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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the 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 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 पढ़ना, 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



# INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	42
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	51
Defence Affairs.....	63
Schemes & Initiatives.....	66
Sports & Games.....	73
Important Days & Dates.....	81
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	93
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	98
Appointments & Resignations.....	106
Amount & Agreements.....	120
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	122
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	134
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	139
Books & Authors.....	145
Obituaries.....	149
Persons in News.....	159
Science & Technology.....	162
Ordinance, Bills and Acts.....	176



# National & States Affairs

1. On May 1, The government has set a target to raise Foodgrain Production by 2% and to buy 42.74 MT for the central pool during 2021-22. The target of total food grains production for 2021-22 is set at a record 307.31 million tonne (MT), comprising 151.43 MT in Kharif season and 155.88 MT during Rabi. For 2021-22, the target for rice production has been fixed at 121.1 MT, wheat at 110 MT, pulses at 25MT, coarse cereals at 51.21 MT and oilseeds at 37.5MT. As per Economic Survey 2020-21, Agriculture's share in GDP has increased to 19.9% in 2020-21 compared to 17.8% in 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Government's target during 2021-22: To raise Foodgrain Production by 2% | To buy 42.74 MT for central pool
- Total food grains production target for 2021-22: 307.31 million tonne (Rice – 121.1 MT & Wheat – 110 MT)
- Agriculture's share in GDP in 2020-21 – increased to 19.9%

2. On May 1, French company Alstom has successfully manufactured and delivered the 100<sup>th</sup> electric locomotive to the Indian Railways. As part of the largest FDI project of the railways, the Ministry of Railways and Alstom had signed a contract worth 350 Cr euros (Rs 25,000 Cr) in 2015. The locomotives were manufactured at Madhepura, Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Alstom (France) – manufactured & delivered the 100<sup>th</sup> electric locomotive to the Indian Railways
- The locomotives were manufactured at – Madhepura, Bihar
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma

3. Maharashtra has decided to appoint 'Oxygen Nurses' to curb wastage of oxygen and to maintain data of oxygen storage at hospitals. Earlier, one nurse was attending to 45-50 patients but in future one oxygen nurse will attend to 15 - 20 patients. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Maharashtra – to appoint 'Oxygen Nurses' to curb wastage of oxygen at hospitals
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

4. The Tamil Nadu government has launched a Unified Command Centre for COVID-19 management in all districts. The government also launched a Twitter handle, @104\_GoTN, for the benefit of people seeking beds for COVID-19 patients. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched a Unified Command Centre for COVID-19 management
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

5. On May 1, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the government has set a target of road construction of worth ₹15 lakh Cr in next 2 years. Ministry for Road Transport and Highways will achieve the target of 40 km per day of highways construction in the current fiscal. He also announced that the Government is permitting 100% FDI in the road sector. India's National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project is targeted to be completed by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government has set a target of road construction of worth ₹15 lakh Cr in next 2 years
- Road Transport Ministry has set a target to achieve 40 km per day of highways construction
- Government is permitting 100% FDI in the Road Sector

6. On May 1, Finance Ministry has cut the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on import of Oxygen Concentrators for personal use to 12% from 28%. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) announced this decision on Twitter. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Finance Ministry cut the IGST on import of Oxygen Concentrators for personal use to 12% (from 28%)
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

7. The SEBI has imposed a total fine of Rs 1.75 Cr on several entities for indulging in fraudulent trading in the scrip of Vakrangee Ltd. The entities have violated Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices norms. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – imposed a total fine of Rs 1.75 Cr on several entities in Vakrangee case
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of Vakrangee Ltd – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Mr. Dinesh Nandwana

8. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated India's first 3D printed house at IIT Madras, conceived by former alumni and built in just 5 days. City based TVASTA Manufacturing Solutions built it on a concept using 'Concrete 3D Printing' by former IIT-M students. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – inaugurated India's first 3D printed house at IIT Madras, Tamil Nadu (built in just 5 days)

9. The first-ever Electric Tractor in India has been tested at the Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (CFMTTI) in Budni (or Budhni), Madhya Pradesh. CFMTTI obtained the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories Certificate of Accreditation for Central Motor Vehicles Rules Test Laboratory on March 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The first-ever Electric Tractor in India is tested – at the CFMTTI, in Budni, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**10.** On May 1, Mahindra Logistics has launched “Oxygen on Wheels” initiative to bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India, especially in Maharashtra, amidst the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra posted a series of tweets about the initiative. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anand Mahindra – launched “Oxygen on Wheels” initiative to tackle COVID-19 Crisis in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Mahindra Logistics – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rampraveen Swaminathan

**11.** The Civil Aviation Ministry has granted conditional exemption to the Telangana government from the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021, for conducting experimental delivery of vaccines using drones within the visual line of sight range. This exemption will be valid for a period of one year or until further orders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Civil Aviation Ministry – permitted Telangana government to use drones for vaccine delivery
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**12.** Uttarakhand has suspended “Char Dham Yatra” in wake of rising Covid-19 cases. The portals of Yamunotri are scheduled to open on May 14, followed by Gangotri on May 15, Kedarnath on May 17 and Badrinath on May 18. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – suspended “Char Dham Yatra” in wake of rising Covid-19 cases
- Chota Char Dham circuit consists of: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath & Badrinath
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**13.** On May 4, Education Minister of Tripura Ratan Lal Nath has launched “Auro Scholarship Programme” of Sri Aurobindo Society for all the students of the state. The Programme provides the monthly micro-scholarship to the students in order to motivate them towards achieving better learning outcomes once students achieve benchmark performance in 10-min curriculum aligned Quizzes conducted on Auro Scholar App. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tripura – launched “Auro Scholarship Programme” of Sri Aurobindo Society for all the students
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**14.** The Andhra Pradesh Government has selected Essar Steel Limited as the strategic partner for developing a high-grade steel plant under a joint venture in the Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. The Capital Expenditure of the Project will be Rs 11,606 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – selected Essar Steel Ltd as the strategic partner for ‘Kadapa Steel Plant’ (Cost – Rs 11,606)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



**15.** On May 3, Union minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that around 581 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen plants will be installed in various states and NHA will be the Nodal Agency for executing civil and electrical work for these facilities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 581 PSA medical oxygen plants – to be installed in various states
- Nodal Agency for this work – NHA
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu | Founded in – 1988

**16.** On May 4, The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified a revenue threshold of Rs 2 Cr and a limit of 3,00,000 users for non-resident technology firms such as Google, Facebook, Netflix, to pay tax in India under new or revised bilateral tax pacts. This is part of the Significant Economic Presence (SEP) principle, which was introduced in the Finance Bill 2018-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBDT notified a revenue threshold of Rs 2 Cr & a limit of 3 lakh users for non-resident technology firms
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody | Formed in – 1944

**17.** On May 4, Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) has started the supply of diesel that is blended with biodiesel made from UCO (Used Cooking Oil). The firm has received 51 kilolitres of biodiesel made from used cooking oil at its Tikrikalan terminal in Delhi. So far, Indian Oil has issued 23 LOIs for biodiesel plants with a total capacity of 557.57 tonnes per day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOCL – started the supply of biodiesel made from UCO (Used Cooking Oil) – in New Delhi
- India's target of blending 5% Biodiesel in Diesel by 2030
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

**18.** On May 3, Eco-friendly initiative by 6 young girls from Assam may save lakes from water hyacinth menace as they have successfully used it to make biodegradable and compostable yoga mats. The mat called "Moorhen Yoga Mat" will soon be introduced to the world market as a unique product. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 6 young girls from Assam – developed a Biodegradable yoga mat called "Moorhen Yoga Mat"
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**19.** On May 4, Eight Asiatic lions at Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park have tested positive for the deadly coronavirus. This is the first known case of humans infecting the felines and making them sick in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 8 Asiatic lions in Nehru Zoological Park (Hyderabad) – tested positive for SARS-CoV2 virus



**20.** On May 5, The IRDAI has issued the guidelines for a standard travel insurance product to enhance the financial safety net for people travelling (be it domestic or international). As per the guidelines, there will be five variants of the travel insurance product and these will be basic mandatory covers which will be uniform across the insurance industry. It provides health coverage up-to Rs 10 lakh on hospitalization and up-to Rs 1 Cr in case of death of the insured. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI – issued the guidelines for a standard Travel Insurance Product
- Health coverage up-to Rs 10 lakh on hospitalization & up-to Rs 1 Cr in case of death
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**21.** On May 5, Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 has been notified by Ministry of Labour & Employment covering applicability of Aadhaar. The notification of section will enable Ministry of Labour and Employment to collect Aadhaar details for the database of beneficiaries under various social security schemes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of L&E – notified ‘Section 142’ of the Social Security Code, 2020 covering applicability of Aadhaar
- ‘Aadhaar’ was made applicable to the Unorganised sector workers
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Constituency – Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

**22.** On May 5, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has launched “Sanjeevani Vehicles” - oxygen trucks to rush to any hospital in state capital Ranchi in case of an SOS. Similar vehicles are planned to be deployed at other districts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jharkhand – launched “Sanjeevani Vehicles” - oxygen trucks to provide Oxygen to hospitals
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

**23.** On May 7, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched dedicated COVID-19 Helpline “Mukhyamantri Sewa Sanklap Helpline 1100” for facilitating the people regarding COVID-19 related issues in Shimla. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – launched dedicated COVID-19 Helpline “Mukhyamantri Sewa Sanklap Helpline 1100”
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**24.** On May 7, NTPC Renewable Energy has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with state-run power utility Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam (GUVNL) to sell power from its upcoming 150 mega-watt (MW) solar project in the state at Rs 2.20/unit. NTPC Renewable is currently building 6,000 MW solar capacity across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC RE + GUVNL = signed a PPA to sell power from its upcoming 150 MW solar project
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of GUVNL – Vadodara, Gujarat | Chairman – Sunaina Tomar

**25.** On May 6, Axis Mutual Fund has launched their new fund - "Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund". The fund will provide investors with an opportunity to invest in Schroder International Selection Fund Global Disruption. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens for subscription from May 10 to May 21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Mutual Fund – launched their new fund - "Global Innovation Fund of Fund"
- It will provide investors with an opportunity to invest in "Schroder International Selection Fund Global Disruption"
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

**26.** On May 6, The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has allowed Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vi and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) to start 5G trials in India. The initial duration of the trial will be 6 months. Apart from this, telcos will also be allowed to use their existing spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2500 MHz band frequencies for the trials. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DoT allowed Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vi & MTNL – to start 5G trials in India
- The operators are permitted to use their existing spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz & 2500 MHz

**27.** On May 6, Indian Railways inducted its 100<sup>th</sup> 12000 HP WAG 12 B locomotive. The loco is named WAG 12 B with number 60100. The locomotive is manufactured by Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt Ltd (MELPL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways inducted its 100<sup>th</sup> 12000 HP WAG 12 B locomotive
- It is manufactured by – Madhepura Electric Locomotive ([Bihar](#))

**28.** On May 6, In a first of its kind trilateral venture, an Israel-based company, Ecoppia, is producing an innovative Robotic Solar Cleaning Technology in India for a landmark project in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Israeli company signed its first deal in the UAE with the support of the International Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce (IFIICC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ecoppia ([Israel](#)) – is producing an innovative Robotic Solar Cleaning Technology in India for its project in UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**29.** On May 6, India's top oil PSUs - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), GAIL (India) Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have committed Rs 100 Cr and signed an MoU with Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust for the redevelopment of Badrinath Dham, one of the holiest shrines of Hindus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOC + ONGC + BPCL + HPCL = committed Rs 100 Cr for the redevelopment of 'Badrinath Dham' ([Uttarakhand](#))
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya



**30.** On May 5, The name of Miyon ka Bara railway station in Rajasthan's Jodhpur has been changed to Mahesh Nagar after getting an approval from various departments. Earlier, in August 2018, the name of the village was officially changed from Miyon ka Bara to Mahesh Nagar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Miyon ka Bara railway station" – renamed as "Mahesh Nagar railway station" (located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**31.** On May 6, Oxygen saturation of 92 or 93 in COVID-19 patients should not be considered critical; instead, this level is only a buffer that enables the patient to reach hospital on time, according to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) director Randeep Guleria. According to a World Health Organisation training manual on pulse oximetry, if the oxygen saturation is 94% or lower, the patient needs to be treated quickly. A saturation of less than 90% is a clinical emergency. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to AIIMS director: Oxygen saturation of 92 or 93 in COVID-19 patients should not be considered critical
- According to the WHO: Oxygen saturation of 94 or lower – needs to be treated quickly | 90% – Clinical Emergency
- HQs of AIIMS – New Delhi | Director – Randeep Guleria
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

**32.** On May 6, The Delhi government will provide free ration for two months to 72 lakh ration card holders and financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers in the city to help them tide over the COVID-19 crisis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – to provide free ration for two months to 72 lakh ration card holders
- Delhi – to provide financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to auto-rickshaw & taxi drivers
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**33.** On May 6, The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwDs) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) has made it mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using "UDID portal" with effect from June 1. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DEPwDs – made mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode using "UDID portal"
- UDID – Unique Disability ID

**34.** Hyderabad based VINS Bioproducts Ltd has announced to start clinical trials for “VINCOV-19”, a product for coronavirus treatment, in partnership with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and the University of Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- VINS Bioproducts + CCMB + University of Hyderabad = start clinical trials for “VINCOV-19”
- HQs of VINS Bioproducts Ltd – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – S. N. Daga
- HQs of CSIR-CCMB – Hyderabad, Telangana

**35.** On May 7, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a new mobile app “Dost for Life” for students and parents of CBSE-affiliated schools. The app has been designed for students of classes 9 to 12. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBSE – launched a new mobile app “Dost for Life” for students and parents
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja | Formed in – 1962

**36.** On May 7, Bajaj Finserv has launched its public awareness campaign “Savdhan Rahein, Safe Rahein”, across digital and social media platforms, to educate customers and public at large on financial fraud risks and how to stay protected. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bajaj Finserv – launched its public awareness campaign “Savdhan Rahein, Safe Rahein”
- HQs of Bajaj Finserv – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman and MD (CMD) – Sanjiv Bajaj

**37.** On May 7, The SEBI has notified relaxed rules for listing start-ups. The changes have been made to the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP). The SEBI has reduced the period of holding of 25% of pre-issue capital of the issuer company by eligible investors to 1 year from the current requirement of 2 years. In 2015, SEBI introduced the Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) with a view to facilitate listing of new age start-ups. The ITP is renamed as ‘Innovators Growth Platform’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – reduced the period of holding of 25% of pre-issue capital of the issuer company by eligible investors to 1 year
- SEBI – renamed ‘Institutional Trading Platform’ as “Innovators Growth Platform”
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**38.** On May 7, The Labour Ministry has notified the changes in the investment pattern of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), paving way for the retirement fund body to invest up to 5% of its investible surplus in alternate investment funds (AIFs) that support infrastructure, MSMEs, venture capital funds and social venture capital funds. Investments can be made only in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) with a corpus equal to or more than Rs 100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Labour Ministry – notified the changes in the investment pattern of the EPFO
- EPFO can invest up to 5% in alternate investment funds to support infrastructure & MSMEs
- Investments can be made only in AIFs with a corpus equal to or more than Rs 100 Cr
- HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Sunil Barthwal | Established in – 1952

**39.** On May 7, The Telangana Government has imposed a total ban on Glyphosate, a controversial herbicide that is used in cotton farms to kill weeds. It is polluting soil and causing health hazards to human beings. The State Government has cautioned dealers, retailers and manufacturers that they would be punished under the Insecticides Act 1968 for any violation of the ban. [{Read more}](#)

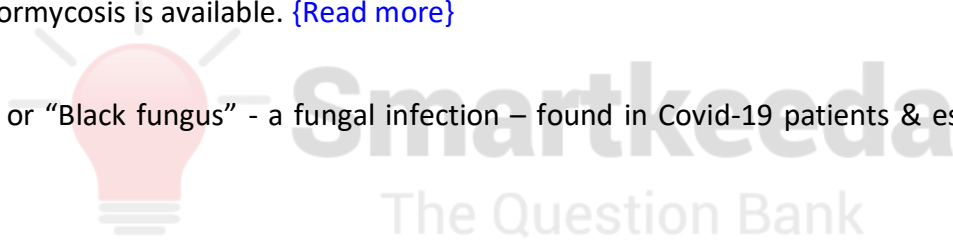
**Key Points:**

- Telangana – imposed a total ban on a controversial herbicide “Glyphosate”
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**40.** On May 8, Mucormycosis or Black fungus, a fungal infection, is being found in Covid-19 patients and largely in cases of those who are diabetic but there is no big outbreak. The situation is being monitored and the treatment for mucormycosis is available. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Mucormycosis” or “Black fungus” - a fungal infection – found in Covid-19 patients & especially in diabetic patients



**41.** On May 7, The Supreme Court has constituted a 12-member National Task Force to streamline and ensure the effective and transparent allocation of liquid medical oxygen on a scientific, rational and equitable basis to States and Union Territories fighting COVID-19. A Bench of justice is led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SC constituted a 12-member National Task Force for transparent oxygen allocation
- A Bench of justice is led by – Justice D. Y. Chandrachud
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)

**42.** On May 7, Haryana has started “Ayurvedic Telemedicine” facility for Covid patients. Those interested in taking Ayurvedic Telemedicine in the State can call 1075 and consult Ayurvedic physicians. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – started “Ayurvedic Telemedicine” facility for Covid patients
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**43.** On May 6, Due to shortage and complaints of overcharging by private ambulances, Haryana Police have temporarily pressed into service 440 sport utility vehicles (SUVs) for free transportation of Covid-19 patients. These vehicles will be called “COV-HOTS” (Covid-19 Hospital Transport Service). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana Police – deployed 440 SUVs as Ambulances for free transportation of Covid-19 patients
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

**44.** On May 8, The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted permission for emergency use of anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of the DRDO in collaboration with Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DCGI – approved anti-COVID drug “2-DG” for emergency use – developed by DRDO-INMAS + DRL ([Hyderabad](#))
- [The Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\) – V G Somani](#)
- [Location of DRDO-INMAS – Timarpur, Delhi](#)

**45.** On May 8, Assam has launched a real time Digital Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS). The online system was developed jointly by Assam State Disaster Management Agency and UNICEF. Daily flood reporting between May 15 and October 15 has been made mandatory in Assam. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam – launched a real time Digital Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS)
- FRIMS is jointly developed by = Assam + UNICEF
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946](#)

**46.** On May 7, Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has become the first airport in the world to have completed 1,000 movements of sustainable taxing of aircraft with TaxiBot. IGI is the only airport in the world which adopted this green taxiing solution in May 2019. TaxiBot is semi-robotic towbarless aircraft movement equipment developed by Israel Aerospace Industries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indira Gandhi International Airport ([Delhi](#)) – became the first in world to register 1,000 TaxiBot movements
- TaxiBots – developed by Israel Aerospace Industries

**47.** On May 7, Jharkhand has launched “Amrit Vahini” App for online booking of hospital beds. CM Hemant Soren has also launched ‘Chatboat’ through which one may also get all information related to coronavirus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jharkhand – launched “Amrit Vahini” App for online booking of hospital beds
- [Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu](#)

**48.** On May 6, The Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a special “Kharif Strategy” for implementation in the ensuing Kharif 2021 season with an aim to attain self-sufficiency in the production of pulses. The Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras will also be roped in for effective implementation and training to the farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Agriculture Ministry – formulated “Kharif Strategy” for 2021 to attain self-sufficiency in the production of ‘Pulses’
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare – Narendra Singh Tomar (Constituency – Morena, MP)

**49.** The ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified 48.32 sq km around the “Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary” (TCFS) as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). The draft proposal, which was sent to the ministry by the Maharashtra government in March, was published in an official gazette on April 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoEFCC notified 48.32 sq km around “Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary” ([Maharashtra](#)) as an Eco-Sensitive Zone
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**50.** On May 10, A technical group on Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs), constituted by the SEBI, has recommended that political and religious organisations, trade organisations as well as corporate foundations should not be allowed to raise funds through SSEs. SEBI has set up this technical group in September under the chairmanship of Harsh Bhanwala, former chairman of NABARD. SSEs are engaged in at least one of the 15 broad eligible activities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A technical group on SSEs recommended not to allow “Political & Religious Org, Trade Org & Corporate Foundations” to raise funds through SSEs
- Chairman of a technical group on Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs) constituted by the SEBI – Harsh Bhanwala
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**51.** The Goa government has decided to give ‘Ivermectin’ drug to the people above 18 years in the state, irrespective of their Covid-19 symptoms. The government’s decision to administer the anthelmintic drug to the entire population comes at a time its vaccination program for the 18-44 age group is yet to take off. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa – to give ‘Ivermectin’ drug to the people above 18 years in the state
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



**52.** On May 11, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Kyndryl Holdings and Grand Ocean Managed Infrastructure Services' proposal for the internal restructuring of IBM Corporation under the green channel route. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved internal restructuring of IBM under Green Channel Route
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna
- HQs of IBM India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sandip Patel

**53.** On May 7, The ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has amended the guidelines for implementation of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) scheme phase-II for setting up 12,000 MW Grid-connected Solar Projects with viability gap funding (VGF). According to the amended guidelines, power produced by the government producers could be used on payment of mutually agreed usage charges of not more than Rs 2.45 per unit. The maximum permissible VGF has been kept at Rs 0.55 Cr per MW. Only those PSUs/Government Organisations in which 50% stakes were owned by Central/ State Governments organizations are eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MNRE amended the guidelines for implementation of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) scheme phase-II
- It is done to set up 12,000 MW Grid-connected Solar Projects with Viability Gap Funding (VGF)
- Traffic Charged on Power Distribution Companies capped to – Rs 2.45/unit
- The maximum permissible VGF – Rs 0.55 Cr per MW

**54.** On May 11, Maharashtra government has appointed 8-member committee led by Justice Dilip Bhosale to study Maratha Quota Judgement. Bhosale is the former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court & a former Bombay High Court judge. The committee will submit its report on or before May 31. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – appointed 8-member committee led by Justice Dilip Bhosale to study “Maratha Quota Judgement”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**55.** On May 11, Haryana government will provide Rs 5,000 to the families below the poverty line (BPL) in the state as their livelihood has been affected during the COVID pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – to provide Rs 5,000 to the BPL families in the state during the COVID pandemic
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya





**56.** On May 10, Puducherry has become 'Har Ghar Jal' UT by achieving the target of 100% piped water connection in rural areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission. With this, Puducherry has become the 4<sup>th</sup> State/UT after Goa, Telangana & Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Puducherry – 4<sup>th</sup> State/UT to achieve the target of 100% piped water connection in rural areas
- First three State/UT: Goa, Telangana & Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

**57.** On May 10, The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called "Mission Hausla" to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients. Besides this, the police are also helping the public in getting ration, ambulance, cremation of bodies as part of the mission. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – launched a drive called "Mission Hausla" to help people get oxygen, beds & plasma
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**58.** On May 10, Chhattisgarh has launched "CG Teeka" web portal to enable the disadvantaged section of its population to register for Covid-19 vaccination programme through help desks, to be set up at hundreds of locations across the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh – launched "CG Teeka" web portal to ease the registration for Covid-19 vaccination programme
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**59.** On May 12, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has approved registration to Pranurja Solution Ltd (led by PTC Ltd, BSE & ICICI Bank) to start India's 3<sup>rd</sup> Power Exchange. The other two power exchanges are Indian Energy Exchange and Power Exchange of India Ltd. PTC India and BSE Investments Ltd own 22.62% each in Pranurja Solutions while 9.04% is held by ICICI Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CERC – approved registration to Pranurja Solution Ltd to start India's 3<sup>rd</sup> Power Exchange
- Pranurja Solution Ltd – led by PTC Ltd, BSE & ICICI Bank
- HQs of CERC – New Delhi | Chairman – P. K. Pujari
- HQs of Pranurja Solution Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**60.** On May 10, SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card) has raised Rs 455 Cr by issuing bonds. The bonds with a maturity date of May 10, 2024, will offer coupons at 5.70% per annum. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI Card – raised Rs 455 Cr by issuing bonds (maturity date of bonds – May 10, 2024)
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

**61.** On May 12, The Central government, in consultation with the RBI, has issued Sovereign Gold Bonds in 6 tranches between May and September 2021. The sovereign gold bond will provide an assured return of 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value. Maximum Purchase limit for an Individual is 4 Kgs for a financial year and the tenor of the bond will be for 8 years. The minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government – issued Sovereign Gold Bonds in 6 tranches between May and September 2021
- Points related to Sovereign Gold Bonds:
- Assured return on bond – 2.50% per annum
- Minimum Purchase limit – 1 gram of gold | Maximum Purchase limit – 4 Kg of gold
- Tenor of the bond – 8 years
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**62.** On May 11, The National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has launched an MIS-based reporting platform called “MIS Module” (Management Information Systems) for agarbatti stick production to enable India become Atma Nirbhar in the agarbatti sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NBM launched “MIS Module” (Management Information Systems) for Agarbatti stick production

**63.** On May 12, The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. “National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage” was included with an outlay of ₹18,100 Cr. Each selected ACC battery Storage manufacturer would have to commit to set-up an ACC manufacturing facility of minimum 5 GWh capacity and ensure a minimum 60% domestic value addition at the Project level within 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the ‘PLI Scheme’
- “National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage” – included with an outlay of ₹18,100 Cr
- Each selected ACC battery Storage manufacturer should possess a minimum manufacturing capacity of 5 GWh capacity

**64.** On May 13, Madhya Pradesh has become the first state government to come to the rescue of kids who have become orphans or lost either of their parents/guardians due to the Covid pandemic. The Madhya Pradesh CM announced that all such children/families will get Rs 5,000 as monthly pension. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – first state to provide Rs 5,000 per month, free education & ration to Covid orphans
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel



**65.** On May 10, E-commerce company Snapdeal has launched “Sanjeevani” to connect COVID-19 patients with potential plasma donors. The tool will be accessible via the website and mobile app. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Snapdeal – launched “Sanjeevani” to connect COVID-19 patients with potential plasma donors
- HQs of Snapdeal – New Delhi | CEO – Kunal Bahl | Founded in – 2010

**66.** On May 9, Delhi Police has launched “COVI Van Helpline” (012- 26241077) for senior citizens who are struggling with their essential needs amid Covid-19. The information of commencement of “COVI Van” has been disseminated in the Greater Kailash -1 area. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi Police – launched “COVI Van Helpline” (012- 26241077) for senior citizens
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**67.** On May 14, In a bid to counter the third wave of Covid, the Maharashtra Government is implementing “Mission Oxygen”, which will aim at achieving self-sufficiency in oxygen production by targeting a production of 3,000 metric tonnes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – launched “Mission Oxygen” to counter third wave of Covid-19
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**68.** On May 13, The Punjab government has joined the “COVAX” initiative (Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access) to procure Covid-19 vaccines globally at the best price, becoming the first state in India to do so. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab – became the 1<sup>st</sup> state to join “COVAX” initiative (Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**69.** On May 13, The NITI Aayog has set up a dedicated portal “CovAid” for tracking all foreign aid coming via missions or by individual organisations. All Covid-19 related foreign aid received by the government can be tracked online end-to-end till distribution by the donors. Indian Red Cross Society is financially responsible for all the consignments of donations from foreign countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – set up a dedicated portal “CovAid” for real-time monitoring of all foreign aid
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**70.** On May 9, The Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) - Infrastructure I of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has flagged serious concerns about NITI Aayog's ambitious project for Great Nicobar Island. It has recommended it "for grant of terms of reference (TOR)" for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, which in the first instance will include baseline studies over 3 months. It was estimated with an outlay of Rs 75,000 Cr for development of Great Nicobar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Environment Ministry recommended the 'Great Nicobar Plan' – for grant of Terms & References of the EIA studies
- Estimated outlay for development of Great Nicobar – Rs 75,000 Cr

**71.** On May 13, The central government's ambitious "Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing" (SWAMIH) initiative has completed its first residential project "Rivali Park Wintergreen Projects" located in Mumbai. From this SWAMIH Investment Fund, a total of 1,16,600 homebuyers will get possession of their homes. SWAMIH is a Rs 25,000 Cr fund having 14 investors. The Government of India holds 50% in the fund. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government's "SWAMIH" completed its first residential project "Rivali Park" – in Mumbai
- SWAMIH – Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing
- SWAMIH fund – Rs 25,000 Cr (Govt's holding in the fund – 50%)

**72.** On May 13, The fortnight-long "Maru Gam, Corona Mukh Gam" (My Village, Corona Free Village) programme organised by the Gujarat government to control the spread of Covid-19 in the villages, has been extended for five more days till May 20. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat government – extended "Maru Gam, Corona Mukh Gam" to prevent spread in villages
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**73.** On May 13, Chief Justice N. V. Ramana has launched an official mobile app which would allow media persons (Journalists) to view the Supreme Court's virtual proceedings live on their mobile phones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- N. V. Ramana – launched an official mobile app for media persons (Journalists) to telecast live SC proceedings
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)

**74.** On May 14, Delhi is the third state/UT in the row to announce financial support and free education for children whose parents have died because of COVID19 after Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh. The UT government will also bear the expenses of the upbringing of those children along with providing financial assistance to all of them, especially senior citizens, who have lost the only earning member of their family. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – to provide financial assistance to all of them who have lost the only earning member of their family
- Delhi – the 3<sup>rd</sup> state/UT to do so (First two - Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh)
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**75.** On May 14, At least 600 people throughout Haryana participated in a 3-day Monkey Census and documented approximately 6,000 monkeys on a specially designed mobile application by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – conducted a 3-day Monkey Census & documented approximately 6,000 monkeys
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- HQs of WII – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director – Dhananjai Mohan

**76.** On May 19, Manipur chief minister, N. Biren Singh has introduced “MOMA Market” a mobile app that enables residents to order fresh vegetables and have them delivered to their homes. In order to avoid loss of vegetable produce and the spread of COVID-19, MOMA has been assigned to work in the area and channel farm products to consumers via home delivery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur – launched “MOMA Market” mobile app enabling residents to order fresh vegetables
- MOMA – Manipur Organic Mission Agency
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

**77.** On May 19, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has declared Malerkotla as the 23<sup>rd</sup> district of the State. The conversion of Malerkotla into a district was a long-standing demand of the local people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amarinder Singh – declared Malerkotla as the 23<sup>rd</sup> district of Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**78.** On May 15, The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) is building next generation “National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)”. The NADI will consist of modern network infrastructure which includes 5G/Edge Cloud with SDNs (Software Defined Networking) for connecting to the critical data centre infrastructure at the back-end. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IDRBT – developed the National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI) with generation network infrastructure
- Modern Network Infrastructure includes – 5G/Edge Cloud with SDNs (Software Defined Networking)
- HQs of IDRBT – Hyderabad, Telangana | Director – D. Janakiram



**79.** On May 13, The US has applauded India for stepping up its climate change commitment including the partnership with the United States to deploy 450 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power to meet the ambitious 2030 target for climate action and clean energy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US announced a Climate Change partnership with India – to help achieve RE target of 450 GW by 2030
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**80.** On May 13, The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved Phase 2 and 3 clinical trial of Bharat Biotech's "COVAXIN" vaccine in the age group of 2 to 18 years. "Covaxin" is developed by Bharat Biotech in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DCGI – approved Phase 2 & 3 clinical trial of Bharat Biotech's "COVAXIN" vaccine – in the age group of 2 to 18 years
- "COVAXIN" vaccine is developed by = Bharat Biotech + ICMR + NIV
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani
- HQs of Bharat Biotech – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella

**81.** On May 14, India has begun using Russia's "Sputnik V" in its battle against COVID-19. Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) administers first dose of Sputnik V vaccine in Hyderabad. The vaccine is being sold at a maximum retail price of ₹995 per dose. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India began using Russia's "Sputnik V" in its battle against COVID-19 | MRP – ₹995 per dose
- Dr. Reddy's Laboratories administers first dose of 'Sputnik V' vaccine in Hyderabad
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**82.** On May 13, Wadia Group-owned GoAir has rebranded itself as "Go First" as the airline focuses on ultra-low-cost business model amid the aviation industry grappling with pandemic headwinds. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GoAir – rebranded itself as "Go First"
- HQs of Go First – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nusli Wadia | CEO – Kaushik Khona

**83.** Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to publish "SOP for Medical Oxygen". This booklet contains detailed information regarding the use of medical oxygen and fire safety in the government and private hospitals of Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – became the first state to publish "SOP for Medical Oxygen"
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**84.** On May 15, Amazon Prime has discontinued the one-month subscription plan worth Rs 129 in India. The company has also discontinued the free Amazon Prime trial pack as well. This has been done to comply with the Reserve Bank of India's new guidelines. The deadline for the same is September 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amazon Prime – discontinued the one-month subscription plan worth Rs 129 – in India
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

**85.** On May 13, At least 18 elephants were found dead in a forest in Assam's Nagaon district. Preliminary investigation into the deaths by the forest department has revealed that the wild elephants could have been killed in lightning strikes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 18 elephants were found dead in a forest – in Nagaon, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**86.** On May 15, Anticipating a shortage of migrant labour in the upcoming paddy transplantation season, the Punjab government has decided to bring one million hectares under the Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) technique for the crop this year. Direct seeding is a method under which pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab – decided to bring 1 million hectares under Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) technique for the crop this year
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**87.** On May 14, In Himachal Pradesh, AYUSH Department launched a state-wide wellness programme "AYUSH Ghar Dwar" for COVID-19 patients, in Sloan district. The Program aims to reduce the disease burden of the pandemic by enhancing the recovery rate, improved Quality of Life, Equitable Healthcare facility and to ensure better rehabilitation post COVID-19 Infection. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AYUSH Dept. – launched a wellness programme "AYUSH Ghar Dwar" for COVID-19 patients – in Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**88.** On May 12, The PM CARES Fund has approved the procurement of 1,50,000 units of the 'Oxycare System' developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at a cost of Rs 322.5 Cr. Oxycare is a SpO2 based Oxygen Supply System which regulates the oxygen being administered to patients based on the sensed SpO2 levels. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM CARES Fund – approved the procurement of 1,50,000 units of the 'Oxycare System' developed by – DRDO
- PM CARES Fund approves this at a cost of – Rs 322.5 Cr
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958



**89.** On May 12, The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, has started its virtual summer workshops named “Naimisha 2021” for children and adults from May 17. The workshop would go on till June 13. The workshops would include painting, sculpting, printmaking, videography and puppeteering. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NGMA (New Delhi) – started its virtual summer workshops named “Naimisha 2021” for children & adults

**90.** On May 16, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh has launched “Covid Fateh” drive to tackle the spread of coronavirus in rural areas of the state. He also launched the “Corona-Mukt Pind Abhiyaan” (corona-free village drive). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab – launched “Covid Fateh” drive to tackle the spread of coronavirus
- Punjab – also launched the “Corona-Mukt Pind Abhiyaan” (corona-free village drive)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**91.** 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

**92.** 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

**93.** 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





**94.** 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

**95.** 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

**96.** 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

**97.** 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)

**98.** 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 6,000<sup>th</sup> 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

**99.** 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](#)

**100.** 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](#)

**101.** 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](#)

**102.** 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



**103.** 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)

**104.** 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

**105.** 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

**106.** 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

**107.** 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



**108.** 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)

**109.** 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

**110.** On May 20, With about 100 cases of the fungal infection being reported, Rajasthan has declared "Mucormycosis" or "Black Fungus" as an epidemic in the state under the Rajasthan Epidemic Act 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – declared "Mucormycosis" or "Black Fungus" as an epidemic in the state
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**111.** On May 18, The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, has launched the NGMA's "Audio-Visual Guide App" on the occasion of International Museum Day. It will be possible for museum viewers to listen to anecdotes and stories related to the treasured Indian modern art exhibited at the Gallery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- National Gallery of Modern Art – launched the NGMA's "Audio-Visual Guide App"
- Location of National Gallery of Modern – New Delhi | Established in – 1954



**112.** The 51<sup>st</sup> edition of virtual Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (IHGF) of Delhi fair has been inaugurated recently on May 20. It was organised by the by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). This fair is India's largest Virtual Fair in the Home, Fashion, Lifestyle, Textiles and Furniture sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 51<sup>st</sup> edition of virtual IHGF of Delhi fair – organised by the by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts
- HQs of EPCH – New Delhi | Chairman – Raj Kumar Malhotra

**113.** On May 12, The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called “Mission Hausla” to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for Covid-19 patients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – launched a drive called “Mission Hausla” to help COVID-19 patients
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**114.** On May 19, The SEBI has imposed a fine of ₹5.25 Cr on Cairn India for misleading public shareholders with its share buyback announcement in 2014 that was actually designed to induce the public to trade in the shares of Cairn. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – imposed a fine of ₹5.25 Cr on “Cairn India” for misleading public shareholders
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of Cairn India – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Ajay Dixit

**115.** On May 19, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI) has launched a hyper-flexible savings plan - “Vision LifeIncome Plus Plan” that provides guaranteed regular income plus flexible bonus pay-outs. This is Non-linked participating individual plan. This savings plan provides the customer with the comfort of a guaranteed regular income for up to 30 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance – launched a hyper-flexible savings plan - “Vision LifeIncome Plus Plan”
- This savings plan provides the customer with the comfort of a guaranteed regular income for up to – 30 years
- HQs of ABSLI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Kamlesh Rao

**116.** On May 19, Ministry of Home Affairs has announced regarding the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act for non-profit organisations (NGOs). It has decided to extend the validity of registration certificates for NGOs till September 30, 2021. The Home Ministry has also announced that existing FCRA account holders have to now open the FCRA account in the New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB) of the State Bank of India (SBI). This can be done by NGOs by June 30 or earlier. As per FCRA Amendment Bill - 2020, the NGOs which are supposed to receive foreign funding must have spent Rs 15 Lakh in voluntary activities and must be at least 3 years old before they make applications. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Home Affairs – to extend the validity of registration certificates for NGOs till September 30, 2021
- Existing FCRA account holders have to now open FCRA account – in New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB) of “SBI”
- NGOs must be at least 3 years old & must have spent Rs 15 Lakh in voluntary activities – to receive Foreign Funding

**117.** On May 19, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Thaawarchand Gehlot has virtually launched a first of its kind 6-month Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan. It was a result of the MoU signed between India & Australia for cooperation in disability sector. The Central Government has enacted the “Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016” which envisions a society inclusive of persons with disabilities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Thaawarchand Gehlot (MoSJE) – launched a 6-month Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program
- Central Government enacted – “Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016”
- India + Australia = an MoU for cooperation in Disability Sector

**118.** As on May 19, the establishment of 22 new AIIMS has been approved under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) out of which 6 AIIMS at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh are already fully functional. PMSSY is a Central Sector Scheme and was launched in August 2003 to address imbalances in availability of tertiary care hospitals and improve medical education in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Establishment of 22 new AIIMS – approved under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
- PMSSY – a Central Sector Scheme – launched in August 2003

**119.** On the occasion of World Bee Day on May 20 and in the auspicious context of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the project of setting up of a “Honey Testing Laboratory” at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar – launched the project of setting up of a “Honey Testing Laboratory” – at IARI ([New Delhi](#))

**120.** On May 21, The first destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Rajput, has been decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. INS Rajput, the lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR, was commissioned on May 4, 1980 and has rendered service to the Indian Navy for over 41 years. Her original Russian name is ‘Nadezhny’ meaning ‘Hope’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INS Rajput (first destroyer of Indian Navy) – decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam
- INS Rajput was commissioned on – May 4, 1980 (served for over 41 years) | Her Russian name – ‘Nadezhny’



**121.** On May 20, The Central government has increased its share of subsidy for Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP) by 140% from Rs 500 to Rs 1,200 per bag. The Centre would spend an additional Rs 14,775 Cr on fertiliser subsidy in the current financial year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government – increased its share of subsidy for DAP by 140% – Rs 1,200 per bag (from Rs 500)
- DAP – Di-Ammonia Phosphate

**122.** On May 21, Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Panchayati Raj and Food Processing Industries, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area officer monitoring App. NMMS app is launched to take the real time attendance of MGNREGA workers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar – National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app & Area officer monitoring App
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare – Narendra Singh Tomar (Constituency – Morena, MP)

**123.** On May 20, For empowering Indian women, Tata Communications has launched the “School of Hope and Empowerment” (S.H.E.) at the 2021 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Berlin, Germany. S.H.E. is designed in collaboration with The Better India. S.H.E. is focused on aspiring women entrepreneurs aged 18-35 years from low-income backgrounds. The UNESCO has targeted to make Environmental Education a core curriculum component in all countries by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Communications – launched the “School of Hope and Empowerment” (S.H.E.) – to empower Indian women
- UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development – held in Berlin, Germany
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

**124.** On May 21, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has rolled out “Mission HO2PE” in Assam. To supplement severe shortage of O<sub>2</sub> concentrators the “Mission HO2PE” has airlifted over 5000 oxygen concentrators into India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HUL – launched “Mission HO2PE” in Assam – to supplement severe shortage of O<sub>2</sub> concentrators
- HQs of HUL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sanjiv Mehta
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**125.** On May 20, After the spread of black fungus infections, Bihar has reported four cases of 'white fungus' or 'candidiasis' at Patna Medical College and Hospital. The white fungus damages the skin of the patients and on being neglected, poses threat to the lives of patients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bihar – reported 4 cases of 'white fungus' or 'candidiasis' at Patna Medical College and Hospital
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**126.** On May 20, MSN Laboratories has launched "Posaconazole", a drug used for the treatment of mucormycosis or Black Fungus. Posaconazole is a triazole antifungal agent. MSN has already launched Favilow (Favipiravir) and Oselow (Oseltamivir) that are used in treatment of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MSN Laboratories – launched "Posaconazole" for the treatment of mucormycosis or Black Fungus
- HQs of MSN Laboratories – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Sharath Kumar

**127.** On May 21, The Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the UNICEF and its partner organisation YuWaah, with the support of over 950 coalition partners, has launched a pan-India campaign called "#YoungWarrior" to engage young people across the country to address the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and to keep their families and neighbourhoods safe. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoYA + MoHFW + YuWaah (UNICEF) = launched "#YoungWarrior" campaign to mobilise youth against COVID-19
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946

**128.** On May 22, One Stop Centre Scheme (OSCs) has provided assistance to over 3 lakh women so far through 701 One Stop Centres in 35 States/UTs. The scheme is being implemented across India since 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 by Ministry of Women and Child Development. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- One Stop Centre Scheme (OSCs) – provided assistance to over 3 lakh women so far through 701 One Stop Centres
- The scheme is implemented by – Ministry of Women & Child Development | Launched in – 2015

**129.** On May 22, The Government of Haryana has launched "Sanjeevani Pariyojana" (Life Project), a monitored virtual home care initiative that gives people quick access to healthcare for mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – launched "Sanjeevani Pariyojana" (Life Project) - a monitored virtual home care initiative
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya



**130.** On May 19, For violation of Code of conduct (CoC), the SEBI has imposed a fine of Rs 9 lakh on Biocon Ltd and Rs 5 lakh on its former Senior Vice President (R&D) Narendra Chirmule. He violated provisions of Prohibition of Insider Trading (PIT) norms. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – imposed a total fine of Rs 14 lakh on Biocon Ltd (Rs 9 lakh) & its designated person (Rs 5 lakh)
- Former Senior Vice President (R&D) of Biocon – Narendra Chirmule
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of Biocon Ltd – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Siddharth Mittal

**131.** On May 21, Supreme Court of India’s E-Committee has released a manual for its top citizen-centric service-free “e-Courts Services Mobile app” in 14 languages. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud is the Chairperson of e-Committee. The app is an Electronic Case Management Tool (ECMT) that was launched in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Supreme Court of India’s E-Committee – released a manual for “e-Courts Services Mobile app” in 14 languages
- Chairperson of e-Committee – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- The app was launched in – 2017 | ECMT – Electronic Case Management Tool

**132.** The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) some years back prepared a Cheetah re-introduction project. Cheetah is expected to be re-introduced into India in November this year at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. India’s last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and it was declared extinct in the country in 1952. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cheetah – to be re-introduced into India in November – at Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh)
- Last spotted Cheetah died in Chhattisgarh – in 1947 & declared Extinct in India – in 1952

**133.** The Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with India’s 5 renowned organisations, is organising a series of five webinars under the broad theme of “Be with Yoga, Be at Home”. The first among the series was held on 24 May by The Art of Living on “Finding inner strength amidst outer crisis”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Ayush – organising a series of 5 webinars under the theme of “Be with Yoga, Be at Home”
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa

**134.** On May 24, The Ministry of Power will set up a “National Mission on use of Biomass” in Coal based Thermal Power Plants to address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation. The duration of the proposed National Mission would be a minimum 5 years. The proposed National Mission on biomass will also contribute to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Power – to set up a “National Mission on use of Biomass” in Coal based Thermal Power Plants
- Minimum duration of this National Mission – 5 years
- Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy – R. K. Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)

**135.** On May 24, Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs has launched the first phase of a data analytics driven version of “MCA 21 Version 3.0” (V3.0). It is being implemented in two phases with the second and final phase likely to be launched in October 2021. The first phase comprised of revamped website, new email services for MCA Officers and two new modules, namely, eBook and eConsultation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs – launched the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of “MCA 21 Version 3.0” (V3.0)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase is to be launched – in October, 2021
- “MCA 21” – an Online portal of Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

**136.** On May 23, In order to seek the World Heritage Site tag for 14 forts in the state, the Maharashtra government has prepared and submitted a tentative serial nomination for these sites. All 14 of them belong to the era of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and these forts have been built on the theme of Maratha Military Architecture. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – submitted a tentative list of 14 forts to seek the World Heritage Site tag
- All 14 of them have been built on the theme of – Maratha Military Architecture
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**137.** On May 23, The first consignment of well-known GI-certified “Shahi Litchi” was sent from Bihar’s Muzaffarpur district to the United Kingdom via a special flight. The consignment is being exported by Cira Enterprises. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- First consignment of GI-certified “Shahi Litchi” was sent to the UK – from Muzaffarpur, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**138.** On May 25, Gift city regulator IFSCA has constituted 12-member Expert Committee on Investment Funds to recommend the roadmap for the funds industry in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs). The committee is headed by Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IFSCA – constituted 12-member Expert Committee on Investment Funds – headed by Nilesh Shah
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas



**139.** On May 25, The Central Government has allowed free import of Tur, Urad and Moong after a gap of 3 years as the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has put imports of all these 3 types of pulses under a Non-Restricted list. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of C&I – allowed free import of Tur, Urad & Moong – by putting them under a Non-Restricted list

**140.** On May 25, Mohali International Hockey Stadium has been renamed as “Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium” on the first death anniversary of the legendary sportsman. India’s 3 time Olympics champion, Balbir Singh Senior was the manager of the 1975 World Cup-winning Indian hockey team. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mohali International Hockey Stadium – renamed as “Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium”
- The stadium is located in – Mohali, Punjab

**141.** On May 25, The Union Cabinet of India has granted approval for MoUs entered into by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI) and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) with Foreign Countries/Organisations. The ICoAI and the ICSI have signed MoUs with some foreign organizations i.e. the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA), Australia and Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA), UK. Besides, the cabinet also approved the creation of a new post of Director in the NDRF Academy in Nagpur, Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet granted approval for MoUs entered into by – ICoAI & ICSI
- ICoAI & ICSI signed MoUs with some foreign organizations:
- Institute of Public Accountants (IPA), Australia
- Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI), UK
- Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA), UK
- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), UK
- Institute of Certified Management Accountants, Sri Lanka
- HQs of ICoAI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – Biswarup Basu
- HQs of ICSI – New Delhi | CEO – Sutanu Sinha

**142.** On May 25, WhatsApp has filed a legal complaint in Delhi against the Indian government seeking to block regulations coming into force that experts say would compel Facebook unit to break privacy protections. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WhatsApp – filed a legal complaint in Delhi against the Indian government seeking to block regulations
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum | Founded in – 2009



**143.** On May 25, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has decided to set-up One-Stop Centres (OSC) in 9 countries to provide legal, medical and emotional support to Indian women facing violence abroad. The Ministry of External Affairs will set-up and operate these OSCs in the missions abroad with support from the Union ministry of women and child development. Besides, 300 more OSCs will also be opened across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoWCD – decided to set-up One-Stop Centres (OSC) in 9 countries – to support Indian women facing violence abroad
- Ministry of External Affairs will set-up & operate these OSCs
- OSC scheme was launched in – 2015 | 100% centrally sponsored scheme – under ‘Nirbhaya Fund’
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)

**144.** On May 23, The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a committee to submit a report on alleged violation of norms in the construction of “Mekedatu Dam” across Cauvery river in Karnataka. The committee comprises Justice K Ramakrishnan and expert member K Satyagopal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NGT – formed a committee on Mekedatu dam construction violation | Location: across Cauvery river (Karnataka)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**145.** From May 15 to 31, The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched a 15-day “Special GST Refund Disposal Drive” to clear all pending GST refunds by month-end. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBIC – launched a 15-day “Special GST Refund Disposal Drive” – to clear all pending GST refunds
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

**146.** On May 26, Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has launched a first of its kind portal named “Akanksha” to provide comprehensive details on all the CSR activities in the state. The online portal has been developed in partnership with the UNDP. The portal will help the corporate sector, government and the donors to utilise CSR funds for Government programmes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka + UNDP = launched a portal “Akanksha” to provide comprehensive details on all the CSR activities
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

**147.** On May 27, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the “Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation” (SeHAT) portal to provide tele-medicine services to serving military personnel, veterans and their families. This is the final version of the ‘SeHAT’ OPD portal. The trial version was made functional in August 2020. Besides, the last tranche of emergency medical supplies arrived from South Korea. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – launched “Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation” (SeHAT) portal – for military personnel
- The last tranche of Emergency Medical Supplies arrived from – South Korea
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

**148.** On May 27, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has launched “Manipur Home Isolation Management (MHIM)” Mobile Application for Home Isolation Patients at Chief Minister’s Secretariat. The Mobile Application was developed by Pentabyte Technologies LLP with a mission to provide real-time health data and information of Home Isolation COVID-19 patients. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur – launched “Manipur Home Isolation Management (MHIM)” mobile app for Home Isolation Patients
- The app is developed by – Pentabyte Technologies
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

**149.** On May 26, The very severe cyclonic storm, “Yaas” crossed north Odisha coast about 20 km south of Balasore with an estimated wind speed of 130-140 kmph gusting to 155 kmph. Cyclone Yaas was named by Oman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Cyclone Yaas” crossed Odisha coast (very severe cyclonic storm)
- It is named by – Oman
- Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

**150.** On May 26, Union Minister of state (IC) for Ayush Shri Kiren Rijju has launched the Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the 3<sup>rd</sup> version of Ayush Sanjivani app in a virtual event. This portal aims to aggregate information about clinical outcomes achieved by Ayush practitioners on a large scale. The portal and app are part of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shri Kiren Rijju – launched Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal & 3<sup>rd</sup> version of Ayush Sanjivani app
- MoS of AYUSH – Kiren Rijju (additional charge for temporarily)

**151.** On May 28, Karnataka Government in partnership with the COVIDActionCollab has launched India's First City-wide Environmental Surveillance Platform called "Precision Health Platform" in Bengaluru. It is the first of its kind in Asia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka + COVIDActionCollab = launched India's First "Precision Health Platform" in Bengaluru
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**152.** Markets regulator SEBI will appoint auditors for conducting Forensic Audits of financial statements of listed companies as part of efforts to curb frauds. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – to appoint Auditors for conducting Forensic Audits of financial statements of listed companies
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**153.** On May 27, India's largest statue of the 'Reclining Buddha' will be installed at the Buddha International Welfare Mission temple in Bodh Gaya. The ceremony has been put off due to Covid-19 restrictions. It is 100-foot fibreglass statue. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's largest statue of the 'Reclining Buddha' will be installed at – Bodh Gaya, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**154.** On May 27, Assam has appointed "Guardian Ministers" for different districts in the state. They will review the implementation of various government schemes in the districts and submit a report to the chief minister. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam – appointed "Guardian Ministers" for different districts in the state
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**155.** Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar has launched Directorate General National Cadet Corps (NCC) Mobile Training App Version 2.0 in New Delhi on May 28, 2021. The app will assist in conducting countrywide online training to NCC cadets during the COVID-19 pandemic conditions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ajay Kumar – launched "DG NCC Mobile Training App Version 2.0" – in New Delhi
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | Director General – Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chopra

**156.** On May 26, The government has set up a panel of State Ministers for better valuation of services of casinos, online gaming portal and race courses for levying goods and services tax (GST). The 7-member panel is headed by Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government – set up a Panel of State Ministers to examine valuation of services by Casinos & Online gaming for GST
- 7-member panel is headed by – Nitin Patel (Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat)

**157.** On May 27, One of the oldest crypto companies in India, ZebPay, has launched a new and first of its kind lending platform called the “Zebpay Lending Platform” for crypto asset exchange in India. At launch, the lending feature will only support Bitcoin, Ethereum, Tether and Dai tokens. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ZebPay – launched the first of its kind “Zebpay Lending Platform” for crypto asset exchange
- HQs of Zebpay – Singapore | Co-CEO – Avinash Shekhar

**158.** On May 28, Maharashtra has formally scrapped the move to lift 5 tmc ft water from the ‘Ujani dam’ in Solapur for irrigation purposes in Indapur, which is part of the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – scrapped the move to lift 5 tmc ft water for irrigation purposes – from ‘Ujani dam’ in Solapur, MH
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**159.** On May 27, In a bid to expand its purview to the OTT segment, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) is being renamed as the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF). IBDF will also form a Self-Regulatory Body (SRB), as per the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) – renamed as – Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF)
- IBDF will form a Self-Regulatory Body (SRB)
- HQs of IBDF – New Delhi | President – K. Madhavan

**160.** On May 25, A panel constituted by the Union Home Ministry to suggest reforms to the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC) is likely to propose a separate Section on offences relating to speech and expression. The panel is headed by Vice Chancellor of National Law University (NLU), Delhi, Srikrishna Deva Rao. As there is no clear definition of what constitutes a “hate speech” in the IPC, the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws is attempting for the first time to define such speech. Earlier in 2018, a committee headed by T. K. Viswanathan recommended the Law Commission to prepare a distinct law for online “Hate Speech”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Home Ministry – constituted a panel to suggest reforms in Criminal Laws or in the IPC
- The panel is headed by – Srikrishna Deva Rao (VC of National Law University)
- The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws – is attempting for the first time to define “Hate Speech”
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**161.** On May 27, Paytm is planning to come out with an Initial Public Offer (IPO) worth \$3 billion (over Rs 21,700 Cr) later this year. Coal India's Rs 15,200 Cr IPO in 2010 is India's largest one till date. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm is planning to come out with an IPO – worth \$3 billion (over Rs 21,700 Cr)
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar | Founded in – 2017

**162.** The Curated Festival Series of women-centric documentary films will be kick-started by Films Division with “The Eclipse and After”, a festival of films on women by women being screened online from 28 to 30 May 2021. It was launched by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Films Division of India – started “The Eclipse and After” - a festival of films
- It was launched by – Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- HQs of Films Division of India – Mumbai, MH | Director – K. S. Shridhar

**163.** On May 29, The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked all States and Union Territories (UTs) to upload data of children who have lost either one or both parents to COVID-19 on its “Bal Swaraj” portal. The portal is an online tracking portal of the NCPCR for children in need of care and protection. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NCPCR asked all States & UTs to upload data of children who lost their parents to COVID-19 – on “Bal Swaraj” portal
- HQs of NCPCR – New Delhi | Chairman – Priyank Kanongoo

**164.** On May 30, The CSC E-Governance India Ltd (CSC SPV) has unveiled a unique “Agri Services Portal” that will act as a one-stop destination and marketplace for them. It is aimed at empowering small and marginal farmers, who constitute 86% of India's farming community. The CSC SPV is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSC E-Governance India Ltd – unveiled a unique “Agri Services Portal”
- CSC SPV – a Special Purpose Vehicle – under the MeitY
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | CEO – Dinesh Tyagi (CSC works under – MeitY)

**165.** On May 29, The Central government has reconstituted 6 Empowered Groups into 10 to tackle the current Covid-19 situation in India. The Centre has also formed a panel for vaccination and to monitor medical oxygen requirements. Niti Aayog member Dr. V. K. Paul will lead the panel on vaccination. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government has reconstituted 6 Empowered Groups into 10 – to tackle the current Covid-19 situation
- V. K. Paul – head of the newly formed Empowered Group on Vaccination



**166.** On May 31, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has introduced the world's first Nano Urea Liquid for farmers across the world. The Nano Urea Liquid has been found effective and efficient for plant nutrition which increases the production with improved nutritional quality. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IFFCO – introduced the world's first Nano Urea Liquid for farmers
- HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | Chairman – Balvinder Singh Nakai

**167.** On May 30, Amid the rising number of Mucormycosis, doctors treating patients of Covid-19, as well as those who have recovered, have reported cases of Aspergillosis. Doctors in Maharashtra's Mumbai and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh have found patients with Aspergillosis. It is a type of Fungus. Aspergilloma is also called a "fungus ball". [{Read more}](#)

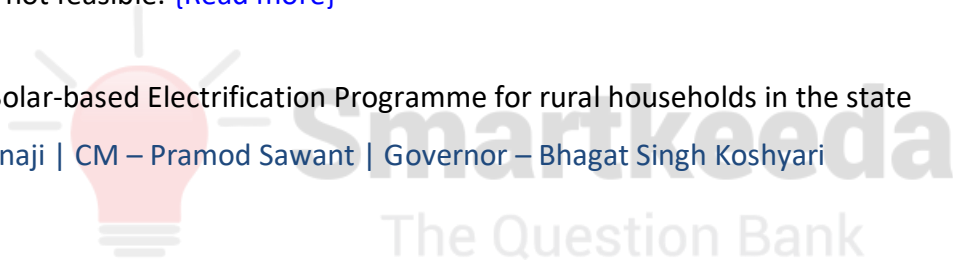
**Key Points:**

- Aspergillosis (Fungus ball) – reported in Maharashtra & Uttar Pradesh | It is a type of 'Fungus'

**168.** On May 30, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has launched Solar-based Electrification Programme for rural households in the state. This project will bring electricity through renewable energy to areas in Goa where grid connectivity is not feasible. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa – launched Solar-based Electrification Programme for rural households in the state
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari



# International Affairs

1. An armed ethnic group in Myanmar known as the Karen National Liberation Army - an armed wing of Karen National Union (KNU), has seized a military outpost near the Thai border. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Karen National Liberation Army ([ethnic group in Myanmar](#)) – seized a military outpost near the Thai border
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

2. Germany has decided to return the artifacts known as the “Benin Bronzes” to Nigeria. Thousands of plaques and sculptures were looted from the ancient Kingdom of Benin (now southern Nigeria) by British soldiers in an 1897. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Germany – to return the artifacts known as the “Benin Bronzes” to Nigeria (looted by British soldiers in an 1897)
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhar

3. On May 1, Tonnes of dead fish have washed up on the banks of Qaraoun lake on Lebanon’s longest river, the Litani due to polluted waters. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Tonnes of dead fish washed up on the banks of Qaraoun lake on Litani river ([Lebanon](#))
- Lebanon – Beirut – Lebanese Pound | PM – Saad al-Hariri

4. On May 3, Turkey has added cryptocurrency trading platforms to the list of firms covered by anti-money laundering and terrorism financing regulation. Last month Turkey's central bank banned the use of cryptoassets for payments. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Turkey – added cryptocurrency trading platforms to money laundering and terror financing rules
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan

5. On May 4, The Serum Institute of India (SII) will invest GBP 240 million in the UK to expand its vaccine business and set up a new sales office creating a large number of jobs. Downing Street has announced this as part of plans for a GBP 1 billion India-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership creating around 6,500 jobs in Britain. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SII will invest GBP 240 million in the UK to expand its vaccine business
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla



**6.** On May 4, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has officially declared the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ebola outbreak. Since the outbreak declared on February 7, 2021, a total of 12 cases have been reported, including six deaths in the province. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Democratic Republic of the Congo – officially declared the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ebola outbreak
- [Democratic Republic of the Congo – Kinshasa – Congolese franc | President – Felix Tshisekedi](#)

**7.** On May 1, Ethiopia has added two armed groups to its “terror list”, including the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) and Oromo Liberation Front-Shene (OLF-Shene). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ethiopia – designated TPLF & OLF-Shene as ‘terror’ groups
- [Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian birr | President – Sahle-Work Zewde](#)

**8.** On May 1, The United States has placed India and 8 other countries on the ‘Priority Watch List’ for IP protection and enforcement in its “Special 301 Report”. The other countries that have been put on the list are Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Venezuela. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – placed India & 8 other countries on the ‘Priority Watch List’ for IP protection in its “Special 301 Report”
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**9.** On May 5, The Biden administration has approved \$550 million Crimson Solar Project in the California desert that will be capable of powering nearly 90,000 homes. It will be sited on 2,000 acres of federal land west of Blythe, California. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – approved \$550 million Crimson Solar Project in the California desert
- It will be capable of powering nearly 90,000 homes
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**10.** On May 6, The newly rehabilitated 200 KW Hydro Power Plant at Chandannath Municipality in Nepal’s Jumla district was virtually inaugurated. The small hydro power plant was built with Indian financial assistance of Nepali Rs 26.39 million. India has already completed 450 HICDPs in Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 200 KW Hydro Power Plant at Chandannath Muni ([Nepal](#)) – built with Indian financial assistance (NRs 26.39 million)
- [Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari](#)



**11.** On May 4, Germany has proposed accelerating the plans to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by setting a new goal of reaching 'net-zero' by 2045. Germany would increase its emissions reduction targets from 55% to 65% below 1990 levels by 2030, and to 88% by 2040. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Germany – to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by setting a new goal of reaching 'net-zero' by 2045
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

**12.** On May 6, Denmark has passed legislation to allow the screening of future foreign investments to ensure they don't pose a threat to national security. The new legislation was developed in part following security concerns over a bid by China's Huawei to build Denmark's 5G network. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Denmark – passed legislation to allow the screening of future foreign investments for security concerns
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

**13.** On May 6, The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved a Covid-19 vaccine from China's state-owned drugmaker Sinopharm for emergency use. It is also the first time the WHO has given emergency use approval to any Chinese vaccine for any infectious disease. The WHO has previously given emergency approval to Covid-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, and the latest, Moderna. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO – approved a Covid-19 vaccine "Sinopharm" for emergency use – manufactured by China
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194](#)
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

**14.** On May 8, The South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) is advising news organisations against using the term 'India variant' or 'Indian variant', while describing the new strain of COVID-19 that reportedly originated out of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SAJA – is advising news organisations no to use the term 'India variant' for new strain of COVID-19
- [HQs of SAJA – New York, US | President – Mihir Zaveri](#)

**15.** On May 7, The Taliban has captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam "Dahla Dam" after months of fierce fighting in their former bastion of Kandahar. Dahla was built by the United States nearly 70 years ago to provide water for irrigating land in about seven districts of Kandahar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Taliban – captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam "Dahla Dam" after months of fierce fighting
- "Dahla Dam" (Arghandab Dam) – located in Kandahar, Afghanistan | It was built 70 years ago by – US
- [Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani](#)



**16.** On May 10, Hugo Xavier has become one of the first people to cross the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge called "516 Arouca" when it opened near his tiny hometown of Arouca in northern Portugal. The 516-metre-long bridge hangs 175 meters above the fast-flowing River Paiva. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge "516 Arouca" is now open for local residents in Arouca, Portugal
- Length of the bridge – 516 metre | Above – River Paiva | Hugo Xavier – 1<sup>st</sup> person to cross the bridge
- [Portugal – Lisbon – Euro | President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa](#)

**17.** On May 7, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched "Asia Pacific Tax Hub" to create an open and inclusive platform to promote strategic policy dialogue, improve knowledge sharing and strengthen coordination on tax policy. Through the hub, ADB will coordinate closely with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support Developing Member Countries (DMCs) as they formulate country-specific medium-term revenue strategies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB – launched "Asia Pacific Tax Hub" to enhance international tax cooperation
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68](#)

**18.** On May 10, The US Transport Department has declared Regional Emergency after cyberattack on Georgia-based Colonial Pipeline Company that carries gasoline and other fuel from Texas to the Northeast. It delivers roughly 45% of fuel consumed on the East Coast. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – declared Regional Emergency after cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline Company ([Georgia, US](#))
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**19.** On May 11, World Health Organization has declared Indian coronavirus variant "B.1.617" as a variant of global concern. B.1.617 and its particular lineage B.1.617.2 have rapidly expanded their footprint in some regions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO – declared Indian coronavirus variant "B.1.617" as a variant of global concern
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194](#)

**20.** On May 13, 35-year-old Jimmy Hugo has recently discovered a 'human baby-sized' frog in Solomon Islands. That's the largest water frog in Solomon Islands and probably in Melanesia. This species, Cornufer guppyi has a geographic range from the Bismarck and Solomon archipelago to Malaita. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A 'human baby-sized' frog discovered in – Solomon Islands
- [Solomon Islands – Honiara – Dollar | PM – Manasseh Sogavare](#)



**21.** On May 16, Cyclone 'Tauktae' intensified into a 'very severe cyclonic storm' and is approaching the Gujarat coast. The cyclone was likely to cross Gujarat coast between Porbandar and Mahuva (Bhavnagar district). The cyclone has been given the name 'Tauktae' (pronounced Tau'te) by Myanmar. It means 'gecko', a highly vocal lizard, in the Burmese language. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cyclone 'Tauktae' (pronounced Tau'te) – given the name by Myanmar
- Its meaning – 'Gecko' - a highly vocal lizard
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

**22.** On May 13, The Adani Group has opened its Regional Headquarters office in Singapore with focus on the energy, infrastructure and technology portfolios. Adani Singapore (SG) Country Head Jeyakumar Janakaraj has stated that Singapore was an ideal choice for Adani's regional headquarters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Adani Group – opened its Regional Headquarters office in Singapore
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani

**23.** On May 14, Harley-Davidson Inc has launched an all-electric motorcycle brand "LiveWire". Named after Harley's first electric motorbike, which was unveiled in 2019, the "LiveWire" division is slated to launch its first branded motorcycle in July. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Harley-Davidson Inc – launched an all-electric motorcycle brand "LiveWire"
- HQs of Harley-Davidson Inc – Wisconsin, US | CEO – Jochen Zeit | Founded in – 1903

**24.** On May 11, The Five Deeps Expedition measured the extreme depths of the World's 5 Oceans. The key locations - Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern oceans were mapped by the Five Deeps Expedition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The five Oceans with its deepest point on it:
  - Indian Ocean — Unnamed Deep in Java Trench (7,187 m)
  - Arctic Ocean — Molloy Hole (5,551 m)
  - Atlantic Ocean — Brownson Deep in Puerto Rico Trench (8,378 m)
  - Pacific Ocean — Challenger Deep in Mariana Trench (10,924 m)
  - Southern Ocean — Factorian Deep in South Sandwich Trench (7,432 m)

**25.** On May 14, Pablo Picasso's "Woman Sitting Near a Window (Marie-Therese)" was sold for \$103.4 million at Christie's in New York. The painting was completed in 1932. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pablo Picasso's painting "Woman Sitting Near a Window (Marie-Therese)" – sold for \$103.4 million in New York
- The painting was completed in 1932

**26.** 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](#)

**27.** 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 | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)
- [Czech Republic – Prague – Koruna | President – Milos Zeman](#)

**28.** 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](#)

**29.** 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](#)

**30.** 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 | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**31.** 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

**32.** 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

**33.** 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

**34.** On May 19, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have hailed the Nuclear Cooperation between the two neighbours to build 4 Nuclear Power Plants in China costing about \$3 billion including Tianwan & Xudapu Nuclear Power Plants. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China + Russia = Nuclear Cooperation to build 4 Nuclear Power Plants in China (Cost - \$3 billion)
- Tianwan & Xudapu Nuclear Power Plants = being built by China & Russia





**35.** On May 24, India and Israel have signed a 3-year joint work programme till 2023 with an aim to enhance cooperation in the field of agriculture. However, under the new work programme, Villages of Excellence (VoE) - a model ecosystem in agriculture, will be created across eight states. India and Israel have had bilateral relations since 1993 in the agricultural sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Israel = 3-year joint work programme till 2023 to enhance cooperation – in Agriculture field
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**36.** On May 23, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the PM Narendra Modi has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, Maldives. Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India – in Addu City, Maldives
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**37.** The World Health Organization (WHO) has formed a high-level expert panel "One Health" to study the emergence and spread of Zoonotic Diseases like H5N1, Avian influenza, MERS, Ebola, Zika and COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO – formed a high-level expert panel "One Health" to study the emergence & spread of Zoonotic Diseases
- Zoonotic Diseases – H5N1, Avian influenza, MERS, Ebola, Zika & COVID-19
- Zoonotic Disease: A disease that can be transmitted from animals to people
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

**38.** Rock art in Indonesia is decaying at an alarming rate. A picture of a wild pig which was drawn over 45,500 years ago on the island of Sulawesi is considered the world's oldest animal cave painting. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The world's oldest animal cave painting – a picture of a Wild Pig drawn over 45,500 years ago on Sulawesi island
- Sulawesi Island – located in Indonesia
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

**39.** On May 27, India is expected to acquire 4 Heron long-endurance drones from Israel on lease in the next few months to primarily crank up its surveillance capabilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The drones are capable of operating for nearly 45 hours at an altitude of up to 35,000 feet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to acquire 4 Heron long-endurance drones – from Israel on lease
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**40.** On May 28, German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel and Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg have officially commissioned NordLink - the 'Green Cable' that will exchange German wind energy with Norwegian hydropower and connect two optimally complementary systems. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NordLink project - the 'Green Cable' – commissioned between Germany & Norway
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)
- [Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg](#)

**41.** On May 25, A mysterious airbase is being built on a volcanic Mayun Island off Yemen that sits in one of the world's crucial maritime chokepoints for both energy shipments and commercial cargo. Mayun Island, also known as Perim Island, sits some 3.5 kilometers (2 miles) off the southwestern edge of Yemen. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A mysterious airbase is being built on – Mayun Island (Perim Island) – in Yemen
- [Yemen – Sana'a – Yemeni Rial | President – Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi](#)

**42.** On May 26, Mark Lowcock, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator has warned that Ethiopia's Tigray region is at 'serious' risk of famine. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UN warned: Ethiopia's Tigray region is at 'serious' risk of famine
- [Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian Birr | President – Sahle-Work Zewde](#)

**43.** On May 28, Delegates at the World Health Assembly have approved a 16% increase to WHO's proposed budget for the next two years, setting it at about \$6.1 billion. More than 90% of the WHO's funding is tied to specific health issues. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delegates at the World Health Assembly – approved a 16% increase to WHO's proposed budget for next 2 years
- [HQs of World Health Assembly – Geneva, Switzerland | Chairperson – Dr. Harsh Vardhan](#)

**44.** On May 28, Germany has agreed to officially recognize the colonial-era killings of tens of thousands of people in Namibia as genocide and to spend a total of 1.1 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) on development projects. The accord with Namibia announced Friday is the result of more than five years of talks on the events of 1904-1908, when Germany was the southern African country's colonial ruler. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Germany – officially recognized colonial killings in Namibia as genocide & will spend total \$1.3 billion
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

# Banking & Economic Affairs

1. The RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹40 lakh on Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank, Shimla, for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions issued by NABARD contained in “Review of Frauds - Guidelines on Monitoring and Reporting System”. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a penalty of ₹40 lakh on Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (Shimla)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu

2. On May 1, The SEBI has issued a circular mandating alignment of the interest of key employees of Asset Management Companies (AMCs) with the unit-holders of the mutual fund schemes. As per the circular, minimum 20% of the salary/ perks/ bonus/ non-cash compensation (gross annual CTC) net of income tax of the key employees of the AMCs shall be paid in the form of units of mutual fund schemes. These units will be locked in for 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SEBI – mandated all key employees of AMCs to contribute minimum 20% of their salary in Mutual Funds Schemes
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

3. Gemini, a cryptocurrency platform, has announced to launch its first-of-a-kind Cryptocurrency Rewards Credit Card, in a partnership with Mastercard and WebBank. Cardholders will earn up to 3% back on qualifying purchases in bitcoin or any of the more than 30 cryptocurrencies available on Gemini. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Gemini + Mastercard + WebBank = to launch its first-of-a-kind “Cryptocurrency Rewards Credit Card”
- HQs of Gemini – New York, US | Co-founder – Tyler Winklevoss
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of WebBank – Utah, US | Chairman – Jack Howard

4. On May 3, The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 3 Cr on ICICI Bank for “contravention of certain directions issued by the RBI contained in Master Circular on ‘Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio by Banks’ dated July 1, 2015”. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 3 Cr on ICICI Bank – for violating the ‘Prudential Norms’
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

5. On May 5, The RBI has relaxed Overdraft (OD) facilities for state governments to manage the fiscal situation better. Accordingly, the maximum number of days of OD in a quarter is being increased from 36 to 50 days and the number of consecutive days of OD from 14 to 21 days. This facility will be available up to September 30, 2021. The Ways and Means Advance (WMA) limits of states have already been enhanced on April 23, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI relaxed Overdraft (OD) facilities for state governments
- Maximum number of days of OD in a quarter – increased to 50 days (from 36) – up to Sep, 2021
- Number of consecutive days of OD – increased to 21 days (from 14) – up to Sep, 2021
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

6. On May 5, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will give banks Rs 50,000 Cr to enable them to lend further for 'healthcare needs' in the Covid-19 crisis. On-tap liquidity of Rs 50,000 Cr at repo rate is being opened till March 31, 2022. Micro-Finance Institutions with Asset size over Rs 500 Cr shall receive loans from Small Finance Banks under PSL. This facility will be available up to March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI will give banks Rs 50,000 Cr to enable them to lend further for 'healthcare needs' (opened till March 31, 2022)
- MFIs (with Asset size over Rs 500 Cr) – to receive loans from SFBs under PSL
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

7. On May 5, Kotak Mahindra Bank has been selected as a digital payments partner by the National Agriculture Market (eNAM). As part of this initiative, the bank will provide payment, clearing and settlement services on the eNAM platform to facilitate trade between a buyer and seller of an agri produce. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – selected as a digital payments partner National Agriculture Market (eNAM)
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak

8. On May 5, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its in-principle approval for strategic divestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank Ltd. The Government of India (GoI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) together own over 94% stake in IDBI Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved strategic divestment & management control transfer in IDBI Bank
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Established in – 1964

9. On May 7, The RBI's Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has constituted a 6-member Advisory Group headed by Swaminathan Janakiraman to support it in reviewing the central bank's regulations and compliance procedures with a view to streamlining / rationalising them to make them more effective. The Authority has been set up initially for a period of 1 year from May 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- RBI's RRA 2.0 – constituted a 6-member Advisory Group for a period of 1 year
- It is headed by S. Janakiraman (Managing Director of SBI)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**10.** On May 5, The RBI has announced the second purchase of government securities worth Rs 35,000 Cr under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0) on May 20. The first purchase of Rs 25,000 Cr was made in April, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> purchase of government securities worth Rs 35,000 Cr under “G-SAP 1.0” – on May 20
- The first purchase of Rs 25,000 Cr was made in April | G-SAP – G-sec Acquisition Programme
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**11.** On May 6, The banking regulator Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has excluded Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act. This was after LVB merged with DBS Bank India. All banks which are included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 are Scheduled Banks. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – excluded Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of LVB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Subramanian Sundar

**12.** On May 5, The RBI has granted an authorization to Bajaj Finance for issuance and operation of semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) with perpetual validity. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI granted an authorization to “Bajaj Finance” for Prepaid Payment Business
- HQs of Bajaj Finserv – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman and MD (CMD) – Sanjiv Bajaj
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**13.** On May 10, HDFC Bank and Common Services Centres (CSCs) have launched “Eva” chatbot on CSCs Digital Seva Portal to support the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in providing banking services to rural consumers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank + CSCs = launched “Eva” chatbot on CSCs Digital Seva Portal to support rural consumers
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of CSCs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh



**14.** On May 9, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the restrictions on Karnataka-based Millath Co-operative Bank by 3 months, till August 8, 2021. The restrictions were first imposed in May, 2019 and have been extended thereafter. It was last extended till May 7, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – extended the restrictions Millath Co-operative Bank by 3 months (till Aug 8, 2021)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of Millath Co-operative Bank – Davangere, Karnataka

**15.** On May 10, The RBI has modified norms for undertaking government business by private banks. According to the modified norms, scheduled private sector banks, which are not under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework of the RBI, can undertake government business after executing an agreement with the central bank. Besides, Existing bank accounts opened using OTP based e-KYC, will not be allowed for more than 1 year without further identification. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – modified norms for undertaking government business by Private Banks
- Scheduled Private Sector Banks which are not under the PCA framework can undertake government business
- Existing bank accounts opened using OTP based e-KYC won't be allowed for more than 1 year
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**16.** On May 10, Federal Bank has entered into a strategic tie-up with UAE-based Mashreq Bank to facilitate money transfers from the UAE. Mashreq is one of the oldest banks and also the only privately-owned bank in UAE. The partnership will support Mashreq's faster payment product "QuickRemit" which was launched in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Federal Bank + Mashreq Bank (UAE) = a strategic tie-up to facilitate money transfers between UAE & India
- HQs Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

**17.** On May 11, Geojit Financial Services has entered into an agreement with Punjab National Bank to provide a three-in-one (Savings, Demat & Trading) account to the latter's customers. The 3-in-1 account makes it easier for PNB customers to transfer funds real time via the payment gateway facility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Geojit Financial Services + PNB = an agreement to provide a 3-in-1 (Savings, Demat & Trading) account
- HQs of Geojit Financial Services – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – C. J. George
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – "The Name You Can Bank Upon"



**18.** On May 11, Jana Small Finance Bank has launched “I choose my number” feature for all its customers across India. This new feature gives the banks existing and new customers the option to select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jana SFB – launched “I choose my number” feature for all its customers across India
- HQs JSFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal

**19.** On May 12, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted authorisation to Eroute Technologies to operate as a prepaid payment instruments (PPI) company. PPIs are instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, including financial services, remittances, and funds transfers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – granted authorisation to “Eroute Technologies” to operate as a Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) company
- HQs of Eroute Technologies – Noida, UP | MD & CEO – Sanjeev Pandey
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**20.** On May 12, PayPal has introduced an automated process for receiving Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA), a key document for Indian MSME exporters and freelancers. At zero-cost, merchants will now be able to download their monthly digital FIRA issued by the bank. This FIRA was otherwise coming at a cost close to ₹2,000 for every 20 international transactions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PayPal – introduced an automated process for receiving “FIRA” – for Indian merchants
- FIRA – Foreign Inward Remittance Advice
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman | Founded in – 1998

**21.** On May 13, Shareholders of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) have given their approval for issuance of 246,54,23,932 equity shares to the government of India on a preferential basis for the capital infusion of Rs 4,100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOB – received shareholders’ nod for Rs 4,100-Cr infusion by Government of India
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta | Tagline – “Good people to grow with”

**22.** On May 13, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd, based in Bagnan, West Bengal due to inadequate capital and earning prospects. As such, it does not comply with the provisions of section 11(1) and section 22(3)(d) read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd (Bagnan, West Bengal)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**23.** On May 13, Airtel Payments Bank has launched gold investment platform “DigiGold” in partnership with SafeGold. The DigiGold investment platform will enable Airtel Payments Bank’s saving account customers to invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks App. Airtel Payments Bank recently increased its savings deposit limit to Rs 2 lakhs in line with RBI guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Airtel Payments Bank + SafeGold = launched gold investment platform “DigiGold”
- Savings deposit limit in Airtel Payments Bank – Rs 2 lakhs
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas | Founded in – 2017
- HQs of SafeGold – Mumbai, MH | MD – Gaurav Mathur

**24.** On May 13, Bank of Baroda has launched a micro-website that will serve as an emergency networking platform for all employees amid the second wave of COVID-19. The microsite will offer vital data, including a network of plasma donors to employees who are in need of. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bank of Baroda – launched a micro-website to support employees amid COVID-19 pandemic
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – India's International Bank

**25.** 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

**26.** 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 (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**27.** 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



**28.** 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”

**29.** 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

**30.** 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 (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**31.** On May 19, Alankit Imaginations Limited has partnered with Digital Swiss Gold (DSG) allowing investors to buy and hold physical gold digitally in Switzerland as well as sell and send gold via a mobile app. Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of the RBI, an individual can buy Gold starting from 1 gram and to a maximum limit of \$2,50,000 per financial year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alankit Imaginations Ltd + Digital Swiss Gold = to allow investors to digitally buy & hold physical Gold in Switzerland
- Limit for an individual to buy Gold: minimum – 1 gram & maximum – \$2,50,000 per FY
- HQs of Alankit Imaginations Ltd – New Delhi | Founder & Chairman – Alok Kumar Agarwal

**32.** On May 20, Kotak Mahindra Bank has issued the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global. This is the first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in India. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – issued the first-ever FPI licence to the AIF incorporated in the GIFT IFSC
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let's make money simple”

**33.** On May 18, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 Cr each on City Union Bank (CUB) and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB). In the TMB case, RBI imposed the penalty for non-compliance with some directions regarding “Cyber Security Framework in Banks”, 2016. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 Cr each on City Union Bank & Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of CUB – Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Dr. N. Kamakodi
- HQs of TMB – Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu | CEO – K. V. Rama Moorthy

**34.** On May 20, Equitas Small Finance Bank has become the first Small Finance Bank to offer its NRI customer segment the ease of account opening online. The company will also be the only one in the Small Finance Bank sector to have Virtual Relationship Managers based on time zones. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Equitas Small Finance Bank – the 1<sup>st</sup> SFB to offer online account opening facility for NRIs
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

**35.** On May 20, The SEBI has doubled the overseas investment limit of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) to \$1.5 billion (\$1,500 million) from \$750 million. All AIFs or VCFs will have to report the utilization of the overseas limits within 5 working days. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SEBI – doubled the overseas investment limit of AIFs & VCFs to – \$1.5 billion or \$1,500 million (from \$750 million)
- AIFs or VCFs have to report the utilization of the overseas limits – within 5 working days
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**36.** On May 20, The RBI has approved transfer of Rs 99,122 Cr as surplus to the central government. This will be for the accounting period of 9 months from July 2020 to March 2021. It has also decided to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50%. The decision was taken during the 589<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – approved transfer of Rs 99,122 Cr as surplus to the Central Government (for July 2020 to March 2021)
- RBI – decided to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935



**37.** On May 22, The RBI has permitted cash withdrawal of Rs 2,000 per transaction with maximum limit of Rs 10,000 per month from various online wallets. Money kept in various online wallets like Amazon pay, Ola money, Mobikwik, Phone pe, Delhi Metro Card etc. can be withdrawn using an ATM or Point of Sale Terminal. Till date RBI has permitted 37 PPIs in India. Now maximum Rs 2 lakh can be kept in various wallets after completion of full KYC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – permitted cash withdrawal from various online wallets (i.e. Mobikwik, Phone pe, Amazon pay)
- Maximum limit: 2,000 per transaction & Rs 10,000 per month
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**38.** On May 24, Fintech platform FlexiLoans has partnered with Vivriti Capital to provide working capital financing of over ₹300 Cr to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India. The partnership will be powered by FlexiLoans' technology and credit underwriting platform 'BiFrost' which has been integrated with Vivriti's Co-lending platform 'CredAvenue'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'BiFrost' (FlexiLoans) + 'CredAvenue' (Vivriti Capital) = to provide working capital financing of over ₹300 Cr to MSMEs
- HQs of FlexiLoans – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Co-Founder – Manish Lunia
- HQs of Vivriti Capital – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & MD – Vineet Sukumar

**39.** On May 24, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has tied-up with PayCore as one of the certified partners for "RuPay SoftPOS" to drive cashless payments across India. The solution will allow merchants to convert their NFC enabled smartphones into a POS machine to accept contactless payments through RuPay SoftPOS. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI + PayCore = partnership for "RuPay SoftPOS" to drive cashless payments across India
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of PayCore – Turkey | CEO – Raul Villar

**40.** On May 24, The RBI has issued guidelines for amalgamation of District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) with State Cooperative Banks (StCBs). This is subject to various conditions, including that a proposal should be made by the state government concerned. NABARD has to examine and recommend the proposal of the state government. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 has been notified for the StCBs and DCCBs with effect from April 1, 2021. Besides, 'Section 44A' of the Banking Regulation act, 1949 provides effective procedure for voluntary amalgamation of banking entities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI issued guidelines for merging District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) with State Cooperative Banks (StCBs)



- A proposal should be made by – State Government
- NABARD – has to examine & recommend the proposal of the state government
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**41.** On May 25, HDFC Ltd will raise up-to Rs 7,000 Cr by issuing bonds on private placement basis. The base issue size for the secured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs) is Rs 5,000 Cr. It will offer coupon rate of 6% per annum on the bonds. The bonds have a tenor of 4 years and 363 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Ltd will raise up-to Rs 7,000 Cr by issuing bonds on private placement basis | Base issue size – Rs 5,000 Cr
- Tenor of Bonds – 4 years & 363 days

**42.** On May 27, ICICI Bank has launched a facility called “Pockets” for linking a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ID with its digital wallet. The bank has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to link its ‘Pockets’ digital wallet to the UPI network. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank + NPCI = launched a facility called “Pockets” for linking UPI ID with its digital wallet
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**43.** On May 27, Punjab National Bank and PNB Housing Finance have signed a fresh Brand Agreement which gives PNB the right to withdraw its brand name from the PNB Housing. Currently, PNB holds 33% in PNB Housing. In case, PNB’s shareholding in PNB Housing falls below 20%, PNB would have the right to terminate the revised agreement. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PNB + PNB Housing Finance = a fresh Brand Agreement giving PNB the right to withdraw its brand name
- Currently, PNB holds 33% in PNB Housing
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of PNB Housing Finance – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad

**44.** On May 27, YES Bank has implemented TransUnion’s onboarding solution, which will enable it to onboard its credit card customers seamlessly. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- YES Bank – implemented TransUnion’s onboarding solution
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”



**45.** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has unveiled plans to revamp the way it conducts Economic Assessments to better account for risks related to climate change, inequality and demographics, as well as evolving digital technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IMF – unveiled plans to include Climate Change & Digital Technologies into Economic Assessments
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**46.** The RBI has released its Annual Report for 2020-21. The balance sheet size of RBI increased by 6.99% (Rs 3.73 lakh Cr) for the year ended 31 March 2021, mainly reflecting its liquidity and foreign exchange operations. Due to this transition, the accounting year 2020-21 was of 9 months only, i.e., July 2020 - March 2021. Net income for the 9 months stood at Rs 99,126 Cr. The RBI saw a 69% jump in earnings from Foreign Exchange Transaction. Bank Frauds of more than Rs 1 lakh has been decreased by 25% in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The balance sheet size of RBI increased by – 6.99% (Rs 3.73 lakh Cr) for 2020-21
- Net income for the 9 months stood at – Rs 99,126 Cr
- Earnings from Foreign Exchange Transaction increased by – 69%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**47.** On May 27, Under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 Cr on HDFC Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliances with regard to its auto loan portfolio. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 10 Cr on “HDFC Bank” – after finding irregularities with bank’s auto loan portfolio
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

**48.** On May 27, UCO Bank has allotted over 203 Cr preferential shares to the Government of India at an issue price of Rs 12.76 per share in lieu of Rs 2,600 Cr capital infusion for 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UCO Bank – allotted over 203 Cr preferential shares to the Government of India – for Rs 2,600 Cr capital infusion
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Atul Kumar Goel

**49.** On May 28, Canara Bank has launched 3 loan schemes as part of the fight against the pandemic under which it will offer healthcare credit, business and personal loan to individuals. The Canara Chikitsa healthcare credit facility will offer loans from over Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 Cr to registered hospitals, nursing homes, medical practitioners, diagnostic centres, pathology labs and all other units engaged in the servicing healthcare infrastructure. The Canara Jeevanrekha healthcare business loan will offer loan up to Rs 2 Cr. While, Canara Suraksha personal loan scheme will offer loan from Rs 25,000 - Rs 5 lakh as immediate financial assistance to customers for COVID-19 treatment. Canara Chikitsa and Canara Jeevanrekha loan schemes will be valid till March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Canara Bank – launched 3 loan schemes as part of the fight against the pandemic
- Canara Chikitsa healthcare credit facility: loans from over Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 Cr
- Canara Jeevanrekha healthcare business loan: loans up to Rs 2 Cr
- Canara Suraksha personal loan scheme: loan from Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can” | Canara Bank + Syndicate bank = amalgamation in 2020

**50.** On May 30, As per the announcements made at a joint press conference by Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) and State Bank of India (SBI), individuals including salaried, non-salaried and pensioners can avail Unsecured Personal Loans from ₹25,000 to ₹5 lakh to meet COVID-19 treatment. The repayment tenure is 5 years and SBI would charge interest of 8.5% per annum. Other banks are free to decide their interest rate. The PSBs have also offered to provide up-to ₹2 Cr as Healthcare Business Loan to existing hospitals and nursing homes. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IBA & SBI – made announcements about Unsecured Personal Loans – to salaried, non-salaried & pensioners
- PSBs can lend loans between – Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh | Tenure – 5 years | Interest charged by SBI – 8.5% / annum
- PSBs – to provide up-to ₹2 Cr as Healthcare Business Loan
- HQs of IBA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Rajkiran Rai G | Established in – 1946
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**51.** On May 31, The RBI has announced that the limits for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) investment during the current fiscal in Government Securities (G-secs) and State Development Loans (SDLs) will remain unchanged at 6% and 2% respectively. The allocation of incremental changes in the G-sec limit over the two sub-categories – ‘General’ & ‘Long-term’ will be retained at 50:50 for FY 2021-22. The FPI investment limit in the debt instruments for October 2021 - March 2022 period is Rs 10,75,637 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- FPI investment in G-secs & SDLs will remain unchanged – at 6% & 2% respectively
- G-sec limit under sub-categories ‘General’ & ‘Long-term’ = 50:50 (for FY22)
- FPI investment limit in the debt instruments for Oct 2021 to Mar 2022 – Rs 10,75,637 Cr



# Defence Affairs

1. On May 1, The U.S. has approved the proposed sale of 6 “P-8I” patrol aircraft and related equipment to India for the use by Indian Navy. It is a deal estimated to cost \$2.42 billion and the aircrafts are manufactures by Boeing. The Indian Navy had procured eight P-8Is in a \$2.2-billion deal in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- US – approved the proposed sale of 6 “P-8I” patrol aircraft to India for Indian Navy | Cost – \$2.42 billion
- The aircrafts are manufactures by – Boeing (Chicago, US)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

2. Indian Army has inaugurated the First Green Solar Energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA using Vanadium based battery technology in North Sikkim, at an altitude of 16000 ft. The project was completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Indian Army – inaugurated the First Green Solar Energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA – in North Sikkim
- It was manufactured in collaboration with – IIT Mumbai & by using – ‘Vanadium’ based battery technology
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

3. On May 3, The Indian Navy has launched “Operation Samudra Setu-II” to meet India’s oxygen requirement amid the surge in Covid-19 cases in the second wave. As a part of the operation, the Navy has deployed 7 Indian Naval ships (INS) for bringing Oxygen Containers to India from other countries. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – launched “Operation Samudra Setu-II” to meet India’s oxygen requirement
- Total 7 INS are deployed to bring Oxygen Containers to India

4. NATO has launched a joint military exercises “DEFENDER-Europe 21” in Albania with thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since World War II in the Western Balkans . DEFENDER-Europe is an annual large-scale U.S. Army-led, multinational exercise. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NATO – launched U.S. Army-led joint military exercises “DEFENDER-Europe 21” in Albania
- Albania – Tirana – Albanian lek | President – Ilir Meta
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member States – 30

5. Indian Armed Forces have launched operation “CO-JEET” to aid anti-COVID-19 efforts, like strengthening medical infrastructure and oxygen supply chains. Lieutenant General Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar is monitoring the steps to provide relief to Covid-19 Patients. Under the ‘CO-JEET’ plan, personnel of the three wings of the armed forces - the Army, the Indian Air Force and the Navy have been pressed into service to help restore oxygen supply chains, set up COVID beds and provide help to the civilian administration in its fight to control the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Indian Armed Forces – launched operation “CO-JEET” to aid anti-COVID-19 efforts
- Lt. Gen. Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar is monitoring the steps to provide relief to Covid-19 Patients

**6.** On May 8, The navies of India and Indonesia have carried out a military drill in the Southern Arabian sea with a focus on further improving their interoperability. The Indian Navy was represented at the “Passage Exercise” by INS Sharda. The 'Passage' exercises are regularly conducted by the Indian Navy with friendly foreign navies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INS Sharda represented India in the “Passage Exercise” – conducted between the Navies of India & Indonesia
- It was conducted – in the Southern Arabian sea
- ‘Garuda Shakti’ – a bilateral exercise between India & Indonesia
- [Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo](#)

**7.** On May 11, The Indian Army has inducted its first batch of 83 women soldiers into the Corps of Military Police (CMP). The Indian Army is likely to induct a total of 1,700 women soldier into CMP (Corps of Military Police) by 2036, in batches of 100 recruits per year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army – inducted its first batch of 83 women soldiers into the Corps of Military Police (CMP)
- Indian Army – to induct a total of 1,700 women soldier into CMP (Corps of Military Police) – by 2036
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

**8.** On May 29, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is conducting War Games from May to June 2021. The war games, called “Steadfast Defender 21”, are aimed at simulating the 30-nation military organization’s response to an attack on any one of its members. Most of the exercises will take place in Portugal, Germany and Romania. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NATO is conducting War Games called “Steadfast Defender 21” – from May to June 2021
- [HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30](#)

**9.** On May 30, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has virtually commissioned offshore patrol vessel (OPV) “Sajag” that has been built by Goa Shipyard Ltd for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). Moreover, P305 and Varprada - both support vessels working for the ONGC's offshore oilfields near Mumbai, sank due to Cyclone Tauktae which made landfall on Gujarat coast on May 17. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSA Ajit Doval – commissioned “OPV Sajag” for the Indian Coast Guard (built by Goa Shipyard Ltd)
- P305 & Varprada (support vessels working for the ONGC) – sank due to ‘Cyclone Tauktae’





- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan | Founded in – 1977
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal

**10.** On May 28, The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has approved the Department of Military Affairs' proposal to notify the "Second Positive Indigenisation List" of 108 items. The second list is expected to be implemented from December this year to December 2025 as India's target is to attain Rs 35,000 Cr worth Defence Exports by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Defence – notified the "Second Positive Indigenisation List" of 108 items
- India's target to attain Rs 35,000 Cr worth Defence Exports – by 2025



# Schemes & Initiatives

1. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched two new quick credit delivery schemes - "SHWAS" & "AROG" to help the MSMEs with required financial support. SHWAS is SIDBI assistance to the Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of COVID19 and AROG is SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID19 pandemic. These schemes envisage 100% funding upto an amount of Rs 2 Cr to a MSME unit at attractive interest rate of 4.50% to 6% p.a. within 48 hours. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SIDBI – launched "SHWAS" & "AROG" to help the MSMEs financially
- Funding upto an amount of – Rs 2 Cr | Interest rate – 4.50% to 6% p.a.
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – S. Ramann | Established in – 1990

2. In Madhya Pradesh, the state government has launched the "Corona Warriors Scheme". Family members of health workers who have passed away while on Corona duty will be given honorarium of Rs 50 lakhs by the government. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – launched the "Corona Warriors Scheme" | Honorarium of – Rs 50 lakhs
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

3. On May 3, The government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to implement "Parvat Dhara Yojna" in 10 districts to rejuvenate and recharge aquifers in an effort to conserve natural water resources. The scheme has a provision of outlay of Rs 20 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – launched "Parvat Dhara Yojna" to rejuvenate natural water resources
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

4. On May 2, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has declared 'Working Journalists' of the state as frontline Covid warriors. As many as 6,944 working journalists of Odisha have been covered under the "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana". They are getting health insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh each. Odisha has also announced an ex gratia of Rs 15 lakh for the next of kin of journalists who die of COVID-19 while performing their duty. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Odisha – declared 'Working Journalists' of the state as frontline 'Covid warriors'
- "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana" – a scheme of Odisha
- Health insurance cover of – Rs 2 lakh each | Ex gratia of – Rs 15 lakh
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



5. On May 3, The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has issued detailed operational scheme guidelines and Narendra Singh Tomar has launched an online portal for “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry” (PLISFPI). PLISFPI was announced with a total outlay of Rs 10,900 Cr for 6-years during 2021-22 to 2026-27. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoFPI – launched an online portal for “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry” (PLISFPI)
- A total outlay of PLISFPI for 6-years – Rs 10,900 Cr
- Narendra Singh Tomar – Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Morena, MP)

6. The Andhra Pradesh government will launch “CLAP” (Clean Andhra Pradesh) “Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam” programme on July 8, marking the birth anniversary of former chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. Under YSR Jala Kala, two lakh borewells will be dug and 1.5 lakh pumpsets will be distributed, benefitting three lakh small and marginal farmers in the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – will launch “CLAP” (Clean Andhra Pradesh) “Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam” programme
- “Jala Kala” scheme – Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

7. On May 5, In Madhya Pradesh, Rs 379 Cr have been transferred into the accounts of 16 thousand 844 beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Jan-Kalyan Sambal scheme. Meanwhile, “Free Swastha Aahar Yojana” (Healthy Food Scheme) for the corona patients of Bhopal is also being launched. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Mukhyamantri Jan-Kalyan Sambal scheme” & “Free Swastha Aahar Yojana” – Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

8. On May 6, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced the “Mukhya Mantri Covid Upchar Yojana” (Chief Minister’s Covid Treatment Programme) for free treatment to all those from economically weaker sections in the state. The state government will give Rs 5000 as diagnostic advanced to every person who is receiving treatment under the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – announced the “Mukhya Mantri Covid Upchar Yojana”
- Rs 5000 – to be given as diagnostic advanced to every person who is receiving treatment
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**9.** On May 12, In Assam, “Aahaar” - a free meal distribution initiative has been launched with the motto of “Fighting Hunger - Feeding Future”. This initiative is being taken up by an NGO, “Care U 365” with the aim to provide healthy meals to roadside dwellers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Aahaar” - a free meal distribution initiative – launched in Assam | Motto– “Fighting Hunger - Feeding Future”
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**10.** On May 13, PM Narendra Modi has released the 8<sup>th</sup> installment of over Rs 20,000 Cr to more than 9.5 Cr farmer beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, the government is providing Rs 6,000 in three equal installments to 14 Cr farmers annually. West Bengal has joined the scheme with more than 7 lakh farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – released the 8<sup>th</sup> installment of over Rs 20,000 Cr under “PM-KISAN” scheme
- Under the PM-KISAN scheme: Govt provides Rs 6,000 in 3 equal installments to 14 Cr farmers annually
- Farmers in West Bengal – joined “PM-KISAN” Scheme for the 1<sup>st</sup> time
- PM-KISAN scheme was launched in – 2019

**11.** On May 12, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched a scheme called “Aashvaasan” to provide financial and medical assistance to its officials and staff members affected by the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBIC – launched a scheme called “Aashvaasan” to provide financial and medical assistance to its staff members
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

**12.** On May 13, The Chhattisgarh government has decided to launch the “Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Yojna” to bear education expenses of the children who have lost parents to COVID-19. Under the scheme, a stipend of ₹500 per month will be paid to such children from Classes 1 to 8 and ₹1,000 per month from Classes 9 to 12. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh – to launch the “Mahtari Dular Yojna” to fund education of Covid orphaned children
- Stipend: ₹500/m – from Classes 1 to 8 | ₹1,000 – from Classes 9 to 12
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**13.** 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

**14.** On May 23, The Uttarakhand government has launched the “Chief Minister Vatsalya Yojana” to take care of those children, who lost their parents or the sole earning member of the family to Covid-19 infection. The government will provide education and training to these children till they attain the age of 21 years. According to the provisions of the scheme, an amount Rs 3,000 per month would be given to them. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – launched the “CM Vatsalya Yojana” to give Rs 3000/m to Covid Orphan Children (till 21)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**15.** On May 25, West Bengal government has recently approved 3 Welfare projects or schemes. The State Cabinet has approved the Student Credit Card scheme, Lakshmi Bhandar scheme and the Duare Ration (ration at doorstep) scheme. Under the ‘Khadya Sathi’ scheme, 1.5 Cr families will get free doorstep delivery of monthly ration. Under Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, female heads of general category families will be provided with Rs 500 monthly while SC/ST families will get Rs 1,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- West Bengal – approved 3 schemes: Student Credit Card, Lakshmi Bhandar & Duare Ration
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**16.** On May 24, TRIFED has partnered with NITI Aayog to implement the “Van Dhan Yojana” in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts of India identified by NITI Aayog. An additional 9900 VDVks are proposed to be established. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TRIFED + NITI Aayog – to implement the “Van Dhan Yojana” in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Launched in – 1987
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**17.** On May 23, The Madhya Pradesh government has launched “Ankur Scheme” under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon. People who take the initiative to plant saplings will be given the Pranvayu Award for their participation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – launched “Ankur Scheme” – to give ‘Pranvayu Award’ to people for planting trees
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**18.** On May 24, Maharashtra government has launched the “Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance” scheme to meet the state’s oxygen needs. Special incentives will be given to oxygen producing industries under this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – launched the “Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance” scheme
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



**19.** On May 24, Jammu & Kashmir has launched a “Special Assistance Scheme for Covid Mortalities” (SASCM) for financial assistance to families, who lost their only bread earner to the Coronavirus pandemic. Under the SASCM scheme, cash assistance of Rs 1000 per month shall be provided to spouse. Besides, the SASCM scheme provides for a scholarship of Rs 20,000 per annum for school-going students and Rs 40,000 per annum for college-going students. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J & K – launched a “Special Assistance Scheme for Covid Mortalities” (SASCM)
- Rs 1000 / month to spouse | Rs 20,000 / annum for school students | Rs 40,000 / annum for college students
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**20.** On May 27, Kerala will make the guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of “Smart Kitchen” scheme by 10 July. It aims to account and reduce the workload of women’s domestic labour. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala – to launch “Smart Kitchen” scheme by 10 July
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**21.** On May 28, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Cr students (118 Million Students) through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to all eligible children under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme. Indian government & states share the cost of the scheme in the ratio of 60:40 respectively. The MDM scheme is centrally sponsored scheme and was launched in 1995. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Pokhriyal – approved a proposal of monetary assistance to 11.8 Cr students under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme
- Mid-Day-Meal Scheme – a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 1995 | Gov : State = 60:40

**22.** On May 29, Ministry of Education has launched the “Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors” (YUVA) scheme, a mentorship programme to train young authors. The scheme is aimed at training 75 aspiring writers below 30 years. A consolidated scholarship of Rs 50,000 per month for a period of 6 months per author will be paid under the mentorship scheme. YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Education – launched the “YUVA” scheme (Young, Upcoming & Versatile Authors)
- 75 aspiring writers will be selected below 30 years
- Scholarship of Rs 50,000 per month for a period of 6 months per author will be paid

**23.** On May 28, Punjab Social Minister Aruna Chaudhary has launched the women-empowerment oriented “Udaan Scheme” throughout the state on the occasion of International Menstrual Hygiene Day. Under the scheme, sanitary pads will be distributed free of cost to women and girls in need every month within Punjab. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab – launched the women-empowerment oriented “Udaan Scheme” – to distribute free sanitary pads
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**24.** On May 30, The Ministry of Finance has further expanded the scope of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) amid the economic disruption caused by the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the ECLGS 4.0, 100% guarantee cover will be extended to loans of up to Rs 2 Cr. The interest rate has been capped at 7.5% for the same. Furthermore, the validity of ECLGS extended for another 3 months till September, 30 or till guarantee for an amount of Rs 3 lakh Cr is issued. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Finance – expanded the scope of the “Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme” (ECLGS)
- Under the ECLGS 4.0: 100% guarantee cover will be extended to loans of up to Rs 2 Cr
- Validity of ECLGS extended for – another 3 months (till September, 30)

**25.** On May 29, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the “Mukhyamantri Sishu Sewa Achoni Scheme” which will provide relief to children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19. Under the scheme, Covid Orphan children will be provided Rs 3,500 financial aid per month. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam – launched the “Mukhyamantri Sishu Sewa Achoni Scheme” – for Covid Orphan children
- Rs 3,500 financial aid per month – to Covid Orphan children
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**26.** On May 30, The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a welfare scheme called “Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana” for children who have either lost both of their parents to COVID-19 or the earning parent. As part of the scheme, the government will provide a monthly financial assistance of Rs 4,000 to a child’s guardian or caretaker until he or she attains adulthood. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a welfare scheme called “Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana” – for Covid Orphan children
- Rs 4,000 – to child’s guardian or caretaker
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**27.** On May 29, The government has announced a special “PM-CARES for Children” scheme for all those orphaned due to COVID-19, which will include a corpus of ₹10 lakh for each child. When a child turns 18, he or she will draw a monthly stipend from the corpus of ₹10 lakh in order to meet expenses for personal needs and higher education. On reaching 23, the child will get the entire ₹10 lakh. Besides, Children between 11-18 years will be given admission in any Central Government residential school. All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under “AB PM-JAY” with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakhs. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Under a special “PM-CARES for Children” scheme – ₹10 lakh for each child when they turn 23
- Children between 11-18 years – to be given admission in any Central Government residential school
- All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under “AB PM-JAY” | Health Insurance Cover – Rs 5 lakhs





# Sports & Games

1. Former Sri Lanka Seamer and Coach Nuwan Zoysa was banned by the ICC from all forms of Cricket for 6 years after being found guilty of trying to fix matches and failing to disclose corrupt approaches from a suspected Indian bookie. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Nuwan Zoysa (Sri Lanka) – banned from Cricket by the ICC for 6 years
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

2. On May 1, Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak is set to compete at the Tokyo Olympics after qualifying through the continental quota. The 26-year-old from West Bengal is the second reserve behind Sri Lanka's Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh for the Asian quota and the only Indian to qualify in Gymnastic for 2020 Tokyo Olympics. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Pranati Nayak (Gymnastic) – the only Indian to qualify in Gymnastic for “2020 Tokyo Olympics”
- Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh (Sri Lanka) – Gymnastic

3. On May 3, Sri Lanka all-rounder and former captain Thisara Perera has announced his retirement from International Cricket with immediate effect. The 32-year-old has represented Sri Lanka in 6 Tests, 166 ODIs and 84 T20s. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Thisara Perera (Sri Lanka) – retirement from International Cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

4. On May 3, Lewis Hamilton has won the “Portuguese Grand Prix 2021” which is 97<sup>th</sup> victory of his career. While, Australia’s Jack Miller has won the “Spanish Grand Prix 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton (UK - Mercedes) – won the “Portuguese Grand Prix 2021” (97<sup>th</sup> victory)
- Jack Miller (Australia - Ducati) – won the “MotoGP Spanish Grand Prix 2021”

5. Mark Selby has beaten Shaun Murphy to win 4<sup>th</sup> World Snooker Championship held in Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Mark Selby (UK - Snooker) – won 4<sup>th</sup> World Snooker Championship



**6.** On May 4, With Covid-19 pandemic spreading across India, All India Chess Federation (AICF) has launched the “Checkmate Covid” programme in order to assist the affected chess players. According to AICF, a sum of Rs 60 lakh has been raised till date under the “Checkmate Covid” initiative. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AICF – launched the “Checkmate Covid” programme
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan

**7.** On May 6, Barbora Strycova, a former top-ranked doubles player and Wimbledon singles semifinalist, has announced her retirement. Strycova won two WTA singles titles and 31 in doubles. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Barbora Strycova (Czech Republic/Czechia) – retirement from Tennis
- Czech Republic/Czechia – Prague – Koruna | President – Milos Zeman

**8.** On May 8, Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton has scripted a world record as he became the first Formula One driver to seal 100 pole positions. He took the pole at the Spanish Grand Prix. Michael Schumacher is second on the list. Hamilton's first pole came in his debut season in F1 in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lewis Hamilton (UK - Mercedes) – made history with 100<sup>th</sup> pole at “F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2021”
- Lewis Hamilton – became the first Formula One (F1) driver to seal 100 pole positions

**9.** On May 8, Belarus’ Aryna Sabalenka has stunned World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty to win the “Madrid Open” for the first time. This was Sabalenka’s 10<sup>th</sup> career title but her first on red clay. While, Germany’s Alexander Zverev has defeated Matteo Berrettini of Italy to win the Men’s Singles Title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) – won women’s single title of the “Madrid Open” (beating Ashleigh Barty)
- Alexander Zverev (Germany) – won men’s single title of the “Madrid Open” (beating Matteo Berrettini)
- Belarus – Minsk – Ruble | PM – Siarhiej Rumas

**10.** On May 7, Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh have qualified for the “Tokyo Olympics 2021” in men’s lightweight double sculls event after finishing second in the final race of the Asia/Oceania Continental Qualifying Regatta in Tokyo. Arjun Lal and Arvind will be the only Indian rowers in Tokyo Games which open on July 23. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Lal Jat & Arvind Singh (Indian Rowers) – qualified for the “Tokyo Olympics 2021”



**11.** On May 11, The BCCI has announced a strong 20-man squad along with 4 standby players, who will fly to England for the World Test Championship finale. Arzan Nagwaswalla was also included in it. He was Gujarat's leading wicket-taker during the Ranji Trophy 2019-20 season. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BCCI announced a strong 20-man squad for the World Test Championship finale – in England, UK
- Arzan Nagwaswalla ([Gujarat](#)) – Cricketer
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | President – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah

**12.** On May 13, Roman Khassanov, a tennis player who represented Kazakhstan in the Davis Cup has been banned by the International Tennis Integrity Agency for 10 years after admitting a string of corruption charges. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Roman Khassanov ([Kazakhstan](#)) – a Tennis Player – banned for 10 years by International Tennis Integrity Agency
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- HQs of Tennis Integrity Unit – London, UK | CEO – Jonny Gray

**13.** On May 13, Manchester City football club has won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Premier League title in four seasons by defeating Manchester United. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manchester City FC – won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Premier League Championship
- CEO of Manchester City FC – Ferran Soriano

**14.** On May 13, World Rugby has confirmed the dates for next year's Women's Rugby World Cup to be held in New Zealand, with the tournament to run from 8<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The 12-team tournament which was due to be held this year in Auckland and Whangarei was postponed earlier this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- New Zealand – to host the 2022 Women's Rugby World Cup – from 8<sup>th</sup> Oct to 12<sup>th</sup> Nov
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern

**15.** On May 13, Shafali Verma is set to make her Women's Big Bash League debut with two-time champions Sydney Sixers later this year. The 17-year-old is expected to be joined by left-arm spinner Radha Yadav. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shafali Verma ([Indian Cricketer](#)) – is set to make her Women's Big Bash League debut
- Radha Yadav – [Indian Cricketer](#)

**16.** The dates of the 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships in Belgrade, Serbia have been confirmed. The tournament will be held from 26 October - 6 November 2021. The previous edition of the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships was hosted by Ekaterinburg, Russia in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships – to be held in Belgrade, Serbia (from 26 Oct to 6 Nov, 2021)
- [Serbia – Belgrade – Serbian Dinar | President – Aleksandar Vucic](#)

**17.** The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has entered into a tie-up with an Indian start-up company, Stupa Sports Analytics to provide Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled real-time match and practice solutions to leading players in all its 226 member associations. This collaboration also helps in strengthening the performance of ITTF's "With The Future in Mind" scholarship holders for the upcoming Olympic and Youth Olympic Games. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ITTF + Stupa Sports Analytics = to provide AI-enabled real-time match analysis
- [HQs of ITTF – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Weikert | Founded in – 1926](#)

**18.** On May 14, England and Nottinghamshire fast bowler Harry Frederick Gurney has announced retirement from all formats of Cricket. The left-arm bowler represented England in 10 ODIs and two T20Is. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Harry Gurney ([England](#)) – retirement from all formats of Cricket

**19.** On May 14, Rafael Nadal has beaten Novak Djokovic (Serbia) to win his 10th Men's Singles title of the Italian Open, also known as Rome Masters played in a Clay Court. In the Women's Category, Iga Swiatek has defeated Karolina Pliskova from Czech Republic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – won his 10th Men's Singles title of the Italian Open
- Iga Swiatek ([Poland - Tennis](#)) – won the Women's Singles title of the Italian Open

**20.** On May 16, Arjan Singh Bhullar has become the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> round to win the heavyweight title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjan Singh Bhullar – became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian origin fighter to win a "MMA World Champion" title
- Arjan Singh Bhullar ([Indo-Canadian](#)) – a Mixed Martial Artist

**21.** 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 11<sup>th</sup> position. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

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

**22.** 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)

**23.** 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

**24.** On May 20, On the eve of the 71<sup>st</sup> FIFA Congress, the FIFA Council approved key dates for the international match calendars. The FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30, 2022. The FIFA Council also approved the tournament dates for the FIFA Women’s World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand 2023 from July 20 to August 20, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup 2022 – to be held in India (from Oct 11 to 30, 2022)
- FIFA Women’s World Cup 2023 – to be held in Australia & New Zealand
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino | Founded – 1904

**25.** New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling has announced retirement from International Cricket. Watling, 35, has played 73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20Is for the BlackCaps. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BJ Watling (New Zealand) – retirement from International Cricket
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern

**26.** On May 21, According to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), the 2021 edition of the “Asia Cup T20 Tournament” has been postponed in 2023 due to COVID-19 pandemic. There has been no Asia Cup since 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Asia Cup T20 Tournament 2021” – postponed to 2023 | Venue – Sri Lanka
- HQs of ACC – Colombo, Sri Lanka | New President – Jay Shah
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**27.** On May 15, Richard Bland has won British Masters 2021 Golf tournament for first Tour title at 478<sup>th</sup> attempt. Richard Bland defeated Guido Migliozi to win his first European Tour title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Richard Bland (UK - Golf) – won British Masters 2021 Golf tournament

**28.** On May 21, Ireland fast bowler Boyd Rankin has announced retirement from International and Inter-Provincial Cricket with immediate effect. He became Ireland's first wicket-taker in Test cricket in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Boyd Rankin (Ireland) – retirement from International and Inter-Provincial Cricket
- Ireland – Dublin – Euro | PM – Micheal Martin

**29.** On May 22, The 17-year-old American teenager Coco Gauff has beaten Wang Qiang at the “Emilia-Romagna Open” in her first clay-court final to win her career's second singles title. She is the youngest player ranked in the top 100 by the Women's Tennis Association. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Coco Gauff (USA - Tennis) – won the women’s singles title at “Emilia-Romagna Open”

**30.** On May 22, Casper Ruud has claimed his second career title on the ATP Tour after beating Denis Shapovalov in the final of the Clay Court at the Geneva Open. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Casper Ruud (Norway) – won the Men’s Singles title at “Geneva Open 2021” tennis tournament
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg

**31.** On May 23, Red Bull driver Max Verstappen has won the “Monaco Grand Prix” for the first time to take the Formula One championship lead from Lewis Hamilton. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> victory of his career. While, Jack Miller has won the “2021 French MotoGP” beating Marc Marquez. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Max Verstappen – won the “Monaco Grand Prix” for the first time (12<sup>th</sup> victory of his career)
- Max Verstappen (Netherlands) – Red Bull team
- Jack Miller (Australia) – won the “2021 French MotoGP” | Team – Ducati

**32.** On May 23, Atletico Madrid FC has won the 2020-21 “La Liga” title with a 2-1 win over Real Valladolid FC. This is only the second time in 17 years that a team other than Barcelona or Real Madrid won the title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Atletico Madrid FC ([Madrid, Spain](#)) – won the 2020-21 “La Liga” title (beating - Real Valladolid FC)
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

**33.** On May 23, Football’s world governing body FIFA is planning to host the men’s and women’s World Cups in every 2 years instead of its current 4-year cycle. FIFA has increased the numbers of teams at World Cup, with 48 teams instead of 32 at the men's event from 2026 and the women with 32 teams from 2023, up from 24. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FIFA is planning to host the men’s & women’s World Cups in every 2 years
- FIFA increased the numbers of teams at World Cup: 48 teams for men & 32 teams for women
- [HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino | Founded – 1904](#)

**34.** Indian para shuttlers Palak Kohli and Parul Parmar have qualified for doubles in the Tokyo Paralympics 2021. Their ranking is world No. 6 while Palak ranks No. 11 in the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Palak Kohli & Parul Parmar ([Indian Para Badminton](#)) – qualified for doubles in the Tokyo Paralympics 2021

**35.** On May 24, The 50 year old, Phil Mickelson has become the oldest major winner in golf history to win the PGA Championship by two strokes for his sixth major title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Phil Mickelson ([American Golfer](#)) – become the oldest major winner to win the PGA Championship

**36.** On May 25, Sami Khedira has retired from international football at the end of Bundesliga season. He was a World Cup winner in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sami Khedira ([Germany](#)) – retirement from International Football
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

**37.** On May 24, Bayern Munich’s Robert Lewandowski has been officially crowned Europe’s Golden Shoe winner. He did so by scoring a record-breaking 41 goals in the Bundesliga en route to Bayern’s ninth consecutive league title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Robert Lewandowski ([Poland - Football](#)) – awarded with “Europe’s Golden Shoe” award
- Robert Lewandowski – associated with Bayern Munich FC
- [Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda](#)

**38.** On May 23, World No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas has won the “Lyon Open 2021” clay-court title with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Briton Cameron Norrie. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Stefanos Tsitsipas ([Greece - Tennis](#)) – won the “Lyon Open 2021” (beating - Briton Cameron Norrie)
- [Greece – Athens – Euro | Turkey – Ankara – Lira](#)

**39.** Representing Kansas State University, India’s Tejaswini Shankar has won consecutive men’s High Jump Titles in the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tejaswini Shankar ([Delhi](#)) – won men’s High Jump Title in the Big 12 Outdoor Track & Field Championships ([USA](#))
- He represents – Kansas State University

**40.** On May 28, Chelsea Football Club has defeated Manchester City 1-0 to clinch the “UEFA Champions League title 2021”. This is Chelsea's second Champions League crown and the first of Tuchel's managerial career. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chelsea FC – won the “UEFA Champions League title 2021” (defeating Manchester City)
- [HQs of UEFA – Nyon, Switzerland | President – Aleksander Ceferin](#)

**41.** On May 29, Novak Djokovic has won “Belgrade Open” by beating Slovakian Alex Molcan in the final. It was Djokovic's first triumph since he clinched his 18<sup>th</sup> major at the Australian Open in February. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Novak Djokovic ([Serbia - Tennis](#)) – won the “Belgrade Open” (by beating Alex Molcan of Slovakia)
- [Serbia – Belgrade – Serbian Dinar | President – Aleksandar Vucic](#)
- [Slovakia – Bratislava – Euro | President – Zuzana Caputova | PM – Eduard Heger](#)

**42.** On May 30, India’s Pooja Rani has won her 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold-medal at the “Asian Elite Boxing Championships” by beating Mavluda Movlonova in the women’s 75kg final in Dubai. Pooja has also qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. While, in men’s category, Sanjeet Kumar defeated the 5-time Asian Championships medallist Vassiliy Levit in the Finals to clinch the Gold medal for India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pooja Rani – won her 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold-medal in women’s 75kg at “Asian Elite Boxing Championships” – in Dubai, UAE
- Sanjeet Kumar – won the Gold-medal in men’s 91kg at “Asian Elite Boxing Championships” – in Dubai, UAE
- Pooja Rani ([Haryana](#)) – Indian boxer | Sanjeet Kumar ([Haryana](#)) – Indian boxer



# Important Days & Dates

1. Maharashtra has marked the 61<sup>st</sup> foundation day on 1 May, 2021. Every year, 1 May is celebrated as Maharashtra Day along with Gujarat Day as both states were formed on this date. In the year 1960, the state of Bombay was divided into two new states which were Maharashtra and Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 1 – 61<sup>st</sup> foundation day of Maharashtra & Gujarat
- The state of Bombay was divided into 2 new states: Maharashtra & Gujarat – in 1960

2. May 1 is the “International Day of Workers” or “International Labour Day” dedicated to workers and labourers across the world. The day is popularly known as “May Day” and it was first celebrated on May 1, 1890. It was declared for the workers in Paris to dedicate every year on May 1 as the “Workers Day of International Unity and Solidarity”. In India, Labour’s Day was first celebrated in 1923 in Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 1 – “International Day of Workers” or “International Labour Day” or “May Day”
- The day was first celebrated in – 1890 (in India – in 1923)

3. On May 2, “World Tuna Day” was observed to promote the conservation and sustainable stock management of this deep sea species. More than 7 million tonnes of tuna and tuna-like species are harvested yearly across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 2 – “World Tuna Day”

4. On May 2, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will organize year-long celebrations across India and abroad to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray. Satyajit Ray (May 2, 1921-April 23, 1992) was a renowned filmmaker, writer, illustrator, graphic designer and music composer. In recognition of his legacy, “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema” has been instituted from this year to be given at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) every year. The award consists of a cash prize of ₹10 lakh. The Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata will be unveiling a statue of Satyajit Ray on its campus. The government of India had honoured him with the “Bharat Ratna”, the highest civilian award, in 1992. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 2 – 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of legendary filmmaker ‘Satyajit Ray’ (celebrations organized by I&B Ministry)
- He was recipient of – “Bharat Ratna” in 1992 (the highest civilian award)
- “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema” has been instituted from this year
- [Location of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute \(SRFTI\) – Kolkata, WB](#) (a statue of Satyajit Ray unveiled)

5. “World Laughter Day” is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of May to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. This year the day falls on May 2. The World Laughter Day was first celebrated on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai, India. The day was arranged by Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 2 (first Sunday of May) – “World Laughter Day”
- The Day was first celebrated on May 10, 1998 – in Mumbai, MH

6. Every year “World Press Freedom Day” is celebrated on May 3 to commemorate journalists and highlight the difficulties they face while reporting truth. The United Nations General Assembly declared May 3 as World Press Freedom Day in the year 1993. This year, the theme is “Information as a Public Good”. Maria Ressa has won the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 3 – “World Press Freedom Day” – by UNGA (since 1993)
- Theme – “Information as a Public Good”
- Maria Ressa ([Philippines](#)) – won the Guillermo Cano “World Press Freedom Prize 2021”
- [HQs of UNGA – New York, USA](#) | [President – Volkan Bozkir](#) | [Member Countries – 193](#)

7. This year, May 5 was internationally observed as “World Asthma Day” by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). Every year, the day is observed on the first Tuesday of May. But for this year only, World Asthma Day was held on Wednesday, May 5. Starting in 2022, World Asthma Day will again be held on the first Tuesday in May. The first World Asthma Day was observed in 1998. Asthma or ‘wheezy chest’ is a fairly common disease. This year, the theme is “Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 5 – World Asthma Day – by GINA (since 1998)
- Theme – “Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions”

8. The International Firefighters' Day is celebrated on May 4 every year. The day is observed to honour the work and sacrifice made by firefighting experts. This Day was established following a tragic incident that took place in Australia's Linton Town on 2 December, 1998. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 4 – International Firefighters' Day

9. World Health Organisation (WHO) has observed World Hand Hygiene Day on May 5. This year, the theme of the campaign is “Achieving hand hygiene at the point of care”. While, the slogan is “Seconds save lives - clean your hands!”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 5 – World Hand Hygiene Day – by the WHO
- Theme – “Achieving hand hygiene at the point of care”



**10.** International Day of the Midwife (IDM) is annually celebrated across the globe on May 5. This year's IDM theme is "Follow the data: Invest in Midwives". The State of the World's Midwifery (SoWMy) Report 2021 was co-led by United Nations Funds on Populations (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), and International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 5 – International Day of the Midwife
- Theme – "Follow the data: Invest in Midwives"

**11.** International No Diet Day is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity. This day is celebrated on May 6 and its symbol is a light blue ribbon. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 6 – International No Diet Day

**12.** Every year, "Coal Miners Day" is observed on May 4 for the toughest professionals and the miners working in coal fields. Coal miners played a significant role in the Industrial Revolution (between 1760 and 1840). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 4 – "Coal Miners Day"

**13.** Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has celebrated its 61<sup>st</sup> Raising Day on May 7. BRO is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with a primary role of providing road connectivity in the border areas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 7 – 61<sup>st</sup> Raising Day of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded in – 1960
- Motto of BRO – "Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam"

**14.** On May 5, World Athletics Day 2021 was celebrated across the globe. The date is subject to adjustment, however, the month stays the same as May. The day was started in 1996 by the then President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Primo Nebiolo. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 5 – World Athletics Day 2021 (since 1996)
- HQs of IAAF or World Athletics – Monaco | President – Sebastian Coe

**15.** On May 5, World Portuguese Language Day is set to be celebrated in 44 countries. Proclaimed in 2019 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), this is the second year that the World Day of the Portuguese Language is celebrated. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> World Portuguese Language Day (since 2020)
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay



**16.** International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on the second Saturday of May & October. This year, it falls on May 8. Bird Day was first observed on May 4, 1894. This year, the theme is “Sing, Fly, Soar - Like a Bird!” [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 8 – International Migratory Bird Day or World Migratory Bird Day
- It is celebrated on Saturday of May & October
- Theme – “Sing, Fly, Soar - Like a Bird!”

**17.** World Thalassemia Day is observed on May 8 every year, to mark attention towards Thalassemia, a blood disorder characterized by abnormal formation of haemoglobin. In India, every year over 10,000 children are diagnosed with Thalassemia. This year, the theme is “Addressing Health Inequalities across the Global Thalassemia Community”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 8 – World Thalassemia Day
- Theme – “Addressing Health Inequalities across the Global Thalassemia Community”

**18.** World Red Cross Day is also known as Red Crescent Day is celebrated on May 8 every year. This date marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who is the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme of this year is “Together we are Unstoppable!”. The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, 1948. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 8 – World Red Cross Day or Red Crescent Day (since 1948) | Birth anniversary of – Henry Dunant
- Theme – “Together we are #Unstoppable!”

**19.** The United Nations (UN) has a two-day global observance that occurs on May 8 and 9 each year. It is known as the “Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 8 & 9 – “Time of Remembrance & Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War” – annually observed by the UN
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

**20.** National Technology Day is celebrated on May 11 every year to commemorate the achievements of scientists, researchers, engineers and all others involved in the field of science and technology. The day marks the anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran Nuclear tests. The day was first observed on May 11, 1999. This year, the theme is “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 11 – “National Technology Day” observed across India (since 1999)
- Theme – “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”



**21.** May 9 marked the 155<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Gopal Krishna Gokhale. He was an immensely wise liberal nationalist who made outstanding contributions towards social empowerment. He was born on May 9, 1866, in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra. Gokhale founded the Servants of India Society in Maharashtra's Pune on June 12, 1905. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 9 – 155<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Gopal Krishna Gokhale ([Maharashtra](#))
- The founder of Servants of India Society - in 1905

**22.** Every year, May 12 is observed as International Nurses Day along with the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. It was started in 1965 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN). This year, the theme is “Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A Vision for Future Healthcare”. According to the WHO, more than 50% of the health care workers in the world are Nurses. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 12 – International Nurses Day (since 1965)
- Theme – “Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A Vision for Future Healthcare”
- [HQs of International Council of Nurses – Geneva, Switzerland](#)

**23.** Morocco and the United Nations has marked the first-ever “International Argan Tree Day” or “International Day of Argania” on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Argan tree, a tree specific to the Kingdom of Morocco, will thus be celebrated every year on May 10, as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity and ancestral source of sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 10 – 1<sup>st</sup> ever “International Argan Tree Day” or “International Day of Argania” – by Morocco & UN
- Argan tree – a tree specific to Morocco
- [Morocco – Rabat – Dirham | PM – Saad-Eddine El Othmani](#)

**24.** International Day of Families is annually observed by the United Nations across the world on May 15. This year, the theme is “Families and New Technologies”. In 1993, the General Assembly decided that this day will be observed on May 15 every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 15 – UN's International Day of Families (since 1993)
- Theme – “Families and New Technologies”

**25.** May 16 is celebrated as the Statehood Day of Sikkim, the day when Sikkim became the 22<sup>nd</sup> state of the Indian Union in 1975. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 16 – 46<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of Sikkim (Sikkim became the 22<sup>nd</sup> state of India in 1975)
- [Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad](#)

**26.** The International Day of Light is celebrated annually on May 16. The day also marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist & engineer Theodore Maiman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 16 – International Day of Light

**27.** On the occasion of 14<sup>th</sup> World Agri-tourism Day on 16<sup>th</sup> May, the Department of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra is organizing an International Conference on Agri Tourism on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. The theme of the conference is - “Rural Women Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Agri”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 16 – 14<sup>th</sup> World Agri-Tourism Day
- Theme of the Conference – “Rural Women Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Agri”

**28.** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided May 16 to be observed as the “National Dengue Day” in India. This viral disease is caused by the dengue virus (DENV, 1–4 serotypes) and it is spread by a specific mosquito called ‘Aedes Aegypti’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 16 – “National Dengue Day” – observed in India by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- It is spread by a mosquito called ‘Aedes Aegypti’ & caused by dengue virus (DENV, 1–4 serotypes)

**29.** In 2017, the United Nations declared 16 May the “International Day of Living Together in Peace”, to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding, and solidarity across the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 16 – “International Day of Living Together in Peace” – by the UN (since 2017)

**30.** World Hypertension day is celebrated on May 17 every year. It is observed annually to raise awareness about the symptoms of hypertension. This year, the theme is “Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer”. The day was first inaugurated in 2005. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 17 – World Hypertension day (since 2005)
- Theme – “Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer”

**31.** 17 May, is the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. It’s a day to recognise that while the rights of the LGBTQI+ people have significantly advanced in recent decades, progress remains patchy and geographically uneven. This year, the theme is “Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 17 – International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia
- Theme – “Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing”



**32.** World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on May 17. WTISD is an amalgamation of World Information Society Day and World Telecommunication Society Day. The theme for this year is “Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 17 – World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
- Theme – “Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times”
- HQs of International Telecommunication Union – Geneva, Switzerland | Head – Houlin Zhao

**33.** The 6<sup>th</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW), held from 17-23 May 2021, highlights the benefits of low-speed urban streets as the heart of any community. UNGRSW mandates 30Km/hr as the nominal speed limit for cities across the world. Under this, the World Health Organisation (WHO) organizes a global road safety campaign annually. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 17-23 May – 6<sup>th</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week
- Nominal speed limit for cities across the world – 30Km/hr

**34.** “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”

**35.** “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

**36.** 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



**37.** 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”

**38.** In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly has declared May 21 to be the “World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 21 – “World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development” – by UNGA (since 2002)
- UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity – in 2001
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkır | Member Countries – 193
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Established in – 1945

**39.** The world is celebrating “International Tea Day” on 21 May. The United Nations had declared International Tea Day in 2020 to promote its health benefits due to its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 21 – International Tea Day – by the UN (2020)
- Largest tea producer in India – Assam
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

**40.** “Anti-Terrorism Day” is observed on May 21 in India every year. This year commemorates Rajiv Gandhi’s 30<sup>th</sup> death anniversary as on this day in 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 21 – “Anti-Terrorism Day” (30<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of - Rajiv Gandhi | assassinated in - 1991)

**41.** On May 20, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has virtually commemorated the 12<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). On this occasion, Smt. Sitharaman released the “CCI Journal on Competition Law and Policy” and CCI’s “Competition Advocacy Booklets” translated into Bengali, Marathi and Tamil languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 20 – 12<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the CCI – commemorated Ministry of Finance & Corporate
- “CCI Journal on Competition Law and Policy” & CCI’s “Competition Advocacy Booklets” – released by N. Sitharaman
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



**42.** National Endangered Species Day is observed on the third Friday of May every year to highlight the increasing need to protect endangered species across the world. This year, this day falls on May 21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 21 – “National Endangered Species Day” (third Friday of May)

**43.** To celebrate natural diversity and spread awareness, May 22 is marked every year as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) globally. The slogan/theme for 2021 is “We’re part of the solution”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 22 – International Day for Biological Diversity
- Slogan/Theme – “We’re part of the Solution”

**44.** International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is annually observed across the globe on 23 May by the United Nations. Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic childbirth injuries. The theme for this year is “Women’s rights are human rights! End fistula now!” The goal is to end the problem of obstetric fistula by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 23 – International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
- Theme – “Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!” | Goal to end obstetric fistula – by 2030

**45.** “World Turtle Day” is observed every year on May 23 with the purpose of educating people about the things that they can do to protect the habitats of turtles and tortoises. The day was founded in the year 1990 by the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR). This year, the theme is “Turtle Rocks!” [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 23 – World Turtle Day (since 1990) | Theme – “Turtle Rocks!”

**46.** International Missing Children’s Day is an awareness event that is observed every year on 25<sup>th</sup> May to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction. Missing Children’s Day began as an observance in the USA in 1983. International Missing Children’s Day which observes the same date was launched a number of years later in 2001. The official emblem of the International Missing Children’s Day is “Forget me not flower”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 25 – International Missing Children’s Day (since 2001)
- Official emblem – “Forget me not flower”

**47.** Every year, 25<sup>th</sup> May is celebrated as the “World Thyroid Day”. The thyroid gland is a small organ that is located in the front of the neck and wrapped around the windpipe. The gland is shaped like a butterfly. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 25 – “World Thyroid Day” | Thyroid gland is shaped like a ‘Butterfly’



**48.** 'Buddha Jayanti' or 'Buddha Purnima' is the celebration of the birth of Gautama Buddha, and this year it will be observed on May 26. His birth anniversary is also known as 'Vaisakhi Buddha Purnima' or 'Vesak'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 26 – 'Buddha Jayanti' or 'Buddha Purnima' (birth anniversary of Gautama Buddha)

**49.** "International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories" was recently observed from May 25 to 31. From 1960 to 2002, 54 Territories attained self-government. The week was first observed in 2000. At present, there are 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 25 to 31 – UN's "International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories" (since 2000)

**50.** On May 28, World Hunger Day is annually observed across the globe since 2011. It has been estimated that almost 800 million people in the world don't have enough food to eat. This year, the theme is "Access Ends Hunger". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 28 – World Hunger Day (since 2011)
- Theme – "Access Ends Hunger"

**51.** The "International Day of Action for Women's Health" is celebrated every year on May 28. This year, the theme is "Women's Health Matters: Ending the Inequality Pandemic and Ensuring SRHR remains essential!". The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and individual agency, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 28 – International Day of Action for Women's Health
- Theme – "Women's Health Matters: Ending the Inequality Pandemic and Ensuring SRHR remains essential!"

**52.** May 28 is recognised as "Menstrual Hygiene Day". Many of you probably do not know that 15 - 40% of girls in the developing world do not attend school during their periods due to lack of access to sanitary napkins, toilets, sanitation and adequate privacy. This year, the theme is "Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 28 – Menstrual Hygiene Day
- Theme – "Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health"



**53.** The 122<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of the national poet of Bangladesh Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated in Bangladesh on May 25. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the High Commission of India in Dhaka organised an online tribute to the great poet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 25 – 122<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary Kazi Nazrul Islam (National Poet of Bangladesh)
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

**54.** “International Everest Day” is annually observed on May 29, to mark the date mountaineers Tenzing Norgay Sherpa (Nepal) and Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) scaled the world's highest peak in 1953. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 29 – “International Everest Day”
- 1<sup>st</sup> Summit of Mount Everest in 1953 – by Sir Edmund Hillary ([New Zealand](#)) & Tenzing Norgay Sherpa ([Nepal](#))

**55.** On May 29, A webinar was hosted by the Tamil Nadu Gastroenterologist Trust and World Gastroenterology Organisation to mark the “World Digestive Health Day”. This year, the theme is “Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic”. The day was launched in 2004 to mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the World Gastroenterology Organisation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 29 – World Digestive Health Day (since 2004)
- Theme – “Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic”
- [HQs of World Gastroenterology Organisation – Wisconsin, United States](#)

**56.** The United Nations has designated 29 May as the “International Day of UN Peacekeepers”. The day aims to celebrate the contributions of civilian and uniformed personnel who perform the task of peacekeeping for the organisation. This year, the theme is “The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security”. Three Indian peacekeepers - Corporal Yuvraj Singh, Ivan Michael Picardo and Mulchand Yadav were posthumously honoured with the prestigious UN medal called “Dag Hammarskjold Medal” for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 29 – International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- Theme – “The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security”
- Corporal Yuvraj Singh, Ivan Michael Picardo & Mulchand Yadav ([Indians](#)) – received “Dag Hammarskjold Medal”

**57.** “Amnesty International Day” was recently observed on May 28. Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961, following the publication of the article “The Forgotten Prisoners”. The organisation was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its campaign against torture and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 28 – “Amnesty International Day”
- [HQs of Amnesty International – London, UK | Secretary-General – Kumi Naidoo | Founded in – 1961](#)

**58.** On May 28, The Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday in the month of March every year. However, in India another Commonwealth Day is also celebrated on May 24. Also known as the Empire Day, the Commonwealth Day commemorates the formation of the British Empire in India and other colonies of Britain. The first Empire Day was celebrated on May 24, 1902. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 24 – “Commonwealth Day” in India (also known as ‘Empire Day’ – since 1902)

**59.** On May 31, the WHO has launched a global campaign under the slogan “Commit to Quit” to celebrate the World No Tobacco Day 2021. World No Tobacco Day was created by the Member States of WHO in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 31 – “World No Tobacco Day” (since 1987)
- Slogan/Theme – “Commit to Quit”

**60.** Millions of e-cigarette users or vapers across the globe are celebrating “World Vape Day” on 30 May 2020. The main components of the liquid used in e-cigarettes are propylene glycol and glycerin, accounting for 95% of the e-liquid. The remaining components are water, nicotine, and flavorings. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 30 – “World Vape Day”
- e-cigarettes = 95% Propylene Glycol & Glycerin + Water, Nicotine & Flavorings

**61.** On May 28, The National AI Portal has celebrated its first anniversary on May 28 in a virtual event attended by nearly 400 participants and dignitaries. The National AI Portal is a joint initiative by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM. The portal was launched by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 28 – the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of ‘National AI Portal’
- ‘National AI Portal’ is a joint initiative by = MeitY + NeGD + NASSCOM

**62.** On May 30, Goa has observed its Statehood Day. Goa became the 25<sup>th</sup> state of India in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 30 – Statehood Day of Goa
- Goa became the 25<sup>th</sup> state of India – in 1987
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**63.** On May 28, “World Blood Cancer Day” is annually observed across the globe. As per the GLOBOCAN 2020 report, every year, over one lakh people are being diagnosed in India with a form of blood cancer such as lymphoma, leukemia and multiple myeloma. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 28 – “World Blood Cancer Day”



# Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. On May 4, PM Narendra Modi is set to hold a Virtual Summit with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson, in which the leaders will launch the “Comprehensive Roadmap 2030”, to further enhance bilateral ties. India and the UK enjoy a Strategic Partnership since 2004. UK finalised new deals worth GBP 1 Billion to create 6,500 jobs. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an MoU with Rolls-Royce to establish packaging, installation, marketing and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 Marine engines in India. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Narendra Modi (India) + Boris Johnson (UK) = Virtual Summit to launch the “Comprehensive Roadmap 2030”
- HAL + Rolls-Royce – for supporting Rolls-Royce MT30 marine engines in India
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt

2. On May 4, Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has participated in “G20 Tourism Ministers’ Meeting” held in Italy. The Minister congratulated Mr Massimo Garavaglia, Minister of Tourism, and Government of Italy for holding G20 Tourism Ministers’ Meeting. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Prahlad Singh Patel – participated in “G20 Tourism Ministers’ Meeting” held in Italy
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

3. On May 5, India’s External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, France’s Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian and Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne, met in London for the first India-France-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue on 4 May 2021, on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue – held in London, UK
- Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the Dialogue
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

4. On May 8, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has participated in the India-EU Leaders’ Meeting. This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format. Currently, Portugal holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Union Minister Piyush Goyal had addressed the closing session of the “CII: EU-India Business Roundtable”. Besides, European Investment Bank (EIB) has committed the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of 150 Million Euros for the Pune Metro Rail Project. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – participated in the India-EU Leaders’ Meeting – held in Portugal
- Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Portugal
- Piyush Goyal – addressed the closing session of the “CII: EU-India Business Roundtable”
- European Investment Bank – to provide 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of 150 Million Euros for the Pune Metro Rail Project

- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27
- HQs of EIB – Kirchberg, Luxembourg | President – Werner Hoyer

**5.** On May 8, Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has virtually participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) - the global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region. The first two meetings, ASM1 and ASM2 were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018, respectively. ASM3, jointly organised by Iceland and Japan, is the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia. The theme for this year is “Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) – jointly organised by Iceland & Japan
- Theme of ASM3 – “Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic”
- ASM1 – held in USA (2016) | ASM2 – held in Germany (2018)

**6.** On May 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided not to attend a summit of the G7 grouping in view of the prevailing coronavirus situation. The summit of the Group of Seven (G7) nations is scheduled to take place in Cornwall from June 11-13. As the chair of G7, the UK has invited India, Australia, South Korea, South Africa to the summit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi decided not to attend “G7 Summit” – to be chaired by the UK
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975

**7.** Apurva Chandra (Secretary of Labour and Employment) has chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting virtually held on 11-12 May in Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. India has assumed BRICS Presidency this year. The prime agenda for the discussions were Promoting Social Security Agreements (SSA) amongst BRICS Nations, Formalization of labour markets, Participation of women in labour force and Gig and platform workers - Role in labour market. Apart from BRICS countries, representatives from International Labour Organization (ILO) were also present in the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Apurva Chandra – chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting (hosted by India)
- BRICS countries + Representatives from ILO = were present in the meeting
- Prime agenda for the discussions:
  - Promoting Social Security Agreements (SSA) amongst BRICS Nations
  - Formalization of labour markets
  - Participation of women in labour force
  - Role of Gig & platform workers in labour market
- Theme of BRICS 2021 – “BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation & Consensus”
- BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India



**8.** On May 11, The 4<sup>th</sup> India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was held virtually in New Delhi. Secretary of Economic Affairs Ajay Seth has led the Indian delegation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> India-Swiss Financial Dialogue held in New Delhi – Indian delegation led by Ajay Seth (Secretary of EA)
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin

**9.** On May 13, The Department of Economic Affairs and the New Development Bank (NDB) have jointly organised a virtual seminar on “Social Infrastructure Financing and use of Digital Technologies” as part of the Economic and Financial Cooperation Agenda under the Indian BRICS Chairmanship, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dept. of EA + NDB = organised a virtual seminar on “Social Infrastructure Financing and use of Digital Technologies”
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Prado Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)

**10.** 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

**11.** 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

**12.** On May 20, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has chaired the 33<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Health Ministers of Commonwealth Countries. The theme of the Meet is “Commonwealth Response to COVID-19: Ensuring Equitable Access to Vaccines and Building Resilience for Health Systems and Emergencies”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – chaired the 33<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Health Ministers of Commonwealth Countries
- Theme – “Commonwealth Response to COVID-19: Ensuring Equitable Access to Vaccines and Building Resilience for Health Systems and Emergencies”



**13.** Under the science, technology and innovation track of the BRICS 2021 calendar, India has hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) virtually from May 19 and 20. From the Indian side, the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, and the Department of Science & Technology (DST) coordinated the meeting. India assumed the BRICS Presidency from January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG)
- Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune + DST = coordinated the meeting
- [BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India](#)

**14.** On May 24, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and the Chairman of WHO Executive Board presented details of the 147<sup>th</sup> and 148<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Executive Board before the 74<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly. The 74<sup>th</sup> session of the WHA was held virtually from Geneva, Switzerland. The theme of the session was “Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world”. During the session, January 30 was unanimously adopted as “World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day” as proposed by the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – addressed the 74<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly & presented details of 147<sup>th</sup> & 148<sup>th</sup> sessions of EB
- 74<sup>th</sup> session of World Health Assembly – held virtually from Geneva, Switzerland
- Theme – “Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world”
- January 30 – unanimously adopted as “World NTD Day” – as proposed by the UAE
- [Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr. Harsh Vardhan \(Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi\)](#)

**15.** On May 25, The 3<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Office Consultations between India and New Zealand were held virtually. Ms. Riva Ganguly Das has led the Indian delegation while New Zealand-side was led by Mr. Mark Sinclair. The previous round of consultations took place on 5 February 2019 in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Office Consultations – held virtually between India & New Zealand
- Indian delegation was led by – Ms. Riva Ganguly Das
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)

**16.** On May 25-26, Experts deliberated on emerging issues in the various fields of Biotechnology and Biomedicine at the 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS Working Group meeting sponsored & organized by China. Indian side was led by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Varshney. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS Working Group meeting – sponsored & organized by China
- Indian delegation led by – Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Varshney
- [BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India](#)
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)



**17.** On May 30, South Africa has hosted and coordinated the 5<sup>th</sup> BRICS Working Group meeting on High-Performance Computing (HPC) and Information Communication Technologies (ICT) virtually under the Science, Technology and Innovation track. Besides, the 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS Sherpas' & Sous Sherpas' meeting was chaired by India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- South Africa – hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> BRICS Working Group meeting on High-Performance Computing (HPC)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS Sherpas' & Sous Sherpas' meeting – chaired by India
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

**18.** On May 28, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 43rd Good & Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting through video conferencing. The Council will constitute a Group of Ministers to examine the Covid cess to be levied in Sikkim on the pharmaceutical and power sectors. The Council also recommended the 'Amnesty Scheme' to reduce the late fees payable for pending returns by small & medium-sized taxpayers. COVID-19 related Supplies are fully exempted from IGST till August 31, 2021. The panel to examine GST exemptions on Covid material will be chaired by Conrad K Sangma. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – chaired the 43rd Good & Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting – on May 28
- Council constituted a GoM to examine the Covid cess to be levied in "Sikkim" on Pharmaceutical & Power sectors
- Council recommended the 'Amnesty Scheme' to reduce the late fees payable for pending returns
- COVID-19 related Supplies – fully exempted from IGST till August 31, 2021
- Panel to examine GST exemptions on Covid material to be chaired by – Conrad K. Sangma
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. Bengaluru teacher Shyamala Ganesh, the former director of the Japanese Language School, will be conferred the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays”. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest award of Japan. Nripendra Misra won the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star”. The Japanese government also announced that Indira Misra will receive the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays”. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Shyamala Ganesh – received the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays”
- Indira Misra – received the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays”
- Nripendra Misra – received the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star”

2. On May 1, Mumbai-born academician Dr. Tahera Qutbuddin, a professor of Arabic Literature, Department of NELC, University of Chicago, has been adjudged the winner of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sheikh Zayed Book Award. She won the award for her recent book “Arabic Oration: Art and Function” published in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Dr. Tahera Qutbuddin – adjudged the winner of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sheikh Zayed Book Award
- She won the award for her book – “Arabic Oration: Art and Function”

3. On May 1, ‘Jungle Cry’, a movie based on the true story of 12 underprivileged tribal boys from Odisha, has won the ‘Best Film’ (Jury) Award at 11<sup>th</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2021. ‘Jungle Cry’ has been directed by Sagar Ballary. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- ‘Jungle Cry’ – won the ‘Best Film’ (Jury) Award at 11<sup>th</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2021
- The movie is directed by – Sagar Ballary

4. On May 6, Hollywood star Tyler Perry has received “Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award” at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards Ceremony or Oscars 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Tyler Perry (US) – received “Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award” at 93<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards Ceremony (Oscars 2021)

5. On May 5, Odisha government will present “Manoj Das International Literary Award” in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das. The award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year. It will carry a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh. High school students in the state will be presented ‘Manoj-Kishore Literary Talent Award’ for their creative works carrying cash reward of Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Odisha – to present “Manoj Das International Literary Award” (for contribution to English literature)
- Odisha – to present ‘Manoj-Kishore Literary Talent Award’ to High school students
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

6. On May 5, Bruce Springsteen has won the “2021 Woody Guthrie Prize”, which is given to an artist seen as carrying on the spirit of the folk singer whose music focused on the plight of the poor and disenfranchised. The New Jersey rocker called Guthrie had died in 1967 at age 55. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bruce Springsteen ([American singer-songwriter](#)) – won the “2021 Woody Guthrie Prize”
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

7. On May 6, Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) has bagged 5 awards (Lead to Leap, APY Makers of Excellence, Game Changers, Leadership Capital and Amazing Achievers) under various campaigns held for enrolment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank – bagged 5 awards by the PFRDA
- [HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay](#)

8. On May 6, An eminent and award-winning Indian-origin immunologist, Sankar Ghosh has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences of the US in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sankar Ghosh ([Indian-origin immunologist](#)) – elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences of the US

9. On May 7, Tennis legend Rafael Nadal has won the Sportsman of the Year award at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards that were unveiled at a Digital Awards Ceremony from Sevilla, Spain. The Sportswoman of the Year award went to Naomi Osaka. The World Team of the Year award was picked by the Bayern Munich football team. The Athlete Advocate of the Year was won by Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton. Liverpool footballer Mo Salah received the Sporting Inspiration Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Billie Jean King. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Laureus World Sports Awards 2021 – unveiled at Sevilla, Spain

Award	Winner
Sportsman of the Year Award	Rafael Nadal ( <a href="#">Tennis</a> )
Sportswoman of the Year Award	Naomi Osaka ( <a href="#">Tennis</a> )
World Team of the Year Award	Bayern Munich ( <a href="#">Football</a> )
Athlete Advocate of the Year Award	Lewis Hamilton ( <a href="#">Formula One</a> )
Sporting Inspiration Award	Mohamed Salah ( <a href="#">Football</a> )
Lifetime Achievement Award	Billie Jean King ( <a href="#">Tennis</a> )

**10.** On May 6, Actor Anupam Kher won the Best Actor award at the New York City International Film Festival for the short film titled Happy Birthday. The film also bagged the Best Short Film award at the film festival.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anupam Kher – won the Best Actor award at the “New York City International Film Festival”
- Happy Birthday – won the Best Short Film award at the “New York City International Film Festival”

**11.** On May 7, Justice Gita Mittal has been bestowed with the “Arlene Pacht Global Vision Award” by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). The award is presented to a sitting or retired woman judge to recognize her long-term contribution to the IAWJ and the IAWJ’s goals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Justice Gita Mittal – bestowed with the “Arlene Pacht Global Vision Award” – by the IAWJ
- HQs of IAWJ – Washington, DC, US | President – Vanessa Ruiz | Executive Director – Shawna Wilson

**12.** On May 10, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres honoured Indian UN Peacekeeping officer Yuvraj Singh during the UN annual Memorial Service 2021. Yuvraj died in line of duty in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yuvraj Singh – honoured by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres during “UN annual Memorial Service 2021”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres



**13.** On May 10, Pakistan captain Babar Azam has been named the “ICC Men’s Player of the Month for April 2021” for his stellar performances across all formats in the recently concluded series against South Africa. In the women's category, Australia wicketkeeper-batsman Alyssa Healy was declared the ICC Women’s Player of the Month for April 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Babar Azam ([Pakistan](#)) – named the “ICC Men’s Player of the Month for April 2021”
- Alyssa Healy ([Australia](#)) – named the “ICC Women’s Player of the Month for April 2021”

**14.** As on May 10, The American singer Taylor Swift will become the first female artiste and the first non-English artiste to receive “Global Icon Award” at 2021 Brit Awards. The only previous recipients are Elton John (2014), David Bowie (2016) and Robbie Williams (2017). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Taylor Swift ([American Singer](#)) – to become the 1<sup>st</sup> female artiste & the 1<sup>st</sup> non-English artiste to receive “Global Icon Award” at 2021 Brit Awards

**15.** On May 11, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has been conferred with “Green Urja Award” by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for being the Leading Public Institution in Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IREDA – conferred with “Green Urja Award” by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das
- HQs of ICC – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – Dr. Rajeev Singh

**16.** On May 11, Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, a global nutrition expert of Indian descent has won the prestigious “2021 World Food Prize” for her groundbreaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems. She is the 1<sup>st</sup> woman of Asian heritage to receive this prize. She is a native of Trinidad and Tobago and a citizen of Denmark. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted ([Denmark](#)) – won the prestigious “World Food Prize 2021”

**17.** On May 14, Y. Nuklu Phom, an environmentalist from Nagaland’s remote Longleng district has won this year’s Whitley Awards 2021, also known as the Green Oscar, in a virtual award ceremony organised by the UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN). He has won this award for creating the ‘Biodiversity Peace Corridor’ to protect Amur Falcon. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nuklu Phom ([Longleng, Nagaland](#)) – won the “Whitley Awards 2021” (Green Oscar)
- Award for: Creating the ‘Biodiversity Peace Corridor’ to protect Amur Falcon
- HQs of Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) – UK

**18.** On May 13, According to the latest list by Fortune, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has topped the Fortune’s 2021 “World’s 50 Greatest Leaders” list. The only Indian among the top 10 names is Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jacinda Ardern ([PM of New Zealand](#)) – topped the Fortune’s 2021 “World’s 50 Greatest Leaders” list
- The only Indian among the top 10 names – Adar Poonawalla ([CEO of SII](#))

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

**Key Points:**

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

**20.** 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)

**21.** 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

**22.** 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

**23.** On May 20, The naturalist Jane Goodall has been announced as the 2021 winner of the “Templeton Prize” in recognition of her life’s work on animal intelligence and humanity. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jane Goodall (UK) – won the 2021’s “Templeton Prize”
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**24.** On May 18, Hockey India has won the prestigious “Etienne Glichitch Award” by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) as a part of its 47<sup>th</sup> FIH Congress. The award was given in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in India. Sharon Williamson of New Zealand was named as the winner of the “HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award”. The “Guust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy” went to Croatia’s Ivona Makar for an individual who has made a significant mark on the development of umpiring. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hockey India – won the prestigious “Etienne Glichitch Award” – by the FIH
- Sharon Williamson (New Zealand - Hockey) – won the “HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award”
- Ivona Makar (Croatia - Hockey) – “Guust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy”
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil



**25.** On May 20, Suresh Mukund has won the “World Choreography Awards 2020” in the best choreography category for a television reality show. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Suresh Mukund – won the “World Choreography Awards 2020”

**26.** On May 22, The Shergaon Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh was awarded the best ‘BMC’ award in India at the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the India Biodiversity Award. The India Biodiversity Awards is a joint initiative by the Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry, National Biodiversity Authority and the UNDP. Shaji N. M., a farmer from Kerala was awarded the “Conservation of Domesticated Species” award in individual category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shergaon BMC (Arunachal Pradesh) – awarded as the Best ‘BMC’ at the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the “India Biodiversity Award”
- Shaji N. M. (Kerala) – awarded the “Conservation of Domesticated Species” award in ‘Individual category’
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

**27.** On May 25, Shree Malani Foams Pvt Ltd has won the “Star Export House” award from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The certification is valid for 5 years between 2021 to 2026. With this notable development, Shree Malani Foams Pvt. Ltd. has emerged as the first and only mattress and mattress components company to be awarded this honour in the past 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shree Malani Foams Pvt Ltd – won the “Star Export House” award – from Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- The certification is valid for 5 years between – 2021 to 2026
- Location of Shree Malani Foams Pvt Ltd – Medak, Telangana | MD – Siddharth Malani

**28.** On May 24, A Bengaluru-based start-up, Breathe Applied Sciences has received the “National Award 2021” from the Technology Development Board for developing a commercial solution for conversion of carbon dioxide to chemicals and fuels. This start-up is incubated at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Breathe Applied Sciences (Bengaluru) – received “National Award 2021” from Technology Development Board
- Location of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**29.** On May 23, V. Kartikeyan Pandian, Private Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik since 2011, was conferred with the FIH (International Hockey Federation) President’s Award in recognition for his contribution to the promotion of hockey in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V. Kartikeyan Pandian (Odisha) – conferred with the “FIH President’s Award 2021”
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**30.** On May 26, Indian Economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Kumar Sen has been conferred with Spain's top "Princess of Asturias Award" in the Social Sciences category. He won the 'Nobel Prize' in Economics in 1998. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amartya Kumar Sen – conferred with "Princess of Asturias Award" in the Social Sciences category
- "Princess of Asturias Award" – Top award of Spain
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

**31.** On May 28, Emmy Award nominated choreographer Suresh Mukund, has recently become the first Indian to win the "World Choreography Award" during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual award ceremony in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Suresh Mukund – became the first Indian to win the "World Choreography Award" in 2020

**32.** On May 28, Gurugram based startup MoooFarm's Co-founders Jitesh Arora, Abhijeet Mittal and Aashna Singh secured a place in the most esteemed "2021 Forbes 30 under-30 Asia List". The most used services of the app include E-dairy Mitra, MoooFarm Saba and the Cattle Trading platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitesh Arora + Abhijeet Mittal + Aashna Singh = listed in the "2021 Forbes 30 under-30 Asia List"
- Category: Industry, Manufacturing & Energy
- [HQs of MoooFarm – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Param Singh](#)

**33.** Bharat Ratna Professor Chintamani Nages Ramachandra Rao has received "International Eni Award 2020" also called the "Energy Frontier Award" for research into Renewable Energy sources and energy storage. This is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research. The Energy Frontiers award is to be presented in October 2021 in Rome, Italy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- C. N. R. Rao – received "International Eni Award 2020" also called the "Energy Frontier Award"
- This award is considered to be the Nobel Prize in 'Energy Research' | It will be presented in Oct 2021 – in Rome, Italy

**34.** On May 25, Padma Bhushan awardee and Chairman of AIG Hospitals, Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy has won the highest honour the "Rudolf V. Schindler Award" from The American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). He is the first-ever Indian medical practitioner to get this recognition from ASGE for his work in the field of 'Endoscopy'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy – won the highest honour the "Rudolf V. Schindler Award" – from ASGE
- He is the first-ever Indian to get this recognition – in the field of 'Endoscopy'



**35.** Mexican author Valeria Luiselli has won this year's "Dublin Literary Award" for her work, "Lost Children Archive". This fictional novel also won the "Rathbones Folio Prize" in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Valeria Luiselli ([Mexican Author](#)) – won "Dublin Literary Award 2021" for "Lost Children Archive" fictional novel
- This novel – also won the "Rathbones Folio Prize" in 2020

**36.** On May 28, Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu has been announced as the winner of "ONV Literary Award". He has become the first non-Malayalee poet to win this award. Several actors, writers and women's rights activists are criticising the jury's decision to confer the award on a person facing multiple #MeToo allegations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vairamuthu ([Tamil poet](#)) – the first non-Malayalee poet to be announced as the winner of "ONV Literary Award"

**37.** On May 29, Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind have won 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. Author Nitin Rakesh is also a winner of the "Gold Stevie Award" for Tech Innovator of the Year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Rakesh ([India](#)) + Jerry Wind ([Israel](#)) = won the "International Business Book of the Year Award for 2021"
- They received award for their recently launched book – "Transformation in Times of Crisis"
- Nitin Rakesh – winner of the "Gold Stevie Award" for Tech Innovator of the Year

**38.** 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. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – awarded with "WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award" – by the WHO
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194



# Appointments & Resignations

**1.** Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (KLI) has appointed Mahesh Balasubramanian as Managing Director of the company for a period of 3 years. He has been appointed following the retirement of G Murlidhar. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Mahesh Balasubramanian – appointed as MD of Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Mahesh Balasubramanian

**2.** In a first, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has appointed a woman officer Vaishali S. Hiwase to command a Road Construction Company (RCC) tasked to provide connectivity in a high-altitude area along the India-China border. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Vaishali S. Hiwase – the 1<sup>st</sup> woman officer to command a Road Construction Company (RCC) – appointed by BRO
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary

**3.** The Biden administration in the US has announced the appointment of Daniel Smith, the Director of the Foreign Service Institute, as the new interim Charge d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi (India). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Daniel Smith – appointed as the new interim Charge d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi (India)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**4.** On May 3, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Executive Director T. Rabi Sankar has been named as the 4<sup>th</sup> Deputy Governor of the central bank. He succeeds B. P. Kanungo as the Deputy Governor, who retired on April 2. Rabi Sankar now joins Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Patra and Rajeshwar Rao as the fourth deputy governor of the central bank. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- T. Rabi Sankar – named as the 4<sup>th</sup> Deputy Governor of the RBI (by succeeding - B. P. Kanungo)
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**5.** On May 1, A 1985 batch Senior IAS officer Tripurari Sharan was named as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar, but his tenure will be for a brief period of 2 months only. Mr Sharan succeeded Arun Kumar Singh who died of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Tripurari Sharan – named as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**6.** From May 1, Vijay Goel has assumed the additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of THDC India Ltd (THDCIL). He joined the company in 1990 as a senior personnel officer (SPO) from NHPC Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vijay Goel – assumed the additional charge as the Chairman & MD of THDC India Ltd
- HQs of THDCIL – Rishikesh, Uttarakhand | Chairman & MD – Vijay Goel

**7.** The National Human Rights Commission member Justice (retired) Prafulla Chandra Pant has been appointed as the acting Chairperson of the Commission. A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prafulla Chandra Pant – appointed as the acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- HQs of NHRC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Prafulla Chandra Pant

**8.** On May 3, World Badminton champion P. V. Sindhu along with Canada's Michelle Li has been nominated as Athlete Ambassador for the International Olympic Committee's "Believe in Sport" campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P. V. Sindhu (India) + Michelle Li (Canada) = nominated as Athlete Ambassador for IOC's "Believe in Sport" campaign
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach | Established in – 1894

**9.** Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin has sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy to 68-year old Stalin. A separate division 'Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudalamaichar' meaning 'Chief Minister in your constituency', was set up in the Secretariat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin (DMK) – sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**10.** On May 3, Even as Mamata Banerjee has lost the assembly election in Nandigram to BJP's Suwendu Adhikari, she took oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal for 3<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive Term. Article 164 of the Indian Constitution lays down the conditions of taking oath as a minister. In other words, Banerjee will get 6 months to get elected from any Bengal constituency in a by-poll to hold on to the CM's chair. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mamata Banerjee – took oath as the CM of West Bengal for 3<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive Term – under 'Article 164'
- Constituency – Nandigram, West Bengal
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



**11.** On May 6, AINRC leader N. Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. AINRC won 16 seats in the 30-member house. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- N. Rangasamy – sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry – for the 4<sup>th</sup> time
- Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

**12.** On May 4, Raman Meenakshi Sundaram has been appointed as Director of Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), an arm of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Prior to this elevation, he was working as Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) at the institute's Crop Improvement Section. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Raman Meenakshi Sundaram – appointed as Director of ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR)
- Location of ICAR-IIRR – Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | President – Narendra Singh Tomar

**13.** On May 6, The DMK government has appointed senior IAS officer V. Irai Anbu as the new Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu. Incumbent Rajeev Ranjan was transferred and posted as Chairman and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V. Irai Anbu – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**14.** On May 4, Ujjwala Singhania has been appointed as National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO). She took over as the 38<sup>th</sup> President of FLO at the FLO's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Session. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ujjwala Singhania – appointed as 38<sup>th</sup> National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy

**15.** On May 7, Himanta Biswa Sarma has sworn in as the 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Assam. The BJP won 60 of the 126 seats in the Assam Assembly election. Its allies, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), won nine and six seats, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himanta Biswa Sarma (BJP) – sworn in as the 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**16.** On May 10, The RBI has appointed Jose J. Kattoor as Executive Director (ED). He will look after Human Resource Management Department, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department. Prior to being promoted as ED, Mr. Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the RBI as Regional Director for Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – appointed 'Jose J. Kattoor' as Executive Director of RBI – to look after Human Resource Management Department
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**17.** On May 10, The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has appointed Arun Kumar Singh as the Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). Arun Kumar Singh is currently Director, marketing at BPCL. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arun Kumar Singh – appointed as Chairman & MD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh

**18.** On May 11, Padmakumar Madhavan Nair is appointed as the 1<sup>st</sup> CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), which is being set up by banks. He is currently Chief General Manager of SBI's Stressed Assets Resolution Group. The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) is spearheading the formation of NARCL in consultation with the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Padmakumar Madhavan Nair – appointed as the 1<sup>st</sup> CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)
- Padmakumar Madhavan Nair – currently Chief General Manager of SBI's Stressed Assets Resolution Group

**19.** On May 12, The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths as the Undersecretary-General of UN Humanitarian Affairs. Currently, Mr. Griffiths is serving as the UN's top envoy for Yemen. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Martin Griffiths – appointed as Undersecretary-General of UN Humanitarian Affairs – by UN Secretary-General
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

**20.** On May 12, Uganda's incumbent President Yoweri Museveni has sworn in to serve for the 6<sup>th</sup> five-year term in office. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yoweri Museveni – sworn in to serve his 6<sup>th</sup> term as the President of Uganda
- Uganda – Kampala – Ugandan shilling | President – Yoweri Museveni (6<sup>th</sup> term)

**21.** On May 13, The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed former Indian cricketer Ramesh Powar as the head coach of Indian Women's Cricket Team. He will replace W. V. Raman, who was appointed the head coach of the India women's team in December 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BCCI – appointed Ramesh Powar as the head coach of Indian Women's Cricket Team
- He will replace W. V. Raman
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | President – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah

**22.** On May 14, K. P. Sharma Oli has sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time even after he lost a vote of confidence in Parliament. He previously served as prime minister from October 11, 2015 to August 3, 2016 and again from February 15, 2018 to May 13, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- K. P. Sharma Oli – sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – K. P. Sharma Oli

**23.** On May 13, Shri S. Balachandran, presently Consul General of India in Jaffna, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Balachandran – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname
- Suriname – Paramaribo – Dollar | President – Chandrikapersad (Chan) Santokhi

**24.** On May 13, Italy has for the first time appointed a woman, career diplomat Elisabetta Belloni, to head Italy's Security Intelligence Department (DIS). The DIS's brief includes handling intelligence and security matters at home and abroad as well as counter-espionage and cybersecurity. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Elisabetta Belloni – first woman appointed to head Italy's Security Intelligence Department (DIS)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

**25.** On May 11, Ram Karan Verma, presently Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Congo, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Central African Republic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ram Karan Verma – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Central African Republic
- Central African Republic – Bangui – CFA Franc | President – Faustin-Archange Touadera



**26.** On May 14, Footwear major Bata India has appointed Gunjan Shah as its new Chief Executive Officer. Currently, Shah is serving at Britannia Industries as its chief commercial officer. Sandeep Kataria, Bata India's current CEO, has been elevated to the position of global CEO of Bata brands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gunjan Shah – appointed as the CEO of Bata India
- Sandeep Kataria – elevated as global CEO of Bata brands
- HQs of Bata Corporation – Lausanne, Switzerland | CEO – Sandeep Kataria
- HQs of Bata India Ltd – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Gunjan Shah

**27.** On May 13, General Secretary of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), Manisha Kapoor has been appointed as the Vice President of the International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS). She will be one of the four vice-presidents to serve on the Executive committee of the global body. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manisha Kapoor – appointed as the Vice President of the ICAS
- HQs of ASCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Kamath | General Secretary – Manisha Kapoor

**28.** On May 13, India-born entrepreneur Rajesh Agrawal has been re-appointed as London's Deputy Mayor for Business by Mayor Sadiq Khan. Rajesh Agrawal is also the co-chair of the Labour Friends of India (LFIN) diaspora representative group of the Opposition Labour Party. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajesh Agrawal – re-appointed as London's Deputy Mayor for Business – by Mayor Sadiq Khan

**29.** On May 13, TVS Motor Company has appointed Robert Hentschel as the Chief Executive Officer and Vittorio Urciuoli as Chief Technical Officer of the Norton Motorcycle Co. Ltd. Robert will replace John Russell. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Robert Hentschel – appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Norton Motorcycle Co. Ltd
- Vittorio Urciuoli – appointed as the Chief Technical Officer of Norton Motorcycle Co. Ltd
- HQs of Norton Motorcycle – England, UK | CEO – Robert Hentschel (owned by – TVS Motor)

**30.** 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

**31.** 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](#)

**32.** 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

**33.** 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

**34.** 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)

**35.** 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](#)



**36.** 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

**37.** 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

**38.** 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

**39.** 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

**40.** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has appointed Moeed Yusuf as the National Security Advisor of Pakistan. Since December 2019, Yusuf had served as special assistant to the prime minister on national security and strategic policy planning. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Moeed Yusuf – appointed as National Security Advisor of Pakistan
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

**41.** Penpa Tsering has been elected Sikyong or President of the Dharamshala-based Tibetan Exile Government officially called the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Penpa Tsering – elected Sikyong or President of Tibetan Exile Government
- HQs of CTA – Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh | President – Penpa Tsering

**42.** On May 20, The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government led by CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Pinarayi Vijayan assumed office, after a 21-member Cabinet was sworn in by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan. Pinarayi Vijayan sworn in as Kerala Chief Minister for the second time. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pinarayi Vijayan – sworn in as Chief Minister of Kerala – for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term [Party – CPI(M)]
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**43.** On May 18, The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has appointed Arvind Kumar as Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd, a unit of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. He is currently an executive director at Indian Oil Corporation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arvind Kumar – appointed as Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL)
- CPCL – a unit of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

**44.** On May 21, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has appointed Court of Appeal Judge Martha Koome as the East African country's first woman Chief Justice and head of the judiciary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Martha Koome – appointed as the first woman Chief Justice – Kenya
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – Uhuru Kenyatta

**45.** On May 22, Shri Pradip Kumar Yadav, presently Director in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Liberia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pradip Kumar Yadav – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to – Liberia
- Liberia – Monrovia – Dollar | President – George Weah

**46.** On May 22, Narinder Batra has been re-elected as the President of International Hockey Federation. Narinder Batra became the first Indian to head the international federation of an Olympic sport in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narinder Batra – re-elected as the President of International Hockey Federation (FIH)
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

**47.** On May 22, Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has appointed Rajesh Bansal as its chief executive officer. Bansal was a member of the founding team of Aadhaar. He was appointed by the board of the RBIH which is headed by S. (Kris) Gopalakrishnan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajesh Bansal – appointed as the CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**48.** On May 21, Seasoned India Hockey Goalkeeper Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh has been re-elected as a member of the FIH Athletes Committee. He has been a member of the panel since 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P. R. Sreejesh ([India Hockey Goalkeeper](#)) – re-elected as a member of the FIH Athletes Committee

**49.** On May 25, In exercise of the powers conferred by 'Article 223' of the Constitution, the President has appointed Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, senior-most Judge of Chhattisgarh High Court, to perform the duties of the Chief Justice of that High Court with effect from June 1, 2021. Justice Mishra was appointed as a permanent judge in November 2014. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prashant Kumar Mishra – appointed as the Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court
- [The President of India appoints a Chief Justice of State High Court – under 'Article 223' of Indian Constitution](#)

**50.** On May 25, The Badminton Association of India (BAI) president Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected to the Badminton World Federation (BWF) council for the period 2021-25. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himanta Biswa Sarma – elected to the Badminton World Federation (BWF) council for the period 2021-25
- [HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen](#)
- [HQs of Badminton Association of India – New Delhi | President – Himanta Biswa Sarma](#)

**51.** On May 25, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa has sworn in as the 1<sup>st</sup> female Prime Minister of Samoa. She is associated with Faith in the One True God. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fiame Naomi Mata'afa – sworn in as the 1<sup>st</sup> female Prime Minister of Samoa
- [Samoa – Apia – Samoan Tala | PM – Fiame Naomi Mata'afa](#)

**52.** On May 21, Anvee Bhutani, an Indian-origin student from Magdalen College at the University of Oxford has won the Student Union (SU) byelection for the 2021-22 academic year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anvee Bhutani – won the Student Union (SU) byelection for the 2021-22 academic year – at University of Oxford

**53.** On May 25, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Maharashtra cadre IPS officer of 1985 batch, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal as CBI Director for 2 years. He is currently Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Subodh Kumar Jaiswal – appointed as CBI Director for 2 years (Currently, DG in CISF)
- HQs of CBI – New Delhi | DG – Subodh Kumar Jaiswal | Motto – Industry, Impartiality, Integrity

**54.** On May 24, French fashion tycoon Bernard Arnault, CEO and owner of French luxury group Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH), has overtaken Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to become world's richest person on the Forbes Real Time Billionaires list 2021. His estimated net worth is \$186.3 billion followed by Jeff Bezos (\$186 billion) and Elon Musk (\$147.3 billion). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Forbes Real Time Billionaires list 2021” – as on May 24
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bernard Arnault (\$186.3 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jeff Bezos (\$186 billion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Elon Musk (\$147.3 billion)
- HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey

**55.** On May 25, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has appointed David Barnea as the new head of the country's spy agency, “Mossad”. He will succeed Yossi Cohen as head of Israel's intelligence agency on June 1. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- David Barnea – appointed as the new head of “Mossad” - Israel's intelligence agency
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**56.** On May 25, Interim President Bah Ndaw and Prime Minister Moctar Ouane were detained by the Military officers of Mali. Both of them resigned from their posts while in detention. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bah Ndaw – resigned from the post of Interim President of – Mali (after detention)
- Moctar Ouane – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of – Mali (after detention)
- Mali – Bamako – CFA franc

**57.** On May 25, Research and Analysis Wing Chief Samant Kumar Goel and Intelligence Bureau head Arvind Kumar were given a 1-year extension in their services. The extensions were cleared by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Samant Kumar Goel – tenure extended for 1 year as the Chief of – Research & Analysis Wing (HQs – New Delhi)
- Arvind Kumar – tenure extended for 1 year as the Director of – Intelligence Bureau (HQs – New Delhi)



**58.** On May 28, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has been re-elected for the 4<sup>th</sup> term. Mr. Assad took 95% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bashar al-Assad – re-elected as the President of Syria (4<sup>th</sup> term)
- Syria – Damascus – Syrian Pound | President – Bashar al-Assad

**59.** On May 23, Jagjit Pavadia has been elected as the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). She is the first Indian to be heading the Vienna-based organization and the second woman to hold this office. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jagjit Pavadia – 1<sup>st</sup> Indian & 2<sup>nd</sup> woman to be elected as the President of International Narcotics Control Board
- HQs of INCB – Vienna, Austria | President – Jagjit Pavadia

**60.** On May 27, Former banker Guillermo Lasso has been sworn-in as President of Ecuador. He was elected in April in his third run for the Presidency, replacing President Lenin Moreno. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Guillermo Lasso – sworn-in as President of Ecuador (replacing - Lenin Moreno)
- Ecuador – Quito – US Dollar | President – Guillermo Lasso

**61.** On May 29, Mali's constitutional court has named Colonel Assimi Goita, leader of the post-coup junta, as the country's transitional president. Colonel Goita had originally been named Vice President with other key posts given to fellow army officers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assimi Goita – appointed as the transitional President of Mali
- Mali – Bamako – CFA franc | Transitional President – Col. Assimi Goita

**62.** On May 29, CRPF Chief Kuldip Singh has been given the additional charge of the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to replace Y. C. Modi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kuldip Singh – given the additional charge of the DG of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- HQs of NIA – New Delhi | Director General – Kuldip Singh (additional charge)

**63.** On May 27, Indian government has brought in the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, as next the Commerce Secretary, Government of India, upon superannuation of Anup Wadhawan on June 30. Mr. Subrahmanyam is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- B.V.R. Subrahmanyam – appointed as next the Commerce Secretary of India
- He will replace – Anup Wadhawan (on June 30)

**64.** On May 28, Art historian and curator Laurence des Cars has become the first woman to be appointed as the President of 'Louvre' - the world's largest art museum, based in Paris. The Louvre is the world's most visited museum. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Laurence des Cars ([France](#)) – became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to be appointed as the President of 'Louvre'
- 'Louvre' - world's largest art museum – in Paris, France
- [France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex](#)

**65.** On May 27, US Senate has 'unanimously' confirmed Christine Wormuth as the first female Army Secretary of the US. She served as the undersecretary of defense for policy and the senior director for defense policy at the NSC during the Obama administration. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Christine Wormuth – appointed as the first female Army Secretary of the US
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**66.** On May 28, India's Nagraj Adiga has been elected as the Asia-Oceania Representative at the recently concluded 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress. The newly constituted Executive Council and Area Representative include Nadeem Khan (Canada) as President and Robert Boyce (Australia) as Vice President. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nagraj Adiga ([India](#)) – elected in IAU Council as the Asia-Oceania Representative
- Nadeem Khan ([Canada](#)) – elected as the President of the IAU Council
- Robert Boyce ([Australia](#)) – elected as the Vice President of the IAU Council

**67.** On May 30, U. S. President Joe Biden has announced his intent to nominate Indian American Arun Venkataraman to a key position in his administration related to foreign commercial service. Mr. Venkataraman is the nominee for Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arun Venkataraman – nominated as the Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**68.** On May 31, Hari Krishna Dwivedi is appointed as new Chief Secretary of West Bengal after Alapan Bandopadhyay announced his retirement from service. BP Gopalika has been named as the new Home Secretary of the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hari Krishna Dwivedi – appointed as new Chief Secretary of West Bengal
- BP Gopalika – appointed as new Home Secretary of West Bengal
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar](#)

**69.** On May 31, The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has elected T. V. Narendran (MD & CEO of Tata Steel), as its new President for 2021-22. He takes over from Uday Kotak (MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- T. V. Narendran (MD & CEO of Tata Steel) – appointed as the President of the CII
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

**70.** Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra will hold the charge as the interim Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Outgoing Chairman Pramod Chandra Mody completed his term on May 31. [{Read more}](#)

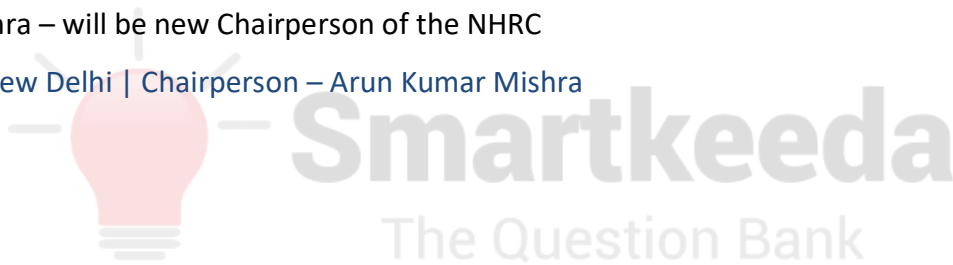
**Key Points:**

- Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra – appointed as the interim Chairman of CBDT
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Interim Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944

**71.** On May 31, As proposed by a High-powered recommendation Committee, former Supreme Court judge Arun Kumar Mishra will be new Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arun Kumar Mishra – will be new Chairperson of the NHRC
- HQs of NHRC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Arun Kumar Mishra



# Amount & Agreements

1. On May 3, The Central government has decided to provide an additional amount of up-to Rs 15,000 Cr to states as interest-free 50-year loan for spending on capital projects. The Department of Expenditure has issued fresh guidelines in this regard for financial year 2021-22. Rs. 2, 600 Cr was allocated for North-East and Hill States out of the Rs 15,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Government will provide Rs 15,000 Cr to states for capital expenditure – as interest-free 50-year loan

2. On May 7, The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has given financial support of Rs 9,162 Cr to West Bengal during the last financial year for the development of agriculture and allied sectors amid Covid-19 pandemic. For 2021-22, it has estimated a credit potential of Rs 2.2 lakh Cr for West Bengal to be disbursed by various banks for the priority sector activities. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NABARD – gave financial support of Rs 9,162 Cr to “West Bengal” for the development of agriculture & allied sectors
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu | Founded in – 1982
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

3. On May 10, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has allocated Rs 2250 Cr for development of horticulture sector during 2021-22 and especially for “Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture” (MIDH), a centrally sponsored scheme. The Ministry has been implementing MIDH with effect from 2014-15. India recorded its highest ever horticulture production of 320.77 million tonnes from an area of 25.66 million hectares. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Agriculture Ministry – allocated Rs 2250 Cr for “Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture” (MIDH)
- India recorded its highest ever horticulture production of 320.77 million tonnes
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare – Narendra Singh Tomar (Constituency – Morena, MP)

4. On May 15, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided an all-time high amount of Rs 1,236 Cr from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during the financial year 2020-21 with Rural Connectivity Projects (Roads & Bridges) as the focus area in the state of Assam. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NABARD – provided Rs 1,236 Cr from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund for Assam in FY21
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu | Founded in – 1982
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



5. On May 14, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed \$3.92 billion in sovereign loans for 13 projects to India in 2020. This includes over \$1.8 billion fund related with Covid-19. It is the highest-ever annual lending commitment to India. ADB also committed \$356.1 million through its non-sovereign operations to India. Among the new projects committed in 2020 included \$500 million to build a modern, high-speed 82-kilometers Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit system corridor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB – committed \$3.92 billion in sovereign loans for 13 projects to India in 2020
- ADB also committed \$356.1 million through its non-sovereign operations to India
- \$500 million to build high-speed 82-kilometers Delhi-Meerut RRTS
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

6. On May 21, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced a \$50 billion proposal to end the Covid-19 pandemic by vaccinating at least 40% of the population in all countries by the end of 2021 and at least 60% by the first half of 2022. IMF would inject \$9 trillion into the global economy by 2025 for faster resumption of economic activity. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IMF – announced a \$50 billion proposal to end the Covid-19 pandemic
- Target: To vaccinate at least 40% of the global population – by 2021 & at least 60% by the first half of 2022
- IMF would inject \$9 trillion into the global economy – by 2025
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190



# Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**1.** On May 1, According to a report by London-based consultancy firm Brand Finance, the total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands has dipped 6% to \$433 billion in 2021. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest and the 10<sup>th</sup> most valuable and the 3<sup>rd</sup> strongest insurance brand globally. LIC's brand value increased 6.8% to \$8.65 billion. PingAn Insurance of China leads the most valuable insurance companies list with brand value of over \$44 billion. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands dipped 6% to \$433 billion in 2021
- LIC – the 10<sup>th</sup> most valuable & 3<sup>rd</sup> strongest insurance brand globally (\$8.65 bn)
- Topped by – PingAn Insurance (China) – \$44 bn
- HQs of Brand Finance – London, UK | CEO – David Haigh

**2.** On May 3, Online sales accounted for 19% of overall retail sales in 2020, up from 16% a year earlier, according to estimates from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). South Korea reported the highest share at 25.9% followed by China & Britain. Global e-commerce sales rose 4% to \$26.7 trillion in 2019. China's Alibaba remained atop the rankings by GMV, followed by Amazon. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- UNCTAD: Online sales accounted for 19% of overall retail sales in 2020
- South Korea (25.9% share) – largest contributor as per the report | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Britain
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

**3.** On May 5, India has retained the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the ICC Twenty20 team rankings but dropped a rung to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ODI chart, as per the ICC Men's Team Ranking of May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "ICC Men's Team Ranking of May 2021"
- ICC Twenty20 Format: India – 2<sup>nd</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> – England
- ICC ODI Format: India – 3<sup>rd</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> – New Zealand, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Australia
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney

**4.** On May 3, Global FDI flows dropped 38% in 2020 to \$846 billion, the lowest level since 2005, according to the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). China surpassed the United States last year as the leading destination for FDI. While, India stood at the third place. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- OECD: Global FDI flows dropped 38% in 2020 to \$846 billion (lowest level since 2005)
- Leading destinations for FDI: 1<sup>st</sup> – China, 2<sup>nd</sup> – US, 3<sup>rd</sup> – India
- HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Angel Gurría | Member countries – 37

5. On May 5, The “2021 Global Report on Food Crises” (GRFC 2021) highlights the remarkably high severity and numbers of people in Crisis or worse or equivalent in 55 countries/territories. As per the report, 155 million people faced acute hunger in 2020. The number identified in the 2021 edition is the highest in the report’s five-year existence. The report is produced by the Global Network against Food Crises. Around 60-80% of the population in food crises depend on Agricultural economy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2021 Global Report on Food Crises” – released by Global Network against Food Crises
- As per the report: 155 million people faced acute hunger in 2020

6. On May 4, With Rs 55,500 Cr m-cap, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has entered into the league of top 100 most valued companies in terms of market capitalisation, after its stock climbed over 80% in the past one and half month. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SAIL (Rs 55,500 Cr m-cap) – entered into the league of top 100 most valued companies in terms of m-cap
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal | Founded in – 1954

7. On May 6, “2021 Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions” report was released by Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) together with the United Nations Environment Programme. The assessment highlights that cutting human-caused methane emissions can be reduced by 45% by 2030. India became a member of CCAC in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2021 Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions” report – by CCAC
- Cutting human-caused methane emissions can be reduced by 45% by 2030
- HQs of CCAC – Paris, France | Established in – 2012

8. On May 8, India was the top country of origin for vehicle imports into South Africa despite the lengthy COVID-19 lockdowns, according to the “Automotive Export Manual 2021” report released by the Automotive Industry Export Council. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Automotive Export Manual 2021” report – released by the Automotive Industry Export Council (AIEC)
- India – became top exporter of Automobiles to South Africa in 2020
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

9. On May 9, Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail Ltd has been ranked second fastest growing retailer in the world in the “2021 Ranking of Global Retail Power Houses” by Deloitte. It has been ranked 53<sup>rd</sup> in the list of Global Powers of Retailing. The list is topped by US giant Walmart Inc. Reliance Retail is the only Indian entry in the global list of 250 retailers. It features consecutively for the fourth time in the list of Global Powers of Retailing and World's Fastest Retailers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2021 Ranking of Global Retail Power Houses” – released by Deloitte
- Coupang ([South Korea](#)) – World’s Fastest Growing Retail company | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Reliance Retail Ltd
- Reliance Retail – 53<sup>rd</sup> in the list of “Global Powers of Retailing” | 1<sup>st</sup> – Walmart Inc
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam

**10.** On May 10, NITI Aayog and Mastercard have released a report titled “Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat”. The report recommends enabling agricultural NBFCs to access low-cost capital and deploying a ‘phygital’ (physical + digital) model for achieving better long-term digital outcomes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat” – released by NITI Aayog + Mastercard
- The report recommends to deploy a ‘phygital’ (physical + digital) model in Agriculture NBFC sector
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966

**11.** On May 10, Mountain bongos, the largest among African forest antelopes, are a critically endangered species with only about 70-80 adults left in the wild, according to the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species: “Mountain bongos” – are now ‘Critically Endangered’ species
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang

**12.** New Delhi and Mumbai have moved one spot down to 32<sup>nd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> rank respectively, while Bengaluru has moved down four spots to 40<sup>th</sup> rank in the latest Knight Frank's “Prime Global Cities Index Q1”. Chinese city Shenzhen has recorded the strongest performing world region with a growth of 18.9%. While, New York was the weakest performing market. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Prime Global Cities Index Q1” – by Knight Frank ([London, UK](#)) | Top – Shenzhen ([China](#)) & Last – New York ([US](#))
- New Delhi – 32<sup>nd</sup> | Mumbai – 36<sup>th</sup> | Bengaluru – 40<sup>th</sup>

**13.** On May 11, The SEBI has made ‘Dividend Distribution Policy’ mandatory for top 1,000 listed firms to strengthen corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements. SEBI has amended Listing of Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) rules and also notified rules regarding Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BSSR). The listed companies will have to provide Reports of Environmental effects due to the company on a mandatory basis from FY23. The SEBI has also approved amendment to alternative investment funds (AIF) norms to provide a definition of ‘Start-up’ as specified by the central government for the purpose of investment by Angel funds. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- SEBI – made ‘Dividend Distribution Policy’ mandatory for top 1,000 listed firms
- SEBI – also notified rules regarding Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BSSR)
- Listed companies will have to provide Reports of Environmental effects – from FY23
- SEBI also approved amendment to AIF norms to provide a definition of ‘Start-up’
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**14.** On May 11, A report titled “Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict & Conservation” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has examined the close interplay between the environment and armed conflict. The report found that civil unrest and military exercises pose high risk to 219 Endangered Species. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict & Conservation” report – released by IUCN
- According to report: Civil unrest & military exercises pose high risk to 219 Endangered Species
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang | CEO – Bruno Oberle | Founded in – 1948

**15.** On May 11, India’s renewable energy capacity has declined by more than 50% in 2020 due to construction delays brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to International Energy Agency’s (IEA) “Renewable Energy Market Update”. Globally, annual renewable capacity additions increased 45% in 2020 to almost 280 GW in which India accounts for 5.62 GW of capacity. Photovoltaic (PV) capacity addition is expected to be three times in 2021 compared with 2020. China alone accounted for more than 50% of all the new renewable energy projects in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Renewable Energy Market Update” report – by the IEA
- India’s renewable energy capacity declined by more than 50% in 2020
- Globally, annual renewable capacity additions increased 45% in 2020 to almost 280 GW (India’s – 5.62 GW)
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

**16.** On May 7, The area under cultivation of Summer Crops has increased by 21.58% from last year to 80.02 lakh hectares. The rise is primarily due to sharp increase in pulses area, which has increased by almost 70% from last year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Area of cultivation of Summer Crops increased by 21.58% – to 80.02 lakh hectares (due to increase in ‘Pulses’ area)
- Pulses area increased by almost 70%



**17.** On May 8, International food commodity prices rose for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive month in April. FAO Food Price Index averaged 120.9 points in April, 1.7% higher than March and 30.8% higher than its level in the same month last year. The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index rose 1.8% in April. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- International food commodity prices rose for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive month in April
- FAO Food Price Index averaged 120.9 points in April
- FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index rose 1.8% in April
- [HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945](#)

**18.** On May 11, China’s population is growing at its most sluggish pace in decades, as per the 7<sup>th</sup> census data released by China. The average annual growth rate was 0.53% over the last 10 years, down from 0.57% between 2000 and 2010, taking the population to 1.41 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China released its 7<sup>th</sup> Census | Population – 1.41 billion | Average Annual Growth Rate – 0.53% for last 10 years
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

**19.** On May 11, India has received over \$83 billion in remittances in 2020, a drop of just 0.2% from the previous year, according to a World Bank report titled “Resilience COVID-19 Crisis through a Migration Lens”. In 2019, India had received \$83.3 billion in remittances. India topped the list of Low- and Middle-Income Countries followed by China & Mexico. India’s remittance decline was due to 17% outflow drop from UAE. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Resilience COVID-19 Crisis through a Migration Lens” report – released by the World Bank
- India received over \$83 billion in remittances in 2020 (drop of 0.2%) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mexico
- India’s remittance decline was due to 17% outflow drop from UAE

**20.** On May 12, According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water - Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF) Market Handbook, India has added 12.1 gigawatt (GW) power generation capacity in 2020-21. Renewable Energy (RE) dominated power generation capacity addition in FY21, accounting for 7.7 GW (64%) of the 12.1 GW. India's total power generation also increased by 1.3% in FY21 despite pandemic restrictions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to CEEW-CEF Market Handbook: India added 12.1 GW power generation capacity in 2020-21
- Renewable Energy dominated Power Generation Capacity addition in FY21 – with 7.7 GW (64%)
- India's total power generation also increased – by 1.3% in FY21

**21.** On May 14, As per the “Environmental Risk Outlook 2021” released by Verisk Maplecroft, of the 100 most vulnerable cities, 99 are in Asia. Of those, 37 are in China and 43 are in India. Asian cities face the greatest risk from environmental issues including air pollution and natural disasters. Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, topped the list of combined risk based on all nine factors analyzed by Verisk Maplecroft. India is home to 13 of the 20 riskiest cities in the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Environmental Risk Outlook 2021” released by Verisk Maplecroft
- 100 most vulnerable cities: 99 are in Asia (India – 43 & China – 37)
- Jakarta (Indonesia) – topped the list of combined risk based on all 9 factors
- India – home to 13 of the 20 riskiest cities in the world

**22.** On May 12, Irish Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter and Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) icon Conor McGregor has been crowned the Forbes’s highest-paid athlete in the world for the first time in his career. McGregor is followed by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Conor McGregor (Ireland - Mixed martial Artist) – topped the Forbes’s Highest-paid Athlete’s list (\$180 m)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lionel Messi (\$130 m) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Cristiano Ronaldo (\$120 m)PD

**23.** 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)

**24.** 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

**25.** 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

**26.** 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

**27.** 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: 1<sup>st</sup> – Assam(62), 2<sup>nd</sup> – West Bengal(57), 3<sup>rd</sup> – Odisha(27)
- MoEFCC – also released ₹212.49 Cr to elephant range States – under “Project Elephant” Scheme

**28.** 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



**29.** 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: 1<sup>st</sup> – Jeff Bezos | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bernard Arnault | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Elon Musk (as on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2021)
- Elon Musk – lost his spot as the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> richest person to Bernard Arnault

**30.** 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

**31.** 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

**32.** 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 | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rajasthan
- The rankings were released by – ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Smart City Mission was launched in – 2015

**33.** 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**34.** 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 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Insurance Technology Market in the Asia Pacific (35% of the \$3.66 billion) | 1<sup>st</sup> – 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

**35.** 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

**36.** On May 20, India has moved up a spot to third position as per the 57<sup>th</sup> “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 57<sup>th</sup> “Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index” – released by EY
- 1<sup>st</sup> – US | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China | 3<sup>rd</sup> – India
- India’s installed Solar PV capacity has increased to – 39 GW (in 2020)
- HQs of EY – London, UK | CEO – Carmine Di Sibio

**37.** On May 12, Andhra Pradesh government has presented Rs 2.29 lakh Cr budget and estimated revenue of Rs 1.77 lakh Cr for FY 2021-22. The state government has allocated Rs 7,200 Cr for YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan Scheme. Despite Covid-19 challenges, the State Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) of Andhra Pradesh grew at 1.58% against Nation's growth of 3.8%. The Per Capita Income of Andhra Pradesh at current prices increased to ₹1.70 lakh in 2020-21 against all India per capita income for 2019-20 stands at ₹1.34 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – presented Rs 2.29 lakh Cr budget for FY 2021-22 | Estimated revenue – Rs 1.77 lakh Cr
- Rs 7,200 Cr – allocated for “YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan Scheme”
- Andhra Pradesh's GSDP grew at – 1.58% (against India's growth of 3.8%)
- Per Capita Income of Andhra Pradesh increased to – ₹1.70 lakh in 2020-21
- India's per capita income for 2019-20 – ₹1.34 lakh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**38.** On May 20, Around 23 Cr Indians have been pushed into poverty during the past one year, as per the report titled “State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19” released by Azim Premji University. The rural poverty rate increased by 15% points and the urban poverty rate was up nearly 20 points. The number of individuals who lie below the national minimum wage threshold (Rs 375 per day as recommended by the Anoop Satpathy committee) increased by 230 million during the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19” report – released by Azim Premji University (Bengaluru)
- Around 23 Cr Indians – pushed into poverty during the past one year
- Income of 230 million people – fell below National Minimum Wage Threshold (Rs 375 per day) during pandemic

**39.** On May 22, Billionaire Gautam Adani has replaced Chinese tycoon Zhong Shanshan to become the second-richest Asian, according to the Bloomberg Billionaire Index. Mukesh Ambani is Asia's richest person and chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd. Ambani's total wealth now stands at \$76.5 billion, making him the 13<sup>th</sup> richest in the world, followed by Adani at 14<sup>th</sup>. Adani's wealth surged by \$32.7 billion to touch \$66.5 billion, against Zhong's \$63.6 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Asia's Richest Persons as per the “Bloomberg Billionaire Index” – as on May 21, 2021
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mukesh Ambani (\$76.5 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gautam Adani (\$66.5 billion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Zhong Shanshan (\$63.6 billion)

**40.** On May 21, As per the report, titled “Protected Planet Report 2020” released by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Over 21 million square kilometres has been placed within protected and conserved areas since 2010. As many as 82% of countries and territories increased their share of protected area and coverage of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) since 2010. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Protected Planet Report 2020” report – released by UNEP-WCMC + IUCN
- 21 million Sq. Km – placed within protected & conserved areas since 2010
- Around 82% of countries & territories – increased their share of protected area and coverage of OECM since 2010
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang | CEO – Bruno Oberle | Founded in – 1948

**41.** On May 20, India has technically slipped below Bangladesh in terms of per capita income as Bangladesh has reported its per capita income at \$2,227 in the financial year 2020-21. India’s per capita income reached \$1,947.417 in FY21. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bangladesh (\$2,227) – surpassed India (\$1,947.417) in terms of per capita income
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**42.** On May 22, Invasive species introduced by human activity are costing African agriculture \$3.66 trillion every year. The species found to cause the most crop losses was a moth known as “Phthorimaea Absoluta”. The average cost of invasive alien species to the agricultural sector in Africa’s 54 countries was \$74.3 billion each year. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Invasive species are costing African agriculture \$3.66 trillion every year
- “Phthorimaea Absoluta” a moth – the species found to cause the most crop losses

**43.** On May 24, The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India has received the highest ever Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during financial year 2020-21 at \$81.72 billion which is 10% higher than the previous fiscal. FDI equity inflow increased 19% during FY21 to \$59.64 billion, as against \$49.98 billion in FY20. Singapore was the biggest investor in India last fiscal, accounting for 29% FDI, followed by the US (23%) and Mauritius (9%). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India received the highest ever FDI in FY21 – at \$81.72 billion (10% growth compared to previous year)
- FDI equity inflow increased 19% in FY21 – at \$59.64 billion
- Biggest investor in India in FY21 – Singapore (29%) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – US (23%) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mauritius (9%)

**44.** On May 25, As per the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advance Estimates for the 2020-21 Crop year released by the Agriculture Ministry, India’s Foodgrain Production is estimated to rise 2.66% to a new record of 305.43 million tonnes in the current crop year 2020-21. In the 2019-20 crop year (July-June), India’s Foodgrain Production stood at a record 297.5 million tonnes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Advance Estimates for the 2020-21 Crop year – released by Agriculture Ministry
- India's Foodgrain Production is estimated to rise 2.66% to 305.43 million tonnes (in 2020-21)
- India's Foodgrain Production stood at 297.5 million tonnes (in 2019-20)

**45.** According to the “Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update” issued by the UK's Met Office & the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), there is about a 40% chance of the Annual Average Global Temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level in at least one of the next five years. There is 90% chance of at least one year between 2021-2025 will become the warmest on record. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update” – issued by Met Office (UK) & WMO
- Annual Average Global Temperature – to reach 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level (40% chance)
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

**46.** On May 30, Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last 6 years according to the latest population census report. The antelopes numbered 7,358. Blackbucks are found only in the Ganjam district & Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary in Puri district. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha's Blackbuck (Indian Antelope) population – doubled in the last 6 years (7,358)
- Blackbucks are found only in – Ganjam district & Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary (Puri district)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**47.** On May 29, 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 415<sup>th</sup> rank followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at 459<sup>th</sup> rank and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai at 543<sup>rd</sup>. Harvard University has topped the ranking globally followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “World University Rankings 2021-22” – 68 Indian institutes made it to the list of the Top 2000
- Globally: 1<sup>st</sup> – Harvard University | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Stanford University
- In India: 1<sup>st</sup> – IIM Ahmedabad | 2<sup>nd</sup> – IISc, Bangalore | 3<sup>rd</sup> – TIFR, Mumbai



# Acquisitions & Mergers

1. DCB Bank has acquired stake in two companies - India INX & India ICC (both promoted by BSE) in GIFT City IFSC at Gandhinagar for a total investment of Rs 10 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- DCB Bank – acquired stake (Rs 10 Cr) in 2 companies - India INX & India ICC – in GIFT City IFSC at Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Both companies are promoted by – BSE
- HQs of DCB bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Murali M Natrajan
- DCB bank – the 1<sup>st</sup> bank to start Aadhaar-based ATM service (in 2016)

2. On May 3, Motilal Oswal Private Equity (MOPE) has picked up a minority stake in Fincare Small Finance Bank for \$25 million (about ₹185 Cr) through a secondary acquisition. The deal was done by India Business Excellence Fund–III, a fund managed and advised by MOPE. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Motilal Oswal Private Equity – acquired a minority stake in Fincare SFB for \$25 million (about ₹185 Cr)
- HQs of MOPE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vishal Tulsyan

3. On May 7, The Carlyle Group has raised around Rs 3,936 Cr by selling 4.1 Cr shares in SBI Life through multiple block deals. SBI Life was incorporated as a joint venture between State Bank of India (SBI) and BNP Paribas. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Carlyle Group – sold 4% stake worth Rs 3,936 Cr in SBI Life
- HQs of Carlyle Group – Washington, D.C., USA | Co-Chief Executive Officers – Kewsong Lee, Glenn Youngkin
- HQs of SBI Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mahesh Kumar Sharma

4. On May 10, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of 100% shareholding and sole control of Ingram Micro Inc. by Imola Acquisition Corporation. Imola is a newly incorporated entity belonging to Platinum Equity Group. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- CCI approved the acquisition of 100% stake of Ingram Micro Inc. – by Imola Acquisition Corporation
- HQs of Ingram Micro – California, US | CEO – Alain Monie
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

5. On May 11, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (MMFS) has extended the date of investment of the third and final tranche for acquisition of shares of Sri Lanka-based Ideal Finance from its existing shareholders to September 30, 2021. The company had agreed to acquire 58.20% equity share capital of Ideal Finance, Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services – extended date of investment in Ideal Finance by 6 months (Sep, 2021)
- MMFS – agreed to acquire 58.20% equity share in Ideal Finance (Sri Lanka)
- HQs of MMFS – Mumbai, MH | Vice Chairman & President – Ramesh Iyer

**6.** On May 6, The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board or CPP Investments has acquired an additional 15.9% of the total units in Indinfravit Trust (Indinfravit) through two separate transactions. Indinfravit is an infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) sponsored by L&T Infrastructure Development Projects since 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CPP Investments – acquired an additional 15.9% in Indinfravit Trust (Indinfravit)
- HQs of CPP Investments – Toronto, Canada | CEO – John Graham
- HQs of Indinfravit – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – J. Subramanian

**7.** On May 11, Bay Tree India Holdings I LLC has sold over 2% stake in YES Bank through Open Market Transactions. Bay Tree India Holdings I, owned by Tilden Park, was the largest anchor investor, investing ₹2,250 Cr in YES Bank. Currently, SBI is the largest shareholder of YES Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bay Tree India Holdings I LLC – sold over 2% stake in YES Bank – through Open Market Transactions
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

**8.** On May 12, NHPC Ltd has received approval from the Ministry of Power to acquire the entire 2% equity stake of PTC India in Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Ltd. After the acquisition of the stake, the NHPC's share will increase to 51% to become a majority stakeholder in Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHPC Ltd – received approval to acquire 2% equity stake of PTC India – in Chenab Valley Power Projects (J&K)
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh
- HQs of PTC India – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Deepak Amitabh

**9.** On May 10, Online investment platform Groww has announced to acquire Indiabulls Mutual Fund for a total consideration of Rs 175 Cr. The Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) and Portfolio Management Service (PMS) businesses will be demerged from the existing Indiabulls Asset Management Company (IBAMC) structure, and remain under Indiabulls Housing Finance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Groww – to acquire Indiabulls Mutual Fund for Rs 175 Cr
- HQs of Groww – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lalit Keshre



**10.** On May 14, Piramal Capital and Housing Finance (PCHFL) has received an approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to take over Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) for Rs 35,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piramal Capital & Housing Finance – received an approval from CCI – to acquire DHFL for Rs 35,000 Cr
- HQs of Piramal Group – Mumbai, MH | Executive Director – Rajesh Laddha | Chairman – Ajay Piramal
- HQs of DHFL – Mumbai | CEO – Kapil Wadhawan

**11.** 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

**12.** 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

**13.** 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”

**14.** 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



**15.** 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

**16.** On May 20, ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd (OMPL), a subsidiary of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), has now become a wholly owned subsidiary of MRPL as MRPL acquires 100% stake in ONGC Mangalore. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MRPL – acquired 100% stake in ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd (OMPL)
- HQs of MRPL – Mangalore, Karnataka | Chairman – Shashi Shankar | MD – M. Venkatesh

**17.** On May 21, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake to 5.06% in Union Bank of India with acquisition of nearly 2% additional stake in the bank. LIC held 3.09% stake in UBI earlier. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LIC – additional 2% stake in Union Bank of India (overall increased its stake to 5.06%)
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

**18.** On May 25, For aggregate consideration of Rs 43.91 Cr, Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) has sold 81,05,667 shares representing 3.08% stake held in Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC – sold 3.08% stake held in Reliance Infrastructure Ltd – for Rs 43.91 Cr
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | CEO – Keki Mistry
- HQs of Reliance Infrastructure – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Punit Garg

**19.** On May 25, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given approval to a proposal pertaining to intra-group reorganisation of the Motherson Group under the Green Channel Route - an automatic approval system. CCI received a notice relating to an intra-group reorganisation of the Motherson Group from Motherson Sumi Systems, Samvardhana Motherson International & Sumitomo Wiring Systems. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI – approved intra-group reorganisation of the “Motherson Group” under Green Channel Route
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Motherson Group – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Founder & Chairman – Vivek Chand Sehgal

**20.** On May 26, PharmEasy has acquired Medlife for an undisclosed amount. The deal will make PharmEasy the largest player in the domestic online pharmacy sector. This acquisition spells the end of Medlife as a brand. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PharmEasy – acquired Medlife for an undisclosed amount
- HQs of PharmEasy – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Dharmil Sheth
- HQs of Medlife – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Tushar Kumar

**21.** On May 27, Amazon has agreed to buy the Hollywood studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) movie company for \$8.45 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amazon – to acquire the Hollywood studio “Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM)” for \$8.45 billion
- HQs of MGM Studios Inc. – California, US
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from Oct 2021)



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. Hyderabad-based CtrlS Datacenters, Asia's largest rated-4 hyperscale data centre has collaborated with Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance as a strategic technology partner to enhance their overall technology infrastructure resilience. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- CtrlS + Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance = a strategic technology partnership
- HQs of CtrlS – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Sridhar Pinnapureddy
- HQs of Canara HSBC OBC Life Ins. – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Anuj Mathur

2. On May 4, JSW Renew Energy has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for 540 megawatt (MW) of wind-based electricity. JSW Energy marked its entry into the wind power generation sector by winning 810 MW projects in the auction conducted by SECI in August 2020. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- JSW Renew Energy + SECI = a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 540 MW of wind-based electricity
- HQs of JSW Group – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sajjan Jindal
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Praveen Kumar

3. On May 5, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has signed an agreement with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry. As per the agreement, EESL will conceptualise, propose and design technically sound alternate energy generation solutions for plants in the dairy cooperative sector. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- NDDB + EESL = an MoU to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry
- HQs of NDDB – Anand, Gujarat | Chairman – Varsha Joshi | Established in – 1965
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | MD – Rajat Sud | Chairman – Rajeev Sharma

4. On May 5, The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and the United Kingdom. A new India-UK “Global Innovation Partnership” was announced at the virtual “G7 Foreign and Development Ministers Meeting” in London. External affairs minister Jaishankar had virtually participated in the Summit. GIP will also develop an open and inclusive e-market place (E-BAAZAR) for cross border innovation transfer. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the signing of an MoU on Migration & Mobility Partnership between India & UK
- India + UK = Global Innovation Partnership to develop an open and inclusive e-market place (E-BAAZAR)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

5. On May 5, The Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) has signed an MoU with the Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) to promote investment and manufacturing under India's AtmaNibhar Bharat initiative. TEMA will also join as a partner organization for "CONNEXT 2021", ICCC's 10 days-10 states Virtual Trade Mission to India from June 11 to 25. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICCC + TEMA = an MoU to promote AtmaNibhar Bharat
- TEMA – to join ICCC's 10 days-10 states Virtual Trade Mission to India called "CONNEXT 2021"
- HQs of TEMA – New Delhi | Chairman/President – N. K. Goyal

6. On May 5, Live streaming platform Bolo Indya has joined hands with MyGov India to launch a mass awareness drive regarding COVID-19 vaccination, precautionary measures and health issues. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bolo Indya + MyGov India = partnership to launch a mass awareness drive regarding COVID-19 vaccination

7. On May 5, The one year of Covid-19 pandemic has pushed 230 million Indians into poverty with a 15% increase in poverty rate in rural India and 20% surge in poverty rate in urban India, according to a report titled "State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19" by the Azim Premji University. A 10% decline in mobility was associated with a 7.5% decline in income. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19" report – by Azim Premji University
- One year of Covid-19 pandemic pushed 230 million Indians into poverty
- Increase in poverty rate: In rural India – 15% | In urban India – 20%

8. On May 3, PepsiCo Foundation has partnered with not-for-profit organisation, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive and set up COVID care centres. Under the partnership, over 1 lakh vaccines doses will be provided to communities. Moreover, over 100 oxygen concentrators will be provided to the Central government for distribution to various government hospitals across states. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PepsiCo Foundation + SEEDS = partnership to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive

9. On May 10, Muthoot Finance Limited has partnered with Bengaluru-based NIRA to provide salaried customers a personal loan of up to Rs 1 lakh through the NIRA app. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Muthoot Finance + NIRA (Bengaluru) = to provide salaried customers a personal loan of up to Rs 1 lakh
- HQs of Muthoot Finance – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – George Alexander Muthoot



**10.** On May 7, Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have partnered to provide 8 Oxygen-Generation Plants to ensure an uninterrupted supply of the life-saving gas at hospitals in the northeast. These plants will support over 1,300 hospital beds across the region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Japan + UNDP = partnership to develop 8 Oxygen-Generation Plants in the northeast
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

**11.** On May 10, The Mumbai-based drug major Cipla has inked a pact with US-based Eli Lilly and Company to manufacture and produce 'Baricitinib' in India for the treatment of COVID-19. Baricitinib has already received a restricted emergency use approval by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for use in combination with Remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cipla + Eli Lilly & Company (US) = to manufacture and produce 'Baricitinib' in India for the treatment of COVID-19
- HQs of Cipla – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Umang Vohra

**12.** Shivrai Technologies, Indian AgTech company has recently launched B2C Farm accounting mobile application, "Farmizo Khata" in partnership with Yono by SBI. Shivrai also owns its own B2B brand, FarmERP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shivrai Technologies + Yono app (SBI) = partnership to launch "Farmizo Khata" app
- HQs of Shivrai Technologies – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO & Co-founder – Sanjay Borkar

**13.** On May 9, The Cabinet has approved the signing of an MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA). The MoU would enhance cooperation between the institutes to strengthen the accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the signing of an MoU between = ICAI + Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA)
- HQs of ICAI – New Delhi | President – Nihar N Jambusaria
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani

**14.** On May 13, India's Epsilon Advance Material (EAMPL) has signed an MoU with the UK's Beowulf Mining plc to set up a joint venture company in Finland. The MoU acts as a formal market entry vehicle for Epsilon for supplying anode material into Europe. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Epsilon Advance Material + Beowulf Mining plc (UK) = an MoU to set up a joint venture company in Finland
- HQs of Epsilon Advance Material – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Vikram Handa
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

**15.** On May 13, SoftBank Corp and OneWeb have signed an agreement for mutual cooperation to promote OneWeb's satellite communication services in the global and Japan markets. SoftBank aims to provide advanced seamless connectivity services and DX platform services by using global connectivity solutions that incorporate OneWeb's services. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SoftBank + OneWeb = an agreement for mutual cooperation to promote OneWeb's satellite communication services
- HQs of Softbank – Tokyo, Japan | Founder & CEO – Masayoshi Son
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**16.** On May 16, The Mahratta 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

**17.** 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

**18.** 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)

**19.** 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

**20.** 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

**21.** On May 20, India and Oman renewed two MoUs on military cooperation along with its annexure as well as on maritime issues. The document was signed by Ambassador of India to Oman Shri Munu Mahawar. The MoUs were initially signed between the two sides in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India & Oman renewed two MoUs – on Military Cooperation & Maritime Issues
- The MoUs were initially signed – in 2018
- Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

**22.** On May 19, Mahindra Rural Housing Finance and India Post Payments Bank have announced a strategic partnership for Cash Management Solution. As part of the tie-up, IPPB will be offering cash management and collection services to MRHFL. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mahindra Rural Housing Finance + IPPB = a Strategic Partnership for Cash Management Solution
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> Sep, 2018

**23.** On May 20, PayNearby, a bank and digital payments network, has partnered with Centrum Microcredit Limited, the Centrum Group's micro finance arm, to provide unsecured business loans to its retail partners as part of its Shop Owners Benefit Program. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PayNearby + Centrum Microcredit Ltd = to provide unsecured business loans to its retail partners
- HQs of PayNearby – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anand Kumar Bajaj
- HQs of Centrum Microcredit Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Executive Director & CEO – Prashant Thakker



**24.** On May 25, The World Health Organization (WHO) and Switzerland have signed an MoU to launch a “BioHub” facility that will allow rapid sharing of pathogens between laboratories and partners to facilitate a better analysis and preparedness against them. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO + Switzerland = an MoU to launch a “BioHub” facility – for rapid sharing of viruses & pathogens
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin

**25.** IIM Indore has partnered with the German Development Agency (GIZ) to identify the challenges across pandemic-hit sectors and to figure out ways to tackle them. Under the pact, IIM Indore has received a research grant of Rs 85.3 lakh from The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIM Indore + GIZ = partnership to identify challenges across pandemic-hit sectors
- IIM Indore – received a research grant of Rs 85.3 lakh from Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

**26.** On May 25, V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust has signed an MoU with National Technology Centre for Ports Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) of IIT Madras for operation, manning and maintenance of Vessel Traffic System and development of indigenous vessel traffic software at the port. The duration of the MoU for maintenance and updating of the entire system is for a period of 5 years and is extendable by another 5 years. V. O. Chidambaranar Port became the 1st Indian Major Port to receive the indigenous VTS Software. VTS is mandatory under International Maritime Organisation Convention “SOLAS” (Safety of Life at Sea). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust + NTCPWC (IIT Madras) = an MoU for developing Indigenous VTS Software
- Duration of the MoU – 5 years
- VTS is mandatory – under IMO Convention “SOLAS” (Safety of Life at Sea)
- Location of V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust – Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

**27.** On May 27, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJ TSAU) has signed an MoU with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Learning for artificial intelligence-based pest management. As part of the agreement, the AI-based pest/insect management system developed by the Wadhvani Institute would identify the possibility of pink bollworm and other insect/pest infestation on cotton in advance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PJ TSAU + Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Learning = an MoU for AI-based pest management
- Location of PJ TSAU – Hyderabad, Telangana
- Location of Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Learning – Mumbai, Maharashtra



# Books & Authors

1. On May 2, A book titled “Another Dozen Stories” is translated from Bengali to English by Indrani Majumdar. The book was authored by Satyajit Ray. The book contains 12 stories. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Another Dozen Stories” book – authored by Satyajit Ray
- Translated from Bengali to English by – Indrani Majumdar

2. A book titled “Bengal 2021, An Election Diary” is authored by Deep Halder. This book speaks about the electrifying election that took place in West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Bengal 2021, An Election Diary” book – authored by Deep Halder

3. Meghan Markle (Duchess of Sussex) is releasing her first children’s book titled “The Bench” on June 8. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “The Bench” book – authored by Meghan Markle (Duchess of Sussex)

4. “Life in the Clock Tower Valley” is the debut book of Press Trust of India (PTI) journalist Shakoor Rather. It is published by Speaking Tiger. It talks about Kashmir’s pristine past, its grievous present and always-uncertain future. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Life in the Clock Tower Valley” book – authored by Shakoor Rather

5. A new book titled “Elephant” is authored by British Novelist Paul Pickering. The book is published by Salt Publishing. Pickering has also authored the acclaimed novel Over the Rainbow. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Elephant” book – authored by Paul Pickering

6. On May 9, Actor Kalki Koechlin is making her debut as an author with an illustrated non-fiction book titled “Elephant in The Womb”. The book is illustrated by Valeriya Polyanychko and will be published under Penguin’s imprint this year. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Elephant in The Womb” – authored by Kalki Koechlin
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India (PRHI)



**7.** On May 8, A book titled “Buddha in Gandhara” is authored by Sunita Dwivedi. The real value of “Buddha in Gandhara” lies in how she combines her survey with onsite inspections of Buddhaland. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Buddha in Gandhara” book – authored by Sunita Dwivedi

**8.** A book titled “1971: The Beginning of India’s Cricketing Greatness” is authored by Boria Majumdar and Gautam Bhattacharya. Boria Majumdar is also the co-author of Sachin Tendulkar’s autobiography “Playing It My Way”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “1971: The Beginning of India’s Cricketing Greatness” book – authored by Boria Majumdar & Gautam Bhattacharya

**9.** On May 9, “Klara and the Sun” is the latest novel of Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro. In his latest novel, Kazuo Ishiguro presents an Artificial Friend, created to provide companionship to a possible race of forsaken humans. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Klara and the Sun” novel – authored by Kazuo Ishiguro

**10.** India's beloved writer from the hills, Ruskin Bond turned 87 on May 19, 2021. And in honour of his birthday, a new anthology of his short stories “All-Time Favourites for Children” is released by Puffin. The book is a collection of the author's 25 most favourite short stories for kids aged 9 and above. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “All-Time Favourites for Children” book – authored by Ruskin Bond
- Publisher – Puffin | The book is a collection of the author's 25 most favourite short stories for kids

**11.** A book titled “Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance” by Preet Mohan Singh Malik has been published with permission from HarperCollins India. In Sikkim, former diplomat Preet Mohan Singh Malik writes about the Namgyal dynasty that ruled the Himalayan kingdom until it became India’s 22<sup>nd</sup> state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance” book – authored by Preet Mohan Singh Malik

**12.** 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.



**13.** A book titled “The Spiritual CEO” is penned by Secretary of Heartfulness Institute, S. Prakash. The book is a roadmap for how to build a better business, live a better life and make a bigger impact - all through the simple practice of ‘Korporate Karma’. It is published by Westland Publication. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Spiritual CEO” book – authored by S. Prakash
- Publisher – Westland Publication

**14.** On May 20, Bollywood actor Neena Gupta is all set to launch her autobiography “Sach Kahun Toh”. She wrote the book in 2020 during the lockdown. She recently played a grandmother in Netflix film Sardar Ka Grandson. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Sach Kahun Toh” an autobiography of – Neena Gupta (a Bollywood Actress)

**15.** On May 23, Shivshankar Menon, who was the Prime Minister’s National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary, tells the story of how India weathered the many geopolitical storms of the past in his latest book, “India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present” book – authored by Shivshankar Menon

**16.** On May 25, A Delhi-based entrepreneur and mountaineer aims to raise Rs 1 Cr for COVID-19 relief from the sale proceeds of his recently released book “7 Lessons from Everest Expedition Learnings from Life and Business”. The coffee-table book, with 350 stunning images spread over 250 pages, is written by Aditya Gupta. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “7 Lessons from Everest Expedition Learnings from Life and Business” – written by Aditya Gupta
- The book aims to raise 1 Cr for child rights amid pandemic

**17.** Avtar Singh Bhasin has authored a book titled “Nehru, Tibet and China”. Based on years of meticulous archival research, this book in fascinating detail, analyses the events from 1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962 and its aftermath to explore the answers to these burning questions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Nehru, Tibet and China” book – authored by A. S. Bhasin

**18.** Cricket legend, commentator and one of Team India’s most successful coaches, Ravi Shastri has penned a book titled “Stargazing: The Players in My Life”. The news was announced by publisher HarperCollins India on Ravi Shastri’s birthday on May 27, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Stargazing: The Players in My Life” book – authored by Ravi Shastri
- Publisher – HarperCollins India

**19.** Historian Vikram Sampath's book, titled "Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)" will cover the story of one of the most contentious political thinkers of the 20th century from 1924 to 1966. The book will be published on July 26 by Penguin Random House India. The first volume, "Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past" was released in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)" book – authored by Vikram Sampath
- 1<sup>st</sup> volume "Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past" book – also authored by Vikram Sampath

**20.** On May 24, In the book, "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020", Salman 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. [{Read more}](#)

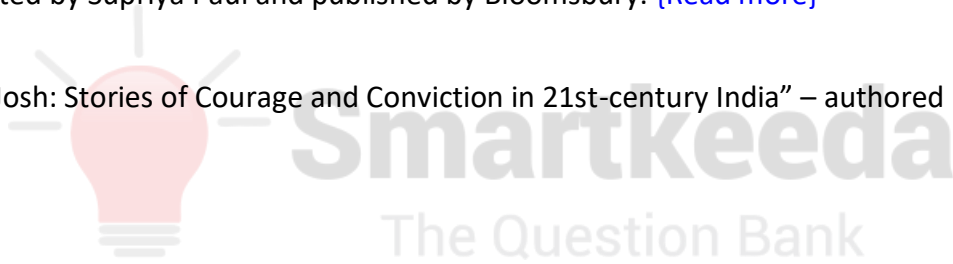
**Key Points:**

- "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020" book – authored by Salman Rushdie

**21.** On May 31, "All You Need Is Josh: Stories of Courage and Conviction in 21st-century India" is a collection of 30 awe-inspiring real life stories of people bracing odds and obstacles and achieving their dreams. The stories in the book are edited by Supriya Paul and published by Bloomsbury. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "All You Need Is Josh: Stories of Courage and Conviction in 21st-century India" – authored by Supriya Paul



# Obituaries

1. Ashatai Pathre, a freedom fighter from Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra passed away. She was 100 years old. She had participated in the Leave India movement started by Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi in 1942. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Ashatai Pathre (Ratnagiri, Maharashtra) – a Freedom Fighter – passed away
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

2. On May 1, Sitar maestro Pandit Devbrata Chaudhuri has died of Covid-related complications. He was 85. The sitarist belonged to the Senia Gharana of music. He had been awarded the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Pandit Devbrata Chaudhuri – Sitar maestro – passed away (Senia Gharana of music)
- Recipient of – Padma Bhushan & Padma Shri

3. On May 1, Actor Bikramjeet Kanwarpal has passed away due to Covid-19 complications. He was 52. He has been a part of many popular films, TV shows and web series. Bikramjeet Kanwarpal made his acting debut in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Bikramjeet Kanwarpal – an Actor – passed away

4. On May 1, The 1982 Asian Games Gold medalist rider Colonel Gulam Mohammad Khan (retired) has passed away in Pune. The renowned Equestrian was 74. He had joined the Indian Military Academy in 1973. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Gulam Mohammad Khan – an Equestrian – passed away (1982 Asian Games Gold medalist)

5. On May 1, US actress Olympia Dukakis, who won an Oscar for her role in the 1987 romantic comedy Moonstruck, has passed away at the age of 89. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Olympia Dukakis (US) – an Actress – passed away
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

6. On May 1, Shooter Chandro Tomar, nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi', has passed away at the age of 89 due to Covid-19. She hails from the Baghpat village in Uttar Pradesh. Her feats ultimately inspired the award-winning Bollywood movie 'Saand ki Aankh'. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Chandro Tomar (nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi') – a Shooter – passed away
- She hails from – Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh



**7.** Aeronautical scientist Manas Bihari Verma has died of heart attack in Bihar's Darbhanga district. He was 78. He played a key role in the development of India's first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas'. He was conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manas Bihari Verma – Aeronautical Scientist – passed away (Padma Shri award 2018)
- He played a key role in the development of India's first LCA 'Tejas'

**8.** Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Jagmohan Malhotra has passed away. He was 94. Jagmohan served two terms as Jammu and Kashmir Governor - from 1984 to 89, and then from January to May 1990. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jagmohan Malhotra – Former J&K Governor – passed away
- Padma Shri in 1971 | Padma Bhushan in 1977 | Padma Vibhushan in 2016

**9.** On May 4, IAS officer Parul Devi Das succumbed to COVID-19. An Assam-Meghalaya cadre officer, Das served as the Additional Chief Secretary of Assam. She was the first woman IAS officer from Assam and briefly served Meghalaya in the early 80s. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Parul Devi Das – Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS Officer – passed away (first woman IAS officer from Assam)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**10.** On May 5, Former head of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and the longest-serving bishop in India Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom has passed away. He was 103. He was awarded Padma Bhushan by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018. He served as Bishop in Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom (Kerala) – India's longest-serving bishop – passed away
- Padma Bhushan in 2018

**11.** On May 4, Boxing Federation of India (BFI) Executive Director and seasoned sports administrator Raj Kumar Sacheti has passed away. He was 55. He was a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Boxing Task Force for the '2021 Tokyo Olympics'. He also worked as an assistant joint secretary of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Raj Kumar Sacheti – ED of Boxing Federation of India – passed away
- HQs of BFI – Gurugram, Haryana | President – Ajay Singh

**12.** On May 6, Former Union minister and Chief of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) Chaudhary Ajit Singh has passed away in a Gurgaon hospital due to COVID19 related complications. He was the son of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. He was one of the first IITians in Indian politics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chaudhary Ajit Singh – a Politician – passed away [Chief of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)]

**13.** On May 5, Legislative Department Secretary G Narayan Raju has died of COVID-19. He was 62. The legislative department in the Law Ministry also deals with issues related to the Election Commission. Raju was recently given a one-year extension as legislative secretary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G Narayan Raju – Secretary of Legislative Department – passed away

**14.** On May 7, Veteran music composer Vanraj Bhatia has passed away. He was 94. He received India's fourth-highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vanraj Bhatia – a Music Composer – passed away (Padma Shri in 2012)

**15.** On May 6, Renowned social activist and Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam has passed away. He was 86. Muniratnam founded the Tirupati-based Rayalaseema Seva Samithi (RASS) as a social organisation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gutha Muniratnam – a Renowned Social Activist – passed away (Padma Shri)

**16.** On May 6, Former Union Minister Matang Sinh has passed away because of COVID-19 related complications. He was a former Rajya Sabha member from Assam. He was a close aide of former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao. He was elected to Rajya Sabha from Assam in 1992. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Matang Sinh ([Assam](#)) – a Politician – passed away (former RS member from Assam)
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

**17.** On May 7, Former Indian hockey player and member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics winning side Ravinderpal Singh has passed away at a Lucknow after battling COVID-19. He was 61. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ravinder Pal Singh – Former Indian Hockey player – passed away (member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics)

**18.** On May 10, Former India footballer Fortunato Franco passed away in Goa. He was 84. One of India's finest mid-fielders, Franco was a part of Indian football's golden era between 1960-64. He was an integral part of India's 1962 Jakarta Asian Games gold medal winning team. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fortunato Franco ([Goa](#)) – Former India footballer – passed away

**19.** On May 8, Olympic Gold Medalist, former India coach, Arjuna and Dronacharya awardee Maharaj Kishen Kaushik has passed away. He was 66. M K Kaushik was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1998, before being bestowed with the Dronacharya award in 2002. A book titled “The Golden Boot” was written by him. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharaj Kishen Kaushik – Former Indian Hockey player & coach – passed away (Olympic Gold Medalist)
- Arjuna Award in 1998 | Dronacharya award in 2002
- His book – “The Golden Boot”

**20.** On May 9, Eminent sculptor and Rajya Sabha member Padma Vibhushan Raghunath Mohapatra has passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19. He was 77. He was felicitated with Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 & Padma Vibhushan in 2013. In 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind nominated Mr. Mohapatra, first person from Odisha to the Rajya Sabha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Raghunath Mohapatra – Eminent Sculptor & Rajya Sabha member – passed away
- Padma Shri in 1975 | Padma Bhushan in 2001 | Padma Vibhushan in 2013

**21.** On May 4, V. Kalyanam, the last personal secretary of Mahatma Gandhi, has passed away in Chennai due to age-related ailments. He was 99. Kalyanam, who was born in Shimla on August 15, 1922, was associated with Mahatma Gandhi from 1944 to 1948. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V. Kalyanam – Last Personal Secretary of Mahatma Gandhi – passed away (from 1944 to 1948)

**22.** On May 12, Veteran Table Tennis coach Venugopal Chandrasekar has passed away due to COVID-19-related complications at the age of 63. He was the winner of Arjuna Award. His Autobiography is “My fightback from Death's Door” that was published in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Venugopal Chandrasekar – a Table Tennis Coach – passed away (Arjuna Award)
- His autobiography – “My fightback from Death's Door”



**23.** On May 11, Kerala's living Communist legend Kalathilparambil Raman Gouri, one of the longest-serving politicians in the state, has passed away. She was 102. A prominent CPI (M) leader of several decades is popularly known in the state as Gouri Amma. K R Gouri was currently the president of Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi. She was elected to Kerala Assembly 11 times. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kalathilparambil Raman Gouri ([Kerala](#)) – a Politician – passed away (Party – CPI - Communist Party of India)

**24.** On May 13, Times Group Chairperson Indu Jain has passed away due to Covid-related complications. She was 84. She set up The Times Foundation in 2000. She was the founder president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), established in 1983. From 1999, she also served as chairperson of Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust, founded in 1944 by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain, her father-in-law. She received Padma Bhushan for Trade and Industry in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indu Jain – Chairperson of Times Group – passed away (Padma Bhushan for Trade & Industry in 2016)
- Founder president of – FICCI Ladies Organisation | Chairperson of – Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust

**25.** On May 13, Noted Assamese litterateur and journalist 'Homen Borgohain' has passed away recently. He was 88. He won the Sahitya Akademi in 1978 for his novel "Pita Putra" but returned the award in 2015 to protest the growing intolerance in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Homen Borgohain ([Assam](#)) – a Litterateur & Journalist – passed away (Sahitya Akademi in 1978 for "Pita Putra")
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

**26.** On May 15, Senior Congress leader and six-time MP from Amritsar Raghunandan Lal Bhatia has passed away after a brief illness. He was 100. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1972 from Amritsar. Mr Bhatia had also served as the Governor of Kerala and Bihar from 2004 to 2008 and 2008 to 2009, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Raghunandan Lal Bhatia – a Politician – passed away (Party – INC | 6-time MP from Amritsar, Punjab)
- He served as the Governor of – Kerala & Bihar

**27.** Padma Bhushan awardee Mudumbai Seshachulu Narasimhan, a towering figure in Indian science, has passed away on May 15 in Bangalore. He was 88. He was a world-renowned mathematician of extraordinary breadth and depth. He is the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in Science. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. S. Narasimhan – a world-renowned mathematician – passed away (Padma Bhushan)
- He is the only Indian to receive – "King Faisal International Prize in Science"



**28.** 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

**29.** 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

**30.** 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"

**31.** 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

**32.** 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)



**33.** 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)

**34.** 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

**35.** On May 19, Jyoti Krishan Dutt, former Director General of the National Security Guards (NSG) has passed away due to COVID-19 related complications. He headed the force during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. Mr. Dutt had served the CBI and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J. K. Dutt – Former Director General of NSG – passed away (served in CBI & CISF also)
- HQs of NSG – New Delhi | DG – M. A. Ganapathy | Founded in – 1950

**36.** On May 19, Ranjit K. Dutta, the first Managing Director of Numaligarh Refinery Limited, has passed away at Kolkata after a brief illness. He was 75. He also held the position of CMD of Oil India Limited. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. K. Dutta – first MD of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd – passed away
- Numaligarh Refinery – located in Assam

**37.** Well-known Environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna has passed away due to COVID-related complications at AIIMS in Rishikesh. He was 94. A 'Padma Vibhushan' awardee, he was a Gandhian to the core. He had coined a slogan for the Chipko movement which is "Ecology is the permanent Economy". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sunderlal Bahuguna – an Environmentalist – passed away ('Padma Vibhushan' awardee)
- His slogan for the Chipko movement – "Ecology is the permanent Economy"

**38.** On May 22, Om Prakash Bhardwaj, boxing's first Dronacharya Awardee coach has passed away. OP Bhardwaj was India's National Boxing Coach from 1968 to 1989. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Om Prakash Bhardwaj – India's National Boxing Coach – passed away (Boxing's first Dronacharya Awardee)



**39.** On May 21, Lee Evans, the record-setting Sprinter has passed away. He was 74. He wore a black beret in a sign of protest at the 1968 Olympics then went onto a life of humanitarian work in support of social justice. Evans became the first man to crack 44 seconds in the 400 meters, winning the Gold medal at the Mexico City Games in 43.86. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lee Evans (USA) – a Sprinter – passed away
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**40.** On May 21, Former Indian boxer Sakti Mazumdar passed away after suffering a heart attack. He was 89. He had represented India at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sakti Mazumdar – Former Indian Boxer – passed away (He represented India at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics)

**41.** On May 22, Veteran music director Raamlaxman whose real name was Vijay Patil, passed away due to a cardiac arrest. He was 78. He was best known for his work on Rajshri Productions' blockbuster movies - Maine Pyar Kiya, Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! and Hum Saath Saath Hain. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vijay Patil (Raamlaxman) – a Music composer – passed away

**42.** On May 23, Padma Shri awardee Scientist Srikumar Banerjee, who was the former Chairperson of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), passed away. He was the recipient of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award. He was a council member at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Srikumar Banerjee – a Scientist – passed away (former Chairperson of the Department of Atomic Energy)
- Awards: “Padma Shri” & “Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award”
- HQs of DAE – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson – K. N. Vyas

**43.** On May 22, A renowned Journalist Rajkumar Keswani died of post COVID-19 complications. He was 72. He had penned a book on the classic film “Mughal-E-Azam” and was awarded the prestigious BD Goenka Award (1985) and Prem Bhatia Journalism Award in 2010. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajkumar Keswani – a renowned Journalist – passed away
- Awards: BD Goenka Award (1985) & Prem Bhatia Journalism Award (2010)

**44.** On May 21, Farmers' leader and former union minister, Babagouda Rudragouda Patil passed away. He was 80. He had represented the Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency in 1998 as a BJP nominee. He quit the BJP in early 2000 to join the JD(S). But he quit the JD(S) in 2013 and concentrated on organising farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Babagouda Rudragouda Patil (Karnataka) – a Politician & Farmers Leader – passed away [Parties – BJP/JD(S)]

**45.** On May 22, Yuan Longping, a Chinese Agricultural Scientist passed away at the age of 91. His breakthroughs in hybrid rice brought food security to China and transformed agriculture worldwide. He is also known as the “Father of Hybrid Rice”. He was honoured with the World Food Prize in 2004. His discovery of Nan-you No. 2, led to a rise in China’s rice production from 5.69 billion tonnes in 1950 to 19.47 billion tonnes in 2000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yuan Longping also known as “Father of Hybrid Rice” (China) – an Agricultural Scientist – passed away
- His Awards: World Food Prize (2004) | His discovery: “Nan-you No. 2”
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**46.** On May 25, Col Panjab Singh, Vir Chakra awardee and a decorated veteran of the ‘1971 War’, passed away in Haryana due to post-COVID complications. He was 79. For this brave act, Col. Singh was awarded the third highest wartime gallantry award, the Vir Chakra, on December 24, 1971. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Col. Panjab Singh – a Decorated Army Veteran – passed away
- Awards: Vir Chakra (1971) - the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest Wartime Gallantry Award

**47.** On May 26, H. S. Doreswamy, centenarian freedom fighter, activist and Karnataka’s noted voice for freedom of expression, passed away in Bengaluru. He was 104. He had recently recovered from COVID-19. He ran the Indian nationalist newspaper ‘Pauravani’ and ‘Sahitya Mandira’ publication house. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- H. S. Doreswamy (Karnataka) – a Freedom Fighter & Activist – passed away
- He ran the ‘Pauravani’ newspaper
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**48.** On May 27, Author Eric Carle passed away at the age of 91. He is illustrator of the beloved children’s classic “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Eric Carle (USA) – an Author – passed away
- His book – “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”

**49.** Urdu Poet, Critic & Author Tarannum Riyaz passed away in a Delhi hospital due to Covid-19. Her husband, Riyaz Punjabi, who was former Kashmir University vice-chancellor, had passed away in April. She was also a recipient of the “SAARC Literature Award”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tarannum Riyaz – Urdu Poet, Critic & Author – passed away
- Awards: “SAARC Literature Award”

**50.** On May 28, Denmark's Prime Minister for over a decade from 1982-1993, Poul Schlueter passed away. He was 92. He was a key personality in the European Union Treaty. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Poul Schlueter ([Denmark](#)) – a Politician – passed away (Former PM of Denmark)
- [Denmark](#) – [Copenhagen](#) – [Danish krone](#) | [PM](#) – [Mette Frederiksen](#)

**51.** On May 30, Swiss Moto3 rider Jason Dupasquier has died aged 19 from injuries sustained in a crash in qualifying at the Italian Grand Prix. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jason Dupasquier ([Switzerland](#)) – Moto3 Rider – passed away
- [Switzerland](#) – [Bern](#) – [Swiss Franc](#) | [President](#) – [Guy Parmelin](#)



# Person in News

**1.** Vice President Kamala Harris will be immortalized in Madame Tussauds wax museum in New York City. She will become the first vice president to have a wax figure dedicated to her likeness at the museum. Both she and President Joe Biden will have wax figures unveiled later this year. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kamala Harris – the 1<sup>st</sup> woman VP of the US to have a figure displayed at the ‘Madame Tussauds wax museum’
- The museum is located in – New York, US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**2.** On May 6, Mohamed Nasheed, former President of Maldives and the current Speaker of Parliament, has injured in a bomb blast near his home. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Mohamed Nasheed – former President of Maldives & current Speaker of Parliament – injured in a bomb blast
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**3.** On May 7, Nepalese climber Kami Rita Sherpa has scaled Mount Everest for the 25<sup>th</sup> time, breaking his own record for the most ascents of the world’s highest peak. Rita (51) first scaled Everest in 1994. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal) – scaled world’s highest peak ‘Mount Everest’ for the 25<sup>th</sup> time (breaking his own record)
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

**4.** On May 11, Tesla CEO Elon Musk who hosted the Saturday Night Live (SNL) show has revealed to be suffering from Asperger’s Syndrome and created history by becoming the first host to do so, or at least the one to admit it. Asperger's syndrome is one of a group of neurological disorders known as ‘Autism Spectrum Disorders’. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Elon Musk – recently revealed to be suffering from Asperger’s Syndrome
- Asperger's syndrome is one of a group of – ‘Autism Spectrum Disorders’
- HQs of Tesla – California, USA | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2003
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

**5.** On May 13, Mingma Tenji Sherpa, a 43-year-old Nepali mountain guide, has created a world record by scaling Mount Everest twice in the shortest span of four days only. Besides, Nepali mountain guide Kami Rita Sherpa broke his own record by climbing the mountain for the 25<sup>th</sup> time. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Mingma Tenji Sherpa (Nepal) – created a world record by scaling Mount Everest twice in just 4 days
- Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal) – broke his own record by climbing the mountain for the 25<sup>th</sup> time
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – K. P. Sharma Oli

**6.** 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

**7.** 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 1<sup>st</sup> Indian woman to scale Mt Everest in 2021
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

**8.** On May 27, Assistant police inspector Sambhaji Gurav from the quick response team of the Navi Mumbai Police has become the third policeman from Maharashtra to climb Mount Everest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sambhaji Gurav – became the 3<sup>rd</sup> policeman from Maharashtra to climb Mount Everest
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**9.** On May 27, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has asked neighbouring Dominica to hand over Mehul Choksi to India directly. The fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi was caught in Dominica. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Antigua & Barbuda PM Gaston Browne – asked Dominica to hand over “Mehul Choksi” to India directly
- Antigua & Barbuda – Saint John’s – Eastern Caribbean dollar | PM – Gaston Browne
- Dominica – Roseau – Eastern Caribbean dollar | PM – Roosevelt Skerrit





**10.** On May 28, Actor Randeep Hooda has been removed as the ambassador of Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), an Environmental Treaty of United Nations. The actor was appointed as the CMS Ambassador for Migratory Species in February 2020 for 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Randeep Hooda – removed as Ambassador of Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- CMS is an Environmental Treaty of – United Nations

**11.** On May 24, Aashritha V. Olety, an officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has graduated from the Air Force Test Pilot School as India's first woman flight test Engineer. Squadron Leader Aashritha V Olety is the first and only woman in the IAF qualified for the role. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aashritha V. Olety – became India's first woman flight test Engineer (graduated from Air Force Test Pilot School)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Founded in – 1932

**12.** On May 28, Climbers from the United States and Hong Kong have set new records as they scaled Mount Everest. Arthur Muir (75) has become the oldest American to climb the world's highest peak - Mount Everest at 8,848.86-metres (29,031 feet). Besides, Hong Kong's Tsang Yin-Hung has scaled the peak in less than 26 hours, the shortest time taken by any woman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arthur Muir ([USA](#)) – became the oldest American to climb Mt Everest (75 years old)
- Tsang Yin-Hung ([Hong Kong](#)) – made a record by climbing the Mt Everest in less than 26 hours

# Science & Technology

1. The new endemic damselfly, *Euphaea thosegharensis* and *Euphaea pseudodispar*, belonging to the genus *Euphaea*, were spotted at Thoseghar in Satara district of Maharashtra. They were discovered by a team of researchers from Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram-based Travancore Nature History Society. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- *Euphaea thosegharensis* & *Euphaea pseudodispar* (endemic damselflies) – spotted in Satara, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

2. Stratolaunch has completed its second test flight of world's biggest airplane named 'Roc' with 6 Boeing 747 Engines for a second time. Stratolaunch is the aerospace firm founded by the late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Stratolaunch (US) – completed its 2<sup>nd</sup> test flight of world's biggest airplane 'Roc' with 6 Boeing 747 Engines

3. On May 3, A Crew Dragon capsule namely "Resilience" of SpaceX has returned 4 astronauts (3 American & 1 Japanese) from the International Space Station, making the first US crew splashdown in darkness since the Apollo 8 moonshot. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Resilience" (SpaceX) – returned 4 astronauts from the International Space Station
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

4. Scientists have rediscovered a new coffee species "*Coffea stenophylla*" in dense tropical forests in Sierra Leone. This coffee was demonstrated to have a superior flavour, similar to Arabica. The discovery was published in the journal Nature Plants. *Stenophylla* grows at a mean annual temperature of 24.9°C. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Scientists rediscovered a new coffee species "*Coffea stenophylla*" – in Sierra Leone
- Sierra Leone – Freetown – Sierra Leonean leone | President – Julius Maada Bio

5. On May 4, SpaceX has launched another 'Falcon 9' rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida with 60 Starlink satellites for the company's internet satellite constellation system. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched 'Falcon 9' rocket with 60 Starlink satellites into Orbit for High-Speed Internet – from Florida, US
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002



**6.** Global Sea Mineral Resources (GSR), the deep-sea exploratory division of dredging company DEME Group, has been testing “Patania II”, a 25-tonne mining robot prototype, in its concession in the Clarion Clipperton Zone since April 20. The Mining robot has stranded on Pacific Ocean floor at a depth of more than 4 km (13,000 ft). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Global Sea Mineral Resources has been testing “Patania II” seabed mining robot – stranded on Pacific Ocean floor

**7.** On May 4, Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of insectivorous mammal, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands. The species “Crocidura Narcondamica” is a new addition to the list of mammals found in India. It increased the number of White-toothed shrew (genus Crocidura) species in India from 11 to 12. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ZSI discovered a new species of a white-toothed shrew “Crocidura Narcondamica” from Narcondam Island
- Narcondam Island – a part of the Andaman & Nicobar group of islands
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – K Venkatraman

**8.** On May 3, The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd’s (HAL) “Dhruv MK III” MR 2.5t helicopter has undergone a series of trials aboard an Indian Coast Guard ship at sea. The work took place aboard the ICGS Sujay, an offshore patrol vessel launched in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HAL’s “Dhruv MK III” MR 2.5t helicopter – successfully demonstrated a series of trials aboard the ICGS Sujay
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt

**9.** On May 4, Xylophis deepaki, first stumbled upon in a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari, is now reported to be an endemic species of Tamil Nadu and has been sighted in a few locations in the southern part of the Western Ghats. It is named after Herpetologist Deepak Veerappan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Xylophis deepaki (a species of snake) – discovered in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu
- It is named after Herpetologist Deepak Veerappan
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**10.** On May 3, An Egyptian mummy that for decades was thought to be a male priest was recently discovered to have been a pregnant woman, making it the first known case of its kind. Scientists in Poland made the discovery while conducting a comprehensive study, which started in 2015. The findings were published in The Journal of Archaeological Science. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Researchers in Poland discovered a pregnant Egyptian mummy
- The discovery was published in – The Journal of Archaeological Science
- Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastin Duda

**11.** On May 3, Scientists have discovered a new type of uranium that is the lightest ever known at the Heavy Ion Research Facility in Lanzhou, China. The newfound uranium, called “Uranium-214”, is an isotope, or a variant of the element, with 30 more neutrons than protons. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scientists discovered the lightest form of uranium called “Uranium-214” – in Lanzhou, China
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

**12.** On May 3, Facebook has partnered with the Indian government to launch a ‘Vaccine Finder Tool’ on its mobile app in India, which will help people identify places nearby to get vaccinated. The tracker tool will also aggregate and display walk-in options (for 45 years and above) along with a link to register on the Cowin portal and schedule vaccination appointments. The app will be available in 17 languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Facebook + Indian government = partnership to launch a ‘Vaccine Finder Tool’ on its mobile app in India
- [HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004](#)

**13.** On May 6, A team of researchers from the marine research non-profit organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM built the world’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI) ship, the “Mayflower 400”. The ship also has its own 7-armed, stowaway octopus chatbot called ‘Artie’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ProMare + IBM = built the world’s first A.I. ship - “Mayflower 400”
- The ship has its own 7-armed, stowaway octopus chatbot called ‘Artie’
- [HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, US | CEO – Arvind Krishna](#)
- [HQs of IBM India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sandip Patel](#)

**14.** ICAR - Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) in Chennai has developed an indigenous vaccine called “Nodavac-R” for viral nervous necrosis (VNN) affecting several fish species. The disease is caused by Nervous Necrosis Virus (NNV). Nodavac-R is safe and can be injected to fingerlings. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICMR-CIBA ([Chennai](#)) – developed “Nodavac-R” vaccine for viral nervous necrosis (VNN) – affecting fish species
- It is caused by – Nervous Necrosis Virus (NNV)

**15.** On May 7, NASA’s Parker Solar Probe has detected natural radio emissions from Venus. It also detected Venus’ upper atmosphere called “ionosphere” which is an electrically charged layer of gas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA’s Parker Solar Probe – detected natural radio emissions from Venus
- “ionosphere” – an electrically charged layer of gas in the upper atmosphere of Venus
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958](#)

**16.** On May 6, SpaceX has successfully completed the high-altitude ascent and landing of the latest prototype, Serial Number 15 (SN15). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SpaceX – successfully completed the high-altitude ascent and landing of the latest prototype “SN15”
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

**17.** On May 6, The Long March 4C rocket lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the Gobi Desert of northwest China, placing “Yaogan-34” into a 680-mile-high (1,100 km) orbit. Yaogan-34 is described as an optical remote sensing satellite for surveying land resources, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimation and disaster prevention and reduction. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – successfully launched the “Yaogan-34” Optical remote sensing satellite into orbit
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**18.** On May 5, The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT Kanpur has launched “Mission Bharat O2”, a 45-day open challenge for manufacturing high-quality indigenous, rapidly scalable oxygen generation units to help combat the emergency. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SIIC of IIT Kanpur – launched “Mission Bharat O2” challenge to combat shortage of oxygen

**19.** On May 5, In the West Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya, 100-million-year old fossil bone fragments of sauropod dinosaurs have been found by researchers of the Geological Survey of India (GSI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 100-million year old bones of ‘Sauropod Dinosaurs’ discovered – in West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**20.** On May 6, IBM has introduced the world's first 2-nanometre chipmaking technology. The technology could be as much as 45% faster than the mainstream 7-nanometre chips in many of today's laptops and phones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IBM – developed the world's first 2-nanometre chipmaking technology
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna
- HQs of IBM India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sandip Patel

**21.** On May 6, An international team of paleontologists has identified a new genus and species of hadrosaur or duck-billed dinosaur, “Yamatosaurus izanagii” on one of Japan’s southern islands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A duck-billed dinosaur species “Yamatosaurus izanagii” – discovered in Japan
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**22.** On May 6, “AYUSH 64” is found to be useful in treating mild to moderate cases of Covid 19. “AYUSH 64” is a poly herbal formulation developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS). Initially, the drug was developed for Malaria in the year 1980 and now is repurposed for COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “AYUSH 64” – to be useful in treating mild to moderate cases of Covid 19 – developed by the CCRAS
- [Location of CCRAS – New Delhi](#)

**23.** On May 7, The Interpol has launched a mobile phone application “ID-Art” which will help identify stolen cultural property, reduce smuggling and increase the possibility of recovering stolen works and artefacts. The app’s users can immediately cross-check if an object is among the over 52,000 items registered as stolen in the Interpol’s “Stolen Works of Art” database. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Interpol – launched a mobile phone application “ID-Art” to help identify stolen cultural property
- [HQs of Interpol – Lyon, France | President – Kim Jong Yang](#)

**24.** On May 7, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm named “Atman AI” to help detect Covid-19 from chest X-rays. According to its developers, “Atman AI” has shown an accuracy rate of 96.73%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO + CAIR = developed an AI algorithm named “Atman AI” to help detect Covid-19 from chest X-rays
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)
- [Location of CAIR – Bangalore, Karnataka | Director – Upendra Kumar Singh](#)

**25.** On May 1, The team of botanists led by Manju C. Nair has discovered “Bryocrumia malabarica” in the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary of Kerala along the Western Ghats. Bryocrumia malabarica is the 12<sup>th</sup> species of bryophytes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Bryocrumia malabarica” discovered in the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary ([Kerala](#)) & Western Ghats
- “Bryocrumia malabarica” – 12<sup>th</sup> species of bryophytes
- It was discovered by the team of botanists – led by Manju C. Nair
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**26.** On May 11, SpaceX will launch the “DOGE-1” Satellite to the Moon in 2022 carrying a so-called cubesat. The 40-kilogram cubesat will launch aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. It will accept Dogecoin as payment to launch lunar mission next year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SpaceX – to launch the “DOGE-1” Satellite to the Moon in 2022
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002](#)



**27.** On May 10, Researchers at the IIT-Madras are working on voice-based solutions in regional languages to boost Digital Money Transactions. The researchers are collaborating with the Mobile Payment Forum of India (MPFI) to develop such solutions in several regional languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Madras + MPFI = to develop voice-based solutions in regional languages to boost Digital Money Transactions

**28.** On May 11, NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft which has collected samples from an asteroid called "Bennu", began its two-year journey back to Earth which will be completed by 2023. OSIRIS-REx arrived at Bennu in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- OSIRIS-REx spacecraft (NASA) – collected samples from an asteroid "Bennu" & will return to the Earth by 2023
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

**29.** On May 11, Alphabet Inc's Google has launched "International Money Transfer" in partnerships with remittances firms Wise and Western Union for its US users. Google Pay users in the United States can now transfer money to app customers in India and Singapore. London-based Wise was launched in 2011, while Western Union remains a market leader in remittances. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google Pay + Wise + Western Union = launched "International Money Transfer" for its US users
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Wise – London, UK | CEO – Kristo Kaarmann
- HQs of Western Union – Colorado, US | CEO – Hikmet Ersek

**30.** On May 13, IIT Ropar has developed an alternative to the mercury blood pressure (BP) monitor that works just like the mercury type but is free of mercury. India is a signatory to the Minamata Convention of the World Health Organization (WHO) under which mercury BP monitors are to be banned. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Ropar – developed an alternative to Mercury BP monitor

**31.** On May 13, NASA and aerospace startup Axiom Space have signed an agreement to send 4 people to the International Space Station (ISS) as early as January 2022. The plan for the mission, called "Axiom Mission 1" (AX-1), is to send men into orbit on one of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spaceships. AX-1 would launch atop SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA + Axiom Space = to launch a mission called "Axiom Mission 1" (AX-1) to send men into orbit
- They have signed an agreement to send 4 people to the International Space Station (ISS) – in Jan, 2022
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of Axiom Space – Houston, Texas, US | CEO – Michael Suffredini

**32.** Billionaire Jeff Bezos' rocket company, Blue Origin has announced to launch its 1<sup>st</sup> Space Tourism Trip on its New Shepard spacecraft on July 20. Virgin Galactic also aims to fly private customers in early 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Blue Origin – opened up bidding for the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Tourism Trip in July, 2021
- HQs of Blue Origin – Washington, US | CEO – Bob Smith | Founder – Jeff Bezos | Founded in – 2000

**33.** A Chinese spacecraft “Tianwen-1” has landed on Mars, making China only the second country after the US to send a rover namely “Zhurong” to the surface of the Red Planet. Zhurong rover is named after an ancient Chinese god of fire. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – became 2<sup>nd</sup> country after the US to send a rover namely “Zhurong” on Mars (using “Tianwen-1”)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**34.** After the successful roll out in 3 states, Ex-Defence OPD, now renamed as “Defence National OPD”, has been launched across pan India on 14 May. Veteran defence doctors will provide free online consultation services on the e-Sanjeevani platform. e-Sanjeevani OPD is a Government of India flagship telemedicine platform, developed by the C-DAC, Mohali. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Defence National OPD” – launched across India on ‘e-Sanjeevani platform’ – for Free online medical consultations
- It is developed by – the C-DAC (Mohali)
- ‘C-DAC’ functions under – Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni

**35.** On May 14, Google has partnered with SpaceX to provide cloud services to help deliver internet through the latter's Starlink satellites. Under the deal, SpaceX will install Starlink ground stations at Google data centres that connect to Starlink satellites, with an aim to enable high-speed broadband internet via Google Cloud. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google + SpaceX = partnership to provide cloud services to SpaceX’s Starlink satellites
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

**36.** On May 14, Amid rising COVID-19 related fatalities, IIT Ropar has launched an Eco-friendly Cremation Cart, fitted with stainless steel insulation for ensuring no heat loss and less wood consumption. The cart has been developed in collaboration with Cheema Boilers Limited. It works on temperature above 1000°C that ensures complete sterilization. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Ropar – launched an Eco-friendly Cremation Cart (in collaboration with Cheema Boilers Ltd)





**37.** The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced that its latest space probe, the “Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer” (Juice), had been delivered to ESA’s European Space Research and Technology Centre (Estec) in the Netherlands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer” (Juice) mission – belongs to ESA
- HQs of ESA – Paris, France | CEO – Johann-Dietrich Worner

**38.** On May 17, A new species of dinosaur called the “Talkative Dinosaur” discovered by Mexican paleontologists is believed to have been ‘very communicative’ and used low-frequency sounds like elephants to talk to each other. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A new species of dinosaur called the “Talkative Dinosaur” discovered – in Mexico
- Mexico – Mexico city – Mexican Peso | President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

**39.** 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

**40.** 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

**41.** 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)

**42.** 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

**43.** 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

**44.** 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

**45.** 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 | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**46.** 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

**47.** On May 19, IIT Ropar along with Australia based Monash University has developed a unique detector named “FakeBuster” to detect imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Ropar + Monash University (Australia) = developed a unique detector named “FakeBuster”
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

**48.** On May 19, A fossil fish that predates dinosaurs and was thought to have gone extinct has been found alive in the West Indian Ocean off the coast of Madagascar. The fish named Coelacanth was accidentally rediscovered by a group of South African shark hunters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Coelacanth” - an extinct fossil fish – lived 420 million years ago is found alive in Madagascar (in Indian Ocean)
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

**49.** On May 20, Microsoft has announced to retire its iconic Internet Explorer (IE) browser in June 2022, as it envisions the future of Internet Explorer, which was launched in 1995, on Windows 10 in Microsoft Edge. Its usage share has since declined with the launch of Firefox (2004) and Google Chrome (2008), and with the growing popularity of mobile operating systems such as Android and iOS that do not support Internet Explorer. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Microsoft – announced to retire its Internet Explorer (IE) browser in June 2022
- Internet Explorer – developed by Microsoft – in 1995
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

**50.** On May 21, Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), the research laboratory of DRDO, has developed an antibody detection-based kit called “DIPCOVAN”. The kit will help people detect if they have previously been exposed to the COVID-19 virus and if their bodies had produced antibodies to combat it. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DIPAS (DRDO) – developed an antibody detection-based kit called “DIPCOVAN”
- Location of DIPAS – New Delhi | Director – Dr. Bhuvnesh Kumar
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**51.** On May 21, As part of Artemis program, the NASA is planning to send its first mobile robot called “VIPER” (Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover) to the Moon in late 2023 in search of ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA – is planning to send its first mobile robot called “VIPER” to the Moon – in 2023
- VIPER – Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

**52.** On May 21, Astronomers at China’s Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) in the Tibetan Plateau have detected the brightest light particle, gamma-ray photons up to 1.4 peta-electron volts (PeV) being emitted from the Milky Way galaxy. The light particle is 700 trillion times stronger than what can be seen by the human eye. The paper is published in the Journal Nature. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (China) – detected the brightest light particle from Milky Way galaxy
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**53.** On May 25, Researchers at Bhopal’s Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) have discovered a new species of African Violet plant “Didymocarpus Vickifunkiae” in Mizoram. The discovery was published in journal Systematic Botany. Researchers also documented the presence of the same species in Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IISER’s Researchers (Bhopal) – discovered a new species of African Violet plant “Didymocarpus Vickifunkiae” in Mizoram
- Presence of the same species is also discovered – in Myanmar
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

**54.** On May 23, Eight more species have been added to the Delhi’s list of snakes after an extensive 5-year study conducted by researchers from the Delhi University. This has taken the number of snake species recorded in Delhi to 23, updating the 1997 list mentioned in the book “Fauna of Delhi”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 8 more species – added to the Delhi’s list of snakes – mentioned in the book “Fauna of Delhi”
- Now, the total number of snake species recorded in Delhi – 23
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



**55.** On May 25, India, in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support, has been working towards developing a mobile tech platform “UNITE AWARE” that helps increase situational awareness and provides terrain-related information to peacekeepers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India is developing a mobile tech platform “UNITE AWARE” – to improve security & safety of UN Peacekeeping Force
- [HQs of UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations – New York, US | Secretary-General – Jean-Pierre Lacroix](#)

**56.** On May 25, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) will initiate process for selection of private partner for India’s First Research Reactor Project for Production of Medical Radioisotopes and Processing Facility Complex. DAE plans to conclude the Request for Proposal (RfP) process by March 2022. The reactor will be constructed by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) and designed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DAE – to initiate process for selection of private partner for India’s 1<sup>st</sup> Research Reactor Project
- The reactor will be constructed by – NPCIL & designed by – Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

**57.** On May 24, After continuous efforts for 5 years, the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) in Chennai has developed Broodstock and Seed Production Technology of Mangrove Red Snapper, a fish species. This fish is known as ‘Seppili’ in Tamil, ‘Chemballi’ in Malayalam and ‘Tagoo/Thundava’ in Telugu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIBA ([Chennai](#)) – developed Broodstock & Seed Production Technology of ‘Mangrove Red’ fish species
- Mangrove Red: ‘Seppili’ in Tamil, ‘Chemballi’ in Malayalam & ‘Tagoo/Thundava’ in Telugu

**58.** On May 26, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has established the “Isothermal Forging Technology” to produce all the 5 stages of High-Pressure Compressor [HPC] discs out of difficult-to-deform titanium alloy using its unique 2000 metric tonne isothermal forge press. The technology was developed by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a laboratory of the DRDO in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – established the “Isothermal Forging Technology” to produce all the 5 stages of HPC discs
- It is produced from Titanium alloy – by DMRL-DRDO ([Hyderabad](#))
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

**59.** On May 25, A miniature sculpture of the Buddha has been found in Udupi district of Karnataka. It looks like a replica of the Sarnath Buddha. The sculpture is in the Gupta style. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A miniature sculpture of the Buddha – found in Udupi, Karnataka
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

**60.** On May 25, Researchers at the IIT Guwahati have developed a “Smart Window Material” for automatic climate control of buildings. It was designed using Noble Metals that can dynamically control the intensity of transmitted solar radiation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Guwahati – developed a “Smart Window Material” for automatic climate control of buildings

**61.** The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved 8 Chinese names for features around the area on the Moon where China’s spacecraft Chang’e-5 probe landed. China has been naming geographical entities on the Moon since 2010. ‘Tianhe’ is another name for the galaxy in ancient China. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- International Astronomical Union – approved 8 Chinese names to identify areas on the Moon
- HQs of IAU – Paris, France | President – Ewine van Dishoeck

**62.** On May 29, Bellatrix Aerospace has successfully tested India’s first privately developed “Hall-Effect Thruster”, an electric propulsion engine for micro satellites weighing 50-500 kg. Bellatrix has completed ground tests for the new thruster in line with ISRO & ESA standards at its lab at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Bellatrix had earlier won an order from ISRO for developing the world’s first “Commercial Microwave Plasma Thruster” which uses water as its fuel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bellatrix Aerospace – successfully tested India’s first privately developed “Hall-Effect Thruster” – at IISc (Bangalore)
- It is an electric propulsion engine for micro satellites weighing 50-500 kg
- Bellatrix Aerospace – also developed the world’s first “Commercial Microwave Plasma Thruster”
- HQs of Bellatrix Aerospace – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Ganapathy | Established in – 2015

**63.** On May 28, A team of zoologists headed by Dr. Ranjana Jaiswara has discovered the 12<sup>th</sup> species of spider cricket “Jayanti” in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh. It was named after Professor Jayant Biswa, one of the leading cave explorers in India. It was identified under the genus Arachnomimus Saussure, 1897. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 12<sup>th</sup> species of spider cricket “Jayanti” – discovered in ‘Kurra caves’ of Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**64.** On May 26, Archaeologists have discovered 6 sacrificial pits containing about 500 artifacts, including Gold and Bronze masks, in the ancient Chinese city of Sanxingdui. The artifacts date back around 3,000 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Archaeologists discovered 6 sacrificial pits containing about 500 artifacts – in Sanxingdui, China
- It also includes Gold & Bronze masks
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**65.** On May 30, China has successfully launched its “Tianzhou-2” cargo spacecraft or “Heavenly Vessel” through Long March-7 Y3 rocket for the country's first Tianhe space station core cabin supply mission. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – launched its “Tianzhou-2” cargo spacecraft or “Heavenly Vessel” (via Long March-7 Y3 rocket)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**66.** On May 29, OneWeb has launched another batch of 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia. OneWeb is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator and co-owned by Bharti Global & the UK government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- OneWeb – launched another batch of 36 satellites – from Russian cosmodrome (carried out by Arianespace)
- OneWeb – co-owned by Bharti Global & the UK
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of Arianespace – France | CEO – Stephane Israel

**67.** On May 30, NASA's “Mars Curiosity” rover has captured images of Shining Clouds on the Red Planet. The scientists noticed clouds forming over NASA's Curiosity rover earlier than expected, one full Martian year ago - two Earth years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA's “Mars Curiosity” rover – captured images of Shining Clouds on the Mars
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

**68.** On May 29, A rare bamboo species, “Chimonobambusa Callosa”, has been found in Idukki district of Kerala. Chimonobambusa callosa, an eastern Himalayan hill bamboo, can grow to a height of 5 to 10 metres. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Chimonobambusa Callosa” a rare bamboo species – found in Idukki, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

# Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. On May 7, The Supreme Court has struck down West Bengal's law on regulating the real estate sector saying it was 'unconstitutional' as West Bengal Housing Industry Regulation Act of 2017 (WB-HIRA) is 'repugnant' to the Centre's Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) of 2016. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SC struck down West Bengal's "Housing Industry Regulation Act of 2017" as 'unconstitutional'
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

2. On May 19, The US House has passed the legislation to counter a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes amid the coronavirus pandemic. The legislation, known as the "COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act", was introduced by Democratic Republican Grace Meng of New York and Democratic Sen. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- US – passed the legislation namely "COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act" – to counter a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

3. On May 21, The Finance Ministry has formally notified the amendment to the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015 and passed the "Insurance Amendment Bill 2021" to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the Insurance Sector to 74% from 49%. Insurance penetration in India is currently at 3.7% of the gross domestic product (GDP) compared to the world average of 6.31%. As per the amendments, at least one of the three top positions (Chairperson of the board, MD or CEO) in the Insurance Company should be held by a resident of Indian. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Finance Ministry – amended the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015
- Finance Ministry – increased the FDI limit in the Insurance Sector to 74% (from 49%)
- Currently, Insurance penetration in India – 3.7% of GDP

4. On May 24, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat has given his assent to "Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2021". As per the Bill, a forcible conversion by marriage, or by getting a person married, or by aiding a person to get married shall invite imprisonment of 3 to 5 years and a fine of up to ₹2 lakh. If the victim is a minor, woman, Dalit or tribal, the offender may be punished with a jail term of 4 to 7 years and a fine of not less than ₹3 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Gujarat Governor – gave his assent to "Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2021"
- Punishment under the Bill for forcible conversion by marriage: imprisonment of 3-5 years & fine of up to ₹2 lakh
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat





5. On May 26, “Recovery of Damages to Property Act” - a law which allows the authorities to recover compensation from violent protesters who cause damage to both public and private properties has come into effect in Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Recovery of Damages to Property Act” – came into effect in Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya





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