

Weekly One Liners 22nd February to 28th of February 2021

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021 announced

The prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards 2021** were announced, to honour the best in Indian cinema, television, music, and OTT. Late actor **Sushant Singh Rajput** was posthumously awarded 'Critics Best Actor' for his performance in **Dil Bechara**.

The winner of the Award for 2021 are as follows:

1. Best Actor (Female): **Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak**
2. Best Actor (Male): **Akshay Kumar, Laxmii**
3. Critic's Best Actress: **Kiara Advani, Guilty**
4. Critic's Best Actor: **Late Sushant Singh Rajput, Dil Bechara**
5. Best Film: **Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior**
6. Best International Feature Film: **Parasite Most Versatile Actor - Kay Kay Menon**
7. Best Director: **Anurag Basu, Ludo**
8. Best Actor in a Supporting Role: **Vikrant Massey, Chhapaak**
9. Best Actress in Supporting Role: **Radhika Madan, Angrezi Medium**
10. Best Actor in Comic Role: **Kunal Kemmu, Lootcase**
11. Best Actor (Web Series): **Bobby Deol, Aashram**
12. Best Actress (Web Series): **Sushmita Sen, Aarya**
13. Best Web Series: **Scam (1992)**
14. Album of the Year: **Titliyaan**
15. Best Television Series: **Kundali Bhagya**
16. Photographer of the Year: **Daboo Ratnani**
17. Style Diva of the Year: **Divya Khosla Kumar**

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18. Best Actress in Television Series: **Surbhi Chandna**
19. Best Actor in Television Series: **Dheeraj Dhoopar**
20. Performer of the Year: **Nora Fatehi**
21. Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry: **Dharmendra**
22. Outstanding Contribution to Literature in Indian Cinema: **Chetan Bhagat**

About the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival:

The **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival** is a unique platform to honour and encourage the most creative Artists, Creators, filmmakers, and to infuse life into their career. DPIFF hosts the Most Prestigious Award Function to honour and appreciate the Entertainment & Film Industry and commemorate those deserving storyteller, creative writers, passionate filmmakers, and maverick artists who are part of great Indian cinema.

Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka wins Australian Open 2021

In tennis, Japan's **Naomi Osaka** won her **fourth Grand Slam title** on February 20, 2021, after she beat **American Jennifer Brady** in the women's singles game of the Australian Open final 2021. The four Grand Slam title for Osaka comes two Australian Open titles (2021 and 2019) and two US Open title (2018 and 2020). In Men's singles final, **Novak Djokovic** claimed his ninth Australian Open crown and the 18th Major Grand Slam overall, as he defeated Daniil Medvedev.

Winners of Australian Open 2021:

- Men's Singles: **Novak Djokovic** (Serbia) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
- Women's Singles: **Naomi Osaka** (Japan) defeated Jennifer Brady (US)
- Men's Doubles: **Ivan Dodig** of Croatia and **Filip Polášek** (Slovakia) defeated Rajeev Ram (US) and Joe Salisbury (UK)
- Women's Doubles: **Elise Mertens** (Belgium) and **Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus) defeated Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)

- Mixed Doubles: **Barbora Krejcikova** (Czech Republic) and **Rajeev Ram** of the US defeated the Australian pair of Samantha Stosur and Matthew Ebden.

Spacecraft Named in Honor of Black Woman 'hidden Figures' Mathematician

A space supply ship, **Cygnus NG-15 cargo** dubbed as '**S.S. Katherine Johnson** has been named in honour of Katherine Johnson, a **Black NASA mathematician**, who played a critical role in the success of the first U.S. crewed spaceflight, **Mercury-Atlas 6 Mission**. The S.S. Katherine Johnson arrived on February 22, 2021, and will be at the **International Space Station until May 2021**.

Cygnus NG-15 cargo:

- A Northrop **Grumman-built Cygnus cargo ship**, a space supply ship, was launched by NASA on February 20, 2021, from Virginia to carry vital supplies for astronauts on the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- The launch coincided with the **59th anniversary of America's first orbit** around the Earth. On 20 February 1962, astronaut John Glenn, became the first American to orbit Earth.
- The space supply ship carried more than **8,200 lbs. (3,719 kilograms)** of cargo including scientific equipment, fresh food and supplies, new hardware and spacewalk equipment for the seven astronauts onboard the International Space Station.

About Katherine Johnson:

Mrs Johnson was a pioneering mathematician known for her hand-written calculations. She helped astronaut John Glenn, to become the first American to orbit Earth, after personally verifying his Mercury missions' orbital trajectory calculations. Her contributions were also featured in the Oscar-nominated film Hidden Figures.

National Affairs

- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Prakash Javadekar**, inaugurated the **Atal Paryavaran Bhavan** at **Lakshadweep**. During the visit, the minister attended high-level meetings with the Secretaries of various departments in the Lakshadweep administration, participated in various official programmes at Suheli, Kadmat and Bangaram islands.

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0, (IMI 3.0)**, to expand immunization coverage across the country. The focus of IMI 3.0 will be on children and pregnant women who missed their vaccine doses during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **26th edition of 'Hunar Haat'** in **New Delhi**. The "Hunar Haat" will be held from February 21 to March 01, 2021, with the theme of "**Vocal for Local**". More than 600 artisans and craftsmen from more than 31 states and UTs are participating.
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri** and Minister of Electronics and IT **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the **National Urban Digital Mission' (NUDM)** at a virtual event, to create a digital infrastructure for cities in India. The NUDM has been launched jointly by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** along with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved to dissolve the **Puducherry Assembly** and impose **President's rule** in the Union Territory, following the resignation of the Chief Minister, **V Narayanasamy**, whose government lost majority power in the assembly. The decision was taken as no party claimed to form a government, following which, Lieutenant Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** had recommended President's Rule.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has delivered the inaugural address at the **2nd Khelo India National Winter Games** through a video conference. The second edition of the Khelo India-Winter Games has been organised at the world-famous ski-resort **Gulmarg in the Baramulla** district of **Jammu and Kashmir**.

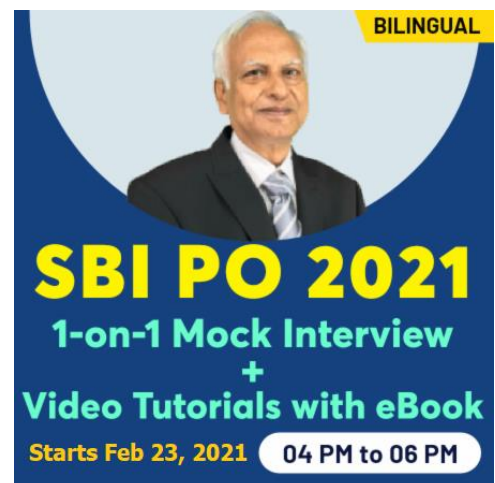
States in the News

- The state government of **Kerala** has sanctioned **Rs. 9 crores** to build '**smart anganwadis**', by converting the conventional anganwadis into "**smart**" structures with better amenities. The state **Department of Women and Child Development** has given permission for **48 anganwadis** in the state to construct new buildings under the Smart Anganwadi scheme.

- The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation of the **first skill university of eastern India** in Darrang district in Assam. The state-of-the-art skill university would be built with a financial outlay of **Rs 1,000 crore**. It will impart training to over **10,000** students in 12 disciplines. The university is expected to be completed by **2026**. It will have “understandings” with countries like **Germany, Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Japan, England**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has dedicated to the nation **INDMAX Unit** at Indian Oil’s Bongaigaon Refinery, Oil India Limited’s Secondary Tank Farm at Madhuban, Dibrugarh, and a Gas Compressor Station at Hebeda Village, Makum, Tinsukia remotely from Dhemaji in **Assam**. He also inaugurated the **Dhemaji Engineering College** and laid the foundation stone for Sualkuchi Engineering College in Assam.
- The **47th Khajuraho Dance Festival** began in **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh** which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition. Khajuraho Temples come alive with splendour, beams, and the hustle-bustle of art lovers at the Festival. The first-day event is dedicated to **Bharatanatyam performance** by **Geeta Chandran** and her troupe and **Kathak performance** by **Deepak Maharaj**.
- **Hoshangabad city** in the state of **Madhya Pradesh** will be renamed **Narmadapuram**. This was announced by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** during the **Narmada Jayanti programme** held in Hoshangabad. Hoshangabad was earlier named after an attacker **Hoshang Shah**, the first ruler of **Malwa**.
- The **Karnataka State Horticulture Department** is setting up a “**Flower Processing Centre**”, in collaboration with the **International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB)**, to convert unsold flowers into various useful products. The facility will provide support to the flower farmers who suffer huge losses whenever there is a glut or market disruption. Growers can learn the art of flower processing from the centre.
- Governor of Kerala, **Arif Mohammed Khan** has inaugurated India’s **first Digital University** named **Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology**. A Digital University has been set up in Kerala’s Technocity, **Mangalapuram**. Kerala University is established by upgrading the two-decade-old state government’s **Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K)**.
- The **Punjab Cabinet** has approved the implementation of the mission ‘**Lal Lakir**’ aimed at facilitating villagers to monetise property rights and availing benefits provided by government departments, institutions and banks in all villages across the state. As no record of rights is available for such properties within the ‘Lal Lakir’, the same cannot currently be monetised as per the real value of the property and no mortgages can be created on such properties.

International Affairs

- The **United States** has officially rejoined the **Paris Agreement**, under the Presidency of US President **Joe Biden**. Earlier, in November 2020, the US had officially exited the agreement on the order of then-President **Donald Trump**.
- **Israel** has launched a coronavirus “**green pass**” system, which allows people who have been vaccinated to access public facilities that would otherwise be off-limits. As of Sunday COVID-19 inoculation is a sort of status symbol in Israel.



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- **China** has regained its position as the **top trading partner of India in 2020**, which was held by the **United States**, since 2018-19. The two-way trade between India and China stood at **\$77.7 billion** in 2020 despite the conflict along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the rising anti-China sentiment. The India-US bilateral trade stood at **\$75.9 billion**, according to provisional data from the commerce ministry. Meanwhile, the **UAE** continues to remain India's **third-biggest trading partner**.
- The **Parliament of Georgia** confirmed **Irakli Garibashvili** as Prime Minister along with a vote of confidence in the cabinet Garibashvili put forward. Garibashvili pledged to create a long-term development strategy for Georgia in his first one hundred days in office.
- Russian supermodel and philanthropist **Natalia Vodianova** has become a **United Nations goodwill ambassador**, to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies. She will be a campaigner for the **UN Population Fund**, which now calls itself the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency, known as UNFPA.
- **India and Ethiopia** signed two agreements related to **visa facilitation and leather technology**. The Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen is on a 4-day visit to India to hold useful and productive discussions on a range of bilateral and regional issues.
- The Indian foreign minister **S Jaishankar** was on an official visit to two key Indian Ocean region countries- **Maldives and Mauritius**. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar visited the Island nation **Mauritius** to review the comprehensive and important bilateral relationship between the two nations. India signed a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** or (**Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement-(CECPA)**) with Mauritius.
- The **Government of India**, the **Government of Nagaland** and the **World Bank** signed a **\$68 million** agreement for "**Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project**", to enhance the governance of schools across Nagaland. The \$68 million loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a final maturity of 14.5 years including a grace period of **5 (five) years**.
- The **Government of India** and the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has signed a **\$304 million** loan agreement on February 23, 2021, for the **Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project**. The project aims to improve the reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the **northeastern state of Assam**.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** has signed a Statement of Intent with **Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd.**, a subsidiary of **Greenstat Norway**, to set up a **Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen**. Under this association, a Center of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H) including CCUS and Fuel Cells, would be developed for clean energy by IndianOil and M/s Greenstat in cooperation with Indo-Norwegian Hydrogen Cluster companies/organizations.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM), **S. Jaishankar** was on a two-day official visit to the archipelago nation the **Maldives** to review bilateral ties and development cooperation. During this visit, Mr S Jaishankar handed over **1 lakh** additional doses of the made-in-India **COVID-19 vaccine** to the Maldives. With this, the total Covid vaccine doses gifted by India for the Maldives reaches two lakh. Jaishankar also offered a **\$40-million line of credit (LoC)** to support the development of sports infrastructure in the **Maldives**.

Books and Authors

- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released "**Maveric Messiah**", a political biography on former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N.T. Rama Rao** authored by senior journalist **Ramesh Kandula**.
- Home Minister **Amit Shah** has released a book '**Rashtra Pratham - 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha**' in New Delhi. The book chronicles the glorious history of CRPF since its raising in 1939 and it has detailed and thoroughly researched accounts of CRPF's journey, challenges, successes, and sacrifices and said it will become a source of inspiration for personnel joining the force.

- Veteran actor **Kabir Bedi** will tell his life story in his memoir, which will be released in April. Entitled “**Stories I Must Tell: An Actor’s Emotional Journey**,” the actor will provide an honest glimpse into his life.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has brought the **State Bank of Sikkim** under its regulation. Till now, RBI had the right and obligation to function as a banker to all the state government except for the **state government of Sikkim**. Now the bank will be regulated by the RBI on a par with other banks, however, the bank’s ownership structure will not change.
- The **RBI** has roped in Punjabi singer-rapper **Viruss** in its public awareness campaign. The campaign also includes **Viruss’** popular 2017 Indie hit ‘**Bam Bhole**’ that was recreated for **Akshay Kumar-Kiara Advani** starrer **Laxmii**. As cyber frauds continue to increase, the Reserve Bank of India has undertaken an unusual measure to spread awareness.
- **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of a **Common Payment Card System (CPCS)** in partnership with the **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)** and **Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL)** to provide citizens with a one-stop solution for making various kind of payments. The prepaid card also facilitates retail payments within Chennai as well as in retail stores and e-commerce websites across the country. This will offer a common payment card platform to residents for making payments for various services within the city.
- The **S&P Global Ratings** has projected that India will be one of the fastest-growing emerging market economies in the fiscal year 2021-22, with a GDP growth rate of **10 per cent**. The continuous good performance by the agriculture sector, flattening of COVID-19 infection curve, pickup in government spending and the recently released budget are some of the factors for the positive growth prospect of the country.
- **HSBC** has raised its growth forecasts for India in the coming fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22), from **9 per cent** to **11.2 per cent**, following a pick up in business activity and a steady fall in COVID cases. The 2020-21 GDP forecast of India by HSBC remains **-6.3 per cent**, as projected earlier.
- The US-based rating agency **Moody’s** has revised its growth projection for India, and now expects the economy to **contract 7 per cent** in fiscal **2020-21 (FY21)**. This is lower than its previous estimate of **10.6 per cent contraction**. For the next financial year, FY22, beginning April 1, Moody’s has projected the economy to grow to **13.7 per cent**, as compared to **10.8 per cent** estimated earlier.
- India’s rating agency, **ICRA** has projected the Indian economy to **contract 7 percent** in the **current fiscal (FY21)**. For the next fiscal, i.e. FY22 (2021-22), ICRA expects a considerable rebound in India’s economic growth to **10.5 per cent** due to higher central government spending, and a pick-up in consumption.
- The GDP growth of India during 2020-21 is estimated to **contract 8 per cent**, as per the second advanced estimates projected by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. This was 4.9 per cent in 2019-20. NSO had projected a GDP contraction of **7.7 percent** in its first advance estimate.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has announced that **UPI AutoPay** has now gone live on **Gaana**. Its integration with **UPI AutoPay** has made Gaana the 1st player in the Media & Entertainment industry to roll out the innovative e-mandate feature on UPI. The introduction of UPI AutoPay will empower Gaana’s users to experience a smooth and seamless mechanism of renewing their subscriptions.



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- **State Bank of India** has tied up with **JPMorgan** to use the US bank's blockchain technology to speed up overseas transactions. The tie-up is expected to reduce SBI customers' transaction costs and time taken for payments. SBI has joined **Liink**, a new blockchain-based interbank data network developed by JPMorgan. By integrating the technology, the bank expects to reduce transaction costs and improve cross-border payments for its customers.

Appointments/Resignations

- Former Union Minister **Vijay Sampla** has assumed the charge of Chairman **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**. He has been the former Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment from 2014 to 2019. NCSC is an Indian constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, that works for the socio-economic development of the scheduled castes and to prevent atrocities against them.
- **Dushyant Chautala** has been re-elected as the **President of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** for a period of four years. He was elected unanimously during the **84th** annual meeting of the TTFI, on February 24, 2021.
- **Fullerton India Credit Company** has appointed **Shantanu Mitra** as the new **CEO and Managing Director**. He has over 40 years of experience in financial services, with over 20 years at **Standard Chartered and Citibank**, where he had stints in **India, Singapore and Thailand**.
- **OLX Group** appoints **Gautam Thakar** as global CEO of **OLX Autos**. He will lead a worldwide organisation with a workforce of more than 4,000 employees across **Asia, Africa, Latam, and the United States**. OLX Group announced the appointment of Gautam Thakar as global CEO of OLX Autos effective March 15, 2021.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** has named **Sharad Goklani** as its new President & CTO. He was earlier associated with **Equitas Small Finance Bank** as its EVP & Chief Technology Officer.

Defence News

- The **Indian Navy** and the **Indonesian Navy** conducted the **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** on February 18, 2021, in the **Arabian Sea**. The military exercise between the navies of both countries aims to enhance operational interoperability and overall cooperation among them. Indian naval ship **INS Talwar** and the Indonesian Navy's multirole corvette **KRI Bung Tomo** participated in the exercise.
- Army Chief Gen **Manoj Naravane** has flagged off the **100th K9 Vajra** tracked self-propelled howitzer built by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** at its armoured system complex at **Hazira in Gujarat**. L&T had completed the delivery of all the howitzers under the contract awarded in **May 2017 ahead of schedule**.
- Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** through virtual mode at **Pilkhua in Uttar Pradesh**. The first of its kind in India facility has been created by Delhi based **DRDO laboratory 'Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)'**.
- **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted two successful launches of **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)**. DRDO carried out the launch from a static vertical launcher from **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICG)** named **C-453** was commissioned into services in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. This was the **17th interceptor boats** out of the 18 which are being indigenously built by **Larsen & Toubro Ltd**.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Union Bank of India** was awarded "**Best Service Provider**" in **Human Resources** and also the best institution for "**Excellence in Learning & Development**" at the **29th Global HRD Congress awards**. **Kalyan Kumar**, Chief General Manager, HR was named as "**Chief Human Resources Officer of the Year**".

- **Anjali Bharadwaj**, an Indian social activist working on issues of transparency and accountability, is one of the 12 “courageous” individuals named by the Biden administration for the newly-instituted **International Anti-Corruption Champions Award**. The 48-year-old Bhardwaj has served as an active member of the Right to Information Movement in India for over two decades. She is the founder of the **Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS)**, a citizens’ group which promotes transparency and accountability in government and encourage the active participation of citizens.

Summit and Conference

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the virtual **Maritime India Summit (MIS) 2021**, from March 2 to 4, 2021. The ‘Maritime India Summit 2021’ is the flagship initiative of the **Union Ministry of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)**, Government of India. **FICCI** is the industry partner for the summit. The theme of the event is “**Exploring the potential business opportunities in the Indian Maritime sector and making Aatmanirbhar Bharat**”.
- Union Minister of Jal Shakti, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has inaugurated the **International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium** in New Delhi. The theme of the symposium is “**Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins**”. More than 300 delegates from across the country and abroad will participate in the Symposium.
- A trilateral dialogue was held among **India, France, and Australia** on February 24, 2021, at the senior officials’ level, with a focus on further enhancing cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**. The aim of this trilateral dialogue is to build strong bilateral relation among the three countries and synergies their respective strength to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- The **6th edition** of the **International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector** was inaugurated by Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, and Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution **Piyush Goyal**. The conference which includes **INDIA PHARMA 2021**

& **INDIA MEDICAL DEVICE 2021** is scheduled to take place from February 25-26, 2021 & March 1-2, 2021. The theme of India Pharma 2021: **‘Indian Pharma Industry: “Future is Now”**. The theme of India Medical Device 2021 is **“India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance”**.

Sports News

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the newly revamped **Motera cricket stadium** in Ahmedabad, which has been renamed the **Narendra Modi Stadium**. The biggest cricket stadium in the world will hold its first international match, with the newly renovated **Sardar Patel Stadium** to host the third Test between **India and England**. Both India and England had a forgettable outing in their last **pink-ball outings**.
- The **second edition** of the **Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021**, is scheduled to be held in **Karnataka**. This announcement was made by the Karnataka Chief Minister, **Shri BS Yediyurappa** and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Kiren Rijiju**. The KIUG-2021 will be hosted by **JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru**, in partnership with the **Association of Indian Universities (AIU)**.
- Former India all-rounder, **Yusuf Pathan** has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket. He played 57 ODIs and 22 T20Is for India since making his international debut in 2007. He was part of the Indian team that won the **ICC T20 World Cup 2007 and ICC Cricket World Cup 2011**.

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- Former India international and Karnataka captain, **R Vinay Kumar** has announced retirement **from all forms of cricket**. The “**Davangere Express**” after running for 25 years and passing so many stations of cricketing life, has finally arrived at the station called retirement.

Important Days

- **World Thinking Day**, originally known as **Thinking Day**, is celebrated annually on **22 February** by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide. The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding. The theme for World Thinking Day 2021 is **peacebuilding**.
- The **International Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is observed annually on **21 February** to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The theme of the Day this year, “**Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society**”.
- **Central Excise Day** is celebrated every year on **February 24** across India. The day is being celebrated to honour the service of the **Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC)** to the country. The day is celebrated to honour the officers associated with CBEC and their services. This is done to encourage the officers to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity.
- **World NGO Day** is celebrated every year on **27th February** globally. World NGO Day aims to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGOs (Charities, NPOs, CSOs) and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs and both the public and private sector.

Obituaries

- **Rahul Khullar**, the former chairman of the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has passed away. He was a 1975-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, who was appointed as TRAI chief in May 2012. He served at TRAI for three years. Prior to being appointed as TRAI chief, he was a secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

- The first prime minister of Papua New Guinea, **Michael Somare** has passed away. He was known as the “**father of the nation**” because he led the Pacific archipelago to independence from **Australia in 1975**. He had served as the prime minister of the country four times, between 1975 to 2011, and has been the longest-serving prime minister (17 years).
- Renowned Malayalam poet, the priest and academician **Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri**, has passed away. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 2014**, for his contribution to the world of Malayalam literature for decades.

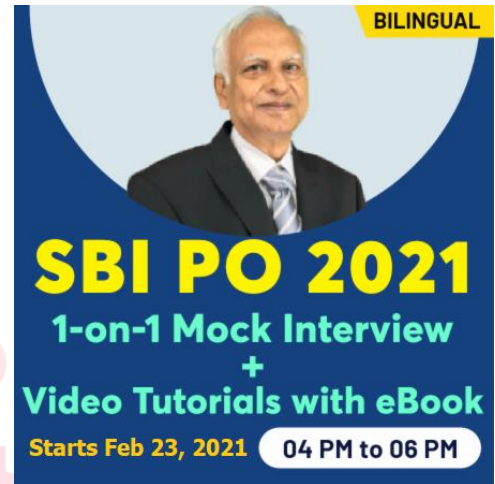
Miscellaneous News

- The Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry, **V Narayanasamy** has submitted the letter of his resignation and his council of ministers on February 22, 2021, to Lieutenant Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan**. The decision was taken as the Congress-led Government in the UT lost its majority in the House, which is 14.
- A British woman, **Jasmine Harrison** of England has become the youngest woman to row solo across the **Atlantic Ocean**. The 21-year-old from Thirsk, North Yorkshire in the UK, achieved the feat by finishing top in the **2020 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge**, organized by Atlantic Campaigns.
- The under-construction **Kushinagar Airport** in **Uttar Pradesh** has received the necessary clearances from aviation regulator **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** to operate international flights. Once operational, Kushinagar airport will become the third functional international facility in the state.
- **Chandigarh** became the **first state or Union Territory** in India to launch **Carbon Watch**, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual. Although the app can be accessed by everyone, it has specific options for the residents of Chandigarh to compile a detailed study. The application can be downloaded through a QR code in Android supported smart cell phones.

Static Takeaways

- Lakshadweep Capital: Kavaratti.
- Lakshadweep Administrator: Praful Patel.
- Minister of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.
- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.
- Assam CM: Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka: B.S. Yediyurappa; Governor: Vajubhai Vala.
- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.
- Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh.
- Punjab Governor: V.P.Singh Badnore.
- Prime Minister of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem.
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Georgia Capital: Tbilisi; Currency: Georgian lari.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- Ethiopia Capital: Addis Ababa.
- Ethiopia Currency: Ethiopian Birr.
- Ethiopia President: Sahle-Work Zewde.
- Ethiopia Prime minister: Abiy Ahmed.
- Prime Minister of Mauritius: Pravind Jugnauth; President: Prithvirajsing Roopun.
- Mauritius Currency: Mauritian rupee.
- Mauritius Capital: Port Louis.
- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: R. N. Ravi.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington DC, United States.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.
- World Bank Founded: July 1944.
- President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Jin Liqun.
- Headquarters of AIIB: Beijing, China.
- AIIB established: 16 January 2016.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- S&P Global Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.
- President of S&P Global Ratings: John Berisford.
- HSBC CEO: Noel Quinn.
- HSBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- HSBC Founder: Thomas Sutherland.
- HSBC Founded: 3 March 1865, Hong Kong.
- Headquarters of Moody's: New York, United States.
- President & CEO of Moody's: Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr.
- ICRA Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana.
- ICRA Non-Executive Chairman and Director: Arun Duggal.
- OLX Group Founded: 2006.
- OLX Group Headquarters: Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes Founded: 19 February 2004.
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Headquarters Table Tennis Federation of India: New Delhi.
- Table Tennis Federation of India Founded: 1926.
- Fullerton India Credit Company Founded: 1994.
- Fullerton India Credit Company Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd CEO: S. N. Subrahmanyam.
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd Founded: 7 February 1938, Mumbai.
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Union Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Union Bank of India CEO: Rajkiran Rai G.
- Union Bank of India Founded: 11 November 1919.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Shipping: Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

- International Commission on Large Dams President: Michael Rogers.
- International Commission on Large Dams Founded: 1928.
- International Commission on Large Dams Headquarters location: Paris, France.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Custom: M. Ajit Kumar.
- Headquarters of Central Board of Excise and Custom: New Delhi.
- Central Board of Excise and Custom Founded: 1 January 1964.
- HQ of DGCA: New Delhi; Established in Jan 1978.
- Chandigarh Administrator: V.P. Singh Badnore.
- Acting Administrator of NASA: Steve Jurczyk.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports: Kiren Rijju.
- UNFPA Headquarters: New York, New York, United States.
- UNFPA Head: Natalia Kanem.
- UNFPA Founded: 1969.
- National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- JPMorgan CEO: Jamie Dimon.
- JPMorgan Headquarters: New York, United States.
- JPMorgan Founder: J. P. Morgan.
- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.



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