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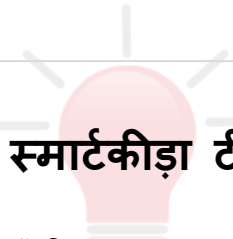
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of May 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF मई 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

401. On May 17, With the second wave of Covid-19 sweeping across rural areas of Odisha, infections among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), including the Bonda and Dongaria Kondh tribes, have increased to 35 within a fortnight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bonda & Dongaria Kondh tribes – belongs to Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

402. On May 17, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has launched an exclusive mobile called App “HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) Covid App” to ensure regular monitoring and tracking of all those covid-19 patients who are in home isolation across the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – launched an exclusive “HIT Covid App” (Home Isolation Tracking)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

403. On May 18, Reliance Jio is constructing the largest International Submarine Cable System centred on India with global partners and submarine cable supplier Subcom to cater to increased data demand. The two International Submarine cable systems are India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) and India-Europe-Xpress (IEX). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Jio – is constructing two largest International Submarine Cable Systems “IAX” & “IEX” – centred on India
- HQs of Reliance Jio – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Pravir Kumar

404. On May 18, Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has launched first digital offering IPOS (Integrated Partner On-boarding Solution). This is a fully automated onboarding solution for all its existing and prospective partners. EGI recently launched an Open API Gateway to strengthen digital capabilities of its partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss General Insurance – launched first “IPOS” (Integrated Partner On-boarding Solution)
- HQs of EGI – Mumbai, MH | CEO & Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh

405. On May 18, The Andhra Pradesh government issued orders for the establishment of 10 Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) in addition to the existing 3 units - West Godavari, Guntur and Anantapur. The government also declared all the AHTUs as Police Stations and will be housed in the Disha police stations in their respective districts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – issued orders for the establishment of additional 10 Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU)
- Existing 3 units in the state: West Godavari, Guntur & Anantapur
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



406. On May 18, Haryana has declared the 'Black Fungus' a notified disease in the state. It has been reported that this disease (Black Fungus) is caused by the steroid administered in the treatment of Covid-19 infection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – declared the 'Black Fungus' a notified disease in the state
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

407. On May 16, Amazon has launched a new video streaming service called "miniTV". The service offers users professionally created and curated content across web series. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon – launched a new video streaming service called "miniTV"
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from Oct 2021)

408. On May 17, Indian Railways has commissioned WiFi facility at 6,000 railway stations by providing WiFi at Jharkhand's Hazaribagh Town in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway Zone. Mumbai railway station was the first railway station where WiFi was provided in January 2016. Thereafter, Midanpore in West Bengal became the 5000th station. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) – became the 6,000th railway station in India to get the WiFi facility
- Mumbai – the first railway station where WiFi was provided in January 2016
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

409. On May 17, MyGov in partnership with Department of Higher Education has launched an Innovation Challenge for creating an Indian Language Learning App. MyGov is the citizen engagement platform of the Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MyGov + Dept of Higher Education = launched an Innovation Challenge for creating an Indian Language Learning App
- MyGov – a citizen engagement platform of Gol | Launched in – 2014

410. On May 11, The SEBI has reviewed the regulatory framework of promoter, promoter group and group companies as per Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018". The SEBI has proposed shifting from concept of 'Promoter' to concept of 'Person in Control'. The SEBI has also reduced lock-in period for minimum promoter's contribution (20%) to 1 year from 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – reviewed the regulatory framework of promoter, promoter group & group companies
- SEBI – proposed shifting from concept of 'Promoter' to concept of 'Person in Control'
- SEBI – reduced lock-in period for minimum promoter's contribution (20%) to 1 year from 3 years
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



411. On May 17, The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021. The Finance Minister had in her Budget Speech this year announced that the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017 would be amended to boost trade facilitation. Besides, “ICEGATE portal” is CBIC new single portal that will regulate all registrations. One major change is that the imported goods have been permitted to be sent out for ‘Job Work’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC – notified the “Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021”
- CBIC’s new single portal that will regulate all registrations – “ICEGATE portal”
- Imported Goods – permitted to be sent out for ‘Job Work’
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

412. On May 17, After Madhya Pradesh and Delhi governments, Andhra Pradesh has announced to create a fixed deposit of ₹10 lakh for every child who lost both their parents due to Covid-19 infection. This amount will be under a fixed deposit until the child turns 25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – to create a fixed deposit of ₹10 lakh for every child who lost both their parents due to Covid
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

413. On May 17, In order to address the problems of elders in the context of the ongoing COVID pandemic, the Ministry of Social Justice has started state wise call centres in major states under the ‘ELDERLINE’ project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mini. of Social Justice – started state wise call centres in major states under ‘ELDERLINE’ project for Elderly persons
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot (Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)

414. On May 16, The use of ‘Plasma Therapy’ has been dropped from the recommended treatment guidelines for COVID-19, according to advisory from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Trials had found no significant benefit from the use of plasma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICMR – dropped ‘Plasma Therapy’ from the recommended treatment guidelines for COVID-19
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911

415. On May 17, The West Bengal government will set up a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad), as per a decision taken up at the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Trinamool Congress promised its formation in its manifesto. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – will set up a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



416. On May 17, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is providing Tele-Counselling to children through SAMVEDNA (Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance) - a Toll-Free Helpline. The helpline is launched to provide psycho-social mental support for Children affected during COVID 19 Pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCPCR – is providing Tele-Counselling to Children through “SAMVEDNA” Toll-Free Helpline
- SAMVEDNA – Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance
- HQs of NCPCR – New Delhi | Chairman – Priyank Kanongoo

417. On May 19, The Maharashtra Government has approved a proposal for setting up the National Institute of Medicinal Plants over 50 acres in the Sindhudurg district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – approved a proposal to set up National Institute of Medicinal Plants over 50 acres – in Sindhudurg
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

418. On May 20, Ministry of Culture has announced that 6 Indian sites, including the temples of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, the Ganga ghats in Varanasi, and the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, have been added to India’s tentative list of UNESCO’s world heritage sites. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture announced – 6 Indian sites are added to India’s tentative list of UNESCO’s world heritage sites
- Satpura Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh)
- Ghats of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
- Megalithic site of Hire Benkal (Karnataka)
- Maratha Military Architecture (Maharashtra)
- Bhedaghat-Lametaghat (Madhya Pradesh)
- Total number of UNESCO World Heritage sites in India – 38 (as on May 20, 2021)
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

419. On May 21, Mylab Discovery Solutions has announced ICMR’s approval for a DIY rapid antigen test kit for Covid-19 called “CoviSelf” that provides results in about 15 minutes. It is India’s first home test kit. It is priced at ₹250 a test. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mylab Discovery Solutions – received ICMR’s approval for India’s first home test kit “CoviSelf”
- Result in – 15 minutes | Price – ₹250
- HQs of Mylab Discovery Solutions – Lonavla, Maharashtra | MD – Hasmukh Rawal | CEO – Rahul Patil



International Affairs

420. On May 13, Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel has discussed various issues with his Mongolian counterpart Chinbat Nomin under Cultural Exchange Programme held between two countries. The Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between India and Mongolia stands renewed until 2023. India has assured to distribute 100 sets of Sacred Mongolian Kanjur by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Cultural Exchange Programme” between India & Mongolia – stands renewed until 2023
- India – to distribute 100 sets of Sacred Mongolian Kanjur by 2022
- Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar – Mongolian Togrog | President – Khaltmaagiin Battulga

421. On May 14, Russia has formally designated the United States and the Czech Republic as “unfriendly states” amid persisting tensions with the West. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – formally designated the US & the Czech Republic as “unfriendly states”
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Czech Republic – Prague – Koruna | President – Milos Zeman

422. On May 12, China has added all Synthetic Cannabinoids substances to its list of banned drugs, in what it described as a first in the world, to curb their manufacturing, trafficking and abuse. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – first country in the world to ban all Synthetic Cannabinoid substances
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

423. On May 16, Iran has unveiled its strongest supercomputer named “Simorgh”, developed domestically by Tehran’s Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT). The supercomputer is named after a mythical Persian bird. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – unveiled its strongest supercomputer named “Simorgh”
- It is domestically developed by – Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran)
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Hassan Rouhani

424. The Global Task Force on Pandemic Response, a newly formed U.S. based public-private partnership organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and supported by Business Roundtable to help address the COVID-19 surge in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – formed a public-private partnership called “Global Task Force on Pandemic Response”
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



425. On May 18, India has lost ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas field in Iran. The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has signed a contract worth \$1.78 billion with Petropars Group for the development of Farzad B Gas Field in the Persian Gulf. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered ‘Farzad-B gas field’ – in Iran
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Hassan Rouhani](#)

426. A new cyclonic storm, named “Cyclone Yaas”, is expected to start forming in the Bay of Bengal by May 22, according to the National Weather Forecasting Centre, India Meteorological Department (IMD). Cyclone Yaas name is given by Oman. [{Read more}](#)

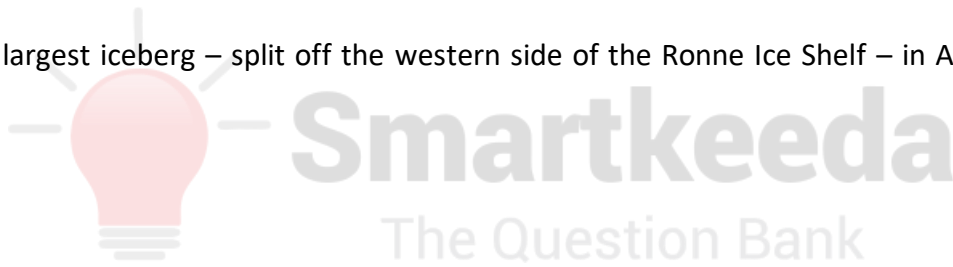
Key Points:

- “Cyclone Yaas” – expected to start forming in the Bay of Bengal (Name is given by Oman)
- [Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said](#)

427. The world’s largest iceberg, thrice the size of Delhi, has split off the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica’s Weddell Sea. The iceberg, named “A-76”, has a surface area of around 4,320 square kilometres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “A-76” - world’s largest iceberg – split off the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf – in Antarctica’s Weddell Sea



Banking & Economic Affairs

428. On May 18, The SEBI has proposed an elaborate framework for setting up a Gold Exchange in India wherein the Gold will be traded in the form of “Electronic Gold Receipt” (EGR) and will help in having a transparent domestic spot price discovery mechanism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – proposed an elaborate framework for setting up a Gold Exchange in India
- SEBI – also suggested that the Gold to be traded in the form of “Electronic Gold Receipt” (EGR)
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992](#)

429. On May 18, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Priyadarshini Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd, Beed, Maharashtra for violation of certain directions issued under Supervisory Action Framework (SAF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Priyadarshini Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd ([Maharashtra](#))
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)



430. On May 20, HyperVerge has partnered with SBI for one of its flagship products, the “Video KYC Solution” to ramp up technology for online customer onboarding amidst COVID-19 economic recovery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + HyperVerge = partnership for the “Video KYC Solution”
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of HyperVerge – California, US | CEO – Kedar Kulkarni

431. On May 19, IDBI Bank has launched its fully digitised Loan Processing System (LPS), offering over 50 products to MSME and agriculture sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDBI Bank – launched its fully digitised Loan Processing System (LPS) for MSMEs & Agriculture sector
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Established in – 1964 | Tagline – “Bank Aisa Dost Jaisa”

432. On May 18, HSBC India has launched digital banking solutions for its corporate customers. “HSBC SmartServe” and “HSBC IntelliSign” are first-of-its-kind digital solutions aimed at ensuring a quick, secure and seamless on-boarding process for corporate clients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HSBC India – launched 2 new first-of-its-kind Digital Banking Solutions “HSBC SmartServe” & “HSBC IntelliSign”
- HQs of HSBC India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Surendra Rosha | Founded in – 1853

433. On May 19, The RBI has mandated regulatory guidelines for Prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) issuers. The maximum amount outstanding in respect of full-KYC PPIs (KYC-compliant PPIs) has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh. Full-KYC PPIs Maximum limit is increased to ₹2,000 per transaction with an overall limit of ₹10,000 per month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – mandated regulatory guidelines for Prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) issuers
- The maximum amount outstanding in respect of full-KYC – increased to ₹2 lakh (from ₹1 lakh)
- Full-KYC PPIs Maximum limit – increased to ₹2,000 per transaction (overall limit - ₹10,000 / month)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



Schemes & Initiatives

434. On May 11, The Department of AYUSH has launched the “Vaidya Aapke Dwar” scheme in Madhya Pradesh, through which free AYUSH medical specialists can be consulted through live video call from home. The three disciplines of AYUSH, Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani, can be availed under the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of AYUSH – launched the “Vaidya Aapke Dwar” scheme in Madhya Pradesh
- Ayurveda, Homeopathy & Unani – can be availed under the scheme
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Sports & Games

435. On May 16, Arjan Singh Bhullar has become the 1st Indian origin fighter to win a Mixed Martial Artist (MMA) World Champion title. The Indo-Canadian Arjan Bhullar beat Brandon Vera via TKO in the 2nd round to win the heavyweight title. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjan Singh Bhullar – became the 1st Indian origin fighter to win a “MMA World Champion” title
- Arjan Singh Bhullar (Indo-Canadian) – a Mixed Martial Artist

436. On May 13, India has remained the No. 1 Test side after the annual update of the ICC team rankings. India is followed by New Zealand & England. Ravichandran Ashwin is the only Indian bowler to feature in the top ten ICC rankings in the Test format and he has held on to his second spot. Jasprit Bumrah has also held on to his 11th position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – topped the “Annual ICC Test Team Rankings” | Followed by – New Zealand & England
- Ravichandran Ashwin (2nd spot) – the only Indian bowler to feature in the top ten ICC rankings in the Test format

437. On May 17, Barcelona Football Club has won the UEFA Women’s Champions League 2021. It has beaten Chelsea FC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Barcelona FC – won the UEFA Women’s Champions League 2021 (beating Chelsea FC)

438. On May 14, The National Basketball Association (NBA) has announced the creation of a new award the “Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award” to recognise players who are making strides in the fight for social justice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NBA – announced the creation of a new award the “Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award”
- HQs of NBA – New York, US | CEO – Adam Silver



Important Days & Dates

439. “International Museum Day” is observed on May 18 every year to raise awareness among people about the museums. This year, the theme is “The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine”. The Day was first held in 1977. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 18 – “International Museum Day” (since 1977)
- Theme – “The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine”

440. “World AIDS Vaccine Day” is observed each year on May 18 across the globe. The day was celebrated in May 1998 for the first time after President Bill Clinton gave a speech at Morgan State University in 1997 where he stated that a vaccine was the only way to limit the spread and eventually wipe out HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 18 – “World AIDS Vaccine Day” (since 1998)
- HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus

441. World Metrology Day was observed on May 20 across the world. The day commemorates the anniversary of signature by representatives of 17 nations of the ‘Metre Convention-1875’. The theme of 2021 is “Measurement for Health”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 20 – World Metrology Day | Theme – “Measurement for Health”
- ‘Metre Convention’ was signed by 17 nations on 20 May, 1875 – in Paris, France

442. World Bee Day is an annual event that takes place on 20 May every year, and aims to highlight the importance of the role that bees, and other pollinators, play in the world. In 2017, the United Nations declared 20 May as World Bee Day. This year, the theme is “Bee engaged - Build Back Better for Bees”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 20 – World Bee Day (since 2017)
- Theme – “Bee engaged - Build Back Better for Bees”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

443. Towards fostering friendly relations with its maritime neighbours, Indian Navy has hosted “Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) - 2021” under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa on 11 & 12 May 21. The event for the first time was hosted in virtual mode, with online participation of 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries. The theme for GMS-21 was focused on “Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Indian Navy – hosted “Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) - 2021” – under the aegis of Naval War College (Goa)
- Theme – “Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies”
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

444. On May 19, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan has represented India at the “Summit on Financing African Economies 2021” hosted by France. Presently, there are over 89 projects across 41 countries in Africa that are being implemented with Indian concessional credit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. Muraleedharan – represented India at the “Summit on Financing African Economies 2021” – hosted by France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

445. On May 16, Andrea Meza from Mexico has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe at the competition held in Florida, US. Total 74 gorgeous women had participated from all over the world. She has become the 3rd Mexican woman to be crowned as Miss Universe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andrea Meza (Mexico) – crowned as the 69th Miss Universe – at the competition held in Florida, US
- Mexico – Mexico City – Peso | President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

446. On May 17, The “International Invincible Gold Medal” of this year has been conferred by Maharshi Organisation on Union Education Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’. Dr Tony Nader, president of Maharshi Organisation worldwide, has stated that Nishank has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ – conferred with “International Invincible Gold Medal” by Maharshi Organisation
- President of Maharshi Organisation worldwide – Dr. Tony Nader
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

447. On May 15, Khushhal Kaushik has bagged the super-prestigious Glory of India Award 2020 by the Indian achiever forum. The award is given to professionals and veterans across diverse fields and streams to recognize their excellence, merit, and the propelling of a nation’s growth through their achievements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Khushhal Kaushik – bagged the super-prestigious “Glory of India Award 2020” by the Indian achiever forum



448. On May 19, Cambridge University Chemists Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman were declared as the winners of the “Millennium Technology Prize 2020”, a prestigious global science and technology prize awarded by Technology Academy Finland (TAF) for their development of revolutionary sequencing techniques. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shankar Balasubramanian & David Klenerman – winners of the “Millennium Technology Prize 2020” – by TAF

Appointments & Resignations

449. On May 14, Mali’s Prime Minister Moctar Ouane resigned but was immediately reappointed in order to carry out the reshuffle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Moctar Ouane – re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Mali
- Mali – Bamako – CFA franc | President – Bah Ndaw | PM – Moctar Ouane

450. On May 16, Anatole Collinet Makosso has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Republic of Congo. Among the new ministers announced in a decree read on state television was Sassou’s son, Denis Christel Sassou Nguesso, who was named minister of international cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anatole Collinet Makosso – appointed as the new Prime Minister of Republic of Congo
- Republic of Congo – Brazzaville – CFA franc | President – Denis Sassou Nguesso | PM – Anatole Collinet Makosso

451. On May 15, Indian-American Neera Tanden has been appointed as Senior Adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden, two months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neera Tanden ([Indian-American](#)) – appointed as Senior Adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden

452. On May 16, Shahid Jameel, eminent Virologist has resigned from his post of Chairman of the advisory group to the Indian SARS-COV-2 Genomics Consortia (INSACOG) set up by the government last year. INSACOG is a group of 10 laboratories across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shahid Jameel – resigned from his post of Chairman of the advisory group to the INSACOG
- INSACOG: Indian SARS-COV-2 Genomics Consortia – a group of 10 laboratories



453. Sir David Attenborough, world-renowned broadcaster and natural historian, has been named COP26 People's Advocate for the U.K.'s Presidency of the UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow this November. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sir David Attenborough – named COP26 “People’s Advocate for Climate Change”
- “UN Climate Change Summit” to be held in Glasgow, Scotland – under the Presidency of UK (in Nov, 2021)

454. On May 17, Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd has announced the appointment of Abhay Tewari as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. SUD LIFE is a joint venture of Bank of India, Union Bank of India and Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Limited, Japan. Tewari had joined as Appointed Actuary of SUD LIFE in the year 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhay Tewari – appointed as MD & CEO of – Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company
- HQs of SUD LIFE – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Abhay Tewari

455. On May 14, The government has nominated Vandita Kaul, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services as Government Nominee Director on the board of directors of Bank of India (BOI) with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vandita Kaul – appointed as Government Nominee Director on the board of directors of Bank of India (BOI)
- HQs of BOI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Shri Atanu Kumar Das

456. On May 17, Mahindra & Mahindra has announced the appointment of Toru Saito as the President & CEO of Mitsubishi Mahindra Agricultural Machinery Co Ltd, Japan (MAM). For the past 6 years, he was associated with Audi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Toru Saito – appointed as the President & CEO of Mitsubishi Mahindra Agricultural Machinery Co Ltd ([Japan](#))
- HQs of Mahindra Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anand Mahindra

457. On May 15, Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd (SMIPL) has appointed Satoshi Uchida as its new Company Head as part of a global revamp by parent Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC). Uchida has succeeded Koichiro Hirao. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satoshi Uchida – appointed as new Company Head of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd
- HQs of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD or Head – Satoshi Uchida



458. On May 18, Shri Alok Ranjan Jha, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alok Ranjan Jha – appointed as the next Ambassador of India – to Belarus
- Belarus – Minsk – Ruble | PM – Siarhiey Rumas

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

459. On May 17, India's exports in April have increased nearly three-fold to \$30.63 billion from \$10.36 billion in the same month last year, according to data released by the government. Imports too rose to \$45.72 billion last month as against \$17.12 billion in April 2020. Trade deficit widened to \$15.10 billion as against \$6.76 billion in April 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's exports in April, 2021 – increased three-fold to \$30.63 billion (from \$10.36 billion in April, 2020)
- India's Imports in April, 2021 – increased to \$45.72 billion (from \$17.12 billion in April, 2020)
- Trade deficit in April, 2021 – increased to \$15.10 billion (from \$6.76 billion in April, 2020)

460. On May 12, Pune is ranked first while Delhi-NCR is at the lowest position among 8 major cities in health infrastructure-related parameters, including number of hospitals beds, air-water quality and sanitation, according to a report title “State of Healthcare in India” by Housing.com. The real estate portal Housing.com is owned by US-based News Corp and its Australian group firm REA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of Healthcare in India” report – released by Housing.com (US)
- Pune – ranked first among 8 major cities in health infrastructure-related parameters | Lowest – Delhi

461. On May 17, As per the data released by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation of India has revealed that in April, 2021 (over April, 2020), the annual rate of inflation (YoY) stood at 10.49% (Provisional). The annual rate of inflation in April 2021 is high primarily because of rise in prices of crude petroleum, mineral oils viz petrol, diesel etc. Primary Articles index increased by (3.83%) to 151.8 (Provisional) in April, 2021. Fuel & Power index declined by (-1.00%) to 108.6 (Provisional) in April, 2021 as compared to March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation of India – increased to 10.49% in April, 2021 (from 7.39% in March 2021)
- Primary Articles Index increased by (3.83%) – to 151.8 in April, 2021
- Fuel & Power Index declined by (-1.00%) – to 108.6 in April, 2021



462. On May 17, More than 70% habitat of the snow leopard, over 12 Asian countries, remains unresearched, according to the report titled “Over 100 Years of Snow Leopard Research” released by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). Nepal, India and China had conducted the most snow leopard research. Globally, there could be as few as 4,000 snow leopards left in Asia’s high mountains. Last year, India’s first Snow Leopard Conservation Centre was established in Uttarkashi forests of Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Over 100 Years of Snow Leopard Research” report – released by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Over 70% habitat of the snow leopard, over 12 Asian countries, remains unresearched
- India’s first Snow Leopard Conservation Centre – in Uttarakhand
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini

463. On May 14, 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21, As per the data given by the Project Elephant Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Assam accounted for the highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks (62), followed by West Bengal (57), and Odisha (27). The MoEFCC has released ₹212.49 Cr to elephant range States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of “Project Elephant” to protect elephants, their habitat and corridor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoEFCC: 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21
- Highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks: 1st – Assam(62), 2nd – West Bengal(57), 3rd – Odisha(27)
- MoEFCC – also released ₹212.49 Cr to elephant range States – under “Project Elephant” Scheme

464. On May 18, Long working hours led to 745,000 deaths from stroke and ischemic heart disease in 2016, a 29% increase since 2000, according to the latest estimates by the WHO and International Labour Organization (ILO) published in ‘Environment International’. Between 2000 and 2016, the number of deaths from heart disease because of working long hours increased by 42% and from stroke by 19%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per WHO & ILO: Stroke & Ischemic Heart Disease deaths in 2016 due to long working hours – increased 29%
- Deaths from Heart Disease increased by 42% & from Stroke by 19%
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | Founded in – 1919

465. On May 18, According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Tesla & SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has lost his spot as the world’s second-richest person to LVMH Chairman Bernard Arnault as Tesla’s shares fell 2.2%. Jeff Bezos is still the World’s Richest person. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bloomberg Billionaires Index: 1st – Jeff Bezos | 2nd – Bernard Arnault | 3rd – Elon Musk (as on 18th May, 2021)
- Elon Musk – lost his spot as the world’s 2nd richest person to Bernard Arnault



466. On May 19, India, China and South Africa have performed 'relatively better' than other major economies during the first quarter of 2021, as per the "Global Trade Update" released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). India's Goods Export grew 26% in the quarter while Services Exports rose 2%. Besides, the Global Trade is estimated to grow by 16%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Global Trade Update" – released by UNCTAD
- India, China & South Africa – performed 'relatively better' than other major Economies during Q1 of 2021
- India's Goods Export grew – 26% in Q1 | India's Services Exports grew – 2% in Q1
- Global Trade is expected to grow by – 16%
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

467. On May 17, The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report titled "Net Zero by 2050". This special report is the world's first comprehensive study of how to transition to a Net Zero Energy System by 2050. As the electricity sector becomes cleaner, electrification emerges as a crucial economy-wide tool for reducing emissions. Electric vehicles (EVs) go from around 5% of global car sales to more than 60% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Net Zero by 2050" report – released by International Energy Agency (IEA)
- As per the report: EVs' share should go more than 60% by 2030 (from around 5%)
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

468. On May 17, Rajasthan came second among 36 states and Union Territories in the Centre's online ranking after it completed and implemented the largest number of projects under the Smart City Mission, as per the ranking published by the Union ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Jharkhand has taken the top position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – topped the Centre's "Smart City Mission" rankings among 36 states & UTs | 2nd – Rajasthan
- The rankings were released by – ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Smart City Mission was launched in – 2015

469. On May 18, Karnataka has been ranked first in establishing Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under Ayushman Bharat Program to provide comprehensive primary health care in rural areas. Ayushman Bharat that was launched in 2018 has targeted to establish 1.5 lakh functional AB-Health & Wellness Centres (HWC) by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – ranked 1st in establishing Health & Wellness Centres – under Ayushman Bharat Program
- Ayushman Bharat Program – launched in 2018 | Target: To establish 1.5 lakh AB-HWC – by Dec 2022
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala



470. On May 18, According to S&P Global Market Intelligence data, India is the second largest Insurance Technology Market in the Asia Pacific after China, accounting for 35% of the \$3.66 billion of the venture capital coming into the sector in the region. Insurance premiums in India totalled \$107 billion for 12 months ended March 31, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – the 2nd largest Insurance Technology Market in the Asia Pacific (35% of the \$3.66 billion) | 1st – China
- Total Insurance premium in India in 2020 – \$107 billion
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- HQs of S&P Global Ratings – New York, USA

471. On May 20, According to “2021 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)” released by Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the total number of people living in internal displacement has reached a record 55 million by the end of 2020. During a year marked by intense storms and persistent conflict, 5 million new displacements were recorded in 2020, the highest figure recorded in a decade. In 2020, highest number of internally displaced people was recorded in China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2021 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)” – released by Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- Total number of people living in internal displacement reached a record 55 million by the end of 2020
- 5 million new displacements were recorded in 2020
- China – recorded the highest number of internally displaced people
- HQs of IDMC – Geneva, Switzerland | Director – Alexandra Bilak

472. On May 20, India has moved up a spot to third position as per the 57th “Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index” (RECAI) released by Ernst & Young Global Ltd owing to an exceptional performance on the solar photovoltaic (PV) front. US and China are in the first and the second spot, respectively. India’s installed Solar PV capacity has increased to 39 GW in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 57th “Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index” – released by EY
- 1st – US | 2nd – China | 3rd – India
- India’s installed Solar PV capacity has increased to – 39 GW (in 2020)
- HQs of EY – London, UK | CEO – Carmine Di Sibio

Acquisitions & Mergers

473. On May 17, Kotak Mahindra Bank has acquired 46.7% stake in Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund Ltd (KMPFL) from Kotak Mahindra Asset Management (AMC) in a cash deal worth Rs 12.10 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – acquired 46.7% stake in Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund – from Kotak AMC (for Rs 12.10 Cr)
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak



474. On May 17, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has acquired 100% stake of SB Energy Holdings Ltd at the enterprise value of \$3.5 billion (Rs 25,574 Cr approx). With this deal, SB Energy, a joint venture of SoftBank Group (SBG) and Bharti Enterprises created in 2015, will exit the Indian market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Green Energy – acquired 100% stake of SB Energy Holdings Ltd – for \$3.5 billion (Rs 25,574 Cr approx)
- SB Energy = a joint venture of “SoftBank Group + Bharti Enterprise” | It was created in 2015
- HQs of Adani Green Energy – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain

475. On May 17, The government has offered to sell its 58 million shares or 1.95% stake of Axis Bank held through Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) to raise about Rs 4,000 Cr. The floor price for the offer was set at Rs 680/share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government offered to sell its 58 million shares or 1.95% stake of Axis Bank – through SUUTI to raise Rs 4,000 Cr
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

476. On May 17, Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 100% stake of Yes Asset Management (India) Ltd and Yes Trustee Limited by GPL Finance and Investments Ltd. GPL Finance is a non-deposit-taking and non-systemically important NBFC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved 100% acquisition of Yes Bank’s mutual funds subsidiaries – by GPL Finance & Investments
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of GPL Finance & Investments – Mumbai, Maharashtra

477. On May 17, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of remaining 25% stake of Adani Krishnapatnam Port Ltd by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ). The acquirer already holds 75% shareholding in Adani Krishnapatnam Port. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the acquisition of remaining 25% stake of Krishnapatnam Port – by APSEZ
- Krishnapatnam Port – 100% owned by APSEZ (located in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh)
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

478. On May 16, The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (MCCIA) has teamed up with the agriculture finance body NABARD to launch India's first Agro-Export Facilitation Centre in Pune to boost agricultural exports from the region and adhere to global standards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD + MCCIA = to launch India's first Agro-Export Facilitation Centre – in Pune, Maharashtra
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu | Founded in – 1982
- HQs of MCCIA – Pune, Maharashtra | Director General – Mr. Prashant Girbane

479. On May 18, PayPoint India has partnered with Digit General Insurance to offer health insurance to customers in underserved and rural areas and help cushion themselves against any major financial losses due to the surging COVID-19. The partnership is being flagged off with the launch of a "Coronavirus Hospitalisation Insurance Policy" that covers treatments up to Rs 2 lakh at a premium of ₹799. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPoint India + Digit Gen. Insurance = to provide COVID-19 Health Insurance policy to underserved & rural areas
- Coverage of the Health Policy – up to Rs 2 lakh
- HQs of PayPoint India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Ketan Doshi
- HQs of Digit Insurance – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Vijay Kumar

480. On May 17, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft have signed an MoU on Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools. Microsoft will make AI curriculum available to tribal students in both English and Hindi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs + Microsoft = an MoU on Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- Minister of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

481. On May 17, The Telangana Health department has signed an MoU with the National Health Authority (NHA) for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) scheme in the State. The health insurance coverage under this scheme is Rs 5 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana + NHA = an MoU for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) scheme
- Health insurance coverage under this scheme – Rs 5 lakh
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sewak Sharma



482. On May 19, Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India and BSE have inked an MoU to promote the growth of Indian Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The new partnership will provide SMEs with access to Dun & Bradstreet's suite of data and analytics solutions via BSE SME & Startup Platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dun & Bradstreet Info Services India + BSE = an MoU to promote the growth of Indian SMEs
- HQs of Dun & Bradstreet Info Services India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Avinash Gupta
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan

Books & Authors

483. Skyhorse Publishing will publish a long-awaited book “Philip Roth: The Biography” in paperback on 15 June. The book was pulled last month amid allegations of sexual assault and harassment against biographer Blake Bailey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Philip Roth: The Biography” book – authored by Blake Bailey
- Publisher – Skyhorse Publishing Inc.



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Obituaries ion Bank

484. On May 12, K. Ragothaman, a retired CBI officer who was part of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and had written books on sensational assassinations in India, died of Covid-19 in Chennai. He was 75. After retirement, he produced a documentary - “Human Bomb” and published a “Conspiracy to Kill Rajiv Gandhi” in both English and Tamil. He has also authored “Third Degree Crime Investigation Management”. He was awarded Police Medal in 1988 and President Medal for distinguished service in 1994. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Ragothaman – a retired CBI Officer – passed away (He was part of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case)
- His books: “Conspiracy to Kill Rajiv Gandhi” & “Third Degree Crime Investigation Management”
- Awards: “Police Medal” in 1988 & “President Medal for distinguished service” in 1994

485. On May 18, Well-known physician and cardiologist Dr. Krishan Kumar Aggarwal has died of Covid-19 complications. He was the recipient of Padma Shri (in Medicine), Vishwa Hindi Samman, National Science Communication Award, and Dr. B C Roy National Award. He was the former President of Indian Medical Association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. K. K. Aggarwal – a Physician & Cardiologist – passed away (former President of Indian Medical Association)
- He received – Padma Shri in the field of ‘Medicine’
- Other Awards: Vishwa Hindi Samman, National Science Communication Award, Dr. B C Roy National Award



486. On May 18, Renowned Tamil writer, novelist and recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award K. Rajanarayanan, popularly known as 'Ki Ra', has passed away in Puducherry. He was 98. He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1991 for his novel "Gopallapurathu Makkal". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Rajanarayanan ('Ki Ra') – a Tamil writer – passed away
- Awards: Sahitya Akademi Award in 1991 for his novel "Gopallapurathu Makkal"

487. On May 18, Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Union Minister Chaman Lal Gupta has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha from Udampur constituency of Jammu in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chaman Lal Gupta – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | Constituency – Udampur, J & K)

488. On May 16, Rajendra Jadeja, the former Saurashtra and Bombay pacer, passed away in Rajkot after contracting COVID-19. He was 65. He played in 13 First-Class seasons from 1974-75 and picked up 134 wickets in 50 matches. Jadeja also represented West Zone in the highly-rated Duleep Trophy during his career. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajendra Jadeja – Former Saurashtra Cricketer – passed away (He represented West Zone in Duleep Trophy)

489. On May 16, Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Satav has passed away following post-COVID-19 complications. He has served as a Lok Sabha MP from 2014 to 2019 from the Hingoli Lok Sabha constituency in Maharashtra and has been a legislator in the Maharashtra Assembly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Satav – a Politician – passed away (Party – INC | Lok Sabha MP from Hingoli, Maharashtra)

490. On May 20, Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Jagannath Pahadia has passed away due to COVID-19. He served as Chief Minister in 1980-81 and was also a former Governor of Haryana and Bihar. The veteran Congress leader was elected to the Lok Sabha from Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur and Bayana seats. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jagannath Pahadia – a Politician – passed away (Party – INC | Former CM of Rajasthan & Governor of Haryana & Bihar)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



Person in News

491. On May 13, Two women mountaineers - one from Himachal Pradesh, Baljeet Kaur and the other from Rajasthan, Gunbala Sharma, became the first Indian women to reach the summit of Mount Pumori (7,161 metres) in Nepal. They are also the first in India to scale a mountain that is part of the Everest Massif. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Baljeet Kaur (HP) + Gunbala Sharma (Rajasthan) = become the 1st Indian women to reach the summit of 'Mount Pumori'
- 'Mount Pumori' (7,161 metres) – located in Nepal
- Mt Everest + Mt Pumori + Mt Nuptse + Mt Lhotse = Everest Massif

492. On May 11, Tashi Yangjom has become the first Indian woman to scale Mt Everest in 2021. She is from Lubrang village in Dirang tehsil of West Kameng district in Arunachal Pradesh. Yangjom joined the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) located in Dirang in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tashi Yangjom (Arunachal Pradesh) – became the 1st Indian woman to scale Mt Everest in 2021
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra



Science & Technology

493. On May 14, An international team of researchers has discovered a new species of racer snake named "Platyceps Josephi" (after late herpetologist Naveen Joseph) from Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu. The team states that Platyceps josephi should be considered a species in the 'Vulnerable' category according to the IUCN criteria. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new species of racer snake named "Platyceps Josephi" – discovered in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu
- It is put under – 'Vulnerable' category | It is named after late herpetologist – Naveen Joseph
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

494. On May 13, A group of herpetologists gathered at Anaikatti Hills in Coimbatore for the South Asian Reptile Red List Assessment organised by the IUCN has discovered a new species of Asian Gracile Skink named "Subdoluseps Nilgiriensis" in Nilgiris Hills, Tamil Nadu. The new species has been named after Nilgiris. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new species of Asian Gracile Skink named "Subdoluseps Nilgiriensis" – discovered in Nilgiris Hills, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



495. A Chandigarh-based startup Jupitice Justice Technologies has developed the world's first Private Digital Court under the Private Justice System (Alternative Dispute Resolution or ADR Mechanism) which brings India at the forefront of innovation in legal technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jupitice Justice Technologies ([Chandigarh](#)) – developed the world's first Private Digital Court
- It's developed through – ADR Mechanism (Alternative Dispute Resolution)

496. On May 19, China has successfully launched a new Ocean-Monitoring Satellite named “Haiyang-2D” (HY-2D) into orbit as part of its effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system which would provide early warning on marine disasters. The satellite was launched by a Long March-4B rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – successfully launched a new Ocean-Monitoring Satellite named “Haiyang-2D” (HY-2D)
- The satellite was launched by – Long March-4B rocket
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

497. On May 16, A team of zoologists from Mizoram University's Developmental Biology and Herpetological Laboratory has spotted Doria's foam-nesting treefrog after 108 years in Mizoram's Pualreng Wildlife Sanctuary. This species was last recorded in India in 1912. This treefrog is known for its traits such as changing skin shade and whipping up foam to protect its eggs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Doria's foam-nesting treefrog – spotted after 108 years – in Pualreng Wildlife Sanctuary ([Mizoram](#))
- [Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai](#)

498. On May 20, BEML has successfully launched the first prototype of Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II) for Indian Army. The MMME Mk-II is developed by R&DE (Engineers). MMME Mk-II system is designed to operate in plains of Punjab, as well as semidesert & desert of Rajasthan, in all weather conditions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEML – launched the first prototype of Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II – for Indian Army
- MMME Mk-II system is designed to operate in Punjab & Rajasthan
- [HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Amit Banerjee](#)

499. On May 18, United Launch Alliance (ULA) successfully launched a missile warning satellite called the “Space Based Infrared System Geosynchronous Earth Orbit” (SBIRS GEO) Flight 5 aboard the ‘Atlas V’ rocket for the U.S. Space Force. SBIRS GEO-5 was built by Lockheed Martin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ULA – launched the “SBIRS GEO-5” missile warning satellite for the US (built by - Lockheed Martin)
- [HQs of ULA – Colorado, US | CEO – Tory Bruno](#)
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)



500. On May 12, The world's largest and most powerful space telescope namely "James Webb Space Telescope" developed by the NASA has succeeded in key pre-launch test by opening its 21 feet 4 inch (6.5 meter) mirror. Webb's primary mirror is made of 18 hexagonal segments coated with an ultra-thin layer of gold. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's largest & most powerful space telescope – "James Webb Space Telescope" - developed by NASA
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958





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