

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

An IAS Academy

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2011

HINDU

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

SPEAKS
OBAMA

NEHRU AWARD
FOR MERKEL

SKIT FOR GOOD
FOR NIKKAL

Supreme Court stays Allahabad
High Court verdict on Ayodhya

Justice vs partition of India to emerge, says Justice Lodha

EUROPA

CCS for spray cooling

MAY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS 2021

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TN State Legislative Assembly

- ✓ April 6 2021, TN State Legislative Assembly was held.
- ✓ **Total Voters in TN** – 6.26 Crores Out of that 4.57 Crores casted their votes.
- ✓ **Total Booths** – 88,937 was made this time.
- ✓ **Total members involved in Election duty** – 4,79,892 members.
- ✓ **Total candidates who contested** – 3,998 candidates.
- ✓ **No. of male candidates** – 3,585
- ✓ **No. of female candidates** – 411.

Highest voting polled Constituency

1. Palacode – 87.37%
2. Kulithalai – 86.16%
3. Edapaddi – 85.64%
4. Veerapandi – 85.64%
5. Viralimalai – 85.43%

Lowest voting polled Constituency

1. Sholinganallur – 55.51%
 2. Villivakkam – 55.92%
 3. Thiyagarayanagar – 55.99%
 4. Vellacherry – 56.18%
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, **MK Stalin, leader of DMK** is set to become the state Chief Minister.
 - ✓ **Total Constituencies** – 234

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- ✓ **DMK won** – 159/234
- ✓ **ADMK won** – 75/234

First Green Solar Energy

- ✓ The Indian Army recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in **Sikkim**.
- ✓ It was launched to benefit the troops of the Indian army.
- ✓ The plant uses **Vanadium based battery technology**.
- ✓ In January 2021, Vanadium was discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ This was the first discovery of Vanadium in India.

Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik recently declared working journalists of the **State of Odisha** as the frontline COVID-19 warriors.
- ✓ This announcement was made under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- ✓ It is a health insurance scheme that was introduced for the journalists by the Odisha state government.
- ✓ The scheme provides two lakh rupees of health insurance cover to all the working journalists of the state.
- ✓ It was launched in 2018.
- ✓ The scheme includes cashless treatment in government and private hospitals.
- ✓ It also covers illness and injuries faced by journalists while performing their duties.

Puducherry becomes 'Har Ghar Jal'

- ✓ Puducherry has become the 'Har Ghar Jal' union territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection.
- ✓ It has now become the fourth state or union territory after Goa, telangana, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Earthquake in Assam

- ✓ An unfamiliar lineament is the major factor behind frequent earthquakes in the Sonitpur area of Assam.
- ✓ The GSI has said that the Lineament is the main reason for the recent earthquake in Assam.
- ✓ It is linear feature in a landscape (like a visible line or a long crack or a long visible dent).

CM of Assam

- ✓ Himanta Biswa Sarma has been named as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam.
- ✓ He will replace the incumbent Sarbananda Sonowal.

Ban on Glyphosate - Telangana

- ✓ The Telangana Government recently imposed a total ban on Glyphosate.

- ✓ Apart from that, they will also be provided with monthly pension of Rs. 5000 for their books and their other necessities.

First woman finance minister of Assam

- ✓ Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, allocated of Finance portfolio to Ajanta Neog, making her the first woman finance minister of north eastern state.

Lightning believed to kill Elephant

- ✓ A bolt of lightning is believed to have killed a herd of at least 18 elephants in central Assam's Nagaon district.
- ✓ The incident happened in the hilly Kandali Proposed Reserve Forest in the Forest Department's Kathiatoli Range.

Covid Fateh

- ✓ Punjab CM launched 'Covid Fateh' program as part of a 'Corona Mukh Pind Abhiyaan' to tackle the spread of covid rural areas of the state.

Tamilnadu Government forms 13 member committee

- ✓ Tamilnadu government has formed 13 member all party committee chaired by Chief Minister MK Stalin.
- ✓ The committee includes three political representatives who are doctors by profession.

- ✓ It has been specified that the vaccinations camp should have separate ramps for differently abled persons.

10 lakh fixed deposit for children orphaned

- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** CM has decided to make rupees 10 lakh fixed deposit for the children orphaned in the covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ This fixed deposit will last until the children turns 25 years old.

West Bengal government to set up Legislative Council

- ✓ West Bengal chief minister has announced that a Legislative Council (**Vidhan Parishad**) will be set up in the state.
- ✓ Legislative Council accepted in West Bengal from 1952 to 1969.

First Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre

- ✓ The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) recently launched the **first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre in Pune**.
- ✓ The Centre will aid in boosting the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra.
- ✓ The state is
 - ✚ one of the largest producers of onions.
 - ✚ the leading producer in pulses.

- ✚ the second largest coarse cereals producer.
- ✚ the second largest producer of soya bean, sugarcane and cotton.
- ✚ the third largest producer of sunflower.

Pinarayi vijayan- led Kerala government to be sworn

- ✓ The Communist Party of India(M) - led LDF retain the power in Kerala in the Assembly polls.
- ✓ Swearing ceremony will be conducted on May 20.

Rajasthan declares Mucormycosis as epidemic

- ✓ Mucormycosis(black fungus) has been declared an epidemic in Rajasthan.
- ✓ It has been notified as an epidemic and then notable disease in the state under Rajasthan epidemic act 2020.

Mucormycosis a notified disease: Odisha

- ✓ The Odisha government has decided to include Mucormycosis as a notifiable disease under the epidemic diseases act 1897.
- ✓ Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have also declared it as a notified disease.

Karnataka ranks first in establishing Health & Wellness

- ✓ Karnataka has emerged as the best state and is ranked number one in establishing health and wellness centres.

- ✓ Geographical indication (GI) tag is given to an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product such as handicraft and industrial goods which are originating from definite geographical territory.
- ✓ Shahi litchi is an agricultural product from Bihar which got the **GI Tag in 2018**.
- ✓ It was the **fourth agricultural product to get GI certification from Bihar in 2018**.
- ✓ Other 3 products from Bihar with GI Tag are Magahi Paan, Jardalu mango and Katarni rice.

Bheema Bamboo

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has designed an ‘**oxygen park**’ within its premises at Coimbatore with Beema or Bheema Bamboo.
- ✓ Beema Bamboo is a superior clone, selected from Bambusa balcooa, a **higher biomass yielding bamboo species**.
- ✓ This bamboo does not produce any seed and does not die also for several hundred years and keeps growing.
- ✓ This species is the best ‘**carbon sink**’ to mitigate carbon dioxide (**CO₂**) emissions.
- ✓ A four-year-old bamboo may absorb over **400 kg of CO₂ per annum**.
- ✓ A fully-grown bamboo tree **generates over 300 kg of oxygen annually**.

Madhya Pradesh Government launches scheme

- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh government has announced the launch of 'Ankur', a scheme under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during the monsoon.
- ✓ People who take the initiative to plant saplings will be given the **Pranvayu Award** for their participation.

'Amrit Vahini' App

- ✓ Jharkhand has launched the 'Amrit Vahini' App for the online booking of hospital beds.
- ✓ Corona patients in Jharkhand can book hospital beds online through the Amrit Vahini App launched by CM Hemant Soren.

Bodoland Department

- ✓ Assam government has created the Welfare of Bodoland department for dealing with issues related to four districts under the Bodoland Territorial Region.
- ✓ The affairs of Bodoland where under the Welfare of plain tribes and backward classes department area.

Reimbursement of GST components of Covid-19 related medical supplies

- ✓ Haryana and Gujarat have become the first few states to announce reimbursement of Goods and Services Tax

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(GST) components paid for Covid-19 related medical supplies.

- ✓ These medical supplies include oxygen concentrators, ventilators, medicines which would be donated free of cost to the state governments.
- ✓ Waiver from Haryana is till June 30, while that of Gujarat is valid till July 31.

Vatsalya Yojana

- ✓ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat has announced the Chief Minister Vatsalya Yojana.
- ✓ This is for orphaned children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the State Government will make arrangements for their maintenance, education and training for employment up to the age of 21 years.
- ✓ The Chief Minister said that such orphaned children of the state will be given a maintenance allowance of 3000 rupees per month.

Smart Kitchen scheme

- ✓ Kerala CM has formed a secretary level committee to make the guidelines and recommendation for the implementation of the Smart Kitchen scheme.
- ✓ The scheme aims to account for and reduce the workload of women's domestic labour.

Assam appoints Guardian ministers

- ✓ The Assam cabinet has appointed ministers who would act as guardians for different districts in the state.
- ✓ These Guardians, each a Minister of the Himanta Biswa Sharma cabinet, have been given the responsibility of 2-3 districts to take stock of welfare schemes, implementation of infrastructure projects etc.

NATIONAL

Single crystal blades

- ✓ The DRDO has developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters.
- ✓ It has supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ✓ The single-crystal high-pressure turbine (HPT) blades are made of a **nickelbased superalloy**.

NFAI publishes rich treasure of oral history

- ✓ The National Film archive of India has published a rich treasure of audio recordings in the public domain.
- ✓ These recordings are published on the occasion of the **151st birth anniversary** of the father of Indian cinema, **Dadasaheb Phalke**.

New Technique in collecting COVID-19 samples

- ✓ Rakesh Mishra, Director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) said that they devised a new dry swab technique for collecting COVID-19 samples.
- ✓ The dry swab technique of COVID-19 sample collection involves taking a nasal swab and transporting it in the dry state unlike the process using the viral transport medium.
- ✓ Viral Transport Medium (VTM) is the potential for further spread of the virus.
- ✓ The dry swab technique is safe, fast, cheap, and more accurate.

Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions - Wipro

- ✓ **Wipro** announced its commitment to achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions **by 2040**.
- ✓ This is in line with the objective of the **Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5°C**.
- ✓ It also set an intermediate target of a **55% reduction** in GHG emissions by **2030** in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17.

Election results 2021

- ✓ Election results 2021 for West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry assemblies were declared on May 2.

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West Bengal (294 seats)

- ✓ The Trinamool Congress managed a landslide victory in West Bengal.
- ✓ Trinamool Congress is to form the government for a third consecutive term in West Bengal.

Kerala (140 seats)

- ✓ The Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front government scripted history by retaining power.
- ✓ It is the first time in four decades that the same grouping will form the government for the second consecutive time.

Assam (126 seats)

- ✓ The BJP managed to retain power in Assam.

Puducherry (30 seats)

- ✓ The National Democratic Alliance is set to form the government with NR Congress and its ally BJP in the 30-member House.

First supply of biodiesel blended

- ✓ Petroleum and natural gas minister flagged off, the first supply of used cooking oil- best biodiesel blended diesel from Indian oils Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.

UDID project

- ✓ The UDID project is under implementation since **2016**.

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- ✓ The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities recently made it mandatory for all states and Union Territories to issue a certificate of disability only using UDID portal.
- ✓ This is to come into force from **June 1, 2021**.
- ✓ UDID is Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities Project.
- ✓ The project aims to provide a **Universal ID And disability certificates for persons with disabilities**.
- ✓ The persons with disabilities included in the project are based on Disabilities Act, 1995.

SAIL enters 100 most valued Indian firm's Club

- ✓ Steel Authority of India Limited has regained market capitalization of Rs 50,000 crore.
- ✓ It has also entered into the league of the top 100 most valued companies in terms of market capitalization.

Roadmap 2030

- ✓ The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson held a virtual bilateral summit.
- ✓ During the summit, the leaders adopted an ambitious "Roadmap 2030".

Key points

- ✓ India and UK agreed to work closely in the development of India's indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft Mark 2**.

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- ✓ They will work together to ensure ambitious outcome at **the COP26.**
- ✓ The roadmap will expand India-UK health partnership.
- ✓ The leaders agreed to remove the trade barriers between the countries and begin the negotiations of **Free Trade Agreement.**
- ✓ They are implementing “**India-UK Together**” (SAATH-SAATH).
- ✓ There is also to be an increase collaboration to accelerate development of **GIFT city.**

AYUSH 64

- ✓ AYUSH 64 is a polyherbal Ayurvedic medicine.
- ✓ It could be used across the country to treat mild to moderate cases of coronavirus infections.
- ✓ AYUSH- 64 was originally developed in 1980 for treatment of malaria.
- ✓ It complies with all regulatory requirements and quality and pharmacopoeial standards.

Section 142 of the Social Security Code

- ✓ The Ministry of Labour and Employment recently notified Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020.
- ✓ The Section covers applicability of the Aadhaar.
- ✓ The notification will enable the Ministry of Labour and Employment to collect Aadhaar details from the beneficiaries of various social security schemes.

- ✓ Section 142 says that Aadhaar details are compulsory for an employee or unorganised person or any other person to get benefits of government schemes.
- ✓ The benefits can be in kind of cash for medical sickness, availing services of career centre, maternity benefits, receiving payment as insured person, etc.
- ✓ The Social Security Code was introduced in 2019.

Only Centre can identify SEBC

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently pronounced that only President can take decisions in declaring the Socially and Economically Backward Community.
- ✓ The judgement was pronounced upholding the 102nd constitutional amendment.
- ✓ The Apex court said that the 102nd constitutional amendment has taken away the powers of state governments to designate Socially and Economically Backward Classes.
- ✓ The 102nd Constitutional Amendment inserted Articles 338 B and Article 342 A.
- ✓ The Article 338 B deals with the structure, powers and duties of National Commission for Backward Classes
- ✓ The Article 342 A deals with the power of the president to notify a particular caste as Socially and Economically Backward.

Supreme Court declares Maratha quota law unconstitutional

- ✓ A **five-judge Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court unanimously declared a Maharashtra law which provides reservation benefits to the **Maratha community as unconstitutional.**
- ✓ This is because the particular community is taking the quota limit in the State in **excess of 50%.**
- ✓ The Supreme court also states that the separate reservation for the Maratha community **violates Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (due process of law).**
- ✓ The Supreme Court struck down the findings of the **Justice N.G. Gaikwad Commission** which led to the enactment of Maratha quota law.
- ✓ The court also set aside the Bombay High Court judgment which validated the **Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act of 2018.**
- ✓ The High Court in June 2019, reduced the quantum of reservation for Marathas from the 16% recommended by the Gaikwad Commission to **12% in education and 13% in employment.**
- ✓ The Supreme Court now concluded that even the reduced percentages of reservation granted by the High Court were ultra vires.

Supreme Court sets up of 12 member National task force

- ✓ The Supreme Court has constituted a 12 member National task force of top medical expert.
- ✓ It will formulate a methodology for allocation of oxygen to states and union territories for saving lives of covid-19 patients and process locate a public health response to the pandemic.

Miyon Ka Bara station in Jodhpur renamed

- ✓ The name of Miyon Ka Bara railway station in Rajasthan's jodhpur has been changed to Mahesh Nagar.
- ✓ Earlier in 2018, the name of the village was officially changed to Mahesh Nagar.

Women soldiers in Indian Army's military police

- ✓ The first batch of 83 women soldiers was inducted into the Indian Army's military police by the Corps of Military Police Centre and School (CMP C&S) at the Dronacharya Parade Ground in Bengaluru.
- ✓ This is the first time that women have been inducted in the non-officer category.
- ✓ These women soldiers will perform duties similar to what is done by the male military police personnel.

Corona Vaccines wasted list Haryana ranks 1st, Assam 2nd, Rajasthan 3rd and Tamil Nadu 9th in wasting corona vaccines.

Corona Vaccines distribution list

- ✓ The list of states that have received the most Corona vaccines from the Central Government has been released.
- ✓ Maharashtra – 1st
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh – 2nd
- ✓ Gujarat – 3rd
- ✓ Rajasthan – 4th
- ✓ Tamil Nadu - 10th

11 distance road approved in Ladakh

- ✓ Ladakh state board for wildlife has approved proposals for 11 defence roads in the union territory.
- ✓ In the meeting the state wildlife board presented border road construction proposals to Indo Tibetan Border Police.

CO-JEET

- ✓ The armed forces have launched operation “CO-JEET” to aid anti-COVID-19 efforts.
- ✓ Their efforts lie in strengthening the medical system in India and oxygen supply chains.
- ✓ CO-JEET also takes measures to ensure the mental wellbeing of people.

VINCOV-19

- ✓ VINCOV-19 is Novel antibody engineered product to treat COVID-19 cleared for clinical trials.

- ✓ It is a collaborative effort of
 - ✚ University of Hyderabad (UoH),
 - ✚ CSIR-Centre for Cellular and
 - ✚ Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and Vins Bioproducts Ltd.
- ✓ It got approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) for clinical trials to test against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pune ranks first on health Infra parameters

- ✓ It rank first while Delhi-NCR is at the lowest position among eight major cities in health infrastructure- latest parameters.
- ✓ Real estate portal, which is owned by US- based News Crop, has released a report titled ' state of healthcare in India'.

African Swine Fever in the North East

- ✓ The African Swine Fever has stuck Meghalaya. Earlier, it had struck Mizoram.
- ✓ The African Swine Fever has killed 1,700 pigs in Mizoram in a month.
- ✓ It has now spread to Meghalaya and has killed three hundred pigs here so far.
- ✓ It was first detected in Africa in 1920s.
- ✓ There is no cure to the disease and thus the only way to stop the disease from spreading is by culling the animals.

- ✓ It is not a threat to human beings. This is because, the disease spreads from animal to animal.

SWAMIH Fund

- ✓ Centre's Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) has completed its first residential project.
- ✓ The residential project, Rivali Park in suburban Mumbai, is the first housing project in India to have received funding under the SWAMIH Fund.

Go First Airline

- ✓ Wadia Group-owned, GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First'.
- ✓ Its new motto is "You Come First".

Plasma therapy dropped

- ✓ The central government has dropped plasma therapy from the covid treatment protocol.
- ✓ The decision came on the basis of recommendations of experts.
- ✓ The plasma therapy includes transfusion of covid-19 antibodies from the blood of a recovered patients to the one being treated.

COVI Van Helpline

- ✓ Delhi police has launched the helpline number for senior citizens who are struggling with the year essential need amid Covid-19.

Narada Bribery Case

- ✓ The Central Bureau of Investigation arrested the TMC Ministers of West Bengal, Subrata Mukherjee, Firhad Hakim, MLA Madan Mitra and Sovan Chattopadhyay (former Kolkata Mayor).
- ✓ In Narada Bribery Case, the state ministers were shown taking money in a video footage.
- ✓ Calcutta High Court had ordered a CBI probe against the sting operation in Narada Bribery case in March 2017
- ✓ CBI can investigate a crime in the state after the consent from the State Government.
- ✓ However, the Supreme Court or the High court shall order CBI to conduct investigation anywhere in the country.

Norms on imports of pulses

- ✓ The Government of India recently allowed free import of tur, moong and urad dal.
- ✓ All the three pulses have been put under non-restricted list.
- ✓ This is because their retail prices increased in the last few weeks due to low stock levels with the traders.

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- ✓ Also, the Government of India has announced that the import consignments should be cleared strictly before November 30, 2021.
- ✓ India primarily imports these three pulses from Myanmar and African countries.

SAMVEDNA

- ✓ SAMVEDNA is Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.
- ✓ It is a toll-free helpline through which children affected during COVID-19 pandemic are provided counselling.
- ✓ The main objective of SAMVEDNA is to provide psychological first aid and emotional support to the children.
- ✓ The tele-counselling is to be provided to children in three categories.
 - ✚ Children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19
 - ✚ Children who are in quarantine in COVID care centres
 - ✚ Children who have COVID-19 positive parents or family members.

Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools

- ✓ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding on joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools.

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- ✓ This includes introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.
- ✓ In the first phase of the programme, 250 EMRS are to be established.

The State of Working India (SWI) report

- ✓ The State of Working India (SWI) 2021 was brought out by the researchers at Azim Premji University of Karnataka.
- ✓ The annual report documented the impact of one year of Covid-19 in India, on jobs, incomes, inequality, and poverty.
- ✓ According to the report,
 - ✚ The pandemic had forced people out of their formal jobs into casual work, and led to a severe decline in incomes.
 - ✚ There is a sudden increase in poverty over the past year.
 - ✚ Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, contributed disproportionately to job losses.

CoWIN portal

- ✓ The CoWIN platform, which is the backbone of the covid-19 vaccine delivery system in the country, will be made available in Hindi and 14 regional languages by next week.

State of Healthcare in India

- ✓ The report titled ‘State of Healthcare in India – Indian cities through the lens of healthcare’ ranks health infrastructure in the country’s most urbanised eight cities.
- ✓ Pune outranks other cities on health parameters.
- ✓ Ahmedabad scores the highest on sanitation and solid waste management and the lowest on water quality and availability.
- ✓ Bengaluru has the highest number of hospital beds, as compared to other top eight cities.
- ✓ Hyderabad scores low on number of hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality, sanitation and solid waste management.
- ✓ Chennai topped in air quality, looming water scarcity pulls down the overall rank.
- ✓ Kolkata sits at the lower end due to inadequate hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality and water availability.
- ✓ Delhi NCR ranks the lowest, as inadequate number of hospital beds, poor air quality and low score on the liveability index pulls down the city’s ranking.

INS Rajput to be decommissioned

- ✓ After 41 years of service, first Destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Rajput, decommissioned.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Tentative list

- ✓ The Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Tentative list.
- ✓ They are,
 - ✚ Ganga Ghats of Varanasi
 - ✚ Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu
 - ✚ Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
 - ✚ Maharashtra Military Architecture
 - ✚ Hire Benkal Megalithic site
 - ✚ Bhedaghat Lametaghat (Grand Canyon of India) of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list **has increased to 48.**

India climbs to 3rd spot on EY index

- ✓ India has moved a notch higher at the third spot (from fourth position) on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index.
- ✓ This is due to exceptional performance on the solar photovoltaic (PV) front.
- ✓ The US retains the top position and China maintains the second position.

- ✓ India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.

World's 1st Private Digital Court

- ✓ 'Jupitice Justice Technologies', an Chandigarh-based start-up has developed World's 1st Private Digital Court (powered by Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence).
- ✓ This is setup to resolve disputes under the Private Justice System through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR).
- ✓ The platform is designed for private justice system arbitration, conciliation, mediation & negotiation.
- ✓ It allows parties involved in disputes to conduct arbitration, conciliation or mediation without the help of an administering body.
- ✓ An online arbitration award received on the Jupitice platform is legally enforceable as a court decree.

DIPCOVAN

- ✓ The Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed an antibody detection-based kit 'DIPCOVAN'.
- ✓ The kit is developed indigenously by the DRDO scientists in association with Delhi-based Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.

- ✓ DIPCOVAN is a **Covid-19 antibody detection kit**.
- ✓ It will help a person detect if they have previously been exposed to Covid-19 virus and if they have antibodies for it.
- ✓ Its primary purpose is to detect antibodies.
- ✓ It will be used in **Covid-19 epidemiology** studies such as sero-surveys.
- ✓ You can also use it for detecting if you have Covid antibodies.

World Health assembly

- ✓ Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan shared the 74th World Health assembly.
- ✓ The board decided to enhance the efforts to ensure fair and equitable access to covid-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility.

India and Israel signed a 3-year work program

- ✓ India and Israel have signed a 3-year work program agreement for development in agriculture cooperation.
- ✓ India and Israel are implementing the "INDO-ISRAEL agricultural project centres of Excellence" and "INDO-ISRAEL villages of Excellence".
- ✓ The "INDO-ISRAEL villages of Excellence" new concept in at creating a model ecosystem in agriculture across 8 States.

Kyasanur forest disease

- ✓ Recently, researchers found a new point-of-care test to be highly sensitive for rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur forest disease.
- ✓ The point-of-care tests has been developed by ICMR-National Institute of Virology.
- ✓ It will be beneficial to diagnose KFD which is also called as monkey fever.
- ✓ The disease is **tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever** which is endemic to Southwestern part of India.
- ✓ It is caused by a virus from **family Flaviviridae**.
- ✓ Virus is transmitted to humans through bite of infected hard ticks.

Hockey Stadium renamed after Balbir Singh Sr

- ✓ The Mohali International hockey stadium in Punjab was dedicated to legendary centre-forward Balbir Singh Senior on his first death anniversary.
- ✓ He was a part of the Indian teams that won gold at 1948 London Olympics, helsinki 1952 and Melbourne 1956.
- ✓ Record for most individual goals scored in an Olympic men's hockey final remains unbeaten.

MCA21 version 3.0

- ✓ First phase of **India's first mission mode e-governance project, MCA21 version 3.0** was launched.

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- ✓ It was launched by Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur.
- ✓ This version of MCA21 is data analytics driven.
- ✓ MCA21 is an **online portal of corporate affairs ministry**.
- ✓ Launched in 2006, the portal has made all the **information related to company**, accessible to stakeholders and general public.
- ✓ MCA21 version 3.0 makes use of new technologies to streamline corporate compliance and experiences of stakeholders.

India's first reactor on PPP model

- ✓ The Department of Atomic Energy will be constructing the country's first research reactor on public private partnership model.
- ✓ The research reactor, which will be designed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) will produce isotopes.

One Stop Centre Scheme

- ✓ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry is to set up OneStop Centres (OSCs) in 10 missions across 9 countries.
- ✓ It will be set to curb the cases of violence against women.
- ✓ One OSC will be set up each in Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Canada,
- ✓ Australia and Singapore.

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- ✓ Two OSCs will be set up in Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ Also 300 OSCs will be set up across India.
- ✓ All OSCs will be supported by Women and Child Development Ministry while, Ministry of External Affairs will operate it.
- ✓ Centrally sponsored One Stop Centre Scheme will be funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

IBF to be renamed as IBDF

- ✓ Apex body of broadcasters, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has extended its purview to cover digital streaming platforms.
- ✓ Also, it will be renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).

SeHAT OPD Portal

- ✓ Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, has launched ‘Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD Portal.
- ✓ Portal has been launched to provide telemedicine services in Armed Forces.
- ✓ Service will be provided by defence services doctors who are on regular duties.
- ✓ Persons aged 75 and above can consult without waiting.

NHAI Guidelines

- ✓ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) issued guidelines for Toll centres to reduce waiting time to 10 seconds per vehicle at any point of time.

UNITE AWARE

- ✓ India will launch 'UNITE AWARE', a mobile tech platform for the United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.
- ✓ It will be launched during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021 (Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month).
- ✓ UNITE AWARE will increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers by providing terrain-related information.

IFFCO to launch Nano Urea

- ✓ Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative will launch Nano Urea in the market.
- ✓ The Nano Urea is expected to reduce the consumption of normal urea substantially saving a huge sum on subsidy and Forex.
- ✓ The Nano Urea is also eco-friendly.

DBT for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

- ✓ Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', has approved proposal to provide monetary assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to students under Mid-Day meal scheme.
- ✓ The Central government will provide additional funds of Rs 1200 crore to State Governments and UT Administrations to implement the monetary assistance programme.
- ✓ It will be a one-time special welfare measure to benefit children studying in class I to VIII across 11.20 lakh Government and Government aided schools in India.
- ✓ Panel to examine online gaming for GST
- ✓ The Government has constituted a panel of state ministers to examine valuation of services by online gaming to levy goods and services tax (GST).
- ✓ They will also examine services by casinos and race courses.
- ✓ In India, online gaming is currently in nascent stages which thus lead to issues revolving around taxation and valuation.
- ✓ Thus, the panel has been set up to understand, examine and resolve uncertainty on valuation of services by these companies.

- ✓ Panel will submit its report, in six months, to GST Council headed by Union Finance Minister and comprising state Finance Ministers.

Issues in Lakshadweep

- ✓ Administrator of Lakshadweep, Praful Khoda Patel, is being opposed by people of the union territory and politicians over policies he drafted in recent time.
- ✓ Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA) was recently created with extensive powers such as eviction of land owners.
- ✓ The legislation provides extensive powers to that authority to prepare comprehensive development plans for any area and to remove or relocate people living in Lakshadweep from their property for the purpose of town planning or any developmental activity.
- ✓ This is being criticised as they think LDA was pushed by real estate lobby against the will of islanders.
- ✓ Also, the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA) was introduced in January 2021.
- ✓ According to it, person can be detained without any public disclosure for a period of up to one year.

Note

- ✓ Praful Khoda Patel, an Indian politician, is currently holding the post as Administrator of Union Territory of

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Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.

- ✓ He is the 1st administrator of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- ✓ He was made administrator of Lakshadweep in December 2020 by unfollowing the earlier practice of appointing only IAS officers as administrator.
- ✓ Administrator is appointed by the President of India.

Four new National Helpline Number launched

- ✓ Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched four new helpline numbers to help people amid the second wave of covid-19.
- ✓ To promote these numbers advisory was issued to private television channels to government in spreading awareness regarding covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **1075** is the National Helpline no. of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- ✓ **1098** is the Child Helpline no. of Ministry of Women & Child Development
- ✓ **14566** is the Senior Citizens Helpline of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It will work in states like – Karnataka, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

- ✓ **08046110007** is Helpline number of National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) that will provide psychological support.
- ✓ A community support helpline number **14443** was operationalised by Ministry of AYUSH to provide approaches and solutions for challenges raised by COVID-19.

Dharavi model

- ✓ Dharavi is a slum in Mumbai that reported some 99 COVID-19 cases every day in April 2021.
- ✓ But, in last some days, number of cases is declining gradually.
- ✓ According to officials, ‘Dharavi model’ of COVID-19 management and vaccination drive have helped in containing second wave in the slum.
- ✓ The Dharavi model involves 4Ts which stands for “tracing, tracking, testing and treating”.
- ✓ This strategy was also praised by World Health Organisation (WHO) during first wave of COVID-19.
- ✓ Under the model, Door-to-door screening of people is conducted with symptoms, aggressive testing and regular screening.

INTERNATIONAL

Benin Bronzes

- ✓ The Government of Germany recently announced that it is to return the artefacts called the “Benin Bronzes” to Nigeria.
- ✓ The “Benin Bronzes” are currently held in the museum of Germany.
- ✓ They are made using lost-wax casting process. It is a process of making copies from a model. The method had been used in Indus Valley Civilisation as well.

World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge

- ✓ The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has been opened in **Portugal**.
- ✓ **516 Arouca**, called so because is **516 metres long** and it is the town of Arouca, connect Aguieiras waterfall and Paiva Gorge.

Karen Rebels

- ✓ The Karen Rebels recently seized a military post in Myanmar. The post is located close to the border of north western Thailand.
- ✓ They are the oldest rebel group in Myanmar. They have formed the **Karen National Union (KNU)**. They have been fighting against the Myanmar government since **1949**.

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- ✓ They are fighting for an **independent state** called “**Kawthoolei**”.
- ✓ It is one of the **longest running civil wars** in the world.

GK

- ✓ The Karen people are one of the largest **ethnic minorities** in Myanmar.
- ✓ There are more than twenty different dialects spoken by **Karen** (Dialect is a language which is peculiar to a specific group).
- ✓ **Pwo and Sgaw** are the most widely spoken.

Congo declares end of Ebola outbreak

- ✓ The Democratic Republic of Congo declared the end of Ebola outbreak on 3rd May 2021.

India-Russia 2+2 Dialogue

- ✓ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin recently agreed to establish “**2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**”.
- ✓ The “2+2 Ministerial” dialogue is held between the **defence ministers and foreign ministers**.
- ✓ India holds similar dialogues with US, Australia and Japan. Russia is the **first non-QUAD member** with which India is to hold the dialogue.

India-Russia relationship

- ✓ Currently, Russia is the largest Defence Supplier of India. Also, the key defence systems of India such as S-400 are bought from Russia.
- ✓ Both the countries are members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS.
- ✓ Russia supports India for its **permanent membership** at the **United Nations Security Council**.
- ✓ In **1971**, India and Russia signed the **Treaty of Peace and Friendship**. After the dissolution of Soviet Union in **1991**, India and Russia signed the **Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement**.

First US VP with Madame Tussauds wax figure

- ✓ To become the first woman us vice president to have a figure displayed at the Madame Tussauds wax Museum in New York city.

Time Magazine's list 2021

- ✓ Two Indian firms, Reliance Industries' technology arm **Jio Platforms** and e-learning startup **BYJU's** have figured in the Time Magazine's **first-ever list** of 100 most influential companies.
- ✓ BYJU's was listed alongside Tesla, Huawei, Shopify, Airbnb, and DiDi Chuxing in the Disruptors category.

- ✓ **Jio Platforms** was listed under the **Innovators category** alongside Zoom, Adidas, TikTok, Ikea, Moderna, and Netflix.

US restricts travel from India

- ✓ Job Beiden administration will restrict travel from India from 4 may 2021 in the view of the spike in cases of Covid-19.
- ✓ The decision to restrict travel from India had been taken on the advice of the United States' centres for Disease Control and prevention.

Tamil Chair at Toronto

- ✓ It is the first time the whole Tamil community has come forward to do so in case of the Toronto Tamil Chair.
- ✓ The institution of an exclusive Tamil chair at Harvard University in the United States of America, proposed in 2017, was the first time research into Tamil language and culture gained an international footing.
- ✓ To make sure of this chair the Canadians collected donataions around 3 million dollars(17.1 cr in rupee).

US places India in priority watch list

- ✓ The US has placed India on the priority lack of sufficient measurable improvements to intellectual property framework "long-standing" and "new challenges" that have negatively affected American right holders.

Black, red Hand prints discovered in Maya Cave

- ✓ Around **137 black and red handprints** have discovered on Maya Cave walls in Mexico.
- ✓ The 137 Prints, mostly made by the hands of children, are more than 1200 years old, which would date them near the end of the Ancient Maya's classical Zenith.
- ✓ The cave is located near the northern tip of **Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.**
- ✓ The first Mayan settlement date back nearly 4000 years.

World largest airplane

- ✓ The World largest airplane built by **Stratolaunch** recently completed its **second test flight** from **Mojave Air and Space Port in California of USA.**
- ✓ It has been named "**Roc**".
- ✓ Stratolaunch was established by Paul Allen in 2011.
- ✓ He was a co-founder of Microsoft.

Brand Finance Insurance 100 report – 2021

- ✓ The state-owned insurance behemoth 'Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)' has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally.
- ✓ This is according to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.
- ✓ The annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.

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- ✓ This report is to identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally.

Note

- ✓ Most Valuable Global Insurance Brand - Ping An Insurance, China
- ✓ Most Strongest Global Insurance Brand - Poste Italiane, Italy.

Lag B'Omer festival in Israel

- ✓ The Lag B'Omer festival was celebrated in Israel on 30th April 2021.
- ✓ This is an annual Jewish festival observed during the Hebrew month of Iyar.
- ✓ It is celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot.

TPLF - a terrorist group

- ✓ The Ethiopian Government has recently added the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and OLF-Shene to its terror list.
- ✓ In 2020, Ethiopia launched a mass military operation against Tigray People Liberation Front.
- ✓ It is a political party founded in 1975 in Ethiopia.
- ✓ Also, TPLF is an armed ethnic nationalist insurgent group.

- ✓ This conflict between the State Government of Tigray and the Ethiopian Government is going on for thirty years now.

Angel Next Door

- ✓ During COVID Pandemic, Australia has launched a website “Angel Next Door” for people who are in need of help.
- ✓ Recently, India has also launched this website.
- ✓ The people who need the Oxygen Cylinder and Remdisiver medicines can approach this website.

Oldest human burial in Africa

- ✓ The scientists have found the oldest human burial in Africa. The site is 78,000 years old.
- ✓ The cave site was discovered near **Kenyan coast**. The site is called “**Panga ya Saidi**”.
- ✓ The remains of a child whose age was **two to three years** led to the discovery of the cave. The child was put to **rest with a pillow**.
- ✓ The scientists have nick named the child as “**Mtoto**”.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration recently celebrated Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

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- ✓ The month is celebrated to honour the contributions made by the Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans to the culture, history and achievements of United States.
- ✓ The Month of May was chosen to celebrate as it was the first time when the Japanese immigrants arrived to the US.
- ✓ In 2021, NASA has organised several events to celebrate the month in the following Theme: Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Drive Services.
- ✓ The Pacific Islanders, also called Pasefika, Pasifika, Pacificer are people belonging to the Pacific Islands.

WHO gives emergency approval for sinopharm

- ✓ The World Health Organisation approved the covid-19 from china state owned drug maker sign off form for emergency use.
- ✓ Sinopharm becomes covid-19 shot developed by non-western country to win the WHO's backing.

Food Price Index

- ✓ The United Nations recently announced that the world food prices **increased for the eleventh consecutive month in April 2021.**
- ✓ It reached the **highest level since May 2014.**
- ✓ This announcement was made based on the Food Price Index released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

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- ✓ The Food Price Index measures monthly changes of a basket of food grains such as oil seeds, cereals, dairy products, sugar and meat.
- ✓ In April 2021, the Food Price Index was **120.9**.
- ✓ It was **118.9 in March 2021**.

World War II victory celebration

- ✓ Russia celebrated its victory in World War II by flying a sounds and drones.
- ✓ The city of Arshev, drones circling the sky in various shapes made a feast for the eyes.
- ✓ Vaccination in the in the form of a giant dove emphasizing peace.

India and European Union

- ✓ After a gap of 8 years, india and the European Union are set to resume negotiations for an ambitious and comprehensive free trade agreement.
- ✓ The free trade agreement package will include an investment protection fact as well as Framework on geographical indication.

Method of capital punishment

- ✓ South Carolina lawmakers have passed a bill to allow inmates on death row to be executed by firing squad in the absence of lethal injection drugs.

- ✓ If this becomes a law, it will make South Carolina the fourth state in the country to offer this option as a method of capital punishment.

US participation in PESCO

- ✓ The European Union recently approved the requests of Norway, Canada and United States to participate in Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) defence initiative.
- ✓ For the first time, the European bloc has allowed a third state to participate in the PESCO project.
- ✓ The countries will now participate in the Military Mobility Project in Europe.
- ✓ PESCO is a part of the European Union security and defence policy.
- ✓ It was introduced based on the Treaty of European Union introduced by Treaty of Lisbon in 2009.

Bees in Netherland trained to detect covid

- ✓ That resources have trained bees, which have an unusually keen sense of smell, to identify samples infected with covid-19.

India, Israel and UAE trilateral agreement

- ✓ An Israel-based company 'Ecoppia' is set to produce robotic solar cleaning technology in India for a project in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- ✓ The project will take place through the Trilateral cooperation agreement between Israel, India, and UAE.
- ✓ This is the 1st of its kind between the 3 countries.

Time of Remembrance

- ✓ Every year during May 8-9, the United Nations marks the Time of Remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War.
- ✓ The day pays tribute to all the victims of the Second World War and this year is the 76th Anniversary of World War II.

Third Arctic Science Ministerial

- ✓ The Ministry of Earth Science recently announced that India participated in the Arctic Science Ministerial meeting.
- ✓ India also announced that it will deploy open ocean mooring in the Arctic for long term monitoring of upper ocean variables and marine meteorological parameters.
- ✓ **Mooring** is collection of devices connected to a wire and anchored to the sea floor.
- ✓ **India proposed to host the next** or future Arctic Science Ministerial meet.
- ✓ The theme of 2021 Arctic Ministerial Meeting was **Theme: Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic.**

GK

- ✓ The first two Arctic Science Ministerial meeting were held in USA in 2016 and in Germany in 2018.
- ✓ This meeting that was held in 2021 was organised by Japan and Iceland and is the first meeting to be held in Asia.
- ✓ India is an “Observer” in the Arctic Council since 2013.
- ✓ India’s engagement in the Arctic region started with the signing of Svalbard Treaty of Paris in 1920.
- ✓ India constructed a permanent research station in the Arctic region in 2008.
- ✓ It is called Himadri. Himadri is located at NyAlesund, Norway.
- ✓ NISER is NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite mission. It aims to conduct global measurements of land surface changes using radar imaging. It is an ongoing project.

Japan proposes alternatives to Suez Canal

- ✓ In April 2021, a container ship called “Ever Given” blocked the Suez Canal. This stopped more than 400 ships from transiting the canal.
- ✓ This caused a global trade loss of 9 billion USD. It was popularly called the Suez Canal Blockade.

- ✓ The two potential alternatives for Japan are reliant on Russia. One is the Trans-Siberian Railway and the other is the Northern Sea Route.

Global Prime Residential Index

- ✓ London-based property consultant Knight Frank has ranked New Delhi and Mumbai in 32nd and 36th positions respectively in the Global Prime Residential Index.
- ✓ Bengaluru moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked 40.
- ✓ Three Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter.
- ✓ New York was the weakest-performing global city during the period.

China to set up covid-19 Separation line

- ✓ China will create a line of separation at the Mount Everest Summit to prevent climber from the Chinese side from mingling with their climbing the world's tallest mountain from Nepal.
- ✓ A team of Tibetan mountaineering guide will set up the separation line at the peak.

Bangladesh conducts first test run for Metro

- ✓ The test runs off the first electrical metro train in Bangladesh was conducted in Dhaka.

- ✓ Bangladesh is building a 21 long mass rapid transit system from Uthara to Motijheel.

1st BRICS EWG Meeting held

- ✓ Apurva Chandra, secretary, labour and Employment share the first BRICS employment working group meeting held in may 2021. India has assumed BRICS Presidency for 2021.

Population growth of China

- ✓ The annual population of China has slowed during the decade.
- ✓ This has put the demographic dividend of the country at risk.
- ✓ The annual population growth of China was at 0.53% in 2020 census.
- ✓ It was 0.57% in 2010 census.

Nok Culture

- ✓ The scientists from the University of Bristol and Goethe University have found traces of bee wax in the potteries unearthed in Nigeria.
- ✓ These potteries belong to the Nok Culture.
- ✓ From the unearthed pots, it has been concluded that bee and bee products were created before 40,000 years.
- ✓ The practice of bee keeping dates back to 2600 BCE.
- ✓ The culture developed in Central Nigeria in 1500 BCE.

- ✓ The culture vanished in 500 AD. The people of Nok Culture belong to Iron Age.

KP Sharma

- ✓ In Nepal, president Bidhya devi Bhandari has been appointed KP Sharma Oli as prime minister as the opposition party failed to put together a coalition government.

China to ban synthetic cannabinoid substances

- ✓ China will become the world's first country to ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances.
- ✓ The move comes as China tries to curb the manufacturing & trafficking of the drug.
- ✓ Synthetic cannabinoids are highly camouflaged, as some are found in e-cigarette oil.
- ✓ The synthetic cannabinoid has become one of the most-abused new psychoactive substances.

Iron Dome - Israel

- ✓ The Hamas group from Gaza made an attack with rockets on Israel.
- ✓ These rockets were intercepted by Israeli Iron Dome.
- ✓ It was as if the rockets were hitting some invisible shield.

About

- ✓ It is an air defence system.

- ✓ The investigation is against the import of solar cells from these countries.
- ✓ The investigation has been started by the Ministry following the application submitted by the Indian Solar Manufacturer Association.
- ✓ The solar cells that are being imported from China are 15% to 20% less expensive as compared to that of the solar cells produced in India.
- ✓ This is affecting the business of solar modules produced using locally available raw materials.
- ✓ Ultimately it is increasing the price of domestic solar modules.

Biggest Nuclear Power Project

- ✓ China and Russia began the biggest Nuclear Power Project.
- ✓ The Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Chinese President Xi Jing Ping attended the ceremony that began the construction of the project.
- ✓ In 2018, Russia and China signed an agreement on Nuclear Energy Cooperation Project.
- ✓ Under the agreement, the countries agreed to build Unit three and Unit Four of the Xudapu Nuclear Power Plant and Unit 7 and Unit 8 of the Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant.

A-76

- ✓ An Iceberg recently calved off from the continent of Antarctica. This iceberg is now the largest iceberg in the world. It has been named as A-76.
- ✓ The Ice Berg is 170 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide.
- ✓ The ice berg was spotted by a European Space Agency satellite called Copernicus Sentinel. It is a two-satellite constellation that orbits the earth's poles.
- ✓ The Ice Berg is now floating on the Weddell Sea. Weddell Sea is a large bay in the Western Antarctic.
- ✓ The satellites confirmed the observations made by British Antarctic Survey. **The British Antarctic Survey was the first to notice the breakaway.**
- ✓ Every time an ice berg calves out from Antarctica, it adds up to the rising sea levels. However, in this case, the ice shelf from which this berg carved out was already floating on water.
- ✓ The Ice Shelf from which A-76 calved out is called **Ronne Ice Shelf.**

Island of Sulawesi

- ✓ A new study revealed that the oldest-known hand stencil drawing is degenerating at an 'alarming rate' due to climate change.

- ✓ The island of Sulawesi in Indonesia consists of a cave art that dates back more than 45,000 years.
- ✓ The ancient cave paintings drawn in red and mulberry pigments is considered the earliest known narrative scene in prehistoric art.

Five Deeps Expedition

- ✓ The Five Deeps Expedition has measured the extreme depths of the World's 5 Oceans.
- ✓ The Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench in Pacific Ocean remains the Deepest Trench in the world.
- ✓ The 2nd Deepest Trench in the world is the Horizon Deep (10, 816 m) in the Tonga Trench, Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ American undersea explorer Victor Lance Vescovo of the US launched the Five Deeps Expedition in 2018.
- ✓ The Five Deeps Expedition was the first to reach the deepest point in each of the Earth's five oceans.

Ocean & Deepest Points

- ✚ Atlantic Ocean – Brownson Deep (8, 378 m) in Puerto Rico Trench
- ✚ Southern Ocean (Antarctic ocean) – Factorian Deep (7, 432 m) in South Sandwich Trench
- ✚ Indian Ocean – Unnamed Deep (7, 187 m) in Java Trench
- ✚ Pacific Ocean – Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench (deepest trench in the world).
- ✚ Arctic Ocean – Molloy Hole (5, 551 m)

Singapore approves Covid Breath Test

- ✓ Singapore has approved a covid breath test which detect to covid-19 and show the accurate results in less than a minute.
- ✓ The test has been developed by a start-up Breathonix.
- ✓ The test kit works in a manner **similar to standard breathalyzer test** which is used by police to check for erratic drunken drivers.
- ✓ Before this test kit was approved Singapore was screening the incoming travellers with antigen rapid tests.
- ✓ Now, breath test will be used to screen incoming travellers from Malaysia.
- ✓ **Breathonix test** has undergone three clinical trials. Two in Singapore and one in Dubai.
- ✓ It resulted into the sensitivity of 93% and specificity of 95% on about 180 patients.

50 billion global vaccination plan

- ✓ The IMF (International Monetary Fund) proposed a USD 50 billion global vaccination plan.
- ✓ This will cover about 40 percent of global population by the end of 2021.
- ✓ It also seeks to cover at least 60 percent of the population by first half of 2022.

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- ✓ This plan was proposed on the line of work of the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank, Gavi and African Union.

G7 health ministers Summit

- ✓ India is among the guest countries invited to join with family at the 2021 G7 health ministers' meeting to be held at Oxford University.
- ✓ This bring together the world's leading democracy's to agree on light saving action in critical areas of Global Health, where the UK Government announced.

Joe Biden signs bill

- ✓ US President Joe Biden has signed a legislation to address the sudden increase in hate crime against Asian-americans in the aftermath of the covid-19 pandemic and expressed hope that such crimes would now be more accurately counted and reported.

China completes strategic Tibet highway

- ✓ China has completed construction of the strategic least significant Highway through the world's deepest Canyon in Tibet along the Brahmaputra river, enabling greater access to remote areas along the disputed border with Arunachal Pradesh in India.

- ✓ It took seven years to complete and passes through the Grand Canyon of the **Yarlung Zangbo river**, at the **Brahmaputra is called in Tibet.**

70 years of Pak-China diplomatic relationship

- ✓ Pakistan and China are celebrating their 70 years of diplomatic friendship and the ongoing economic cooperation further strengthen the relationship.

Italy hosts the Global G 20 Health Summit

- ✓ The Global G20 Health Summit was co-hosted by European Commission along with Italy as part of its G20 presidency.
- ✓ The summit adopted the agenda to overcome Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ It also decided to develop and endorse a Rome Declaration of principles.

Ecuador's first right-wing President

- ✓ **Guillermo Lasso**, a conservative, assumed presidency of Ecuador and has become first right-wing leader in 14 years in Ecuador.
- ✓ Ecuador is a country in northwestern South America.
- ✓ It is not a landlocked country and is surrounded by Colombia to the north, Peru to the east & south, and Pacific Ocean to the west.

- ✓ Galapagos Islands in Pacific is also a part of Ecuador.
Quito is the capital city of Ecuador.

One Health panel

- ✓ This initiative was launched by **France and Germany in 2020**, but held its first meeting in May 2021.
- ✓ World Health Organization along with three other international bodies have set up a team of experts who will help in developing a global plan called "One Health" panel.
- ✓ This panel will help **preventing the spread of Zoonotic diseases.**
- ✓ Zoonotic disease or Outbreak is an infectious disease, transmitted between species from animals to humans or from humans to animals.

74th World Health Assembly

- ✓ Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, **Dr Harsh Vardhan, chaired 74th World Health Assembly.**
- ✓ Director-General of World Health Organisation, **Dr Tedros**, also participated in the event.
- ✓ An executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.

- ✓ Sanxingdui is an archaeological site and a major Bronze Age culture of China.

US and Open Skies Treaty

- ✓ US administration led by Biden, does not seek to re-join Open Skies Treaty with Russia.
- ✓ The treaty is a key arms control agreement.
- ✓ It allows US and Russia to fly surveillance aircraft over their military facilities.
- ✓ According to US administration, US does not seek to re-join the pact because of Russia's failure to comply with it.
- ✓ Now, "New START treaty" is the only major arms control pact between both the countries.
- ✓ It was extended for five years recently by US.

China to send 3 male astronauts to space

- ✓ China has announced plans to send three male astronauts to its Space Station in June 2021 for a 3 month stay.
- ✓ The country had launched cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-2 on 29 May 2021 carrying supplies, equipment and the proper length which had successfully docked with the space station core module Tianhe.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Article 164 (4)

- ✓ The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost in Nandigram.
- ✓ She lost the seat to her former protégé-turned-BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari by a margin of 1956 votes.
- ✓ Protégé is a person supported by a more experienced person.
- ✓ However, she can still take over as the Chief Minister of the State. This is permitted under Article 164 (4).
- ✓ **Article 164 (4): A Minister who is not a member of the Legislative Assembly shall cease to be a minister at the end of six months.**
- ✓ By this law, Mamta is to be appointed as the Chief Minister of West Bengal even if she has lost the election.
- ✓ However, she has to become the member of the **West Bengal State Legislature within six months.**

Whip

- ✓ **Govi. Chezhan** was named the chief government whip.
- ✓ He is the DMK MLA from Tiruvidaimarudur.

Leader of house

- ✓ Durai Murugan appointed as leader of house. This announcement was made by the secretary to the Legislature srinivasan.

Pro-term speaker

- ✓ Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit appointed former minister K Pichandi protem speaker of the state legislative assembly.

16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

- ✓ The 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has been summoned to meet for its first session on May 11th.
- ✓ The 234 newly elected Members of the legislative Assembly will be sworn in by the Pro Tem Speaker K.Pichandi.
- ✓ DMK's senior member Appavu has been selected for the Speaker post.
- ✓ K.Pichandi from DMK is selected for the Deputy Speaker's post.

Advocate General of Tamil Nadu

- ✓ The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Banwarilal Purohit has appointed Senior counsel R. Shunmugasundaram as the new Advocate General for the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He has gained experience in criminal law from his father, Late S Rajagopal, a leading Advocate and former Public Prosecutor, Madurai.

- ✓ This storm will be the second to form in 2021 and **first over the Bay of Bengal in 2021.**
- ✓ Low pressure system take birth close to the north Andaman sea and March towards **Odisha or West Bengal.**
- ✓ It will acquire the name Yaas, **given by Oman.**

Mount Nyiragongo

- ✓ Government of Democratic Republic of Congo has launched an evacuation plan for “**eastern city of Goma**” after volcano Mount Nyiragongo erupted.
- ✓ Mount Nyiragongo volcano is located 10 km from Goma.
- ✓ After eruption, it has led to thousands of residents very frightened. So, they are now fleeing towards Rwanda in east.
- ✓ This volcano was last erupted in 2002.
- ✓ It is one of the **world’s most active and dangerous volcanoes.**
- ✓ It has an elevation of **3,470 m in Virunga Mountains** which are associated with Albertine Rift.
- ✓ Volcano is located inside **Virunga National Park**, in Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- ✓ **Nyiragongo and Nyamuragira** are together responsible for 40 percent of historical volcanic eruptions in Africa.

Ana- First named Atlantic storm of 2021

- ✓ According to National Hurricane Centre, Miami, subtropical storm Ana is drifting northeast across the Atlantic Ocean after causing rain to Bermuda.
- ✓ Thus, **first named Atlantic storm** will cause no damage to land and will dissipate soon.
- ✓ Ana storm was located about **435 kilometres northeast of Bermuda.**
- ✓ It had a maximum sustained wind of 75 kilometres per hour.
- ✓ Ana was the first named storm in Atlantic in 2021, even though hurricane season is not started yet. **Hurricane season usually start on June 1.**
- ✓ Atlantic hurricane, also called as **tropical storm**, is a tropical cyclone forming in Atlantic Ocean. It forms usually in months of June and November.
- ✓ Hurricane is **different from cyclone or typhoon based on their location, only.**
- ✓ Hurricane storm occurs in Atlantic Ocean and north-eastern Pacific Ocean, typhoon in north-western Pacific Ocean while cyclone in South Pacific Ocean or Indian Ocean.

Sun Halo

- ✓ People in Bangalore witnessed a rare phenomenon as a rainbow circled the sun creating a Halo around the star.

ECONOMY

Network for Greening the Financial System

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently joined the Network for Greening then Financial System (NGFS).
- ✓ By joining the system, RBI is to learn from and contribute to the **Global Climate risk management** in the financial sector.
- ✓ There are **83 central banks** associated with **the Greening the Financial System**.
- ✓ Of these 75 are members and 13 are observers.
- ✓ The main objective of the system is **to increase and accelerate green finance**.
- ✓ It aims to help the members design policies and climate risk resilience in financial sector.

World's Oldest Water at Canada

- ✓ **Barbara Sherwood Lollar**, the geochemist had spent much of her career wandering around some of the deepest mines in the world, finding and extracting water that was millions of years old.
- ✓ The research, published in Nature Communications, states that the Canadian mine water extracted by her in 2009, to be 1.6 billion years old.
- ✓ This is the oldest to be found on our planet.

Global FDI

- ✓ The global FDI dropped by 38% in 2020 (compared to 2019).
- ✓ This is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005).
- ✓ These are according to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),
- ✓ **India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI** inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion.
- ✓ **China became the largest Recipient of FDI** (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion).
- ✓ Luxembourg finished 4th.

Special Long Term Repo Operation

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that it is to conduct the first Special Long Term Repo Operation (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crores for Small Finance Banks.
- ✓ The RBI will conduct the SLTRO for each month starting from May 2021.
- ✓ The SLTRO will be valid for three years.
- ✓ All the Small Finance Banks shall participate in the SLTRO.
- ✓ However, these banks should make sure that the amount borrowed from RBI should be lent only to specified

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- ✓ The bank will allow its customers to choose their favourite numbers as the last 10 digits of their bank account, savings or current.
- ✓ The allocation of the account number chosen by the customer will be subject to the availability of the requested number.

Jana Small Finance Bank

- ✓ It was founded on 24 July 2006.
- ✓ Its headquarters is at Bengaluru.
- ✓ The tagline of Jana Small Finance Bank is 'Paise Ki Kadar'.

Indian economy in the year 2022

- ✓ The United Nations, in its mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), projected that the Indian economy would grow at 10.1% in the calendar year 2022.
- ✓ It was first released in January 2021.
- ✓ At a growth rate of 10.1% in 2022, India will be the fastest growing major economy in the world,
- ✓ The mid-year update said that India will register a -7.5% growth rate in calendar year 2021, after an estimated contraction of 6.8% in 2020.

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- ✓ On the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani is currently on the 13th spot, just a place above Gautam Adani.

‘Ricochet Impact’

- ✓ According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), Emerging-market nations’ struggle to move out of covid-19 pandemic-induced economic crisis can hurt developed nations.
- ✓ It said, crisis has “Ricochet impact” on the developed and advanced economies.
- ✓ IMF suggests that, developed nations should be doing all to ensure better & equitable access to vaccines and equitable recovery.
- ✓ Poorer nations are facing the risk of increasing interest rates even though, their economies aren’t growing.
- ✓ International Monetary Fund is an international financial institution is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ It comprises of 190 countries.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Project ‘Pyrasol’

- ✓ The foundation stone of the integrated **Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant** was laid at Chennai.
- ✓ The pilot plant is part of the **Indo-German project ‘Pyrasol’**.

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- ✓ It was awarded to **CSIR-CLRI** by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre.
- ✓ The project will ultimately lead for the technology development to transform **urban organic waste and sewage sludge into biochar** and energy in Indian Smart Cities as well as in other urban centres.

ALISC

- ✓ A Community Service Centre has been set up on board India's first dedicated Solar Space Mission.
- ✓ The centre is called ALISC.
- ✓ ALISC is **Aditya-L1 Support Cell**.
- ✓ It is to be set up at the ARIES at Haldwani, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ ALISC is a joint **effort of ISRO and ARIES**.
- ✓ The knowledge to be provided by ALISC will help scientists to **connect the features in heliosphere** to the surface of the **sun**.
- ✓ **Aditya-L1 is an Indian space mission** that will study the sun and also the **region between the earth and the sun**.

Pox 186

- ✓ The astrophysicists from the Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics have discovered the first blow away galaxy using the "Gemini Telescope". The galaxy has been named as Pox 186.

Uranium-214

- ✓ The scientists have recently created lightest form of Uranium. It is called the Uranium-214.
- ✓ The discovery reveals more information about an alpha particle.
- ✓ The alpha particle are those particles that gets ejected from radioactive elements as they decay.
- ✓ However, Uranium-214 found recently is much lighter than the other common Uranium isotopes.
- ✓ This includes Uranium-235 as well. Uranium-235 is the most commonly used isotope.

5G trials

- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications recently allowed mobile operators to **conduct 5G trials**. The Chinese companies, however, have been kept out of the trials.
- ✓ The Telecom Department has allowed **Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and MTNL** to conduct trials using 5G technology.
- ✓ These service providers have tied up with original equipment manufacturers such as Nokia, Ericsson, Samsung.
- ✓ The Reliance Jio is to conduct trials using its own technology.

- ✓ The operators will be allowed to use their **existing spectrum of 2500 MHz, 1800 MHz, 900 MHz and 800 MHz** to conduct the trials.

Radio Signals from Venus

- ✓ The NASA Spacecraft **Parker Solar Probe** has discovered a natural radio signal from Venus.
- ✓ These signals were detected when the space probe flew over the upper atmosphere of Venus.
- ✓ This is the **first direct measurement** of the planet's atmosphere in **thirty years**.
- ✓ According to the findings of Parker Solar Probe, just like the earth, planet Venus also has an **electrically charged layer of gas** in its upper atmosphere called the ionosphere.

Mayflower 400

- ✓ Mayflower 400 is the world's first Artificial Intelligence ship.
- ✓ It is **15 metres long and weighs nine tonnes**.
- ✓ The ship is to study marine pollution and analyze plastics in water.
- ✓ The voyage is important because more than 80% of the underwater world remains unexplored.
- ✓ It has been taught on how to avoid collisions. Thus, the ship can correct itself.

- ✓ The training will help the ship to detect the presence of marine animals and thereby provide information about the population distribution of these animals in the ocean.
- ✓ The ship is capable of handling waves that are **fifty metres high.**
- ✓ After the launch, Mayflower will become the **first unmanned vehicle to cross the Atlantic Ocean.**

First molecular image of B.1.1.7 covid variant

- ✓ Canadian researchers have published the first structural images of a mutation in the B.1.1.7 variant of the covid-19 virus.
- ✓ The image may help to explain why it has proved far more infectious than the previous strain.
- ✓ To "visualise the detailed steps of the viruses and proteins", used cryo electron microscope call **cryo-EM.**

Starship rocket

- ✓ SpaceX achieve the first successful TouchDown of a prototype star shiprocket during the latest test Flight of the next generation launch vehicle in South Texas.

Blue origin launch space tourism in July

- ✓ Jeff bezos' space venture blue organs and answer that it will launch its first astronaut crew to space in July.
- ✓ The flight will be launched on anniversary of Nasa's Apollo 11 moon landing.

Millisecond pulsars discovered

- ✓ A group of astronomers have discovered **8 milli second Pulsars.**
- ✓ These pulsars are located within the dense clusters of stars called the “**Globular Clusters**”.
- ✓ The Pulsars were discovered using the **MeerKAT telescope located in South Africa.**
- ✓ The Milli second pulsars are the most compact stars known to mankind.
- ✓ The Milli second pulsars **are made of neutrons.**
- ✓ Their mass is hundreds of thousands of times the mass of the earth.
- ✓ They **emit beams of radio waves.**

World first 2nm processor chip

- ✓ IBM has unveiled the world's first 2nm process chip. The 2nm **hair** refers to the size of the transistors on a chip.
- ✓ The new 2nm chip holds 333 million transistor the wire millimetre.

Scientists model Saturn’s interior Structure

- ✓ The scientists at the John Hopkins University have simulated the interior of the Saturn.
- ✓ The simulations say that a thick layer of Helium rain influence the magnetic field of the planet.

- ✓ The **Cassini Mission of NASA** helped scientists to understand the deep interior of the planet where the magnetic field is generated.
- ✓ The center of Saturn is a dense core of metals such as **iron and nickel**. This dense core is **surrounded by rocky materials**.
- ✓ Further it is enveloped by **liquid metallic hydrogen** inside a **layer of liquid hydrogen**. Its core is almost similar to the core of the Jupiter but considerably smaller.

GK

- ✓ Cassini is a joint space mission of European Space Agency, NASA and Italian Space Agency. It was called Cassini-Huygens mission.

First Genetically Modified Mosquitos

- ✓ A Biotech firm in the United States, Oxitech, recently launched field test of Genetically Modified mosquitos in Florida.
- ✓ The female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos are responsible for all diseases transmitted by mosquitos such as zika, chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever.
- ✓ The researchers have now bioengineered the male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos.
- ✓ The bioengineered male *Aedes aegypti* carries a gene that passes to their offsprings and kills the female progeny alone in early larval stages.

R21/Matrix M

- ✓ R21/Matrix M has been developed by scientists at University of Oxford.
- ✓ This malaria vaccine candidate has shown promise in phase 2b clinical trials, with high efficacy at 77%.
- ✓ The new vaccine candidate, called R21/Matrix M, is a modified version of RTS,S.
- ✓ This vaccine is designed to stop the Plasmodium falciparum malaria parasite from entering the liver and preventing the subsequent deadly blood stages.

Black fungus detected in covid-19 patients

- ✓ Cases of mucormycosis, common black from this, have been reported from Gujarat I'm of those who have recovered from covid-19.
- ✓ At least eight persons were reported to have lost their eyesight in Surat due to mucormycosis after recovering from covid.
- ✓ Among the worst affected are those with uncontrolled sugar levels and people who have health problems.

DRDO develops AI to detect covid

- ✓ DRDO has developed an artificial intelligence algorithm to detect the presence of covid-19 disease in chest X rays.
- ✓ Named **ATMAN AI**, the tool was developed by DRDO Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.

Chinese rocket falls into Indian Ocean

- ✓ The remains of Chinese rocket have crashed into the Indian Ocean. It is said to have been hurtling towards the earth.
- ✓ Hurtling is moving in a high speed, especially in a wildly uncontrolled manner.
- ✓ On April 28, 2021, China launched the **Long March 5B rocket**.
- ✓ The rocket carried the **Tianhe core module** of China space station.
- ✓ The Tianhe core module weighed 22.5 tonnes, one of the heaviest space modules. It used its own propulsion to enter in to the orbit.
- ✓ However, the first stage began to decay due to atmospheric drag.
- ✓ The rocket fell in the Indian Ocean near the Maldives.

OSIRIS-Rex

- ✓ The NASA Spacecraft called the “Osiris-Rex” has started a two year long journey back to the earth.
- ✓ The spacecraft reached asteroid Bennu in 2018. It then spent two years flying around it and collected rubbles. Rubbles are rough fragments of brick, stones.

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- ✓ In 2020, the scientists directed Osiris Rex to drop down and collect sixty kilo grams of regolith (top soil). They also found that the asteroid has lots of accessible water.
- ✓ The mission will help to understand the origin and evolution of solar system.

DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon

- ✓ SpaceX is to launch DOGE-1, a satellite that is completely funded with crypto currency.
- ✓ It is the first ever commercial payload to be paid with Dogecoin.
- ✓ The satellite weighs 40 kilograms.
- ✓ The satellite is to be launched in 2022.
- ✓ DOGE-1 is to be launched in Falcon 9.

Dogecoin

- ✓ It is basically a crypto currency.
- ✓ It was released in 2013.
- ✓ It was created by IBM engineers.

NASA-Axiom

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently signed an agreement with Axiom Space.
- ✓ Axiom is to send its astronauts to International Space Station.

- ✓ This is the first private astronaut mission to the space station. The mission has been named as Ax-1.
- ✓ The Axiom astronauts will spend eight days in the space station.
- ✓ They will conduct activities to coordinate with the space station on the ground.
- ✓ The International Space Station is to retire by 2024 or 2028. Russia had already announced that it is moving out of International Space Station after the agreement ends in 2024. Russia is currently building its own space station.

Human Para Influenza Viruses

- ✓ The scientists have recently found out a new way to block the attachment of HPIV (Human Para Influenza Viruses).
- ✓ The HPIV is the leading cause of death in childhood respiratory infections. More than 30% to 40% of children die due to respiratory illness.
- ✓ The scientists have now created a new peptide combining the previously found cholesterol and beta amino acids.
- ✓ Gellman lab discovered that modified beta amino acids containing peptides can block the viruses.
- ✓ Moscona Protto lab earlier hooked the peptide to a molecule of cholesterol. This created a greasy cell membrane that blocked the virus.

About HPIV

- ✓ It Is a single stranded RNA virus. The different strains of HPIV are as follows:
 - ✚ HPIV Type 1: Most common of Croup
 - ✚ HPIV Type 2: Causes croup and also lower and upper respiratory tract illnesses
 - ✚ HPIV Type 3: Associated with Pneumonia and Bronchiolitis
 - ✚ HPIV Type 4: Includes subtypes 4a and 4b
- ✓ Croup is the swelling inside trachea. It interferes with normal breathing.

Yaogan satellite

- ✓ China recently launched Changsei 2C rocket from the Xichang satellite launch centre. It is a Yaogan satellite.
- ✓ This satellite has joined the previous seven groups in orbit that were launched after 2017.
- ✓ The satellite is to be used for electromagnetic environmental surveys and other related technical tests.
- ✓ Prior to the Yaogan-30 mission, Yaogan-34 satellite was launched.
- ✓ China is planning to launch forty satellites in 2021.
- ✓ In May 2021, Tianzhou-2 Cargo and refuelling spacecraft is to be launched. It is a part of Tiangong Space Station.

Yaogan satellites

- ✓ It is a series of Chinese Reconnaissance satellites. Reconnaissance satellite is a spy satellite deployed for military or intelligence applications.
- ✓ However, Chinese claim that Yaogan satellites are launched for land survey, crop yield assessment, scientific experiment and disaster monitoring.

Samsung develops next generation

- ✓ Samsung Electronics has developed DRAM memory Technology based on the next generation interface "computer Express link" for the first time in the industry.
- ✓ It has "memory mapping", "interface converting" technologies, which minimizes system errors.

Voyager 1 detects persistent hum

- ✓ The Voyager 1 probe recently picked up humming sound. The scientists have named this as "Plasma Wave Emission".
- ✓ This humming sound has been interpreted as interstellar gas activity.
- ✓ Moving forward, the Voyager 1 will help scientists to understand the interactions between solar winds and the interstellar medium.
- ✓ The hum was of narrow frequency bandwidth.

- ✓ Lunar Eclipses happen only during a full moon. During this time, the moon is completely under the Earth's shadow.
- ✓ At this time, a little bit of the sunlight that reaches the earth during sunrise and sunset falls on the moon.
- ✓ It can be noted that the sky is red in colour during sunrise and sunset.
- ✓ This means during this time out of all the seven VIBGYOR colours in the white light, only red reaches the earth.
- ✓ This red colour light is reflected on the moon and thus the moon turned into a Blood Moon.

Oceans' extreme depths measured in detail

- ✓ Scientist now have the most precise information on the deepest points in each of Earth's five ocean.
- ✓ The key locations- Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern Oceans road map by the Five Deeps Expedition.
- ✓ In the Indian Ocean, there was two clim for the deepest point - section of the Java trench just off the coast of Indonesia and the fracture zone to the south east of Australia.

Notified Diseases

- ✓ The Black Fungus disease has been declared as notified disease in Haryana.

- ✓ Notified diseases are also called Notifiable diseases. It is any disease whose occurrence has to be reported to the Government by law.
- ✓ The WHO International Health Regulations, 1969 has made disease reporting mandatory. This will help WHO in its global surveillance and advisory role.
- ✓ Currently the list is limited only to three main disease namely yellow fever, cholera and plague. And of course COVID-19.
- ✓ As **Health is a State subject**, only the State Governments have powers to declare notified diseases. However, the Central Government maintains a list of Notified diseases.

List of Notified Diseases in India

- ✓ AIDS, Hepatitis B, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Whooping cough, Anaemia, Measles, Rabies, Vitamin A deficiency, typhoid, scarlet fever, polio, Cerebro spinal fever, leprosy, hepatitis, Cholera, Iodine deficiency, malnutrition, tuberculosis, small pox, plague, measles, influenza, diphtheria, chicken pox.

DeepShake

- ✓ DeepShake is an earthquake early warning system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to predict how the ground will move during a temblor.

- ✓ This will give several seconds' advance notice that the earthquake is coming.
- ✓ It uses a deep neural network, a type of AI learning,
- ✓ It aims to identify patterns from past earthquakes in order to predict how the shaking from a new quake will travel.

JUICE

- ✓ The Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer of the European Space Agency recently entered into a critical sequence of tests.
- ✓ It is an interplanetary spacecraft developed by European Space Agency. It is under its development phase.
- ✓ The JUICE Mission will study three Galilean Moon of Jupiter. They are **Europa, Ganymede and Callisto**.
- ✓ All these three moons have significant **amount of water** beneath their surfaces.
- ✓ The spacecraft is to be **launched in June 2022**.
- ✓ It will reach **Jupiter in October 2029**.
- ✓ The Mission will encounter **three planets and the moon** before arriving Jupiter. They are the **Venus, Earth and its moon, Mars, Jupiter, Ganymede, Callisto and Europa**.

Tianwen 1 - Mars

- ✓ The Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen 1 landed on Mars successfully.
- ✓ It was launched in July 2020 on a Long March 5 rocket.
- ✓ Tianwen 1 has been orbiting Mars for three months now.

- ✓ The lander that carried the Zhurong rover touched down the Martian surface successfully.
- ✓ It landed in the Utopia Planitia region.

Okeanos Explorer

- ✓ The Okeanos Explorer is a ship built by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- ✓ It departed from the Port Canaveral in Florida.
- ✓ The Okeanos Explorer is on a two-week expedition of ocean exploration.
- ✓ It is to build 3D maps of vast regions of unexplored ocean floors in Hadal Zone.
- ✓ It is to conduct a technology demonstration of autonomous under water vehicle called **Orpheus**.
- ✓ The Orpheus robot is a new class of submersible robot that will help in identifying the scientific features on the sea floor.

Orpheus

- ✓ Usually, a large high power location finding equipment such as Sonar will be required to navigate in the dark sea bed.
- ✓ Unlike such equipment, Orpheus uses low power system of cameras and lights, along with advanced software. It is lighter than the deep-sea submersibles.
- ✓ It weighs around 250 kilograms.

Simorgh Supercomputer

- ✓ Iran recently launched its supercomputer called Simorgh.
- ✓ This supercomputer is hundred times more powerful than the previous Iranian supercomputers.
- ✓ The Supercomputer has been named after the phoenix like bird called the Simorgh.
- ✓ The performance capacity of the simorgh Supercomputer is 0.56 petaflops.
- ✓ It is to reach 1 petaflops in two months. In its subsequent levels it is to reach to speed of 10 petaflops.
- ✓ The Supercomputer is to be used for image processing, artificial intelligence work load, traffic and weather data.

Winchcombe Meteorite

- ✓ The National History Museum located in London is to display a piece of the meteorite that touched down the town of Winchcombe in Gloucestershire in the UK.
- ✓ The meteorite touched the UK soil in **February 2021**.
- ✓ The meteorite is **4.5 billion years old**.
This meteorite is rare as it is a **carbonaceous meteorite**.
- ✓ Out of the 65,000 meteorite types known to mankind, only thousand are of this type.
- ✓ The Winchcombe meteorite is similar to that retrieved by the **Hayabusa 2 mission**.

Zeolites in Oxygen Production

- ✓ The Air India recently airlifted 35 tonnes of Zeolite used in Oxygen Production plants from Rome to Bengaluru.
- ✓ Zeolites are used as **adsorbent material** in Pressure Swing Adsorption.
- ✓ An oxygen concentrator uses Zeolites to **adsorb atmospheric nitrogen and then vents out the nitrogen.**
- ✓ This leaves oxygen gas remaining to be used for patients.
- ✓ In high pressure, the surface area of zeolites increases and thus is capable of adsorbing large quantities of nitrogen.

IIT-M team grows brain tissues

- ✓ IIT Madras and Massachusetts institute of Technology scientists have grown human brain tissues called "**Organiods**" with help of a 3D printed bioreactor that they developed.

IIT Bombay designs prototype to reuse oxygen

- ✓ A team of alimony and researcher at the IIT Bombay has built a breathing device that can reduce wastage of oxygen when a covid-19 patient is put on assisted breathing support such as ventilators.
- ✓ The prototype, called '**reBreather**', semi-closed circular breathing system that will allow patients to breathe in unused exhaled oxygen.

Mylab to make 1 crore covid test kits

- ✓ Mylab Discovery solutions is preparing 10000000 self use covid-19 testing before the national roll out on June 1 2021.
- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research approved my lab discoveries home based testing kit.
- ✓ The kit named 'COVISELF' is the country's first self-use kits for testing at home that will give result in 15 minutes.

First solar eruption

- ✓ NASA and European Space Agency's Solar Orbiter spacecraft has captured the first solar eruption on the Sun's surface.
- ✓ These eruptions are also known as coronal mass ejections (CME).

SPOT

- ✓ The US scientists has invented a new COVID-19 Saliva Testing method called SPOT.
- ✓ SPOT is Scalable and Portable Testing.
- ✓ SPOT was invented by a research team from the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.
- ✓ The SPOT gives COVID-19 test results in thirty minutes.
- ✓ This testing uses Reverse Transcriptase Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP).
- ✓ SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite

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- ✓ The United Launch Alliance launched the Atlas V Rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.
- ✓ The Atlas V rocket carried SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite.
- ✓ This Satellite will provide key capabilities in missile warning, battle space, missile defence.

FakeBuster

- ✓ It is a 'Deepfake' detection tool developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar and Monash University (Australia).
- ✓ FakeBuster can identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.
- ✓ It enables the organizer to detect if another person's video is manipulated or spoofed during a video conferencing.
- ✓ They can even be used during online examinations and job interviews.

Conversion of liquid oxygen to low pressure of Oxygen gas

- ✓ The **Indian Army** said it has found a solution for efficient conversion of liquid oxygen to low pressure Oxygen gas that can be given to covid-19 patients at their Hospital beds.

VIPER Rover

- ✓ US space agency NASA has announced to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in 2023.

- ✓ Mobile robot will search ice and other resources on and below the surface of moon.
- ✓ This mission is an example showing “robotic science mission” and “human exploration” go hand in hand.
- ✓ Mobile robot is a part of Artemis programme.
- ✓ It will collect data from Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER).
- ✓ It will help scientists in mapping the resources at South Pole of the lunar.

Ultra-high-energy gamma rays

- ✓ Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) of China has recently detected dozen sources of ultra-high-energy gamma rays.
- ✓ LHAASO cosmic ray observatory has discovered 12 sources of ultrahigh-energy photons.
- ✓ It has also detected a photon with energy level of 1.4 peta-electron volt.
- ✓ They are the brightest Milky Way gamma ray sources discovered till date.
- ✓ LHAASO is a gamma-ray and cosmic-ray observatory located at Daocheng in Sichuan province of China.

Amphotericin-B

- ✓ Several States and UTs have reported a shortage of Amphotericin-B drug that is used for treatment of the Mucormycosis or Black Fungus disease.

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- ✓ Amphotericin B is an antifungal medication.
- ✓ It is used to treat serious fungal infections.
- ✓ It was isolated from *Streptomyces nodosus* in 1955 and came into medical use in 1958.
- ✓ It is typically given by injection into a vein.
- ✓ It slows down the growth of fungi that cause infection.
- ✓ It is listed in the World Health Organization's (WHO's) List of Essential Medicines, the safest and most effective medicines in a health system.

LHAASO

- ✓ Using an observatory on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau, astronomers have spotted the highest energy light ever, gamma ray photons up to 1.4 petaelectronvolts (PeV).
- ✓ They have traced these extreme photons back to a dozen of their likely sources: powerful factories in the Milky Way Galaxy that accelerate charged particles called cosmic rays.
- ✓ This was detected by LHAASO large High Altitude Air Shower observatory.

Advanced bio-digester MK-II technology

- ✓ Government of India's premier research agency **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** will install its **eco-friendly bio-digester** units across the facilities operated by **Maharashtra Metro Rail**

Corporation (MAHA–METRO), which help conserve water and protect the environment.

DNA Vaccines Effective in Hamsters

- ✓ Researchers from Taiwan developed a vaccine using DNA of coronavirus spike protein and tested its efficacy on Mice and Hamsters.
- ✓ This technique is different than mRNA vaccines.
- ✓ DNA vaccines are usually hard to deliver into cells. But, researchers from National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan, coupled electroporation while delivering DNA vaccination.
- ✓ According to research, mice and hamsters immunised with new DNA vaccine developed long-lasting antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.
- ✓ Antibodies peaked at eight weeks after immunisation but levels were relatively high at week 20.
- ✓ DNA vaccine is thermally stable and no cold chain-needed in such vaccines.
- ✓ It can induce high levels of long-lasting neutralising antibody against SARS-CoV-2.
- ✓ It can be produced quickly at lower cost. Several clinical trials have indicated the efficacy of DNA vaccines in treating infections like Zika, HIV-1, Ebola and influenza viruses.

Earth System Observatory

- ✓ NASA has set up a new **Earth System Observatory** which will help in mitigating climate change, forest fires and hurricanes.
- ✓ It will also support real-time agriculture.

Smart window material

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati of Assam have developed a smart window material which can automatically control climate of buildings.
- ✓ The smart window material can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it when voltage is applied to it.
- ✓ Thus, it will help to develop efficient automatic climate control.

Aspergillosis Fungal Infection

- ✓ Amid the country's battle against covid-19 pandemic and increasing cases of mucormycosis, Doctors in Ghaziabad, Mumbai and Gujarat have reported cases of new disease called 'aspergillosis'.
- ✓ Aspergillosis is a fungal infection, fungal growth or allergic reaction caused due to Aspergillus fungus. The fungus is found indoors as well as outdoors.

- ✓ It lives on decaying vegetation or dead leaves. This fungal infection is not as deadly as black fungus but it can turn fatal too.
- ✓ People can come in contact with the fungus by breathing in microscopic “aspergillus spores” from environment.
- ✓ Though people come in contact with the fungus daily but never contracts illness.
- ✓ Because, aspergillosis infects people suffering from lung disease or weak immune system.
- ✓ It causes infections in organs and other allergic reactions.

Curiosity rover spots colourful clouds on Mars

- ✓ Curiosity Rover, developed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has captured images of “shining clouds” on Mars. This will help the scientists know more about MARS (or the Red Planet).
- ✓ According to NASA, “cloudy days are rare” in thin and dry atmosphere of Red Planet.
- ✓ Clouds are formed usually at equator of planet, at coldest time of any year on it.
- ✓ That means, clouds are formed when planet is farthest from Sun in its oval-shaped orbit.
- ✓ Curiosity is a car-sized Mars rover, developed to explore Gale crater on Mars, is a part of NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission.

- ✓ This rover was launched from Cape Canaveral (CCAFS) in November 2011 and it landed on Aeolis Palus in Gale crater on Mars in August 2012.
- ✓ Curiosity rover was launched into Mars's crater to study the climate and geology of the red planet.

Natural dye Mein protect Eyes from laser

- ✓ Scientists have found that the natural Indigo dye extracted from the leaves of a plant of the bean family is capable of protecting human eyes from harmful laser radiation.
- ✓ It could be used to develop optical limiters useful in weakening the potentially harmful radiation and protecting the human eyes or other sensitive optical devices from accidental damage.

NAVY

Operation Samudra Setu II

- ✓ The Indian Navy recently launched Operation Samudra Setu II. The operation will aid in fulfilling oxygen requirements of the country.
- ✓ Under the operation, warships have been deployed to **carry liquid oxygen filled cryogenic containers.**
- ✓ Two ships **INS Talwar** and **INS Kolkata** have been diverted for this operation.
- ✓ **INS Talwar** will transport 40 million tonnes of oxygen from Manama to Mumbai.

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY

Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!

- ✓ **INS Kolkata** is to proceed to Doha to get medical supplies and then to Kuwait to get liquid oxygen tanks.
- ✓ **INS Airavat** is to enter Singapore to embark liquid oxygen tanks.
- ✓ **INS Jalashwa** will also be diverted to the mission.
- ✓ The other ships deployed in **Trikand, Kochi and Tabar** will also be diverted to join the national effort.
- ✓ The **INS Shardul** from the Southern Naval Command has been readied to join the operation.
- ✓ This operation will augment the Oxygen Express mission that is already operating under Indian Railways.
- ✓ These **seven ships** that are currently deployed in Operation Samudra Setu II are said to be combat ready.
- ✓ Operation Samudra Setu I was launched in May 2020. It was launched to repatriate Indian citizens from abroad during COVID-19.

Passage exercise

- ✓ The navies of India and Indonesia carried out our military drill in the southern Arabian Sea.
- ✓ The Indian Navy was represented at the passage exercise by INS Sharda, and Offshore Patrol vessel and the Indonesian Navy was represented by KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a corvette.

ENVIRONMENT

Crocidura Norcondamica

- ✓ A team from the Zoological Survey of India has discovered a new insect eating mammal species.
- ✓ It is almost the size of the house mouse. It lives in the forest floor and feed on insects.
- ✓ They help to **control the insect population in the dense Narcondam forest.**
- ✓ It belongs to Shrews family. Shrews are not rodents.
- ✓ A new insect eating mammal species has been discovered in **India after four years.**
- ✓ The **last insect eating mammal** to be discovered in India was **Jenkin's Andaman shrew.**
- ✓ It was **discovered in 1978** on South Andaman Island.
- ✓ The recently found Crocidura Norcondamica has been named after the Norcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It was found in Norcondam Island.

GK

➤ **Norcondam Island**

- ✓ It is a **small volcanic island located in the northern Andaman sea.** It is formed of Andesite. The island was classified as a **dormant volcano** by the Geological Survey of India.

- ✓ **Burma claimed the sovereignty of the island till 1986.**
It gave up the claim after reaching an agreement with India on **delimitation of the maritime boundary.**
- ✓ **The Narcondam hornbill is endemic** to the island and is endangered.
- ✓ The Narcondam Wildlife Sanctuary has been listed on the tentative List of **World Heritage sites of UNESCO.**
- ✓ The island was notified as Wildlife sanctuary mainly to protect the hornbill.

Olive Ridley turtles

- ✓ Millions of Olive Ridley turtle nest near the mouth of Rushikulya river.
- ✓ The nesting time of Olive Ridley turtles is between January and May.
- ✓ The turtle is known for its unique mass nesting sites called the Arribadas.
- ✓ During Arribadas, thousands of females come together to lay eggs on the same beach.

➤ **Issue**

- ✓ This year, they are yet to begin their nesting.
- ✓ Though some of the scientists say that this delay of nesting is normal, the conservationists are worried.
- ✓ This is because, the atmospheric temperature is to reach its peak in May and the sand becomes very hot.
- ✓ It is likely that mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles might skip this year.

- ✓ The nesting of the turtles has been skipped earlier in 2002, 2007, 2016 and 2019.

100 million years old bones of Sauropods

- ✓ The researchers in the Geological Survey of India recently found fossil bone fragments of Sauropod dinosaurs. They were 100 million years old.
- ✓ These dinosaur bones were found in **West Khasi hills** in the district of Meghalaya.
- ✓ This is the **first record of the Sauropods** discovered in the region.

➤ **GK about Sauropods**

- ✓ They had very long necks, small heads, long tails and four pillar like legs.
- ✓ The findings of Sauropods in Meghalaya make it the fifth state after **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu**.
- ✓ Also, Meghalaya is the **only state in the North-East** to report Sauropod bones.
- ✓ The **first dinosaur bone** was discovered at the **Bara Simla Hill in Jabalpur Cantonment**.

➤ **Dinosaurs in India**

- ✓ Dinosaurs in India existed from the late **Triassic period till the Cretaceous period**.
- ✓ The **Rajasaurus dinosaur** originated in India.

- ✓ Of all the dinosaurs found in India, **Barapasaurus** was **the biggest in India.**
- ✓ It was **four metres tall and 24 metres in length.** The fiercest was the Tyrannosaurus rex.

Asiatic Lions tested COVID Positive

- ✓ Around eight Asiatic lions have tested positive for COVID-19 at Hyderabad Nehru Zoological Park.
- ✓ This is the first time that transmission of virus to animal has been detected in India.

➤ **GK about Asiatic Lions**

- ✓ Asiatic Lions are one of the five Pantherine cats that are native to India. The other four are **Indian Snow Leopard, Bengal Tiger, Clouded Leopard and Indian Leopard.**
- ✓ The range of a male Asiatic lions varies between 144 kilometres and 230 kilometres.
- ✓ **Gir National Park is the only known habitat** for the Asiatic lions in the world.
- ✓ The major threat of Asiatic lions is its vulnerability to natural disaster and unpredictable events such as plague.

➤ **Census of Asiatic Lions**

- ✓ In June 2020, the Gujarat Forest Department announced that the population of Asiatic lions in the Gir forest region increased to **674 from 523 in 2015.**
- ✓ In **2015**, several lions died due to an outbreak of **Canine Distemper Virus (CDV).**

- ✓ Several other lions died in **2018** due to **babesiosis**.
- ✓ The **first census** of the Asiatic lions was conducted by the **Nawab of Junagadh in 1936**.
- ✓ The regular Asiatic Lion census is conducted **once in five years**. The last census was conducted in 2015.

➤ **Protection Status of Asiatic lions**

- ✓ Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1971: Schedule I
- ✓ CITES: Appendix I
- ✓ IUCN: Endangered

➤ **Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project**

- ✓ It was undertaken to protect the surviving population. The project was proposed to reintroduce the Asiatic lions in **Palpur-Kuno Wildlife sanctuary**.

Hoolock Gibbons

- ✓ Hoolock Gibbons are lesser apes. They are the second largest of the Gibbons after Siamang.
- ✓ Earlier it was said that India (North East India) is home to two species namely Eastern Hoolock Gibbon and Western Hoolock Gibbon.
- ✓ The Western and Eastern Hoolock Gibbons were kept separately in zoos and were not allowed to breed.
- ✓ Now they can be put together in the same cage and allowed to breed.

➤ **IUCN on Gibbons**

- ✓ According to IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), the presence of Eastern Hoolock Gibbons in India is uncertain.
- ✓ The IUCN has put the different species of Hoolock Gibbons under the following categories:
- ✓ **Western Hoolock Gibbon:** Endangered
- ✓ **Eastern Hoolock Gibbon:** Vulnerable
- ✓ **Skywalker Gibbons:** Threatened

Osteocytes for the first time

- ✓ The researchers from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research have mapped the Osteocytes for the first time.

➤ **Osteocytes**

- ✓ They are oblate shaped bone cells. They are found in bone tissues. They live as long as the organism lives. There are more than 42 billion Osteocytes in human body.
- ✓ The Osteocytes do not divide. Their average half life is twenty-five years.
- ✓ The skeleton of the humans keeps changing structurally throughout his life. Osteocytes are the most abundant cell present in bones. These osteocytes form a network similar to the neurons in the brain.
- ✓ This network is responsible for monitoring bone health. It responds to ageing. Also, they send signals to other cells in the bone to build or break down an old bone.

- ✓ For the first time, the researchers have pictured the whole landscape of osteocytes.
- ✓ They have found that majority of the genes that are active within osteocytes had no role in bones. This means that they only give commands.

Eco Sensitive Zones

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently notified 48.32 square kilo metres around Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary as the Eco Sensitive Zone.
- ✓ Eco Sensitive Zones act as a buffer zone for protected areas.
- ✓ They reduce development pressures around national park or wildlife sanctuary.
- ✓ It is home to twelve mangrove species, 167 species of birds such as Flamingos, 45 fish, 67 insect and mammals like jackals and 59 species of butterflies.
- ✓ The Mangrove forest in the region has been declared as reserve forest under the Indian Forest Act.
- ✓ Also, these mangrove forests are included under Coastal Regulation zone.

Eco-Sensitive Zones

- ✓ They are economically fragile areas in a radius of ten kilometres around the national parks, protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries.

➤ **Coastal Regulation zone**

- ✓ They are those areas that are influenced by tides. According to Coastal Regulation Zone rules, 1991, 500 metres of land between high tide line and low tide line is declared as **Coastal Regulation Zone**.

Yamatosaurus izanagii

- ✓ An international team of **Palaeontologists** (who studies fossils) has identified a new genus and species of **hadrosaur/duck-billed dinosaur**.
- ✓ The species has been named as Yamatosaurus izanagii.

Global Assessment on methane emissions

- ✓ A Global Methane Assessment released today by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ This shows that human-caused methane emissions can be reduced by up to 45 per cent this decade.
- ✓ Such reductions would avoid nearly 0.3°C of global warming by 2045.
- ✓ Also, this reduction would be consistent with keeping the Paris Climate Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C) within reach.

Xylophis deepaki

- ✓ A tiny snake “Xylophis deepaki” has been named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan.
- ✓ This is for his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.
The common name suggested for the species is 'Deepak's wood snake'.
- ✓ Xylophis deepaki is a tiny snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales.
- ✓ It was first found on a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari.
- ✓ It is now reported to be an endemic species of Tamil Nadu and also been sighted in some parts of the southern Western Ghats.
- ✓ It is found in the drier regions and in lower altitudes around Agasthyamalai hills.

Conflict and Conservation report

- ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature recently released a report called the “**Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict and Conservation**”.
- ✓ The major threats posed by conflicts in the world are disruption of conservation efforts, direct killing of wildlife, degradation of ecosystems.
- ✓ For instance, **India-Pakistan and India-China border** conflicts are being fought in the **Himalayan Biodiversity hotspots**.

- ✓ Military Exercises and Civil unrest pose a risk to two hundred threatened species.
- ✓ This includes the iconic species such as the **Critically Endangered Eastern Gorilla**.
- ✓ Countries are more prone to wars if less land is available for agriculture or if the agricultural productivity of the land was low.
- ✓ The wars were also frequent when increased number of droughts occurs.

Monkey Census

- ✓ The Wildlife Institute of India recently conducted a “Monkey Census” in the state of Haryana.
- ✓ The “Monkey Census” was a part of the “Wildlife Census of Haryana-2021”. This in turn is a part of the Wildlife Census 2021.
- ✓ The Census for the first time was conducted using a mobile application called “Wildlife Census Haryana”.

➤ **Rhesus Macques**

- ✓ This species of monkeys that are frequently indulged in Human-Monkey Conflict are protected under Schedule II of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Pacific Football Fish

- ✓ The Pacific Football Fish was recently washed ashore on a California coast.

- ✓ It is usually found in deep sea. Black in colour, it is usually addressed to as “Monster looking fish”.
- ✓ It is very rare to find the fish near the coast or washed away in coastal areas as they live in deep seas.

China's greenhouse gas emission

- ✓ China emits greenhouse gas pollution more than the 37 member nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- ✓ This according to the report released by **Rhodium Group**.
- ✓ In 2019, the country created 27% of the world’s greenhouse gases.
- ✓ With this, China produces **more than a quarter** of global climate pollution.
- ✓ The US stood as the **second-largest contributor** of greenhouse gas pollution at 11 per cent.
- ✓ **India was ranked third** with 6 per cent of the world’s emissions.

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Himalayan Red Fox's subspecies spotted

- ✓ A subspecies himalayan red fox was spotted at a height of 3000 in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The variety, known as *Vulpes Vulpes Griffithi*, was seen in Bujani and Khaliya top areas of Munsiyari at an elevation of 3000 metres.

Mountain Bongo born

- ✓ A baby mountain Bongo was born at Warsaw Zoo in Poland.
- ✓ Mountain bongos, the largest among African forest antelopes, are critically endangered species with one main about 70-80 address left in the wild, according to the IUCN's Red List of Threatened species.

Talkative Dinosaur found in Mexico

- ✓ The Palaeontologists recently identified a new species of dinosaur called the Talkative Dinosaur. It was identified in the northern Mexico.
- ✓ The fossil was discovered 10 years ago. However, the species was discovered now.
- ✓ The fossil dates back to 70 million years ago.
- ✓ The dinosaur must have died in a water body full of sediments. That is why its body has been preserved through ages.

➤ **About Talkative Dinosaur**

- ✓ It is called “**Tlatolophus galorum**”.
- ✓ It was a crested dinosaur. The crest of Talkative Dinosaur was 1.32 metres tall.
- ✓ The shape of the crest of the dinosaur is similar to that of a symbol used by the Meso American people. The Meso Americans lived in North America around thousand years ago.
- ✓ In the sixteenth century diseases such as **measles and smallpox wiped off 90%** of indigenous people in the region.
- ✓ It is a herbivore dinosaur.
- ✓ The Talkative Dinosaurs **had ears** that could hear **low frequency sounds**.
- ✓ These dinosaurs emitted strong sounds for reproductive purposes and also to scare away predators.

➤ **Crested Dinosaurs**

- ✓ The Crested Dinosaurs were **first discovered in 2005** in Mexico.
- ✓ They are usually **twelve metres in length**.

Cranes return to Ireland after 300 years

- ✓ The Cranes that have been a part of Irish folklore (traditional stories and beliefs) were recently spotted in Ireland.

- ✓ The birds were spotted in the country during their breeding season after three hundred years.

Sunflower sea star breeding to increase kelp forest

- ✓ The scientists in the United States are breeding the Sunflower sea stars off coast of Washington State.
- ✓ Around 91% of the world sunflower sea stars are found between the sea waters of Mexico and Alaska.
- ✓ The scientists believe that reviving the Sunflower sea star will help in reviving kelp forests.

➤ What happened to the Kelp Forests?

- ✓ The Kelp forest are under water areas with high density of kelp. It covers large part of the world coastline.
- ✓ Also, they are considered as the most productive and dynamic ecosystem on the earth.
- ✓ The Sunflower sea stars were once found in the ocean floor in the north east Pacific.
- ✓ They mainly fed on purple urchins.
- ✓ The Sunflower sea stars are extinct in California and are near extinction in other parts of the ocean.
- ✓ Thus, the purple urchins increased in number. The purple urchins mainly fed on sea weeds.
- ✓ As their population increased, they started consuming more and more sea weeds.

- ✓ Thus, the plan of repopulating the sunflower sea star has been adopted. This plan is being referred to as the “Jurassic Plan Approach”.

➤ **About sunflower Sea Star**

- ✓ The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has listed the Sunflower sea star as Critically Endangered
- ✓ It is one of the largest sea stars in the world.

Subdoluseps nilgiriensis

- ✓ It is a new species of an Asian gracile skink that has been discovered recently at Anaikatti hills, Coimbatore.
- ✓ This species is only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.
- ✓ The reptile has a slender body of just about 7 cm and is sandy brown in colour.
- ✓ Most skinks are diurnal and are non-venomous.
- ✓ Skinks are known to feed on insects such as termites, crickets and small spiders.
- ✓ It is currently classified as a vulnerable species.

WWF on Snow Leopard: More than 70% of habitat unexplored

- ✓ The World Wildlife Fund recently claimed that more than 70% of snow Leopard habitats are unexplored.

Rare foaming frog resurfaces after 108 years

- ✓ A virtually unknown treefrog has resurfaced in India after 108 years.
- ✓ It has traits such as changing skin shade and whipping up foam to protect its eggs.
- ✓ A team spotted Doria's foam-nesting treefrog during a nocturnal survey in the buffer area of **Mizoram's Pualreng Wildlife Sanctuary** in June 2020.

Cheetah to be re-introduced in India

- ✓ World's fastest land animal, Cheetah is expected to be reintroduced in India. Cheetah will be introduced at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in November 2021.
- ✓ India had spotted its last Cheetah in Chhattisgarh in 1947. After the death of last Cheetah, it was declared extinct in 1952.
- ✓ Supreme Court of India had also given its approval in January 2020 to **introduce African cheetahs** in a suitable habitat in India as an experiment to see if they can adapt to the environment.
- ✓ Thus, Cheetah Reintroduction Project was prepared by Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- ✓ **Kuno National Park was selected**
- ✓ Kuno is located in Chambal region. It is spread across an area of 750 sq km.

- ✓ Park has a conducive environment for cheetah. It is a protected area which is having considerable population of four-horned antelopes, nilgai, chinkara, spotted deer and wild boar.
- ✓ Thus, the park has a good prey base for cheetahs.

Gharial Hatchlings seen in Odisha

- ✓ Forest Department of Odisha has witnessed an adult Gharial surrounded by 28 hatchlings at Satkosia gorge in Mahanadi river which is considered as southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.
- ✓ Forest department has been trying for 15 years to increase the population of gharials in their natural habitat in Odisha.
- ✓ For long, the State Forest Department has been trying to increase the population of gharials in their natural habitat in Odisha.
- ✓ Gharial, also called as gavial or fish-eating crocodile, is a crocodilian of family Gavialidae.
- ✓ It is one among longest of all living crocodilians.

Endangered African Violet plant discovered in Mizoram

- ✓ A new species of plant, called African violet, was discovered by Indian Institute of Science education and research (IISER), Bhopal.

- ✓ African violet is found in parts of Mizoram and adjoining areas in Myanmar.
- ✓ IISER Bhopal described new species as “**Didymocarpus Vickifunkiae**”.
- ✓ They are considered as an endangered species.
- ✓ These plants are native to higher elevations in tropical eastern Africa.
- ✓ They are widely grown horticulturally and are characterised by small perennial herbs.

NGT upholds rights of pastoralists in Banni grasslands

- ✓ The Maldhari community had filed a case against the rampant encroachment in the **ecologically-sensitive Banni grassland in May, 2018.**
- ✓ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered all encroachments to be removed from **Gujarat’s Banni grasslands within six months.**
- ✓ It also directed a joint committee to prepare an action plan in a month.
- ✓ The court also said the **Maldharis will continue to hold the right to conserve the community forests in the area,** granted to them as per the provisions in Section 3 of Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- ✓ Maldharis are a tribal herdsman community in Gujarat, India.
- ✓ Maldhari community **breeds Banni Buffaloes.**

- ✓ Banni Buffaloes are species endemic to the region.

Platyceps josephi

- ✓ An international team of researchers has discovered a new species of raver snake from Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The new species Platyceps josephi is named after late Herpetologist Naveen Joseph.
- ✓ The discovery of the new species is published in Vertebrate Zoology.
- ✓ The team stated that the new species should be considered a species in the ‘vulnerable’ category according to the IUCN criteria.
- ✓ The Platyceps josephi has distinct white bands on its body and irregular white spots on its head.
- ✓ It is a non-venomous terrestrial snake endemic to Tamil Nadu.

Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update

- ✓ It was released by United Kingdom’s Met Office led by World Meteorological Organisation.
- ✓ According to the release, the world will temporarily breach 1.5-Celsius warming mark within 2021-2025.
- ✓ There is 40 percent chance of annual average global temperature will surpass 1.5C above pre-industrial temperatures.
- ✓ 1.5C is the warming limit of Paris climate accord.

- ✓ There is a 90 percent chance of one year in period of 2021-2025 being hottest on record.
- ✓ Annual average global temperature will be at least 1C warmer than preindustrial levels between 2021-2025.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Whereabouts – Jhumpa Lahiri

- ✓ Renowned American author Jhumpa Lahiri has launched her **new novel titled “Whereabouts”**.
- ✓ The book is an English translation of the **Italian novel ‘Ias Dove Mi Trovo’**.
- ✓ That was written by the author **Jhumpa Lahiri** itself. It was published in **2018**.

Kalki Koechlin book

- ✓ Actor Kalki Koechlin is making her debut as an author with an illustrated nonfiction book on motherhood.
- ✓ Titled "Elephant in the womb", the graphic book.

Paul Pickering's new book

- ✓ British novelist Paul Pickering has come up with his new book titled 'Elephant'.
- ✓ She has also authored the highly acclaimed novel 'Over the Rainbow'.

Shakur Rathar

- ✓ **Life in the Clock Tower Valley** was the book written by Shakur Rathar.

Akash Ranison

- ✓ **Climate Change Explained – for one and all** is a e-book written by Akash Ranison.

Ruskin Bond comes up with a new book

- ✓ Ruskin Bond has carefully curated 25 of the most cherished stories in a new book, "**All Time Favorites for Children**".

Kazuo Ishiguro Book

- ✓ **Klara and the Sun Novel** was the book written by Kazuo Ishiguro.
- ✓ He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2017.

Preet Mohan Singh Malik new book

- ✓ Former diplomat Street Mohan Singh Malik has come up with his new book "**Sikkim: History of Intrigue and Alliance**".
- ✓ This combines insights into the new unique history of the erstwhile Kingdom of Sikkim with the story of how it became India's 22nd state.

Neena Gupta's autobiography

- ✓ Veteran actor-director Neena Gupta's autobiography title "Sach Kahun Toh" will be published.
- ✓ The book will share Gupta's life story in the most "unapologetically honest" manner.

Shivshankar Menon's book

- ✓ A book titled '**India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present**' is authored by Shivshankar Menon.
- ✓ He was the Prime Minister's former National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary.

Avtar Singh Bhasin's book

- ✓ A book has titled "**Nehru, Tibet and China**" authored by Avtar Singh Bhasin.
- ✓ The book analyses the events from 1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962 and its aftermath.

SPORTS

Gymnast pranati Nayak to get Continental quota

- ✓ Gymnast pranati Nayak will get the continental quota to compete in the Tokyo Olympic games.
- ✓ Sri Lankan Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh is the first reserve for the Asian quota while pregnancy is the second reserve.

BCCI suspends IPL

- ✓ The Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI) has suspended the Indian Premiere League (IPL) indefinitely due to COVID-19.
- ✓ The decision came in after Balaji tested positive for COVID-19. **Balaji is the bowling coach of CSK.**
- ✓ So far twenty-nine games has been conducted.
- ✓ Also, the **T20 World Cup** is to be **moved from India to UAE.**

Mark Selby

- ✓ The English professional snooker player **Mark Selby** has won the World Championship for the **fourth time**.
- ✓ This time he won the title defeating Shaun Murphy.
- ✓ Mark Selby has won the World Championship in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021.
- ✓ He was ranked world number one between 2015 and 2019.

Risabh Pant

- ✓ Rishabh Pant became the **first Indian wicketkeeper** to enter the top 10 of the ICC men's Test Rankings for batsmen.
- ✓ Pant attained a career-high **6th position** in the ICC Test batting charts.

Seema Bisla qualified for Tokyo Olympics

- ✓ Indian Wrestler Seema bisla secured a Tokyo Olympics berth in women 50 kg after reaching the finals of the world Olympic qualifier at Sofia in Bulgaria.
- ✓ Seema become 4th woman and eighth overall wrestler to qualify for quadrennial event.

Women's Madrid Open title

- ✓ In tennis, Aryna Sabalenka defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty to win the Madrid open for the first time.
- ✓ In women's doubles final, Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova won it.

ICC men's player of the month

- ✓ Pakistan captain Babar Azam has won the International Cricket Council men's player of the month award for April 2021.

Arzan Nagwaswalla

- ✓ Arzan Nagwaswalla has been picked as a reserve player in the Indian Test squad named for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand in Southampton.
- ✓ Arzan Rohinton Nagwaswalla is hailing from a Parsi community in a village near the Maharashtra border.

- ✓ He becomes the **first Parsi cricketer** to break into the national team since 1975.

2021 Laureus World Sports Awards

- ✓ Naomi Osaka of Japan has been named “**Sportswoman of the Year**” at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards.
- ✓ This is **Osaka’s second Laureus Sports Awards**.
- ✓ In 2019, she won the “Breakthrough of the Year” award.
- ✓ In the men’s category, **Rafael Nadal of Spain won the 2021 “Laureus Sportsman of the Year” title**.
- ✓ This is the second title for Nadal, who also claimed the prestigious award in 2011.

First Indian origin fighter to win MMA title

- ✓ Arjan Bhullar has become the first Indian origin fighter to win a world title in a top-level event MMA event.
- ✓ He had also become the first Indian origin freestyle wrestler to represent Canada at the olympics.

Italian Open, 2021

- ✓ Italian Open, 2021 was won by Rafael Nadal. This is his tenth title of the Rome Masters.
- ✓ The Finals was held between Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. It is also known as Rome Masters.

British Masters golf

- ✓ Leading Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma ended up tied-34th at the Bedford British Masters in Wishaw, Scotland.
- ✓ The only Indian to make the cut among four participants.

2022 FIFA U-17 Women's WC to be held in India

- ✓ The 2022 FIFA under 17 women's World Cup will be held in India in 2022.
- ✓ Best Global event will be the second FIFA tournament to be hosted by India after the FIFA under 17 World Cup in 2017.
- ✓ FIFA under 17 World Cup in 2017 has a record of being the most attended youth world cup in FIFA's history.

Kobe Bryant - Hall of Fame

- ✓ Los Angeles Lakers legend, Kobe Bryant has been posthumously inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- ✓ Bryant retired in 2016.
- ✓ The five-time NBA champion died, aged 41, in a helicopter crash in January 2020.

Fencer Bhavani Devi

- ✓ Sabre Fencer Bhavani Devi has created history by becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Asia Cup 2021

- ✓ The Asian Cricket Council has officially force founded the 2021 edition of the Asia Cup to 2023.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme

- ✓ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India reported that five athletes have been included in the core group of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- ✓ They are,
 - ✚ Tennis player Ankita Raina,
 - ✚ Wrestlers Sumit Malik & Seema Bisla, and
 - ✚ Rowers Arvind Singh & Arjun Lal Jat.
- ✓ The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) was launched in 2014 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India.
- ✓ It is used to aid India's top athletes with financial assistance to win medals at the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo Olympics and international sport events.

MQS Section

- ✓ In the European shooting Championship in Croatia, former world champion Tejaswini topped the minimum qualification score section of the 50-m rifle prone event.
- ✓ He will represent India in the 50-m rifle 3 positions event at the Olympic Games in 2021.

2021 PGA Championship

- ✓ American professional golfer, Phil Mickelson has created history by winning the 2021 PGA Championship, at the age of 50.
- ✓ With this victory, Mickelson became the oldest player to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour.
- ✓ This is his sixth major title.

World table tennis youth star

- ✓ Indian players Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh confirmed a medal in the U-19 girls' doubles category and also made it to the knockout stage in singles, at the 2021 world table tennis youth star Contender.
- ✓ This is the first international youth event where Indian TT players are competing since the covid-19 pandemic.

Boxing championship

- ✓ At the Asian Boxing championship in Dubai, defending champion Pooja Rani won the gold medal in 75 kg women's category.
- ✓ MC Mary Kom, Lalbuatsaihi, and Anupama finished with silver.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Portuguese Grand Prix

- ✓ Lewis Hamilton has won the Portuguese Grand Prix. Gibbs Hamilton and 8 point championship lead over Verstappen.

UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2021

- ✓ **Maria Ressa** has been named as the **2021 laureate** of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- ✓ The \$25,000 prize “recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger,” according to UNESCO.
- ✓ The prize was named after **Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist.**

Retired justice Gita Mittal to be awarded

- ✓ Former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir high Court blue, justice Gita Mittal has been declared as one of the two recipients of the Arline Pacht global vision award for 2021.
- ✓ She would be the first Indian get to receive the award.

15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award

- ✓ Mumbai born, **Dr Tahera Qutbuddin** is a professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago.

- ✓ She became the first person of Indian-origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.
- ✓ The award is considered to be the Nobel Prize of the Arab world.
- ✓ She won the award for her latest book, “**Arabic Oration – Art and Function**”

Anupam Kher

- ✓ Anupam Kher won the best actor award at the New York city international film festival for the short film titled happy birthday.

World food prize 2021

- ✓ Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, global nutrition expert of Indian descent, husband the prestigious 2021 world food prize.
- ✓ The world food prize was created by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug in 1986.

Three-star general in the armed forces

- ✓ Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) Kanitkar is the third woman to become a three-star general in the armed forces.
- ✓ Vice Admiral Dr. Punita Arora & Air Marshal Padmavathy Bandopadhyay are the 1st & 2nd.

Manoj Das International Literary Award

- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the state 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.
- ✓ High school students will be presented '**Manoj-Kishore Literary Talent Award**' for their creative works in order to develop interest among youths in **both Odia and English literature.**
- ✓ Manoj Das was an eminent Indian author who wrote both in Odia and English language.
- ✓ He was recently passed away at the age of 87.

IREDA bag green Urja award

- ✓ Indian renewable energy Development Agency limited has been conferred with the green Urja award by Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ The award was received by Pradeep Kumar Das, chairman and managing director, IREDA.

Nuklu Phom - Whitley Award

- ✓ In 2021, the Whitley Award was won by Nuklu Phom of Nagaland.

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- ✓ He is the only Indian to receive the award.
- ✓ Nuklu Phom is popularly known as the “**Amur Falcon Man of Nagaland**”.
- ✓ Whitley Awards are called “**Green Oscar**”.
- ✓ Whitley Awards are presented annually by the Whitley Fund for Nature.
- ✓ It is presented to recognise grass root level conservation leaders.

NBA create Social Justice award

- ✓ The national basketball association has announced the creation of a new award - the kareem Abdul Jabbar social Justice champion award.
- ✓ It will recognise players who are taking steps in the fight for Social Justice.

Basavashree award

- ✓ Classical musician **Pandit Rajeev Taranath** and space scientist **Dr K Kasturirangan** will receive the prestigious basavashree award for 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Miss Universe 2020 - Andrea Meza

- ✓ Miss Mexico Andrea Meza has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020.
- ✓ Miss India’s **Adline Quadros Castelino** made it to the **Top 4**.
- ✓ This year, the pageant was held in Miami, Florida in USA.

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- ✓ Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa crowns her successor in the event.

International invincible gold medal

- ✓ Union Education Minister dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been awarded the International Invincible Gold Medal.

Glory of India award

- ✓ Cybersecurity veteran, Khushhal Kaushik has bagged super prestigious glory of India award 2020 recently by the Indian achiever forum.

Bangladesh Independence award 2021

- ✓ Bangladesh pm Sheikh Hasina give away the highest civilian award of Bangladesh 'Swadhinta puraskar 2021' also known as Independence award to 9 individuals under Research Organisation.

2021 Templeton Prize

- ✓ The John Templeton Foundation has awarded the 2021 Templeton Prize to world-renowned ethologist and conservationist Jane Goodall.
- ✓ She is the first ethologist and the fourth woman to receive the prize since its inception in 1972.

- ✓ She receives this award for her ground breaking discoveries that have changed humanity's understanding of its role in the natural world.

Valeria Luiselli wins an award

- ✓ Mexican author Valeria Luiselli has won the International Dublin literary award 2021 bahar Nobel 'Lost Children Archieve'.

World Choreography Award 2020

- ✓ The Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer Suresh Mukund, has won the 10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020', (also known as Choreo Awards).
- ✓ He becomes the first Indian to win the prestigious honour.
- ✓ He won the award in the 'TV REALITY SHOW/COMPETITION' category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show 'World of Dance'.
- ✓ Mukund is the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew 'The Kings', which won the 2019 season of World of Dance.
- ✓ The World Choreography Awards, famously known as the "Oscars of Dance", takes place every year, in Los Angeles.

India Biodiversity Award 2021

- ✓ Shaji.N.M., fondly called as ‘**Tuber Man**’ of Kerala, has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2021 in the individual category of ‘Conservation of domesticated species’.
- ✓ He has also received many state awards including the Plant Genome Savior Reward 2015, instituted by PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi.

Etienne Glichitch Award

- ✓ **Hockey India** has won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award.
- ✓ It is given in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.
- ✓ The awards were announced by the game’s governing body FIH during the Hockey Invites virtual conference.
- ✓ It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.

India Biodiversity Awards 2021

- ✓ India Biodiversity Awards 2021 were presented on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22.
- ✓ **Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS)** won the award under the category ‘**Sustainable Use of Biological Resources.**’

- ✓ **Shaji N.M.**, who is also called as ‘Tuber Man’ of Kerala has won in individual category of ‘**Conservation of domesticated species**.’
- ✓ **Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS) in Nagaland** won the award under ‘**Sustainable Use of Biological Resources**’ category.
- ✓ The India Biodiversity Awards initiative was started jointly by ministry of environment, forest & climate change; National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2012.

International Eni Award

- ✓ Bharat Ratna professor CNR Rao receive the International Eni Award 2020 for research into renewable energy source and energy storage.
- ✓ This award is considered to be the Nobel Prize in energy Research and also called as energy Frontier awards.

ONV award - Vairamuthu

- ✓ ONV award for this year was conferred on Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu.
- ✓ ONV award is instituted by ONV cultural academy in memory of late Malayalam poet ONV Kurup.
- ✓ It is given to litterateurs from Malayalam and other Indian languages.

- ✓ This is for the first time a non-Keralite writer has been chosen for ONV award.

SpiceHealth wins Gold Stevie Award 2021

- ✓ SpiceHealth has won the Gold Award at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards.
- ✓ SpiceHealth is a healthcare company founded by the promoters of SpiceJet.
- ✓ It has won the award for ‘Most Valuable Medical Innovation’ under Covid19.

Rudolf V Schindler Award

- ✓ Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).
- ✓ Rudolf V Schindler Award is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler.
- ✓ Dr Schindler is considered as “the father of gastroscopy.”
- ✓ With this, Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner to win this award.
- ✓ He is also a Padma Bhushan awardee.
- ✓ Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India.

APPOINTMENTS

T Rabi Shankar

- ✓ The Government of India recently appointed T Rabi Shankar as the fourth Deputy Governor.
- ✓ He was appointed as the International Monetary Fund consultant to the Central Bank of Bangladesh and the Government of Bangladesh.
- ✓ He worked with the Ministry of Finance between 2008 and 2014.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India is governed by the Central Board of Directors. The directors are appointed by the Government of India under Reserve Bank of India Act.
- ✓ The Central Board consists of Governor, four Deputy Governors, two finance ministry representatives and four directors to represent local boards.
- ✓ These local boards are headquartered in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi.

Tamil Nadu's new Chief Secretary

- ✓ V Irai Anbu, IAS has been appointed Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary.
- ✓ V Irai Anbu, who was earlier Additional Chief Secretary/Director of Anna Institute of Management and Director General of Training, has replaced Rajeev Ranjan as Chief Secretary.

Ujjwala: 38th national president FICCI FLO

- ✓ Ujjwala singhania has been appointed as the national president of the FICCI ladies organisation.
- ✓ It is the oldest woman in red and women centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.

Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudalamaichar

- ✓ Separate division 'Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudalamaichar' meaning 'Chief Minister in your constituency', was set up in the Secretariat.
- ✓ This is to scrutinise and address within 100 days, grievances found in petitions received by Stalin in his election campaign.
- ✓ **IAS official Shilpa Prabhakar Satish** was named special officer for the exclusive section to look into petitions.

Martin Griffiths

- ✓ The UN chief has appointed Martin Griffiths as the new UN humanitarian chief.

CEO of Bad Bank

- ✓ Padmakumar Madhavan Nair of State Bank of India has been appointed as the CEO of Bad Bank.
- ✓ The Bad Bank is a proposed entity of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC).

Davidson Devasirvatham

- ✓ Tamilnadu government has appointed senior IPS officer S Davidson Devasirvatham as ADGP, intelligence.

Chief govt whip

- ✓ DMK MLA from Tiruvidaimarudur Kovi Chezhan was named the chief government whip.
- ✓ During the previous DMK regime between 2006-11, R Sakkarapani was the chief government whip and during 2016-21, he was the DMK whip.
- ✓ Sakkarapani is now minister for food and civil supplies.

Four secretaries to TN CM Stalin appointed

- ✓ T. Udhayachandran, who was the Commissioner of Archaeology, has been posted as the Principal Secretary/secretary 1.
- ✓ P. Umanath, managing director, Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation has been appointed as secretary 2.
- ✓ M.S. Shanmugam, the Commissioner of Museums, who had earlier occupied the post of managing director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, has been appointed as secretary 3.
- ✓ Anu George, Industries Commissioner and Director, Industries and Commerce, has been appointed as secretary 4.

Rajeev Ranjan

- ✓ **Rajeev Ranjan** has been transferred and posted as Chairman and Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd.
- ✓ He will replace S Shivashanmugaraja, IAS. Rajeev Ranjan was also Vigilance Commissioner and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms (Incharge).
- ✓ He was appointed as Chief Secretary in January this year, replacing K Shanmugam, who retired from the post.

New officer on special duty in health department

- ✓ Tamilnadu Government on Saturday appointed former public and Rehabilitation secretary **P. Senthil Kumar** officer on special duty in the Health and Family Welfare Department, newly created post.

Greater Chennai Corporation's Commissioner

- ✓ The newly formed Tamil Nadu government has appointed Gagandeep Singh Bedi IAS as Greater Chennai Corporation's Commissioner.
- ✓ Gagandeep will be replacing G Prakash, who has been serving as GCC's Commissioner since February 2019.

New Chairman of BPCL

- ✓ The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's head-hunter, has picked Arun Kumar Singh

as the chairman and managing director of state-run oil refining and marketing firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).

- ✓ His selection will have to be ratified by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet led by prime minister Narendra Modi.

Jose J Kattoor

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Jose J Kattoor as Executive Director (ED).

Padmakumar Nair

- ✓ State Bank of India's Padmakumar Madhavan Nair is set to take charge as the chief of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), which is being set up by banks, especially from the public sector, to tackle stressed assets.

Neera Tanden

- ✓ Indian-American Neera Tanden has been appointed senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden.

Rajesh Lakhani

- ✓ The Government of Tamilnadu has announced the appointment of Rajesh Lakhani IAS as the chairman and managing director of the Tamil Nadu Electric Board.

Manisha Kapoor

- ✓ Advertising standards Council of India announced that its General Secretary Manisha Kapoor has been appointed to the executive committee of the International Council for Advertising self-Regulation.

Narinder Batra

- ✓ Narinder Batra has been re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the second consecutive term.
- ✓ He was elected during the virtual 47th Congress of FIH.
- ✓ He will hold the office till 2024 as FIH has reduced the term from 4 to 3 years.
- ✓ He is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and a Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

- ✓ The centre appointed IPS officer Subodh Kumar Jaiswal as the Central Bureau of Investigation's new Director.

Chief of Israel spy agency Mossad

- ✓ Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Monday that David Barnea will be the next head of Israel's Mossad espionage agency.

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- ✓ He was appointed as advisor to the Edappadi K Palaniswami government for a period of one year from January 31.
- ✓ He tendered his resignation on a day when Palaniswami resigned as the CM after the ruling AIADMK was defeated by the DMK in the assembly election.

Jagmohan

- ✓ Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Jagmohan passed away after a brief illness in Delhi on Monday. He was 94.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday condoled the death of the former Governor and termed his death as '**monumental loss for the nation**'.

V Kalyanam

- ✓ V Kalyanam, the last personal secretary during 1944 to 1948 passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 99.
- ✓ Kalyanam was in **Sevagram Ashram in Maharashtra** and was engaged in compiling the letters of Mahatma Gandhi in various languages.

Chaudhary Ajit Singh

- ✓ Chaudhari Ajit Singh, former Union Minister and Chief Of The Rashtriya Lok Dal, passed away. He was the son of the late Chaudhary Charan Singh, former Prime Minister of India.

First Sikh elected in Scottish parliament

- ✓ Pam Gosal created history by becoming the first Sikh to be elected to the Scottish parliament.
- ✓ He was elected as the conservative member of the Scottish parliament via the west of Scotland list.

Fist women executive editor of Washington Post

- ✓ Jeff Bezos- owned washington Post named Sally Buzbee as executive editor.
- ✓ She will be the first woman to lead the newsroom in paper's 143 years history.

K R Gouri Amma passed away

- ✓ A former minister and an old-time communist leader K R Gouri Amma passed away in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✓ In 1957, when the first election to Kerala Assembly was conducted, Gouri Amma became the **first revenue minister of the state.**
- ✓ She had contested 17 elections in her life, and had won 13 of them.
- ✓ She held **ministerial posts in six governments.**

Ragothaman

- ✓ In Tamilnadu, former director of Central Bureau of Investigation Ragothaman passed away.

- ✓ His books on Rajiv Gandhi murder, assassination of Mahatma- Indira- Rajiv Gandhi, third degree Crime Investigation management, and crime and criminal were popular.
- ✓ He had also won the president's medal for meritorious service.

Baljeet Kaur

- ✓ Two women mountaineers, baljeet Kaur from Himachal Pradesh and Gunbala Sharma from Rajasthan has become the first Indian woman to Summit Mount Pumori(7,161meters) in Nepal.

Mingma Tenji Sherpa

- ✓ Mingma Tenji Sherpa, nepali mountain guide, has created a world record by scaling Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, toys in a shortest span of time in a session.
- ✓ He climbed the Mount Everest twice **in a gap of just four days.**

V. Chandrasekar passed away

- ✓ Three-time National table tennis champion and former International paddler V. Chandrasekar passed away recently.
- ✓ He was the current president of Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association.
- ✓ He is a 1982 Arjuna Award winner.

- ✓ Chandrashekhar with the help of Seetha Srikanth, wrote his autobiography 'My fightback from Death's Door'.

Mathematician MS Narasimhan

- ✓ Famous mathematician professor MS Narasimhan passed away.
- ✓ She was known for the Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem.
- ✓ The mathematician was the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International prize in the field of science.

Writer Ki. Rajanarayanan

- ✓ Ki. Rajanarayanan the **grand old man of modern Tamil literature** and winner of Sahitya Akademi award in Tamil, died recently.
- ✓ He was 98. Born in Idaiseval near Kovilpatti, he was popularly known as Ki.Ra.

Tirunelveli Judicial Magistrate dies

- ✓ Justice Neesh hails from sayarpuram of Thoothukudi district.
- ✓ He was serving as a judge at Chidambaram criminal court in the Cuddalore District, he was transferred through the Madras High Court to the post of chief judicial magistrate of Tirunelveli District Criminal Court.
- ✓ His **first short story 'Mayamaan'** was published in **1959** in the magazine '**Saraswathi.**'

- ✓ He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1991 for his novel ‘Gopallapurathu Makkal’.
- ✓ Ki.Ra’s first novel was ‘Gopallagramam’.
- ✓ His other works **Karisal Kaatu Kaduthaasi** and **Andaman Naicker** also demands mention.

Veena George

- ✓ Former journalist Veena George will replace KK sailaja as the health minister of Kerala.
- ✓ She will also be heading the women and child welfare department.

Sunderlal Bahuguna passes away

- ✓ Noted Environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna died of Covid-19.
- ✓ He was known for his pioneering role in the **Chipko Movement**.
- ✓ He also led the protests against the construction of the Tehri dam.

Yuan Longping

- ✓ Yuan Longping, a **Chinese agricultural scientist** died at age of 91.
- ✓ Yuan is celebrated in China as the “**father of hybrid rice**” for his contributions to agriculture.
- ✓ In 1970s, he developed “**the first hybrid rice combination called Nan-you No.2**”

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- ✓ In 2004, he was honoured with the **World Food Prize**.
- ✓ The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation honoured him with a prize in 2001.

Martha Koome appointed Kenya's first woman chief justice

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ She is the first woman to head any of the three branches of government.
- ✓ She founded and headed the **Federation of Women Lawyers** which is an organization dedicated to campaign and advocates for women's rights and offer free legal aid to poor women.
- ✓ The organization played an important role in the **drafting of the new constitution in 2010**.
- ✓ Martha Koome is the 3rd chief justice since the new constitution drafted.

Aashritha

- ✓ An officer of the Indian Airforce has graduated from the air force test pilot School as the country's first woman flight engineer.
- ✓ Squadron leader Aashritha V Olety is the first and only woman in the IAS qualified for the role.

Sanjay Dutt granted UAE's golden visa

- ✓ Sanjay Dutt has been granted a golden visa by the United Arab Emirates government.
- ✓ He has become the **first Indian actor** to get it. The golden visa is a long-term residency visa.

Olympic sprinter Lee Evans passes away

- ✓ Lee Evans was the record-setting sprinter from America.
- ✓ He wore a black beret in a sign of protest at the 1968 Olympics.
- ✓ He 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.

Hong Kong women break a record

- ✓ Two women from the United States and Hong Kong have set a new records as they scaled Mount Everest.
- ✓ **Arthur Muir**, 75, became the oldest American to climb the world's highest peak at 8848.86m.
- ✓ Separately Hong Kong's **Tsang Yin-Hung**, 45, scaled the peak in less than 26 hours, the shortest time taken up by any human after starting from the base camp.

Tashi Yangjom

- ✓ Tashi Yangjom from Arunachal Pradesh became the first Indian to scale Mount Everest this season when she reached the Summit.

Laurence des Cars

- ✓ Art historian and curator Laurence des Cars has become the first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre in its 228-year history.
- ✓ Louvre museum is the world's largest art museum, based in Paris, France.

First blind Asian to scale Mount Everest

- ✓ Chinese Zhang Hong has scaled the tallest peak in the world from the Nepal side.
- ✓ He has become the first blind man in Asia and the third in the world to climb Mount Everest.
- ✓ He was inspired by Erik Weihenmayer, a blind the American mountaineers who scaled Everest in 2001.

Christine

- ✓ The US Senate has confirmed Christine Wormuth as secretary of the Army.
- ✓ She is the first woman to serve in the role.
- ✓ She worked in the different department during the Obama Administration and most recently directed The

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International Security and defence policy centre at RAND Corporation.

- ✓ She was one of six mostly female members of Biden's Pentagon transition team.

MISCELLANEOUS

MACS 1407

- ✓ The Indian scientists recently developed a **new Soy Bean variety** called the “MACS 1407”.
- ✓ The new variety was developed by the **Agharkar Research Institute of Pune** along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- ✓ The new variety takes **104 days to mature** and **43 days for 50% flowering**.
- ✓ The new variety has **yellow seeds, white coloured flowers and black hilum**.
- ✓ The MACS 1407 Soybean variety is to be made available to farmers **in 2022 Kharif season**.
- ✓ In Rabi season, the crops are sown in **October to November**. They are harvested in April, June.

Ct Value

- ✓ The Ct Value in a RT-PCR test is **cycle Threshold value**.
- ✓ This value determines if a patient is COVID-19 positive or not.

- ✓ The ICMR recently announced that the right Ct value for a person to become **COVID-19 positive is 35.**
- ✓ If the Ct value of a person is **less than 35, he is COVID-19 positive.**
- ✓ And if it is greater than 35 then he is COVID-19 negative.

World's heaviest Mango

- ✓ Colombian farmers, German Orlando Novoa Barrera and Reina Maria Marroquin, managed to break a record after growing the world's heaviest mango in Guayata, Colombia on the San Martín farm in the area of Boyaca.
- ✓ The impressive mango weighed in at **4.25 kilograms (9.36 lb)** and was certified as an **official Guinness World Records title.**
- ✓ The previous record was held by a mango found in the Philippines that weighed **3.435 kilograms (7.57 lb)** in **2009.**

400 Parkash Purab of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji

- ✓ The nation commemorated the 400th Parkash Purab of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, the **9th Sikh guru.**
- ✓ He was the **youngest son of Guru Hargobind Singh**, the sixth Sikh guru.
- ✓ He was the spiritual scholar and poet whose **115 hymns** are included in **Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.**

- ✓ China was not ready to allow the World Health Organisation to conduct investigations about the origin of COVID-19 virus.
- ✓ Only after international pressure did China allow WHO to make investigations to find out the origin.
- ✓ Even after the outbreak of the disease in Wuhan in 2019, China was silent. It did not inform the WHO about disease.
- ✓ China also was not able to contain the disease.
- ✓ China was also silent about the recent failure of Tianhe core module and its rocket Long March 5B falling in to the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Though the mission failed, the details of the returning rocket and how and where will it fall was not disclosed.

Sundar Pichai joins steering committee

- ✓ Free Indian American C E O Sundar Pichai from Google, Punit Renjen from Deloitte, and Shantanu Narayen from adobe has joined the steering committee of the Global task force on pandemic response.
- ✓ The committee is overseeing and unprecedented corporate sector initiative to help India successfully fight covid-19.

Sir Ganga Ram in Pakistan to be reopened

- ✓ The final resting place of the prominent Hindu philanthropist and top architect Sir Ganga Ram in Lahore will be reopened for the public later this month after

authorities took back the land illegally occupied by some people for **10 years**.

- ✓ The Samadhi of Sir Ganga Ram is located close to the Taxali Gate of the old city of Lahore in Punjab province.
- ✓ It was closed for visitors for the past one decade since it was illegally occupied by a group of people.

World's 50 greatest leaders

- ✓ New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden topped Fortune's list of world's 50 greatest leaders and Adar Poonawalla too made to the list.
- ✓ CEO of serum Institute of India, Poonawalla is the only Indian among the top 10 names on the list.

Doomsday scrolling

- ✓ Doomsday scrolling or Doomsday surfing refers to the tendency continued to surf or scroll through bad news, even though that news is saddening or depressing.
- ✓ Doom scrolling can reinforce negative thoughts and the negative mind set, something that can greatly impact one's mental health.

Risk analysis report released

- ✓ Some 1.5 billion people live in cities facing the biggest environmental challenges, including threats from climate change and pollution, according to the new report.

- ✓ As per the analysis, **India is the most at risk country**, 43 of the top 100 cities on the list.

White fungus

- ✓ An infection called **white fungus** has been found to affect some people.
- ✓ It is more dangerous than black fungus.
- ✓ White fungus infection can be caused **due to low immunity**, or if people come in contact with things that contain these moulds.
- ✓ Diabetes patients, cancer patients, and those who are taking steroids for a long period of time are more at risk of getting infected.
- ✓ White Fungus is affecting those coronavirus patients who are on oxygen support.
- ✓ It is directly affecting the lungs of these patients.
- ✓ Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative.
- ✓ The infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.
- ✓ White fungus can affect the lungs, nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth of the infected person.
- ✓ White Fungus infection can be prevented by sanitising the surroundings.
- ✓ And the oxygen or ventilator must be sanitised properly.

Sniffer Dogs 88% accurate in detecting Covid

- ✓ As per a study, Sniffer dogs can help in prevent spread of Coronavirus by detecting SARS-CoV2. Study found; they can be 88 percent accurate in detecting the virus.
- ✓ They believe, dog screening and swab testing can pick up 91 percent of infections.
- ✓ They report, dogs can detect virus in seconds. Traditional COVID tests requires 15 minutes to give result.
- ✓ Thus, in half an hour, dogs can screen 300 people together.
- ✓ Thus, sniff test can be a suitable method for mass screening.

Climate change erasing animal cave painting

- ✓ Rock art in Indonesia that includes the picture of a wild pig drawn 45500 years ago on the island of Sulawesi is getting destroyed due to climate change.
- ✓ The painting is considered the world's oldest animal cave painting.

Yellow fungus

- ✓ After black and white fungus, the recent case of yellow fungus has become a cause for concern.
- ✓ Yellow fungus initially develops by the presence of moulds (a type of fungi) in the environment.
- ✓ It may be present with unnecessary fatigue, rashes, burning sensation on skin etc.

HISTORY TO BE REMEMBERED

Indian Sculptures in other foreign countries

1. Kohinoor Diamond in UK

2. Jagadamba, the Sword of Shivaji Maharaj

- ✓ Shivaji had three swords. They were Jagdamba, Bhawani and Tulja.
- ✓ The sword Jagdamba was presented by the Prince of Wales, Edward VII when he visited India. The sword is now in Buckingham palace.

3. Tipu's Tiger

- ✓ It is a wooden toy created by Tipu Sultan in the 18th century. It depicts a tiger injuring a European man brutally.
- ✓ When the handle in the side of the toy is turned the tiger makes a roaring sound and the man wails lifting his arms up and down.
- ✓ It is now in Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

4. Ambika Statute

- ✓ It is a marble statue of Goddess Ambika. It was discovered in the late 19th century. It is now in Britain.
- ✓ There has been huge demand to bring back the statue to the Saraswati temple in Madhya Pradesh.

5. Royal Jade Wine Cup of Shah Jahan

- ✓ The cup dates back to 1657. The bottom of the cup features acanthus leaves and a lotus flower.

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- ✓ It was one of the elegant treasures of Mughal dynasty. It is now in the possession of Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

6. Maharaja Ranjit Singh throne

- ✓ Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the leader of the Sikhs. The throne is made of wood and covered with sheets of gold.
- ✓ It was taken by the British after the Second Anglo Sikh war. It is now in Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

7. Sultanganj Buddha

- ✓ It is a sculpture of Gauthama Buddha. It dates back to 7th century. It is now in Britain.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Maharashtra day and Gujarat day: May 1

- ✓ May 1st is celebrated as Maharashtra day and Gujarat day every year.
- ✓ On this day, 57 years ago, the existing shapes of Maharashtra was formed.
- ✓ In 1960, the Bombay reorganization Act was passed by India's Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ✓ The legislation came into effect on May 1st, 1960.

International Labour Day: May 1

- ✓ International Labour Day or May Day is celebrated every year on 1st May.

- ✓ The day, dedicated to workers and labourers across the world.
- ✓ In 1889, body of social list group and trade unions, in the US designated may 1 as a day of workers.
- ✓ This was In remembrance of the Haymarket Riots in Chicago in 1886.
- ✓ The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party, started by **M. Singaravelu**, in Madras in **1923**.

World Laughter Day - May 02

- ✓ World Laughter Day is celebrated on the **first Sunday of May every year**.
- ✓ It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.
- ✓ World Laughter Day was first celebrated on **May 10, 1998**, in Mumbai upon the initiation of **Dr Madan Kataria**, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.

World Press Freedom Day - May 03

- ✓ World Press Freedom Day is also known as **World Press Day**.
- ✓ The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.
- ✓ This year's World Press Freedom Day theme **“Information as a Public Good”**.

- ✓ The General Assembly in the United Nations established **World Freedom Day in 1993** to promote the independence of the Africa Press.
- ✓ This was followed by the **Windhoek Declaration** that was established to maintain the free press.
- ✓ As the declaration was made on the 3rd of May, hence the special day is observed each year on 3rd May.

The International Firefighters' Day - May 04

- ✓ The International Firefighters' Day is observed every year since 1999.
- ✓ The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.

World Asthma Day - May 04

- ✓ World Asthma Day is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May.
- ✓ This year, World Asthma Day is observed on May 4, 2021.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is **“Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions”**.
- ✓ World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).
- ✓ In 1998, the first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

World Hand Hygiene Day - May 05

- ✓ The day is organised by the World Health Organization.
- ✓ The day is observed to raise awareness among people across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is ‘**Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands**’.

International Midwives day - May 05

- ✓ International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year since 1992.
- ✓ This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns.
- ✓ The **theme for 2021** International Day of the Midwife is “**Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives.**”

International No Diet Day - May 06

- ✓ The symbol of International No Diet Day is a **light blue ribbon**.
- ✓ It is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity.
- ✓ The day is dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle with a focus on health at any size and in raising awareness of the potential dangers of dieting and the unlikelihood of success.

World Portuguese Language Day - May 05

- ✓ This day (May 05) was officially established in 2009 as "World Portuguese Language Day" by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.
- ✓ CPLP is an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000.
- ✓ In 2019, the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference decided to proclaim 5th May of each year as "World Portuguese Language Day".

World Athletics Day - May 07

- ✓ The World Athletics Day-2021 is observed on the 7th May.
- ✓ The date is subject to adjustment.
- ✓ The date of World Athletics Day is decided by the IAAF.
- ✓ However, the month stays the same as May.
- ✓ The first World Athletics Day was observed in 1996.
- ✓ The basic objective is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.

BRO 61st raising day - May 07

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7 May 1960.
- ✓ It was formed with the primary goal of securing India's borders and developing infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and north eastern states.

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- ✓ On 7 May 2021 BRO celebrated its 61st Raising Day (foundation day).

BRO

- ✓ It is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ Its primary role is to provide road connectivity in India's border areas.
- ✓ It also creates upgrades and maintains infrastructure along borders to meet India's overall tactical and strategic goals.

Birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap

- ✓ Maharana Pratap was born on May 9, 1540 as per the Julian calendar.
- ✓ He was a great Hindu Rajput ruler of Mewar, Rajasthan.
- ✓ He hailed from the Sisodiya clan of Rajput. He is known as the first freedom fighter of the nation.
- ✓ He fought the famous Battle of Haldighati with Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1576.

World Thalassaemia Day - May 08

- ✓ World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated every year to commemorate Thalassaemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 World Thalassaemia Day is "Addressing Health Inequalities across the Global Thalassaemia Community".

- ✓ Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day - May 08

- ✓ The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- ✓ It is observed to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality.
- ✓ Theme 2021 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: **‘Unstoppable’**
- ✓ The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828).
- ✓ **Henry Dunant** was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- ✓ He was the recipient of the **first Nobel Peace Prize**.
- ✓ The Headquarters of ICRC is in Geneva, Switzerland.

World Migratory Bird Day 2021

- ✓ This is observed globally on 8 May.
- ✓ The aim of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them.

Victory Day

- ✓ This is celebrated in Russia to mark the surrender of Germans in the second world war.
- ✓ On May 9, 2021 Russia marked the 76th anniversary of victory in World War II.

International Day of Argania - May 10

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day in 2021.
- ✓ The resolution, submitted by Morocco, was co-sponsored by 113 member states of the United Nations and adopted by consensus.
- ✓ The argan tree (*Argania Spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas.
- ✓ It plays a very important role in achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development at the local level (economic, social and environmental).

National Technology Day - May 11

- ✓ Theme for this year is '**Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future**'.
- ✓ The National Technology Day is celebrated in India for **two reasons** namely:
 - ✓ To mark the **anniversary of Pokhran Nuclear tests** that were conducted in 1998 and

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- ✓ To highlight the importance of technological advancements for the country.

Gopala Krishna Gokhale birth anniversary

- ✓ 9th May 2021 mark the 155th birth anniversary of Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- ✓ He was one of the founding leaders of the Indian National Movement.
- ✓ He was a voice liberal nationalists home made outstanding contribution towards social empowerment.
- ✓ Google founded servants of Indian society in Maharashtra's Pune on June 12, 1905.

International Nurses Day - May 12

- ✓ International Nurses Day is observed every year to honour nurses.
- ✓ The celebration of International Nurses Day started in 1965 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN).
- ✓ This day is the birth anniversary of the famous Florence Nightingale.

The theme for this year is 'A Voice to Lead-A Vision for Future Healthcare'.

International Day of Families - May 15

- ✓ The International Day of Families is observed every year to reflect the importance that the international community attaches to families.

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- ✓ The Indian Parliament laid down conditions in its 35th amendment that made Sikkim an “Associate State”.
- ✓ Sikkim is the only state to get this designation.
- ✓ The 36th amendment repealed the 35th amendment and made Sikkim a full state.

National Dengue Day - May 16

- ✓ In India, the National Dengue Day is observed to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures.
- ✓ The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ Dengue is spread through the bite of the female mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*).

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - May 17

- ✓ The day marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of communication and focuses on increasing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ The day also focuses on how information travels across the world.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is "Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times."

World Hypertension Day - May 17

- ✓ It is celebrated by World Hypertension League annually.
- ✓ It is observed to spread awareness about hypertension disease, its prevention, detection, and control.
- ✓ The main risk factor to develop cardiovascular disease is high blood pressure.
- ✓ WHD was first inaugurated in May 2005.
- ✓ Hypertension is also known as a silent killer.
- ✓ The theme of World Hypertension Day 2021 is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer."

International Day of Living Together in Peace

- ✓ The UN General Assembly, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly decided to celebrate **16th May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace on 8th December 2017.**

International Day of Light

- ✓ The International Day of Light is celebrated on 16 May each year to mark the anniversary of the first successful

operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.

- ✓ The message of 2021 International Day of Light is “**Trust Science**”.

UN Global Traffic Safety Week (May 17 - 23)

- ✓ The 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week calls for 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide.
- ✓ UN Global Road Safety Week is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO.
- ✓ The theme for the 6th UNGRSW is Streets for Life.
- ✓ The tagline is #Love30.
- ✓ This safety week programme aims to raise awareness of road safety and make changes that will reduce the number of road deaths.

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia – May 17

- ✓ The day aims to increase awareness against discrimination, violence and repression of LGBT communities worldwide.
- ✓ Homophobia is dislike against gay people.
- ✓ Transphobia is the dislike against the transgender people.
- ✓ Biphobia is the dislike against the bisexual people.
- ✓ Louis-Georges Tin is the founder of International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development - May 21

- ✓ World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed globally every year.
- ✓ The day aims to **celebrate the richness of the world's cultures** and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- ✓ In the year 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) **adopted the 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity'** as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.
- ✓ Then in December 2002, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in its resolution 57/249, declared 21 May to be World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

World Turtle Day - May 23

- ✓ World Turtle Day is observed to raise awareness among people about turtle & tortoise and their habitats.
- ✓ Celebration of the day is sponsored by a non-profit organisation "American Tortoise Rescue (ATR)" since 2000.
- ✓ Theme for 2021 is '**Turtle Rocks!**'

World Thyroid Day - May 25

- ✓ World Thyroid Day is observed to create awareness of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases.
- ✓ This day is established in 2008.
- ✓ The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland in the throat that produces T3 (Thyroxine) and T4 (Triiodothyronine).
- ✓ It is maintained by the Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH).

Vesak Day - May 26

- ✓ Vesak Day 2021 is observed globally on 26 May.
- ✓ Vesak, the Day of Full Moon is the most sacred day to Buddhists all over the world.
- ✓ On this day, Lord Gautham Buddha attained enlightenment.
- ✓ The Day is commemorated by the United Nations every year since 2000.

International Day of Action for Women's Health - May 28

- ✓ International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed globally every year since 1987.
- ✓ The main purpose of this day is to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all women all over the world.

International Everest Day – May 29

- ✓ International Everest Day is being observed on this day remembering Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary who had climbed Mt. Everest.
- ✓ It was on this day in 1953, the humans first achieved this feat.
- ✓ Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers–May 29

- ✓ The “International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers” is observed on May 29 annually.
- ✓ The theme for this year is “**The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security.**”

World Digestive Health Day – May 29

- ✓ World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), every year on May 29, World Digestive Health Day is celebrated to create awareness among people regarding digestive disease or disorder they can face.
- ✓ This year's theme is "**Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic**".

Goa Statehood Day - May 30th

- ✓ It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union.

- ✓ Before this, Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was a union territory.
- ✓ On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army invaded with Operation Vijay on Portuguese resulting in the annexation of Goa, and of Daman and Diu islands into the Indian union.

World no Tobacco Day- may 31

- ✓ World no Tobacco Day is celebrated every year on May 31st.
- ✓ The theme for World no Tobacco Day 2021 is "Commit to Quit". As per WHO, over 8 million people die every year due to tobacco use.