cross Society** is the consignee for all consignments of donations from foreign countries being received by the missions.

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- HLL Lifecare is functioning as the customs agent for the processing of customs and other regulatory clearances.
- The mission forwards the list to the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** which is further shared with the health ministry for allocation.

About CovAid portal :

- It is a **completely transparent system for distribution of foreign aid with a detailed SOP (standard operating procedure)**
- The SOP has been laid out to ensure that the states with high active cases receive supplies on a priority basis.
- **Note :**
- Indian government has also **launched a vaccine registration app CoWin (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Work)** to make India's vaccination drive smoother.

NASA, Axiom Agree to First Private Astronaut Mission on International Space Station

- **On May 10, 2021, NASA and Axiom Space** have signed an order for the **first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station by January 2022.**
- It has been **designated as Axiom Mission 1 (AX-1).**
- It will consist of a **crew of 4 astronauts and it will be launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, US.**
- **4 Astronauts :**
- The 4 Astronauts are **Michael López-Alegría**- veteran of 4 spaceflights and vice chairman of Axiom Space.
- **Larry Connor**, an American actual property entrepreneur who will function pilot on the mission
- **Mark Pathy**, a Canadian investor and philanthropist.
- **Eytan Stibbe**, an Israeli businessman and fighter pilot.

DRDO's 2-DG drug Launched for treating Covid-19 patients

- **On May 17, 2021, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan** launched the **first batch of drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose drug to treat Covid-19 patients.**
- It has been **developed by DRDO's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories.**

About 2-DG Drug :

- The 2-DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose) is an **anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug.**
- It received Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approval for emergency use after the medicine was found to be safe for treating COVID-19 patients in its phase 2 trials.
- It helps in **faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces oxygen dependence**

China lands Tianwen-1 spacecraft on the Red Planet

- **On May 15, 2021, Chinese spacecraft** successfully landed the **first Mars rover Zhurong** on the surface of Mars.
- China is the **second country after the US to send a rover to the surface of the Red Planet.**
- A **China National Space Administration (CNSA) lander from the Tianwen-1**, which has been in orbit, touched down on Utopia Planitia, a large plain in the northern hemisphere of Mars.

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- The lander was carrying the Zhurong rover, named after an ancient Chinese god of fire, which will explore the surface near the landing site.
- The Zhurong Mars rover is hoped to ignite the spark of China's interplanetary exploration and guide humanity deep into the vast yet unknown outer space

Simorgh - Iran Develops Its Most Powerful New Supercomputer

- On May 16, 2021, Iran unveiled a new supercomputer named 'Simorgh'.
- Till date It is 100 times more powerful than the previous supercomputer of the country.
- It is built domestically by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT).
- The supercomputer, which is named after a legendary Persian bird Simorgh.
- Currently It has an output potential of 0.56 petaflops.
- Simorgh will achieve one petaflop in two months.

Function areas :

- It will be used for artificial intelligence workloads, traffic and weather data, and image processing

Reliance Jio Establishing largest international submarine cable system, India as a Centre

- On May 17, 2021, Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio Infocomm will be constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India.
- It will consist of the India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) system connecting India eastbound to Singapore and India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connecting India westbound to the Middle East and Europe.
- These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200 Tbps of capacity
- spanning over 16,000 kilometres.

Note :

- It is the first time in the history of fiber optic submarine telecommunications, these systems place India at the centre of the international network map

JUICE - Europe's Jupiter spacecraft enters testing phase

- The European Space Agency developed an interplanetary spacecraft named JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) that has entered into a testing phase.
- It can be tested at Esa's European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in the Netherlands.
- The tests are scheduled to take 31 days to complete.
- It has been assembled by Airbus Friedrichshafen, Germany.
- Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer Lift off by 2022 on an Ariane 5 rocket and it is expected to reach Jupiter in 2029.
- It will begin an extensive investigation of the planet and its oceanic moons: Europa, Ganymede and Callisto will investigate the conditions necessary for habitability.

Atlas V rocket launches SBIRS GEO-5 satellite for US Space Force

- A United Launch Alliance (ULA - American Spacecraft Service Provider) Atlas V rocket has successfully launched the Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO) Flight 5 mission.

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- It was launched from **Space Launch Complex-41 (SLC-41)** at **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station** in Florida, US.
- It was the **87th launch of the Atlas V rocket**, It is also **ULA's 144th mission**.
- The **first four SBIRS GEO satellites** were launched by **Atlas V** between 2011 and 2018.

About SBIRS GEO-5 satellite :

- **SBIRS GEO-5** is the **first military space satellite** built on an **LM 2100 Combat Bus**.
- It is a version of **Lockheed Martin's modernised, modular LM 2100 space vehicle**.

Google floats News Showcase in India

- **On May 18, 2021, Google** launched its **global licensing programme, News Showcase**, in India.
- Amid mounting pressure from the global media fraternity asked for a **fair price and advertising share from technology platforms**.
- In **February, the Indian Newspaper Society (INS)** had also asked search engine Google to compensate newspapers for the use of content published by them and sought a larger share of its advertising revenue.
- Google has sealed agreements with **30 Indian publishers to offer access to some of their content**.
- The content from these publishers will begin to appear in dedicated News Showcase story panels in Google News and on Discover pages in English and Hindi.
- The support for more local languages will be added in the future.
- It will also **pay participating news organizations to give readers access to a limited amount of paywalled content**

NASA Finished its Pre Launch test on James Webb Space Telescope

- **James Webb Space Telescope** , The world's largest and most powerful space science telescope **Successfully Completed its Pre Launch Test**.
- This event **marked a key milestone in preparing the observatory for launch later this year**.
- It is done by opening its iconic primary mirror.
- The **6.5 meter (21 feet 4 inch) mirror** was commanded to fully expand and lock itself into place.
- It will survive its million-mile (1.6 million kilometre) journey and is ready to discover the origins of the Universe.
- The mirrors will function as one massive reflector, to enable the telescope to peer deeper into the cosmos than ever before.
- It can be fitted within a **5 meter launch vehicle** and it is **designed to be folded in origami style**

Haiyang-2D - China successfully launches new ocean observation satellite

- **On May 19, 2021, China** successfully launched a **new ocean-monitoring satellite Haiyang-2D (HY-2D)** into orbit.
- The satellite was **launched by a Long March-4B rocket** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre** in northwest China.
- This **launch was the 370th by the Long March rocket series. Enditem**
- **About Haiyang-2D Satellite :**
- The HY-2D will form a constellation with the HY-2B and HY-2C satellites to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic **ocean environment monitoring system of high frequency and medium and large scale**.

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- It was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology, and the carrier rocket by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology.
- The constellation will support the country's early warning and prediction of marine disasters, sustainable development and utilisation of ocean resources, effective response to global climate change as well as ocean research.

Microsoft quits Internet Explorer in June 2022

- On May 19, 2021, Microsoft announced that the Internet Explorer 11 desktop browser will be retired on June 15, 2022, for certain versions of Windows 10.
- It will be replaced by Microsoft Edge with IE mode that will support older Legacy Internet Explorer-based websites and applications until 2029.
- Microsoft 365 will terminate support for Internet Explorer 11 in August 2021.

About Internet Explorer :

- Internet Explorer (IE), launched in 1995 by Microsoft, is a series of web browsers that operate on Windows.

NASA Plans to Launch its first mobile robot on the moon in 2023

- The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration is sending its first mobile robot VIPER to the moon in 2023.
- Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) is part of the Artemis program.
- **Purpose :**
- It will map and explore the moon's resources on and under the lunar surface, particularly water-ice.
- This will help them in providing a sustained human presence on the moon.

About VIPER :

- 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.
- VIPER will carry four instruments on board
 1. Regolith and Ice Drill for Exploring New Terrains (TRIDENT) hammer drill,
 2. The Mass Spectrometer Observing Lunar Operations (MSolo) instrument,
 3. The Near Infrared Volatiles Spectrometer System (NIRVSS)
 4. The Neutron Spectrometer System (NSS).

Union Defence Minister launches online medical service SeHAT OPD for armed forces personnel

- On May 27, 2021, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched an online portal called 'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation' or 'SeHAT' OPD.
- The services can be availed by registering on the website <https://sehatopd.in/>.

Purpose :

- It will provide health services to armed forces personnel, veterans and their families.

Significance :

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- The portal will help reduce the load on hospitals and patients will be able to get contactless consultations in an easy and effective manner.
- The defence minister also discussed about the anti-Covid oral drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a leading laboratory of the DRDO, in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.

DRDO develops isothermal forging technology for aero-engines

- On May 28, 2021, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the near isothermal forging technology used in manufacturing parts for aero engines.
- The technology has been developed by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier metallurgical laboratory of DRDO in Hyderabad.
- The DRDO established the near-isothermal forging technology to produce all the five stages of high-pressure compressor (HPC) discs out of difficult-to-deform, titanium alloy, using its unique 2000 MT (metric tonne) isothermal forge press.

IIT Ropar develops unique detector 'FakeBuster'

- The Indian Institute of Technology in Punjab's Ropar stated that the institute along with Australia based Monash University has developed a unique detector named 'FakeBuster' to detect imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.
- The detector can also find faces manipulated on social media to defame or make jokes of someone.
- In the present scenario of pandemic when most of the official meetings and work is being done online, this standalone solution enables a user to detect if another person's video is manipulated or spoofed during a video conferencing.
- The IIT team asserted that 'FakeBuster' is one of the first tools to detect imposters during video conferencing using DeepFake detection technology.

In 2022 SpaceX accepts Dogecoin as payment to launch lunar mission

- SpaceX will launch the "DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon" in the first quarter of 2022, with Elon Musk's commercial rocket company accepting the meme-inspired cryptocurrency dogecoin as payment.
- It will be the First crypto in space and First meme in space.
- On crypto data tracker CoinGecko.com, dogecoin has jumped more than 800% over the last month and is now the fourth-largest digital currency

About the Mission :

- DOGE-1 represents a 40 kilogram cube satellite flying as a payload on a Falcon 9 rocket.
- This mission will demonstrate the application of cryptocurrency beyond Earth orbit and set the foundation for interplanetary commerce.

Long March 5B lands in Indian Ocean

- On May 09, 2021, China's biggest rocket Long March 5B lands in Indian Ocean

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- Its lands with the bulk of its components destroyed upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.
- Parts of the Long March 5B re-entered the atmosphere and landed at a location with the coordinates of **longitude 72.47 degrees east and latitude 2.65 degrees north**.
- Most of the debris was burnt up in the atmosphere.
- The coordinates put the point of impact in the ocean, **west of the Maldives archipelago**.
- The Long March was the **second deployment of the 5B variant since its maiden flight in May 2020**.

IAU Confirms 8 features on moon with chinese names

- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has approved China's application for naming eight new features on the moon around the landing site of the **Chang'e-5 probe**.
- It was launched last November and landed December 1, collected lunar samples and returned to Earth on December 17.
- It was the **first attempt to bring the lunar samples in over 40 years after the US sent astronauts to the Moon to collect samples**.

IIT Ropar Introduces a 'FakeBuster' to detect imposters in virtual conferences

- The **Indian Institute of Technology in Ropar, Punjab** has developed a detector called **FakeBuster**.
- It is a **deep fake detector to identify and prevent imposters from attending video conferencing and manipulating faces on social media**.
- It has been developed by IIT Ropar in partnership with Australia based Monash University.

About FakeBuster :

- The 'FakeBuster' is a **deep learning-based solution that helps detect if a video is manipulated or spoofed during a video-conference meeting**.
- FakeBuster' can function online and offline.
- It uses a **3D convolutional neural network for predicting video segment-wise fakeness scores**.
- It will detect imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge
- It will also **help to find out faces manipulated on social media to defame or make jokes of someone**.

Note :

- Till now, Using DeepFake detection technology, It is the **first tool developed that can easily detect imposters**.

Important Environment News

Two damselfly species Euphaea thosegharensis and Euphaea pseudodispar discovered in Western Ghats

- **Researchers have collaborated to discover two damselfly species from Satara district in Maharashtra, which forms part of northern Western Ghats**.
- The **new endemic damsels named Euphaea thosegharensis and Euphaea pseudodispar**.
- The discoveries have been published in the **Journal of Threatened Taxa**.

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- It belonging to the genus *Euphaea*,
- Both were discovered by a team comprising Sriram Bhakare, Pratima Pawar and Sunil Bhoite from Mumbai and Kalesh Sadasivam and Vinayan Nair representing the Thiruvananthapuram-based Travancore Nature History Society.
- The specimens were spotted by Dr. Bhakare in May 2020 at Thoseghar in Satara district.

New species of skink - *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis* found from Nilgiri hills

- A group of herpetologists gathered for the South Asian Reptile Red List Assessment organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) discovered a new species of Asian gracile skink from the dry leeward slopes of the Nilgiri hills (Western Ghats), Tamil Nadu state, India.
- The new species has been named *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis*

About *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis* :

- It has a slender, small-sized body (47-67 mm).
- The new species is sandy brown in colour, with each scale tipped with black.
- The new species is related to *Subdoluseps pruthi* (Sharma, 1977) which is found in parts of the Eastern Ghats in peninsular India.
- It feed on insects such as termites, crickets and small spiders
- Their skinks are not poisonous, they resemble snakes due to their often inconspicuous limbs and the way they move around land.
- The discovery of this new population raises two novel scenarios.
 1. It renders the genus *Subdoluseps* evolutionarily polyphyletic with respect to the Indian species included in this genus.
 2. It falsifies the notion that *S. pruthi* group skinks are restricted to the Eastern Ghats.

Note :

- *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis* is currently considered a vulnerable species.
- Skinks are lizards belonging to the family Scincidae

Cyclone Tauktae makes landfall in Gujarat

- In the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, Indian Meteorological Department Informed that Tauktae the extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm made landfall.
- It is Formed in the Arabian Sea.
- It mainly causes damage to the states of Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu.
- The Cyclone Cause Several rains, and winds upto 150-160 kmph.

About Tauktae :

- The Cyclone name given by Myanmar, it means gecko.

New species of snake Discovered From Tuticorin, Tamilnadu : *Platyceps josephi*

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- A group of researchers has discovered a new species of **racer snake** named **Platyceps josephi** from Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu
- The new species is named after late herpetologist Naveen Joseph.
- It is published in **Vertebrate Zoology**.

About **Platyceps josephi** :

- **Platyceps josephi**, colubrid medium sized (maximum total length 951 mm) snake.
- It can be seen in the **open grasslands with rocky and scrub habitats**.
- It has distinct **white bands** on its body and **irregular white spots** on its head.
- It is a **non-venomous terrestrial snake**.

Note :

- **Platyceps josephi** should be considered a species in the **Vulnerable category** according to the IUCN criteria.

New species of African violet Discovered in Mizoram : **Didymocarpus vickifunkiae**

- Researchers of the **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)**, Bhopal, have discovered a new **endangered species** **Didymocarpus vickifunkiae** of a plant belonging to the African Violets family in **Mizoram** and its adjacent areas in **Myanmar**.
- The discovery has been published in the reputed journal '**Systematic Botany**' a peer reviewed journal published by the **American Society for Plant Taxonomists**.

About **Didymocarpus vickifunkiae** :

- The newly-described species **Didymocarpus vickifunkiae** belongs to the family **Gesneriaceae**
- It is commonly known as '**African Violets**'
- Its members are distributed across the **Western Himalayas to Sumatra**.

Note :

- **Didymocarpus vickifunkiae** Considered as the **endangered species**.
- There are **106 currently known species** of this genus, of which **26** are present in the northeastern states of India,
- The species is named after a **renowned botanist** in honour of **Dr Vicki Ann Funk** who worked at the **Smithsonian Institute, USA**.

British Antarctic Survey Found Breakage of World's Largest Iceberg From Antarctica

- A **massive chunk** of iceberg named **A-76** has broken off Antarctica.
- It Becomes the **largest iceberg** in the world.
- It was **first spotted** by a **British Antarctic Survey** researcher
- It was then **confirmed** by the **U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC)** using images from the **Sentinel-1A** satellite.
- It was **captured** by the **European Union's Copernicus Sentinel**
- The **finger-shaped chunk** of ice, which is roughly **105 miles (170 kilometers)** long and **15 miles (25 kilometers)** wide and with an area of **4320 square km**.

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Cyclone Yaas makes landfall in Balasore of Odisha

- On May 26, 2021, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed that the very severe cyclonic storm Yaas caused landfall between Bahanaga and Remuna coast of Balasore in Odisha.
- Cyclone Yaas has crossed north Odisha coast about 20 km south of Balasore with wind speed of 130-140 kmph gusting to 155 kmph.
- The Cyclone Name Yaas was given by Oman.
- Yaas is a Perisian Language and it means Jasmin.

Important Rankings and Indexes

Brand Finance Report : LIC 10th most-valuable insurance brand, third-strongest globally

- State-owned insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation has emerged as the strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally in Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.
- The annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.

Purpose :

- To identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally.
- However, LIC's brand value increased by almost 7 per cent to \$8.65 billion.
- There are five Chinese insurance companies in the top 10 most valuable insurance brands globally, with Ping An Insurance emerging the world's most valuable insurance brand, despite recording a 26 per cent drop in brand value.
- In the strongest insurance brands category, Italy's Poste Italiane was at top position, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India.
- However, the total brand value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6 percent from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021.

Based On the Report :

- Most Valuable Indian Insurance Brand – LIC (10th)
- Most Strongest Indian Insurance Brand – LIC (3rd)
- Most Valuable Global Insurance Brand – Ping An Insurance, China
- Most Strongest Global Insurance Brand – Poste Italiane, Italy

Knight Frank's global prime property index for Q1 of 2021 Globally Bengaluru slips to 40th spot

- Bengaluru has slipped four positions to rank 40th globally in annual price appreciation of luxury residential properties, according to real estate consultant Knight Frank.
- Bengaluru witnessed a fall of 2.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in prime residential prices during January-March
- In its 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2021' report, Knight Frank mentioned that New Delhi and Mumbai, too, slipped one spot each to rank at 32nd and 36th, respectively.
- Shenzhen ranked 1st with 18.9 percent annual change for the period Q1 2020 Q1 2021.
- New York was the weakest performing market and ranked 46th with a fall of 5.8 per cent in prices annually.

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- **Prime residential property** is defined as the most desirable and most expensive property in a given location, generally defined as the top 5 percent of each market by value.
- The **Prime Global Cities Index** is a valuation-based index tracking the movement in prime residential prices in local currency across 45+ cities worldwide.
- In the last report, Delhi was at 31st position, while Mumbai ranked 35th and Bengaluru 36th.

India Ranked 3rd spot on RECAI index Released by EY

- India has moved a notch higher at the third spot on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index.
- It is the 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index released by Ernst & Young.
- The US retains top position on RECAI 57, Followed by China, India, United Kingdom, and France.
- India's solar sector is expected to grow significantly post the pandemic, with generation from solar PV forecast to exceed coal before 2040.
- India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.

Note :

- EY Global Power & Utilities Corporate Finance Leader and RECAI Chief Editor : **Ben Warren**
- Partner and National Leader, Power & Utilities, EY India : **Somesh Kumar**

S&P Global Market Intelligence : India emerges as second-largest insurance technology market

- India is the **second largest insurance technology market in the Asia Pacific**, as per a new report released by S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- India has the second-largest insurance technology market after China.
- **China was the largest insurance-technology market** and it accounts for around 43% of the total investment.
- **India** Contributes for **USD 1.28 billion**, or 35% of the total venture capital poured into the insurtech sector in the Asia Pacific region so far.
- Out of 335 private insurtech firms in the APAC region, 122 companies have disclosed their fundraise, amounting to a total of USD 3.66 billion.
- Nearly half of them are headquartered in India and China, and have collectively attracted about 78% of the total investment.

Forbes Highest-Paid Athletes for 2021 : UFC Champion Conor McGregor Tops

- The 2021 Forbes' list of the world's highest-paid athletes, the former Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) and renowned mixed martial arts superstar **Conor McGregor**, has been ranked top position.
- This is the first time when McGregor has topped the coveted Forbes list.
- From May 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021, as measured he earned a massive **\$180 million**.
- Followed by Professional Footballer **Lionel Messi** stood second place with an earning of \$130 million and **Cristiano Ronaldo** earned \$120 million he was in third place.
- **Note :**

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- The total earnings of the top ten highest-paid athletes in the world was \$1.05 billion during the past 12 months, which is 28% more than 2020 top earners.

Top 10 Forbes Highest-Paid Athletes for 2021 :

Rank	Name	Sports	Total	Country
1	Conor Mc Gregor	Mixed Martial arts	\$180 million	Republic of Ireland
2	Lionel Messi	Association Football	\$130 million	Argentina
3	Cristiano Ronaldo	Association Football	\$120 million	Portugal
4	Dak Prescott	American Football	\$107.5 million	United States
5	LeBron James	Basketball	\$96.5 million	United States
6	Neymar	Association Football	\$95 million	Brazil
7	Roger Federer	Tennis	\$90 million	Switzerland
8	Lewis Hamilton	Auto racing	\$82 million	United Kingdom
9	Tom Brady	American Football	\$76 million	United States
10	Kevin Durant	Basketball	\$75 million	United States

Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders list released

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden topped Fortune's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders and Adar Poonawalla too made it to the list.
- CEO of Serum Institute of India, Poonawalla is the only Indian among the top 10 names on the list.
- Ardern has been lauded for her efficiency in tackling and stopping the coronavirus surge in her country.
- Poonawalla, on the other hand, has also played a significant role in the manufacturing and supplying COVID-19 vaccines.
- Other names who made it to the list of top 10 of the top 50 leaders include mRNA pioneers; Paypal CEO Daniel H Schulman; NBA Rescuers; Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's John Nkengasong; Ping An's Jessica Tan among others.

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Important Schemes List

Assam: State govt announces CM's Sishu Sewa Scheme financial support for children who lost parents due to COVID-19

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced the **Mukhyamantri Sishu Sewa Achoni** scheme which will provide relief to children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.
- As per this scheme, those children who have lost both their parents and are being looked after by their extended family members will be entitled to **Rs 3,500 financial aid per month**.
- Children **below the age of 10 years** without any family support will be provided shelter at child care institutions.
- They will have access to the required **education facilities**.
- Adolescent girls who have been orphaned will be accommodated at reputed institutions like **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya** to ensure that they are cared for sensitively and provided **proper protection**.
- **In the case of girls of marriageable age** who have lost their parents, the government of Assam will provide **one tola of gold under the Arundhati Gold scheme and one-time financial assistance of Rs 50,000**.

J&K: LG launches Scheme 'SASCM' for families lost earner of the family

- **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** launched a **Special Scheme** for financial assistance to families which have lost their only bread earner due to COVID pandemic.
- The J&K Government has adopted a comprehensive approach, by creating a **Special Cell in the Social Welfare Department** to identify and track support to these families over time, in the spirit of leaving no one behind.
- Under the scheme, called '**Special Assistance Scheme for COVID Mortalities (SASCM)**', cash assistance of **Rs 1000 per month** shall be provided to the spouse and the eldest member of the family.
- Apart from this, the scheme provides for a scholarship of **Rs 20,000 per annum for school going students** and **Rs 40,000 per annum for college going students**.

Kerala CM introduced new Smart Kitchen Scheme

- The implementation of promises made in the Left Democratic Front (LDF) manifesto, **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** mentioned a **Secretary Level Committee** will make the guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of **Smart Kitchen** by **July 10**.
- Vijayan noted the aim of the scheme is to reduce the workload of **women's domestic labour**.
- "A three-member Secretary Level Committee will make the guidelines and recommendations by 10 July for the implementation of Smart Kitchen.
- The Chief Minister stated, It aims to account and **reduce the workload of women's domestic labour**".
- In its manifesto for the 2021 Assembly elections, the LDF had promised to ease the domestic workload of women.

Madhya Pradesh govt initiates Corona Warriors Scheme

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the state government has **launched** the **Corona Warriors Scheme**.
- 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**.

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- Meanwhile **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has said that the Corona vaccination campaign of people above 18 years of age cannot be started from May 1st due to non-receipt of vaccines from the manufacturing companies.
- The vaccines are likely to be received in the state on **May 3rd**.
- The Covid vaccine will be administered free of cost to those above **18 years of age**.
- Chief Minister Mr Chouhan while reviewing COVID condition directed that new vaccination centers should be established in view of Corona infection, vaccination work should not be done in hospitals.
- So far **80 lakh 66 thousand 980 doses of Corona** vaccines have been administered in the state, out of which **70 lakh 19 thousand 763 first and 10 lakh 47 thousand 217 second doses** have been administered.

Madhya Pradesh government launches Ankur scheme

- The **Madhya Pradesh** government announced the launch of **Ankur, a scheme under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon**.
- The Government announced that the People who take the initiative to plant saplings will be given the **Pranvayu Award** for their participation.
- The State Govt decided to set up oxygen plants in the state. Trees provide natural oxygen. No oxygen plant is bigger than trees.
- A sapling plantation campaign will be carried out under the **Ankur scheme** during monsoon.”
- The imbalance in nature has to be corrected, he said, urging citizens to pledge to plant more trees in monsoon.
- The Government mentioned that the People who wish to participate in the tree plantation drive can register themselves on the Vayudoot **app**.

Telangana launches Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the state

- Telangana has issued orders to implement the **Ayushman Bharat Scheme** in the State.
- In the backdrop of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao deciding to join the Central government's Ayushman Bharat Scheme (**PM Jana Arogya Yojana PM-JAY**), the state Medical and Health Department had signed a **MoU** with the **National Health Authority**.

Uttar Pradesh: State Govt launches Bal-Seva Yojana to support children who lost their parents due to COVID

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government launched a **welfare scheme for children** who have either lost both of their parents to **COVID-19** or the earning parent.
- As part of the scheme, the government will provide a **monthly financial assistance of Rs 4,000** to a child's guardian or caretaker until he or she attains adulthood.
- **Children below 10 years** who do not have any family members will be taken care of by the state government children's homes.
- A **minor girl** child will be housed in **Kasturba Gandhi Girls (Residential) Schools** run by the Government of India or children's homes (girls) run by the state government.
- The state government will also provide an amount of **Rs 1, 01,000** for the **marriage of such girls**.

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- The state government will also provide **tablets or laptops** to all such children studying in schools, colleges or pursuing vocational education.

Government launches YUVA – Prime Minister’s Scheme

- The government launched **YUVA** — Prime Minister’s Scheme for **Mentoring Young Authors**, an author mentorship programme to train **75 selected young and budding authors (below 30 years of age)** with an aim to promote reading and writing.
- **All-India contest details:**
- 75 authors to be selected through all-India contest from **June 1 to July 31**
- The winners will be announced on **Aug 15**
- Will be trained by eminent authors
- Manuscripts to be readied for publication by **December 15**
- Published books to be launched on **January 12, 2022, on National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas)**
- **Scholarship of Rs50,000 per month** to be paid to winners for six months
- The Education Ministry stated that “The launch of **YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors)** is in tune with PM’s vision to encourage young authors to write about India’s freedom struggle.

Important Books and Authors

Authors	Books
Meghan (The Duchess of Sussex) (Published by Random House Children’s Books)	The Bench’ in June 2021 (Illustrated by Christian Robinson and Meghan will narrate the audiobook edition)
Kalki Koechlin (Published by Penguin Random House India)	Elephant In The Womb (Illustrated by Valeriya Polyanychko)
Preet Mohan Singh Malik	Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance (Published by HarperCollins India)
Shivshankar Menon	India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present (Published by Brookings Institution.)
Neena Gupta	Sach Kahun Toh (Autobiography of Neena Gupta) (Published by Penguin Random House India)
Aditya Gupta	7 Lessons from Everest Expedition Learnings from Life and Business
Vikram Sampath (Published by the Penguin Random House India)	Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966) First volume - “Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past”

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Important Peoples' in News

Sri Lankan all-rounder Thisara Perera Announces retires from international cricket

- On May 03, 2021, Sri Lanka all-rounder Thisara Perera announced his retirement from international cricket.
- The 32-year-old featured in six Tests, 166 ODIs, and 84 T20Is. He tasted the most accomplishment in ODI cricket, scoring 2338 runs and scalping 175 wickets.
- Perera made his debut for Sri Lanka in an ODI against India in Kolkata in December 2009.
- The highlight came in 2014, when he was part of the Sri Lanka side that won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, beating India in the final in Dhaka.

Under ICC Anti-Corruption Code Former Sri Lanka Bowler Nuwan Zoysa banned for six years

- On April 28, 2021, The former Sri Lanka cricketer and coach Nuwan Zoysa was banned from all cricket for six years by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Nuwan played 125 matches for Sri Lanka, attending a number of anti-corruption sessions during a decade-long international career.
- The ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal found him guilty of breaching the ICC anti-corruption code related to the following:
- Article 2.1.1 for being party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or other aspect(s) of an International Match.
- Article 2.1.4 Directly or indirectly soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any Participant to breach Code Article 2.1.
- Article 2.4.4 - Failing to disclose to the ACU full details of any approaches or invitations received to engage in corrupt conduct under the Code.
- The left-arm pacer, who played 30 Tests and 95 ODIs for Sri Lanka between 1997 and 2007, was originally charged in 2018 after his stint as bowling coach of Team Sri Lanka in a T10 tournament organised in the UAE in 2017.
- The ban on Zoysa, 42-year-old, is backdated to October 31, 2018, when he was provisionally suspended.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres honors Indian UN Peacekeeping officer Yuvraj Singh

- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres honored Indian UN Peacekeeping officer Yuvraj Singh, who died in line of duty in 2020, during the UN annual Memorial Service 2021.
- Permanent Representative of India to UN, T S Tirumurti saluted Singh's valour and contribution, and conveyed condolences to the family.

Taylor Swift bags global icon honour at 2021 Brit Awards

- Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift is set to be feted at the upcoming Brit Awards, where she will receive the global icon award at this year's ceremony.
- According to Billboard, the American singer will become the first female artiste and the first non-English artiste to receive the honour, which the British characterise as their highest accolade.
- The only previous recipients are Elton John (2014), David Bowie (2016) and Robbie Williams (2017).

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Kusal Perera named captain of the Sri Lanka's ODI

- **Kusal Perera** was named Sri Lanka's ODI captain ahead of their three-match series against Bangladesh.
- It is **Starting from May 23, 2021**.
- Meanwhile, Kusal Mendis has been named as the **18-man squad's vice-captain**.
- Sri Lanka have named a **young squad for the series** with **Only three players in the team are aged more than 30 while 33-year-old Isuru Udana**.
- In naming a young squad, Sri Lanka's new selection committee - **headed by Pramodya Wickramasinghe - and coach Mickey Arthur have signalled** .

Kazakhstan Davis Cup tennis player Roman Khassanov banned for corruption

- The **International Tennis Integrity Agency** Informed that **Roman Khassanov a tennis player** who represented **Kazakhstan in the Davis Cup** has been **banned for 10 years after admitting a string of corruption charges**.
- The offenses which took place **from 2014 through 2018**.
- He has been banned from attending any official tennis events and **fined \$100,000, with all but \$25,000 of that sum suspended**.
- The charges included breaking rules against fixing or attempting to fix any aspect of an event and soliciting or accepting money or other benefits.
- Khassanov had a career-high ranking of 671 in 2018 and mostly played lower-level Futures and Challenger events.

Kobe Bryant inducted Basketball Hall Of Fame Class 2020

- **On May 15, 2021, Kobe Bryant, the Los Angeles Lakers legend**, was posthumously inducted into the **Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a part of the Class of 2020**.
- The **five-time NBA champion Bryant**, along with his 13-year old daughter Gianna and seven family friends, died in a helicopter crash at the age of 41 in January 2020.

The Class of 2020 :

1. Tim Duncan (Player),
2. Kevin Garnett (Player),
3. Eddie Sutton (Coach),
4. Rudy Tomjanovich (Coach),
5. Tamika Catchings (Player),
6. Kim Mulkey (Coach),
7. Barbara Stevens (Coach),
8. Patrick Baumann (Contributor).

About Kobe Bryant :

- Kobe Bryant was an **American professional basketball player** with the Los Angeles Lakers in the **National Basketball Association (NBA)**.
- Bryant was a 12-time member of the All-Defensive Team, 15-time member All-NBA Team, and an 18-time All-Star.

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- He was the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2008, and a two-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player.

Former World No 1 Tennis doubles player Barbora Strycova retires

- **Barbora Strycova**, a former top-ranked doubles player and Wimbledon singles semifinalist, has announced retirement from Tennis.

About Barbora Strycova :

- Strycova won two WTA singles titles and 31 in doubles.
- In 2016, She won the bronze medal at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.
- In 2019, She won the women's doubles with Hsieh Su-wei to become No. 1.
- Her career-high in singles was No. 16.

Fast Bowler Boyd Rankin retires from international cricket

- **England and Ireland pacer Boyd Rankin**, has announced his retirement from international cricket.

About Boyd Rankin :

- He is the **only cricketer** to have played for two countries in all three formats.
- Rankin made his Ireland debut in 2003 and played last for the country in a T20 against Afghanistan in Greater Noida in 2020.
- He also played an Ashes Test for England on the 2013-14 tour besides seven ODIs and two T20s.
- He played two World Cups with Ireland and an Ashes Test with England, played 3 Tests, 75 ODIs and 50 T20Is, in a career that spanned 18 years.
- He Played 11-year stint at Warwickshire County Cricket Club.

FIFA World Cup-winner Sami Khedira announces retirement

- **Germany's World Cup-winner midfielder Sami Khedira** announced his retirement.

About Sami Khedira :

- Khedira, 34, began his career at VfB Stuttgart and he won the league title in the 2006-07 season.
- He moved to **Real Madrid**, where he won the league and Champions League in a trophy-laden spell.
- He won five Serie A titles at Juventus in 2015.
- Khedira played 77 games for Germany scoring seven goals and helped them win the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Aashritha V Olety graduated as India's 1st woman flight test engineer

- **Squadron Leader Aashritha V Olety** graduated as the **first woman flight test engineer** in India from the Air Force Test Pilot School.
- She is the **only female officer** to have undergone the training and passed till date.
- In her new role of a flight test engineer, she will assess aircraft and airborne systems before they are inducted into the armed forces.
- She was part of the 43rd Flight Test Course and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE).

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- A Bangalore Mirror article stated her family mentioned that 'there are only about 275 graduates to ever clear this course ever since the course inception in 1973 and that she has become the first female officer in the history of IAF to ever clear this course after strenuous training'.

Hong Kong Mountaineer Sets New Record for Fastest Ascent of Everest by Women

- Ms **Tsang Yin-hung**, 45, reached the top of the world's highest mountain from base camp in **25 hours and 50 minutes**.
- That was **fast** enough to beat the previous **record**, **set** by a Nepalese **climber** in 2017, by more than 12 hours.
- Climbers from the **United States and Hong Kong** have set new records as they scaled Mount Everest.
- Arthur Muir, 75, became the oldest American to climb the **world's highest peak** at 8,848.86-metres (29,031 feet).
- Separately, **Hong Kong's Tsang Yin-Hung, 45**, scaled the peak in less than 26 hours, the shortest time taken by any woman after starting from the base camp.

Important Acquisitions and Mergers

Tata group gets CCI approval for BigBasket deal

- The **Tata group's foray** into the India's growing **e-grocery market** has been sealed with the Competition Commission of India giving its nod to its \$1 billion acquisition of **BigBasket**.
- In a statement, the CCI said that it has given its approval for **Tata Digital**, a subsidiary of **Tata Sons**, acquiring **63.4 per cent acquisition of Supermarket Grocery Supplies Ltd**, a B2B entity that owns online retail firm **BigBasket**.
- The deal, sources say, values BigBasket at over \$1.8 billion and is likely to provide an exit to both majority and minority stakeholders in the internet company, such as **Chinese internet giant Alibaba**.
- Tata Digital is also in the process of taking on the likes of **Vijay Shekhar Sharma's Paytm** in developing India's first 'super-app' and is already in talks to acquire e-pharma start-up 1mg.

DCB Bank invests in equity in India INX and India ICC

- **DCB Bank** announced that it has **acquired equity stake** in two companies based at Gift City IFSC at Gandhinagar.
- The Bank has **invested a sum of Rs. 5 crore** representing approximately **2.89% of post paid up capital of India International Exchange (IFSC)**.
- The Bank has also invested a sum of Rs.5 crore representing approximately 4.93% of post paid up capital of India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) (India ICC).
- **India INX is India's first exchange in International Finance Services Centre (IFSC)**.
- **India INX and India ICC are promoted by BSE (BSE)** and are the leading exchange and clearing corporation in the GIFT City IFSC at Gandhinagar.

Motilal Oswal PE Acquired over Rs 185 cr in Fincare Small Finance Bank

- **On May 03, 2021, Motilal Oswal Private Equity** picked up a minority stake in **Fincare Small Finance Bank** through a **secondary acquisition worth around Rs 185 crore (USD 25 million)**.
- The investment is through India Business Excellence Fund-III, a **fund managed and advised by Motilal PE**.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Carlyle Group sells 4% stake in SBI Life for Rs 3,900 crore

- On May 07, 2021, Private equity firm **Carlyle Group** divested 4 per cent stake in **SBI Life Insurance** for over **Rs 3,900 crore** through an open market transaction.
- The transaction, **shares of SBI Life** rose 3.22 per cent to settle at **Rs 1,000.50** on the **BSE**.
- As per end of March 2021, **Carlyle Group** held 6 per cent stake in the company through its investment arm **CA Emerald Investments**

CPP Invests Rs 1,005 cr for additional 15.9% stake in IndInfra Trust

- On May 06, 2021, **Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments)**, bought an additional 15.9 per cent of the total units in **IndInfra Trust** for **Rs 1,005 crore**.
- **CPP Investments** has acquired **seven percent of the units from Sadbhav Infrastructure Project** and will acquire an **additional 8.9 percent from L&T IDPL**.
- After that, **CPP Investments'** stake in **IndInfra Trust** increased from **27.9 percent to 43.8 percent** .

Bay tree india holdings sells over 2 stake in yes bank

- Private equity firm **Bay Tree India Holdings I LLC** has sold over 2 percent stake in **YES Bank** through open market transactions.
- **Bay Tree India Holdings I LLC**, which held 7.48 per cent stake in **YES Bank** earlier, sold **52.15 crore shares** representing 2.08 percent of equity stake in multiple tranches between January 6 and May 6, 2021.
- In July 2020, **YES Bank** garnered **₹4,098 crore** from anchor investors.
- **Bay Tree India Holdings I**, owned by **Tilden Park**, was the largest anchor investor, investing **₹2,250 crore** in **YES Bank** for an allocation of **1,87,50,00,000 (7.48 per cent)** shares.

Groww to acquire Indiabulls MF for Rs 175 crore

- On May 11, 2021, Online investment platform **Groww** announced that it will be acquiring **Indiabulls Mutual Fund** for a total consideration of **Rs 175 crore**.
- The digital platform will acquire **Indiabulls Asset Management Company (IBAMC)** and the trustee company for **Rs 175 crore**, which includes a cash and equivalent component of **Rs 100 crore**.
- The **Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)** and **Portfolio Management Service (PMS)** businesses will be demerged from the existing **IBAMC** structure, and remain under **Indiabulls Housing Finance**.

LIC Raises stake in UBI to over 5%

- On May 20, 2021, **The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** raised its stake to **5.06%** in state-run **Union Bank of India** with acquisition of nearly **2% additional stake** in the bank.
- Earlier, the **LIC** held **3.09% stake** in **UBI**, representing **19,79,23,251 equity shares** of the bank.
- Now, It has increased to **5.06 percent (34,57,64,764 shares)**.
- **Union Bank of India** had closed its **Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP)**, in which it raised a total of **₹1,447.17 crore**.

CCI Approved for intra-group reorganisation of the Motherson Group

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- On May 27, 2021, Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved an internal restructure of Motherson Group that has been granted.
- It was made by Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd. (MSSL), Samvardhana Motherson International Ltd. (SAMIL) and Sumitomo Wiring Systems Ltd. (SWS).
- As per the transaction, MSSL's entire domestic wiring harness undertaking (DWH) will be demerged into a newly incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary of MSSL called Motherson Sumi Wiring India Ltd. (MSWIL).

About MSSL :

- MSSL is the flagship company of the Motherson Group and is a leading automotive component manufacturer for original equipment manufacturers.
- It makes wiring harnesses, vision systems and moulded and polymer products.

About SAMIL :

- SAMIL is the largest shareholder of MSSL and provides operational, strategic, and management support to all Motherson group companies.
- It is engaged in production of automotive components including lighting systems.

About SWS :

- SWS is a Japanese company that makes wiring harnesses for automobiles and their components.

Revision Points

Company	Merging Company
Tata group	BigBasket
DCB Bank	India INX and India ICC
Motilal Oswal Private Equity	Fincare Small Finance Bank
Carlyle Group	SBI Life (4%)
Canada Pension Plan Investment Board	IndInfravit Trust (15.9%)
Bay Tree India Holdings	YES Bank (2%)
Groww	Indiabulls Mutual Fund
Life Insurance Corporation of India	Union Bank of India (5.06%)

Important Web Portals and Mobile Apps

ID-Art Mobile App Launched by Interpol to help protect cultural property

- The Interpol has launched a mobile phone application ID-Art which will help identify stolen cultural property, reduce smuggling and increase the possibility of recovering stolen works and artefacts.
- INTERPOL's ID-Art app enables users ranging from law enforcement to the general public to get mobile access to the INTERPOL database of stolen works of art.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

- It creates an inventory of private art collections and reports cultural sites potentially at risk.

Uses :

- Search INTERPOL's database
- Create an inventory
- Report sites at risk

Bihar govt launches 'HIT Covid App'

- **Bihar government launched 'HIT Covid App' to ensure regular monitoring and tracking of those Covid-19 patients, who are in home isolation across the state.**
- **HIT stands for home isolation tracking.** Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said the **app** will help the health workers in **regular monitoring of home - isolated patients.**
- Well being employees will go to the sufferers at dwelling daily and feed knowledge within the app after measuring their temperature and oxygen stage.
- This knowledge will probably be **monitored on the district stage.**
- If the oxygen stage is under 94, the affected person will probably be shifted to the close by devoted Covid wellbeing centres for correct therapy.

Manipur CM N Biren Singh Launches MOMA Market

- **On May 14, 2021, Chief Minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched MOMA Market mobile application for home delivery of fresh vegetables.**
- The application can be **downloaded from www.momamarket.com** and it will also be available on Google Play Store soon.
- The application was **introduced by Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur.**
- Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), a **unit of the state horticulture and soil conservation department launched the app.**
- It is under the supervision of Chief Minister N Biren Singh to make **fresh vegetables available for day to day consumption and curb the distress sales of farm produce during lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.**

About MOMA Market :

- Vegetables will be **collected from different farms by Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) working with MOMA.**
- That will be then **transported to cold storage and warehouse.**
- These bulk products will be **disbursed to registered marketing agencies for retail packaging.**
- Finally, the order **placed by the consumer via MOMA Market will be delivered to door steps.**

Jharkhand CM Launches Mobile App 'Amrit Vahini'

- Corona patients in Jharkhand can book hospital beds online through **'Amrit Vahini' App** launched by **CM Hemant Soren.**
- Soren also launched **'Chatbot'** through which one may also get all information related to coronavirus.

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- Through the 'Amrit Vahini' App or website one can get all information about the availability of hospital beds and even book one for himself or anybody else online.

Kiren Rijju to launch ACCR web portal, 3rd version of Ayush Sanjivani App

- **Union Minister of state (IC) for Ayush Shri Kiren Rijju** will launch the **Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal** and the **third version of Ayush Sanjivani App** in a virtual event.
- The Ayush Clinical Repository (ACCR) portal (<https://accr.ayush.gov.in/>) will serve as a platform to support both Ayush practitioners and general public.
- This portal aims to aggregate information about clinical outcomes achieved by **Ayush practitioners** on a large scale.
- It will facilitate not just dissemination of information but also further analysis and research.
- It is expected to document the strengths of Ayush systems for treatment of various disease conditions.
- The **Ayush Sanjivani App (Third Version)** is now published on Google Play Store and iOS.
- This version facilitates a significant study/ documentation regarding the efficacy of selected Ayush interventions, including **Ayush 64 and Kabasura Kudineer medicines** in the management of asymptomatic & mild to moderate Covid 19 patients.

ABOUT Ayush Sanjivani App:

- It is **developed by the Ministry of AYUSH** and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MEITY**).
- The app intends to generate data on usage of **AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-rigpa and Homoeopathy)** advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of Covid-19.

Karnataka CM launches online portal named 'Akanksha'

- A **comprehensive portal on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities** by companies in Karnataka, 'Akanksha,' was launched by **chief minister B S Yediyurappa** in Bengaluru.
- The chief minister said the portal Akanksha providing details of all CSR activities in the state will help in enabling the corporate, government and donors to utilize the CSR funds for needy programmes by serving as a transparent platform.
- The **UN agency UNSPU** has collaborated in the creation of the portal, which will help in easy, simple and transparent utilization of CSR fund grants, Yediyurappa described the effort as the first of its kind initiative in the country.
- Total demand for **Rs 75,000 crore** grants, **Rs 61,000 crore** have already been allocated in the budget.
- The total expenditure for the health sector during the last financial year was **Rs 11,527 crore** and a sum of **Rs 11,650 crore** have been set apart during the current financial year.

Manipur CM launches MHIM Mobile App

- **Chief Minister N Biren Singh** launched **Manipur Home Isolation Management (MHIM)** mobile application for **home isolation patients** at the **Chief Minister's Secretariat**.
- The mobile app is developed by **Pentabyte Technologies LLP** and it can be downloaded from **mhim.in**.
- It will also be available on Google Play Store soon.

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- The mobile app is being developed to avail real-time health data and information of **Home Isolation COVID-19 patients** at monitoring level.
- With this app, patients can upload their health status including pulse rate, SPo2, body temperature and blood pressure among others using fixed parameters at fixed intervals as set by the Health Department from time to time.
- The data uploaded will then be divided as critical and normal depending on the parameters and conditions set by the Health Department.

CBSE unveiled new mobile application for psycho social wellness of students, parents

- **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has launched a **new mobile application** for **psycho social wellness of students and parents**.
- The **new app** namely **CBSE Dost for Life** has been designed for **students of classes 9 to 12** and it can be used for counseling sessions from 10th of May.
- Making a departure from the existing practice of counseling through toll free numbers across the country, the board has designed this facility for the **ease, convenience and utility of students and parents within the safe home environment**.
- Through this app, live counseling sessions will be conducted free of cost on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** by the trained counselors.
- The students and parents can choose any of the two time slots - **9.30 AM to 1.30 PM** or **1.30 PM to 5.30 PM** and connect through a chat box as per their convenience.
- The app will also provide students information on suggestive course guides after **ten plus two, tips on mental health and well-being**, a corona guide and rap songs.

CJI launches an official mobile App for Journalists

- **Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana** launched an **official mobile application** for Journalists to cover proceedings of the apex court.
- The **New feature**, called '**Indicative Notes**' is aimed at **providing concise summaries of landmark judgments** in an **easy-to-understand format**.
- Chief Justice Ramana asserted that **transparency** is a time-honoured principle when it comes to the judicial process in our country.
- The **mobile application** will help journalists to cover the **Supreme Court proceedings** in a responsible and fair way from the comfort and safety of their homes, in view of the growing concerns of the **COVID pandemic**.
- The Chief Justice also informed that the Supreme Court is also contemplating to **telecast live proceedings** of the court cases in the apex court, for which the process of further considerations and consensus is already underway.

N S Tomar introduces National Mobile Monitoring Software app

- **Rural Advancement Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** now launched **Nationwide Cellular Checking Application, NMMS app** and **Space officer checking Application** via **Movie-Conferencing**.

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- The **NMMS App** permits having true time attendance of employees at **Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites** along with **geotagged photographs**, which will increase citizen oversight of the programme apart from possibly enabling processing payments faster.
- **Space Officer Monitoring Application** facilitates them to document their conclusions on the internet along with time stamped and **go-coordinate tagged photographs for all the techniques of the Department of Rural Development**.
- This will help not only improve documents trying to keep off inspections by field and supervisory officials but also aid analysis of the conclusions for far better programme implementation.

DRDO lab develops antibody detection-based kit 'DIPCOVAN'

- A lab of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a Covid-19 antibody detection-based kit called **DIPCOVAN**.
- The kit can detect coronavirus spikes as well as the nucleocapsid proteins of the virus.
- DRDO stated that "The kit can detect spike as well as **nucleocapsid (S&N) proteins of SARS-CoV-2 virus** with a **high sensitivity of 97% & specificity of 99%**".
- The **DIPCOVAN kit** was developed indigenously by the scientists followed by extensive validation on more than one thousand patient samples at various COVID designated hospitals in Delhi.

India to launch mobile tech platform for UN peacekeepers

- **India** has announced it will launch a mobile tech platform **UNITE AWARE'** for the **United Nations Peacekeepers**.
- It will be **launched during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021**.
- India, in **partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support**, has been working to develop the mobile tech platform

Purpose :

- To improve their safety and security in the line of duty.

About UNITE AWARE :

- **UNITY AWARE** helps increase situational awareness and provides terrain-related information to peacekeepers.
- India has contributed **US\$1.64 million** towards this project.

Note :

- India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador : **K Nagaraj Naidu**

Revision Points

Applications/Web portals	Launched By/Developed By
ID-Art	Interpol
HIT Covid App	Bihar
MOMA Market	Manipur CM N Biren Singh
Amrit Vahini	Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren
ACCR web portal, Ayush Sanjivani (3 rd version,	Kiren Rijju

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2021

Akanksha	Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa
Manipur Home Isolation Management (MIIM)	Manipur CM N Biren Singh
CBSE Dost for Life	Central Board of Secondary Education
NMMS app	N S Tomar

Important Sports News

Cricket

Arzan Nagwaswalla, Becomes the first Parsi to represent the Indian cricket team

- Gujarat all-rounder Arzan Nagwaswalla has become the first cricketer after 50 Years from the Parsi community to be named in the Indian squad.
- Arzan Nagwaswalla is the first Parsi cricketer to break into the Indian men's team since 1975.
- He was named in India's squad for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand and the five-Test series against England, becoming the first from the Parsi community since Farokh Engineer in 1975 to make the squad.
- He has picked up 62 wickets at an average and strike rate of 22.53 and 44.60 respectively since his debut in 2018.

ICC Players of the Month for April 2021 : Australia Alyssa Healy & Pakistan's Babar Azam Wins

- In the Men's Category, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021.
- It is for his consistent and stellar performances across all formats in the recently concluded series against South Africa.
- In the Women's category, Alyssa Healy of Australia has won the ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2021.
- It is For The Month accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April.
- **Purpose of ICC Players of the Month Awards :**
- 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.

Football

Manchester City crowned Premier League champions for 3rd time

- On May 11, 2021, Manchester City were crowned Premier League champions for the third time in four seasons after Manchester United crashed to a 2-1 defeat against Leicester.
- Pep Guardiola's side are 10 points clear of second-placed United with three games to spare.
- This is Manchester City's fourth Premier League title.

India to Host 2022 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup in Oct

- The 2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30, 2022.
- Earlier this event was scheduled to be held in India in 2021, but it was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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- This 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.
- The FIFA Council also **approved the tournament dates for the Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 from July 20 to August 20, 2023.**

2020-21 UEFA Champions League Final Chelsea Beats Manchester City

- **On May 29, 2021, Chelsea beat Manchester City 1-0 in the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League final to win their 2nd title.**
- It was **held at the Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal.**
- In the **football match German forward Kai Havertz scored the only goal.**

Note :

- Chelsea first won the UEFA Champions League Final in 2012.

Others

Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2021 - Ash Barty Wins Women's Single Title

- **World No 1 Ash Barty won two titles** and a brand new sports car at the **Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2021.**
- It took place at the Porsche Arena in **Stuttgart, Germany, from 19 to 25 April 2021.**
- It is a **third consecutive comeback triumph in the singles final against Aryna Sabalenka.**
- She also won the doubles title on a busy, fun and lucrative date with her American partner Jennifer Brady.
- It was **her first European tournament on clay since triumphing in the 2019 French Open.**

Lewis Hamilton wins Portuguese Grand Prix 2021

- **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) won the 2021 Portuguese Grand Prix.**
- It was **held on 2 May 2021 at the Algarve International Circuit in Portugal.**
- This was the **second win of the season for Hamilton and 96th career victory.**
- This was the **third race of the season** of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
- Max Verstappen came second and Valtteri Bottas was third.

World Snooker Championship: Mark Selby becomes World Snooker Champion for Fourth Time

- In **Snooker, Mark Selby became the World Champion for the fourth time.**
- It took place from **17 April to 3 May 2021 at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England.**
- Selby won the Championship **defeating Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory at professional snooker tournament.**
- He has now **moved up to second spot in world rankings, next only to Judd Trump.**
- Prior to this, **Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021.**

AICF launches initiative to help chess community fight COVID-19

- **On May 04, 2021, The All India Chess Federation launched the "Checkmate Covid Initiative" to help the chess community affected by the pandemic.**

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- The initiative was launched at an online event in the presence of FIDE (World Chess Federation) president Arkady Dvorkovich, five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, World Rapid Chess Champion Koneru Humpy, AICF president Sanjay Kapoor and secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan.

Aim :

- The idea is to not just help the chess community affected by COVID through financial aid, but also have a team of doctors that works round-the-clock to provide the right assistance.
- This initiative supports our chess community by providing them medical, home quarantine support and financial assistance.
- Also, a 24-hour helpline has been set up to provide assistance.

Lewis Hamilton awarded his fifth successive Spanish Grand Prix

- On May 09, 2021, Lewis Hamilton won the 2021 Spanish Grand Prix.
- This is the fifth successive Spanish Grand Prix title of Lewis Hamilton.
- Also this is the third win of this season.
- The race was the fourth round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.

Top 3 Position :

1. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain)
2. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing-Netherlands)
3. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland)

Laureus World Sports Awards 2021 : Rafael Nadal, Naomi Osaka Win Top Title

- On May 06, 2021, Tennis players Rafael Nadal and Naomi Osaka picked up the Laureus Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year awards.

About Naomi Osaka :

- This is Osaka's second Laureus Sports Awards.
- In 2019, she won the "Breakthrough of the Year" award.

About Rafael Nadal :

- This is the second title for Nadal, and also claimed the prestigious award in 2011.
- In the men's category, Rafael Nadal of Spain won the 2021 "Laureus Sportsman of the Year" title.

About Laureus World Sports Awards :

- The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual award ceremony honouring individuals and teams from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year.
- It was established in 1999 by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation founding patrons Daimler and Richemont.

List of Winners :

- Sportsman of the Year Award: Rafael Nadal
- Sportswoman of the Year Award: Naomi Osaka
- Team of the Year Award: Bayern Munich

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- Breakthrough of the Year Award: Patrick Mahomes
- Comeback of the Year Award: Max Parrot
- Sport for Good Award: KICKFORMORE by KICKFAIR
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Billie Jean King
- Athlete Advocate of the Year Award: Lewis Hamilton
- Sporting Inspiration Award: Mohamed Salah
- Sporting Moment of the Year Award: Chris Nikic

Aryna Sabalenka wins her Maiden Madrid Open Women's singles title

- On May 08, 2021, In tennis, Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia to win the 2021 Madrid Open women's single title.
- Aryna Sabalenka was in ominous form as she overpowered world number one Ash Barty 6-0 3-6 6-4 .
- This Sabalenka's 10th career WTA singles title, second WTA title of the season and first on clay court.
- In the women's doubles final
- Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova, defeated Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada and Demi Schuurs of France 6-4, 6-3.

2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships held in Belgrade

- The dates of the 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships held in Belgrade, Serbia.
- The tournament will be held from 26 October – 6 November 2021.
- The event will be overseen by the President of Serbia, Mr. Aleksandar Vucic, who is the Head of the Local Organising Committee (LOC).

Note :

- The previous edition of the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships was hosted by Ekaterinburg, Russia in 2019.

Rugby World Cup : Women's Rugby World Cup to kick off on New Zealand in October 2022

- On May 12, 2021, World Rugby released a new schedule for the Women's World Rugby Tournament.
- For 2022 women's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, with the tournament to run from 8th October to 12th November 2022.
- The final and bronze medal match will be played at Auckland's Eden Park on Nov. 12.
- The 12-team tournament was actually held in 2021, but it was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The tournament has been extended from 35 to 43 days, allowing all teams a break of at least five days between matches.

About Rugby World Cup :

- The Rugby World Cup is a men's rugby union tournament contested every four years between the top international teams.
- The tournament was first held in 1987, when the tournament was co-hosted by New Zealand and Australia.

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Italian Open: Iga Swiatek wins Women's Singles title

- In Tennis, Polish teenager Iga Swiatek (19 Years) has won the Women's Singles title of Italian Open.
- She had entered the finals after trouncing 17-year-old American Coco Gauff 7-6, 6-3 in the last four.
- **She Defeated Czech Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0 with what is known as a "double bagel"** score in the summit clash in Rome that lasted just 46 minutes.
- Iga Swiatek will move into the top 10 of WTA Rankings for the first time in her career after a ruthless performance in the Italian Open final against former World No. 1 Karolina Pliskova

Note :

- The Men's Singles final between World number one Serbian Novak Djokovic and nine-time winner Rafael Nadal is underway in Rome.

Italian Open title : Rafael Nadal wins, after beating Novak Djokovic

- On May 16, 2021, In tennis, Rafael Nadal beat world number one Novak Djokovic by 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 to win a 10th Italian Open title.
- Nadal also equalled Djokovic's record of 36 ATP Masters 1000 titles in his 12th Rome final.
- The title also re-established Nadal as the overwhelming favorite for the French Open, where he will be aiming for an even harder-to-believe 14th title starting in two weeks.

Note :

- The Women's Singles title has been won by Polish teenager Iga Swiatek.
- Men's doubles : Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic
- Women's Doubles title : Sharon Fichman and Giuliana Olmos

Arjan Singh Bhullar becomes First India's MMA world champion

- On May 15, 2021, Mixed Martial Artist (MMA) Arjan Bhullar became the first Indian to win the ONE Heavyweight World Title at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.
- The result saw the Indo-Canadian fighter take his MMA record to 11-1.

Note :

- Arjan Singh Bhullar had won the gold medal in freestyle wrestling at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Due to Pandemic Asia Cup 2021 Deferred

- On May 19, 2021, Sri Lanka Cricket Chief Executive Ashely de Silva Informed Due to Covid - 19 the Asia Cup T20 that was scheduled to be held in June 2021 in Sri Lanka has been postponed indefinitely.
- Initially, the tournament was supposed to be played in September 2020 then it was postponed to Sri Lanka in June 2021.
- With all the teams planning for their Future Tour Programs (FTPs) for the next two years, the tournament is likely to happen only after the 2023 ICC 50-over World Cup.
- Originally, Pakistan was supposed to host the tournament in 2020, but the hosting rights were exchanged with Sri Lanka due to security reasons after the postponement.

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Note :

- India has won the Asia Cup title seven times.

Women's Champions League trophy - Barcelona beats Chelsea to win

- For the **first time** in the club's history, **Barcelona beat Chelsea 4-0 to win the Women's Champions League final.**
- In Gothenburg, the first 36 minutes, Chelsea conceded four goals as Barcelona blew them away to win their first Women's Champions League.

About Barcelona :

- Barcelona becomes the **first club to win both mens and womens Champion League.**

2021 Monaco Grand Prix Max Verstappen wins

- **On May 23, 2021, Max Verstappen won the 2021 Monaco Grand Prix.**
- **Carlos Sainz Jr. came second place and Lando Norris came third place.**
- This was **Verstappen's second win of this season.**

TOP 10 Winners are :

1. Verstappen
2. Sainz
3. Norris
4. Perez
5. Vettel
6. Gasly
7. Hamilton
8. Stroll
9. Ocon
10. Giovinazzi

PGA Championship: Phil Mickelson becomes oldest major winner

- **On May 23, 2021, Phil Mickelson won the PGA Championship by two shots over Brooks Koepka and South African Louis Oosthuizen.**
- **Mickelson (50 Years old) is the oldest winner in the 161 years of major championship golf.**
- He sealed the deal with a one-over-par 73 at the Ocean Course that left him at six under on the week.
- The victory by Mickelson marked the **sixth major championship win of his career and first since the 2013 British Open.**
- **Mickelson became the 10th player to win majors in three decades,** an elite list that starts with Harry Vardon and was most recently achieved by Tiger Woods.

About PGA Championship :

- The PGA Championship is an **annual golf tournament conducted by the Professional Golfers' Association of America.**

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- It is one of the four men's major championships in professional golf.
- Established : 1916

Atletico Madrid Win 2020-21 La Liga Title

- On May 22, 2021, Atletico Madrid won the 2020-21 La Liga title.
- Since 2013–14 It was their first title.
- This was their **eleventh overall La Liga title**.
- Atletico Madrid **secured a 2-1 goal victory over Real Valladolid to clinch the title**.
- Suarez ended the season with 21 league goals, taking his team to the title, 7 points ahead of his former team Barcelona.

Mohali International Hockey Stadium renamed to legendary Balbir Singh Senior

- On May 25, 2021, The Mohali International Hockey Stadium was renamed after the legendary Balbir Singh Sr on the occasion of his first death anniversary.
- After the COVID - 19 Pandemic, an international hockey tournament would be held in the stadium to mark the hockey stalwart's sporting journey.
- A statue in his memory would be installed at the stadium entrance.

About Balbir Singh Senior :

- "Balbir ji was a triple Olympic Gold Medallist and Manager & Chief Coach of the 1975 World Cup winning team."
- Balbir Singh Sr's three Olympic gold medals came in London (1948), Helsinki (1952) as vice-captain, and Melbourne (1956) as captain.
- He was also the manager of India's only World Cup-winning side in 1975.
- He also served as the Director, Sports Department, Punjab.

Achievements :

- The Punjab government had honoured the legend with the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award in 2019.

2021 ATP Lyon open Title : Stefanos tsitsipas wins

- 2021 ATP Lyon open Title World No.5 Stefanos tsitsipas defeated Briton Cameron Norrie to win the Single Title.
- It was held at Velodrome Georges Preveral, Lyon, France from May 17,2021 to May 23, 2021.
- It is Stefanos tsitsipas's seventh ATP title

2021 Geneva Open Tennis : Men's Single Title Casper Ruud Wins

- Casper Ruud won the Men's Single Title of the 2021 Geneva Open Tennis (18th edition) held in Tennis Club de Geneve, Geneva, Switzerland, from May 16, 2021, to May 22, 2021.
- He defeated Denis Shapovalov of Canada 7-6 (6), 6-4 for his second ATP Tour title.
- Victory in Geneva means the Norwegian world No 21 is going to be among the top 16 seeds at French Open.

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Representing University in USA India's Tejaswini Shankar Wins Consecutive High Jump Titles

- Representing Kansas State University, India's Tejaswini Shankar won back-to-back men's high jump titles in the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA.
- He cleared the bar at 2.28m to win high jump gold, but his efforts fell short of the Tokyo Olympic Games qualification standard of 2.33m.
- He had also won the men's high jump title in the 2019 edition.
- He won the high jump bronze by clearing 2.24m in the NCAA meet.
- Shankar is the third Indian to compete in the highly competitive USA circuit, the breeding ground for many US track and field Olympians.

Asian Boxing Championships 2021 Mary Kom On cloud nine for winning Silver Medal

- On May 30, 2021, The 2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships, Indian pugilist Mary Kom, lost to two-time world champion Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan, to settle for silver medal.
- It was held in Dubai.
- The five-time Asian Championships gold medallist Mary Kom was competing in a high-octane 51kg final.
- Meanwhile, Pooja Rani won the gold medal in the 75kg Women's Middle category final.
- This is Mary Kom's second silver Medal at the Asian Championships.
- Previously Mary Kom won a silver Medal in 2008.
- Mary Kom won world championship titles on five occasions including 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017.

Static Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
International Social Security Agency	Geneva	Professor Breuer
International Labour Organization	Geneva	Guy Ryder
National Investment and Infrastructure Fund	Mumbai	Sujoy Bose
International Monetary Fund	Washington	Kristalina Georgieva
World Health Organization	Geneva	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India	Mumbai	Avinash Gupta
Bombay Stock Exchange	Mumbai	Vikramajit Sen
BDR Pharma	Mumbai	Dharmesh Shah
Eli Lilly	Indiana, USA	David A. Ricks
Central Drugs Standard Control Organization	New Delhi	Dr. V. G. Somani

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Natco Pharma	Hyderabad	Dr. Linga Rao
SoftBank	Tokyo	Masayoshi Son
OneWeb	London	Adrián Steckel
Institute of Chartered Accountants of India	New Delhi	Nihar N Jambusaria
Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
Geojit Financial Services	Kochi	C J George
Indian Oil	New Delhi	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
BPCL	Mumbai	Arun Kumar Singh
HPCL	Mumbai	Mukesh Kumar Surana
GAIL	New Delhi	Manoj Jain
ONGC	New Delhi	Shashi Shanker
National Dairy Development Board	Anand, Gujarat	Varsha Joshi
Energy Efficiency Services Ltd	New Delhi	Saurabh Kumar
JSW Renew Energy	Mumbai	Prashant Jain
Solar Energy Corporation of India	New Delhi	Jatindra Nath Swain
International Hockey Federation (FIH)	Lausanne, Switzerland	Thierry Weil
Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	New Delhi	Jagannath Mohapatra
ByteDance	Beijing	Zhang Yiming
Wipro	Bengaluru	Thierry Delaporte
Advertising Standards Council of India	Mumbai	Subhash Kamath
The Norton Motorcycle Co. Ltd.	Birmingham, UK	Robert Hentschel
International Narcotics Control Board	Vienna, Austria	Jagjit Pavadia
Raymond Ltd	Mumbai	Harmohan Sahni
Hindustan Unilever	Mumbai	Sanjiv Mehta
National Investigation Agency	New Delhi	Kuldiep Singh
Karnataka Bank	Mangalore	Mahabaleshwara M. S
Central Bureau of Investigation	New Delhi	Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
Banks Board Bureau	New Delhi	Bhanu Pratap Sharma
Indian Bank	Chennai	S L Jain
Bharat Earth Movers limited	Bengaluru	DK Kota
NITI Aayog	New Delhi	Narendra Modi
European Space Agency	Paris, France	Johann-Dietrich Wörner
IBM	New York	Arvind Krishna

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Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd	Chennai	S M Vaidya
Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd	Mumbai	Abhay Tewari
Tech Mahindra	Pune	C. P. Gurnani
Bata Brands	Lausanne, Switzerland	Sandeep Kataria
Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd	Gurgaon	Satoshi Uchida
Google	California	Sundar Pichai
NASA	Washington, D.C.	Bill Nelson
Defence Research and Development Organisation	New Delhi	G Satheesh Reddy
SpaceX	California	Elon Musk
International Astronomical Union	Paris, France	Ewine van Dishoeck
Mapfre	Majadahonda, Spain	Antonio Huertas Mejías
Life Insurance Corporation	Mumbai	M R Kumar
Knight Frank	London	Shishir Bajjal
EY	London	Carmine Di Sibio
Forbes	Jersey City	Steve Forbes
International Cricket Council (ICC)	Dubai	Greg Barclay
Godrej Consumer Products	Mumbai	Nisaba Godrej
National Asset Reconstruction Company		Padmakumar M Nair
Indian Institute of Rice Research	Hyderabad	Raman Meenakshi Sundaram
UTI Mutual Fund	Mumbai	Imtaiyazur Rahman
Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance	Mumbai	Mahesh Balasubramanian
Kotak General Insurance.	Mumbai	Suresh Agarwal
National Horticulture Board	Thiruvananthapuram	Narendra Singh Tomar
Indian Council of Medical Research ICMR	New Delhi	Balram Bhargava
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Paris, France	Audrey Azoulay
Indo-Tibetan Border Police	New Delhi	SS Deswal
Press Information Bureau	New Delhi	Jaideep Bhatnagar
Central Board of Secondary Education	New Delhi	Manoj Ahuja
FIFA	Zurich, Switzerland	Gianni Infantino
Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Rajkiran Rai G

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Indiabulls Mutual Fund	Mumbai	Ambar Maheshwari
Bay Tree India Holdings	New York	Anuradha Bajaj
Carlyle Group	Washington, D.C	Kewsong Lee
SBI Life	Mumbai	Mahesh Kumar Sharma
Fincare Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Rajeev Yadav
DCB Bank	Mumbai	Murali M. Natrajan
BigBasket	Bengaluru	Hari Menon
Competition Commission of India	New Delhi	Ashok Gupta

Important Obituaries

Name	Field
Rohit Sardana	TV journalist and anchor (Zee Media) (Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award in 2018)
Soli Sorabjee	Former Attorney General of India and jurist (Solicitor General of India from 1977 to 1980)
Dr Joginder Dayal	Senior leader of the CPI from Punjab (President of Communist Party of India's All-India Student Federation as well as president of All-India Youth Federation)
Devabrata Chaudhuri	Sitar maestro
Bikramjeet Kanwarpal	Actor
Chandro Tomar	Shooter Dadi (Hailed from the Baghpat village in Uttar Pradesh)
Manas Bihari Verma	Indian aeronautical scientist (Worked as a scientist at DRDO)
Jagmohan (Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016)	Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Union Minister for Communications, Urban Development, Tourism and Culture, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Goa
Chaudhary Ajit Singh	Former Union minister and chief of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (Union minister of industry – V.P Singh cabinet; Union minister of food in the PV Narasimha Rao cabinet)
V Kalyanam	Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi's former personal secretary

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Vanraj Bhatia	Best-known composer of Western classical music
Shesh Narayan Singh	Senior journalist, columnist, political commentator and an expert on foreign policy
Matang Sinh	Former union minister and Congress leader (union minister of state in parliamentary affairs from 1994 to 1998)
Raghnath Mohapatra	Rajya Sabha MP and Sculptor (He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in July 2018)
Maharaj Krishan Kaushik & Ravinder Pal Singh.	Former Indian Hockey Players
Anup Bhattacharya	Freedom fighter and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra musician
Homen Borgohain	Writer, Journalist, President of Asom Sahitya Sabha from 2001-2002 (Sahitya Akademi Award in the Assamese language for Pita Putra in 1978)
Rahothaman	Former Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (chief investigation officer of the Special Investigation Team)
Smarajit Jana	Epidemiologist (A member of the National Task Force on COVID-19)
Indu Jain	Times Group chairperson (Founder president of Ficci Ladies Organisation; Former chairperson of Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd)
Rajeev Satav	Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra and the senior Congress leader
MS Narasimhan	Mathematician (Padma Bhushan by the President and "Chevalier de l'ordre du Merite" by the President of France)
Sunil Jain	Journalist (Managing editor of the Financial Express)
Ranjana Nirula	Activist (Former Treasurer of Centre of Indian Trade Unions)
Nandivada Rathnasree	Astronomy communicator and director of the Nehru Planetarium
Rajendrasinh Jadeja	Former Saurashtra pacer and BCCI match referee
Dr KK Aggarwal (Dr BC Roy	Former President of the Indian Medical Association &

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Award in 2005; Padma Shri in 2010)	cardiologist
Ki. Rajanarayanan (Ki Ra)	Tamil writer & Folklorist (Pioneer of 'Karisal Literature)
Chaman Lal Gupta	Former Union Minister and Well-known leader of BJP
Jagannath Pahadia	Congress leader and former Rajasthan chief minister
Sunderlal Bahuguna	Environmentalist and Gandhian activist the (leader of the Chipko Movement)
Srikumar Banerjee	Former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission
Raam Laxman (Vijay Patil)	Music director
JK Dutt	Former NSG director-general
O P Bhardwaj	India's first Dronacharya awardee coach in boxing
Yuan Longping	Chinese agriculture scientist (Father of Hybrid Rice)
Panjab Singh	Vir Chakra awardee (Hero of the Battle of Poonch during the 1971 India-Pak war)
HS Doreswamy	Eminent Gandhian and freedom fighter
Eric Carle	The children's author and illustrator
Abhilasha Patil	Actress
Lalti Ram	Freedom fighter and Former Indian National Army
KR Gouri Amma	Politician & Founding Member of CPI
M. Anandakrishnan (Padma Shri awardee)	Former Vice Chancellor of Anna University and Educationist
Poul Schlüter	Prime Minister of Denmark



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