

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

An IAS Academy

Supreme Court stays Allahabad
High Court verdict on Ayodhya

**APRIL MONTH
CURRENT AFFAIRS
2021**

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STATES

Purple Revolution

- ✓ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu announced **phase 2** of purple revolution under Aroma Mission.
- ✓ This is announced after the success of the phase 1 in Doda, Jammu.
- ✓ Under the purple revolution, the farmers in Doda district had their incomes quadrupled after shifting from **maize to lavender cultivation**.
- ✓ First-time farmers were given free lavender saplings.
- ✓ At present, large-scale lavender cultivation is limited to J&K.
- ✓ The Governments in Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are also encouraging their farmers to take up lavender.
- ✓ In 2016, the Centre launched **Aroma Mission** to boost cultivation of plants for **essential oils** which have aromatic medicinal properties.

Shigmo Festival

- ✓ Goa has announced that this year no Shigmo spring festival parades will be held.
- ✓ Shigmo is the biggest spring festival in Goa.
- ✓ It was scheduled to take place in the first week of April.

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- ✓ Shigmo is the celebration of a ‘rich, golden harvest of paddy’ by the tribal communities of Goa.
- ✓ **Agricultural communities including the Kunbis, Gawdas and Velips** celebrate the festival that also marks the onset of spring.
- ✓ **Folk dances like Ghodemodini, Gopha and Phugadi** are among the many dances performed by the participating communities.

Utkal Divas

- ✓ Odisha will celebrate its 85th foundation day of the state on April 1. The day is also known as ‘Utkal Divas’.
- ✓ **Utkal Divas or Utkala Dibasa or Odisha Day** is celebrated on April 1 every year.
- ✓ The day is celebrated in the memory of the struggle for achieving a separate identity for the state that was once **part of Kalinga ruled by emperor Ashok, and later by Kharavela.**
- ✓ Odisha became India’s first independent state on a language basis on **April 1, 1936**, i.e. 85 years ago.
- ✓ The state was carved out of the combined **Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.**

Two Green towns

- ✓ Bihar is set to become the country’s first state to have two green energy efficient towns in **Rajgir and Bodh Gaya.**

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- ✓ The towns will start getting solar energy through the first of its kind renewable energy project from 2023.

Jail Radio project

- ✓ “Tinka Tinka” foundation has launched ‘Jail Radio’ project in Haryana jails in collaboration with the State government.
- ✓ Jail Radio is an in-house production run by the inmates.
- ✓ The aim is to bring out the inmates’ creativity, give them meaningful engagement.

Banana Festival in Kushinagar

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government organised a ‘Banana Festival’ in Kushinagar.
- ✓ The state government had in 2018 organised the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme to promote traditional enterprise.

Free Medical insurance

- ✓ Rajasthan is proud to be the first Indian state to provide free medical insurance to all the people in the state.

Overseas workers from TN

- ✓ One in every 10 individuals who went to work overseas from India in the past five years was from Tamil Nadu.

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- ✓ The state sent the second highest number of workers abroad during this period.
- ✓ Kerala had the highest number of workers going abroad.

Ramayana Museum to be established

- ✓ An international level 'Ramayana Museum and Cultural Center' will be established at **Ramasnehi Ghat between Ayodhya and Lucknow.**

First state to provide 5 lakh health insurance

- ✓ Rajasthan becomes the **first state** in the country to provide free health insurance facility to all the citizens of the state.
- ✓ The State began the registration for its cashless '**mediclaime**' scheme Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme.
- ✓ Under this scheme each family will get annual health insurance **up to 5 lakhs.**

First state to commission Farm-based Solar Power Project

- ✓ Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) commissioned India's **1st Farm-based Solar Power Project** at Bhaloji Village, Kotputli in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ It was commissioned under the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan) Scheme.

PM-KUSUM

- ✓ It was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in 2019.
- ✓ It is one of the initiatives to Double the Farmer's Income by 2022.
- ✓ It was launched with the objective of providing financial and water security.

Ampareen Lyngdoh Committee

- ✓ The Assembly Committee on Women Empowerment recently submitted its report to the Meghalaya Government.
- ✓ The Committee was led by Ampareen Lyngdoh.
- ✓ The Committee has found that **three out of every thousand pregnant women** in the state are testing positive for HIV in the state.
- ✓ According to MACS (Meghalaya AIDS Control Society), there are more than two hundred sex workers in the state that test HIV positive.

Age relaxation for EWS category

- ✓ The **Rajasthan government** has approved the proposal to give relaxation in the maximum age limit to the economically weaker section similar to other reserve classes for appointment to estate services.

Udhampur bags stop position

- ✓ Udhampur district of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir has bagged **the top position** at the national level for successfully implementing Pradhan Mantri gram Sadak Yojana during 2020-21.

Punjab new nutrient-rich Vegetable varieties

- ✓ Punjab has come up with improved crop and vegetable varieties that are rich in nutrients and can make valuable contributions to the nutritional requirement of the population.
- ✓ '**PAU 1 Chapatti**' with low polyphenols and outstanding processing qualities has been shortlisted for commercialization.

Cycling Policy

- ✓ Chandigarh's recently released first-of-its-kind draft cycling policy.
- ✓ It is for the first time that a city has drafted a cycling policy in India.

Flavoured milk taxable at 12%

- ✓ Gujarat authorities for advance ruling has classified flavoured milk as 'beverage containing milk' and is taxable at 12% under GST.

Rare stoneware (Seed crusher) near Uttiramerur

- ✓ A rare stone has been found in **Vinnamangalam village** near Uttiramerur in Kanchipuram district.
- ✓ Buried in the soil, it dates back to the **15th century**.
- ✓ **Line 3** had inscriptions on it.

Gangaikondacholapuram archaeological excavation starts

- ✓ The State Department of Archaeology has made some encouraging finds less than two months into the excavation at **Maligaimedu near Gangaikondacholapuram, the capital of King Rajendra Chola I**.
- ✓ Thirteen coarse brick walls have been exposed so far at the site.
- ✓ **A copper coin, some potsherds and iron pieces** have been collected.
- ✓ Besides, a piece of **Chinese celedon ware, belonging to 10-11th century, has also been found.**

Terracotta dice at keezhadi

- ✓ A **six-faced terracotta die** and farming implements **made of granite** have been unearthed during the seventh phase of excavation at Keezhadi.
- ✓ During this phase, excavations are being carried out in **three trenches at Keezhadi, three at Konthagai and one at Agaram.**

- ✓ The **Black and red-coloured potsherds** and portions of farming implements, such as a plow made of granite, were also unearthed here.
- ✓ The use of die made of two different materials indicates that various strata of society existed (**the rich used ivory die and the poor used terracotta**) and shows that the civilization had enriched arithmetic knowledge.

Health safety week

- ✓ **Jharkhand government** has announced to the follow health safety week beginning from **April 22 to 29** to break the chain of growing covid-19 infection rate in the state.

First oxygen Express started

- ✓ The first oxygen Express carrying liquid medical oxygen Departed for Maharashtra from Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ It is roro train with 7 tankers.

Electoral bonds donor's name

- ✓ The **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)** is the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds.
- ✓ A declaration of a **₹1 crore donation** was made in the party's 2019-20 contribution report.
- ✓ According to the contribution report of the ruling party in Jharkhand, the donation was made by **aluminium and copper manufacturing company Hindalco.**

Black and red pottery found

- ✓ Deer antlers and black and red pottery tiles dating back to the 2000 year old Sangam period have been found at Karungalakurichi in Mudukulathur circle in Ramanathapuram district.

Black and red clay vases

- ✓ Excavations at a shed near Thiruppuvanam in Sivagangai district have uncovered three **black and red clay vases** with codes of elderly miners.
- ✓ Excavations are underway to build everything at four locations, including the lower Kontagai Agaram Manalur near Thiruppuvanam.

NATIONAL

Jal Jeevan Mission - new milestone

- ✓ The mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August, 2019.
- ✓ It was aimed to provide tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.
- ✓ **Goa** has become the first State in the country to provide 100 per cent tap water supply.
- ✓ It is followed by Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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- ✓ Jal Jeevan Mission has achieved a new milestone of providing over **4 Crore rural households** with tap water supply.

Military farms

- ✓ Indian Army has closed its Military farms on March 31 after 132 years of service.
- ✓ Military farms are the farms that were formed with an **aim to supply hygienic cow milk to troops in garrisons** across British India.
- ✓ In the year 2012, the **Quarter Master General branch** had recommended their closure.
- ✓ After this again in December **2016 Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (retd) committee** also suggested the shutdown of farms.
- ✓ Various **allegations of corruption** surrounding the farms were also noticed over the years.
- ✓ These farms provided **yeoman service during the 1971 war**, supplying milk at the Western and Eastern war fronts as well as during the **Kargil operations** to the Northern Command.
- ✓ They established “**Project Freiswal**” in association with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- ✓ Project Freiswal is credited to be the **largest cattle cross-breeding programme in the world.**

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- ✓ These farms also teamed up with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) in the development of **bio-fuel**.

Climate and development ministerial meet

- ✓ Minister for environment, forest and climate change participated in the virtual climate and development ministerial meet.
- ✓ It was held in the run up to COP26, the UN climate change conference 2021.

Centre announces April 14 as public holiday

- ✓ The centre has announced a public holiday on April 14,2021 on account of the birth anniversary of Dr.BR Ambedkar.
- ✓ It will be the Ambedkar's **130th birth anniversary** this year.

ULPIN

- ✓ The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme has been launched in 10 States this year.
- ✓ It will be rolled out across the country by March 2022.
- ✓ Under the scheme, a **14-digit identification number** will be issued to every plot of land in the country.
- ✓ It is being described as “**Aadhaar for land**”.
- ✓ In Rural India, land records are outdated and disputed.

- ✓ The identification will be based on the longitude and latitude of the land parcel.

Indian Railway Electrification

- ✓ The Indian Railways has achieved the highest ever electrification of sections during 2020-21.
- ✓ It has covered **6,015 kilo metres of electrification** in a single year. This is 37% higher than that achieved in 2019-20.
- ✓ The **Broad-Gauge network** of Indian Railway currently stand at 63,949 kilo metres. Of this 71% has been electrified.
- ✓ Some of the major routes electrified in 2020-21 are Delhi-Darbhanga-Jaynagar, Mumbai-Howrah, Gorakhpur-Varanasi, Chennai-Trichy and Jabalpur-Nainpur-Gondia-Ballarshah.
- ✓ The first railway electrification in India began between **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and Kurla in 1925.**
- ✓ In 2017, Indian Railways announced that the entire rail network in the country is to be electrified by 2022.
- ✓ **The deadline has been extended to 2024.**

IIT Delhi reduces carbon footprint

- ✓ IIT Delhi has reduce carbon footprint by 50%.

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- ✓ This was made possible by the virtue of the recent bilateral power purchase contract made by IIT Delhi with hydro power generator in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

AIM-PRIME

- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched the AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship) initiative.
- ✓ This initiative is to promote and support science-based deep-tech start-ups & ventures across India.
- ✓ That will be implemented by Venture Center - a non-profit technology business incubator.

NSO Report

- ✓ The National Statistical Office operating under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) recently released the Women and Men in India report.
- ✓ The report consolidates the crucial socio-economic indicators that portray gender situation in the country.
- ✓ The projected population of India in 2021 is **136.13 crores**.
- ✓ **Delhi recorded the highest increase** in sex ratio followed by Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ On the other hand, **Daman and Diu had the highest decline** in sex ratio.

National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021

- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently approved the “National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021”.
- ✓ The policy focuses on early **screening and prevention of rare diseases**. This is to be achieved through Health and Wellness Centres.
- ✓ The screening is to be supported by the Nidhan Kendras set up by Department of Biotechnology.
- ✓ The Government of India has announced a financial support of Rs 20 lakhs under the **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi** for treatment of rare diseases.
- ✓ This financial assistance is to be extended to 40% of the population.

40th anniversary of AGE CARE India

- ✓ Doctor Harshvardhan, union Minister of Health and Family Welfare address to the 40th anniversary of AGE CARE India and the elders day celebration on 4 April 2021.
- ✓ He conferred the " Most eminent senior citizen" award to Professor (Dr.) J.S. Guleria, a Padmashree awardee, and to Dr. G. P. Seth, senior consultant, internal medicine.

World Largest Bridge completed

- ✓ The Indian Railways recently completed the arch closure of the world highest railway bridge, Chenab bridge.
- ✓ The bridge is a part of **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project**.
- ✓ “**Tekla**” software was used for structural detailing of the arch.
- ✓ The Chenab bridge is located in **Reasi district** of Jammu and Kashmir. The height of the bridge is **359 metres**.
- ✓ The construction of Chenab bridge was declared as a national project in 2002.
- ✓ Another small arch bridge proposed in the same route is **Anji Khad bridge**.

Integrated Health Information Platform

- ✓ The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan recently launched the Integrated Health Information Platform.
- ✓ According to the health ministry, **India is the first country** to adopt such an advanced surveillance system.
- ✓ The Integrated Health Information Platform is to operate under the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme**.
- ✓ This is to be achieved by establishing a **decentralised state-based surveillance** system for epidemic prone diseases.
- ✓ The platform will hold information about prevalence of disease in different districts of the country. The

information is to be collected through **ASHA workers and ANMs.**

✓ The information for the platform is to be collected in the following way:

✓ Every health worker is to be provided with a type of form namely S, P and L.

✚ The **S-form** will be provided to the **ground workers** involved in surveys. They will help collect on spot information about the prevalence of the disease.

✚ The **P-form** is to be provided to the **doctors**. Through this form, the doctors will collect patient name, address, contact number along with his diagnosis.

✚ The **L-form** is provided to the **laboratory personnel**. Through this form, they will collect details of pathological investigation.

✓ The IDSP was launched in 2004. The programme is **assisted by the World Bank.**

✓ The main objective of the programme is to detect and respond to disease outbreaks quickly.

Victory flame carried to Lakshadweep

✓ To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Indian victory in the 1971 war, the year 2021 is being celebrated as **'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.**

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- ✓ The victory flame is being carried to Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of Islands.

Anamaya

- ✓ The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister recently launched the Tribal Health Collaborative called “Anamaya”.
- ✓ The initiative will also be supported by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Piramal Foundation**.
- ✓ The main objective of the initiative is to enhance health and nutrition eco-system of tribal communities in India.
- ✓ Also, Anamaya will implement the Tribal Health Action Plan.
- ✓ The **Abhay Bang Committee** submitted a report on “Tribal Health in India”.

Need for initiative:

- ✚ Child mortality halved among the tribal population in **26 years**. It was **90** in 1988 and has reduced to **44** in 2014.
- ✚ The Under-five mortality rate has declined from **135** in 1988 to **57** in 2014.
- ✚ The prevalence of Tuberculosis in rest of India is **256 per 100,000 cases**. However, in case of tribal population, it is **703 cases per 100,000**.
- ✚ **One in four tribal adult** suffers from hypertension.

- ✓ The findings of the committee clearly shows that more care should be taken towards improving health of tribal population in India.

Madhukranti portal

- ✓ The Union Agricultural Minister launched the Madhukranti portal and Honey Corners of NAFED to promote the Honey Mission in India.
- ✓ The Madhukranti portal is an initiative of National Bee Board.
- ✓ It is operated under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission.
- ✓ The Honey Corners are special spaces for the sale of honey. It is operated by **NAFED which is National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation**. NAFED has developed 14-15 honey corners.
- ✓ It aims at scientific bee keeping and production of honey. The main objective of the mission is to achieve the goal of **“Sweet Revolution”**.
- ✓ **Indian Bank** is the technical and banking partner for the development of digital platform.

PM FME Scheme

- ✓ The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, earlier launched an all India **Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME)** Scheme.
- ✓ The scheme is to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- ✓ The **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)** operating under Minister of Rural Development is to work with the Minister of Food Processing Industries to implement the scheme.
- ✓ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) new name given to **Aajeevika-NRLM**. It was renamed in 2015. The programme is partly supported by **World Bank**.
- ✓ The main aim of the programme is to **increase the household income of rural poor**.

PM Mudra Yojana

- ✓ More than 28 crore 68 lakh loans for an amount of nearly 15 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned since the launch of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
- ✓ The scheme was launched in 2015 for providing loans upto Rs 10 lakh to non corporate, non-farm, small and micro Enterprises video.

- ✓ **68% of loans** have been given to women entrepreneurs and about 51% of loans have been given to SC, ST and OBC borrowers.

Operation Blue Eagle

- ✓ Supplementing the efforts of Election Commission, Chennai Customs launched 'Operation Blue Eagle'.
- ✓ This operation is to foil the **attempts of gangs from smuggling in cash** and valuables to lure voters in Tamil Nadu.

National Register for Driving License

- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport recently announced that the National Register for Driving Licenses is to be created.
- ✓ This is being done to remove duplication of driving licenses in the country.
- ✓ Most of the states are already on the **SARATHI portal** of National Informatics Centre.

KVIC's RE-HAB

- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways recently announced that the project of Khadi and Village Industries (KVIC) called **RE-HAB** has become a huge success.
- ✓ This includes **Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.**

- ✓ Project RE-HAB is Reducing Elephant Human Attacks using Bees. It was launched at four spots in the **Nagarhole National Park of Karnataka.**
- ✓ The project aims to prevent elephant human conflicts without creating harm to either of them.
- ✓ The project uses bee boxes as fence to prevent elephants from entering human habitation.
- ✓ The buzz of the bees irritates elephants. Also, elephants fear that the bees might sting them in the inner side of the trunk and in their eyes.
- ✓ The Nagarhole National Park is also called the **Rajiv Gandhi National Park.**
- ✓ Nagarhole National Park is a part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.**

Tika Utsav

- ✓ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently appealed to the Chief Ministers of the States to organise “Tika Utsav”.
- ✓ Tika Utsav is a **vaccine festival**. It is to be held between **April 11, 2021 and April 14, 2021.**
- ✓ The main objective of the festival is to vaccinate as many people as possible.
- ✓ It will also focus on **zero wastage of COVID-19 vaccine.**

Practo

- ✓ Procto, India's online medical service provider, has launched an online medical consulting service in **15 local languages** for the benefit of patients.
- ✓ An online medical consultation service is now available in 15 local Indian languages including Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada and Bengali.

India H2 Alliance

- ✓ The **Global energy** and industrial majors have joined together to form a new coalition called the India H2 Alliance.
- ✓ The initiative to form the alliance was begun by the **Reliance industries and Chart Industries**.
- ✓ The India H2 Alliance, IH2A, mainly focuses on commercializing hydrogen technologies.
- ✓ It will work towards **boosting the hydrogen economy** and supply chain in India.

Main objectives

- ✓ To help develop **blue and green hydrogen production** and storage.
- ✓ To build hydrogen-use industrial clusters and To increase hydrogen-powered fuel cells-based transport.

SUPACE in Supreme Court

- ✓ The Supreme Court of India has launched its Artificial Intelligence portal “SUPACE” (**Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency**).
- ✓ Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases.

Artificial Intelligence Committee

- ✓ **Justice L Nageshwara Rao**, is the chairman of the SC’s Artificial Intelligence Committee.
- ✓ Chief Justice of India (CJI) **SA Bobde** was the **first-ever chairman** of the Artificial Intelligence Committee.
- ✓ CJI Bobde took oath as the Chief Justice in 2019.

National Programme on Artificial Intelligence

- ✓ Under the National Programme on Artificial Intelligence, a Centre for Transformational Artificial Intelligence to tap the data in various models is to be made available for the **Artificial Intelligence model**.
- ✓ The Government of India has also planned to **launch Digital India 2.0**. This will boost National Programme on Artificial Intelligence.
- ✓ The main aim of Digital India 2.0 is to **take cybersecurity, digital service offerings and infrastructure to next level**.

- ✓ Under Digital India 2.0, the Government of India will develop **indigenous cybersecurity products** and robust digital infrastructure.

India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0

- ✓ The Niti Aayog recently launched the India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0.
- ✓ It will provide single window access to the data related to utilisation, pricing, production, distribution of energy in the country.
- ✓ The **India Energy Dashboard Version 1.0** was launched in **2017**.
- ✓ It includes monthly data from portals maintained by Government agencies.
- ✓ The monthly data in India is regularly published for petroleum, electricity, and natural gas sectors.
- ✓ The India Energy Dashboard will also provide data from schemes such as **Saubhagya, PRAAPTI, UJALA and Vidyut PRAVAH**.
- ✓ **UJALA is Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All**. The scheme was launched by PM Modi in **2015**. It replaced the Bachat Lamp Yojana.
- ✓ **PRAAPTI** is a web portal launched by the Ministry of Power in **2018**. PRAAPTI is Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing transparency in invoicing of generators.

Aahaar Kranti

- ✓ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan recently launched “Mission Aahaar Kranti”.
- ✓ The mission aims to spread the message of the importance of nutritionally balanced diet. It will also promote the importance of accessibility to local fruits and vegetables.
- ✓ The Mission is designed to address the major problem faced by India and the world, which is, “**Hunger and Diseases in Abundance**”.
- ✓ India produces **two times the amount of calories** it consumes. Still, several people are malnourished in the country.
- ✓ The motto of the mission is “**Good Diet-Good Cognition**”.
- ✓ According to UNICEF, **India is at the tenth spot** among countries with highest number of **underweight children**.
- ✓ Also, the organisation says that **India is at the seventeenth spot** among countries with highest number of **stunted children**.
- ✓ Both the problems of stunting and underweight are caused by **malnutrition**.
- ✓ More than half of Indian children are anaemic. Apart from children, **23% of women and 20% of men** in the country are malnourished.

e-Santa

- ✓ The Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal recently launched a platform called “**eSanta**” for marine products.
- ✓ The main aim of the platform is to **empower aqua farmers**.
- ✓ The farmers can sell their produce in eSanta portal. It is a bridge between the buyers and the farmers.
- ✓ The aqua products are exported to America, European Union, China, Japan and other Asian countries.
- ✓ In spite of ranking **second in aquaculture** in the world, aqua farmers in India are facing difficulties to get best price from the market. The portal will help to address this problem.
- ✓ Every year, India celebrates National Fish Farmers Day on **July 10**.

Mandatory hallmarking of gold artefacts

- ✓ The Government of India recently announced that it is fully prepared to implement mandatory hallmarking of gold artefacts and jewellery from June 1, 2021.
- ✓ Currently, Gold Hallmarking is voluntary in the country.
- ✓ Only three grades of jewellerys will now be hall marked under the new regulations.
- ✓ They are **14-carat, 18-carat and 22-carat**. Earlier, **ten grades** of gold jewellerys were hall marked.
- ✓ The new Gold Hallmark will **contain four marks**.

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- ✓ They are purity in **carat, BIS mark, assay centre's name and the identification mark of the jeweller.**

Poshan Gyan

- ✓ Niti Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University launch the Poshan Gyan.
- ✓ It is the national **digital respiratory on health and nutrition.**

Raisina Dialogue 2021

- ✓ The Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the **6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue.**
- ✓ It was attended by the Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen and the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame in a virtual mode.
- ✓ It was also attended by the Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison.
- ✓ The Dialogue is India's flagship conference on **geo-economics and geopolitics.**
- ✓ It is held annually since 2016.

ISRO Espionage Case

- ✓ The Supreme Court ordered a CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) into the role of Kerala Police officers in framing Nambi Narayanan in the **1994 Espionage Case.**

- ✓ Nambi Narayanan was a **scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation.**
- ✓ The case began with the arrest of Maldivian woman Mariam Rashida in 1994.
- ✓ She was arrested on the charges of overstaying her visa. Her arrest led to the arrest of Narayanan.
- ✓ Nambi Narayanan was the director of the cryogenic project lab of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Why was Nambi Narayanan arrested?

- ✓ In 1994, Nambi Narayanan was charged for leaking vital **defence secrets to Maldivian intelligence officers Fauzia Hassan and Mariam Rashida.** He was accused of selling confidential flight test data from the experiments with satellite and rocket launches. He was arrested and he spent fifty days in jail.
- ✓ In May **1996**, the charges against the scientist were dismissed. It was later dismissed in Supreme Court in April 1998.
- ✓ In **1999**, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) passed strictures against the Kerala Government for damaging Narayanan's career in space research. He was then given desk job at ISRO.
- ✓ In **2001**, the National Human Rights Commission ordered the Kerala Government to pay a compensation of Rs 1 crore. He then retired in 2001.

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- ✓ In **2019**, GoI conferred **Padma Bhushan** to Nambi Narayanan.

Online Grievance Management portal of NCSC

- ✓ The Union Minister for Communication and IT and Law and Justice recently launched the “Online Grievance Management portal of NCSC”. NCSC is National Commission of Scheduled Castes.
- ✓ The portal was launched on the occasion of **130th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar**.
- ✓ The Scheduled Caste community in the country can register their complaints in the portal from any part of the country.

National Commission for Scheduled Caste

- ✓ The commission was established under **Article 338 of the Constitution of India**. The main objective of the commission is to investigate and monitor issues pertaining to the **safeguard of Scheduled Castes** in the country.
- ✓ The **65th Constitution Act, 1990** amended **Article 338** of the constitution. The amendment **replaced the commission from its one-member system to multi-member system**.
- ✓ The **89th amendment** of the constitution introduced in **2003** separated the **National Commission for Scheduled Caste into two different commissions**.

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- ✓ One was National Commission for Scheduled Caste and the other was National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Agriculture Ministry sign MOU with Microsoft

- ✓ The Agricultural Ministry of India recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft to implement a pilot project for farmer welfare.
- ✓ It will provide **smart agricultural techniques** to the farmers especially during **post-harvest season**.
- ✓ This is to be launched in six states selected for the project are **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh**.

Microsoft Welfare Programmes in India

- ✓ In 2019, Microsoft India launched **Project ReWeave** to help **handloom weavers**. The project aims to revive handloom weaving ecosystem in India.
- ✓ Microsoft has partnered with **AICTE** (All India Council for Technical Education) to empower educators and learners with future ready skills.
- ✓ It has joined with the **National Skill Development Corporation** to provide digital skills to more than one lakh underserved women in India.

Rapid antigen test

- ✓ In the view of recent search in covid-19 cases, the compulsory Rapid antigen test will be conducted for all incoming passengers at Port Blair airport.

ROPAX Jetty Project

- ✓ The project aims to launch Roll-on or Roll-off Passenger Jetty connecting Kaninali in Bhadrak district and Talachua in Kendrapara district.
- ✓ The project will reduce passenger travel time **from six hours to one hour.**
- ✓ The connecting points of the jetty are located in the northern and southern banks of river Dhamra.
- ✓ The Dhamra river is a joint stream formed by the confluence of Baitarani and Brahmani rivers.
- ✓ The **Gahirmatha sanctuary** is located near the mouth of Dhamra river.
- ✓ The **Wheeler island** is also located at the mouth of Dhamra. The Wheeler Island is a **DRDO launch centre.**

Hydrogen task force

- ✓ Indian and United States will launch a hydrogen task force and the strategic energy partnership between the two countries.

- ✓ The announcement of the inaugural edition of the hydrogen roundtable titled "**Hydrogen Economy: New Delhi dialogue-2021 in april 2021**"

Aero City

- ✓ GMR Group has announced the launch of GMR Aero City Hyderabad at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.

Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference

- ✓ 3-day Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021 concluded in New Delhi; **theme: 'Reorienting for the Future'**

Health Sector included in ECLGS Scheme

- ✓ The Ministry of Finance recently expanded the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to Rs 3 lakh crores.
- ✓ It aims to provide relief to stressed companies in the country.
- ✓ This mainly includes business enterprises in tourism, hospitality, travel and sporting sector.
- ✓ The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company is the guarantee provider of the ECLGS Scheme.
- ✓ The scheme has been expanded to health care and other stressed sector companies that have loan dues up to sixty days (SMA-1 accounts).

- ✓ The validity of all the three ECLGS, that is, ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 and ECLGS 3.0 have been extended till June 2021.

EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge

- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recently launched the EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge.
- ✓ The main objective of the EatSmart Cities Challenge is to create an environment of right food practices and habits.
- ✓ The Transport 4 all challenge aims to make public transport safe, comfortable, affordable and reliable.
- ✓ The National Electric Mobility Mission plan was launched to promote hybrid and electric vehicles.
- ✓ The FAME India mission was launched to expand the market of electric vehicles by increasing their production in the country.

Gender samvad event launched

- ✓ Gender samvad event, joint attend between DAY-NRLM(deendayal antyodaya Yojana- national rural livelihood mission) and initiative for what works to advance women and girls in the economy(IWWAGE), was organised.

Railway ministry approved to transport oxygen

- ✓ Indian Railways has given in principle approval to transfer **liquid medical oxygen container** truck on a roll on roll off basis.
- ✓ The Indian Railways soon carry cryogenic tanker trucks loaded with liquid medical oxygen from one part of the country to another.

Ashok Leyland suppliers bullet proof vehicle

- ✓ Ashok Leyland Limited had announced to the delivery of the first batch of light bullet proof vehicles to the Indian Air Force.
- ✓ It has been developed under transfer of technology from lockheed Martin to Ashok Leyland. It is completely indigenous and developed in India.

Mega Food Park

- ✓ Italy launches its first ever mega food park project in India, at Fanidhar in Mehsana district of **Gujarat**.

National Climate Vulnerability Report

- ✓ The Department of Science and Technology recently launched the National Climate Vulnerability Report.
- ✓ According to the report, **eight Eastern States** in the country are highly vulnerable to climate change.

- ✓ They are Mizoram, Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam.
- ✓ The report has developed state level “**vulnerability indices**” over **0.42 to 0.67**.
- ✓ **Jharkhand** received the **highest Vulnerable Index** of 0.67. **Maharashtra** received the **lowest Vulnerability Index** of 0.42.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks **25th** among all the states.

Supplemental Oxygen Supply system

- ✓ The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently developed a Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System.
- ✓ It is to be used for soldiers posted at extreme high-altitude areas.
- ✓ The system delivers supplementary oxygen based on the **Blood Saturation levels**.
- ✓ This will help soldiers from sinking into a state of Hypoxia. Hypoxia is fatal in many cases.
- ✓ The system shall also be used to provide medical oxygen to COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ India is now on high demand of medical oxygen with COVID-19 cases increasing at great level.
- ✓ **Hypoxia** is the state where oxygen reaching the tissues is inadequate. The same condition occurs in COVID-19.

Oxygen Express trains

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways recently announced that it is to create a **Green Corridor** to ensure fast movement of Oxygen Express trains.
- ✓ These Oxygen Express trains are to be operated to help the country handle the issue of shortage of oxygen.
- ✓ The Government of India is to set up **162 Oxygen plants** in thirty-two states.
- ✓ The funds to establish hundred of these centres are to be provided through **PM CARES Fund**.

India to waive import duty on covid-19 vaccines

- ✓ India will waive its 10% customs duty on imported covid-19 vaccines, as it is trying to boost supplies to counter a dramatic Surge in coronavirus cases.
- ✓ Imports of Russia Sputnik V vaccine are due to arrive soon.

Companies supplies oxygen

- ✓ Tata Steel supplying up to **300 tons** of medical oxygen from its plants various State Government and hospitals for the treatment of the patients.
- ✓ Liquid medical oxygen or LMO is a crucial requirement for the treatment of covid patients.

- ✓ Also, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited will be reverting **100 metric tonnes** oxygen produced at Refineries to supplement the availability of medical oxygen in various hospitals.

First online exhibition of Ramayana

- ✓ The Union Minister of Tourism and Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel recently inaugurated the first online exhibition of Ramayana.
- ✓ The exhibition will show case **49 miniature paintings**. These paintings have been collected from the **National Museum in New Delhi**.
- ✓ The paintings were dated between **17th century and 19th century**.

Gyanvapi Mosque Dispute

- ✓ A civil court in Uttar Pradesh asked the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a survey at the Gyanvapi mosque in **Varanasi** to determine whether it was built over a **Kashi Vishwanath temple**.
- ✓ The order was passed after a suit claimed that the mosque was built at the site after a temple **was demolished in 1669 by Aurangzeb**.
- ✓ The difference between this dispute and the Babri Masjid dispute is that the Babri dispute is related with the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

India gets elected to 3 UN ECOSOC bodies

- ✓ India has been selected to free United Nations economic and social Council bodies.
- ✓ India has been elected as the commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Executive Board of UN women, and the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.
- ✓ India is a member of the United Nations Commission on status of women for **4 years**.

Zero malaria cases

- ✓ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare recently reported that as many as **116 districts** in India have reported zero malaria cases in 2020.
- ✓ In 2020, India had reduced the disease burden of Malaria by **84.5%**.
- ✓ Also, India has reduced the deaths due to Malaria by **83.6%**.
- ✓ India was one of the **eighteen countries** that endorsed Malaria Elimination Roadmap of Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance at the **East Asia Summit** that was held in Malaysia in 2015.
- ✓ Under the alliance, the leaders agreed to eliminate malaria completely in the region by **2030**.
- ✓ Under this, India launched the **National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India (2016-2030)**.

e- property cards

- ✓ PM Modi will launch the distribution of e- property cards under the SWAMITVA scheme on 24th April during National Panchayat Day.

India country of particular concern

- ✓ **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom** has recommended that India be designated as a country of particular concern for a second consecutive year.
- ✓ **USCIRF** is the US government organisation that monitors international religious freedom.
- ✓ It is recommended that the state department should designate 14 countries as '**countries of particular concern**'.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- ✓ **5 kg per person per month foodgrains** to be given in May and June to the beneficiaries covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders category of the National Food Security Act (NFSA)

India's first printed 3D house

- ✓ The Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman inaugurated the first 3D printed house at **IIT Madras**.
- ✓ It is also called **Additive manufacturing**.

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- ✓ In 2020, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology released the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing.
- ✓ India holds only **1.4%** of the global market share in Additive Manufacturing.
- ✓ Within ASEAN grouping, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia account to about 80% of the Additive Manufacturing market.

India: Third highest military spender

- ✓ India versus third largest military Splendor in the world in 2020, behind only the US and China.
- ✓ According to the latest military expenditure database published by the **Stockholm international peace Research Institute**, the USA accounted for **39 %** of the money spent on the military globally.
- ✓ India accounted for **3.7%** of the Global's share.

RESPOND programme

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will support **eight joint research projects** mooted by the Space Technology Cell (STC), IITDelhi.
- ✓ The ISRO has extended support to the projects under its RESPOND programme.
- ✓ ISRO started the RESPOND (Research Sponsored) programme in the 1970s.

Large Area Certification Scheme

- ✓ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare recently announced that around 14,491 hectares of land in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been certified as organic.
- ✓ This is the first large contiguous territory to be certified under government scheme.
- ✓ The organic certification was provided under the Large Area Certification Scheme of the Participatory Guarantee System certification programme.
- ✓ Under the scheme, each village is considered as one cluster or group.
- ✓ The farmers have to adhere to the standard requirements without the need to undergo a conversion period to get certified.
- ✓ This was launched under the **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana**. The scheme was launched in **2014** to promote natural farming.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan allows Import of cotton

- ✓ Pakistan economic coordination Council, art of decision making body, allowed the import of cotton onion from India.

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- ✓ It is a big step towards a reviving suspended trade between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.
- ✓ Pakistan is also planning to import sugar from India.
- ✓ India is the world's biggest producer of cotton and second biggest producer of sugar.

India Mauritius CECPA come into force

- ✓ India Mauritius comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement, CECPA will come into force from 1st April 2021.
- ✓ It provides for an institutional mechanism to increase and improve trade between the two countries.
- ✓ It is the first trade agreement signed by India with other country in Africa.

USA allows H-1B visa ban

- ✓ Ban on foreign workers visa specially H1-B has expired. Former US President Donald Trump hard problem function in June 2020 suspending entry of the US of applicants for several temporary or non immigrant visa categories, including H-1B visa.

Oldest salt production site

- ✓ A new archaeological discovery in the UK North Yorkshire has proved that Neolithic people had been manufacturing salt in the region around 6000 years ago.

- ✓ This makes it one of the oldest salt processing size in western Europe.

ARWU Ranking

- ✓ The ARWU (Academic Ranking of World Universities) is also called Shanghai Ranking. Around fifteen Indian Universities have made it to the ARWU, 2020.
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has secured the top position among the higher education institutes in India.
- ✓ Calcutta University secured third position among the higher education institutes in India.
- ✓ All the Indian institutes were placed in the category of 501-600.
- ✓ The top performers of ARWU ranking are as follows:
 - ✚ Harvard University topped the list.
 - ✚ Stanford University occupied the second position.
 - ✚ Cambridge University was ranked at third position.

New Russian Legislation

- ✓ The Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a legislation that will allow him to stay in power till 2036.
- ✓ The Russian leader had already been in power for more than two decades.

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- ✓ According to the previous constitution, Putin should have stepped down after his second consecutive term that is to **end in 2024**. Now, with the new constitutional amendment, he can stay **in power till 2036**.
- ✓ According to **Article 81 of Russian Constitution**, the same person cannot hold the office of President more than two terms in a row.
- ✓ The new constitution has not changed the two-term limit. However, it has removed the words **“in a row”**.
- ✓ With this, Putin will be able to run for President elections for another two terms under the new constitution.

17th BIMSTEC Ministerial meet

- ✓ Recently, the External Affairs Minister of India participated in the **17th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting**.
- ✓ The meeting, chaired by **Sri Lanka**, was held in virtual mode.
- ✓ BIMSTEC comprises **seven countries**.
- ✓ Five of these seven countries - India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh - are from South Asia.
- ✓ The remaining two, Thailand and Myanmar, are from Southeast Asia.

India – Japan MOU

- ✓ The MoU was signed between National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) that operates under Department of Space, GoI and the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere called the **RISH** that operates under Kyoto University of Japan.
- ✓ India and Japan hold 2+2 dialogue annually.
- ✓ Japan is the **second country** after the United States with which India has such a dialogue format.
- ✓ Japan has invested 90 billion USD in the **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor**. This will set up industrial parks, new cities, ports and airports.
- ✓ Japan supplies nuclear reactors and nuclear technology to India.
- ✓ India is the only **non-signatory of Non-Proliferation Treaty** to receive the exemption from Japan.

India hands over petrol boat to Seychelles

- ✓ India formally handed over a Rs.100-cr patrol vessel 'PS Zoroaster' to Seychelles.

Forbes' Richest List

- ✓ India's top three richest people have added over \$100 billion between them. Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani ranks at the top

among the Indian billionaires with a net worth of \$84.5 billion.

- ✓ India has the third-highest number of billionaires in the world after the US and China, according to recent data released by Forbes magazine.

E9 initiative

- ✓ The Minister for Education (India) addressed the consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries.
- ✓ The meeting was on E9 initiative: Scaling up digital learning to accelerate progress towards **Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education.**
- ✓ Spearheaded by the United Nations (UN), the E9 Partnership was first established in **1993.**
- ✓ E9 Countries include **Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan.**
- ✓ The initiative aims to advance the Sustainable Development Goal 4 agenda.
- ✓ It is done by **driving rapid change in education systems** in three of the 2020 Global Education Meeting priorities, namely,
 - ✓ Support to teachers; Investment in skills; and Narrowing of the digital divide.

3,000-year-old dead city

- ✓ Archaeologists have unearthed their 3,000-year-old dead city in what is considered to be the oldest city in the Luxor region of Egypt.
- ✓ A three-millennia-old “lost golden city” from the era of 18th – dynasty King Amenhotep III, who ruled ancient Egypt from 1391-1353B.C., was found in the southern province of Luxor.
- ✓ The newly discovered city is located on the west bank of the Nile reiver.

India Netherlands work in water sector

- ✓ India and Netherlands have announced the launch of the strategic partnership in the water Sector to further intensify ongoing cooperation and better coherence in the area.
- ✓ They discussed to broaden bilateral cooperation in new areas of water including water budgeting, cost effective decentralized treatment Technology, converting waste water to energy, and river hazard management.

Lung transplant to covid patient

- ✓ Women in Japan has become the world's first covid patient to receive a living Donor liver transplant.
- ✓ The procedure at **Kyoto university hospital** took around 11hrs to perform.

Central Asia

- ✓ Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have launched the construction of an international center for trade and economic cooperation called “**Central Asia**”.
- ✓ The Central Asia Trade center has been launched on the **borders of the two countries**.
- ✓ After completion, the center will become a large trade and industrial platform to implement joint projects of **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan**.
- ✓ The center is located near the border check post of **Gisht Kuprik**.

Fukushima nuclear power plant

- ✓ The Japanese Government recently approved a plan to release more than **1 million tonnes** of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.
- ✓ In 2011, there occurred a **nuclear disaster** in the plant due an earthquake and tsunami.
- ✓ It was the most severe Nuclear accident that was classified as **Level 7 on the International Nuclear Event Scale**.
- ✓ According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the release of the water from the Fukushima nuclear power **plant is similar to disposing wastewater** from nuclear plants elsewhere in the world.

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- ✓ The **Operator TEPCO** (Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings) has planned to filter the contaminated water **leaving only tritium.**
- ✓ This is because, it is highly complicated and difficult to **remove tritium from water.**
- ✓ Tritium is less harmful as compared to other radioactive wastes.
- ✓ It does not emit enough energy to penetrate human skin. However, it can cause cancer when ingested.

US troops to withdraw from Afghanistan

- ✓ US President Joe Biden administration has been decided reminding US troops from Afghanistan by 11 September 2021.
- ✓ This comes 20 years after Al Qaeda's triggered American longest war in the region.

Citibank out from India

- ✓ US-based Citibank has announced its withdrawal from consumer banking services in India.
- ✓ Citibank International CEO John Fraser has decided to leave consumer banking in 13 countries, the bank said.

Ecocide

- ✓ France: National Assembly approves 'ecocide' offence to punish environmental damage.

Turkey to ban cryptocurrency payments

- ✓ The Talkies Central Government will Ban the use of cryptocurrencies as a form of payment from April 30,2021.
- ✓ It is informed that the level of anonymity between the digital token brings the risk of "non-recoverable" losses.

103rd Meeting of the Plenary Development Committee

- ✓ Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in this meeting from India.
- ✓ She represented **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan & Srilanka** in this meeting.
- ✓ She shared the information that the Government has announced **Atma Nirbhar Packages of Rs 27.1 trillion**, amounting to more than **13% of the GDP**.

China-US Climate Change Cooperation

- ✓ The two biggest polluters of the world China and US have agreed to work together in tackling climate change issues.
- ✓ They recently issued a joint statement that they will work together to uphold Paris Agreement. The announcement comes days before the Earth Day Leaders Summit.
- ✓ The announcement was made after Kerry, the former US Secretary met China's special envoy for Climate Change.
- ✓ Kerry is the first official to visit China from President Biden's administration.

Nationally Determined Targets of China

- ✓ China had set NDC targets to be achieved by 2020 and also by 2030. They were as follows:
- ✓ To reduce the share of non-fossil fuels between 60% and 65% by 2030 as compared to 2005.
- ✓ As of 2019, China has achieved 48.1%
- ✓ To increase forest volume by 4.5 billion cubic metres by 2030 and 6 billion cubic metres by 2020 as compared to the level of 2005.
- ✓ As of 2019, the country increased its forest cover by **5.1 billion cubic metres** as compared to that of 2005.
- ✓ In December 2020, the Chinese President Xi Jinping announced new 2030 Climate Targets. They were as follows:
- ✓ To increase **solar power generating capacity** to 1,200 GW by 2030.
- ✓ To aim for **Carbon Neutrality** by 2060.

Iran Nuclear Program

- ✓ Iran recently launched Advanced Nuclear Centrifuges at the Natanz Nuclear Plant to mark its National Nuclear Technology Day.
- ✓ Iran has started enriching its uranium supply to 60 percent purity.

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- ✓ Iran has ever come to this level for the first time.
- ✓ It is the closest level needed for a weapon.
- ✓ Under the Joint comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the 2015 Nuclear Agreement, Iran is restricted to use only certain number of Uranium enrichment centrifuges.
- ✓ However, in May 2018, the US Government under Donald Trump abandoned the agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran.
- ✓ The current US Government under Joe Biden has pledged to return to JCPOA.

India Germany MOU

- ✓ India and Germany have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on **“Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment”**. It is in line with the **objective of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**.
- ✓ It will help India achieve the goal of phasing out single use plastics by 2022.
- ✓ The project is being launched under the Joint Declaration made by the countries regarding cooperation in the field of **Prevention of Marine Litter**.
- ✓ The declaration was signed by India and Germany in 2019.

- ✓ The project is to be implemented mainly in the states of **Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- ✓ Around **15% to 20%** of the plastics entering the oceans are through the riverine system.
- ✓ Of this, 90% are contributed by the ten most polluted rivers in the world. Two of these rivers are located in India. They are the **Ganges and Brahmaputra.**
- ✓ India is the twelfth largest source of marine litter in the world. By **2025**, it is expected to become the **fifth largest** source of marine litter.

Travel bubble

- ✓ October travel bubble between **Australia and New Zealand** is opened, it allows passengers to move quarantine free between both the countries.

UK has India in its travel 'red list'

- ✓ Britain has imposed travel curbs on India after an explosion of coronavirus cases there.

Deepwater Horizon

- ✓ It has been eleven years since the Deepwater Horizon Oil rig in the **Gulf of Mexico exploded.**
- ✓ The explosion that occurred in the rig on **April 20, 2010**, killed eleven people.

- ✓ This is considered as the **largest marine oil spill in history**.
- ✓ By **2011**, several coastal states such as Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida were contaminated by oil. This is referred to as **Deepwater Horizon Disaster**.
- ✓ In **2020**, **Russia** declared a state of emergency after 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil escaped into the **Ambarnaya river from a nearby power plant**.
- ✓ In August 2020, a **Japanese bulk carrier ship MV Wakaship** split into two parts near a **marine park in Mauritius**. The carrier was carrying fuel oil.

India-US 2030 Climate Partnership

- ✓ India and the United States launched the US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership during the Leaders' Summit.
- ✓ The US President hosted the Leaders Summit on Climate. The world leaders from around forty countries attended the summit.
- ✓ During the Summit, the US announced that it has set an ambitious target of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions by 50% to 52% in 2030 as compared to that of 2005 level.
- ✓ According the US, these steps will help the country achieve net zero emission by 2050.
- ✓ The US recently re-joined the Paris Agreement.

Other announcements in the Summit

- ✚ The **US announced** that it will double its public climate financing to the developing countries. This is to be tripled by **2024**.
- ✚ **Chinese President** promoted the Green Belt and Road Initiative of China. Also, he announced that China had pledged **net zero emissions by 2060**.
- ✚ The **United Kingdom** announced that it is half way in achieving net zero. The UK had set a target of reducing **78% of emissions by 2035** as compared to 1990 levels.
- ✚ **Germany** is on the track of reducing emissions by **55% by 2030** as compared to 1990 level.

USA joins program with India and Sweden

- ✓ The United States has joined a joint program between India and Sweden to protect the environment.
- ✓ India and Sweden are jointly implementing the Leadership Lead It project for industrial change aimed at protecting the environment.

Gambia eliminates Trachoma

- ✓ **Gambia** recently became the **second African country** to eliminate Trachoma. Trachoma is one of the leading causes of blindness.

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- ✓ The day was originally planned to honour the members of New Zealand and Australian armies who served in the Gallipoli Campaign.
- ✓ It was the first military campaign of First World War. It took place in Gallipoli peninsula between 1915 and 1916.
- ✓ It is often considered as the beginning of Australian and New Zealand national consciousness.
- ✓ In 1915, New Zealand and Australia set out to capture **Gallipoli peninsula** to open the way to the Black sea for the Allied Navies.
- ✓ The military objectives of Gallipoli campaign were to capture **Constantinople** and knock the **Ottoman Empire out of war**.
- ✓ The Ottoman empire was an **ally of Germany** during the war.

WHO's E-2025 initiative

- ✓ The World Health Organisation recently identified **twenty-five countries** with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025.
- ✓ This is called the **E-2025 initiative**.
- ✓ The identified 25 countries will work by responding to the **dual threat of malaria and COVID-19**.
- ✓ The WHO is to provide technical guidance and specialised support to these countries under the initiative.

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- ✓ Three of the identified countries were from **Africa** namely **Eswatini, Botswana and South Africa.**
- ✓ The World Health Organisation launched the **E-2020 initiative in 2017.**
- ✓ The E-2020 aimed to support a group of countries to achieve zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2020.
- ✓ However, certain countries are yet to achieve this target.
- ✓ Thus, they were identified under the E-2025 initiative and new plan is to be launched.

Project DANTAK complete 60 years in Bhutan

- ✓ Project DANTAK **diamond jubilee** in Bhutan.
- ✓ The project was established on **24 April 1961**, as a result of the visionary leadership of the third King of Bhutan and then PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ✓ It was tasked to **construct** the honouring motorable roads in Bhutan.

US Population increases by 7.4%

- ✓ The Central Bureau of the United States recently announced that the population of the United States has increased by 7.4%.
- ✓ This is the second slowest growth of US Population **since the Great Depression.**

Plain of Jars

- ✓ The archaeologists recently found that the jars in the “Plain of Jars” were used as burial sites.
- ✓ They have also found that though the jars could be 3,000 years old, the human remains suggest that people were buried alongside these jars 700 years ago, which is relatively recent.
- ✓ The vessels in the Plain of Jars were placed in late **Second millennium BCE**.
- ✓ On the other hand, the human remains come from 13th century. It is possible that the jars were always used as burial sites.
- ✓ The majority of the jars were made of **sandstone**. The Jars are **cylindrical in shape**.
- ✓ The Plain of Jars is **located in Laos**. It is a megalithic archaeological landscape.
- ✓ It consists of thousands of stone jars. These jars are found in the lower foothills of **Xiangkhoang Plateau**.
- ✓ The Plain of Jars became the **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019**.

Driverless car on roads

- ✓ The United Kingdom has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at low speeds.

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- ✓ The Government of UK forecasts that around 40% of UK cars will have self-driving capabilities by **2035**.

Niagara Falls glowed in 3 colours

- ✓ Niagara Falls glowed in three colors, orange, white, and green, in support of India's struggle against corona.
- ✓ This is not the first time that India's 74th Independence Day was celebrated last August.

POLITICAL

Article 244 (A) of the Constitution

- ✓ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a video message promised to implement Article 244 (A) of the Constitution in order to safeguard the interests of the people in tribal-majority districts of Assam.
- ✓ Article 244(A) of the Constitution allows the creation of an 'autonomous state' within Assam in certain tribal areas.
- ✓ It was inserted into the Constitution by the Congress government in the year 1969.
- ✓ It also includes a provision for a Legislature and a Council of Ministers.
- ✓ The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution — **Articles 244(2) and 275(1)** — is a special provision that allows decentralized governance and greater political autonomy in certain tribal areas of the Northeast through

autonomous councils that are administered by elected representatives.

- ✓ Article 244(A) provides more **autonomous powers to tribal areas.**

New rules in Assembly - Haryana government

- ✓ The Haryana State Government recently added several new provisions to maintain the decorum of the State Assembly.
- ✓ According to the new rule, **at least two ministers** should be present at every sitting of the house.
- ✓ The members **shall not tear off** the documents in the House in protest.
- ✓ The new Rule says that the question asked by the members during the sitting of the house **shall not contain more than 150 words.**
- ✓ This will help the ministers get a better clarity and provide proper reply to the query raised.

Adults are free to choose their religion

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) of a BJP leader that sought directions to ban superstition, black magic, and fraudulent religious conversions.
- ✓ The Apex court pronounced that the PIL violates Article 25 of the Constitution.

- ✓ According to the bench headed by **Justice R F Nariman**, that pronounced the judgement, the word “**propagate**” in Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees right to religion.

Constitution on religion

- ✓ The Right to Freedom is guaranteed to all religious followers under the following articles:

- ✚ Article 25

- ✚ Article 26

- ✚ Article 27

- ✚ Article 28

Abolition of Film Certificate Appellate Tribunal

- ✓ The Government of India by an ordinance has abolished the **Film Certificate Appellate Tribunal (FCAT)**.
- ✓ The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalization and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021, amends the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- ✓ It amends the act by omitting some sections and **replacing the word “Tribunal” with “High Court”** in other sections.
- ✓ The abolition of FCAT means filmmakers will now have to approach the High Court whenever they want to challenge a CBFC (CBFC - Central Board of Film Certification) certification, or lack of it.

The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and conditions of Service)” Ordinance, 2021

- ✓ The President of India recently promulgated “The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and conditions of Service)” Ordinance, 2021. It dissolved appellate authorities under nine acts and transferred their functions to high courts.

Amendments

- ✓ The ordinance dissolved appellate tribunals under nine acts as follows:
- ✓ Cinematograph Act, 1952
- ✓ Copyrights Act, 1957
- ✓ Trade Marks Act, 1999
- ✓ Customs Act, 1962
- ✓ Airports Authority of India Act, 1994
- ✓ Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- ✓ Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002
- ✓ Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001
- ✓ Patents Act, 1970

- ✓ Also, the ordinance said that the chairperson and members of tribunals will be appointed by the Central Government based on the recommendations made by a Search-cum Select Committee.
- ✓ The committee will consist of Chief Justice of India, secretaries nominated by the central governments, secretary of the ministry under which the tribunal is constituted and the outgoing chairperson or a retired CJI or a retired supreme court judge.

Section 184 of Finance Act, 2017

- ✓ Apart from these nine acts, the Tribunal Reforms Ordinance, 2021 also amended Section 184 of the Finance Act, 2017.
- ✓ It has added the **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission** within the purview of Finance Act, 2017. It has removed the following bodies from the purview of Finance Act, 2017:
 - ✓ Airport Appellate Tribunal established under the Airports Authority of India act, 1994
 - ✓ the Film Certification Appellate Authority established under the Cinematograph Act, 1952
 - ✓ the Authority of Advanced Ruling established under the Income Tax Act, 1961
 - ✓ the Appellate Board established under the Trade Marks Act, 1999,

Article 123

- ✓ The Article 123 of the Indian Constitution provides powers to president to promulgate an ordinance.
- ✓ An ordinance laid under the act has the same effect as that of an act.

GEOGRAPHY

The Chilika Lake

- ✓ The Chilika Lake in Odisha was once part of the Bay of Bengal
- ✓ This is according to a study by the marine archaeology department of the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.

Note:

- ✓ Chilika Lake is the Asia's largest brackish water lake.
- ✓ Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha.
- ✓ It is located at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ It is the largest coastal lagoon in India.
- ✓ It is the largest brackish water lagoon in the world after the New Caledonian barrier reef.
- ✓ It has been listed **Ramsar Site** as well as a tentative **UNESCO World Heritage site**.

Dal Lake

- ✓ Dal lake in Srinagar along with five other famous lakes in Jammu Kashmir could be declared protected wetland.
- ✓ The Other lakes which are to be declared as protected wetlands are under Lake also called Chhota Kashi, located in the Samba district.

Quasars

- ✓ Recently, a group of astronomers have discovered a dozen of quasars that were warped by naturally occurring cosmic lens.
- ✓ Warping is twisting. With this discovery, the number of known quasars have increased by 25%.
- ✓ This can help to determine the expansion rate of the universe and will also help address other mysteries.
- ✓ Quasars are luminous cores of distant galaxies that are powered by black holes.
- ✓ The mass of Quasars is millions to billions of times the mass of the sun.
- ✓ The most powerful quasars have luminosities **thousand times greater than the Milky Way galaxy.**
- ✓ The nearest Quasar to the earth is **Markarian 231**. It is 600 million years away from the earth.
- ✓ Quasars are usually found in the **centres of active galaxies.**

- ✓ The main issue is that the two methods of Hubble Constant determination do not match.
- ✓ However, the discovery of Quasars will help to solve the controversies around Hubble Constant.
- ✓ A Quasar based determination of Hubble constant will allow the astronomers to conclude which of the value is correct.
- ✓ Hubble's Constant **describes how fast the universe is expanding**. It is one of the keystones to understand the expansion of the universe.
- ✓ Thus, Quasars will help in understanding the Universe by solving the discrepancies around Hubble's constant.

Dark Sirens

- ✓ A team of scientists have recently found a way to solve cosmological tensions through dark sirens.
- ✓ The Dark Sirens are nothing but gravitational waves from neutron stars or black holes.
- ✓ The Dark sirens can be picked up by **gravitational wave detector** but not by ordinary telescopes.
- ✓ When the Universe is moving away from the earth, the **relationship between speed and distance between the earth and the universe is called Hubble Constant**.
- ✓ Here Universe can be any celestial body, a star, or a black hole.

- ✓ When massive neutron stars or black holes smash together they release huge amount of energy sending out gravitational waves.
- ✓ The LASER Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (**LIGO**) has been listening to such massive crashes since **2015**.

La Soufriere Volcano erupts

- ✓ The La Soufriere Volcano located on the eastern Caribbean island recently erupted **after decades of inactivity**.
- ✓ The Volcano was **dormant since 1979**. It started showing signs of activity in December 2020.
- ✓ When the volcano erupted in 1979 it created **100 million USD of damages**. Earlier to 1979 eruptions, the La Soufriere volcano erupted in 1902 and killed more than thousand people.
- ✓ La Soufriere means **“Sulphur Outlet” in French**. It has erupted five times since 1718.
- ✓ The La Soufriere Volcano is a **stratovolcano**.
- ✓ It is the **youngest and northernmost volcano** in the island. La Soufriere Volcano is in the Caribbean tectonic plate.

Cyclone Seroja and Cyclone Odette

- ✓ A rare weather phenomenon is developing off the West Australian coast this week.
- ✓ Tropical Cyclone Seroja and another tropical low Odette off the coast of Western Australia are merging together and are expected to bring heavy rain to the state's north this week.
- ✓ When tropical systems get close to each other, they interact and circulate around each other, which is known as the **Fujiwhara effect**.
- ✓ The Fujiwhara effect can make forecasting track and intensity even more challenging, as a number of weather scenarios can occur with the general track and also intensity.
- ✓ One system typically becoming more dominant and overtakes the weaker one.
- ✓ Tropical Cyclone Seroja reaches a Category 3 intensity this weekend, while the tropical low is expected to be of much weaker intensity.

Doomsday Glacier

- ✓ The Thwaites Glacier is also called "**Doomsday Glacier**".
- ✓ It is fast moving and has been melting in the recent years.
- ✓ The glacier has **high potential to raise the world sea level** by more than a metre.

- ✓ According to researchers, the amount of ice flowing out of the glacier has doubled in the past thirty years.
- ✓ The recent findings made by the Sweden researchers are the first measurements performed beneath the glacier.
- ✓ The **submarine** sent to go under the glacier was called "**Ran**".
- ✓ It measured temperature, strength, salinity, and oxygen content of the ocean currents that go under the glacier.
- ✓ There are **three inflows of warm water** beneath the glacier.
- ✓ Among them the damaging effects of one of the currents had been underestimated in the past.

Monsoon to be normal in India

- ✓ The Indian Meteorological Department recently announced that the southwest monsoon is **expected to be normal at 98%** of the Long Period Average.
- ✓ This is **mainly** because the **La Nina or El Nino** weather conditions that affect monsoon rains in India are likely to be absent.
- ✓ Also, Indian Ocean Dipole that has direct bearing on Indian monsoon is also expected to be neutral this year.
- ✓ The Long Period Average of monsoon is 88 centimetres.
- ✓ The rainfall between **96% and 104%** of LPA is considered as normal rainfall.

- ✓ In 2020, rainfall in India was 109% of Long Period Average.
- ✓ In 2019, the rainfall in India was 110% of Long Period Average.

Lyrid Meteor shower

- ✓ The Lyrid Meteor shower is active each year in the month of April.
- ✓ In 2021, they are expected to begin on April 19, 2021. They are generally referred to as **April Lyrids**.
- ✓ The radiant of the meteor shower is located in constellation Lyra.
- ✓ Radiant of a meteor shower is the point from which the paths of the meteors originate.
- ✓ A meteor shower occurs when the earth passes through the path of a comet.
- ✓ As the earth moves nearby, the bits of comet debris comes under the influence of the earth's gravity.
- ✓ As they are pulled by the gravitational force of the earth, they begin to move towards the earth.
- ✓ When this happens, they burn up due to the friction created by the Earth's atmosphere.
- ✓ The burning up of these debris is seen as streaks of light in the night sky and are called meteor showers.

Mars-Moon occultation

- ✓ Indian skies could witness yet another celestial event.
- ✓ In the evening, a crescent moon comes in between Earth and red planet Mars to result a rare celestial event visible to naked eye from earth.
- ✓ The occultation begins as the moon hides the red planet looking like a shiny dot.
- ✓ The Lunar Occultation of Mars would continue for nearly 90 minutes.

Glacier burst

- ✓ A Glacier burst occurred in **Sumna, Neeti Valley** located in Chamoli district in **India-China border**.
- ✓ A Border Road Organisation Camp came under the avalanche. The Indian Army has so far rescued 291 persons.
- ✓ In February 2021, **flash floods occurred in Chamoli** district due to Glacial burst and killed dozens.
- ✓ Earlier the breaking of **Nanda Devi Glacier** triggered avalanche, landslides and flash floods in the tributaries of the Ganges.
- ✓ According to United Nations **ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)** glaciers in India, Bhutan, Nepal and China says that these regions have lost a vertical foot and a half of ice since 2000.

- ✓ This is **double the amount** of melting that occurred between **1975 and 2000**.

Earthquake in Assam

- ✓ Seven back-to-back earthquakes occurred in Assam and other north eastern states. The first shocks were of **6.4 magnitude**.
- ✓ Later, the jolts were at **3.2 to 3.4 magnitude in Richter scale**.
- ✓ The occurrence of earthquakes was confirmed by National Center for Seismology.
- ✓ The **Epicentre** of the earthquake was located at a depth of **17 km**.
- ✓ The epicentre was located **9 km** away from the town of **Dhekiajuli of Assam**.

MEDICINE

Carnivac-Cov

- ✓ The first animal vaccine against the novel coronavirus in the world has been registered in Russia.
- ✓ It was announced by the country's agriculture safety watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor.

Sputnik V

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY

Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!

- ✓ Sputnik V, another vaccine against covid has got approval from the subject expert committee for emergency use authorisation in India.
- ✓ This will be the **third covid-19 vaccine** in the country.
- ✓ This is named after the **Soviet-Era satellite** Sputnik V.

Centre Fastrack emergency approval

- ✓ The central government is Fast tracking the use approvals for foreign vaccines.
- ✓ This will expand the coverage of vaccination drive in the country.

Astro Zeneca permanently discontinues

- ✓ Denmark permanently discontinues use of the Astro Zeneca Corona vaccine.
- ✓ Denmark became the first country to impose a permanent ban on the vaccine.

Hafkine Institute

- ✓ The Government of India recently approved the transfer of technology from Bharat Biotech to Hafkine Institute.
- ✓ The central government has given Maharashtra one year to carry out the production of the vaccine in the Haffkine Institute.

- ✓ It is one of the oldest biomedical research institutes of India.
- ✓ It was established in 1899 by Dr Waldermar Mordecai Haffkine.
- ✓ The institute is located in Sans Pareil.
- ✓ Sans Pareil was the official residence of Governor of Bombay.
- ✓ It is now affiliated to University of Mumbai.

Virafin

- ✓ The Drug Controller General of India recently provided “**Restricted Emergency Use Approval**” for the use of “**Virafin**”.
- ✓ Virafin is used to **treat moderate COVID-19** infections.
- ✓ A single dose of Virafin during the early stage of infection, will help COVID-19 patients recover faster. Also, it will help to avoid complications.
- ✓ It will help to reduce the need for oxygen support.
- ✓ Virafin improves recovery time in moderate cases of COVID-19.
- ✓ According to **Zydus 91.15%** of adult patients treated with Virafin tested negative using RT-PCR in **seven days**.

COVAXIN neutralizes double Mutant Strain

- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research recently announced that COVAXIN neutralises the Double Mutant Strain of COVID-19.
- ✓ The National Institute of Virology recently demonstrated the neutralisation potential of COVAXIN against the Brazil variant and UK variant.
- ✓ The B.1.617 is a recently spreading double mutant variant of COVID-19.
- ✓ It carries the mutations of E484Q and also the mutations of L452R.

COVISHIELD protects against Double Mutant

- ✓ The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology recently announced that COVISHIELD vaccine protects against B.1.617 variant.
- ✓ It is also called the double mutant strain.
- ✓ The vaccines were tested against the double mutant variety using the **Vitro Neutralisation assay**.
- ✓ Vitro Neutralisation assay is used to detect if an antibody is capable of preventing virus replication.

Nodavac-R

- ✓ The Central Institute of Brackish Aquaculture located in Chennai has developed an indigenous vaccine for Viral Nervous Necrosis.

- ✓ The name of the vaccine is **Nodavac-R**.
- ✓ The disease is caused by the **Betanodavirus**. It mostly affects teleost fish.
- ✓ More than forty species are affected by this virus and most of them are marine species.
- ✓ In India the disease has been a serious concern affecting freshwater, marine and brackish water fishes largely.
- ✓ They result in **100% mortality in fishes** that are in juvenile and larval stages.
- ✓ **Red Spotted Grouper Nervous Necrosis Virus** is the only genotype found in India.
- ✓ The infected adults are the main carriers. They transmit the virus to their offspring through the eggs.

ZyCoV-D

- ✓ ZyCoV-D is the India's first indigenously developed DNA plasmid-based vaccine.
- ✓ It was developed by Zydus Cadila Healthcare and approved by the Drugs Controller General of India.

COVIRAP

- ✓ **IIT Kharagpur (Kgp)** has successfully commercialized its flagship healthcare product - COVIRAP.
- ✓ This **novel diagnostic technology** will be useful for infectious diseases including COVID-19 and beyond.
- ✓ The COVID-19 diagnostic test can be conducted directly from **human swab samples** in the portable device.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CACTus and CMEs

- ✓ Scientists have developed a new technique for tracking the huge bubbles of gas threaded with magnetic field lines that are ejected from the Sun, disrupting space weather and causing satellite failures, geomagnetic storms, and power outages.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

- ✓ The ejections from the Sun are technically called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
- ✓ These cause several disturbances to the space environment and thus forecasting their arrival time is very crucial.
- ✓ The forecasting accuracy is however hindered by limited CME observations in interplanetary space.

Computer Aided CME Tracking Software (CACTus)

- ✓ Is a software-based on **computer vision algorithm** that was so far used to detect and characterize such eruptions automatically in the outer corona where these eruptions cease to show accelerations and propagate with an almost constant speed.

Shape shifting drone

- ✓ A team of researchers from IIT Hyderabad has developed and innovative unmanned aerial vehicles(UAV). The Drone was named '**Elasticopter**'.

Image of Black Hole Magnetic Field

- ✓ For the first time, international scientists working on the **Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)** have created an image showing the magnetic field around a black hole.
- ✓ The black hole is located in **M87 galaxy**.
- ✓ In 2019, the astronomers working on the EHT captured the first image of the shadow of the same black hole.
- ✓ The conclusion of the analysis is that only presence of **strong magnetic fields shall polarize this huge volume of light energy**.
- ✓ Polarization is a phenomenon caused due to the electromagnetic property of light.
- ✓ The polarized light waves are waves in which vibrations occur in a single plane.

Biggest Solar Power Plant

- ✓ The biggest floating solar power plant of India is to be set up at Ramagundam in Telangana.
- ✓ The project is commissioned by NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation).
- ✓ NTPC aims to **reduce its carbon footprints and increase its green energy production to 30%** of its capacity through this solar power plant.
- ✓ The largest solar power plant in the world is being set up by India on **Omkar Eshwar Dam on Narmada river** in

Madhya Pradesh. The project is expected to start its power generation by 2022-23.

- ✓ The first floating solar power plant in India was installed in Kolkata in 2014.
- ✓ Currently, the largest floating solar power plant of India is located in **Banasura Sagar reservoir in Wayanad, Kerala.**

X rays come from Uranus

- ✓ For the first time, astronomers have detected X-rays radiating from the Uranus, using **NASA Chandra x-ray observatory.**
- ✓ The Researchers used the Chandra examinations taken on Uranus in 2002 and then again in 2017 to confirm the X-ray radiation.
- ✓ There was a clear detection of the X-rays in the first observation and the possible player of X rays in second observation.

Military College develops AI based device

- ✓ Hyderabad based Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering has developed a device that uses artificial intelligence to prevent road accidents by raising an alarm for drivers from sleepy.

Advanced Chaff Technology

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation recently developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard naval ships against missile attacks.
- ✓ One of the **DRDO laboratories** located in Jodhpur developed three variants of the Advanced Chaff Technology.
- ✓ They were Short Range Chaff Rocket, Long Range Chaff Rocket and Medium Range Chaff Rocket.
- ✓ The Chaff technology is used in Naval ships worldwide to self-defend against enemy **radar and radio frequency missile seekers**.
- ✓ Chaff is originally called **Window**. The idea of using Chaff developed in the era of second world war.
- ✓ It is basically a **radio frequency counter measure**.

Touch Sensitive Watch

- ✓ A professor and a research associate of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have developed a sensitive watch for the use of visually impaired people. The watch has tactile hour indicators of different shapes.
- ✓ The watch provides user privacy as it does not require audio feedback.

NASA Ingenuity helicopter lands on marks

- ✓ NASA's ingenuity helicopter, which was attached to the belly of Perseverance rover has been dropped on the surface of Mars.

LHC

- ✓ Physicists at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Switzerland might have discovered a brand-new force of nature.
- ✓ LHC is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator.
- ✓ It is designed to produce proton-proton collision.
- ✓ The beams travel in opposite directions in two separate beam pipes kept at ultrahigh vacuum.
- ✓ They are guided around the accelerator ring by a strong magnetic field maintained by superconducting electromagnets.

IIT Delhi develops a device

- ✓ A group of researchers from IIT Delhi has developed a handheld device for the early diagnosis of dengue.
- ✓ With this device, test results will be generated within one half hour while the current process takes more than a day.

China constructing its fifth rocket launch site

- ✓ A port city in Eastern China has launched a plan to build the country's 5th rocket launch site.

Quakes in Mars

- ✓ Nasa's InSight lander has recorded over 500 quakes to date on Mars since November 2018.
- ✓ The two recent quakes of **magnitude 3.3 and 3.1**.
- ✓ They originated in a region called **Cerberus Fossae**.
- ✓ These findings support the idea that the planet is seismically active.

Oral Delivery of Insulin

- ✓ A revolutionary technology developed within the Trabolsi Research Group at **New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)** could dramatically improve the well-being of diabetic patients through a simple and straightforward way: **an insulin oral delivery system** that could replace traditional subcutaneous injections without the side effects caused by frequent injection.
- ✓ Using prepared **layers of nanosheets with insulin** loaded in between layers to protect it, researchers developed **gastro-resistant imine-linked-covalent organic framework nanoparticles (nCOFs)** that exhibited insulin protection in the stomach as well in diabetic test subjects whose **sugar levels completely returned to**

normal within two hours after swallowing the nanoparticles.

Wolf–Rayet stars

- ✓ Indian astronomers have tracked a rare supernova explosion.
- ✓ They have traced it to **one of the hottest sets of stars** called Wolf-Rayet stars or WR stars.
- ✓ **Supernovae** are powerful and luminous stellar explosions in the Universe releasing a monstrous amount of energy.
- ✓ Long-term monitoring of these transients opens the door to understand the nature of the exploding star as well as the explosion properties.
- ✓ It can also help enumerate the number of massive stars.

NanoSniffer

- ✓ The Union Education Minister recently launched the world's **first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector** called the “NanoSniffer”.
- ✓ The NanoSniffer was developed by an IIT Bombay incubated startup called NanoSniff Technologies. It is marketed by the IIT Delhi incubated startup Kritikal Solutions.
- ✓ The NanoSniffer can detect explosives in **less than ten seconds**. It can detect all class of military, homemade and conventional explosives.

- ✓ It uses **MEMS system**. MEMS is Micro-Electromechanical System. It can detect even **nano gram quantities of explosives**.

Solar-powered poultry incubator

- ✓ The **Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University**, in association with Panimalar Engineering College, recently developed a solar-power backed poultry incubator.
- ✓ This is designed **for rural and small-scale poultry farmers**.
- ✓ This over comes the disadvantage of electric incubators, which affects hatchability due to power shortage or frequent suspension of supply.

First Female Astronaut of UAE

- ✓ Noura al Matroushi has been named as the **first Female Astronaut of UAE**.
- ✓ She was selected as the first female astronaut of UAE from four thousand other applicants.
- ✓ She is to be trained with NASA for future space exploration missions.
- ✓ Noura is to be accompanied by **Mohammed al-Mulla**.
- ✓ Both astronauts are to be trained with Johnson Space Centre of NASA located in Houston, Texas.

- ✓ The country has plans to send unmanned space mission to the **moon in 2024**.
- ✓ Also, UAE has launched “**amal satellite**” to the mars in 2020.
- ✓ In 2019, **Hazza al-Mansoori was the first UAE astronaut to enter the space**. He spent eight days at the International Space Station.
- ✓ However, the **first Muslim woman to enter space was Anousheh Raissyan**.
- ✓ She was also the **first Iranian woman** to enter space.

Artemis Programme

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration programme will land the first person of colour on the moon as a part of its Artemis Programme.
- ✓ In addition, NASA will also **land first woman on the moon** under the programme.
- ✓ NASA had finalised around 18 astronauts under its Artemis Programme. It included the **Indian American Raja Chari**.
- ✓ The main objective of the programme is to launch a **manned mission to the south pole region of the moon by 2024**.
- ✓ The programme is to be implemented in three parts. They are as follows:

- ✚ Artemis I: To be launched in **2021** and is an uncrewed flight. It will test the **Space Launch System** and the Orion spacecraft.
- ✚ Artemis II: It is the first crewed flight test and is targeted to be launched in **2023**.
- ✚ Artemis III: It will land astronauts on the south pole of moon in **2024**.

20th anniversary of Odyssey

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the US recently released the image of Mars to mark the 20th anniversary of Odyssey.
- ✓ The image depicted **Dunes in Mars**.
- ✓ The planet looked in electric blue in the image. The title of the image was “**Blue Dunes on the Red Planet**”.
- ✓ The image had two types of dunes.
 - ✚ One set of dunes were **bluish** representing colder climates.
 - ✚ The other set of dunes were **yellowish** in colour and represented warmer climates.
- ✓ The **THEMIS instrument** on the Mars Odyssey captured the shots.
- ✓ THEMIS is **Thermal Emission Imaging System**. It had sent more than one million images since it began orbiting the planet.
- ✓ Odyssey entered the **Mars orbit in 2001**.

- ✓ Odyssey is the longest lasting spacecraft in Mars till date.
- ✓ It was launched on April 7, 2001. It arrived at Mars on October 24, 2001.
- ✓ Odyssey detected **large amounts of Hydrogen**. It is a sign that ice should be lying within a metre of the surface of the planet.
- ✓ Odyssey also discovered **water ice near the surface of equatorial regions** of the red planet.

Narrow Line Seyfert 1

- ✓ The scientists from Aryabhata Research Institute have discovered a new galaxy that emits **gamma rays**.
- ✓ The galaxy has been categorised as Narrow Line Seyfert 1 (NLS1).
- ✓ It is **31 billion light years away from the earth**. The galaxy is located at a high **redshift**.
- ✓ The redshifted galaxies are those galaxies that **emit longer wavelength**.
- ✓ As the wavelength of light gets longer the light turns redder. This is termed as “redshifted” in astronomy.
- ✓ The discovery of NLS1 has challenged the idea of how relativistic jets are formed.
- ✓ **Relativistic Jets** are ionised matter that travel at speed of light. They are associated with Quasars, pulsars, neutron stars.

Rashid

- ✓ Lunar exploration from my space transport United Arab emirates unmanned rover to the moon in 2022.
- ✓ The UAE had announced in September 2020 that it is planned to launch the rashes Rover by 2024.

ISRO sign agreement with France

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation recently signed an agreement with the French Space Agency CNES. CNES is National Centre for Space Studies.
- ✓ CNES stands for Centre National d'etudes Spatiales.
- ✓ According to the agreement, CNES is to help India in its **first Human Space Mission** called the **Gaganyaan**.

India-France in Space Relations

- ✓ India and France share a **robust ties** in the area of space cooperation. The **first space agreement** between the countries was signed in **1964**.
- ✓ India is to launch joint **Oceansat 3-Argo mission in 2021**. It will track movement of ships globally and particularly those ships moving in the Reunion Islands of France in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ India and France have agreed to work on **inter-planetary missions to Venus and Mars**.

NASA to launch SpaceX Crew 2

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is to launch four astronauts to the International Space Station on World Earth Day (April 22).
- ✓ NASA is to launch the mission along with SpaceX.
- ✓ The mission will transport **four scientists** to the International Space Station.
- ✓ The astronauts to travel to the International Space Station are from **NASA, JAXA and ESA.**
- ✓ JAXA is Japanese Space Agency and ESA is European Space Agency.
- ✓ Crew Dragon was the first space vehicle to launch humans from American soil in nine years. It was first launched in May 2020.
- ✓ It evolved from an earlier design **called Dragon 1.**
- ✓ SpaceX Crew 1 was the first time astronauts used a spaceship developed and launched by a private company. Also, it carried back astronauts to the earth.

e-Taxi

- ✓ Chennai IIT has designed a small airplane flying e-taxi to ease traffic congestion.
- ✓ It is battery operated and can carry up to 2 passengers.

Scientists create music from spider webs

- ✓ Scientist at the Massachusetts institute of Technology in the US have translated the structure of web into music.
- ✓ The team assigned different frequencies of sound to two strands of the web, creating 'notes' that they combined in patterns based on the web's 3D structure to generate melodies.
- ✓ The researchers then created a harp-like instrument and played the spider web music on it.

Luna 25: Russian Moon Mission

- ✓ The **Roscosmos** is to launch Luna 25 by October 2021. The Roscosmos is the State Space Corporation of Russia that is responsible for space flights, aerospace research and cosmonautics programmes.
- ✓ It will study the **exosphere around the south pole of the moon**.
- ✓ Till date no spacecraft has been to this region of the moon.
- ✓ The European Space Agency has been developing a package called **PROSPECT** for Luna 25.
- ✓ It is to be used for lunar drilling and sample analysis. **PROSPECT is Package for Resource Observation and in-Situ Prospecting for Exploration.**
- ✓ The last of the Luna series was Luna 24 that was launched in **1976**.

- ✓ It was the **third Soviet Union mission** to retrieve lunar surface samples. The first Luna mission was launched in 1970.
- ✓ Lunar-A was a proposed orbiter of Luna 25 mission. It was to be developed through a merger between Roscosmos and JAXA (Japanese Space Agency).

New super Earth detected

- ✓ A student at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias has uncovered a new super Earth orbiting the star GJ 740, a red dwarf.
- ✓ It only takes 2.4 days to complete one orbit around its star.
- ✓ This super-Earth has three times the mass of the earth.

Scientists create whitest ever paint

- ✓ Scientist at Purdue university have developed a paint significantly "Whiter than the white paint currently available".
- ✓ The newly developed Ultra white paint reflects more than 98% of Sunlight.
- ✓ This new paint Technology could help to save energy and to fight against climate change.

Ingenuity makes historic flight

- ✓ The Ingenuity Mars Helicopter has successfully become the first aircraft in **history to fly in another planet.**

- ✓ The success message of the flight of the helicopter was received through the **Perseverance rover**.
- ✓ Perseverance Rover acted as the **medium of communication** throughout the flight of Ingenuity.
- ✓ During the flight, Ingenuity reached a **maximum height of ten feet (three metres)**. It also maintained a stable hover for **thirty seconds at that height**.
- ✓ The flight of Ingenuity was not recorded in real time due to the distance between the Mars and the Earth.
- ✓ The data between the control station in the earth and perseverance rover was sent and received through the **Deep Space Network of NASA**.
- ✓ Scientists say it was the **Wright brothers'** moment when the Ingenuity helicopter flew successfully to Mars.
- ✓ In 1903 the Wright brothers' first plane flew successfully.

Russia to launch its own Space Station

- ✓ The agreement between Roscosmos and its international partners is to run out in **2024**.
- ✓ With this, Russia has planned to pull out of the International Space Station and launch its own space station in 2025.
- ✓ The International Space Station was launched by the US space agencies and Russian Space agencies in **1998**.

Three Mutant Virus

- ✓ As India is struggling to battle COVID-19 crisis, a triple mutant variant strain of COVID-19 has emerged as a fresh threat. It is also called the “**Bengal Variant**”.
- ✓ The triple mutant variant has been identified in **West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi and Chhattisgarh.**
- ✓ Recently, a double mutant variety has been spreading in India rapidly. This double mutant carried mutations namely **E484Q and L452R.**
- ✓ The E484Q was reported to be found in **UK and South Africa.** The L452R mutation was found in **California.**
- ✓ However, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently announced that **COVAXIN works against these mutations.**
- ✓ The new triple mutant variant carries the above double mutants along with **another mutation in amino acids.**
- ✓ In the triple mutant, two amino acids such as **H146del and Y145del have been deleted.**

Cosmic Rose

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently shared an image of “Cosmic Rose”.
- ✓ **Cosmic Rose** is an image captured by **Hubble Space Telescope of NASA.** The image featured interacting galaxies Arp 273.

- ✓ It lies in the Andromeda constellation. It is 300 million light years away from the earth.
- ✓ It is a combination of spiral galaxy **UGC 1810 and UGC 1813**.
- ✓ UGC 1810 is **five times heavier than UGS 1813**.
- ✓ The UGC 1810 has a **disc that is tidally distorted** into a rose like shape.
- ✓ The distortion is mainly due to the gravitational pull of UGC 1813 that lies beneath.

MOXIE

- ✓ The Perseverance rover of Mars 2020 Mission of NASA recently **converted carbon dioxide into oxygen**.
- ✓ This is the first time this has been achieved in another planet. This was achieved by **MOXIE**, an instrument placed in the **front side of the rover**.
- ✓ MOXIE is **Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilisation Experiment**.
- ✓ MOXIE is also called “**Mechanical Tree**”. This is because, it uses **electricity and chemistry to split carbon molecules into carbon and oxygen**.
- ✓ In due process, it produces carbon monoxide as a byproduct.
- ✓ MOXIE is capable of generating **ten grams of oxygen in one hour**.

- ✓ MOXIE was designed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- ✓ It was built with **nickel-alloy**. The alloy is heat-resistant and is designated to tolerate temperatures of **1,470 degrees Fahrenheit**.

COVIRAP

- ✓ The **IIT Kharagpur** has successfully commercialised the healthcare product COVIRAP.
- ✓ COVIRAP is a diagnostic technology to detect COVID-19 virus. The technology is also capable of testing influenza, dengue, malaria. Tuberculosis and Japanese Encephalitis.
- ✓ Also, the technology can be used to test other vector borne diseases.

NASA SHIELDS Mission

- ✓ NASA recently launched the SHIELDS Mission from the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The Mission is to study light from **interstellar particles in the heliosphere**.
- ✓ **SHIELDS is Spatial Heterodyne Interferometric Emission Line Dynamics Spectrometer.**

- ✓ It will fly to a **height of 300 kilo metres**. At this height SHIELDS can see light from particles beyond the solar system.
- ✓ The **magnetic bubble** created by the sun is called **Heliosphere**. The heliosphere moves through the Local Bubble at 52,000 miles per hour.
- ✓ SHIELDS will study about the **hydrogen atoms that originate in interstellar space**. These atoms have equal balances of fundamental particles called **electrons and protons**.

Human cells grown in monkey embryos

- ✓ Researchers at the Salk Institute for biological studies in the US have for the **first time grown human cells in monkey embryos**.
- ✓ Researches have created what is called a **Chimeric tool**.
- ✓ Chimeras are organisms that are made up of the cells of two distinct species, in this case, humans and monkeys.

Closest black hole

- ✓ Scientists have discovered one of the smallest black holes on record and the **closest to one to earth**.
- ✓ The black hole is about **three times the mass of our Sun**, which measure tiny for a black hole.
- ✓ The black hole is **1500 light years away from Earth**, inside the Milky Way galaxy.

- ✓ The researchers have dubbed it as "The Unicorn".

SPACEX rocket ship launches 4 astronauts

- ✓ **NASA and Elon Musk's** commercial rocket company has launched of new **four Astronaut team** on a flight to the International Space Station.
- ✓ It is the **first crew** ever propelled into orbit by a rocket booster recycled from a previous spaceflight.

Tissue Chips

- ✓ Tissue Chips are **devices designed to mimic the functions of human organs**. They are also called Organ on chips.
- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration recently launched **Crew 2 Mission**. The mission carried **four astronauts** to the International Space Station.
- ✓ The astronauts are to conduct more than **two hundred experiments in space**. One of them is using Tissue Chips.
- ✓ The astronauts will **use the Tissue chips** and find out how **bodily systems respond to spaceflight**. The following are the experiments to be conducted by the astronauts using the tissue chips:
 - ✚ The **kidney stones** happen to form in micro gravity conditions very quickly. One tissue chip investigation will look into the reasons behind this.

- ✚ The other tissue chip investigation will look at how **immune system of the body** respond to microgravity conditions. This investigation on Human Immune System has been named **CHIME**.

NEO-01

- ✓ A Space Mining Startup of China recently launched NEO-01. It is a robotic platform launched into the low earth orbit.
- ✓ It will conduct experiments on space debris removal technique.
- ✓ The NEO-01 robot was launched on Long March 6 rocket.
- ✓ It was launched to observe the small celestial bodies in deep space.
- ✓ The robot will now conduct experiments to clear space debris.
- ✓ It is to use large net to capture space debris. After capturing, it will burn the debris using electric propulsion system.

Python 5 Air to Air Missile

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation recently test fired a series of missile trials. It included the Derby missiles and the Python missiles.

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- ✓ The missiles were test fired in Goa and achieved 100% hits.
- ✓ With this the DRDO announced that the Python 5 Air to Air Missile has been successfully added to the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
- ✓ The Israeli Government began manufacturing missiles in the name of “Shafir”.
- ✓ Later as it started exporting missiles it selected a western name “Python” or “Derby”.

MultiSCREEN

- ✓ Russian biotechnology company bio pallet has launched the mass production of MultiSCREEN.
- ✓ It is the world's first test system designed to simultaneously screen for the presence of a disease such as HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis.

Most powerful supercomputer

- ✓ **Microsoft and UK Met office** have cleaned up to build the world's most powerful supercomputer to forecast weather and climate change.

Patania II

- ✓ A Deep-sea mining robot, Patania II got stranded on the Pacific Ocean floor.

- ✓ The Patania II robot was designed to explore rocks rich in Nickel and Cobalt in the Pacific Ocean at a depth of 13,000 feet.
- ✓ The Umbilical cable of the robot got detached when its first trials were near completion. Cobalt and Nickel are essential for low carbon technologies.

China launches key module

- ✓ China launch and unmanned module, named "Tianhe", or "Harmony of the heavens", what launched on long March 5B, china's largest carrier rocket.
- ✓ Tianhe from some main living quarters for three crew members in the Chinese Space Station, which will have a lifespan of at least 10 years.

Aditya-L1 Support Cell

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ It is a joint effort of ISRO and ARIES.
- ✓ Aditya-L1 is an Indian space mission that will study the sun and also the region between the earth and the sun.
- ✓ It is to carry seven payloads developed by different institutions of the country.

ECONOMY

Interest rates on small saving schemes

- ✓ Government has reduced the interest rates on various small savings schemes for the first quarter of this financial year starting from 1st April 2021.
- ✓ The saving deposit rate has been revised from 4% to 3.5% anomaly while the public provident fund rate has been cut down to 6.4% from 7.1% annually.
- ✓ Senior citizen Saving Scheme rate has been lowered from 7.4% to 6.5% quarterly.

6 digit HSN code

- ✓ GST taxpayer having a turnover of more than Rs.5 crore in the preceding financial year we have to furnish six digits harmonized system of nomenclature HSN code, and service accounting code, SAC.

RBI lowers base rate

- ✓ Various loans offered by non Banking Finance Companies and the Micro Finance Institute are expected to be cheaper from 1st April 2021.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has communicated that the applicable base rate will be charged at 7.81%.
- ✓ It has been lowered by 15 Basis points(0.15%).

India's GDP to grow to 10.1%

- ✓ World bank has raised Indian GDP growth prediction for 2021-22 fiscal to 10.1% from 5.4% projector in Jan 2021.
- ✓ The real India GDP growth could be in the range of **7.5%** to **12.5%**.

Changes in Income Tax rules

- ✓ Union finance minister has announced to some changes in the Income Tax rules while presenting the budget. They came into force on 1st April 2021.
- ✓ The start of a new financial year, senior citizens of the age 75 and above income from pension and interest from fixed deposit in the same bank exempted from filling the income tax return, ITR.

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam

- ✓ Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam in UP listed itself BSE and successfully raised Rs.150 cross by issuing a Municipal Bond on a private placement basis using BSE BOND.
- ✓ This is the first ever green Bond issuance by any municipal corporation in the country.

Small Saving Schemes

- ✓ The National Savings Institute operating under the Ministry of Finance recently announced that **West Bengal**

is the top contributor to the Small Savings Scheme in the country.

- ✓ The state contributes 15% of the total corpus.
- ✓ West Bengal was followed by Uttar Pradesh with a contribution of 15.09%.
- ✓ Maharashtra was ranked third. The state of Maharashtra contributed 10.57%
- ✓ Gujarat was ranked fourth. Gujarat contributed 8.16%
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranked fifth contributing 4.8%.

Recent Developments of Small Savings Schemes

- ✓ The Government of India recently announced that the interest rates of Small Savings Schemes are being lowered.
- ✓ The interest rates of **Public Provident Funds** are lowered from 7.1% to 6.4%.
- ✓ The interest rates of **National Savings Certificate** are lowered from 6.8% to 5.9%.
- ✓ The interest rates of **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** is to be lowered from 4% to 3.5%. This scheme was launched for the parents of girl child. It encourages the parents of a girl child to build funds for her future education.

NFT Marketplace

- ✓ The WazirX, one of the leading cryptocurrency exchanges has recently launched India's first market place for NFT. NFT is Non-Fungible Tokens.

- ✓ The launch will now allow Indian creators to place their digital assets for auction and earn loyalty.
- ✓ Non-Fungible Tokens - It is a unit of data on a digital ledger called a block chain.
- ✓ Every NFT data represents a unique digital item. It can be audios, art, videos, video games or other forms of creative works.
- ✓ Only those things that can be used simply by buying or downloading online can be placed here for auction.
- ✓ A NFT is a cryptographic token. However, unlike cryptocurrencies, the NFTs are not mutually interchangeable, that is, not fungible.

India leads in Digital Payments

- ✓ The UK based payments system company **ACI** recently released a report on digital payments.
- ✓ According to this report, **India has the highest number** of real-time online transactions in 2020.
- ✓ The Digital payment market of India is led by Paytm, PhonePe, BharatPe, Pine Labs, etc.
- ✓ The **UPI (Unified Payment Interface)** transaction **increased by 18.7%** in March 2021 as compared to February 2021.
- ✓ India was ahead of China, US, South Korea, UK, Thailand in number of online transactions.

- ✓ According to this report, the share of electronic transactions in India will exceed **50% by 2024**.

RBI Consumer Confidence Index

- ✓ The survey was conducted in major cities of the country over **5,000 respondents**.
- ✓ The Consumer Confidence Index declined from **55.5 points in January 2021 to 53.1 points in March 2021**.
- ✓ The Survey measures consumer perception on five economic variables such as **employment, economic situation, price level, spending and income**.
- ✓ The Consumer Confidence Survey has two main indices namely **current situation index and future expectations index**.
- ✓ The future expectations index measures **what consumer thinks** about the change in an economic issue one year ahead.
- ✓ The current situation index measures the **change in consumer perception** over an economic issue in the last year.

G-Sec acquisition programme

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently announced a Government Security Acquisition Programme, GSAP 1.0. Under the programme, the central bank will purchase

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- ✓ According to the report, India is estimated to record an economic growth of **7% in 2021-22**,
- ✓ The previous fiscal witnessed a **contraction of 7.7%** on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.

UNESCAP

- ✓ The UNESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia Pacific region.
- ✓ It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region including India.

ADB approves for CKIC Project

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank recently approved 484 million USD for **CKIC (Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor)** in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The project is to strengthen road safety programmes through advanced technologies for road monitoring.
- ✓ The project will also improve the planning capacity of **Tamil Nadu Highway and Minor Ports Department**.
- ✓ CKIC is a part of **East Coast Economic Corridor**.
- ✓ The main objective of CKIC is to increase the participation of manufacturing industry in production networks and create jobs along the corridor.
- ✓ It stretches from **West Bengal to Tamil Nadu**.

- ✓ In 2016, ADB approved Phase 1 of the East Coast Corridor, which is, **Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor**.
- ✓ The East Coast Corridor plays a crucial role in Make in India campaign.
- ✓ It supports port-led industrialisation strategy under the Sagar Mala initiative.

India's Debt to GDP increased to 90%

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund recently announced that the debt to GDP ratio of India increased from 74% to 90% due to COVID-19 crisis.
- ✓ This is to increase to 99% in 2021. The international financial organisation has also stated that this is to reduce to 80% after economic recovery.
- ✓ The Debt to GDP ratio is the ratio between the debt of the Government measured in the units of its currency to the GDP measured in the same unit.
- ✓ When the Debt to GDP ratio is low, it means that the country produces and sells goods and services that are sufficient to pay back debts without incurring further debts.
- ✓ The Debt to GDP ratio of India has remained 70% since 1991.
- ✓ The current increase is mainly due to COVID-19 crisis.

Financial Inclusion Index

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will periodically publish a “Financial Inclusion Index” (FI Index) **annually in July**.
- ✓ This is for the financial year ending previous March.
- ✓ To measure the extent of financial inclusion in the country, the Reserve Bank proposes to construct and publish a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) based on multiple parameters.

Solidarity Tax on Pandemic Winners

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund recently announced Solidarity Tax on Pandemic Winners.
- ✓ That is, the companies that prospered during COVID-19 crisis should pay **additional tax** to show solidarity towards those hit hardest by the pandemic.
- ✓ It is a **temporary tax**. It shall be imposed to reduce social inequalities that increased during the recent health crisis.
- ✓ The solidarity tax was **introduced in Germany in 1991** after the East and West Germany were joined together.

Immunity India Deposit Scheme

- ✓ The Central Bank of India has launched the Immunity India Deposit Scheme.
- ✓ The Central Bank has announced an additional 0.25% interest rate for those who are vaccinated.

Sudharsan Sen Committee

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently set up a committee to study about the **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC)** in the country.
- ✓ The committee will evaluate the role of ARCs in debt resolution and will **review their business model.**
- ✓ The Committee is headed by **former RBI Executive director Sudarshan Sen.**

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- ✓ It aims to provide financial assistance to start-ups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- ✓ It was announced in the **‘Prarambh: Startup India International Summit’** that marks the five-year anniversary of the Startup India initiative.
- ✓ The SISFS will Secure seed funding, inspire innovation, support transformative ideas, facilitate implementation, and Start start-up revolution.
- ✓ The government has approved Rs. 945 Crore corpus for the fund, which will be divided over the next 4 years.
- ✓ Nodal Department: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

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Ace Money Neobank

- ✓ Aceware FinTech Services launched Kerala's first neobank called Ace Money Neobank.
- ✓ It has joined in partnership with YES Bank and ICICI Bank for this.
- ✓ Aceware is a Kerala-based fintech services company.
- ✓ The services of Ace Money Neobank are available at all the panchayats in Kerala.

Neobanks

- ✓ It is a kind of digital bank, entirely online instead of being present physically at a specific location.
- ✓ Chqbook (Chqbook.com) - India's first Neobank for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships.
- ✓ FamPay - India's first Neobank for teenagers.
- ✓ Finin - India's first full-fledged consumer neobank.

NAVY

DRDO lab developed bullet proof jacket

- ✓ The DRDO has developed a lightweight bullet proof jacket that weighs 9 kg and meets the qualitative requirements of Indian Army.

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- ✓ Indian Army will participate in multinational military exercise mainly 'Shantir Ogroshena - 2021' in Bangladesh.
- ✓ The theme of the exercise is '**Robust peacekeeping operations**'.

Aces Meet 2021-1

- ✓ Pakistan announced the commencement of this multinational Air Force exercise 'Aces Meet 2021-1'.
- ✓ Pakistan Air Force(PAF), royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) and US Air Force(USAF) are participating in the games.

La Perouse

- ✓ Indian Navy Ships INS Satpura and INS Kiltan along with P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft are participating, for the first time, in multi-lateral maritime exercise La Perouse.

INS Sarvekshak

- ✓ The INS Sarvekshak is on a deployment to Mauritius for undertaking **Hydrographic surveys** along with Mauritius.
- ✓ It will also provide training to the Mauritian personnel on advanced hydrographic equipment and practices during the deployment.

- ✓ INS Sarvekshak has visited Port Louis and commenced the hydrographic survey of “**Deep Sea Area off Port Louis**”.
- ✓ The INS Sarvekshak is fitted with survey equipment such as Side Scan Sonars, Deep Sea Multi Beam Echo Sounder and a completely automated digital surveying and processing system.
- ✓ The INS Sarvekshak carries an **integral Chetak helicopter**. The helicopter is deployed during the survey.
- ✓ INS Sarvekshak was the **first ship of Indian Navy to deploy solar power**.

Freedom of Navigation Operation

- ✓ The US Navy recently conducted Freedom of Navigation Operation in the **Indian Ocean Region** near Lakshadweep.
- ✓ During the operation, the US warship entered the **Exclusive Economic Zone** of India without seeking prior consent from India.
- ✓ The warship that entered **Indian EEZ** was a **Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones**.
- ✓ The Freedom of Navigation is an **international law** according to which ships flying the flag of a sovereign state shall not suffer interference from other states unless otherwise provided in the international laws.

Balikatan

- ✓ Philippines and US to hold 2-week “**Balikatan**” (Shoulder-to-Shoulder) military exercise from April 12.

IAF first Conference

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opens the first conference of Indian Air Force Commanders on April 15 at the Air Force Headquarters in New Delhi.

INAS 323 commission that Goa

- ✓ Indian Naval air Squadron 323, the first unit of the indigenously built ALH Mk III air craft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Goa.

Khanjar

- ✓ India and Kyrgyzstan recently held a joint Special Force Military Exercise called the “**Khanjar**”. The exercise was held at **Bishek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan**.
- ✓ The Khanjar exercise is held annually between India and Kyrgyzstan **since 2011**.
- ✓ The **INSTC** (International North South Transport Corridor) and **Chabahar ports** were planned and developed to fulfil India’s interests in central Asia.
- ✓ Developing good relations with Kyrgyzstan is thus important for India.

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KRI Nanggala-402

- ✓ The Indian Navy has joined the rescue operation for an Indonesian submarine KRI Nanggala-402.
- ✓ Indonesia's its 44-year-old submarine, KRI Nanggala-402, went missing while conducting a torpedo drill north of the island of Bali.

Varuna-2021

- ✓ The 19th edition of the **Indian and French Navy** bilateral exercise 'Varuna-2021' has started in the **Arabian Sea**.
- ✓ The two navies will endeavour to enhance their **warfighting skills** in order to demonstrate their ability as an integrated force to promote security, peace and stability in the maritime domain.

DEFENDER-Europe 21

- ✓ The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation recently launched the joint military exercises in Albania called the "DEFENDER-Europe 21".
- ✓ Thousands of military forces from the US are participating in the exercise.
- ✓ In 2021, the exercise is to focus on building operational readiness and interoperability.

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ENVIRONMENT

Whale Shark

- ✓ A whale shark was rescued by fishers in Odisha coast.
- ✓ The dotted whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean.
- ✓ It is often called '**Gentle Giant**' in fishing parlance.
- ✓ It is a '**filter feeder shark**'. It means it does not eat meat like other sharks.
- ✓ The largest whale shark aggregation in India is along the Gujarat coasts.
- ✓ Whale sharks are found in all the tropical oceans of the world.

Odisha's second Biosphere Reserve

- ✓ The Odisha state government has proposed a second biosphere reserve in the southern part of the state at Mahendragiri.
- ✓ It is a mountain in the **Gajapati district** of the state. It is at an altitude of 1,501 metres.
- ✓ Mahendragiri is also the **second-highest peak in the state**.
- ✓ **Soura people** are the inhabitants at Mahendragiri. Soura is a particularly **vulnerable tribal group** as well as the Kandha tribe.
- ✓ Similipal Biosphere Reserve is the first biosphere reserve of Odisha.

Ashafaq Ulla khan zoo

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Shaheed Ashfaq Ulla Khan Zoological Park in Gorakhpur recently.
- ✓ This is the **first zoo in Purvanchal** and the third in that state.
- ✓ The zoo has been named after great freedom fighter Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan.

New Butterfly species in Western Ghats

- ✓ This is the first time that a butterfly species was discovered by an all-Indian research team from the Western Ghats.
- ✓ A new taxon of **Lycaenid butterfly** has been discovered by researchers in the Western Ghats.
- ✓ The taxon belongs to **Nacaduba genus**.
- ✓ The name of the butterfly species was suggested as Ramaswami's Six Line blue and '**Ceylon Varayanneeli**'.

Biodiversity Heritage site

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has declared an area at Amboli in western Ghats in the Sindhudurg district as a biodiversity Heritage site.
- ✓ The development change after **Schistura hiranyakeshi**, freshwater fish was spotted for the first time in the Western Ghats in a pond.

Culex Mosquito

- ✓ With the change in season and rise in temperature, culex or common house mosquitoes have made reappearance across Delhi.
- ✓ Unlike *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which spread dengue and chikungunya and breed in clean water, culex mosquitoes breed in unclean stagnant water.
- ✓ Culex mosquitoes are known as carriers or vectors of diseases such as Japanese encephalitis, West Nile Virus and Lymphatic filariasis.
- ✓ They bite by detecting body heat and carbon dioxide that humans exhale.

Plant-Insect Gene Transfer

- ✓ The Chinese scientists have recently identified the transfer of genes from plants to insects.
- ✓ Usually transfer of genes happen among the same family. For instance, the genes of a human parent get transferred to his or her child.
- ✓ Here the insect called **whiteflies** has incorporated a portion of DNA from plants into their genome.
- ✓ The transfer of gene from one family to another is referred to as horizontal gene transfer.

- ✓ The incorporated gene found was **BtPMaT1**. The whiteflies use **this gene to neutralise the toxic compounds produced by the plants against them.**
- ✓ The Chinese scientists have found that the insect whiteflies use the stolen gene to degrade common toxins in plants.
- ✓ Plants use these toxins to defend themselves against insects. The incorporation of the plant gene in the whiteflies allow the insects to feed on the plants safely.
- ✓ This is one of the main reasons why whiteflies still prevail as the major threat to agricultural crops.
- ✓ This is because they have built a **strong defence mechanism** against the plants using this gene incorporation.

Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI)

- ✓ Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) is a rational number to characterise the quality of the environment at a given location following the algorithm of source, pathway and receptor.
- ✓ A Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) did an assessment of Tamil Nadu's CEPI scores.
- ✓ **Vellore is the state's most polluted district** in terms of river pollution.

- ✓ This is the **first time** the Cherry trees have bloomed this earlier in Japan.
- ✓ Previously, the earliest Cherry Blossoms in Japan occurred **before 1,200 years**.
- ✓ This year, due to climate change, the flowers reached this stage earlier than usual.

Robo Plant

- ✓ The scientists from Singapore have developed a technology to interact with plants. The technology has been named as “Robo Plant”.
- ✓ In future, this technology can be further used to enable farmers to detect diseases in plants.
- ✓ The plants can tell farmers that they are hit by diseases through this technology.
- ✓ The Singapore scientists achieved in building the technology by linking plants to electrodes.
- ✓ These electrodes were capable of monitoring weak electrical pulses that are naturally emitted by green plants.

Three banded Rosefinch

- ✓ A team of scientists from the Bombay Natural History Society recorded a new species of bird. It has been identified as the three banded Rosefinch.

- ✓ The new bird species was identified while exploring the high-altitude coniferous forests of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The three branded Rosefinch is a resident of southern China and a vagrant in Bhutan.
- ✓ Vagrant is a person with no home.
- ✓ The bird was first photographed at an altitude of 3,852 meters above the sea level.
- ✓ It was seen along with the flock of white browed Rosefinch. The white browed Rosefinch is commonly seen in this landscape.
- ✓ The Indian Vultures experienced catastrophic population decline.
- ✓ The White-rumped Vulture suffered the most severe decline followed by Indian Vulture and Egyptian Vulture.

Green house gas emission

- ✓ A new study published in the journal Biological Conservation says that many animals and plants might face extinction if green house gas emissions continue to rise.
- ✓ All the Endemic species in **islands** are at **high risk of extinction** due to climate change.
- ✓ **Four out of every five** endemic species in **mountains** are at the high risk of extinction due to climate change.
- ✓ **95% of marine species and 92% of land-based species** will face reduction in numbers.

- ✓ In **tropical region**, over **60%** of **endemic species** are facing extinction due to climate change.
- ✓ By maintaining the global heating **well below two degrees Celsius** as mentioned in the revised **Paris Agreement** will help to save majority of the species.
- ✓ According to the study if the global temperature increases by **three degree Celsius**, then a third of the endemic species living on land and half of endemic species living in sea will face extinction.

According to the report, the following will occur in 2050:

- ✓ By 2050, the **islands** in Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka, Philippines, and the Western Ghats **will lose most** of their endemic plants if the current situation prevails.
- ✓ If the Greenhouse Gas Emissions increase, then the places such as Madagascar and Caribbean Islands **will lose all their endemic plants by 2050.**

Endangered Irrawaddy Dolphin

- ✓ The Chilika Development Authority and the State Wildlife Wing recently carried out an annual dolphin census in the Chilika lake.
- ✓ According to the report of the census, the overall Irrawaddy dolphin population in the lake has increased from **146 to 162 in 2021.**
- ✓ The Irrawaddy Dolphins have been listed under **Endangered category in the IUCN Red List.**

- ✓ The Dolphin distribution in Chilika lake is the highest **single lagoon population**.
- ✓ These dolphins are mainly found in three rivers namely **Mekong (China), Irrawaddy (Myanmar) and Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo)**.

Nepal's Rhino Population rises

- ✓ The number of one horned rhinoceros in Nepal has **increased by 16.5%** in last 5yrs, despite an increase in cases of natural death and incidents of poaching.
- ✓ One horned rhinoceros is also known as **Indian rhinoceros**.
- ✓ The species is listed as '**vulnerable**' on the **IUCN Red List**.

Deadly algae

- ✓ **Deadly algae** have killed more than 4,000 tonnes of **Salmon in Chile**. The algal bloom in the water reduced the **amount of oxygen suffocating the salmon fishes**.
- ✓ More than **eighteen salmon fish farms** that produce **26% of world salmon** have been affected.
- ✓ The **presence of urea and ammonia** in the salmon farms led to the algal bloom.
- ✓ Chile is the **second largest producer** of Salmon in the world after Norway.

- ✓ Algal Bloom is rapid increase of algal population in marine water or fresh water.
- ✓ It occurs due to the **nutrients from phosphorous or nitrogen fertilizer** run off. They create harmful effects such as blocking of sunlight.
- ✓ This causes depletion of oxygen level in water.

Facebook and CleanMax

- ✓ The Facebook has recently signed a deal to buy renewable energy in India from a local firm called CleanMax.
- ✓ This is the **first renewable project** of Facebook in India.
- ✓ The project is located in **Karnataka**.
- ✓ The Facebook is to start the operations of the data centre in 2022.
- ✓ The data centres are set to account for **14% of carbon emissions by 2040**.
- ✓ This is one of the main reasons why Facebook is turning towards green energy options to power its data centres.

FSRU

- ✓ India's **first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit** (FSRU) has arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal in the Ratnagiri district of **Maharashtra**.
- ✓ FSRU based LNG Terminals aim at providing the ability to enhance the pace of natural gas import capability in an **environment-friendly and efficient manner**.

- ✓ The port is the first deep water, 24×7 operational private port in Maharashtra.
- ✓ It will deliver regasified LNG to the 56-km long **Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline.**

Bill on Climate change for Financial firms

- ✓ New Zealand recently introduced a bill on Climate Change for financial firms.
- ✓ The bill is the **first of its kind in the world.**
- ✓ New Zealand has fixed **2050** as the deadline to become carbon neutral.

Hydrogen Roundtable

- ✓ The Hydrogen Roundtable, the first of its kind, was titled as “**The Hydrogen Economy - New Delhi Dialogue 2021**”.
- ✓ It was organised by the Energy Forum (TEF) and the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ✓ Hydrogen economy is an economy that relies on hydrogen as the commercial fuel that would deliver a substantial fraction of a nation’s energy and services.
- ✓ The term '**hydrogen economy**' was coined by John Bockris in 1970.

Only 3% of land areas unspoiled by humans

- ✓ The researchers from Key Biodiversity Areas Secretariat at Cambridge have figured out the amount of “Intact Habitat” on the earth.
- ✓ An Intact habitat is an unbroken natural landscape with no signs of human activity.
- ✓ The functionally intact regions were the northern Canada, east Siberia for boreal, Congo basin Amazon, Sahara Desert and the Tundra Biomes.

Tyrannosaurus rex outnumbered 2.5 billion

- ✓ According to a new study at the **University of California** more than **2.5 billion** Tyrannosaurus rex roamed the earth more than million years ago.
- ✓ So far, hundred fossils of T rex have been found on the earth.
- ✓ The oldest Indian Fossil record of dinosaurs belongs to the Triassic period.
- ✓ **Triassic period** is between 251.9 million years ago and 201.3 million years ago.
- ✓ Dinosaurs first appeared during Triassic period.
- ✓ They became the dominant terrestrial vertebrates after Triassic-Jurassic Extinction event.

State of the Global Climate 2020 Report

- ✓ The World Meteorological Organisation recently released this report.
- ✓ **2011-2020 was the warmest decade in record.**
- ✓ 2020 is one of the three warmest years on record.
- ✓ The **Cyclone Amphan** is the **costliest tropical cyclone** on record in the North Indian Ocean.
- ✓ The Cyclone made a landfall in May 2020 near **India-Bangladesh border.**

Disc-footed bat

- ✓ **Meghalaya** has yielded India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs.
- ✓ It was recorded in Meghalaya's **Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- ✓ The disc-footed bat has raised Meghalaya's bat species count to 66, the most for any State in India.

Light Pollution

- ✓ The Researchers recently found that Light pollution from satellites '**poses threat**' to astronomy.
- ✓ **Artificial satellites and space junk orbiting the Earth** can increase the brightness of the night sky.
- ✓ The **overall brightness of the night sky** will be increased by **more than 10 per cent** above natural light levels across the planet.

■ Fiji

■ Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean

Note:

- ✓ Oceans are highly important for human survival as they regulate weather, rainfall and oxygen levels in the air.
- ✓ Currently they are under great threats from pollution, climate change and over fishing.

Maui Dolphins

- ✓ The Maui Dolphins are found only in the **West Coast of New Zealand** and nowhere else in the world.
- ✓ They are one of the smallest dolphin's subspecies globally. There are only **63 Maui dolphins left in the world.**
- ✓ It will collect data on dolphins' habitat, behaviour and population size.
- ✓ The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Maui Dolphins under **Critically Endangered species.**
- ✓ The **Toxoplasmosis disease** is currently the biggest threat of Maui Dolphins. It is caused by a parasite found in cat faeces.

Potamophylax coronavirus

- ✓ **Biologist Halil Ibrahimi** has named a newly discovered insect after COVID-19 virus.

- ✓ The species was found in Accursed Mountains (Kosovo's Western Bjeshket e Nemuna National Park).
- ✓ It has now been named as "Potamophylax coronavirus".
- ✓ The species is endemic to the National Park.
- ✓ The new species is considerably smaller and lives in open and high-altitude zones, that is, 2,000 metres above the sea level.
- ✓ During his study about the Caddisfly species, the scientists have also found that the Decanit River is severely deteriorated due to the construction of a hydropower plant.
- ✓ The construction of the hydropower plant across the river has a similar effect as the coronavirus creates on humans.
- ✓ Thus, the new species found near that place has been named after coronavirus.

Decanit river

- ✓ It is a tributary of **White Drin**.
- ✓ The Monastery of Visoki Decani is located on the bank of the River Decanit.
- ✓ It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ✓ The river drains into the Adriatic Sea.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

"Names of the Women" book

- ✓ A book titled "Names of the Women" was authored by **Jeet Thayil**.

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- ✓ The book talks about the women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or erased in the Gospels.
- ✓ Jeet Thayil is a renowned author, best known for his book 'Narcopolis'.
- ✓ His most recent book 'Low' was released in 2020.

Suparipalana

- ✓ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has announced the book 'Suparipalana' written by Dr. Silendra Joshi.
- ✓ This book is the Telugu translation of "Echo T-calling: Towards People - Centric Governance" book written by Telugana Former Chief Secretary Shri S.K. Joshi.

Dariba Lindem book

- ✓ The name named "Name Place Animal Things" was written by Dariba Lindem.

Nithin Gokule book

- ✓ **Manokar Parrikar : Brilliant Mind, Simple Life** was written by Nithin Gokule.

Odisha itihās

- ✓ PM Modi will release the Hindi translation of the book 'Odisha itihās'.

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- ✓ It was written by 'Utkal Keshari' **Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab**. He was a notable figure in the Indian Independence movement.
- ✓ He wrote the book in **Ahmednagar Fort jail**, which he was in present for more than two years from 1942 to 1945.

Suresh Raina's autobiography

- ✓ Raina and Bharat Sundaresan have written Suresh Raina's autobiography, *believe what life and cricket taught me*.

Akash Vanisan

- ✓ The e-book **Climate change Explained – for one and all** was released Akash Vanisan.

Amitav's Ghosh new book

- ✓ 'The living mountain: A Fable for Tennis' new upcoming book by Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author Amitav Ghosh.

SPORTS

ICC ODI ranking

- ✓ Virat Kohli has retained his top spot in the ICC rankings for ODI batsman.
- ✓ Rohit Sharma has been ranked 3rd.

India wins at Dubai para badminton

- ✓ In badminton, defending world champion Pramod Bhagat two gold medals has India clinched their campaign in the third Sheikh Hamdan bin Al Maktoum Dubai Para badminton International 2021 in Dubai with 20 medals.

Sportstar of the Decade

- ✓ **M. C. Mary Kom**, the only boxer to win eight world championships medals was named sports star of the decade.

First Indian woman sailor

- ✓ **Nethra Kumanan** becomes first Indian woman sailor to qualify for Olympics.

Chhattisgarh government's Veerni Award

- ✓ **Athlete Dutee Chand**, the Jakarta Asian Games-silver medalist in 100 and 200m to receive Chhattisgarh government's Veerni Award; holds **national record of 11.22 secs in women's 100m**.
- ✓ In 2019, she became the 1st Indian woman to win a gold medal at the World University Games held in Italy.

Tokyo Olympics Qualifiers

- ✓ Women wrestlers Anshu Malik (57 kg), Sonam Malik (62 kg) qualify for Tokyo Olympics.

Babar Azam

- ✓ International Cricket Council ranking for ODI batsman, pakistan captain Babar Azam has plane to the no.1 post.
- ✓ Virat Kohli was pushed to 2nd place.

Asian Wrestling Championships

- ✓ **Sarita Mor** has won the gold medal in the asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ India also won 2 bronze medals through Seema and Pooja beside Sarita's gold.
- ✓ India's Ravi Kumar Dahiya wins gold in the 57 kg weight category at the Asian Wrestling Championships.
- ✓ World Championship silver medalist Deepak Punia settled for a silver medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Vinesh Phogat

- ✓ The Indian Wrestler Vinesh Phogat and Anshu Malik has won her maiden Gold at the **Asian Wrestling Championship**. Vinesh Phogat won the medal beating Taipei's Meng Hsuan Hsieh.

- ✓ This is **her third gold medal**, but first at the Asian Wrestling Championship.
- ✓ She was the first Indian woman to win gold at Asian Games and Common Wealth.
- ✓ Also, she was the first Indian athlete to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards.

India's Mirabai Chanu create world record

- ✓ India's weightlifter Mirabai Chanu set a new world record in clean and jerk by **lifting 119 kg** at Asian weightlifting Championship.
- ✓ Previously, the world record for clean and jerk was 118 kg.
- ✓ Mirabai also created a new national record as she lifted a **total of 205 kg** and **won the bronze medal** at Asian weightlifting Championship.

T20 final

- ✓ Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium will host the T20 world cup final in november 2021.
- ✓ BCCI has also decided to field both the men's and the women's team at the 2028 Los Angels Olympics of the game is included in the roster.

MUSC Health Women's Open

- ✓ Astra Sharma claims first WTA Tour title at MUSC Health Women's Open.

Asian Wrestling Championship

- ✓ India's Jhilli Dalabehera wins her maiden gold medal at Asian Weightlifting Championship.
- ✓ India's Jhilli Dalabehera wins her maiden gold medal at Asian Weightlifting Championship.

Maiden Master Championship

- ✓ Tsitsipas Wins Maiden Masters 1000 Crown In Monte-Carlo Championships.

Srihari Nataraj wins gold

- ✓ Srihari Nataraj creates national record, wins second gold in Uzbekistan.
- ✓ Ace Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj created a national record in 50m backstroke while winning his second gold of the Uzbekistan Open Championship here.

Indian women Boxers creates history

- ✓ In the World Youth boxing championships, Indian women Boxers created history with **seven gold medals** in Kielce, Poland.

Virat Kohli

- ✓ Virat Kohli has become the first player in history to score 6000 runs in IPL.

Water Sports & Adventure Institute

- ✓ Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI) has been established by the **IndoTibetan Border Police (ITBP)** at **Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand**.
- ✓ The institute was inaugurated by Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.
- ✓ ITBP's Mountaineering and Skiing Institute at **Auli** will independently run this institution.
- ✓ This institution will impart training in aero, water and land-related sports and adventure activities.

Archery World Cup

- ✓ In the archery World Cup, the Indian women's recurve including Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and Komalika Bari won gold medal in Guatemala.

Istanbul Tennis Championship

- ✓ Sorana Cirstea won her first WTA Tour title in 13 years in the final of the BNP Paribas Tennis championship in Istanbul, Turkey.

Serbia Open Tennis

- ✓ **Italian Matteo Berrettini** won the Serbia Open after beating Russia's Aslan Karatsev in the final at Novak Djokovic's claycourt tennis centre in downtown Belgrade.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Dada Saheb Phalke award

- ✓ Rajnikant will be honoured with the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award for the year 2019.
- ✓ Which award is the highest honour of Indian cinema. He became the fifty first actor to get this award.

Saraswati Samman 2020

- ✓ The Noted Marathi writer **Dr Sharankumar Limbale** will receive Saraswati Samman award 2020.
- ✓ This award is for his book **Sanatan**.
- ✓ Saraswati Samman is recognised as the most prestigious and highest literary award in the country.
- ✓ Sanatan is an important **social and historical document of the Dalit struggle**.

Oscars 2021 - First Asian woman

- ✓ **Chloe Zhao** is the first Asian woman and second woman ever to win **best director** at the Academy Awards.

- ✓ The Chinese-born Zhao not only directed **Nomadland**, but also wrote the screenplay and edited the film.
- ✓ **Katheryn Bigelow was the first woman** to win the Oscar for **Best Director**.
- ✓ She won in 2010 for **Hurtlocker**.

Order of Rising Sun

- ✓ The Japanese Government recently awarded the “Order of Rising Sun” to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh.

Promotion of Sports Honour

- ✓ The **Odisha State government** has won the Best State for the Promotion of Sports Honour in 2021 edition of the Sportstar Aces Award.
- ✓ This is the **State’s third win** in a row at the Sportstar annual awards.

Kalinga Ratna award

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh governor Vishva Bhushan harichandan has conferred the Kalinga Ratna Award for the year 2021.
- ✓ The Kalinga Ratna Award carry the Silver statue of goddess Saraswati and the copper plaque.

International Award for Forester

- ✓ **Ramanathapuram Forest Ranger Sudesh** has been awarded the International Award for Forest Conservation.
- ✓ The Swiss-based International Organization for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is set to present the International Wilderness Award for the first time this year.

GD Birla Award for Scientific Research

- ✓ **Professor Suman Chakraborty** has been selected for the 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research.
- ✓ He is awarded for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare.
- ✓ GD Birla Award for Scientific Research recognises eminent Indian scientists below the **age of 50** for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science or technology.

Turing Award 2020

- ✓ **Alfred V. Aho** has won the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award.
- ✓ Aho shares the award with his long-time collaborator Jeffrey David Ullman.
- ✓ The Turing Award carries a **\$1 million prize**, with financial support provided by Google, Inc.

Devishankar Awasthi Award 2020

- ✓ The famous Devishankar Awasthi Award has been awarded to the prolific Hindi prose, journalist, and critic **Ashutosh Bhardwaj**.
- ✓ This honour has been given to him for his work '**Pitra-Vadh**'.
- ✓ This book has been published in English under the name of '**The Death Trap**'

BAFTA Awards

- ✓ '**Nomadland**' won four prizes including best picture at the British Academy of film and Television arts.
- ✓ '**Nomadland**' filmmaker Chloe Zhao become the second woman, and the first woman of colour, to win the BAFTA for best director.
- ✓ Frances McDormand was named best actress.
- ✓ Emerald Fennell's revenge comedy "Promising Young Woman" was named Best British film.

Kane Williamson

- ✓ New Zealand cricket captain Kane Williamson has been awarded the **Sir Richard Hadlee Award** for the fourth time in six years.

Wisden awards

- ✓ England all-rounder Ben Stokes is '**Cricketer of the Year**'
- ✓ Dom Sibley, Zak Crawley, West Indian Jason Holder, Mohammed Rizwan and Darren Stevens named **Wisden Cricketers of the Year in the 2021** edition of Wisden Almanack
- ✓ Australia's Beth Mooney is '**Leading Women's Cricketer in the World**'
- ✓ India captain Virat Kohli Wisden Almanack's **ODI player of the 2010s**
- ✓ Sachin Tendulkar is the **ODI Cricketer of the 1990s**
- ✓ Kapil Dev was named as the **ODI Cricketer for the 1980s**

Champions of Change Award

- ✓ DMK President MK Stalin was awarded in Goa the '**Champions of Change**' Award for Social Welfare Programs on behalf of the Indian Forum on Indian Economy Organization for its Excellent Implementation of Social Welfare Programs.

Emilia Romagna Grand Prix

- ✓ **Max Verstappen** recorded a victory in India, defeating Lewis Hamilton, at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix.

Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021

- ✓ **Rumana Sinha Sehgal**, Software engineer turned entrepreneur from Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021 by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace.

Wild Innovator Award

- ✓ Conservation Scientist **Dr. Krithi Karanth**- The **FIRST INDIAN** and Asian Woman chosen as a 2021 Wild Innovator.

PERSONALITIES

Anil Dharker

- ✓ The Noted journalist and author **Anil Dharker** passed away recently.
- ✓ He was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival.
- ✓ Dharker had been the editor of a variety of publications such as '**Debonair**', '**MidDay**'; '**The Independent**' and '**The Illustrated Weekly of India**'.
- ✓ He has authored '**The Romance of Salt**', a book on Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March.

India's first environment minister passed away

- ✓ Former Union environment minister and MLA from Gujarat **Wankaner Digvijaysinh Zala** passed away.
- ✓ He became the first environment minister of the country from 1982 to 1984.
- ✓ Zala was an MLA for the years from 1962 - 67 as an **independent candidate** and as a member of **Swatantra party** from 1967 -71.

Mrs Galaxy

- ✓ Wing Commander **Shruti Chauhan** will be representing India at the Mrs Galaxy competition, scheduled to be held in Chicago.
- ✓ She was in the spotlight at the **Miss India Inc** world beauty pageant 2021, held in the last week of January 2021, where she was the second runner up.
- ✓ Wing Commander Chauhan was also recently conferred with the **Maharashtra women achievers award**.

Bhagwati Singh

- ✓ Founder member of the Samajwadi Party and former up Minister Bhagwati Singh passed away on 4 April 2021.

Vaishali

- ✓ Vaishali S Hiwase has become the first woman officer to be appointed as officer,nding border roads organisation.

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- ✓ She will be responsible for providing connectivity through and **Indo - China border Road.**

Ex Attorney General passes

- ✓ Veteran lawyer and former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee passes away.
- ✓ He became the Attorney General of India 1st from 1989-90 and then from 1998-2004.

Army soldier starts Ultra marathon

- ✓ An Indian Army soldier has started Kashmiri Tu Kanyakumari ultramarathon to make it to the Guinness Book of World Records.
- ✓ Naik N. A. Velu P, ultra marathon runner is attempting a Guinness Book of World Record by running from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

Dr. T. N. Ramachandran

- ✓ DN Ramachandran is one of the foremost cultivators of Tanjore Tamil scholars. Translator with proficiency in Tamil and English.
- ✓ He has received more than 15 high awards and has done a great job of translating all of Bharathi's poems.
- ✓ His English translation of Thiruvasaka was published in 2001 by the World Tamil Research Institute.

- ✓ Abdul Kalam, in a letter to him, said, "Your simple English translation of the Holy Quran has made me realize the superiority of Tamil."

Prince Philip passes away

- ✓ Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth, passes away.
- ✓ He was a leading figure in British royal family for almost seven decades.
- ✓ The 99-year-old has long held the title of '**Consort**' given to a spouse of a king or queen in British history.

Bharat Pannu

- ✓ Indian Army Lt Col. Bharat Pannu has earned 2 Guinness World Records for his fastest solo cycling feats from October 2020.
- ✓ The first record was created when he cycle from **Leh to Manali(472km)**, in just 35 hrs 25 mins.
- ✓ He created a second record when she cycle did the 5,942km long '**Golden Quadrilateral**' route which connect Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in 14 days, 23 hrs and 52 mins.

Chandra Naidu passes away

- ✓ India's **first female cricket commentator** Chandra Naidu passed away.

- ✓ She was the daughter of the country's first Test captain CK Naidu.
- ✓ She had done her **first commentary** during a match between **national champions Bombay (now Mumbai) and MCC** in Indore in **1977**.
- ✓ She had also penned a book titled '**CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers**' on her late father.

Sonu Sood: Covid vaccine ambassador

- ✓ Bollywood actor Sonu Sood has been made the brand ambassador for Punjab's anti coronavirus vaccination programme.
- ✓ The actor also presented to the chief minister of his book 'I am no Messiah' on the same day.

I.A. Rahman

- ✓ Rahman, a Pakistani human rights activist, has died.
- ✓ He was born in India, he has been a constant voice for Hindus and Christians, Pakistan's minorities.
- ✓ He has received various awards, including the Magsaysay Award.

Charles Geschke

- ✓ Charles Geschke, co-founder of Adobe and developer of PDFs, dies at 81.

Kiara Kaur

- ✓ For a 5-year-old girl named Kiara Kaur, her love for books helped her set a **unique world record**. The Indian-American girl living in **Abu Dhabi**.
- ✓ Recently, she entered **London's World Book of Record and Asia Book of Record** for reading **36 books non-stop for 105 minutes**.
- ✓ She set the record on February 13. The World Book of Records called her a '**child prodigy**.'

Dr Soosan Jacob

- ✓ Dr Soosan Jacob of Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital recognized among **top 100 global women ophthalmologists**.
- ✓ The Power List is compiled every year by '**The Ophthalmologist**', a premier international publication dedicated to the field of ophthalmology and selection is on the basis of national and international recognition among peer ophthalmologists.
- ✓ Dr Soosan Jacob has over **21 years of experience**, specializing in cornea, refractive surgery and cataract surgery.

First woman mayor of Bathinda Municipal Corporation

- ✓ Raman Goyal become the first woman mayor of Bathinda menstrual Corporation.

Poonam Gupta

- ✓ She will be the new director-general of the policy think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- ✓ She becomes the first woman to hold the post.
- ✓ Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone of NCAER campus on 31 October 1959.

GVG Krishnamurty

- ✓ Former election commissioner GVG Krishnamurty died due to age-related ailments.
- ✓ An Indian Legal Service officer, Krishnamurty became the election commissioner in October, 1993.

Former CBI director passes away

- ✓ Former Central Bureau of Investigation director Ranjit Sinha passed away.
- ✓ During his lifetime, held several senior posts including that of the CBI director and the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

Helen Mccrory passes away

- ✓ British actress Helen Mccrory, who started in the television show peaky blinders and the Harry Potter movies, passed away.

- ✓ She was also known for her Charity work, including FeedNHS, a campaign run during the pandemic.

Writer Ganjaa Venkatasubbaiah passes away

- ✓ Kannada lexicographer and Padmashree award Ganjaa Venkatasubbaiah passed away in Bangalore.
- ✓ She was proficient in Kannada literature, poetry, essays and translations.
- ✓ He had also received the Padma Shri, Kannada Sahitya Academy Award and the **Pampa Award**.

Ex-RBI governor M Narasimhan passes away

- ✓ The architect of modern Indian banking, former RBI Governor **Maidavolu Narasimhan** passed away.
- ✓ He also founded the **credit planning cell in RBI**, which became the monetary policy department.
- ✓ He was known as the **father of banking sector reforms in India**.

Priyanka Mohite

- ✓ Priyanka Mohite becomes **First Indian Woman To Scale Mt Annapurna**.
- ✓ Priyanka also holds the record for being the **first woman in India to scale Mt Makalu**, the fifth highest mountain in the world at **8,485 metres**.

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- ✓ Scaling new heights has been a familiar turf for Priyanka, who has also previously **climbed Mt Everest in 2013 and Mt Lhotse in 2018.**
- ✓ She scaled **Mt Everest at the age of 21**, making her the **third youngest Indian to do so.**

Soliha Shabir

- ✓ **Soliha Shabir** from Srinagar added her name in "**India's World Records**".
- ✓ She is the youngest and first author in Jammu and Kashmir "who has recreated the life of **Habba Khatoons** poetry (**Zoon Book**)."

Actor Vivek

- ✓ Tamil actor Vivek recently passed away at 59.
- ✓ In 2009, the Government of India awarded Vivek the **Padma Shri award** for his contribution to the arts.
- ✓ His **nickname Chinna Kalaivanar** was as compared with NS Krishnan.
- ✓ In **2010**, Vivek launched **Green Kalam**, under the guidance of former President of India A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- ✓ He had been appointed an **ambassador for the Plastic Pollution Free Tamil Nadu campaign.**

Arjun Kalyan

- ✓ Tamil Nadu teenager Arjun Kalyan has become India's 68th chess Grandmaster.

Classical singer Ranjan Mishra

- ✓ Renowned classical singer pandit Ranjan Mishra passed away.
- ✓ He was the legend of Hindustani music and belongs to the Banaras Gharana.

Scientist Dr Krishnamoorthy Santhanam dies

- ✓ Scientist Dr Krishnamurthy Santhanam passed away.
- ✓ He was a nuclear scientist in the field director of the defence research and development organisation during the test of Pokhran II.
- ✓ He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1999.

Manoj Das

- ✓ Manoj Das, an Indian author who wrote in **Odia and English**, passed away.
- ✓ He made with contributions to English and Odia literature.

Michael Collins

- ✓ Astronaut Michael Collins a member of **Apollo 11 mission** passed away.
- ✓ He was one of the three crew members of the **first manned mission to the moon**, apollo 11 in **1969**.

- ✓ Out of the three crew members, calling had stayed in lunar Orbit, which his colleague **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon.**
- ✓ In this machine, calling works as a Command Module Pilot.

APPOINTMENTS

Mallika Srinivasan

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mallika Srinivasan as the chairperson of PESB for a **period of three years.**
- ✓ This is for the **first time that a private sector specialist** has been appointed as the head of the PESB, responsible for the appointment of top management posts in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), officials said.

Indumathi Kathiresan

- ✓ Tamil Nadu player Indumathi Kathiresan has been appointed as the captain of the Indian football team.

Chief Justice of India

- ✓ Justice N V Ramana, who was recently appointed as the Chief Justice of India is to assume charge on April 24, 2021.

Associate administrator for UNDP

- ✓ Usha Rao-Monari from India has officially taken the role of Under Secretary General and Associate administrator of the United Nations development programme.

DGP Shabir

- ✓ BCCI has appointed former Gujarati GP Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala as the head of anti corruption unit(ACU).

Sanjeev Kumar

- ✓ Sanjeev Kumar, maharashtra cadre IAS officers, took over as a **chairman of the Airport Authority of India.**
- ✓ He replaces **Anuj Agarwal**, who was the interim chairman of the AAI for about three months.

Santhosh Kumar

- ✓ N.S. Santhosh Kumar was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.

Chief election commissioner

- ✓ Election Commissioner **Sushil Chandra** has been appointed as the chief election commissioner.

- ✓ He will assume the charge, a day after incumbent of Sunil Arora demits office.

K Satyagopal

- ✓ K Satyagopal, a retired IAS officer, has taken charge as an expert member of the Southern National Green Tribunal in Chennai.

3 Member Panel

- ✓ A three-member convener committee headed by higher education secretary **Apoorva** will run Anna University in the absence of vice-chancellor.
- ✓ As the tenure of Vice-Chancellor **M K Surappa**'s tenure ended on 11 April, the government has formed a three-member convener committee to oversee the day-to-day affairs of Anna University.

P. Dhanapal

- ✓ Puducherry Chief Justice Dhanabal has been appointed as the Chief Registrar of the Chennai High Court by Chief Justice Sanjay Banerjee.

Ajay Seth

- ✓ Ajay Seth, an IAS officer, charge as a new Secretary of the department of economic affairs, finance ministry.

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- ✓ The crucial bureaucratic position had fallen vacant after the government named Tarun Bajaj as the new revenue secretary.

SIDBI Chairman

- ✓ Sivasubramanian Ramann takes charge as SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director.
- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing, and development of micro, small & medium enterprises.
- ✓ The appointment is for a period of three years.

CAG selected as External auditor

- ✓ India's comptroller and Auditor General GC Murmu as the external auditor by a prestigious intergovernmental organisation working for the elimination of chemical weapons.
- ✓ The Hague- best conference of state parties of the organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons(OPCW) selected the CAG as its External auditor for the three year term starting 2021.

T V Somnath

- ✓ IAS officer T V somnath has been designated as a Finance Secretary.

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- ✓ He was previously serving as a secretary of the Department of Expenditure in the Finance ministry.

Vanita Gupta

- ✓ The US Senate has confirmed Vinita Gupta to service **associate attorney General of the US**, making the first Indian American to serve in this role.
- ✓ It is the **third highest position** in justice Department.

Rekha Menon

- ✓ It industry's apex body NASSCOM has appointed Rekha Menon as chairperson.
- ✓ She is the chairperson and senior Managing Director at Accenture in India.
- ✓ She has become the **first woman** to take up the role of chairperson for Nasscom in its 30-year history.

MISCELLANEOUS

Global Gender Gap Report 2021

- ✓ The World Economic Forum has released the Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- ✓ India has seen a decrease in its ranking on the index by 28 places.
- ✓ India has been ranked **140th among 156 countries** on the index.

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- ✓ With this, India became the third-worst performer in South Asia.
- ✓ In 2020, India was ranked 112th among 153 countries.
- ✓ The decline also took place on the **economic participation and opportunity subindex**.
- ✓ The income earned by women in **India is the only 1/5th of that earned by men**. This has put India among the bottom 10 globally on this indicator.
- ✓ South Asia is the second-lowest performer on the index among regions.
- ✓ **Iceland has topped the index for the 12th time** and is the most gender-equal country in the world.

Public Survey Report

- ✓ The World in 2030: Public Survey Report was recently published by UNESCO.
- ✓ The report was published by the organisation based on the survey held between May 2020 and September 2020.
- ✓ According to the report, Climate Change, Violence and Conflict, Loss of Biodiversity and discrimination and inequality, water and housing, lack of food are the four biggest challenges to peaceful societies of 2030.

Vegetable sold for Rs. 1lakh

- ✓ Amresh Singh has grown one of the most expensive vegetables in the world in the village of Gramnit in Bihar.

- ✓ The seeds of a vegetable called 'Hop Sheets' bought from a vegetable research institute in Varanasi are being sold for Rs. 1 lakh per kg.

Inclusive Internet Index

- ✓ The Economist Intelligence Unit along with Facebook recently released the Inclusive Internet Index.
- ✓ According to the index, **India is at the 49th spot** when it comes to internet inclusion and gender equality in accessing the internet.
- ✓ The Facebook Inclusive Internet Index looked at 120 countries.
- ✓ These countries represented 96% of global population and 98% of global GDP.
- ✓ Along with India, Thailand was also at the 49th.
- ✓ **Sweden ranked first** in the ranking followed by US and Spain.
- ✓ In Inclusive Internet Index, 2020, the US was ranked first followed by Sweden and New Zealand.
- ✓ India was ranked at **52nd on Inclusive Internet Index, 2020.**

Haru Oni Project

- ✓ The Porsche has joined with Siemens Energy to produce eFuel by 2022 in a project called Haru Oni project at Chile.

- ✓ Electro Fuel are the emerging class of carbon neutral fuels and the complex hydrocarbon.

UN Food Systems Summit

- ✓ The United Nations Secretary General has called for the first ever UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September 2021.
- ✓ India will hold National Dialogue on UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

Misuse of Internet by terrorists

- ✓ The National Investigation Agency recently organised a virtual event with BRICS countries on “Misuse of Internet by terrorists”.
- ✓ India hosted the seminar as it is holding the BRICS chair for the year 2021.

My Body is My Own – report

- ✓ Recently, The **United Nations Population Fund’s** (UNFPA) Flagship State of World Population Report 2021 titled ‘**My Body is My Own**’ was launched.
- ✓ This is the first time a United Nations report has focused on **bodily autonomy**.

- ✓ Nearly half the women from **57 developing countries** do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies.
- ✓ It also includes using contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality.
- ✓ Only 75% of countries legally ensure full and equal access to contraception.

World Press Freedom Index, 2021

- ✓ The Reporters Without Borders, a not-for-profit body recently published the World Press Freedom Index, 2021. It ranked **180 countries**.
- ✓ India ranked **142 in the index**. India was at the same position in 2020 as well.
- ✓ **Norway topped the index** followed by Finland and Denmark.
- ✓ The index was topped by **Norway in 2020** as well.
- ✓ India was at rank **133 in 2016** and has been sliding positions since then.
- ✓ According to the World Press Freedom Index, the BJP supporters in the country have created an environment of intimidation for critical journalists.
- ✓ The report classified India under “**BAD**” category along with Brazil, Russia and Mexico.
- ✓ The report has also made **an open statement that Prime Minister Modi “Tightens his Grip on Media”**.

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- ✓ Hate-campaigns are waged on social networks against journalists who dare to speak or write about the subjects **annoying the Hindutva followers.**

Energy transition index

- ✓ India has been ranked at the **87th position among 115** countries in the energy transition index.
- ✓ The report from the world economic forum was released and prepared in collaboration with Accenture.

Chandler Good Governance Index

- ✓ The Index is released by the Chandler Institute of Governance headquartered in **Singapore.**
- ✓ The index is prepared based on **seven pillars.**
- ✓ India ranked **49th** in the Chandler Good Governance Index **out of 104 countries.**
- ✓ **Finland topped** the ranking following Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Denmark and Norway.
- ✓ India celebrates Good Governance Day on **December 25.**
- ✓ The **United Nations** identifies Good Governance under **eight characteristics.**

HISTORY TO BE REMEMBERED

Jallianwala Bagh massacre: 13 April

- ✓ April 13 marks the day of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

- ✓ He is famously known for the protection he provided to the Sikhs and the Hindus against a 17th-century law that forced them to convert to Islam.
- ✓ He was executed in the **city of Delhi** on the orders of **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb** after he refused to embrace Islam.
- ✓ His son Guru Gobind Singh was the last Guru of the Sikhs.
- ✓ The name Guru Tegh Bahadur was given to him by **Guru Hargobind**.

World Autism awareness day : April 2

- ✓ The theme of the world Autism awareness day 2021 is '**Inclusion in the workplace: Challenges and opportunities in a post-pandemic world**'.
- ✓ On 2007, the UN general Assembly designated April 2 as world Autism awareness day.

International Children's Book Day

- ✓ International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).
- ✓ The day is observed since 1967.
- ✓ Theme for the year 2021 is "**The Music of Words**".

World Party day - April 03

- ✓ Idea to have a World Party day came up in 1996 after the release of novel '**Flight: A Quantum Fiction Novel**'.
- ✓ The World Party Day aims to synchronize a massive, world-wide party to celebrate everything that's good and optimistic.
- ✓ It is an optimistic celebration of humanity which aims to promote unity, diversity and peaceful coexistence.

International mine awareness day: 4 April

- ✓ The United Nations International Day for mine awareness and assistance in mine action is observed on April 4 each year.
- ✓ This day aims to raise awareness about landmines and progress towards their eradication.

Babu Jagjivan Ram Jayanti: 5 April

- ✓ 5 April 2021 marked the 114th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter and delete icon, Jagjivan Ram. He was popularly known as **Babuji**.
- ✓ He holds a **world record of being a parliamentarian** for 50 years.
- ✓ He was the **Defence Minister of India** during the India Pakistan war of 1971.

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- ✓ He was also the **deputy Prime Minister** of the country between 1977 and 1979.

National Maritime Day: April 5

- ✓ Every year the National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 in India. The first National Maritime Day was celebrated in 1964. The day is dedicated to seafarers.
- ✓ The theme of National Maritime Day, 2021 '**Sustainable Shipping beyond COVID-19**' on the lines of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' initiative.

History behind this

- ✓ Indian shipping began on April 5, 1919.
- ✓ The first ship of India The **SS Loyalty** sailed from Mumbai to United Kingdom. It was manufactured by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited.
- ✓ World Maritime Day is celebrated on September 30 every year by United Nations
- ✓ The theme of 2021 World Maritime Day is **Seafarers at the core of Shipping's future**

Day of sport for Development and Peace : 6 April

- ✓ This day was created by united Nation general assembly by 23rd August 2013 and was supported by the International Olympic Committee.

International Romani Day - April 08

- ✓ The International Romani Day is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people.
- ✓ It was celebrated in honour of the first major international meeting of Romani representatives, 7–12 April 1971 in Chelsfield near London.
- ✓ Since 1990 International Romani Day is celebrated by the International Romani Union.

CRPF Valour Day - April 09

- ✓ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed as a tribute to the brave men of the Force.
- ✓ 2021 marks the 56th CRPF Valour Day.
- ✓ It was on this day in **1965**, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an **invading Pakistani army at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.**

ICCR Foundation Day – April 09

- ✓ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) celebrating its **71st Foundation Day.**
- ✓ It was founded in **1950** by India's first Education Minister, **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.**

- ✓ It is an autonomous organisation. It is with the objective of **fostering and strengthening cultural relations** and mutual understanding between India and the world.
- ✓ It also aims to **promote cultural exchanges** with other countries and people.
- ✓ It also administers the **Jawaharlal Nehru Award** for International Understanding, established by the Government of India in 1965.

World Homoeopathy Day: 10 April

- ✓ World Homoeopathy Day is celebrated on April 10 every year.
- ✓ It is observed to mark the importance of Homoeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine.
- ✓ This day is the birth anniversary of **Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, who was the general physician and founder of Homoeopathy.
- ✓ The theme of the day in India for 2021 is '**Homoeopathy - roadmap for integrative medicine**'.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule birth anniversary

- ✓ 11 April mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule.

- ✓ Jyotirao Govindrao Phule was an Indian writer, social activist, thinker and anti-caste social reformer from Maharashtra.
- ✓ He and his wife, **savitribai Phule**, were pioneers of women's education in India.
- ✓ He started his **first school for girls in 1848 in Pune** at Tatyasaheb Bhide's residence.

World Parkinson's Day: 11 April

- ✓ April 11 is observed as world Parkinson's day every year, and April month as Parkinson's Awareness Day.
- ✓ The disease can cause known as of the movements, stiffness and shakiness of the body.

International Day of Human Space Flight – April 12

- ✓ The **UN General Assembly declared** that April 12 was to be celebrated as International Day of Human Space Flight.
- ✓ On 12 April 1961, **1st human space flight** was carried out by **Yuri Gagarin**.
- ✓ He was a **Soviet citizen**, who became the first person to journey into outer space.
- ✓ 12 April was also the date of the **1st Space Shuttle STS-1 of Columbia launched in 1981**.
- ✓ **Apollo and Soyuz** were the first joint **US-Russian space flight**.

GK

- ✓ On June 16, 1963, Valentina Tereshkova became the **first woman** to orbit the Earth
- ✓ On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the **first human to set foot** upon the surface of the moon.

International Day for Street Children – April 12

- ✓ It has been celebrated globally since 2012.
- ✓ It is to recognise the humanity, dignity and defiance of street children.
- ✓ The street children have rights enshrined in United Nations Convention on rights of Children (1990).

International Turban Day - April 13

- ✓ It is celebrated every year on April 13 since 2004.
- ✓ It aims to bring awareness of the strict requirement on Sikhs to put the turban as a mandatory part of their religion.
- ✓ The 2021 Turban Day marks the **552nd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev** and the festival of Baisakhi.

Indian Army celebrates 36th Siachen day

- ✓ Indian Army observed 36th Siachen day on 13th April 2001.

- ✓ On April 13th 1994, the Indian Army launched "**Operation Meghdoot**" secure Bilafond La another passes on the Saltoro Ridgeline from pakistani aggression.

Ambedkar Jayanthi – April 14

- ✓ This year, Ambedkar Jayanti marks the prolific leader's 130th birth anniversary.
- ✓ Ambedkar Jayanti is observed as **Equality Day** in India.
- ✓ Since **2015** it has been observed as an **official public holiday** throughout India.
- ✓ He was born on 14 April 1891 in the town and military cantonment of **Mhow** (now officially known as Dr Ambedkar Nagar) in the Central Provinces (now in Madhya Pradesh).
- ✓ He became the **first law and justice minister** of independent India (1947 to 1951).
- ✓ He is hailed as the **Father of the Indian Constitution**.
- ✓ He died on December 6, 1956 at Delhi.
- ✓ He was awarded India's highest civilian honour the **Bharat Ratna in 1990**.
- ✓ The period between April 14, 1990 and April 14, 1991 was observed as "**Year of Social Justice**".
- ✓ The United Nations celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- ✓ Since **2017**, 14 April is observed as **Knowledge Day in the Indian state of Maharashtra**.

World Chagas Disease Day – April 14

- ✓ It was first celebrated on **April 14, 2020**. It was approved for creation on 2019 at the **72nd session** of the World Health Assembly.
- ✓ It is called silent because it progresses slowly, and silenced because it mainly affects the poor people who often lack political voice and proper health care.
- ✓ It is classified as a neglected **tropical disease** (NTD), meaning it affects the low-income populations in developing countries across the globe.
- ✓ It was named after **Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas**, the Brazilian doctor. He diagnosed the first case on 14 April 1909.

National Fire service day – April 14

- ✓ It commemorates the exemplary courage and valour exhibited by fire fighters during the rescue operations.
- ✓ It is observed to pay homage to firemen and officers of the **Mumbai Fire Brigade**.
- ✓ They lost their lives while fighting a major fire on the ship, **Fort Stikine**, in 1944, at Bombay Port.
- ✓ This year's theme is **“Maintenance of Fire Safety Equipment is to Mitigate Fire Hazards”**.

World Creativity and Innovation Day – April 15

- ✓ It aims to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals, also known as the "global goals".
- ✓ It was first celebrated in 2018.

World Art Day - April 15

- ✓ It was declared by the International Association of Art (IAA), a partner of UNESCO.
- ✓ The day was celebrated for **the first time in 2012**.
- ✓ The date was chosen in honour of **Leonardo da Vinci's birthday**.
- ✓ He was an Italian painter, sculptor, architect, draughtsman, theorist, engineer and scientist.
- ✓ He was chosen as the **symbol of world peace, freedom of expression and more**.

Transgender Welfare Day – April 15

- ✓ **Tamil Nadu established the country's first Welfare Board** for transgender persons under the **DMK government in 2008**.
- ✓ In 2006, then Chief Minister **M. Karunanidhi** replaced the former title '**aravani**' and replaced it with the more dignified '**Thirunangai**'.

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- ✓ A Welfare Board was set up with this name under the Social Welfare Department.
- ✓ In April 15th, 2014, the Supreme Court in its judgment in the **National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India case**, recognised the transgender community as ‘**third gender**’.
- ✓ In **2019 the AIADMK-led government** replaced the word ‘**thirunangai**’ with the title ‘**moondram paalinathavar**’ (those belonging to the ‘third gender’)

Himachal Day - April 15

- ✓ Himachal means “**Snow covered area**”.
- ✓ On **April 15, 1948**, Himachal Pradesh was formed as the province to be administered Chief Commissioner.
- ✓ Later, it was made a “**C**” category state on January 25, 1950.
- ✓ In **1956**, it was declared as a **Union Territory**.
- ✓ Later in **1970**, Parliament passed the Himachal Pradesh Act.
- ✓ Since then, Himachal Pradesh came into existence as a **full-fledged state**.
- ✓ The official recognition of Himachal Pradesh as a state was provided on **January 25, 1971**.

World Voice Day (WVD) – April 16

- ✓ It is a worldwide annual event devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice.

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- ✓ It started small with a tiny celebration in Brazil in 1999.
- ✓ The theme for this year is **One World Many Voices**.

International Haiku Poetry Day – April 17

- ✓ It is an initiative of The Haiku Foundation.
- ✓ A haiku is an ancient form of Japanese poetry

World Hemophilia Day - April 17

- ✓ The theme of the event this year is “**Adapting to change: sustaining care in a new world**”.
- ✓ It is an initiative of ‘**World Federation of Haemophilia**’.
- ✓ April 17 was chosen in honour of Frank Schnabel's birthday.

World Heritage Day – April 18

- ✓ It is also known the International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- ✓ It was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- ✓ The 2021 theme is “**Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures**”.
- ✓ Presently, there are **38 World Heritage Sites located in India** that include **30 Cultural properties, 7 Natural properties and 1 mixed site**.
- ✓ The **Mixed site is Khangchendzonga National Park**.
- ✓ In 2019, ‘**Jaipur City**’ became the **38th addition of India** to the list under Culture.

- ✓ India has the **sixth largest number of sites** in the world.
- ✓ So far, only China, Italy, Spain, Germany, and France have more locations on the list than India.

World Liver day – April 19

- ✓ The theme for this year is ‘**Keep your liver healthy and disease-free.**’
- ✓ It is observed every year to spread awareness about the **second largest organ in the body** and also the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain.
- ✓ Liver diseases can be caused by **hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs.**
- ✓ Viral Hepatitis occurs due to consumption of contaminated food and water, unsafe sexual practices and drug abuse.

UN Chinese Language Day – April 20

- ✓ The event was established by the UN Department of Public Information in 2010.
- ✓ April 20 was chosen as the date "to pay tribute to **Cangjie.**"
- ✓ It aims to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- ✓ There are **six official languages** of the UN. These are **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.**

Civil Services day – April 21

- ✓ The main aim of celebrating the day is to motivate the efforts and works of civil servants.
- ✓ The **first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in **1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi** on this Day.
- ✓ He referred to civil servants as the '**steel frame of India**'.
- ✓ He is regarded as **Father of modern All India Services**.
- ✓ The All-India Services (AIS) comprises the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Forest Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS).
- ✓ The British Governor **General Cornwallis** (1786-93) was known as the "**Father of Civil Services in India**".

Earth Day – April 22

- ✓ The UN General Assembly designated this day as International Mother Earth Day in 2009.
- ✓ It is the world's largest environmental movement.
- ✓ It was first started in 1970.
- ✓ The theme of Earth Day 2021 is "**Restore Our Earth**".

International Girls in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Day – April 22

- ✓ It was established by United Nations International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

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- ✓ It is to motivate girls and women to consider **science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)**.
- ✓ It will be celebrating the **10th Anniversary** this year.
- ✓ 2021 Theme is '**Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures**'.

World Homeopathy awareness week

- ✓ Homoeopathy Awareness Week is from **April 10 to April 16, 2021**.
- ✓ It is observed to celebrate the **birth of Samuel Hahnemann**.
- ✓ He is the father of Homoeopathy.

World Book and Copyright Day - April 23

- ✓ World Book Day is **celebrated by UNESCO**.
- ✓ April 23 is a **symbolic date** for world literature.
- ✓ This is because on this date in 1616 that Cervantes, Shakespeare, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
- ✓ Hence, the day was selected to pay tribute to the great literary figures.
- ✓ **Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia**, has been chosen to be the **World Book Capital in 2021**.
- ✓ '**To share a story**' would be the theme of this year's World Book and Copyright Day, keeping the pandemic in mind.
- ✓ As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day, UNESCO has created a '**Bookface**' challenge.

English Language Day - April 23

- ✓ This day at the UN is the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare.
- ✓ The Day is the result of a 2010 initiative by the Department of Global Communications, establishing language days for each of the Organization's six official languages.
- ✓ The UN's language days are as follows
 - Arabic (18 December) Chinese (20 April) English (23 April) French (20 March) Russian (6 June) Spanish (23 April)

National Panchayat Raj Day – April 24

- ✓ The Panchayat raj is the oldest system of local government.
- ✓ In 1992 a major change in the Panchayat system of India came in the form of the passage of the Panchayati Raj Act (73rd Amendment).
- ✓ The act came into existence with effect from April 24, 1993.
- ✓ The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010.
- ✓ Since then, the National Panchayat Raj Day is celebrated on April 24 every year in India.

World Lab Animal Day

- ✓ It is also called **World Day for Laboratory Animals**, is observed every year on 24th April (April 20 to 26 - Lab Animal Week).
- ✓ The day was instituted in 1979 by the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS), as an “International day of commemoration” for animals in laboratories.

World Immunization Week 2021

- ✓ **April 24th - 30th** will show how vaccination helps to improve the health of everyone, everywhere throughout life.
- ✓ The theme is ‘**Vaccines bring us closer**’.

World Veterinary Day - April 24

- ✓ The World Veterinary Day is observed on the Fourth Saturday of April every year.
- ✓ In 2021, the day falls on April 24, 2021.
- ✓ The theme of the 2021 World Veterinary Day is ‘**Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 crisis**’.
- ✓ The day was created by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in **2000**.

International Delegate's Day - April 25

- ✓ International Delegate's Day observed globally to raise awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to the United Nations.
- ✓ International Delegate's Day marks the **anniversary of the first day of the San Francisco Conference.**
- ✓ San Francisco Conference is also known as the **United Nations Conference on International Organization.**
- ✓ This year is the **75th anniversary of the San Francisco Conference.**

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day - April 26

- ✓ The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster
- ✓ It also creates awareness of the risks of nuclear energy in general.
- ✓ The United Nations (UN) proclaimed the day on April 26, 2016.
- ✓ On this day in 1986, a reactor exploded at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine with devastating consequences.

World Intellectual Property Day - April 26

- ✓ This day is being observed to celebrate creativity and raise awareness about how copyright, trademarks and designs impact daily life.
- ✓ This year's theme of the Day is: **'IP and SMEs: Take your ideas to markets'**.
- ✓ This is aimed at promoting the role of small and medium enterprises in economy and how they can use intellectual property rights to build stronger and more competitive businesses.

Workers' Memorial Day - April 28

- ✓ The day is also known as International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers.
- ✓ It has been organized worldwide by the International Trade Union Confederation since 1996.
- ✓ Theme for 2021: 'Health and Safety is a fundamental worker right.'
- ✓ Its purpose is to remember workers killed in incidents at work or by diseases caused by work.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work - April 28

- ✓ This day is observed to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally and raise awareness to ensure health and safety at the workplace.

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- ✓ The theme for 2021 is “**Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises - Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems**”.
- ✓ The day has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003.

International Dance Day - April 29

- ✓ The day celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals.
- ✓ This day has been chosen as it marks the **birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre**.
- ✓ He is known as the **creator of modern ballet**.
- ✓ The theme of International Dance Day 2021: ‘**Purpose of dance**’.
- ✓ The day was created in **1982**, by the Dance Committee of the **International Theatre Institute (ITI)**, the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas – April 30

- ✓ They are to promote health and wellness to the poor and also to provide insurance benefits to them.
- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2018.
- ✓ It is the largest health scheme in the world.
- ✓ The theme for this year is “**Keep your Health, Save Your Wealth**”.