

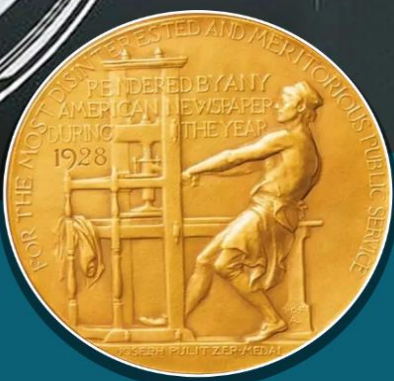


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# THE HINDU REVIEW

JUNE 2021

MONTHLY CAPSULE | CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## The Most Important Current Affairs June 2021

### RBI Governor Addressed On RBI Monetary Policy 2021

The six-member monetary policy committee of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** headed by Governor **Shaktikanta Das**, has decided to keep key lending rates unchanged for the **sixth** consecutive time, in its **June 2021 policy** review meeting held between **June 2 to 4, 2021**. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to continue with an accommodative stance until necessary to mitigate the impact of **COVID-19**. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled from **August 4 to 6, 2021**.

### The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates remain unchanged:

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
- Bank Rate: 4.25%
- CRR: 4%
- SLR: 18.00%

### RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:

- The RBI also downgraded the GDP growth forecast for FY22 to **9.5 per cent** compared with **10.5 per cent earlier**.
- On the other hand, growth is a bigger concern. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted **7.3 per cent in FY21**.
- Recently, SBI economists had sharply cut their FY22 GDP growth estimates to 7.9 per cent from what was 10.4 per cent earlier.
- The Reserve Bank of India Governor **Shaktikanta Das** announced a projection for Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation at **5.1 per cent for FY 2021-22**.
- G-SAP 2.0 worth **₹1.2 lakh crore** will be taken in the second quarter of FY22 to support the market.
- The rupee snapped its three-day losing streak and closed **18 paise higher at 72.91** against the US dollar.

### The composition of the Monetary Policy Committee is as follows:

- Governor of the Reserve Bank of India – Chairperson, ex officio: **Shri Shaktikanta Das**.
- Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in charge of Monetary Policy– Member, ex officio: **Dr Michael Debabrata Patra**.
- One officer of the Reserve Bank of India to be nominated by the Central Board – Member, ex officio: **Dr Mridul K. Sagar**.

- A professor at the Mumbai-based Indira Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research: **Prof. Ashima Goyal**.
- A professor of finance at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad: **Prof. Jayanth R Varma**.
- An agricultural economist and a senior adviser with the National Council of Applied Economic Research in New Delhi: **Dr Shashanka Bhide**.

### Some important instruments of Monetary Policy:

The RBI's Monetary Policy has several direct and indirect instruments which are used for implementing the monetary policy. Some important instruments of Monetary Policy are as follows:

**Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which banks can borrow overnight liquidity from the Reserve Bank of India against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).

**Reverse Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India can absorb liquidity from banks on an overnight basis, against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.

**Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** The LAF has overnight as well as term repo auctions under it. The term repo helps in the development of the inter-bank term money market. This market sets the benchmarks for the pricing of loans and deposits. This helps in improving the transmission of monetary policy. As per the evolving market conditions, the Reserve Bank of India also conducts variable interest rate reverse repo auctions.

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**Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** MSF is a provision that enables the scheduled commercial banks to borrow an additional amount of overnight money from the Reserve Bank of India. Bank can do this by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a limit at a penal rate of interest. This helps the banks to sustain the unanticipated liquidity shocks faced by them.

**Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22 announced**

**Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22** has announced, 19,788 institutions were ranked, and those that placed at the top made the global 2000 list. **Harvard University** has topped the ranking globally followed by **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and Oxford University** respectively.

As many as 68 Indian institutes have made it to the list of the top 2000 higher education institutes across the world, as per the Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR) 2021-22. The Indian pack is led by the **IIM-Ahmedabad** which has bagged **415th rank** followed by the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at 459th rank**.

**CWUR Ranking 2021: Top 10 Indian Institutes**

- Global Rank 415: IIM Ahmedabad
- Global Rank 459: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- Rank 543: Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai
- Rank 557: IIT Madras
- Rank 567: IIT Bombay
- Rank 571: University of Delhi
- Rank 623: IIT Delhi
- Rank 708: IIT Kharagpur
- Rank 709: Panjab University
- Rank 818: IIT Kanpur

**World Environment Day: 5th June**

**World Environment Day** is observed globally on **5th June** every year. This day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment and to remind people not to take nature for granted. The day provides an opportunity to broaden the “basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises, and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment.”

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is **'Reimagine. Recreate. Restore.'** as this year marks the beginning of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. **Pakistan** is the global host for the day to highlight the importance of ecosystem restoration this year.

**World Environment Day: History**

The first time World Environment Day was celebrated in **1974** with the slogan **“Only one Earth”**. In **1972** the conference was held on Human Environment which began from **5th to 16th June at United Nations**.

**BAFTA TV Awards 2021 winners announced**

The winners of the **BAFTA TV Awards 2021** were announced. The ceremony itself, filmed at **London’s Television Centre** and hosted by **Richard Ayoade**, was a hybrid event that kept in line with COVID-19 protocols by allowing a number of nominees from the main performance categories to attend, with others taking part digitally.

**Winners of BAFTA TV Awards 2021 are:**

S.No.	Category	Winner
1.	Leading Actress	Michaela Coel, I May Destroy You
2.	Leading Actor	Paul Mescal, Normal People
3.	Drama Series	Save Me Too
4.	Best Comedy Performance	Charlie Cooper and Aimee Lou Wood
5.	Best Comedy Series	Inside No. 9
6.	Original Music	Harry Escott, Roadkill
7.	Sports	England v West Indies Test Cricket – Sky Sports Cricket

**History of the awards:**

British Academy Television Awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding work in **British Television**. It is being given annually since 1955. It is mainly given to British programs.

**Auckland tops Global Liveability Index 2021**

**New Zealand** and **Australian** cities dominated the **Global Liveability Index 2021** published by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**. **Auckland** has been ranked the best on liveability rankings due to the ability of New Zealand city to contain **Covid-19**

faster. Japanese cities of **Osaka and Tokyo** grabbed second and fourth place and **Adelaide**, Australia spot 3rd place on EIU's Global Liveability Index 2021. living conditions remained worst in the Syrian capital Damascus.

**The top 10 most livable cities in the world**

- Auckland, New Zealand
- Osaka, Japan
- Adelaide, Australia
- Wellington, New Zealand
- Tokyo, Japan
- Perth, Australia
- Zurich, Switzerland
- Geneva, Switzerland
- Melbourne, Australia
- Brisbane, Australia

**Here's the list of the 10 least liveable cities in the world:**

- Damascus (Syria)
- Lagos (Nigeria)
- Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)
- Dhaka (Bangladesh)
- Algiers (Algeria)
- Tripoli (Libya)
- Karachi (Pakistan)
- Harare (Zimbabwe)
- Douala (Cameroon)
- Caracas (Venezuela)

**RBI: ATM cash withdrawal rule changed**

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has changed some rules regarding cash withdrawal from **automated teller machine (ATM)**. These ATM cash withdrawal rule changes include higher charges on transactions beyond the free permissible limit, a new free ATM transaction limit and a rise in interchange fee.

**The new ATM charges as defined by RBI are as under:**

- **Free cash withdrawal limit from own bank:** Bank customers can now do five free financial and non-financial transactions every month from their own bank ATMs.
- **Free ATM transaction limit from other banks:** ATM cardholders can do three free financial and non-financial transactions in metro centres while five in the non-metro transaction from other bank ATMs

- **Charges on ATM cash withdrawal beyond the free limit:** RBI allowed banks to increase charges on ATM transactions beyond the free ATM transaction limit.
- **Rise in interchange fee:** Interchange fee per transaction changed from **Rs 15 to Rs 17** for financial transactions while from Rs 5 to Rs 6 for non-financial transactions in effect from August 1, 2021.
- **New charges on ATM withdrawal beyond the free transaction limit:** Bank customer will have to pay **Rs 21 (currently it is Rs 20)** for each ATM cash withdrawal beyond the free transaction limit in effect from January 1, 2022.

**2021 Pulitzer Prize Announced: Complete List of Winners**

The **105th** class of **Pulitzer Prize 2021 winners** in Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced. The **Pulitzer Prize** is an award for achievements in **newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition** in the United States. It was established in **1917** by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) **Joseph Pulitzer** who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher and is administered by Columbia University in New York City.

In twenty-two of the categories, each winner receives a certificate and a **US \$15,000** cash award (raised from **\$10,000** in 2017). The winner in the public service category is awarded a gold medal.

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**24 Months Validity**

Here is the complete list of 2021 Pulitzer Prize winners:

S.No.	Category	Winner
<b>JOURNALISM</b>		
1.	Public service	The New York Times
2.	Criticism	Wesley Morris of The New York Times
3.	Editorial writing	Robert Greene of the Los Angeles Times
4.	International Reporting	Megha Rajagopalan, Alison Killing and Christo Buschek of BuzzFeed News
5.	Breaking News Reporting	Staff of the Star Tribune, Minneapolis, Minn.
6.	Investigative Reporting	Matt Rocheleau, Vernal Coleman, Laura Crimaldi, Evan Allen and Brendan McCarthy of The Boston Globe
7.	Explanatory Reporting	Andrew Chung, Lawrence Hurley, Andrea Januta, Jaimi Dowdell and Jackie Botts of Reuters
8.	Local Reporting	Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi of the Tampa Bay Times
9.	National Reporting	Staffs of The Marshall Project; AL.com, Birmingham; IndyStar, Indianapolis; and the Invisible Institute, Chicago
10.	Feature Writing	Mitchell S. Jackson, freelance contributor, Runner's World
11.	Commentary	Michael Paul Williams of the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch
12.	Breaking News Photography	Photography Staff of Associated Press
13.	Feature Photography	Emilio Morenatti of Associated Press
14.	Audio Reporting	Lisa Hagen, Chris Haxel, Graham Smith and Robert Little of National Public Radio
<b>BOOKS, DRAMA, AND MUSIC</b>		
15.	Fiction	The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich
16.	Drama	The Hot Wing King, by Katori Hall
17.	History	Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America, by Marcia Chatelain (Liveright/Norton)
18.	Biography or autobiography	The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X by Les Payne and Tamara Payne
19.	Poetry	Postcolonial Love Poem by Natalie Diaz
20.	General nonfiction	Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy by David Zucchino
21.	Music	Stride, by Tania León (Peermusic Classical)
22.	Special Citation	Darnella Frazier, The teenager who recorded the killing of George Floyd

### Vinoo Mankad and 9 others inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

The ICC has inducted 10 icons of the game, including India's **Vinoo Mankad**, into its illustrious **Hall of Fame** with two players each from five eras, dating back to cricket's early days, making it to the list. The announcement has been coincided with the inaugural **World Test Championship final**, to be played between **India and New Zealand** from June 18 in **Southampton**.

The 10 legends of the game to be inducted have all made a significant contribution to the history of Test cricket, and join an illustrious list of ICC Hall of

Famers, taking the total number to 103 as a result of this intake. The inductees are:

- **Aubrey Faulkner** of South Africa and **Monty Noble** of Australia for the early era (pre-1918),
- **Sir Learie Constantine** of West Indies and **Stan McCabe** of Australia for the inter-war Era (1918-1945),
- **Ted Dexter** of England and **Vinoo Mankad** of India for the post-war Era (1946-1970).
- **Desmond Haynes** of the West Indies and **Bob Willis** of England were inducted from the ODI era (1971-1995)
- **Andy Flower** of Zimbabwe and **Kumar Sangakkara** of Sri Lanka were from the modern era (1996-2016).

### India ranks 67th in Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021

As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India has been ranked 67th overall globally. The report reveals that, overall, India ranks 67th globally, with 38 per cent proficiency, with mid-rankings in each domain, 55th in business and 66th in both technology and data science. Indian learners have high proficiency in digital skills like Cloud Computing (83%) and Machine Learning (52%) & 54% in Mathematical skills. Improvement is needed in digital skills because in Data Analysis and Statistical programming, ranked only at 25% and 15% skills proficiency. But, Indians trail behind in data skills and need to focus on that.

#### About the report:

The report is based on performance data of about 77 million learners (from across 100 countries) on the platform collected since the onset of the pandemic. It benchmarks skills proficiency across 3 categories - Business, Technology and data science.

#### Rank:

Rank 1: **Switzerland**

Rank 2: **Luxembourg**

Rank 3: **Austria**

### Global Peace Index 2021 announced

The 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) announced by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Sydney, the GPI is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness. The index ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. This report presents the most comprehensive data-driven analysis to date on trends in peace, its economic value, and how to develop peaceful societies.

#### Global

- **Iceland** remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008.
- It is joined at the top of the index by **New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal, and Slovenia.**
- **Afghanistan** is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year, followed by **Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq.**

#### South Asia:

- **India** has moved up two notches from its previous year's ranking to become the **135th** most peaceful country in the world and the **5th in the region.**

- **Bhutan and Nepal** are named as the first and second most peaceful in this region.
- **Bangladesh** has been ranked 91th out of 163 countries in Global Peace Index for 2021. According to the list, Bangladesh is the 3rd most peaceful in South Asia.
- **Sri Lanka** has slipped down 19 rungs from 2020, to become 95th globally in this year's rankings, and the **4th in South Asia.**
- The largest improvement in peacefulness in South Asia occurred in **Pakistan**, which ranked **150th globally** and **6th in the region**, by moving up two notches from the previous year's ranking.

### Novak Djokovic wins French Open Tennis Title 2021

**Novak Djokovic** defeated **Stefanos Tsitsipas** to lift the **French Open title** for the second time in his career. Djokovic, with his **19th Grand Slam title**, has closed in on **Roger Federer** and **Rafael Nadal** on the all-time Grand Slam titles list. Both the players have won 20 Grand Slams each.

Djokovic has also become the first man in the Open Era to complete the career **Grand Slam twice.** (He has won the Australian Open nine times, Wimbledon five times, and the US Open three times.) He has become the **first man in 52 years**, after **Rod Laver**, to win all the four Grand Slams twice. Overall, he is the third male tennis player to achieve this unique feat. The third being **Roy Emerson.**

### Winners of French Open Tennis Tournament 2021

- Men's Singles: **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)**
- Women's Singles: **Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)**
- Men's Doubles: **Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France)** and **Nicolas Mahut (France)**
- Women's Doubles: **Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)** and **Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)**
- Mixed Doubles- **Desirae Krawczyk (United States)** and **Joe Salisbury (United Kingdom).**

### New Zealand crowned first ICC World Test Championship

**New Zealand** defeated **India** to win the first **ICC World Test Championship.** New Zealand chased down the target of **139** to win the first-ever World Test Championship final with eight wickets in hand. The last day of the match was played on **June 23, 2021.** The match saw 6 days play in place of the regular 5 days



due to the rain factor. **Kyle Jamieson** (NZ) has been adjudged as the “**Player of the match**”, while **Kane Williamson** (NZ) is the “**Player of the series**”.

**Important facts:**

- The first test championship began in **2019** with the finals being played in **2021**.
- The top three teams, as a result, are: **First: New Zealand; Second- India; Third- Australia**.
- The final match was played at **Ageas Bowl Stadium (Rose Bowl Stadium)** in **Southampton, England**.
- The next Test Championship will be held between **2021-2023**.

**International Day of Yoga: 21 June**

United Nations celebrates **International Day of Yoga** globally on **21 June** every year to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga. Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word ‘yoga’ derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

Recognizing this important role of Yoga, this year’s commemoration of the International Day of Yoga focuses on “**Yoga for well-being**” – how the practice of Yoga can promote the holistic health of every individual.

**History International Day of Yoga:**

India proposed the draft resolution establish the International Day of Yoga and the proposal was endorsed by a record 175 member states. Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December **2014**, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131.

**Centre releases full list of Smart Cities Awards 2020 winners**

The **Central government** has declared **Smart City awards 2020** in which **Indore** (Madhya Pradesh) and **Surat** (Gujarat) won the award jointly for their overall development. Whereas **Uttar Pradesh** emerged on the top among all states, followed by **Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the Smart City award, 2020**. The Smart City awards were given across the themes of Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, Built Environment, Water, Urban Mobility.

According to the Centre, of the total, proposed projects under the Smart Cities Mission, 5,924 projects (115% by number) worth **₹1,78,500 crore** have been

tendered so far. Whereas work orders have been issued for 5,236 projects (101% by number) worth **₹1,46,125 crore**.

**List of winning Smart Cities under the different categories:**

**1. Social Aspects**

- **Tirupati:** Health Benchmark for Municipal Schools
- **Bhubaneswar:** Socially Smart Bhubaneswar
- **Tumakuru:** Digital Library Solution

**2. Governance**

- **Vadodara:** GIS
- **Thane:** Digi Thane
- **Bhubaneswar:** ME app

**3. Culture**

- **Indore:** Conservation of Heritage
- **Chandigarh:** Capitol Complex, Heritage Project
- **Gwalior:** Digital Museum

**4. Urban Environment**

- **Bhopal:** Clean energy
- **Chennai:** Restoration of water bodies
- **Tirupati:** Renewable Energy Generation

**5. Sanitation**

- **Tirupati:** Bioremediation & Bio-Mining
- **Indore:** Municipal Waste Management System
- **Surat:** Conservation through Treated Wastewater

**6. Economy**

- **Indore:** Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism
- **Tirupati:** Boost Local Identity & Economy through Design Studio
- **Agra:** Micro Skill Development Centre

**7. Built Environment**

- **Indore:** Chappan Dukan
- **Surat:** Canal Corridor



### 8. Water

- **Dehradun:** Smart Water Metering Water ATM
- **Varanasi:** Eco-Restoration of Assi River
- **Surat:** Integrated and Sustainable Water Supply System

### 9. Urban Mobility

- **Aurangabad:** Majhi Smart Buses
- **Surat:** Dynamic Scheduling Buses
- **Ahmedabad:** Man-less parking system and automatic ticket dispensing machines AMDA Park

### 10. Innovative Idea Award

- **Indore:** Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism
- **Chandigarh:** For Union Territories

### 11. Covid Innovation Award

- Kalyan-Dombivali and Varanasi

#### Other Awards in different categories:

- Surat, Indore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vijayawada, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and Vadodara were awarded 4-star rating under Climate-Smart Cities Assessment Framework.
- According to the ministry, Ahmedabad bagged the 'Smart Cities Leadership Award', followed by Varanasi and Ranchi in the second and third spots respectively.

## Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a fine of **Rs 10 crore** on **HDFC Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance found in the auto loan portfolio of the bank. As per the RBI, HDFC Bank has violated the provisions of **section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of Pune-based **Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank**. The bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on May 31. The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. As such, it does not comply with the provision of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- **ICICI Bank** has announced that it has tied up with **SWIFT** to offer a facility that helps overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India. The beneficiary gets the credit to the bank account instantly. This makes ICICI Bank the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility, called '**SWIFT gpi Instant**', for cross border inward payments. With this new service, we continue to live up to our commitment to offering customer-centric solutions enabling quick and hassle-free money transfers."
- The **RBI** has imposed a penalty aggregating to **Rs 6 crores** on **Bank of India and Punjab National Bank** for contravention of norms, including one related to "**Frauds - Classification and Reporting**". A penalty of **Rs 4 crores** has been imposed on the Bank of India and **Rs 2 crores** on Punjab National Bank.
- **NITI Aayog** has recommended divesting government stake in the **Central Bank of India** and **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** as part of the privatisation initiative announced in the **Union Budget**. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, in her Budget speech, had announced privatising two public sector banks (PSBs) and one general insurance company in **2021-22**. As per the new PSE (Public Sector Enterprise) policy for '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**', NITI Aayog is entrusted with the task to suggest names of PSUs in strategic sectors to be merged, privatised, or made subsidiaries of other PSUs.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a collateral-free "**Kavach Personal Loan**" to enable its customers to meet medical expenses of self and family members for Covid treatment. Under this scheme, customers can avail of loans up to **₹5 lakhs** at an effective interest rate of **8.5 per cent** per annum for **60 months**, which is inclusive of three months moratorium.
- **Indian Bank**, and healthcare company **Practo**, have joined hands to provide existing and former employees of the bank and their family members with Practo's signature corporate health and wellness plans during the covid-19 pandemic.
- **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of '**ICICI STACK for Corporates**', a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem including promoters, group companies, employees, dealers, vendors and all other stakeholders. The wide range of 360-degree

solutions enables corporates to seamlessly meet all banking requirements of their ecosystem in an expeditious and frictionless manner.

- **LIC Cards Services (LIC CSL)** has launched a contactless prepaid gift card, 'Shagun', in collaboration with **IDBI Bank** on the **RuPay platform**. The purpose of this card is to expand the gift card market with an intent to promote cashless ways of gifting and present a wide range of end-use choices and in a future foray into the market of e-gift cards. NPCI partnered with LIC CSL & IDBI Bank for the launch of the Shagun Gift Card on RuPay network.
- As per **Reserve Bank of India's** data, the **foreign exchange reserves of India** has crossed **\$600 billion** marks for the first time. The Forex reserve of India increased by USD 6.842 billion to **\$605.008 billion** in the week ended June 04, 2021. This is the lifetime high of India's foreign asset. With this, India has tied with **Russia** as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world. The forex reserve of Russia is calculated to be **\$605.2 billion**.
- According to RBI, The scope of the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** will be expanded by **August 31** this year by adding '**mobile prepaid recharges as a biller category**'. BBPS is an interoperable platform for recurring bill payments operated by the **National Payments Corporation of India**.
- **IndusInd Bank** announced the launch of '**IndusEasy Credit**', a comprehensive digital lending platform that enables customers to meet their financial requirements from the comfort of their homes. With this, both existing, as well as non-IndusInd Bank customer, can instantly avail of personal loans or credit cards on a single platform in a completely paperless and digital manner.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given "in-principle" approval to **Centrum Financial Services Ltd (CFSL)** to set up a **small finance bank (SFB)**, which will take over the beleaguered **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank)**. It will get 120 days to commence operations. The amalgamation with PMC Bank is a separate process that would involve notification of the scheme by the government.
- **SBI General Insurance**, one of the leading general insurance companies in India, has signed a corporate agency agreement with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for the distribution of **non-life insurance**

**Solution.** Through this agreement, SBI general insurance will access the IDFC first bank's larger customer base resulting in wider penetration of its insurance products through the latter's digital-first approach.

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has announced the launch of '**Pay Your Contact**' the new feature that enables its customers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by the beneficiary's mobile number. The 'Pay Your Contact' service is available on the lender's mobile banking app and uses the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform**.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched the **Aarogyam healthcare business loan** to provide enhanced support to the healthcare sector amid the pandemic. Under this new product, the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathology labs, manufacturers, suppliers, importers, logistic firms engaged in critical healthcare supply can avail of loans up to **Rs 100 crore (as per the geographic location) repayable in 10 years, the country's largest state-owned bank**.
- **SBI Card**, the country's second-largest credit card issuer and **Fabindia**, a retail platform for a wide range of **handcrafted products** by the artisans of the country, have joined hands to launch an exclusive co-branded contactless credit card named "**Fabindia SBI Card**". The card is designed with curated benefits and privileges to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers and comes in two variants — **Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card**.
- **Ministry of Finance** has allowed housing finance companies (HFCs) with asset size of over **Rs. 100 crore** to recover the dues using **SARFAESI law**. This move is expected to be a shot in the arm for thousands of small HFCs, as it will facilitate quick recovery of dues and encourage these companies to lend more. Earlier HFCs with assets over **Rs. 500 crore** (and notified by Finance Ministry) were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.
- **RBI** decided to open a separate liquidity window of **Rs 15,000 crore** with tenors of up to three years at the repo rate till March 31, 2022, for contact-intensive sectors. Under this, banks are expected to create a separate COVID loan book. By way of an incentive, such banks will be eligible to park their surplus liquidity up to the size of the COVID loan book created.

## Economy Current Affairs

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** has constituted a **group of ministers (GoM)** in order to decide on the rates of **COVID-19 relief material**. Currently, 5% GST is levied on domestically manufactured vaccines, while it is 12% for COVID drugs and oxygen concentrators. Alcohol-based sanitisers, hand wash, disinfectants and thermometers attract 18% GST. An eight-member ministerial panel under the Meghalaya chief minister **Conrad K Sangma** to consider Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemptions on a range of Covid-19 essentials such as vaccines, drugs, testing kits and ventilators.
- According to Moody's Investors Service, India's economy will rebound in the current financial year to mark a growth of **9.3 per cent** but the **second Covid-19 wave** has increased risks to the country's outlook with potential longer-term credit implications. **Moody's Investors Service** has projected the GDP growth rate of the Indian economy as follows: 2021-22 (FY22): **9.3%**; 2022-23 (FY23): **7.9%**.
- **SBI economists**, in its research report "**Ecwrap**", has sharply cut the GDP growth estimates for the Indian economy to **7.9 per cent** in FY22, compared to an earlier projection of **10.4 per cent**. This is the lowest growth rate estimate for India among all analysts.
- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has cut India's growth projection to **9.9 %** for Financial Year 2022. In March, it estimated growth to **12.6%**. The rate was cut witnessing covid cases lockdowns which have threatened to stall the nascent economic recovery of India. As per OECD, "pandemic can be contained quickly but GDP (gross domestic product) growth will still be about **10% in 2021-22 and 8% in 2022-23**."
- The **World Bank's** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **USD 500 million** programs to support India's nationwide initiative to revitalise the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The MSME sector is the backbone of India's economy, contributing **30% of India's GDP and 4% of exports**.
- The **goods and service tax collections for May** clocked **Rs 1,02,709 crore**, making it the eighth straight month of collections crossing the **Rs 1 lakh crore** mark. The collections have been 65% higher than the GST revenues in the same month, despite many states being under lockdown due to the Covid pandemic.
- The domestic credit rating agency **Crisil** has revised the GDP growth estimate for India in **FY22 (2021-22)** to **9.5 percent**, from the earlier estimate of **11 percent**. As per CRISIL, the economy had contracted by **7.3 percent in FY21**. The downward revision is basically due to the hit to private consumption and investments following the second wave of COVID-19.
- The **World Bank** has projected **India's economy** to grow at **8.3 per cent in 2021** and **7.5 per cent in 2022**. The Washington-based global lender, in its latest issue of Global Economic Prospects released, noted that in India, an enormous second COVID-19 wave is undermining the sharper-than-expected rebound in activity seen during the second half of the Fiscal Year 2020/21, especially in services. The World Bank said, in **2023**, India is expected to grow by **6.5 per cent**.
- The domestic credit rating agency **ICRA** has projected the **gross domestic product (GDP)** growth rate of India for the financial year 2021-22 to **8.5 per cent** year-on-year. It expects the gross value added (GVA) at basic prices (at constant 2011-12 prices) to grow at **7.3 per cent** in FY2022. ICRA is Gurgaon based credit rating agency, owned by Moody's Corporation.
- **India's retail inflation** shot up to a six-month high of **6.3 per cent in May**, after easing to a three-month low of **4.23 per cent in April**. Inflation, based on **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, has breached the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** target range for the first time after five months. The RBI is mandated to maintain the crucial number at **4 per cent** in the medium term, with a **2 percentage** point margin on either side as part of its inflation target.
- The **wholesale price-based inflation** accelerated to a record high of **12.94 per cent in May**, on rising prices of crude oil and manufactured goods. The low base effect also contributed to the spike in **WPI inflation in May 2021**. In May 2020, WPI inflation was at **(-) 3.37 per cent**. In April 2021, WPI inflation hit double-digit at 10.49 per cent. The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, was 12.94 per cent for the month of May 2021 (over May 2020) as compared to **(-) 3.37 per cent** in May 2020.



- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has estimated the **gross domestic product (GDP)** of India to grow at **9.5 per cent** in the current financial year, i.e. **FY 2021-22**. This will take the GDP to a level that is slightly higher than in FY20. Rising medical expenditure has squeezed incomes and demand. But recovery is on the cards. Global growth and macroeconomic stability will support trade and investment flows.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** had recently extended the deadline to link **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** with Aadhaar number to **June 30, 2021**, due to the difficulties posed by the ongoing Covid pandemic. So now as the deadline is fast approaching, here are some guidelines which must be kept in mind. As per the new **Section 234H** of the **Income-tax Act 1961**, which has been recently introduced during **Budget 2021**, the PAN cards which are not linked to Aadhaar after **June 30, 2021**, would be declared “inoperative”.
- **Moody’s Investors Service** has slashed India’s growth projection to **9.6 per cent** for the 2021 calendar year, from its earlier estimate of **13.9 per cent**. For the calendar year 2022, GDP growth is projected at **7 per cent**.
- **S&P Global Ratings** cut India’s FY22 growth forecast for the current fiscal to **9.5 per cent**, from **11 per cent** earlier, and warned of the risk to the outlook from further waves of COVID pandemic. It also projected India’s growth at **7.8 per cent** in the next fiscal ending **March 31, 2023**.
- Notwithstanding incremental credit growth plunging to a **59-year low** at **5.56 per cent in FY21**, the bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to a five-year high of a little over **56 per cent in 2020**, according to the latest data from the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**. At a 56.075 per cent credit-to-GDP ratio, total outstanding bank credit stood at **USD 1.52 trillion** in the country in 2020.
- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has projected the GDP growth rate of India for fiscal year FY22 (2021-22) at **9.6 per cent**. Earlier this was estimated at **10.1 per cent** by the rating agency. This rate is, however, contingent upon India vaccinating its entire adult population by December 31, 2021.

## Business Current Affairs

- The country’s largest private sector general insurer, **ICICI Lombard** has tied up with **Microsoft** to strengthen and automate the quality control processes. The insurer will make use of **Microsoft’s Azure Speech Services and Natural Language Processing (NLP)** to screen its daily service calls made by customer service reps.
- **Pharmeasy** has announced the acquisition of rival **Medlife**, thereby creating India’s largest online pharmacy. The deal will make PharmEasy the largest player in the domestic online pharmacy sector, with the combined entity set to serve **2 million customers** a month. The deal values the stake of Medlife shareholders at **\$250 million**.
- India’s largest power utility, **NTPC Ltd**, under the Ministry of Power, has become a signatory to the prestigious **UN Global Compact’s CEO Water Mandate**, that focus on efficient water management. The initiative also provides a platform for companies to partner with like-minded businesses, UN agencies, public authorities, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders.
- Merchant payments and financial services provider, **BharatPe** has acquired a multi-brand loyalty platform, **PAYBACK India**, to help its **6 million** offline merchants roll out rewards and loyalty programmes for customers. The acquisition is expected to give an exit to **American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund**, which hold **90% and 10% stake** respectively in the entity.
- **Policybazaar** has got approval from regulator **IRDAI** to undertake insurance broking, a development that will help the company augment business and expand its bouquet of services. With this development, the company will surrender its web aggregator licence to the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and undertake business including insurance aggregation under the broking umbrella.
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has launched a centralized web-based workflow-based IT platform called “**e-PGS**”. The new technology platform, e-PGS, has been designed to provide a centralized collection and payment accounting with a high level of bank integration. It has been designed to provide

very innovative features of seamless and integrated banking with automatic reconciliations.

- **Amazon** has acquired an American instant messaging app **‘Wickr’** to offer secure

communications for **businesses, government agencies, and individuals**, who are moving to hybrid work environments, due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**

## International Current Affairs

- The UN health agency, **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, has given easy-to-say labels to two variants of the **Covid-19**, first found in India. The two variants are **B.1.617.1** and **B.1.617.2**. The B.1.617.1 variant of the Covid 19 has been named as **‘Kappa’** while the B.1.617.2 variant is named as **‘Delta.’**
- Veteran **Israeli** politician, **Isaac Herzog**, has been elected as the President of the country on June 01, 2021, during the 120 members parliamentary election for 2021. The 60-year-old Herzog will be the **11th President of Israel**, assuming office with effect from **July 09, 2021**. He will succeed **Reuven Rivlin**, who is set to complete his tenure in July 2021 after seven years in office.
- A 41-year-old man in **China’s** eastern province of **Jiangsu** has been confirmed as the first human case of infection with the **H10N3 strain of bird flu**, China’s National Health Commission (NHC). The man, a resident of the city of **Zhenjiang**, was hospitalised on April 28 after developing a fever and other symptoms. He was diagnosed as having the H10N3 avian influenza virus.
- **China** has created a **combined air defence system** along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**. The combined air defence system has been developed with the elements of the **air force and army of western theatre command**. For the first time, an integrated army air defence system has been developed by china along the western borders. The combined air defence system has been developed for putting all assets of the army and air force under central control. Since 2017, China has increased the number of airbases and heliports near the LAC.
- The **European Union** and an energy investment programme founded by **Bill Gates plan** to raise up to **\$1 billion** to roll out the low-carbon technologies Europe is betting on to meet its climate change goals. The partnership would see **Gates-founded Breakthrough Energy** use private capital and philanthropic funds to match funding provided by the EU.
- The **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** has been officially launched, which

will run from **2021 to 2030**. United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be co-led by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)**. It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in a 2019 resolution.

- **Maldivian** foreign minister, **Abdullah Shahid** was elected President of the **76th United Nations General Assembly (PGA)** with an overwhelming majority. He garnered 143 votes in favour with 48 against – that gave him victory by a three-fourths majority. The post of the UN General Assembly President rotated annually among regional groupings. The 76th session (2021-22) is the turn of the Asia-Pacific group and this is the first time Maldives will be occupying the office of the PGA.
- **Group of Seven (G7)** advanced economies signed a landmark deal on **taxing multinational companies**. As per the deal, the minimum global tax rate would be at least **15 per cent**. The agreement was signed by finance ministers of the **United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Canada, France, Italy and Japan**. It opens the way for levies on multinational companies in countries where they operate rather than just where they are headquartered.
- **Interpol** has launched a new global database named **“I-Familia”** to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries. Describing it as a groundbreaking database officially launched this month, the Interpol in a statement said it applied cutting-edge scientific research and used the DNA of relatives to identify missing persons or unidentified human remains around the world.
- **El Salvador** has become the first country in the world to grant legal tender status to **bitcoin**. The use of bitcoin as legal tender will become law in **90 days**. El Salvador’s economy heavily relies on remittances and so those who are working abroad can send money back home in bitcoins. The use of bitcoin will be totally optional. It will bring **financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation and economic development to the country**.

- **Russia** is building the **first naval ship** that will be fully equipped with stealth technology to make it hard to detect. The hull of the Mercury naval corvette dubbed project **20386** has already been built and the vessel is expected to be delivered to the navy next year. The warship will be armed with cruise missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and artillery.
- Former Mongolian Prime Minister, **Ukhnaa Khurelsukh** became the country's sixth democratically elected president, further consolidating the power of the ruling **Mongolian People's Party (MPP)** with a landslide victory.
- **France** will make a direct contribution of 1 million euros to the **International Solar Alliance**. The amount is expected to benefit the ISA's flagship programme, **STAR-C (Solar Technology Application Resource Centre)** "which provides capacity building and training activities on all aspects of solar energy development.
- **Israel** will become the **world's first mask-free country** in the Corona period. Here the rule of applying masks in closed places will end from **June 15**. This was announced by Israel's Health Minister **Yuli Edelstein**. The rule of applying masks outside has already been abolished in the country.
- **Naftali Bennett**, the former Defence Minister of **Israel**, and leader of the **Yamina party** took oath as the Prime Minister of the country. The 49-year-old former tech entrepreneur replaces **Benjamin Netanyahu**, who has been forced out of office after 12 years (**2009 to 2021**). (Netanyahu is the longest-serving PM of Israel).
- **UN Security Council** elected **Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and UAE** as non-permanent members for the **2022-23 term**. All five countries, elected unopposed, will begin their term from **1 January 2022**. The election for the non-permanent members of the Security Council is held through secret ballot and candidates require a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly to get elected.
- **NATO** leaders declared that **China** poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order. This is a message in sync with US President Joe Biden's efforts to get allies to speak out with a more unified voice against **China's trade, military and human rights practices**.
- A new free trade agreement with the **United Kingdom** will deliver more **Australian** jobs and business opportunities for exporters, bringing both countries closer together in a changing strategic environment. **Prime Ministers Scott Morrison**

and **Boris Johnson** have agreed on the broad outlines of an **Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.

- **Ebrahim Raisi** has won the **2021 Iranian presidential election**, winning 62 per cent of the vote with about 90 per cent of ballots counted. The 60-year-old Raisi will succeed **Hassan Rouhani** in August 2021, to begin his four-year term. He is also the Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019.
- Armenia's acting prime minister, **Nikol Pashinyan**, kept power in a parliamentary election that boosted his authority despite being widely blamed for a military defeat last year in the **Nagorno-Karabakh enclave**. Nikol's Civil Contract party won 53.92% of the votes cast.
- **Japan** plans to issue so-called **vaccine passports** from around mid-to-late July as more activities around the world open up to people who have been vaccinated against the coronavirus. The government is asking other countries to exempt travelers carrying the documents that officially certify their vaccination status from quarantine or to shorten the quarantine period.
- This is the first time **Iran** has reported an emergency shutdown of the plant in the **southern port city of Bushehr**. It went online in 2011 with help from **Russia**. Iran is required to send spent fuel rods from the reactor back to Russia as a nuclear nonproliferation measure. Unexplained closure of the Bushehr reactor could cause power cuts.
- **Microsoft** reached a new milestone as the company's market capitalization hit **\$2 trillion** for the first time. Apple became the first publicly traded U.S. company to reach the \$2 trillion mark in August. Amazon, valued at **\$1.77 trillion**, is also approaching the \$2 trillion club.



- The Prime Minister of **Sweden, Stefan Lofven**, has announced his resignation on June 28, 2021, after he lost a confidence vote in parliament. The 63-year-old Lofven is the **first Swedish government leader** to be defeated by a no-confidence vote. He was serving as the prime minister of Sweden since 2014.
- **Philippines** has been included in the grey list of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**. FATF has released its grey list of jurisdictions that will be subjected to increased monitoring. In addition to the **Philippines, Haiti, Malta, and South Sudan** have also been added to the grey list.

## National Current Affairs

- The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**-led Government of India has announced two major measures for those families who have **lost the earning member due to Covid**, to mitigate financial difficulties that may be faced by them. Firstly, the government have decided to provide family pension to such families and secondly, provide them with enhanced & liberalised insurance compensation.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually launched the **Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP)** to ensure holistic growth of horticulture. In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters selected for the programme. A central sector programme implemented by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, CDP aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved a **memorandum of cooperation** between **India-Japan** in the field of sustainable urban development. A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on **Sustainable Urban Development** has been signed between the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan**. A Joint Working Group (JWG) will be also formed to implement the programmes on cooperation under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC). The JWG will meet once a year.
- **CBSE** launched a nationwide **Young Warrior movement** to engage **5 million young people** to fight against Covid-19. This movement is expected to impact **50 million people**. The Board has launched the movement together with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **YuWaah-UNICEF**, and a multi-stakeholder consortium of over 950 partners.
- The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** virtually launched an initiative called, **SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine)** on June 04, 2021, and also the SAGE portal to support India's elderly persons. The SAGE portal will act as a **"one-stop access"** of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- In view of the growing problem related to children affected by COVID-19, the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has devised an online tracking portal **"Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)"** for children in need of care and protection.
- Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the six modules of short films of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled **"Hisaab Ki Kitaab"**. These short films developed by **Common Services Centers(CSC) eGov** as a part of their training tool.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually addressed the **World Environment Day** event, which was jointly organised by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. During the event, PM Modi also released the **"Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025"**. The theme of the report is **'promotion of biofuels for a better environment'**.
- The Governments of 23 nations, including **India**, have collectively launched a bold new plan called **Mission Innovation 2.0**, to

catalyze action and spearhead a decade of innovation for global investment in clean energy research, development and demonstrations. Mission Innovation 2.0 is the second phase of the global Mission Innovation initiative, launched alongside the **Paris Agreement at the 2015 COP21 conference**. The new initiative was launched at the Innovating to Net Zero Summit, hosted by **Chile**.

- **India** has been elected as a member of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, one of the six main organs of the United Nations, for three-year terms of **2022-24**. India was elected to the 54-member ECOSOC, by the UNGA on June 7, 2021, in the **Asia-Pacific States category, along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman**.
- **Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar** launched an awareness campaign on **single use plastic 2021** on the occasion of World Ocean Day, June 8. In India two-third waste was getting collected and one-third was not getting collected, he said. India aims to phase Single Use Plastics by 2022
- The **Ministry of Ayush** organised a curtain raiser event for the **7th International Day of Yoga**. The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)**. The event underlined the importance of the central theme of IDY 2021 **“Be With Yoga, Be At Home”**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the implementation of **“Deep Ocean Mission”**. This mission is proposed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- The government of India has launched **‘Project O2 for India’** to step up production of **medical oxygen** to meet the potential increase in demand due to further waves of the pandemic. ‘Project O2 for India’, an initiative of the Office of **Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI)**, aims to help stakeholders working to augment the country’s ability to meet the rise in demand for medical oxygen.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched a crash course to train more than **one lakh “Covid warriors”** as he called on the country to be prepared for challenges the coronavirus pandemic may pose in the future. The programme will be to be carried out from **111 training centres spread across 26 states**. Amid all these efforts, skilled

manpower is critical. For this and to support the current force of coronavirus warriors, one lakh youths are being trained. This training should be over in 2-3 months.

- On the occasion of the seventh **International Yoga Day on June 21, 2021**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the **mYoga mobile app**. The app has been developed in collaboration between the **World Health Organisation (WHO) and Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ministry of AYUSH), Government of India**.
- As per the **World Investment Report 2021** by the **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, **India** was the **fifth-largest** recipient of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows in the world in 2020. The country received **USD 64 billion FDI in 2020**, which is an increase of **27 per cent**, over **USD 51 billion** inflows in 2019.
- The Minority Affairs Minister, **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** launched a nationwide **“JaanHaiToJahaanHai”** awareness campaign on Corona vaccination for rural and remote areas. The aim of this campaign is to aware people of the Corona vaccination and to crush rumours and apprehensions related to Corona vaccination. It has been launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in association with various socio-educational organizations, NGOs, and Women Self Help Groups.
- Ahead of the **Tokyo Games**, the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent was launched. **Mohit Chauhan** has composed and sung the song titled **“Lakshya Tera Samne Hai”**. The Games will open on July 23 and over 100 Indian athletes have qualified for the event so far.
- **India and Bhutan** have jointly launched the **“Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)”**. It has been launched for strengthening the tax administration of Bhutan. It will focus on **International Taxation and Transfer Pricing**. TIWB programme aims to strengthen tax administrations among developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors and by sharing general audit practices & dissemination of knowledge products with them. This programme is another milestone in the relationship between India and Bhutan. It will be completed in **24 months’ duration**.
- Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced a slew of measures, to provide relief to people and businesses affected by the second wave of the

COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister announced a total of 17 measures worth **Rs. 6,28,993 crore**.

- Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has formally launched the e-filing portal of **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar'**, in New Delhi. The newly developed e-Filing Portal would enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated a **Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy**

at **Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA)** premises in Ahmedabad. These two new initiatives are part of PM's vision of creating a **'Mini-Japan' in Gujarat**. The newly launched Zen Garden in Ahmedabad will showcase several elements of Japanese art, culture, landscape and architecture.

- Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, **Prakash Javadekar** has inaugurated **NATRAX- the High-Speed Track(HST)** in **Indore** which is the longest such track in Asia.

## States Current Affairs

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** government has launched a scheme named **'Ankur'** under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon. Citizens taking part in this initiative will be given the **Pranvayu Award**, to ensure public participation in the programme.
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually inaugurated the **Indus Best MegaFood Park** along with **Bhupesh Baghel**, Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh, and in presence of Rameswar Teli, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries. The Mega Food Park will ensure value addition, a longer shelf life for farm produce, better price realization for farmers, excellent storage facility and will provide an alternate market for farmers in the region.
- The **Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)** recently directed the **Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC)**, Gujarat and other authorities to implement the **Vishwamitri River Action Plan**, including preparation for demarcation, plantation and maintaining the integrity of the river. The crocodiles, turtles & highly protected species have been breeding in the stretches of the river.
- **Kerala government** has launched **'Knowledge Economy Mission'** to boost job prospects in the state by supporting knowledge workers. The initiative was announced in State Budget on June 4. It was being spearheaded by **Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)** and they will submit a comprehensive project report before July 15.
- **Raimona in Kokrajhar district** has become **Assam's sixth national park**. The 422 sq

ft wildlife habitat in Kokrajhar district adjoins the western-most buffer to **Manas Tiger Reserve**. The five national parks that existed prior to the 422 sq. km Raimona are **Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa**.

- **Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB)** will set up the country's first **international maritime services cluster** at **GIFT City**. The maritime cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity — GIFT City. GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services.
- **Himachal Pradesh** has climbed to the third spot in the **Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2020-21** national ranking with a score of **57.1**. Himachal Pradesh was at rank 18 in the year 2018-19, but with consistent efforts of the government and the field functionaries, the state was able to achieve the third spot. **Madhya Pradesh** is in the first position with a score of 64.1 followed by **Odisha** with a score of 59.3. The prevalence of soil-transmitted helminths had decreased from 29% to 0.3% in a short span of three years.
- Chief Minister of Haryana, **Manohar Lal Khattar**, announced to create of 80 acres of **'Oxi-van' (a forest)** in the **Karnal district**. It was announced on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2021. Oxi-van will consist of 10 types of forests. On the occasion, highlighting the importance of trees and encouraging promotion, protection, planting of trees Haryana Government launched four important schemes:
- The **Assam Government** has decided in its recent cabinet meeting to declare **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary** as the **7th National Park** of the state.



The newest national park, popularly known as Dehing Patkai Rain Forest, has unique floral and faunal diversity, which was recognized by the state government in 2004 when 111.19 square kilometres of the area was notified as **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary**.

- Assam chief minister, **Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma** has dedicated **Chief Minister Sishu Seva Scheme** to the service of the beneficiaries and handed over the cheques of financial assistance to few beneficiaries who lost both their parents due to COVID. It may be noted that under the scheme an amount to the tune of Rs. 7,81,200 would be parked in the bank as fixed deposit in the name of each beneficiary.
- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** announced a major shift in his government's liquor policy, moving away from **prohibition (nishedham) to restriction (niyantrana)**. The government has escrowed revenue from liquor sales and borrowed more than Rs 10,000 crore from various banks, the policy has ostensibly been changed from prohibition to restriction.
- The **Punjab government** on the occasion of **International Menstrual Hygiene Day (28 May)** launched a scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to needy girls and women across the state. An amount of Rs 40.55 crore per annum will be incurred on the scheme, called '**Udaan**'. The new scheme would cover school drop-outs, out-of-school girls, young women not attending college, etc.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** to provide smartphones to **4 lakh Anganwadi workers**. To promote the welfare of **Anganwadi workers in the state**, the Uttar Pradesh government will equip Anganwadi workers with smart phones. The Anganwadi workers have been important in controlling COVID in the state. This move will facilitate the functioning of Anganwadi workers to work and lend maximum transparency in the implementation of the schemes.
- The **Assam government** will present its own versions of the **Bharat Ratna and the Padma awards** from next year. The cabinet also instituted other civilian honours such as the **Asom Bibhushan Award** to be presented to three persons, the **Assam Bhushan to five**, and the **Asom Shree** to 10 people every year. These 4 awards will carry cash prizes of **Rs 5 lakh, Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh & Rs 1 lakh respectively**.

- **Raja Parba** festival celebrated in **Odisha**. It is a **3-days unique festival** in which the onset of monsoon and the earth's womanhood is celebrated by the state. It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation. The fourth day is the day of the '**purification bath**'. During 3 days, women don't work.
- **Telangana government** has launched the **Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM)** powered by **Nasscom** and as part of the T-AIM, an accelerator programme called "**Revv Up**" has been launched to enable and empower **AI startups**. The programme that will begin its first cohort in July is another step towards making **Telangana and Hyderabad** a global destination for AI and other emerging technologies.
- The Government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched '**Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan**' to make the people of the state aware of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It translates to free from Corona with the help of the youth power campaign. Students in colleges in small groups will be given information and details about the significance of COVID-friendly behaviour and vaccination.
- The **Rajasthan government** will soon set up a **Vedic Education and Sanskar Board** to revive the knowledge of **Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas**. The board is likely to be formed in the next four to five months.
- **Rajasthan** has launched **Chief Minister Anuprati Coaching Scheme** to help underprivileged students prepare for entrance examinations to civil services and professional courses, with an aim to give them equal opportunity, said a circular issued by the state finance department. Under the scheme, free coaching will be provided for preparation for UPSC civil services examination.



- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has launched two ambitious schemes christened as the '**Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyami Yojna**' and the '**Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojana**'. Both the schemes launched to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections under the state's '**Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojana scheme**'. The schemes were promised by the chief minister during the **2020 Bihar elections**.
- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** has virtually launched the '**Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021**', with the aim of making agriculture sustainable and profitable in the tribal areas of the state. The scheme will benefit more than **1.26 lakh vanbandhu- farmers** from **14 tribal districts in Gujarat**.
- In Assam, the world's first **genetically modified (GM) rubber plant** has been planted by Rubber Board, at the board's farm in **Sarutari near Guwahati**. The GM rubber sapling was developed at the **Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII)**, in **Puthuppally, Kottayam, Kerala**.
- The **Tamil Nadu government** named Nobel laureate **Esther Duflo** and former Reserve Bank of India Governor **Raghuram Rajan** as part of a five-member Economic Advisory Council for the state. The other members in the council are former Chief Economic Adviser **Arvind Subramanian**, development economist **Jean Drèze** and former Union Finance Secretary **S Narayan**.
- **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced a new scheme '**Ashirbad**' for the education, health

- and maintenance of **Covid orphans**. The Chief Minister announced that Rs 2500 per month will be deposited in the bank accounts of family members who have taken the responsibility for the children after the death of their parents.
- The Government of India, along with the **Government of Mizoram** has signed a **\$32 million** loan agreement with **World Bank for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project**. The project aims to improve the management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, with a focus on the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups.
- The **World Bank** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **\$125 million** support for the 'Resilient Kerala Program' to help the state in preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks, and pandemics.
- Chief Minister **Dr. Pramod Sawant** announced that **Goa** has become the first state in the country to be **Rabies free**. CM informed that not a single case of rabies had been found in the state since the last three years. The team of mission rabies had been very effectively doing its job and had been also conducting vaccination for dogs.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has started a **Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT)** programme to transform foundational learning in government schools for which the **World Bank** has approved a loan of **250 million dollars**.

### Schemes/Committees

- Markets regulator **Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has reconstituted its four-member Takeover Panel. The Takeover Panel looks into the applications that seek exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders. **The Members of the Panel are:** Chairman: Justice **N. K. Sodhi**.
- The **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)**, Agra bench consisting of Judicial Member **Lalit Kumar** and the Accountant Member **Dr Mitha Lal Meena** has ruled that cash deposit made by the housewives during the demonetization scheme 2016, cannot be subject to addition if such deposits are below **Rs 2.5 lakh** and such amount shall not be treated as income of the assessee.
- The Department of Higher Education under the **Ministry of Education** has launched a new

- initiative called '**YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors**'. YUVA stands for **Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors**. It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors, below **30 years of age** to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- The Lt Governor of Ladakh, **RK Mathur** launched a scheme called '**YounTab**', under which 12,300 tablets would be distributed among the students in the Union Territory. As part of the first phase of the YounTab Scheme, Mr Mathur distributed the tablets to the students of **Classes 9 to 12 standards**.
- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** presided over a

virtual ceremony in which a number of initiatives were launched to provide a major fillip to the **SATAT initiative**. This included signing of a Cooperation Agreement by Oil and Gas majors including IndianOil, HPCL, BPCL, GAIL and IGL, for the promotion and development of the SATAT. **SATAT:- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation scheme.**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced a number of welfare measures for children who lost their parents to **COVID-19**. All children who have lost either both parents or surviving parents or

legal guardians or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 will be supported under **PM-CARES for Children scheme**.

- **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**, which sets standards for the Indian Railway Sector, has become the first standards body in the country to join the **'One Nation, One Standard' scheme** of the central government. The RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the Railways Ministry, has now been recognised as a **'Standard Developing Organisation'** by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, for a three years period.

### Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- The **Cabinet accorded** an ex post facto approval for signing and ratifying an agreement on cooperation in the field of **mass media** between all member states of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. The agreement aims to promote equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among associations in the field of mass media. The agreement, which was signed in June 2019, would provide an opportunity for the member states to share best practices and new innovations in the field of mass media.
- Private life insurer **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has entered into a bancassurance partnership with **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches. This alliance is a part of the bank's various measures towards financial inclusion and acceleration of wealth creation for its customers.
- **Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited (MRHFL)**, a subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Ltd, and **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** have tied up a strategic partnership for a cash management solution. As part of the tie-up, IPPB will be offering cash management and collection services to MRHFL through its access points and postal service providers.
- The **Asian Development Bank** and the **Government of India** signed an agreement for financing road up-gradation project in **Sikkim**. ADB will give a **\$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF)** loan to support projects related to upgradation of major district roads in **Sikkim**. It will improve the connectivity and also boost the economic activities in the state. The project

readiness financing (PRF) will help in connecting the major district and other roads with the national and state highway network.

- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has collaborated with **Microsoft** to introduce **Coding** as a new subject for students of **Class 6-8** and Data Science as the new subject for **Class 8-12** in the 2021-2022 academic session. Both these new skilling subjects are being launched in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- **Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **HDFC Bank** to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers. As part of the MoU, HDFC Bank will provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers through an extensive network of branches across the country.
- **Federal Bank** has expanded its strategic collaboration with **Oracle and Infosys**, to offer an enhanced customer experience through **Oracle CX (Customer Experience) platform**. The collaboration will focus on creating a comprehensive integrated **Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution** across marketing, sales, customer service, and social listening to strengthen Federal Bank's operations, and to deliver connected, data-driven, and intelligent customer experiences across all touchpoints.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** have signed a **\$484 million loan**, to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the **Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor**



(CKIC) in Tamil Nadu. "The project is key to providing seamless road connectivity across industrial clusters, transport gateways and consumption centres, and help reduce logistics and production costs for CKIC's targeted industries to boost their competitiveness.

- **Jammu and Kashmir government** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a private airline for the transportation of perishable horticulture and agricultural produce to various destinations across the country. It will address the transportation hiccups for the horticulture produce especially the highly perishable items like **Cherry, Plum, Apricots etc.**
- **BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC)** to create awareness about benefits of listing among information and communications technology (ICT) SMEs and startups. ESC works as a bridge between the government and industry on policy and promotional issues.
- **Edelweiss Retail Finance Limited (ERFL)**, a subsidiary of **Edelweiss Group**, announced that it has signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Central Bank of India (CBoI)**. This strengthens its existing co-lending partnership with CBoI, which is one of the largest commercial banks for the priority sector lending to MSMEs.
- **Bharti Airtel and Tata Group** have announced a strategic partnership for implementing **5G network solutions for India**, which will be available for commercial development from January 2022. Tata Group has developed an **O-RAN (open-radio access network)**-based radio and non-standalone architecture/stand-alone

architecture (NSA/SA) core and has integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack, leveraging the capabilities of the group and its partners.

- A virtual meeting was held between the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI, **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** with **Dr. Mahendra Reddy**, Minister of Agriculture, Waterways & Environment, Government of Fiji. During the meeting, both the ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors. This MoU will further strengthen the multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries.
- The **National Skill Development Corporation** and **WhatsApp** announced an alliance to launch the **Digital Skill Champions Program** that aims to train India's youth on digital skills, in order to make them employment ready. The partnership identifies two broad areas of collaboration viz., **WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy** and **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK)** and **WhatsApp Business App** Training sessions.
- The **Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA)** has inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)**, for the construction of an **International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro city**.
- **Paisabazaar.com**, India's largest lending marketplace & Credit Score platform and **SBM Bank** India, the youngest universal Bank announced the launch of "**Step Up Credit Card**" – a credit-builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score. It is the first product to be launched under Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy.

## Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- Director-General of **Central Reserve Police Force**, **Kuldiep Singh** has been given additional charge of Director General of **National Investigation Agency, NIA**. He will hold the additional post after 31st or this month after the superannuation of **Y C Modi**.
- Tata Steel Ltd chief executive officer and managing director, **T.V. Narendran** has taken over as president of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for 2021-22. He takes over the leadership of

the industry body from **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd** managing director and chief executive officer **Uday Kotak**, who has completed his term.

- The Finance Ministry **Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra**, Member, CDBT, has been given the additional charge of chairman of the direct taxes board for three months. The extended tenure of the incumbent chairman **Pramod Chandra Mody** ended on May 31.

- The **Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)** announced the appointment of former Supreme Court judge Justice **Vikramjit Sen** as the Chairman of its newly formed self-regulatory body **Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC)**.
- Former Supreme Court judge **Arun Kumar Mishra** will be the new chairperson of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** after a high-powered recommendation committee proposed his name.
- **Magma Fincorp** has appointed **Adar Poonawalla** as its chairman as part of a management overhaul following the Poonawala-controlled **Rising Sun Holdings** acquiring a controlling stake in it.
- Vice-Admiral **Ravneet Singh**, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), and Nausena Medal (NM) holder assumed charge as the **Deputy Chief of Naval Staff**. He relieves Vice Admiral **MS Pawar**, a Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), AVSM, Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) holder, who superannuated on **May 31**.
- **Dr Patrick Amoth**, the acting Director-General for Health, Ministry of Health of Kenya has been appointed as the **Chairman of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board**, for a period of one year. The announcement was made during the 149th session of the WHO Executive Board, on June 02, 2021, by the outgoing **Chair Dr Harsh Vardhan**.
- Former IITian, **Dr Vinay K Nandicoori**, has been appointed as the Director at the **CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)**, Hyderabad, Telangana. He is a well-known molecular biologist, and a scientist at the **DBT-National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi**.
- The Facebook-owned messaging app **WhatsApp** has named **Paresh B Lal** as the **Grievance Officer for India**. WhatsApp has updated the details on its website for how to contact Mr Lal because, under the IT law, social media companies are required to display the names and other details of their grievance officers on their websites.
- Lieutenant General **Pradeep Chandran Nair**, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) took over as the **21st Director General of the Assam Rifles** (popularly known as Sentinels of the North-East).
- The **International Dairy Federation (IDF)** has unanimously elected **R S Sodhi**, managing director, **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd** or GCMMF that sells Amul branded products in India, to its board during the general assembly held on 1 June. He is alumni of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).
- The **Indian Air Force** will see a number of changes at the top as Air Marshal **Vivek Ram Chaudhari** has been appointed as the next **Vice Chief of Air Staff** in the Air headquarters. Air Marshal **Ballabha Radha Krishna** would be succeeding Chaudhari at the Western Command in Delhi while Air Marshal **RJ Duckworth** would be taking charge of the Central Air Command in Prayagraj.
- **Ranjitsinh Disale** has been appointed as the **World Bank Education advisor**, starting from **June 2021 to June 2024**. He is the first Indian to have been awarded the **Global Teacher Award in 2020**, will now be working on the Coach Project, launched by the **World Bank** in March 2021.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has approved the appointment of **Vishwavir Ahuja** as the Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank for a one-year period with effect from June 30, 2021. He has been the Managing Director & CEO of RBL Bank since June 30, 2010. Before RBL Bank, Ahuja was the **Managing Director & CEO of Bank of America, India**.
- Senior administrator and former power secretary, **Sanjeev Nandan Sahai** is set to take over as next **chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)**. A search committee headed by **V K Saraswat**, Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, cleared the name of Sahai. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board is a statutory body in India.
- The **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC)** announced the appointment of **Hitendra Dave** as **Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India** subject to receipt of regulatory approval.
- The Union government has appointed **Anup Chandra Pandey**, a retired IAS officer of the 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh cadre, as **Election Commissioner**. In the Election Commission, Pandey will have a little under three years in office and will retire in **February 2024**.
- Vice Admiral **Rajesh Pendharkar**, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as **Director General Naval**

**Operations.** The Flag Officer is a specialist in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and has served on frontline warships of the Navy as ASW Officer and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Destroyer **INS Mysore**.

- The **UN Security Council** has recommended Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** for a second **five-year term** as chief of the world organisation beginning **January 1, 2022**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has granted approval for the re-appointment of **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** as MD and CEO of **Bandhan Bank**, for a period of **three years**. The re-appointment as above is subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing annual general meeting of the bank.
- Private lender, **ICICI Bank**, has received RBI's approval for the re-appointment of **Girish Chandra Chaturvedi** as the part-time **Chairman of the Bank**.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of the tenure of **MR Kumar** as the **Chairman** of state-owned insurance company **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the re-appointment of **Mahesh Kumar Jain** as the **Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for two more years with effect from June 22, 2021.
- **Facebook** has named **Spoorthi Priya** as its **grievance officer for India**, the company said on its website. This move comes close on the heels of the new **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, coming into force last month.
- French defence and aerospace group, **Thales** announced the appointment of **Ashish Saraf** as **Vice-President and Country Director for India** with effect from June 1, 2021. He succeeds **Emmanuel de Roquefeuil** who takes up a new role as the VP and head for Thales in the Middle East.
- **England's Football Association** named corporate executive and former RAC chief, **Debbie Hewitt** as its **first woman chair**, ending months of speculation over **Greg Clarke's** successor following his exit over inappropriate remarks.
- **Ferrari** has named **Benedetto Vigna** as its new company **CEO**, taking over from interim chief **John Elkann**. Vigna currently serves as the president of STMicroelectronics' Analog, MEMS and Sensor Group, and is a member of the company's executive committee. Ferrari S.p.A. is an **Italian luxury**

**sports car manufacturer** based in **Maranello, Italy**.

- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, **K Nagaraj Naidu** was named chef de cabinet by the incoming UN general assembly president, Maldivian foreign minister **Abdulla Shahid**. He was appointed for the duration of **one-year tenure** to lead the world body through its return to normalcy as countries strive to bring the pandemic under control.
- India's **Nagraj Adiga** has been elected as the **Asia-Oceania Representative** at the recently concluded **2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress** at which the IAU council elections were held.
- The **U.N. General Assembly** has approved the appointment of Costa Rican economist **Rebecca Grynspan**, as the Secretary-General of the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**. She will serve a four-year term of office. She is the first woman and Central American to head UNCTAD. She was nominated as Secretary-General by UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**.
- Bollywood superstar, **Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of biotechnology company **Mylab Discovery Solutions**. This announcement comes days after the Pune-based firm launched the country's first COVID-19 self-test kit "**CoviSelf**". The partnership with Akshay is aimed at creating awareness for Mylab's products and kits such as CoviSelf.
- The **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** has roped in former Supreme Court Justice (Retd.) **Arjan Kumar Sikri** to chair the **Grievance Redressal Board (GRB)**, formed as a part of the **Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC)**. The GRB will address content grievances pertaining to any of the DPCGC member's video streaming services.

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- Chief Operating Officer of Bharti Airtel, **Ajai Puri** has been re-elected as **Chairman of the industry association for 2021-22**. Announcing the leadership for 2021-22, **Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI)** said that **Pramod Kumar Mittal**, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, will continue as **Vice Chairman of the association**.
- **Mukesh Sharma**, a faculty at IIT Kanpur, has been appointed as an honorary member of the **World Health Organisation's (WHO)** Global Air Pollution and Health – Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG). Members of the Technical Advisory Group are selected across the globe and appointed by the **Director-General, WHO**. Sharma, associated with the civil engineering department at IIT Kanpur and an air quality expert, has melded rigorous research with policy engagement.
- **Microsoft Corp**, named Chief Executive Officer, **Satya Nadella** as its new **chairman**. He took over as the software giant's CEO in 2014, succeeding **Steve Ballmer**. He is credited with bringing new energy to the company, founded in 1975. The company also appointed former chairman **John Thompson** as a lead independent director.
- The **government of India** has appointed a private person **Aashish Chandorkar** as Counsellor in **India's Permanent Mission** in the **World Trade Organisation** for three years. For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission. Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank **Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research**. The WTO is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade. India is a member since **1995**.
- **United Nations Global Compact** has recognised **Sumant Sinha**, Chairman & MD of ReNew Power, as one of the ten **SDG Pioneers 2021**, for his work to advance access to clean and affordable energy. SDG Pioneers are business leaders selected by the UN Global Compact for doing an exceptional job to advance the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, **Montek Singh Ahluwalia** was named a member of a high-level Advisory Group formed by the **World Bank and IMF**. The group will be jointly led by **Mari Pangestu, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu and Lord Nicholas Stern**. The group was formed by the World Bank and IMF in the face of the dual crisis posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.
- Arunachal Pradesh woman, **Dr Tadang Minu**, becomes the first in the state and the second Indian woman in the country to be appointed as a member of the **Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA)**. She has been appointed by AIBA for her enormous knowledge and experience in the field of boxing.
- British lawyer **Karim Khan** was sworn as the new chief prosecutor for the **International Criminal Court**. He pledging to reach out to nations that are not members of the court and to try to hold trials in countries where crimes are committed. He has defended clients at international courts including former **Liberian President Charles Taylor & Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto**.
- **WWF India** has inducted **Upasana Kamineni**, Director, Apollo Hospitals, as "**Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes**" with the aim to appreciate the efforts of frontline workers in hospitals and in the wildlife protection space. The focus of this will be on several States across the country covering most eco-regions.
- **Dr Pratima Murthy**, head of Department of Psychiatry, **National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)**, Bengaluru has been appointed as Director of the Institute for a period of five years. She will retire in March 2026. She was awarded the WHO Regional Director's Special Recognition Award on '**World No Tobacco Day 2021**'.
- **OnePlus**, the global technology brand welcomed cricketer **Jasprit Bumrah** as Brand Ambassador for its **Wearables category**. The partnership with Bumrah reiterates the brand philosophy of 'Never Settle' and the company's pursuit towards perfection.
- The incumbent Vigilance Commissioner, **Suresh N Patel** has been appointed as the acting **Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India** in the Central Vigilance Commission with effect.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Praveen Sinha** as the Special Director of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. Special Director is the second senior-most position in the agency after the Director.
- **Twitter** has announced the appointment of California-based **Jeremy Kessel** as the new **Grievance Officer for India**. Kessel is the Global Legal Policy Director of Twitter. The appointment

of Grievance Officer by social media companies is mandated under the new **Information Technology Rules, 2021**.

- **WhatsApp** has appointed former **Amazon executive Manesh Mahatme** as a director to lead the growth of its payments business in India.

- Justice (Retd.) **Shambhu Nath Srivastava**, a former judge of Allahabad High Court and former chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh, has been appointed the chairman of the **Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)**.

## Ranks and Reports

- **Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22** has announced, 19,788 institutions were ranked, and those that placed at the top made the global 2000 list. **Harvard University** has topped the ranking globally followed by **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and Oxford University** respectively. The Indian pack is led by the **IIM-Ahmedabad** which has bagged **415th rank** followed by the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at 459th rank**.
- **Wipro** has touched **Rs 3 trillion** in market capitalisation for the first time, becoming the third Indian IT firm to achieve the milestone after **Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys**. The company won its largest deal ever from German retailer Metro and has seen deal wins of **\$7.1 billion**. India has a total of 13 listed firms that have crossed the **Rs 3 trillion m-cap**. Wipro now ranks **14th**.
- In Hockey, the **Indian men's team** maintained their **fourth** position while the women's team held to the **ninth position** in the latest **International Hockey Federation world rankings**. Despite missing the European leg of the FIH Hockey Pro-League series in Great Britain, Spain and Germany in April and May, the Indian men's team maintained its fourth spot.
- **India's** rank has slipped by two places from last year to **117** on the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** adopted as a part of the **2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015**. India ranks below four South Asian countries: **Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh**.
- **Times Higher Education Asia university rankings 2021**, three Indian universities secured positions in the top 100 list. **IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore** have secured ranks among the top 100 universities in Asia. Like last year, not a single Indian varsity made it to the elite top 10. IISc Bangalore ranked at **37th position**. IIT Ropar is placed at **55th rank** and IIT Indore at **78th**

rank among the top 100 universities. **Tsinghua University, China** has gained the **first** position in the Asia university rankings 2021.

- **Punjab**, which has improved its showing from the **13th position** it attained in 2018-19, topped the charts this time among all the states and union territories with a score of **929 out of 1,000**, followed by **Chandigarh (912) and Tamil Nadu (906)**.
- The London-based **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** has released the **QS World University Rankings 2022** which compares and ranks Universities from across the globe on various parameters. Eight Indian universities have found a place among the best 400 global universities in the QS World University Rankings 2022, released on June 09, 2021. However, only three Universities namely the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT-Delhi, and IISc Bangalore** feature among the top 200. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** has topped the ranking for the **10th years** in a row.
- The **US traders** have benefited the most in **Bitcoin Investment Gain in 2020**, with a profit of **\$4.1 billion**, according to the latest report by **Chainalysis**, a blockchain analysis company based in Manhattan, New York. **Chinese traders** stood second, with a profit of **\$1.1 billion**. **India** has been ranked at **18th spot** with a profit of **\$241 million**, among the top 25 countries, in **Bitcoin investment gains 2020**.
- **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report** has been released by Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**. As per AISHE in the last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), student enrolment has grown by **11.4%**. As per AISHE, female enrolment in Higher Education has increased by **18.2%** from 2015-16 to 2019-20. AISHE 2019-20 is the 10 in the series of All India Survey on Higher Education. Department of Higher Education releases it annually.

- **India** has moved down **12 spots** in the global home price index to **55th rank** in Q1 2021 against **43rd rank** in Q1 2020, with a decline of **1.6 per cent** year-on-year (YoY) in home prices, **Knight Frank**, in its latest research report “**Global House Price Index**” – **Q1 2021**. **Turkey** continues to lead the annual rankings with prices up by **32 per cent** YoY, followed by **New Zealand**.
- **India** has been ranked at **14th spot** among **114 countries** in the **World Giving Index 2021**, by the **Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)**. This rank is up from its 10-year global rank of **82**. The World Giving Index ranking has been topped by **Indonesia**, followed by **Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia** in the top five respectively.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** was **second** in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of **gross domestic product (GDP)** for the fiscal year 2020-21. **Turkey** has been ranked first. RBI has transferred **Rs 99,122-crore** surplus to the government for FY21 which is 73% higher than the **Rs 57,128 crore** paid out in 2019-20. The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes **0.44%** of GDP, while that of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes **0.5%** of GDP.
- **India** maintained **43rd rank** on an annual **World Competitiveness Index** compiled by the **Institute for Management Development (IMD)** that examined the impact of COVID-19 on economies around the world this year. **Rank 1:** Switzerland, **Rank 2:** Sweden, **Rank 3:** Denmark.
- **Bahrain** has topped the globally-recognized **AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index financial attractiveness** ranking for the third straight year. The rankings evaluate the salary levels, cost of living, and taxes in a particular market in order to create an overall score for financial attractiveness.
- **Bengaluru** has been named as the **most liveable city of India**, in the **Ease of Living Index 2020**, released by the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**. The Ease of Living Index 2020 is part of the report titled **State of India's Environment 2021**. Bengaluru is followed by **Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar, and Mumbai**, as the top five best cities respectively.
- According to the **6th Edition of 'Sustainable Development Report 2021 (SDR 2021)'** released by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), India with a score of 60.1 has been placed at **120th rank** out of 165 countries. **Finland** topped the Index followed by **Sweden & Denmark**.
- According to '**Annual Bank Statistics of 2020**' released by **Swiss National Bank (SNB)**, the Central Bank of Switzerland. **India** with **Swiss Francs (CHF) 2.55 billion (INR 20,706 Crore)** has been placed at **51st place** in the list of foreign clients' money in **Swiss Banks during 2020**. The **United Kingdom (UK)** topped the list with CHF 377 billion, followed by the **US (152 billion)**. India was ahead of countries like **New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary, Mauritius, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka** in terms of foreign clients' money in Swiss banks.
- **Bengaluru** has emerged as the top five technology centres in the APAC region while **Hyderabad** is ranked in the Top 10 list, a report by Colliers titled '**Growth Engines of Innovation: How Asia Pacific Technology Hubs are Reshaping Regional Real Estate**'. The report ranks the most attractive technology submarkets within major APAC cities, which should serve as a navigation tool for technology groups, as they plan their expansion.
- **Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata**, Indian pioneer industrialist and founder of the **Tata Group**, has topped the inaugural, **EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century list**, which ranks the world's 50 most generous individuals in the last century. As per the report, the total donations made by Mumbai-based Jamsetji Tata is estimated at **US\$102.4 billion**. He is the only Indian among the top 10 list, compiled by **Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation**.
- **Ashgabat**, the capital of **Turkmenistan** in Central Asia, has been named the world's most **expensive city for foreign workers**. **Mumbai** remains India's most expensive city at **78th rank** but has dropped 18 places in this year's ranking “due to a relatively weak Indian rupee in comparison with other cities in the ranking.”

### Sports Current Affairs

- Indian pugilist **Mary Kom**, lost to two-time world champion **Nazym Kyzaibay** of Kazakhstan, to settle for silver medal at the **2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai**.



- **Pooja Rani** won the **gold medal in the 75kg Women's Middle category final** at the **Asian Boxing Championships**. She defeated **Mavluda Movlonova** in the gold medal clash.
- **Chelsea** defeated **Manchester City** 1-0 in the final, to lift the **2020-21 UEFA Champions League title**, on May 29, 2021, played at the **Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has confirmed that the **IPL 2021 Phase 2** will be held in the **UAE** during the **September-October window**. In a Special General Meeting chaired by BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly**, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed to the State units that the tournament will have to be shifted out of India on account of 'monsoon.'
- India's pugilist **Sanjeet Kumar** won a gold medal in the **91 kg weight category** at the **ASBC Asian Boxing Championships**.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced that the **Men's Cricket World Cup in 2027 and 2031**, will once again be a 14-team, 54-match tournament. Earlier in the **2019 World Cup**, only 10 teams contested, compared to 14 teams in the **2015 World Cup**.
- World No. 1 **Novak Djokovic** captured the **83rd title** of his career with victory on home soil at the **Belgrade Open**. The Serbian superstar lost his serve three times in the first set before changing his game to defeat Slovakian qualifier and first-time ATP Tour finalist **Alex Molcan** 6-4, 6-3 in 88 minutes at the Novak Tennis Center.
- Red Bull's **Sergio Perez** won a chaotic **Azerbaijan Grand Prix** with both **Max Verstappen** and **Lewis Hamilton** failing to finish. This was the first win for Perez since joining **Red Bull**.
- Germany's FIFA World Cup-winner, **Sami Khedira** has announced retirement. He began his career at VfB Stuttgart and helped them win the league title in the 2006-07 season before moving to **Real Madrid**, where he won the league and Champions League in a trophy-laden spell.
- **Oman** has been named as the host of the inaugural **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup**. The FIH said the men's and women's events will take place in Oman's capital city **Muscat** in **January 2024**. The governing body said its Executive Board named Oman as host, after a recommendation from the organisation's Events Bidding Task Force.
- Indian star cricketer **Virender Sehwag** has launched an experiential learning portal for Cricket coaching named **CRICURU**. CRICURU is India's first AI-enabled coaching website, to offer a personalised learning experience for the younger players. The website can be accessed at **www.cricuru.com**
- **ICC Elite Panel** match referee, **Chris Broad** will oversee the **World Test Championship (WTC) final** between **India and New Zealand**, scheduled to commence at the **Ageas Bowl in Southampton** from June 18. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the officials for the match. ICC Elite Panel's **Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough** will be the on-field umpires.
- **Sunil Chhetri** surpasses Argentina's **Lionel Messi** and he has become the second-highest active international goal-scorer with **74 strikes**. He made this record in a joint preliminary qualifying round match for the **2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup**. He is currently behind **Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (103)** in the active international goal-scorer list.
- Lending and digital payments startup, **BharatPe** has announced that it has inked a three-year-long deal to become an official partner with **International Cricket Council (ICC)**. As per the agreement, BharatPe will promote the association across broadcast and digital platforms, as well as execute in-venue brand activations at all the **ICC events until 2023**.
- The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**, announced that the **Indian Grand Prix 4** will be held on June 21 at the National Institute of Sports in **Patiala**. The decision to host the domestic events was made to give Indian athletes the maximum chance to qualify for Tokyo.
- The **Australian city of Brisbane** moved closer to landing the **2032 Olympics** after winning the approval of the International Olympic Committee's executive board and the choice will be put to a final vote next month.
- **D. Gukesh** sensationally won the **\$15,000 Gelfand Challenge** chess title and with it, a 'wild card' for the elite **Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour**. He won all four rounds, including the key battle against **Praggnanandhaa**, and emerged on top after a series of favourable results from the games involving other title-contenders.

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced **Scotland's Kathryn Bryce** and **Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim** as the winners of the **ICC Player of the Month Awards for May**. ICC Player of the Month Awards aims to recognise and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.
- Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** won the **gold medal** in the **53 kg category** at the **Poland Open**. It is her third title of the season. Earlier, She had won gold at the Matteo Pellicone event (March) and Asian Championship (April). She defeated Ukraine's **Khrystyna Bereza** in the final. Khrystyna Bereza won the silver medal at the Poland Open. Earlier, Indian wrestler **Anshu Malik** pulled out of the **57kg competition due to fever**.
- Global sports brand **Puma India** has extended partnership with former Indian cricketer **Yuvraj Singh**, who has been associated with the brand for over a decade. Moving from cricket to the fast lane, Yuvraj will now be seen in a new avatar as the face of Puma Motorsport in India, showcasing his passion for fast cars and sports-inspired fashion. With this, Yuvraj has joined the brand's global league of legends like **Thierry Henry, Boris Becker and Usain Bolt**.
- Ireland all-rounder **Kevin O'Brien** has announced his retirement from one-day internationals. The 37-year-old Dubliner, who remains available for Test and T20 cricket, won 153 caps in the 50-over format, scoring over 3,000 runs and taking a national record 114 wickets in the format with his lively medium pace.
- **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands-Red Bull) has won the **2021 French Grand Prix**. This race is the seventh round of the **2021 FIA Formula One World Championship**.
- The New Zealand weightlifter **Laurel Hubbard** is poised to make history and headlines, as well as significant controversy, after being confirmed as the **first transgender athlete** to compete at an **Olympic Games**. The 43-year-old, who will be the fourth oldest weightlifter at an Olympics, is regarded as a genuine medal contender in the women's super heavyweight **87kg-plus category in Tokyo**.
- Jamaican sprinter **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** became the **second-fastest woman** of all-time behind **100 metres** world record holder **Florence Griffith-Joyner** when she clocked **10.63 seconds** at a meet in Kingston.
- Midfielder **Manpreet Singh** was named captain of the 16-member **Olympic-bound Indian men's hockey team**, while experienced defenders, Birendra Lakra and Harmanpreet Singh, were named vice-captains. This will be Manpreet's third Olympics.
- **Rani Rampal** was named the captain of the 16-member Olympic-bound Indian Women's Hockey Team, announced Hockey India. Rani is the obvious choice not just for her on-field exploits but also for her innate ability to guide the youngsters in the team.
- Australian swimmer **Kaylee McKeown** breaks the **100-meter backstroke world record** at the South Australian Aquatic Centre with a time of **57.45 seconds** from the previous mark of **57.57 seconds** set by **American Regan Smith in 2019**. Emily Seebohm finished second in 58.59 to qualify for her fourth Olympics.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** has become the joint-top scoring **men's international player of all time**. He is currently tied with Iran legend **Ali Daei**, who scored **109 times in 149 matches** between 1993 and 2006. Cristiano Ronaldo scored two penalties to tie the overall men's scoring record with 109 goals in 176 matches and Portugal advanced to the round of 16 at the European Championship after a 2-2 draw with France.
- **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands-Red Bull) has won the **2021 Styrian Grand Prix**. This is the fourth win of Verstappen in the 2021 Formula One season.
- The ace Indian archer **Deepika Kumari**, created a new world record as she claimed three back-to-back gold medals in a single day, during the **Archery World Cup Stage 3**, held in **Paris**. The fourth gold medal came by **Abhishek Verma**, from men's individual event in the compound section.
- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup**, originally slated to be held in **India**, will now be shifted to the **UAE**. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which holds the hosting rights of this year's event, will inform the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** in this regard.
- Madhya Pradesh all-rounder **Anshula Rao** became the **first women cricketer** to be handed a four-year ban after failing the dope test. She was handed the ban by the panel of the **National Anti-Doping Agency** for faking a dope test which dates back to July 2020.
- Opener **Shafali Verma** has become the youngest Indian cricketer to make a debut in all formats, when India took on England in the first ODI in

Bristol. She took **17 years and 150 days** to make her debut in all formats. She has become the fifth-youngest cricketer overall in the list of all format debuts.

- India's **Rahi Sarnobat** clinched the **gold medal** in the women's **25m pistol** event at the **ISSF**

**shooting World Cup**. She is the first Indian to win one silver and two bronze medals in the ongoing tournament. She scored 591 out of a maximum of 600 in the qualifying stage.

## Summits And Conferences

- External Affairs Minister, **S Jaishankar** has chaired the meeting of **BRICS foreign ministers** through video conferencing. Foreign ministers of **Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa** participated in this meeting. In this meeting, Ministers agreed to cooperate on the pillars of political and security, economic and finance, and People to people and cultural exchanges.
- The second **United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference** will be held from 14-16 October 2021 in **Beijing, China**. It will provide an opportunity to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide.
- **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed the inaugural ceremony of **Global Yoga Conference 2021**. The event was organised by '**Mokshayatan Yog Sansthan**' along with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India & Indian Council for Cultural Relations to mark the occasion of the **7th International Day of Yoga** which falls on **21st June 2021**.
- The leaders of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** held a face-to-face summit on NATO headquarters in **Brussels, Belgium**. The 2021 Brussels summit of NATO was the **31st** formal meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the alliance. The summit of the 30-member NATO group was held as a part of **U.S. President Joe Biden's** first foreign trip since he took office.
- The **47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021** (Outreach Session of the G7 meeting) took place in a Hybrid format from June 11-13, 2021 at **Cornwall, United Kingdom (UK)**. It was hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) as it holds the Presidency of G7 for 2021. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the meeting and called G7 summit members for the '**One Earth One Health**' approach to effectively deal with the coronavirus pandemic globally, and sought the

support of the G7 grouping to lift patent protections for **COVID-19 vaccines**.

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)** is hosting a three day virtual "**Conference of BRICS Network Universities**". This conference is being held as a part of India's Chairmanship of the **13th BRICS Summit in 2021**. The basic objective of BRICS Network University is enhancing educational cooperation in general, and especially in the realm of research and innovation. The theme of the Conference of BRICS Network Universities is "**Electric Mobility**".
- Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** virtually addressed the **5th edition of VivaTech**. VivaTech is one of the largest digital and startup events of Europe, held in **Paris** every year since **2016**. PM Modi was invited as a **Guest of Honour** to deliver the keynote address at VivaTech 2021, which has been organised from 16-19 June 2021 in Paris. During his address, PM Modi invited the world to invest in India based on the five pillars: **Talent, Market, Capital, Eco-system and, Culture of openness**.
- **International Energy Forum (IEF)** announced that **India** has agreed to host the **9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)**. The 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable will be held in **2022**. Dates of this conference will be announced later and it will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in **Abu Dhabi during 2018**.
- **India** is scheduled to host a two-day **virtual summit on green hydrogen**, with countries like **Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa** set to take part in it. The countries will discuss their initiatives around the emission-free fuel. Hydrogen, when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint. The event will be anchored by India's state-run power major NTPC.



## Awards & Recognition

- **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has awarded Union Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** with '**WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award**' for his accomplishments in the area of tobacco control. Every year, WHO recognises individuals or organisations in each of the six WHO Regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.
- **Utah Jazz** guard **Jordan Clarkson** has won the **2020-21 Kia NBA Sixth Man Award** for his contributions in a reserve role. This is the first Sixth Man honour for Clarkson, who becomes the first player to win the annual award with the Jazz.
- **Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind** won the **International Business Book of the Year Award 2021**. The authors made history this week by winning the prestigious International Business Book of the Year Award for 2021 for their recently launched book "**Transformation in Times of Crisis**", published by **Notion Press**.
- **David Diop** has become the first French novelist to win the **International Booker prize** for translated fiction with **At Night All Blood Is Black**, his first novel translated into English. Diop, the author of two novels, and his translator Anna Moschovakis split the **£50,000** annual prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a work **translated into English**.
- Kerala-based **Thomas Vijayan**, who is now settled in Canada, has won the 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree. The photograph is titled "**The World is Going Upside Down**'.
- Arunachal Pradesh's **Water Burial** has bagged the **best film National Award** on environment conservation at **67th National Films Awards 2021**. The film, which is directed by independent filmmaker **Shantanu Sen**. Water Burial is produced by **AM Television**.
- **Tsitsi Dangarembga**, the Booker-shortlisted Zimbabwean writer who was arrested last year in Harare while protesting against corruption, has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize, praised for her "**ability to capture and communicate vital truths even amidst times of upheaval**". **Dangarembga** was also shortlisted for the **2020 Booker Prize** for her work, **This Mournable Body**.
- Indian actress **Tillotama Shome** has made the country proud by winning the Best Actor award at the **2021 UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF)**. Tillotama won the award for her role in the film **Raahgir: The Wayfarers**. The film has been directed by **Goutam Ghose**. The UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) 2021 was the **23rd edition** of the annual event. Apart from Tillotama, filmmaker **Goutam Ghose has also won the Best Director award at the UKAFF**.
- The Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), **R.S. Sodhi**, was conferred with the regional award as **Asia Pacific Productivity Champion** from **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)**, Tokyo, Japan in recognition of enhanced productivity and efficient milk supply chain. He is the first Indian to have received the prestigious award, in the last 20 years.
- **DBS Bank** has been named by **Forbes** in their list of **World's Best Banks 2021**. DBS was ranked **#1** out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year. This is the third edition of the '**World's Best Banks**' list by **Forbes**, conducted in partnership with market research firm **Statista**.
- **Shailesh Govind Ganpule**, an assistant professor at the mechanical and industrial engineering department (MIED), was conferred the award with the '**NSG Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021**' for developing a "**blast-resistant**" helmet. This was the second edition of the annual award by NSG. Ceremony held at the National Security Guard (NSG) campus in **Maneswar, near Gurgaon**.
- The **2021 Land for Life Award** has been won by **Familial Forestry** of Rajasthan, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green "**family member**." The **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** organises the **Land for Life Award** every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance.
- **Larsen & Toubro Infotech**, a global technology consulting and digital solutions company has been recognized as the **Global Innovation Partner of the Year** by **Snowflake**, the Data Cloud Company. LTI received this prestigious recognition during **Snowflake Virtual Partner Summit**.

- Indian-American chemist **Sumita Mitra** has been honoured with the **European Inventor Award 2021** in the 'Non-European Patent Office countries' category. She was the first to have successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings.
- The **Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize for 2021** has been awarded to **KK Shailaja**, the former Health Minister of Kerala. The award was presented to her in recognition of "her determined leadership and community-based public health work, saving lives during the pandemic". She demonstrates to the world that determined leadership, community-based public health and effective communication can save lives.
- For the first time, **NTPC** won recognition as India's Best Employers among **Nation-Builders 2021**. It has been recognized as the '**Great Place to Work**' for the 15th straight year by the Great Places to Work Institute. It has been ranked at **38th**. It was ranked **47 last year**.
- **Cochin International Airport (CIAL)** won Airport Council International (ACI) **Director General's Roll of Excellence** honour in **Airport Service Quality**. This recognition is awarded to those

airports which, in the opinion of passengers, consistently delivered excellent services.

- French author **Emmanuel Carrere**, popular for his non-fiction books in a high literary vein, has been granted this year's **Spanish Princess of Asturias Literature Award**.
- Engineers India Limited (EIL) Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), **RK Sabharwal** has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia '**The Order of Polar Star** by his excellency. The President of Mongolia recognises the outstanding contribution made by him towards the establishment of the **first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia**.
- Journalist **Palagummi Sainath** has been awarded the **Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021**. He is a committed journalist who has continued to investigate impoverished farming villages in India and captured the reality of the lifestyle of the residents in such areas. Besides the Grand Prize, there are two more award categories, academics and culture. The Academics Prize was given to **Professor Kishimoto Mio**, a historian from Japan who specialises in the socio-economic history of China in the Ming-Qing period. Thailand-based writer and filmmaker **Prabda Yoon** received the Arts and Culture Award.

### Important Days

- Every year, on **31st May**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and global partners celebrate **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)**. The annual campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form. This year theme of the 2021 WNTD is "**Commit to quit.**"
- United Nations celebrates **Global Day of Parents** on the **1st of June** every year to honour all the parents throughout the world.
- The **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations** celebrates **World Milk Day** every year on **01st June** to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector. This year, our theme will focus on **Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics**. In doing so we will re-introduce dairy farming to the world.
- **United Nations** celebrates **World Bicycle Day** every year on **3rd June** to advance the use of

the bicycle as a means of fostering sustainable development.

- **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression** is observed globally on **4th June** every year. This day affirms the UN's commitment to guard the rights of children.
- **International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing** is organized every year on **5th June**. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11-26 million tonnes of fish each year, which is estimated to have an economic value of US\$10-23 billion.
- **World Food Safety Day** is observed on **7th June** globally. The aim of the day is to raise awareness about different foodborne risks and the measures of how to prevent it.
- The **UN Russian Language Day** is observed annually on **06 June**. It is one of the six official languages used by the United Nations throughout the Organization. The day was established by

the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010.**

- Every year, **World Pest Day** (also sometimes called **World Pest Awareness Day**) is observed on **06 June**.
- **World Ocean Day** is observed globally on **8th June** every year. This day is observed to raise global awareness about the importance of the ocean in our lives and the ways through which we can protect it.
- **World Accreditation Day (WAD)** is celebrated every year on **9 June** to promote the role of accreditation in trade & the economy. The theme for WAD 2021 is “**Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**”.
- **World Day Against Child Labour** is observed globally on **12th June** every year. According to the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, there are about 152 million children globally who are engaged in child labour, 72 million of whom are in hazardous work. The theme of this year's World Day Against Child Labour is **Act now: End child labour!**.
- **World blood donor day** is observed globally on **June 14th** every year. For 2021, the World Blood Donor Day slogan will be “**Give blood and keep the world beating**”. The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2021 is **Rome, Italy**.
- **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** is observed globally on **15th June** every year. This day is celebrated to raise a voice for the elderly who are abused and victimized.
- The **International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)** was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on **16 June**. The IDFR recognizes the more than 200 million migrant workers, women and men, who send money home to over 800 million family members.
- **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is observed on **17th June** every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, and highlight methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought. “**Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land**” is the theme for 2021 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- Every year the **Global Wind Day** is celebrated worldwide on **15 June** to spread awareness about wind energy, the various uses of wind energy, and the ways and possibilities as to how wind energy

can help change the world. Global Wind Day was first observed as Wind Day in **2007**.

- **Sustainable Gastronomy Day** is observed on **18 June** globally to focus the attention of the world on the role that sustainable gastronomy plays in our lives. The day was designated by UN General Assembly on **21 December 2016**.
- Every year, **Autistic Pride Day** is observed on **June 18** globally to create awareness about autism among people and recognise the importance of pride for autistic people and its role in bringing about positive changes in the broader society.
- **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict** is observed globally on **19th June** every year.
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** celebrates **National Reading Day** annually on **19 June**. The Day is celebrated to honour the father of the ‘**Library Movement in Kerala**’, the late P.N. Panicker, whose death anniversary falls on June 19.
- **World Refugee Day** is observed every year on **June 20** to respect and honour the courage and resilience of refugees across the world. This year the theme for World Refugee Day is “**Together we heal, learn and shine**”.
- **International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice** is observed globally on **21st June**. This day bring awareness about solstices and equinoxes and their significance for several religions and ethnic cultures.
- **World Music Day** is observed globally on **21st June** every year. This day is celebrated to honour amateur and professional musicians. World Music Day was founded by France’s Minister of Culture, **Jack Lang** and also **Maurice Fleuret**, a French composer, music journalist, radio producer, arts administrator, and festival organiser, on the day of the summer solstice in **Paris in 1982**.

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- **World Humanist Day** is celebrated every year around the world on the June solstice, which usually falls on **June 21**. The day aims to spread awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance and means to effect change in the world.
- Every year the **World Hydrography Day** is observed on **21 June** to make the public aware of hydrography and the essential role that it plays in everyone's life. The theme for 2021 WHD is "**One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography**".
- **United Nations Public Service Day** is observed globally on **23rd June** every year. This day is to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process and to value public service to the community. This year theme: "**Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs**".
- The **International Olympic Day** is held on **June 23** each year. The day is celebrated to encourage more people to participate in the Olympic Games and spread awareness about the event and promote the Olympic Movement. The Olympic Day 2021 theme is "**Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout on 23 June.**"
- **International Widows Day** is observed globally on **23rd June** every year. The day is widely known to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they have.
- **World Vitiligo Day** is observed on **June 25** to build global awareness about vitiligo. Vitiligo is a skin disorder leading to **loss of colour in the skin** creating a variety of patterns on the skin from loss of pigment.
- The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** celebrates the annual Day of the Seafarer (DoS) on **June 25** each year to pay respect to Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport. The theme of the 2021 campaign is "**Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future**".
- **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** is observed on **26th June** every year. This day is observed by the **United Nations** to raise awareness among the people about human torture that it is not only unacceptable but it is also a crime.
- **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is observed globally on **26th June** every year. The theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021 is "**Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives**".
- The **United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day** is held on **June 27** since **2017** to celebrate the work of MSME in local and global economies and their contribution to sustainable development. In 2021, the theme is "**MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery.**"
- The **United Nations** observe **29 June** as **International Day of the Tropics**. The International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.
- The **government of India** is celebrated **National Statistics day** on **29th June** on the birth anniversary of **Prof. P C Mahalanobis**. **End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture** (Sustainable Development Goal or SDG 2 of the UN) is the theme of this year's National Statistics Day.
- **74th World Health Assembly** endorsed a decision recognizing **30 January** as **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day ('World NTD Day')**.
- **International Asteroid Day** is observed globally on **30th June** every year. International Asteroid Day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat.
- **International Day of Parliamentarism** is observed globally on **30 June** every year. The International Day of Parliamentarism is a time to review the progress that parliaments have made in achieving some key goals to be more representative and move with the times, including carrying out self-assessments, working to include more women and young MPs, and adapting to new technologies.

## Defence Current Affairs

- National Security Advisor (NSA), **Ajit Doval** has commissioned the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) **Sajag**, which has been constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited**.
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** is organising “**Steadfast Defender 21 war games**” military exercises in Europe as tensions with **Russia increases**. These war games are being organised with the aim of simulating the response of a 30-nation military organisation for the attack on any one of its members. It seeks to test the ability of NATO to deploy troops from America.
- Indian Navy’s hydrographic survey ship, **Sandhayak** would be decommissioned after serving the nation for **40 years**. The decommissioning ceremony of INS Sandhayak will be held at naval dockyard **Visakhapatnam** and will be a low-key event attended only by in-station officers and sailors with strict observance of COVID-19 protocols.
- The **Indian Navy** is set to receive its first set of multi-role helicopters as America is set to hand over **three MH-60 Romeo helicopters** to the force in the United States in July. The first batch of Indian pilots has also reached the US for training on the helicopters which would be arriving in India next year in July. India and the US had signed over-**Rs 16,000 crore** deal to **buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters** from **Lockheed Martin** in 2020 under fast track procedures on a government-to-government deal to hasten the process.
- The **Indian Navy** inducted three indigenously-built advanced light helicopters **ALH MK-III** in their fleet. These helicopters are built by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** at the **Indian Naval Station (INS) Dega in Visakhapatnam** will be used for maritime reconnaissance and coastal security.
- The **31st** edition of the **India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** kicked off on June 09, 2021, in the **Andaman Sea**. The three-day coordinated patrol between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy** is being conducted from 09 to 11 June 2021. From the Indian side, an indigenously built **Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu**, is participating and from **Thailand Navy, HTMS Krabi** is participating in CORPAT, along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies.
- **Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M)** recently announced that the **Defence Ministry** has signed a contract with Mahindra Telephonics Integrated Systems for procurement of 11 Airport Surveillance Radars with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar for Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved the budgetary support of **Rs 498.8 crore** for **iDEX-DIO (Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation)** for the next five years. The funds will be used to provide financial support to nearly **300 start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** and individual innovators with a larger goal of ensuring self-reliance in the defence sector. The scheme is in sync with the government’s push to cut imports of military hardware and weapons and make India a hub for defence manufacturing.
- The Army conducted a successful trial by moving a military train loaded with vehicles and equipment from **New Rewari to New Phulera** validating the efficacy of the **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)**. These trials were part of the “**Whole of the Nation Approach**” for optimising national resources and achieve seamless synergy among various ministries and departments. **New Rewari in Haryana to New Phulera in Rajasthan**.
- Ships of the **Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)** participated in a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean to realize “**Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)**”.
- Flying Officer **Mawya Sudan** has become the first woman from **Jammu and Kashmir** to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**. She is the **12th** female fighter pilot to be inducted in the IAF. The 24-year-old Mawya hails from Lamberi village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu division.
- In a first, the **Indian Navy** is participating in a joint exercise with the **European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR)**. Stealth frigate **INS Trikand**, will participate in the two-day exercise in the **Gulf of Aden** as it is already deployed in the region on anti-piracy operations.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' on June 24, 2021, from an Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore. This was the eighth test flight of the missile. The first test flight of Nirbhay was held on 12 March 2013.
- The Indian Navy and the Air Force began a two-day passage exercise with U.S. Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Ronald Reagan during its transit through the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship and cooperation by demonstrating the ability to integrate and coordinate comprehensively in maritime operations.
- The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has informed that India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I), is planned to be commissioned by 2022. Once commissioned, the carrier will be rechristened as INS Vikrant, in memory of India's first aircraft carrier.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an extended-range version of the indigenously developed Pinaka rocket. The rockets were launched from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested a New Generation Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile "Agni P (Prime)" from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.
- Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises "Sea Breeze drills" in the Black Sea in a show of Western cooperation with Kiev as it faces off with Russia.
- Turkey and Azerbaijan have begun joint military drills "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk - 2021" in Baku, deploying tanks, helicopters and drones in an effort to improve the two countries' combat interoperability.

## Science and Technology

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will bring universities, businesses, startups and government together at its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam to help use digital technology to solve sustainability challenges. It will focus on sustainability challenges faced by organisations and becomes the first in a network of hubs, known as TCS Pace Ports, in Europe.
- IIT Guwahati researchers have developed a "Smart Window" material that can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it in response to an applied voltage. This material can help in developing automatic climate control systems in buildings. Such materials can help develop efficient automatic climate control systems in buildings, the scientists claimed. This study was recently published in the journal- 'Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells.
- Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device, "AmbiTag" that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.
- A new AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' has been developed to help in the early detection of COVID 19, with the help of Chest X-ray. The solution will be beneficial for early detection especially in rural areas, where RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available. XraySetu will operate through WhatsApp. It will identify COVID positive patients even from low-resolution Chest X-Ray images sent over Whatsapp-based Chatbot.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop. Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS), the first national network in the field in Asia under the aegis of the International Memory Studies Association, Amsterdam.
- European Space Agency (ESA), is now developing its own probe to study Venus, for holistic view of planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere. The mission dubbed as "EnVision" will probably be launched to the planet in early 2030.
- The Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Ropar has developed a device dubbed 'Jivan Vayu' which can be used as a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine. Jivan Vayu can deliver high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres Per Minute (LPM).
- The European Space Agency (ESA) has planned to launch the world's first wooden satellite. It is



going to be launched from **New Zealand**. It will be launched from a **Rocket Lab Electron rocket** by the end of **2021**. The satellite is the brainchild of **Jari Makinen**.

- The discovery of a “cool” **exoplanet** located 90 light-years from Earth has excited scientists in their hunt for extraterrestrial life. According to a study published in Science Daily, researchers from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the University of New Mexico discovered exoplanet **‘TOI-1231 b’** orbiting an M dwarf star - otherwise known as a red dwarf.
- UN body has endorsed a multinational project called “**Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (CEOS COAST)**”. CEOS COAST programme is co-led by **ISRO and NOAA from the US**. This programme aims to improve the accuracy of coastal data on the basis of satellite and land-based observations. Its pilot projects are uniquely capable of using Earth Observation technologies to meet several of the 17 UN-designated sustainable development goals for the Ocean Decade initiative.
- **Microsoft** officially launched its new Windows operating system **‘Windows 11’**. It is being called as the “next generation” of Windows. The release comes nearly six decades after the current latest Windows Operating System **‘Windows 10’** was launched in **July 2015**. Windows 11 is special

because it focuses on a new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance, including a centre-aligned Taskbar and Start button.

- **Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited** and **Google Cloud** are embarking on a comprehensive, long-term strategic relationship with a goal of powering **5G** in enterprise and consumer segments nationwide. In addition, Reliance will also take advantage of Google Cloud’s scalable infrastructure thereby enabling its retail business to achieve better operational efficiency, modernize and scale for growth, and deliver better performance and experiences to customers.
- **Firmina**, an open subsea cable being built by **Google** that will run from the East Coast of **the United States to Las Toninas, Argentina**, with additional landings in Praia Grande, Brazil, and Punta del Este, Uruguay. Firmina will be the longest cable in the world capable of running entirely from a single power source at one end of the cable if its other become unavailable.
- The **European Space Agency** will hire and launch the **world’s first physically disabled astronaut**. It received 22000 applicants for this recruitment call. ESA is developing technologies for para-astronaut. It will give a message to the world that **‘Space is for everyone’**.

## Books & Authors

- A book titled “**Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020**” authored by **Salman Rushdie**. In his new book, Rushdie attempts to perform a defensive castling move. He suggests his work has been misunderstood and mistreated because the literary culture has turned from brio-filled imaginative writing toward the humbler delights of “autofiction,” as exemplified by the work of **Elena Ferrante and Karl Ove Knausgaard**.
- Cricket all-rounder, commentator and coach, **Ravi Shastri** is now making his publishing debut, as he has penned a book titled **‘Stargazing: The Players in My Life’**. The book is being published by HarperCollins India. It is been co-authored by **Ayaz Memon**. It is expected to be released on June 25, 2021. In the book, Shastri has written about some 60 extraordinary talents he has met from across the world who have inspired him.
- Decorated historian and author **Vikram Sampath** has come out with the second and concluding volume of the book on the life and works of Veer Savarkar titled “**Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)**”. The book will hit the stands on July 26, 2021, under the publication of Penguin Random House India.
- A new book titled **‘1232 km: The Long Journey Home’** by filmmaker **Vinod Kapri** chronicles the journey of seven migrant workers from Bihar, who journeyed back home on their bicycles and reached their destination after seven days. The book is published by **Harper Collins**. The nationwide lockdown in March 2020 forced thousands of migrant workers to return to their native villages by covering thousands of kilometres on foot.
- One of the world’s leading public intellectuals of our time, Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen** has penned his memoir **‘Home in the World’**. The book will be

published in July by Penguin Random House. In this book, Sen shares how it was **Rabindranath Tagore** who gave him his name Amartya. He also reminisces the conversations at Calcutta's famous Coffee House and at Cambridge, and Marx's, Keynes' and Arrow's ideas all of which shaped his views.

- Former Indian batsman, **Suresh Raina** has released his autobiography '**Believe - What Life and Cricket Taught Me**'. The book is co-authored by **Bharat Sundaesan, Suresh Raina** narrated the journey he has had for India and the golden word (Believe) from Sachin Tendulkar that he etched on his arm as a tattoo.
- Jnanpith Awardee and renowned author **Amitav Ghosh's** authored a book titled, '**The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis**'. It is published by **John Murray**. The book talks about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, through the story of the nutmeg.
- Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** released a book of poems '**Beyond Here and Other Poems**' written by senior bureaucrat **Bishnupada Sethi**. It is a collection of 61 poems that are a reflection of a spectrum of experiences of life, perception of death and philosophical contemplation.
- Filmmaker-writer **Tahira Kashyap Khurrana** has announced her upcoming book about motherhood, titled "**The 7 Sins of Being A Mother**".
- Theatre personality **Arvind Gaur** has released the book '**Habba Khatoon**' written by **Kajal Suri**. The book '**Habba Khatoon**' was Published by **Sanjana Prakashan**. Habba Khatoon, also known by the honorary title '**The Nightingale of Kashmir**', was a Kashmiri poet and ascetic. She was the wife of Yousuf Shah Chak, the last Emperor of Kashmir.
- Actor **Will Smith**, who revealed the title and cover of his upcoming autobiography "**Will**". The book, to

be published Nov. 9 by **Penguin Press**. Will Smith is co-writing the book with author **Mark Manson**, and the cover is designed by New Orleans artist Brandan "**BMike**" **Odums**. Smith will also narrate the audiobook of Will from **Penguin Random House Audio**.

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has unveiled **Krishna Saxena's** book "**My Joys and Sorrows - as a Mother of a Special Child**". It is the epitome of the bravery and endurance of a mother, in the best tradition of Indian motherhood.
- Indian British author **Ruskin Bond** has authored a new book titled '**It's a Wonderful Life**' is published by **Aleph Book Company**. The book is written in a perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving, and non-fictional way. He is a recipient of **Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan**. His First Novel was the **Room on the Roof**.
- Journalist **Sundeep Mishra's** book titled '**Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story**' chronicles Chand's journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport.
- A book titled "**Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux**" authored by **Khemlata Wakhlu**. She is a writer, a political leader and a social worker, who has devoted the past fifty years to using her many talents to improve a lot of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.
- A book titled "**Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC**" authored by **Kaushik Basu** released soon.
- Chief Justice of India Justice **NV Ramana** has released former Supreme Court judge **RV Raveendran's** book "**Anomalies in Law and Justice**".

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The **UAE government** awarded Bollywood actor **Sanjay Dutt** with its **Golden Visa**. The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency to people with outstanding talents. In 2019, UAE implemented a new system for long-term residence visas enabling foreigners to live, work & study there without the need of a national sponsor & with **100% ownership** of their business.
- **Mount Nyiragongo** erupted in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Mount Nyiragongo is one of

several volcanoes near the DRC's border with **Rwanda and Uganda**. Its last major eruption, in 2002, killed 250 people and displaced thousands. Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for **40 per cent** of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions. Mount Nyiragongo is located inside **Virunga National Park**.

- **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** has introduced the world's first **Nano Urea Liquid** for farmers across the world.

According to an official statement issued by IFFCO, the world's first Nano Urea Liquid was introduced in its **50th annual general body meeting** held in the online-offline mode in India.

- The first **Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council** has been launched by **Microsoft**. It consists of policymakers and influencers from **Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand**. The council aims to accelerate public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and share threat intelligence.
- **HeidelbergCement**, the world's second-largest cement maker, plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world's first **CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030** via carbon capture technology. Following the planned retrofit, which will cost at least **100 million euros (\$122 million)**, the plant will be able to capture up to **1.8 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide per year.
- The **Kempegowda International Airport** here has achieved net energy neutral status in the Financial Year **2020-21** as part of its sustainability goals. Bengaluru international airport (BIAL) has been able to save nearly 22 lakh units of energy in the **Financial Year 2020-21**, enough to power nearly **9,000 houses for a month**.
- The **Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020** list has been unveiled, and it features women under 40 across various fields. **Rhea Chakraborty** has bagged the number 1 spot on Times Most Desirable Women 2020 list. She was in the news for most of last year due to the sudden demise of **Sushant Singh Rajput** and the controversy around his death. Miss Universe 2020, 3rd runner-up **Adline Castelino** bagged the second spot in the list. Actress **Disha Patani, Kiara Advani and Deepika Padukone** were on the third, fourth and fifth spot respectively.
- State-owned hydro power giant **NHPC** has incorporated a joint venture firm **Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd** for implementing **850 MW Ratle project** in the union territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Weyan**, a village in district **Bandipora (J&K)** has become **the first village in the country**, where the entire population above **18 years has been vaccinated**. The vaccination in Weyan village was covered under the J&K model, a 10-point strategy to inoculate everyone who is eligible for the shots at a faster pace.
- Social media giant **Facebook** has launched a new initiative '**Report it, Don't share it!**' that encourages people to report child abuse content on

its platforms and not to share it. The initiative 'Report it, don't share it' is in collaboration with civil society organisations like **Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation and Arpan**.

- **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI)** has released the **SIPRI Yearbook 2021**. The report assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security. **China** is in the middle of significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear weapon inventory, and **India and Pakistan** also appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals.
- Delhi Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched the '**Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination**' campaign, with the aim to vaccinate all people above **45 years** against COVID-19 in Delhi within the next four weeks. There are around **57 lakhs** people above 45 years in Delhi. Among them, 27 lakhs have been administered the first dose. The rest 30 lakh people still remain to be vaccinated with the first dose.
- A week-long Indian mango promotion programme began in **Bahrain**. Where 16 varieties of the fruit including three Geographical Indications (GI) certified **Khirsapati & Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal), Zardalu (Bihar)** are being displayed.
- A **1,098-carat diamond** has been discovered in **Botswana**, by Debswana Diamond Company, a joint venture between the government of Botswana and the South African diamond company **De Beers**. The newly discovered diamond is believed to be the third-largest gem-quality stone ever to be mined in the world.
- The **Delhi government** appointed former Olympic medalist weightlifter **Karnam Malleswari** as the first Vice-Chancellor of **Delhi Sports University**. She is the first Indian woman weightlifter to bring home an Olympic medal. She created history at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 by lifting 110 kilograms and 130 kilograms in the 'snatch' and 'clean and jerk' categories. She has also been awarded the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award and Padma Shri**.
- **Delhi government** has launched "**Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana**" to provide financial assistance to the families who lost a member due to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to notification by Social Welfare Department, **Rs 50,000** ex-gratia will be provided to every family that has lost a member amid a pandemic. A pension of **Rs 2,500 per month** would also be given to those families that lost the sole breadwinner to the Covid-19 pandemic.



- The **Election Commission of India** e-launched the 'Atlas on General Elections 2019'. The Atlas encompasses all the data and statistical figures of this monumental event. It includes 42 thematic maps and 90 tables depicting various facets of the elections.
- The **Government of China** officially turned on the first two generating units of the **Baihetan Dam**, the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam, to start generating energy. The Baihetan Dam is set up on the **Jinsha River**, in southwestern China.

## Obituaries

- Former Denmark's prime minister **Poul Schlueter**, who negotiated exemptions for his country to a key **European Union(EU) treaty** has passed away. He was born on 3 April 1929 in Tonder, Denmark. Schlueter served as the prime minister of the country from **1982-1993**.
- **T.M. Kalliannan Gounder**, the last surviving former member of the **Indian Constituent Assembly**, died at the age of 101. He served as a Member of the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu and also as an MLA thrice, between 1952 and 1967. He was reportedly the **youngest member in the Constituent Assembly** then and also a member of **India's first provisional parliament**.
- The former Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Mauritius, **Sir Anerood Jugnauth** passed away. He is the country's longest-serving prime minister with more than 18 years of tenure. He was considered the **father of the Mauritian economic miracle** of the 1980s.
- The National award-winning eminent Bengali film Director **Buddhadeb Dasgupta** has passed away. He had won several National Awards for his contribution to Bengali cinema.
- Asian Games gold medal-winning former boxing star **Dingko Singh** has passed away, battling liver cancer. Manipur-based Dingko Singh won the **gold medal** for India in the **1998 Asian Games Bangkok, Thailand**. He was also bestowed with the **Arjuna award** in 1998 and the country's fourth-highest civilian honour, **the Padma Shri, in 2013**.
- Padma Shri winning noted Economist and Environmentalist, **Prof Radhamohan Ji** has passed away. He was the former information commissioner of Odisha and had also served as a lecturer of Economics in different colleges in Odisha.
- Noted Kannada poet, playwright and Dalit activist, **Siddalingaiah** has passed away, due to Covid-19 related ailments. He was one of Karnataka's first prominent Dalit poets, and was popularly known as "**Dalita Kavi**".
- Olympian **Surat Singh Mathur**, the first from independent India to complete a marathon at the Olympics, passed away. Running with the legendary **Emil Zatopek** in the **1952 Helsinki Olympics**, Mathur completed the marathon in the **52nd place in 2:58.92s**.
- Mahavir Chakra recipient legendary veteran, **Brigadier Raghubir Singh** has passed away. He was commissioned on **18 Apr 1943 into the Sawaiman Guards** as a Second Lieutenant and fought a number of wars including the second world war.
- The former Indian women volleyball team captain **Nirmal Milkha Kaur**, who is the wife of sprint legend **Milkha Singh** (Flying Sikh), has passed away due to COVID-19 complications. Nirmal Milkha Singh was also a former Director of Sports for Women in the Punjab Government.
- Veteran Kannada film actor **Sanchari Vijay**, who won the National award in 2015, has passed away. He made his debut in films in 2011 with the Kannada film **Rangappa Hogbitna**. His 2015 film **Naanu Avanalla...Avalu**, fetched him the **Best Actor Award** at the **62nd National Film Awards**, in which he played the role of a transgender.
- **Gottfried Bohm**, the first German architect to be awarded the **Pritzker Prize**, has passed away at 101. Most of his most notable projects were built in Germany-such as **Neviges Pilgrimage Church (1968)**, **Bensberger City Hall (1969)**, and the **Museum of the Diocese (1975)**.
- Zambian politician **Kenneth Kaunda**, who served as the first **President of Zambia**, has passed away. Mr Kaunda served as the first President of independent Zambia for **27 years from 1964 to 1991**. Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964.

- Renowned Jammu-based Islamic scholar **Mufti Faiz-ul-Waheed**, who first translated Quran into **Gojri language**, has passed away in a Jammu. The scholar had also authored several booklets including **'Siraj-um-Muneera'**, **'Ahkam-e-Mayyat'** and **'Namaz Kae Masayil Quran-o-Hadees Ki Roshni Mei'**.
- Legendary Indian sprinter, **Milkha Singh** has passed away due to coronavirus disease (Covid-19), at the age of 91. A former army man, Milkha Singh won several laurels for the country in track and field events across the globe.
- **Guruprasad Mohapatra**, the Secretary in the **Department of Industry and Internal Trade**

- (**DPIIT**), has passed away due to COVID-19 related complications.
- British-American Software pioneer, **John David McAfee**, the creator of the **McAfee antivirus software**, has passed away. John was found dead in his cell in a jail near Barcelona, where he had been since October 2020, for evading taxes.
- Bollywood's veteran cinematographer and director, **Sivan** passed away recently. The ace cinematographer rose to fame in the Malayalam film industry with the photographs, he took for a film titled Chemeen.

### Static Takeaways

- The National Book Trust, India is an apex body, established by the Government of India in the year 1957.
- Research Design and Standards Organisation Headquarters location: Lucknow;
- Research Design and Standards Organisation Founded: 1921.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen;
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- WHO was established on 7 April 1948.
- WHO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Prime Minister of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem.
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance Founded: 2005.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966;
- ADB Members: 68 countries (49 members are from Asia pacific region);
- ADB is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- ICICI Lombard Headquarters: Mumbai.
- ICICI Lombard Founded: 2001.

- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France;
- OECD Founded: 30 September 1961.
- National Investigation Agency Headquarters: New Delhi;
- National Investigation Agency Founded: 2009.
- Confederation of Indian Industry Founded: 1895.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Established: 1924.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NHRC Formed: 12 October 1993;
- NHRC Jurisdiction: Government of India;
- NHRC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Magma Fincorp Headquarters: West Bengal;
- Magma Fincorp Founded: 1988.
- Kenya Capital: Nairobi;
- Kenya Currency: Kenyan shilling;
- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology Founded: 1977.

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# BANK

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24 Months Validity

- WhatsApp Founded: 2009;
- WhatsApp CEO: Will Cathcart (Mar 2019-);
- WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States;
- WhatsApp Acquisition date: 19 February 2014;
- WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.
- The Assam Rifles came into being in 1835;
- Assam Rifles HQ: Shillong, Meghalaya.
- International Dairy Federation Established: 1903.
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO Chairman of the NATO Military Committee: Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach.
- Member countries of NATO: 30; Founded: 4 April 1949.
- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015.
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Wipro Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Wipro MD and CEO: Thierry Delaporte.
- Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- President of the Republic of Congo: Denis Sassou Nguesso;
- Prime Minister of Republic of Congo: Anatole Collinet Makosso;
- Congo Capital: Brazzaville;
- Congo Currency: Congolese franc.
- IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IFFCO Founded: 3 November 1967, New Delhi;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- CBSE Head Office: Delhi;
- CBSE Founded: 3 November 1962.
- TCS Founded: 1 April 1968;
- TCS Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Netherland capital : Amsterdam;
- Netherland currency: Euro.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Head: Qu Dongyu;
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy;
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.
- IAF HQ:- New Delhi; Founded: 8 October 1932;
- Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.
- NGT Headquarters: New Delhi;
- European Union Headquarters location: Brussels, Belgium;
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993.
- Stockholm is the capital of Sweden.
- The krona is the official currency of Sweden.
- The current PM of Sweden is Stefan Lofven.
- ECOSOC Headquarters: New York and Geneva;
- ECOSOC Founded: 26 June 1945;
- ECOSOC President: Oh Joon.
- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- Interpol Founded: 7 September 1923.
- Interpol Headquarters: Lyon, France, Motto: "Connecting police for a safer world".
- El Salvador Capital: San Salvador; Currency: United States Dollar;
- President of El Salvador: Nayib Bukele.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Headoffice of BharatPe: New Delhi;
- BharatPe Founded: 2018.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board HQ: New Delhi.
- HSBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- HSBC Founded: 3 March 1865, Hong Kong.
- Election Commission Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Bandhan Bank HQ: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Bandhan Bank Founded: 2001.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Ferrari Founder: Enzo Ferrari;
- Ferrari Founded: 1947, Maranello, Italy;
- Ferrari Headquarters: Maranello, Italy.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Thailand Capital: Bangkok;
- Thailand Currency: Thai baht.
- Oman Capital: Muscat;
- Oman Currency: Omani rial.



- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Headoffice of BharatPe: New Delhi;
- BharatPe Founded: 2018.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters: Rome, Italy;
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945;
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Quality Council of India Founded: 1997;
- Quality Council of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland;
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919.
- Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar;
- Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Togrog.
- DBS Bank Headquarters: Singapore;
- DBS Bank Tag Line: "Make Banking Joyful".
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946;
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- UN Security Council Headquarters: New York, United States;
- UN Security Council Founded: 24 October 1945.
- UK Capital: London;
- UK Prime minister: Boris Johnson;
- UK Currency: Pound sterling;
- Australia Capital: Canberra;
- Australia Currency: Australian dollar;
- Australia Prime minister: Scott Morrison.
- Federal Bank HQ: Aluva, Kerala.
- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966;
- ADB Members: 68 countries (49 members are from Asia pacific region);
- ADB is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- Policybazaar Founded: June 2008;
- Policybazaar HQ: Gurugram, Haryana.
- UNCTAD Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNCTAD Founded: 30 December 1964.
- Internet and Mobile Association of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Internet and Mobile Association of India Founded: 2004.
- COAI Headquarters location: New Delhi;
- COAI Founded: 1995.
- Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- World Trade Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Trade Organization Founded: 1 January 1995.
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Member countries of NATO: 30; Founded: 4 April 1949.
- Coursera Headquarters: California, USA.
- Knight Frank Established: 1896;
- Knight Frank Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- Global Wind Energy Council Headquarters location: Brussels, Belgium;
- Global Wind Energy Council Founded: 2005.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Sipri Headquarters: Oslo, Norway.
- Sipri Founded: 6 May 1966.
- Zambia Capital: Lusaka; Currency: Zambian kwacha.
- IndusInd Bank Headquarters: Pune;
- IndusInd Bank Founded: April 1994, Mumbai.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.
- PMC Bank Founded: 1984.
- PMC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- European Space Agency Headquarters: Paris, France;
- European Space Agency Founded: 30 May 1975, Europe;
- Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927.
- Capital of Armenia: Yerevan.
- Currency of Armenia: Armenian dram.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian Toman.
- Fiji Capital: Suva;
- Fiji Currency: Fijian dollar;
- Fiji President: Jioji Konousi.
- Bharti Airtel Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal.
- Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995.

- Tata Group Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- IDFC First Bank Establishment: 2018;
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters; Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- SBI general insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- SBI general insurance Tagline: Suraksha Aur Bharosa Dono.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple.
- SBI Card Founded: October 1998;
- SBI Card Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- International Boxing Association Founded: 1946.
- International Boxing Association Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Criminal Court Founded: 1 July 2002;
- International Criminal Court Headquarters: The Hague, the Netherlands;
- International Criminal Court Member states: 123;
- International Criminal Court Working languages: English; French.
- WWF India Headquarters location: New Delhi;
- WWF India Founded: 1969.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen;
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- Airport Council International Headquarters location: Montreal, Canada;
- Airport Council International Founded: 1991.
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network Headquarters: Paris, France & New York, USA.
- Swiss National Bank Chairman of the Governing Board: Thomas J. Jordan;
- Swiss National Bank Head Offices: Berne, Zurich.
- International Humanist and Ethical Union Founded: 1952;
- International Humanist and Ethical Union Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- International Hydrographic Organization Founded: 21 June 1921.
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894 (Paris, France).
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Founded: 1997.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- Chairman of LIC: MR Kumar;
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.
- WhatsApp Founded: 2009;
- (Mar 2019-);
- WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States;
- WhatsApp Acquisition date: 19 February 2014;
- WhatsApp Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton;
- WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.
- Reliance Jio Founded: 2007;
- Reliance Jio Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.
- Bhutan Capital: Thimphu;
- Bhutan Prime minister: Lotay Tshering;
- Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.
- Central Vigilance Commission Formed: February 1964;
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994.
- Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar;
- Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Togrog;
- Mongolia President: Ukhnaa Khurelsukh.
- Paisabazaar Founded: 15 December 2011.
- Central Bureau of Investigation Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Central Bureau of Investigation Founded: 1 April 1963.
- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006.
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
- Sweden Capital: Stockholm; Currency: Swedish krona.
- Ukraine President: Volodymyr Zelensky;
- Ukraine Capital: Kyiv;
- Ukraine Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia;
- US Capital: Washington, D.C.;
- US President: Joe Biden;
- US Currency: United States Dollar.

- Turkey President: Recep Tayyip Erdogan;
- Turkey Capital: Ankara;
- Turkey Currency: Turkish lira;
- Azerbaijan Capital: Baku;
- Azerbaijan Prime minister: Ali Asadov;
- Azerbaijan President: Ilham Aliyev;
- Azerbaijan Currency: Azerbaijani manat.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union Founded: 1889.
- European Space Agency is an intergovernmental organization of 22 member states;
- European Space Agency was established in 1975 and headquartered in Paris.
- Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte.
- Philippines Capital: Manila.
- Philippines Currency: Philippine peso.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.

• **States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:**

Sr.No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadeo Narain Arya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
11	Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	MK Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan



25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Tirath Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

● **Union Ministers in News in month of June 2021**

Sr No	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
2	Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	Narendra Singh Tomar
3	Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri	Thaawarchand Gehlot
4	Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs	Anurag Singh Thakur
5	Environment Forest and Climate Change Minister	Prakash Javadekar
6	Minority Affairs Minister	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
7	Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan
8	Union Education Minister	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
9	External Affairs Minister	S Jaishankar
10	Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare	Dr Harsh Vardhan
11	Union Defence Minister	Rajnath Singh
12	Union Minister of Women and Child Development	Smriti Zubin Irani
13	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Ayush	Shripad Yesso Naik
14	Union Minister of Earth Sciences	Dr Harsh Vardhan

● **Heads of various organizations in News in month of June 2021**

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	Chairman of National Book Trust India	Govind Prasad Sharma
2	WHO current President is	Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
3	MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance	Parag Raja
4	MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	J Venkatramu
5	Current president of ADB	Masatsugu Asakawa
6	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
7	ICICI Lombard CEO	Bhargav Dasgupta
8	SBI Chairperson	Dinesh Kumar Khara
9	National Investigation Agency Founder	Radha Vinod Raju
10	Magma Fincorp Founder	Mayank Poddar and Sanjay Chamria
11	Kenya President	Uhuru Kenyatta
12	WhatsApp Founders	Jan Koum Brian Acton
13	DG of International Dairy Federation	Caroline Emond
14	Director-General of Indian Coast Guard	Krishnaswamy Natarajan
15	NITI Aayog Chairperson	Narendra Modi

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
16	Chairman of Wipro Limited	Rishad Premji
17	Secretary of BCCI	Jay Shah
18	President of BCCI	Sourav Ganguly
19	Chairman of ICC	Greg Barclay
20	CEO of ICC	Manu Sawhney
21	IFFCO Chairman	B.S Nakai
22	IFFCO MD & CEO	Dr U.S Awasthi
23	Microsoft CEO	Satya Nadella
25	CBSE Chairman	Manoj Ahuja
26	TCS CEO	Rajesh Gopinathan
27	Chairman of NGT	Adarsh Kumar Goel
28	is the Secretary-General of the United Nations	Mr Antonio Guterres
29	Interpol President	Kim Jong Yang
30	NTPC Chairman and Managing Director	Shri Gurdeep Singh
31	Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe	Ashneer Grover
32	HSBC CEO	Noel Quinn
33	HSBC Founder	Thomas Sutherland
34	First executive of Election Commission	Sukumar Sen
35	Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral Karambir Singh
36	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
37	Chief Executive Officer of Facebook	Mark Zuckerberg
38	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited CMD	R Madhavan
39	Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe	Ashneer Grover
40	Director-General of WHO	Tedros Adhanom
41	Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization	Dr QU Dongyu
42	Chairman of Quality Council of India	Adil Zainulbhai
43	President of International Labour Organization	Guy Ryder
44	Managing Director and CEO DBS Bank India	Surojit Shome
45	DBS Bank CEO	Piyush Gupta
46	Federal Bank MD & CEO	Shyam Srinivasan
47	is the current president of ADB	Masatsugu Asakawa
48	IDBI Bank CEO	Rakesh Sharma
49	National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
50	Policybazaar CEO	Yashish Dahiya
51	Chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India	Amit Agarwal
52	World Trade Organization Director-General	Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
53	NATO Chairman of the NATO Military Committee	Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach
54	Coursera CEO	Jeff Maggioncalda
55	Chief Executive Officer of Facebook	Mark Zuckerberg

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
56	Sipri Director	Dan Smith
57	IndusInd Bank CEO	Sumant Kathpalia
58	IndusInd Bank Founder	S. P. Hinduja
59	The Administrator Of PMC Bank	AK Dixit
60	European Space Agency CEO	Johann-Dietrich Worner
61	Indian Olympic Association President	Narinder Dhruv Batra
62	Bharti Airtel CEO	Gopal Vittal
63	Tata Group Chairman	Natarajan Chandrasekaran
64	IDFC First Bank MD & CEO	V. Vaidyanathan
65	SBI general insurance MD & CEO	Prakash Chandra Kandpal
66	Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO	Uday Kotak
67	SBI Card MD and CEO	Rama Mohan Rao Amara
68	Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive	Ajay Tyagi
69	International Boxing Association President	Dr Mohamed Moustahsane
70	Sustainable Development Solutions Network President	Jeffrey Sachs
71	International Humanist and Ethical Union President	Andrew Copson
72	International Hydrographic Organization Secretary-General	Dr Mathias Jonas
73	International Olympic Committee President	Thomas Bach
74	Microsoft CEO and Chairman	Satya Nadella
75	WhatsApp CEO	Will Cathcart
76	Reliance Jio President Infocomm	Mathew Oommen
77	Reliance Jio Founder	Mukesh Ambani
78	Google CEO	Sundar Pichai
79	Amazon CEO	Jeff Bezos
80	Paisabazaar Founders	Naveen Kukreja Yashish Dahiya
81	Chief Executive Officer of Twitter	Jack Dorsey
82	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) Director	Simonetta Di Pippo
83	Inter-Parliamentary Union President	Gabriela Cuevas Barron
84	Inter-Parliamentary Union Secretary-General	Martin Chungong