

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

An IAS Academy

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2011

HINDU

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

SPORTS
OBAMA

NEHRU AWARD
FOR MERKEL

SENATOR GOOD
FOR BIKKAL

Supreme Court stays Allahabad
High Court verdict on Ayodhya

Justice Lodha

Europa

CCS for spray cooling

JUNE MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS 2021

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STATES

Ankur scheme

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

Rajasthan to offer medicinal Herbs saplings

- ✓ Rajasthan government will offer saplings of 4 medicinal Herbs to all the state's families as part of **Ghar Ghar Aushadhi Yojana**.
- ✓ They can take home saplings of IV selected medicinal herbs: **Tulsi, Ashwagandha, Gilloy and kalmegh**.

Village rice

- ✓ A start-up firm has exported two consignments of 4.5 tonnes of patented “village rice” sourced from Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu’s Thanjavur district to Ghana and Yemen via air and sea routes.
- ✓ The start-up's name is **Udaya Agro Farm**.
- ✓ Enriched with protein, fibre, and a variety of minerals, ‘village rice’ is sourced directly from farmers of Thanjavur.

West Bengal chief secretary issue

- ✓ Bandyopadhyay, a 1987-batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre, was scheduled to retire on May 31 after completion of 60 years of age.
- ✓ However, he was granted a three-month extension following a nod from the Centre.
- ✓ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written to Prime Minister urging him to grant Bandyopadhyay an extension for at least six months in view of his experience of handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

Issue

- ✓ Barely four days after he was granted extension, the Centre sought the services of West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay and asked the state government to relieve the officer immediately.
- ✓ The Centre also directed Bandyopadhyay to report to the Department of Personnel and Training, North Block, New Delhi.

Punjab approves creation of Malerkotla district

- ✓ The Punjab government give formal approval to the creation of Malerkotla as state's 23rd district.
- ✓ The district will be cast out from the Sangrur district.

Bihar to provide 33% reservation for girls

- ✓ Bihar government has decided to give 33% reservation to girls students in Engineering and Medical colleges of the state.
- ✓ This will increase the number of girls students in the field of Engineering and Medical areas.

Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)

- ✓ Goa government established “Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)” on the line of NITI Ayog.

About GIFT

- ✓ GIFT will function on the lines of NITI Aayog. It will assist, advise and guide government on policy making, its formulation and implementation.
- ✓ It will also help in monitoring sustainable development goals and evaluation of several development plans, programmes and schemes.
- ✓ Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation issued the notification.
- ✓ It will be backed up under Article 309 of Constitution of India to attain autonomy.
- ✓ GIFT will also serve as knowledge hub Goa, showcasing best practices suited for sustainable development of the State.

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- ✓ In the first phase of the YounTab Scheme, 9 to 12 class students are hand over educational tabs in Leh and Kargil.

Patent for Black Pepper Micronutrient

- ✓ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) got patent for black pepper micronutrient foliar formulation.
- ✓ The application for this was submitted in 2013.
- ✓ Its formulation was developed by a team comprising of three scientists - Dr. V. Srinivasan, Dr. S. Hamza and Dr. R. Dinesh.

Tamilnadu bring all SC sub-sects under single name

- ✓ The Adidravidar and tribal welfare department of Tamilnadu issued an order bringing all the seven subjects of scheduled caste under one common name "**Devendrakula Velalar**".

Corona-free Village Competitions

- ✓ Maharashtra government has launched “Corona-free Village Competitions”.
- ✓ Under this, three villages will be selected in each revenue district.
- ✓ There are selected on the basis of their good work and efforts in Covid-19 management.
- ✓ This competition is part of ‘My Village Corona Free’ initiative.

Panel to study Neet impact

- ✓ Tamilnadu CM MK Stalin has formed a high level committee to submit a report on the impact of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test on admission to medical courses in the state.
- ✓ The committee is headed by **retired judge AK Rajan**.

Mobile Farmers Market

- ✓ The Mobile Farmers Market program at Thammampatti in Salem was recently launched.
- ✓ The Department of Agriculture has decided to launch this mobile Farmer market program across the state.

Indus Best Mega Food Park

- ✓ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to about 5,000 persons.
- ✓ It will benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.

Oxi-van

- ✓ Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar, announced to create 80 acres of 'Oxi-van' (a forest) in Karnal district.

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- ✓ Film titled “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shivrajyabhishek Divas” was released on social media in Konkani and Hindi version.
- ✓ Movie highlights hundreds of true stories that future generations need to be aware of.

State Development Policy Council

- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin revamped the State Development Policy Council (SDPC) with Prof J Jayaranjan as the new vice chairman.
- ✓ It is headed by the chief minister. Besides a permanent member the council will have **eight part-time members**.
- ✓ **Prof Rama Srinivasan** will be its permanent member.
- ✓ The other part time members include Prof M Vijayabaskar, Prof Sultan Ahmed Ismail, former IAS official M Deenabandhu, industrialist Mallika Srinivasan and DMK MLA from Manaargudi T R B Rajaa, Dr. Narthaki Nataraj and medical practitioners J Amalorpavanathan and K Sivaraman.
- ✓ New history is being written in Tamil Nadu by having Thirumiku Narthaki Nataraj as the member of the State Development Policy Committee.
- ✓ This is the **first time in India a Transgender people** is in a high-level committee of a state government.

International Memory Studies Workshop - IIT Madras

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.
- ✓ This international workshop is the first of its kind in Asia.
- ✓ The launch of the Indian Network for Memory Studies will take place in mid June 2021 through a virtual event at IIT Madras.

Assam to provide Bharat Ratna and Padma like Awards

- ✓ On the line of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards, Assam cabinet has decided to institute Asom Ratna Award.
- ✓ Asom Ratna Award award will be presented every year to one person for his significant contribution to society.
- ✓ Cabinet also decided to constitute Asom Bibhushan, Assam Bhushan Award and Asom Shree award which will be conferred every year to three people, five people and ten people, respectively.

Double hump camel

- ✓ Leh in Ladakh is the only place where one can see double hump camel in India.
- ✓ The species of camel known as Bactrian Camel is the only living remnant of India's connection with the famous Silk route and Ladakh as the link of the Ancient trade route.

Assam's 7th National Park

- ✓ The Assam government has declared **Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary** as the state's seventh National Park.
- ✓ The State now has the third highest number of national parks in the country.
- ✓ With 10 national parks, Madhya Pradesh top the list, while Andaman and Nicobar Island come in second with nine national parks.
- ✓ There are **105 national parks in India** 44000 acres of space.

Telangana High Court bench strength rises

- ✓ Telangana High Court bench strength has been increased from 24 to 42 judges, as the centre has agreed to the long pending proposal revived by the CJI, NV Ramana.
- ✓ Out of 42, you will be permanent judges and 10 will be additional judges.

Kerala launches 'Knowledge Economy Mission'

- ✓ The project will be launched to bring ongoing efforts of providing employment to educated people and support 'knowledge workers' under a single programme.
- ✓ It was being spearheaded by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC).
- ✓ For implementation and funding purposes, a 'knowledge economy fund' will be created.

International maritime services cluster - GIFT City

- ✓ Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will set up the country's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City.
- ✓ This will be a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity.
- ✓ GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services.

Airport to be named after Bal Thackeray

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has decided to name the upcoming Navi Mumbai international Airport after Shivsena founder late Bal Thackeray.
- ✓ The decision has been taken by the city and Industrial Development Corporation, nodal agency which is implementing the project.
- ✓ This internet has already named **Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway after Bal Thackeray.**

Andhra government to establish state museum

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh government will establish a state Museum in the fourth City Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ While, remo Museum will be set up in the temple town Tirupati, Srikakulam and Ongole.
- ✓ The state Museum will reflect the rich National Heritage and Culture and also that of Andhra Pradesh.

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- ✓ It was appointed by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.
- ✓ The committee will also suggest an alternative methodology for admission in medical colleges.

Net energy neutral status - Bengaluru airport

- ✓ The Kempegowda International Airport has achieved net energy neutral status in the Financial Year 2020-21.
- ✓ Bengaluru international airport has been able to save nearly 22 lakh units of energy in the Financial Year 2020-21.
- ✓ These measures were achieved through solar installation.

Keezhadi excavation – 7th phase

- ✓ A baby bone was found during excavation in Manalur area.
- ✓ Konthagai was only considered as the burial site.
- ✓ Keezhadi, Agaram and Manalur were residential areas.
- ✓ This is the first time a baby bone has been found in the Manalur area.

eIDs

- ✓ Punjab Government has initiated the usage of eIDs for their officers/employees.
- ✓ Punjab becomes the first state to use this.
- ✓ The eIDs are equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.

Tamilnadu CM inaugurates new scheme

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has inaugurated a new scheme for children who have lost their parents due to covid-19.
- ✓ The scheme assures a 5 lakh rupees deposit and take care of their education until they attain 18 years of age.
- ✓ The amount is invested in Tamil Nadu power finance and infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

Initiative for Tulu language

- ✓ Various organisations have initiated a twitter campaign demanding official language status to Tulu in Karnataka and Kerala.
- ✓ Tulu is the Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala.

Raja Parba - Odisha

- ✓ Raja Parba festival celebrated in Odisha.
- ✓ It is a 3-days unique festival.
- ✓ It is celebrated during the onset of monsoon.
- ✓ It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation.
- ✓ The fourth day is the day of the 'purification bath'.
- ✓ This festival is synonymous with varieties of cakes (pithas).

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- ✓ Former chief economic advisor to central government, Dr Arvind Subramanian,
- ✓ Development economist, Jean Dreze and
- ✓ Former Union finance secretary Dr S Narayan.

Minnagam consumer grievance redressal centre

- ✓ Tamilnadu CM MK Stalin inaugurated Minnagam, consumer grievance redressal Centre in Chennai.
- ✓ The consumers of electricity in the state can report their grievances to the centre through mobile phone.

First session of the 16th Legislative Assembly

- ✓ The first session of the 16th Legislative Assembly began at the Kalaivanar Arangam.
- ✓ The assembly commenced its proceedings with the address of Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- ✓ According to his address,
 - ✚ Working Women's hostel will be formed in all districts.
 - ✚ Smart cities with latest facilities will be developed near all metro cities in the State.
 - ✚ State will urge central government to constitute a national commission for the welfare of fishermen.
 - ✚ State to introduce a separate annual budget for agriculture.
 - ✚ State to introduce a new legislation to regulate ground water use.

GM Rubber planted in Assam

- ✓ The Rubber Board has started field trial of world's first GM (genetically modified) rubber in the state of Assam.
- ✓ GM Rubber was developed in biotechnology laboratory at Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) in Puthuppally, Kottayam.
- ✓ It was planted at Rubber board's Sarutari research farm in Guwahati.
- ✓ In Kerala, the state Government denied permission for the field trial of GM Rubber because of its adverse impact on environment.

Benefits in Punjab due to BT Cotton adoption

- ✓ The Researchers in India recently conducted one study funded by Agricultural Extension Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- ✓ It was done under an extramural project named "Impact evaluation of integrated pest management technologies".
- ✓ The study says that,
 - ✚ The use of highly hazardous & riskiest insecticides has reduced over time.
 - ✚ Expenses associated with insecticide use have also reduced.
 - ✚ Cotton yields in the past 13 years have been stable, except in 2015.

- ✚ BT cotton is a genetically modified pest resistant plant cotton variety.
- ✓ BT toxins are insecticidal to larvae of moths, butterflies, cotton bollworms, beetles and flies.

Incentives for having more children - Mizoram

- ✓ Sports Minister of Mizoram, Robert Romawia Royte, has announced a cash incentive of Rs 1 lakh for having more children.
- ✓ Rs 1 lakh would be given to living parent with highest number of children in minister's constituency.
- ✓ This is to encourage population growth among the demographically small Mizo communities.

Odisha Government joins hands with UN WFP

- ✓ The Government of Odisha and the United Nations World Food Programme have signed an agreement.
- ✓ They will work together to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives, reaching thousands of state supported women's self help group.
- ✓ The partnership will be in effect till 2023.

Transgender protection cell

- ✓ To protect the rights of the transgender community, rajasthan government has decided to constitute a transgender protection cell in the state.

- ✓ The cell will work for the prevention and monitoring of crime against transgender by ensuring timely registration of cases.

Online complaint service for women

- ✓ Kerala has announced that from now on, an online complaint registration portal named 'Aparjitha' will recover Cyber Crimes against women.
- ✓ Complaint on offences against women including domestic abuse can be submitted there.

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

- ✓ The Odisha Government will launch Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under the universal vaccination programme.
- ✓ The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) has been developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII).
- ✓ It was developed in association with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Kaval Plus programme

- ✓ The Department of Women & Child Development in Kerala has decided to expand Kaval Plus programme to five districts.
- ✓ The programme is to lend holistic support to children in need of care & protection and to the survivors of sexual abuse.

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- ✓ This Project was before implemented in Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad district.
- ✓ It will be now implemented in Ernakulam, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode, and Kannur districts.

Vitiligo skin disease

- ✓ TN Health Minister announced Tamilnadu will eradicate vitiligo skin disease by 2023.

Goa: First Rabies-free state

- ✓ Goa has become the first Rabies-free state of India. According to Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant, state has not reported a single rabies case in last three years.
- ✓ Task of controlling rabies was being carried out by Mission Rabies project which is a central government grant.

Note

- ✓ Mission Rabies works with 'One Health approach' which is driven by research to eliminate dog bite transmitted rabies disease.
- ✓ It was launched in September 2013 with the objective of vaccinating 50,000 dogs against rabies in India.

CEO World Magazine

- ✓ Two colleges in Tamil Nadu have got a place in the 2021 list of top 100 medical colleges in the world.

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- ✓ Every year on behalf of CEO World Magazine, a list of the world's top medical colleges and various other colleges, including fashion and management, is published.
- ✓ In this list Vellore Christian Medical College is ranked 49th and Chennai Medical College is ranked 64th.
- ✓ Similarly, Puducherry Jipmer Medical College is ranked 59th.
- ✓ Varanasi Medical College is ranked 72nd.

Hemis festival

- ✓ The legendary two days Hemis festival celebrated in Leh in Ladakh.
- ✓ It's also popularly known as Hemis Tses-Chu.
- ✓ It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Padma sambhava.
- ✓ Guru Padma sambhava introduced and flourished Vajrayana Buddhist tradition in the entire Himalayas.
- ✓ Guru Padma sambhava is popularly known as the second Buddha.

Export of Dragon fruits

- ✓ The first consignment of dragon fruit has been exported to Dubai recently.
- ✓ In India, this dragon fruit is also known as Kamalam.
- ✓ Dragon Fruit for exports was sourced from the farmers of Tadasar village, Sangli district, Maharashtra

- ✓ Dragon fruit is the fruit of a species of wild cactus indigenous to South and Central America.
- ✓ It is called pitaya or pitahaya over there.

Remembering the Maruthu Pandiyar brothers

- ✓ The Maruthu Pandiyar brothers were the rulers of shivaganga kingdom.
- ✓ On 24 October, 1801, two middle age brothers were publicly hanged to death at the Tirupattur fort of Southern Tamilnadu.
- ✓ On June 16, 1801, months before their death, the brothers issued a proclamation of Independence from the Trichy Fort, calling for people of all castes and communities to unite the year fight against European Domination.
- ✓ 2021 year marked as to 220th anniversary of the proclamation, historians insisting Central and state government to establish a memorable pillar for Trichy proclamation near Srirangam.

First district in the country to achieve 100% vaccination for tribals

- ✓ All tribes over the age of 18 are currently vaccinated due to the unreasonable efforts of the district administration.
- ✓ This makes the name carries the first district in the country to provide 100% corona vaccination to tribals.

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- ✓ The scheme is in line with PM's vision of encouraging young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented by "National Book Trust of India" under the Ministry of Education.

OPV Sajag

- ✓ National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag.
- ✓ It has been constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- ✓ Sajag is the third in a series of five offshore patrol vessels indigenously designed in line with Prime Minister's 'Make in India' vision.

WhatsApp names grievance officer

- ✓ WhatsApp has finally announced its grievance officer for India.
- ✓ It has named **Paresh B Lal** as a grievance officer for the country.

A committee to consider GST exemption

- ✓ An eight-member ministerial panel under the Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma is formed.
- ✓ This is to consider Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemptions on a range of Covid-19 essentials such as vaccines, drugs, testing kits and ventilators.

India's largest statue of reclining Buddha

- ✓ India's largest statue of the reclining Buddha was be installed at the Buddha International welfare mission temple in Bodh Gaya.
- ✓ The giant 100-foot fibreglass was built by a team of 22 apprentice in Kolkata. A reclining statue represents Buddha during his last illness.

ECLGS 4.0

- ✓ The Government has increased the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for three more months.
- ✓ Extension will help businesses across several sectors of economy.

About

- ✓ 100% guarantee cover to be provided on loans, in hospitals/nursing clinics/medical colleges/homes, up to Rs.2 crore.
- ✓ Loan can be utilized up to set up on-site oxygen generation plants.
- ✓ Interest rate on loan was capped at 7.5%.
- ✓ Civil Aviation sector will be eligible under ECLGS 3.0.

India's unemployment rate up one year high

- ✓ India's unemployment rate in May 2021 shot up sharply to highest level in the last one year at **11.9% compared to 7.97% april 2021.**
- ✓ This was given in the data from the centre of monitoring Indian economy.

2DG adjunct therapy in Covid treatment

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced that the anti-COVID drug 2DG has been approved for emergency use as an adjunct therapy in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ DCGI approved the emergency use authorization of 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG).
- ✓ It was approved as an adjunct therapy for moderate to severe COVID-19 patients.

Bal Swaraj portal

- ✓ The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** (NCPCR) has launched “Bal Swaraj” portal.
- ✓ It is an online tracking portal for real-time tracking & monitoring of Children who lost both or either of their parents in COVID-19.
- ✓ NCPCR is an organisation under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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- ✓ NCPCR is the monitoring authority of all children in India, under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

NITI Aayog's SDG Index 2020-2021

- ✓ NITI Aayog released third edition of Sustainable Development Index for 2020- 2021.
- ✓ The index is developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India.
- ✓ The Index evaluates the progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.
- ✓ Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu retained its second position with a score of 74
- ✓ Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.

Three caves found in Buddhist Caves Complex

- ✓ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found three caves in Buddhist Caves Complex in Nasik, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Newly discovered caves are being discovered about two centuries after the British military officer documented Tri-Rashmi Buddhist caves, which is also called as Pandav Leni, on a hill in Nashik.
- ✓ Antiquity of caves is yet to be established. They may have been dwellings of Buddhist monks.
- ✓ Archaeologists believe, these caves could be older than Trirashmi caves.

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- ✓ The RDSO has now been recognised as a ‘Standard Developing Organisation’ by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), for a three years period.

Note

- ✓ BIS is the implementing agency for the ‘One Nation, One Standard’ scheme.
- ✓ RDSO and BIS will be now jointly defining the parameters to ensure quality goods and services for the Railways.
- ✓ The ‘One Nation, One Standard’ scheme was launched in 2019.
- ✓ Its objective is to develop one template of standard for one given product in the country, instead of having multiple agencies set it.
- ✓ This helps building a ‘Brand India’ identity in the long run.

India's first indigenous tumor antigen

- ✓ The SPAG9 antigen developed by the National Institute of immunology has received the ASPAGNIITM trademark.

Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha

- ✓ The senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind has also nominated renowned former journalist Swapan Dasgupta to Rajya Sabha.

- ✓ The President of India, on the advice of the Centre, can nominate 12 members to Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ The nominated members for the Upper House are drawn from the fields such as literature, arts, sports, science, and social service.

PanBio COVID-19 test kit

- ✓ ICMR has approved second home-based Rapid Antigen Test kit named “PanBio COVID-19”.
- ✓ This test kit was developed by Abbott Rapid Diagnostics Division, Chicago.
- ✓ Earlier, ICMR had given its approval to “CoviSelf test kit”.
- ✓ That was developed by Pune-based Mylab Discovery Solutions.

Report on Variable Capital Company

- ✓ Dr. K.P. Krishnan committee on “Variable Capital Company” has submitted its report to International Financial Services centres Authority (IFSCA).
- ✓ The report is regarding feasibility of Variable Capital Companies in International Financial Services Centres in India.
- ✓ VCC is an alternative form of corporate vehicle which can be used for openended as well as closed-ended alternative and traditional fund strategies.
- ✓ It is a corporate vehicle with flexible capital.

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- ✓ These shares are created when investments are made and shares are readily redeemable by shareholders.
- ✓ It has been designed for fund management industry.

Ethanol blend deadline advance to 2025

- ✓ India has advanced to the target date for achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 5 years to 2025.
- ✓ In 2020, the government had set a target of reaching 10% ethanol blending in petrol by 2022 and 20% doping by 2030.
- ✓ At present, 8.5% ethanol is mixed with petrol as against 1-1.5% in 2014.
- ✓ India is the world's third biggest oil importer, relying on foreign suppliers to meet over 85% of its demand.

SAGE Project

- ✓ Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Thaawar chand Gehlot, launched the **Senior care Ageing Growth Engine or SAGE project**.
- ✓ SAGE project will be launched to select, support and create “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services provided by credible start-ups.

30 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses - Biological-E

- ✓ The Health Ministry has finalised arrangements with Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Biological-E to reserve 30 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses (Corbevax).

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- ✓ The Centre will be making an advance payment of Rs 1,500 crore to Biological-E for this order.
- ✓ This is the **second made-in-India vaccine** after Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN.

Global initiative for clean energy innovation

- ✓ India launched the Mission Innovation Clean Tech Exchange.
- ✓ It is a global initiative that will create a network of incubators across member countries to accelerate clean energy innovation.
- ✓ This Mission was launched virtually at "Innovating to Net Zero Summit, 2021" organised by Chile.

Performance Grading Index 2019-20 released

- ✓ Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, approved release of the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20.
- ✓ PGI provides grading to States and Union Territories on the basis of 70 parameters to assess and catalyse transformational change in education.
- ✓ 5 states & union territories namely Chandigarh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala attained highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.

NTPC - UN's CEO Water Mandate

- ✓ NTPC Ltd, has become a signatory of UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

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- ✓ NTPC is India's largest power utility.
- ✓ CEO Water Mandate is a coveted league of companies focusing on efficient water management.
- ✓ Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Gurdeep Singh, has joined a select group of business leaders.

India at 117th position on 17 SDGs

- ✓ India's rank has slip 2 by 2 places to 117 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nation members states in 2015.
- ✓ The state of India's environment report 2021 revealed that India's rank was 115 in 2020.

Group for fixing minimum wages

- ✓ The Union Labour and Employment Ministry had set up an expert group for fixing minimum wages and national floor minimum wages.
- ✓ The group, set up for three years, would be chaired by Professor Ajit Mishra, director of the Institute of Economic Growth.
- ✓ The decision is part of the Centre's implementation of the Code on Wages, 2019.
- ✓ Code on Wages, 2019 mandates a statutory national level floor wage.

UDID card for Co-WIN registration

- ✓ Central government has asked states and union territories to include UDID (Unique Disability Identification) card as identity proof while registering on Co-WIN 2.0 platform.
- ✓ It will ensure a smooth and effective Covid-19 vaccination drive.
- ✓ UDID was allowed with the aim of helping disabled persons to access Covid-19 vaccination.

Costs of Climate Change in India report

- ✓ London-based global think tank Overseas Development Institute published its report called “Costs of Climate change in India”.
- ✓ The report analyses economic costs of climate-related risks in country and possibility of **increased inequality & poverty**.
- ✓ India might lose about **3 to 10 percent of its GDP annually** by 2100.
- ✓ Poverty rate may also rise by **3.5 per cent in 2040**.
- ✓ India is already experiencing consequences of 1°C of global warming in the form of heavy rainfall, extreme heat waves, severe flooding, rising sea levels and catastrophic storms.
- ✓ It observed, India has made rapid progress in boosting incomes and living standards in last three decades.

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However, if no rapid global action is taken, climate change may reverse development gains of recent decades.

- ✓ Climate change is slowing the pace of poverty reduction and increasing inequality in country.

Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2020-21

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has climbed to the third spot in the Anaemia Mukht Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking.
- ✓ It has the score of 57.1.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh is in the first position with a score of 64.
- ✓ It is followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3.

Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan

- ✓ NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan'.
- ✓ This is to provide home-care support to asymptomatic covid-19 patients or patients with mild symptoms.
- ✓ This campaign was launched in 112 Aspirational Districts.
- ✓ This campaign will be supported by Piramal Foundation.
- ✓ It will work with district magistrates to support training of NGOs and volunteers.

Central Railway forms All Women's team

- ✓ The Central Railway has for the first time formed an all women's team at Kalyan Goods yard in Thane district to carry out intensive examination of freight or goods rake.

FAME-II scheme - Amended

- ✓ Ministry of Heavy Industry has announced major amendments in ongoing FAME-II scheme.
- ✓ Ministry has fixed incentives for India-made electric two-wheelers.
- ✓ Earlier, subsidy rate for electric two-wheelers was Rs. 10,000/kWh.
- ✓ It has been increased to Rs 15,000/kWh.

Project O2 for India

- ✓ The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government has initiated a project called “Project O2 for India”.
- ✓ It aims in ensuring supply of critical raw materials like zeolites, Manufacturing of compressors and setting up of small oxygen plants.

India's 1st VSC based HVDC system

- ✓ Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) has fully commissioned India's first Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based HVDC (high voltage direct current) electricity transmission system.
- ✓ This project strengthens the power system of the southern region of the country.
- ✓ The PGCIL commissioned Monopole-I of the 320 kV, 2000 MW, Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) Thrissur (Kerala)

Voltage Source Convertor (VSC) based High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System.

Green airports recognition

- ✓ GMR Airports-run Delhi and Hyderabad airports have been felicitated by the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2021.
- ✓ They got this recognition for their environment sustainable initiatives.
- ✓ The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has been awarded the Platinum Recognition in the over 25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category.
- ✓ Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) received the Gold Recognition by the ACI in the below 25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category.
- ✓ The program's objective
- ✓ Is to promote environmental best practices to minimize aviation's impact on the environment and
- ✓ Is to recognize airport members who have outstanding accomplishments in their environmental projects.
- ✓ The theme of ACI's Green Airports Recognition programme for 2021 was 'Air Quality Management'.

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Namaste Yoga

- ✓ A mobile application devoted to Yoga called “Namaste Yoga” was launched recently.
- ✓ This was launched in an event was organised by Ministry of Ayush in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- ✓ Namaste Yoga app is designed as an information platform for public.
- ✓ It was launched with the aim of raising awareness about yoga and make it accessible for larger community.

All India Survey on Higher Education

- ✓ Ministry of Education has released latest edition of “All India Survey on Higher Education” (AISHE) 2019-2020.
- ✓ As per the survey, numbers of institutions of national importance have increased to 135 in 2020 from 75 in 2015.
- ✓ There has been a growth of 11.4 per cent in student enrolment from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

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- ✓ The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2 per cent.
- ✓ Total enrolment in higher education is 3.85 crore (Improved by 3.04%) in 2019- 20.
- ✓ It was 3.74 crore in 2018-19 & 3.42 crore in 2014-15.
- ✓ Gender parity Index has also improved (1.01).
- ✓ Number of PhDs has increased by 60 per cent since 2015.

Tamil Nadu

- ✓ Tamil Nadu as it has a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 51.4% in higher education, almost double the national average,
- ✓ In fact, the state's GER exceeds the National Education Policy's target of 50% to be achieved in the year 2030.
- ✓ The state's GER has increased from 32.9% in 2010-11 to 51.4% in 2019-20.

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World Giving Index 2021

- ✓ According to World Giving Index 2021 report, India is 14th most charitable country across the world.
- ✓ As per the report, COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the 'giving' trends worldwide.
- ✓ This report is released by Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).
- ✓ 2021 survey highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving.
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Jivan Vayu

- ✓ IIT, Ropar has developed a device called ‘Jivan Vayu’ as a substitute for CPAP (Continuous positive airway pressure) machine.
- ✓ This device functions even without electricity.

Hallmarking of Gold jewellery

- ✓ The Government had made hallmarking of gold jewellery as mandatory.
- ✓ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been established for this purpose.
- ✓ Gold hallmarking is a purity certification for precious metal.
- ✓ Thus, from 15 June 2021, jewellers will only be allowed to sell gold jewellery of 14, 18 and 22 carats.

Home ministry operationalises National helpline

- ✓ Home ministry has operationalised the national helpline 155260 and reporting platform for preventing financial loss due to Cyber fraud.

Project One World One Education

- ✓ World constitution and Parliament Association will be launching its pilot program “Project One World One Education”.
- ✓ The day also marks the United Nations Public Service day.

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- ✓ The project will character to the citizens of the world over the age of 6 years.

Section 79 of IT Act

- ✓ Twitter has lost its safe harbour immunity in India.
- ✓ This is because of its failure of appointing statutory officers, as required by the new IT rules of the Indian Government.
- ✓ This means Twitter will no longer be protected under Section 79 of the IT Act.
- ✓ Therefore, top executives of Twitter will now be liable for all the content on its platform that is considered inflammatory or considered unlawful in nature.

MoU between India and Bhutan

- ✓ India and Bhutan have signed a MoU to develop cooperation between two countries in the area of environment.
- ✓ The MoU was signed virtually by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar.
- ✓ It will open new vistas of bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.

General Elections 2019: An Atlas

- ✓ The Election Commission of India released 'General Elections 2019: An Atlas' recently.

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- ✓ This Atlas was released by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey.
- ✓ This document would be beneficial to researchers and academicians and help in exploring vast landscape of Indian elections.
- ✓ This General Election Atlas comprises of all statistical figures and data of General Elections 2019.

Flag Satyagraha

- ✓ The Ministry of Culture on 18th June had organised a programme to observe the Flag Satyagraha in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The Flag Satyagraha is a movement by the freedom fighters that shook the British government.
- ✓ It infused a new life into the freedom movement.
- ✓ It is also called the Jhanda Satyagraha.
- ✓ It was held in Jabalpur and Nagpur in 1923.

Net Zero carbon

- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited AIMS for next zero carbon emissions by 2035.
- ✓ Was informed by Mukesh Ambani, asia's richest man at the Qatar economic forum.
- ✓ The forum focuses on global leadership and strategies to support forth pandemic economic growth.

- ✓ It is considered as one of the top-10 global priority list pathogens identified by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Note

- ✓ India has experienced four NiV outbreaks.
- ✓ The most recent outbreak started in Kerala in 2018.
- ✓ Nipah is considered dangerous as there is no medicine or vaccines and the death rate among those affected is high.

India's best employers among Nation-Builders 2021 - NTPC

- ✓ For the first time, NTPC won recognition as India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021.
- ✓ It has been recognized as the 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th straight year by the Great Places to Work Institute.
- ✓ It has been ranked at 38th.
- ✓ It was ranked 47 last year.
- ✓ NTPC, a Maharatna Community and Public Sector Unit, works under the Ministry of Power.

India's largest solar carport

- ✓ Tata Motors and Tata Power inaugurated India's largest solar carport at the Tata Motors car plant at Chikhali in Pune.
- ✓ The 6.2 megawatt peak (MWp) solar carport will generate 86.4 lakh kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity per year.

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- ✓ This 122 mm Calibre rockets were launched with the help of Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
- ✓ The enhanced version has been developed by Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- ✓ They got manufacturing support from Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.
- ✓ Enhanced Systems can destroy targets kept at distances up to 45 kilometres.

Project Seabird

- ✓ It is the largest naval infrastructure project for India.
- ✓ The project aims at creation of a naval base at Karwar (Karnataka) on the west coast of India.
- ✓ Upon completion, the program will provide Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the west coast.
- ✓ It will also be the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.

Fame II extended

- ✓ Fame or Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (Fame) scheme's first phase began on 1 April 2015.
- ✓ It was extended till 31 March 2019.
- ✓ The second phase (Fame-2) that began on 1 April 2019 is to end on 31 March 2022.

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- ✓ The Union government has now extended the scheme to promote electric mobility by two years till 31 March 2024.

Hotels 50 2021 report

- ✓ Taj has been rated as the Strongest Hotel Brand across the World by Brand Finance.
- ✓ This announcement was made by world's leading brand valuation consultancy, Brand Finance, in its annual 'Hotels 50 2021' report.
- ✓ This report recognises most valuable and strongest hotel brands worldwide.
- ✓ Taj Hotels is subsidiary of Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL).
- ✓ Indian Hotels Company Limited was founded by Jamshedji Tata.

NTPC - Energy Compact Goals

- ✓ National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited declared its Energy Compact Goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE).
- ✓ It became the first energy company in India to declare this.
- ✓ The NTPC is the India's largest power generating company under the Ministry of Power.
- ✓ The NTPC has set a target to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032.
- ✓ The company also has aimed at a 10 per cent reduction in net energy intensity by 2032.

Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga basin

- ✓ The glacial lake Atlas of Ganga basin was released.
- ✓ The present glacial Lake Atlas is based on the inventoried glacial lakes in part of the Ganga river basin from its origin to the foothills of Himalaya.

Asia longest high speed track inaugurated

- ✓ Asia's longest high-speed test track is inaugurated in Pithampur, Indore.
- ✓ The national Automotive test tracks (NATRAX) facility measures 11.3km in length and will facilitate Automotive and component testing for automobile companies.
- ✓ The trackers longest in Asia and the fifth largest in the world.

INTERNATIONAL

Germany recognises genocide

- ✓ Germany for the first time has recognised that it committed genocide against the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia during its colonial rule over a century ago.
- ✓ Germany has also announced a fund to help aid community projects in Namibia.
- ✓ Between 1904 and 1908, German colonial settlers killed tens of thousands of men, women and children from the

Herero and Nama tribes after they rebelled against colonial rule.

- ✓ In the Battle of Waterberg around 80,000 Herero, including women and children, were chased across the desert by German troops.

China allowed three children policy

- ✓ China has allowed couples to have up to three children after census data showed a steep decline in birth rates.
- ✓ China scrapped its decades- old one -child policy in 2016, replacing it with a two- child limit which has failed to lead to a sustained upsurge in words.

World's first Human case of H10N3 Bird Flu

- ✓ First Human case of H10N3 bird flu was reported in eastern province of Jiangsu in China.
- ✓ H10N3 is a low pathogenic or less severe strain of virus in poultry. The risk of it transmitting on a large scale is also very low.
- ✓ In about 40 years, only 160 isolates of this virus were reported, in wild birds or waterfowl across Asia and North America. It has not been detected in chickens.

New Zealand signs space agreement with NASA

- ✓ New Zealand has become the latest country to sign “space agreement with NASA” with the objective of boosting nascent space industry of New Zealand.

- ✓ New Zealand is the eleventh signatory to **Artemis Accords**.
- ✓ Artemis Accords is a **blueprint for space cooperation** and supporting NASA's plan to return humans to moon by 2024. It also supports NASA's plan of launching historic human mission to Mars.

Names for corona viruses

- ✓ World Health Organisation has recommended several names, to label emerging coronavirus variants of global concern.
- ✓ It named B.1.617.2 variant, identified first in India, as 'Delta'.
- ✓ B.1.617 virus identified in India has been labelled as 'Kappa.'
- ✓ 'UK variant' was named as 'Alpha'.

WHO approach China's SINOVAC

- ✓ The World Health Organisation has approved China's SINOVAC Covid vaccine for Emergency Use.
- ✓ The vaccine has been found to be safe, and quality and short following two doses of inactivated vaccine.
- ✓ This makes SINOVAC the 8th vaccine to receive EUL from the WHO.

Iran largest Navy ship sinks

- ✓ Iran largest Navy ship, IRIS Kharg, sunk after catching fire near the mouth of difficult.
- ✓ The incident took place during the training in the Gulf of Oman.
- ✓ Iran regular conducts exercises in this area.

Austria releases 'Islam Map'

- ✓ Austria has released a 'National map of Islam', portraying mosques, communities, and other such places of congregation across the country.

BRICS Foreign Ministers 2021 meeting

- ✓ India is the hosting country and the chair of the BRICS Foreign Ministers 2021 meeting.
- ✓ The country chairs the meeting for the **third time, after 2012 and 2016.**
- ✓ India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting virtually.

United Airlines launch supersonic jet

- ✓ United Airlines has announced plans to buy 15 planes from airplane startup boom Supersonic in a move that could revive the high-speed form of air travel after the Concorde was wound down in 2003.

"Mixing and matching" of Covid-19 vaccines

- ✓ Canada has recommended “mixing and matching” of AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines.
- ✓ National Advisory Committee on Immunization has advised Canadians to combine either “AstraZeneca-Oxford, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna shots” interchangeably for specific situations.
- ✓ Research highlights, mixing shots of AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines were safe and effective in preventing the disease.
- ✓ It recommended first shot of AstraZeneca vaccine can be followed by shots of Moderna or Pfizer.

World Sustainable Development Summit 2021

- ✓ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, addressed the summit.
- ✓ According to him, agriculture sector alone consumes 85 percent of available water.
- ✓ Thus, water conservation methods should be used in Agriculture to manage available water resources efficiently.
- ✓ World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 was held under theme “Redefining our common future: Safe & Secure Environment for All”.
- ✓ World Sustainable Development Summit is annual flagship event organised by The Energy and Resources

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Institute (TERI). It aims to provide long-term solutions to benefit of global community by assembling different stakeholders on single platform.

FATF

- ✓ The Asia Pacific Group on money laundering, original application of Paris- based FATF, has retained Pakistan on "enhanced follow-up" status.
- ✓ Pakistan was put on the grey list by the Paris based task force in June 2018.

United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference

- ✓ The second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be held in Beijing, China.
- ✓ It will provide an opportunity to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide.
- ✓ Its first conference held in 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

G7 Nations agree on global minimum tax

- ✓ A group of the world's richest Nations reached a landmark being close cross- border tax loopholes used by some of the world's biggest companies.
- ✓ The group of 7 would back a minimum Global Corporation tax rate of at least 15%, and put in place

measures to ensure the taxes were paid in the countries with businesses operate.

President of the World Health Assembly

- ✓ Bhutan assumed the presidency of the World Health Assembly for the first time.
- ✓ Health Minister Dechen Wangmo was officially elected as the president of the World Health Assembly.
- ✓ The World Health Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the World Health Organisation.

India elected to UN Economic and Social Council

- ✓ India was elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2022-2024 term.
- ✓ India has been selected in Asia-Pacific States category. Other elected countries include Oman, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.
- ✓ ECOSOC is a 54-member Economic and Social Council, established in 1954 by a United Nations charter.

Artificial island

- ✓ Parliament of Denmark has approved plans for an artificial island which will house 35,000 people.
- ✓ This will help in protecting port of Copenhagen from rising sea levels.

UN suspense Iran voting rights

- ✓ The UN has suspended the voting rights of Iran and four other countries over delinquent dues.
- ✓ Iran had reached the deliverance sold under article 19 of the UN Charter.

Red tourism

- ✓ As the Chinese Communist Party celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, the popularity of 'red tourism' is at an all-time high in the country.
- ✓ Launched in 2004, Red Tourism involves visiting places that are of historical and cultural importance to the Communist Party's history.
- ✓ It reminds people of the sacrifices made by the leaders of the Communist party to forge a modern China.

International Nitrogen Initiative Conference

- ✓ Recently the 8th International Nitrogen Initiative Conference held virtually.
- ✓ This was set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere Biosphere Program (IGBP).
- ✓ It is a triennial event.

- ✓ It brings together scientists from around the world dealing with reactive nitrogen compounds in agriculture, industry, traffic, soil, water and air.
- ✓ Its objective is to stimulate an exchange among policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of results, ideas and visions to improve future holistic management of reactive nitrogen.
- ✓ The program is currently a sustained partner of Future Earth.

Russia's first full Stealth Naval Ship

- ✓ Russia is building its first naval ship which will be fully equipped with stealth technology.
- ✓ Stealth technology will to make it hard to detect.
- ✓ Russia has already incorporated stealth technology including a radar-absorbing coating into some navy vessels.
- ✓ However, those ships did not have full stealth technology.
- ✓ Mercury vessel will comprise of a radar-absorbing coating and a special shape.
- ✓ This will minimise protrusions and crevices on its surface.
- ✓ This sub-discipline of military tactics is also called as low observable technology.

I-Familia

- ✓ It is a Global database to identify missing persons.
- ✓ It is launched by Interpol.

- ✓ This policy forced thousands of Central American asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for U.S. court cases.
- ✓ After ending this policy more than 11,000 migrants enrolled in it have been allowed to enter the United States to pursue asylum claims.

Impact of climate change on plant pests

- ✓ The FAO & International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) published a report “Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests”
- ✓ The report was prepared by Maria Lodovica from the University of Turin in Italy alongside 10 co-authors.
- ✓ The focus of this report is to outline the potential effects of climate change on plant pests, and hence on plant health.
- ✓ According to the report as much as 40 per cent of the world’s agricultural crops are lost to pests each year.

Google to build longest Undersea Cable in the World

- ✓ Alphabet’s Google is all set to build world’s longest undersea cable connecting United States, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.
- ✓ This undersea cable will boost internet connection capacity in these regions.
- ✓ **Firmina undersea cable** will improve access to Google services for users in South America.

Blue Dot

- ✓ **Us administration**, along with the **Japanese and Australian** governments, are reviving the 'Blue Dot network' infrastructure initiative.
- ✓ It will provide an alternative to Chinese belt and Road initiative.
- ✓ The initiative is meant to motivate the private sector to invest in infrastructure development in emerging markets.

Russia withdraws from Open Skies Treaty

- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a law formalizing Russia's withdrawal from Open Skies Treaty.
- ✓ This is after United States withdrew from pact in 2020.
- ✓ Open Skies Treaty is an international treaty that allows nations to collect information on one another's military forces.
- ✓ This was to increase transparency.
- ✓ United States withdrew from pact in November 2020 after accusing Russia of violating it.

Aducanumab

- ✓ Aducanumab (Aduhelm) is the new drug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating Alzheimer's disease.
- ✓ It is developed by the company Biogen.

- ✚ four have inscriptions in Sanskrit and Nandi-Nagari script and
- ✚ the other two plates are in Telugu script.

Urgent action to end AIDS by 2030

- ✓ The UN General Assembly approved a declaration for urgent action to end AIDS by 2030.
- ✓ It noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and pushed access to AIDS medicines, treatments and diagnosis further off track.
- ✓ It advises the member nations to reduce the annual new HIV infections to under 3,70,000.
- ✓ It also reduced the annual AIDS-related deaths to under 2,50,000 by 2025.

Brussels summit of NATO

- ✓ 31st formal meeting of heads of government of NATO was held in Brussels, Belgium.
- ✓ NATO summit 2021 is also being dubbed as Brussels summit of NATO.
- ✓ NATO leaders declared that China poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order.
- ✓ NATO leaders declared China a global security challenge.

Mahatma Gandhi library inaugurated

- ✓ During his three-day visit External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has inaugurated the renovated Mahatma Gandhi library at the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

Global Skills Report 2021

- ✓ As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021', India has been ranked 67th overall globally.
- ✓ The report is released by Coursera.
- ✓ Indian learners have high proficiency in digital skills like Cloud Computing (83%) and Machine Learning (52%) & 54% in Mathematical skills.
- ✓ Improvement is needed in digital skills because in Data Analysis (25%) and Statistical programming (15%) skills.
- ✓ Countries that topped the report are
 - ✚ Switzerland - Rank 1
 - ✚ Luxembourg - Rank 2
 - ✚ Austria - Rank 3

UN conference on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

- ✓ This conference was convened by President of 75th session of General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the high-level virtual conference on desertification, land degradation and drought.

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- ✓ **PM Modi was President of 14th session of Conference of the Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).**
- ✓ **India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.**

Note

- ✓ **As per United Nations, one-fifth of earth's land area worldwide is degraded.**

US, Russia agree to resume arms control talks

- ✓ **US President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have agreed to resume arms control talks.**
- ✓ **They have also agreed to return ambassadors to each other capital after they were withdrawn earlier in 2021.**

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- ✓ **NATO leaders declared China a global security challenge.**

'Report it, don't share it' - initiative

- ✓ Facebook has launched a new initiative 'Report it, don't share it!'.
- ✓ This encourages people to report child abuse content on its platforms and not to share it.
- ✓ The initiative is in collaboration with civil society organisations like Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation and Arpan.

Viva Tech - 5th edition

- ✓ Viva Tech is one of the largest digital and start-up events of Europe.
- ✓ It is held in Paris every year since 2016.
- ✓ PM Modi was invited as a Guest of Honour to deliver the keynote address at Viva Tech 2021.
- ✓ During his address, PM Modi invited the world to invest in India based on the five pillars: Talent, Market, Capital, Eco-system and, Culture of openness.

United Kingdom - Australia trade deal

- ✓ United Kingdom and Australia has signed a free trade deal.
- ✓ This trade deal eliminates tariffs on wide range of goods.
- ✓ This deal was signed following UK's exit from European Union.

- ✓ This deal is expected to boost exports of traditional British products like Scotch whisky.

UNESCO Science Report

- ✓ The Latest edition of UNESCO Science Report (USR) was published recently.
- ✓ It is entitled as “race against time for smarter development”.
- ✓ USR is a flagship publication of UNESCO.
- ✓ It is published once every five years.
- ✓ It is a report on science, technology and innovation (STI).
- ✓ Every edition comprises of a chapter on India.
- ✓ The Chapter on India in latest edition was authored by Prof Sunil Mani.
- ✓ He is director at Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

SIPRI Yearbook 2021

- ✓ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released the SIPRI Yearbook 2021.
- ✓ The report assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.
- ✓ According to the yearbook, ***India possessed an estimated 156 nuclear warheads*** at the start of 2021.
- ✓ Pakistan had 165 warheads.
- ✓ China’s nuclear arsenal consisted of 350 warheads.

- ✓ Russia and the U.S. together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons.

ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

- ✓ 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus was held recently.
- ✓ It is being hosted by Brunei as it is the chair of the ASEAN grouping this year.
- ✓ The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- ✓ Eight Dialogue Partners are Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the USA (collectively referred to as the "Plus Countries").

Juneteenth

- ✓ US Government has 75ecognized Juneteenth, or June 19th, as a federal holiday.
- ✓ The day is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US.
- ✓ It is also known as Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day.

'Southern Ocean' – globe's fifth ocean

- ✓ The National Geographic magazine has 75ecognized the 'Southern Ocean' as the world's fifth ocean.

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- ✓ The Southern Ocean is the only ocean to touch three other oceans.
- ✓ Its northern limit is latitude of 60 degrees south.
- ✓ It is also defined by its Antarctic Circumpolar Current that was formed 34 million years ago.
- ✓ The current flows from west to east around Antarctica.

Aspirational Districts Programme – UNDP

- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has lauded the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) as ‘a very successful model of local area development’.
- ✓ It was said in an independent appraisal report released recently.
- ✓ UNDP’s analysis found that the programme has acted as a catalyst for expediting development in these districts.

UN Trade Forum 2021

- ✓ At UN Trade Forum 2021, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has said, India’s per capita carbon dioxide emission is the lowest amongst big economies.
- ✓ India has an ambitious renewable energy target of 450 Gigawatts by 2030.
- ✓ It shows India’s commitment towards United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.

- ✓ The elected leaders of Myanmar were overthrown on February 1 this year in a coup by the army.
- ✓ It accused Aung Sang Suu Kyi's ruling party of cheating in the November elections.
- ✓ The army's allegation has been rejected by the previous election commission and international monitors.

Children & Armed Conflict - Report

- ✓ The United Nations published its "Annual Report of Secretary-General on Children & Armed Conflict (CAAC)".
- ✓ As per the report, 26425 grave violations were committed against children in 2020.
- ✓ About 19,300 children affected by war in 2020.
- ✓ Crimes of abduction have increased by 90%.
- ✓ Incidents of rape & other forms of sexual violence have increased by 70%.
- ✓ One in four children affected by grave violations like rape & other forms of sexual violence were girls.

Suicide worldwide in 2019

- ✓ Suicide worldwide in 2019 report was published by World Health Organization.
- ✓ According to the report, only 38 countries have a national suicide prevention strategy, as of now.
- ✓ Suicide crisis was already in place in 2019.
- ✓ About one in 100 died by suicide in 2019.

- ✓ 58% of the suicides occurred before the age of 50 years.
- ✓ Suicide was fourth-leading cause of death in young people aged 15-29 worldwide in 2019.
- ✓ 77% of global suicides occurred in low-income and middle-income countries in 2019.
- ✓ Africa, Europe and South-East Asia accounted for suicide rates higher than world's average.
- ✓ India has highest suicide rate in Southeast Asian region.
- ✓ Rate of suicide was 9.9 in 2017 which increased to 10.2 in 2018.

TIWB programme - Bhutan and India

- ✓ This programme is expected to be of about 24 months' duration.
- ✓ The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing.
- ✓ Through this India aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration.
- ✓ TIWB Programme is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

CEOS COAST

- ✓ Recently, UN body has endorsed a multinational project called (CEOS COAST).

- ✓ CEOS COAST is Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools.
- ✓ CEOS COAST programme is co-led by ISRO and NOAA from US.
- ✓ This programme aims to improve accuracy of coastal data on the basis of satellite and land-based observations.
- ✓ Themes of these projects are disaster risk reduction & coastal resilience among continental shorelines & small island nations.

Abdala vaccine

- ✓ Cuba said that its Abdala vaccine against the coronavirus had proved 92.28% effective in last-stage clinical trials.
- ✓ It is a three-shot vaccine.
- ✓ It is developed by the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Cuba.

Strawberry Moon

- ✓ The Strawberry Moon marks the last Full Moon of the spring season.
- ✓ It also marks the first Full Moon of the summer.
- ✓ The celestial event is significant for two reasons,
 - ✚ it's a Strawberry Moon and
 - ✚ a Supermoon.
- ✓ This celestial event took place on 24th June.

New human species - Israel

- ✓ An international group of archaeologists have discovered new human species in Israel.
- ✓ Excavations were done at Israeli site of Nesher Ramla.
- ✓ Archaeologists have recovered a skull there.
- ✓ It is expected that, they lived about 420,000 to 120,000 years ago.
- ✓ This analysis finds that, this jaw belonged to person who were neither fully Homo sapiens nor were Neanderthal.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and Japan

- ✓ Japan had recently ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- ✓ It is a free trade agreement between Australia, China, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ✓ Japan has become the third member to ratify the agreement.
- ✓ Among the signatories, China and Singapore have completed the ratification procedures.
- ✓ Joining RCEP will be Japan's first trade deal involving China and South Korea.

China to run First Electric Train in Tibet

- ✓ China will operationalise first electric train in remote Himalayan region of Tibet.

- ✓ As per the report, 275 million people used drugs across the world in 2020.
- ✓ As per the report, 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders.
- ✓ Percentage of adolescents who perceived drug as harmful has reduced by 40 per cent.

Windows 11

- ✓ Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system 'Windows 11'.
- ✓ It is being called as the "next generation" of Windows.
- ✓ The previous Windows Operating System 'Windows 10' was launched in July 2015.
- ✓ PCs having Intel's sixth and seventh-generation processors will not be eligible to use Windows 11.

U.S. economic blockade against Cuba

- ✓ India, along with 183 countries voted in favour of a General Assembly resolution that demanded ending the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.
- ✓ The U.S. and Israel were the only nations voting against the resolution.
- ✓ Colombia, Ukraine and Brazil abstained on the resolution.
- ✓ The embargo against Cuba was imposed in 1960.
- ✓ This was following the revolution led by Fidel Castro and the nationalisation of properties belonging to U.S. citizens and corporations.

FATF - Grey list

- ✓ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added Haiti, Malta, the Philippines and South Sudan to the grey list.
- ✓ Ghana was removed from the list.

FATF

- ✓ The Financial Action Task Force is an inter-governmental body established on the initiative of the G7.
- ✓ It was established in 1989.
- ✓ FATF is a Paris-based organization.
- ✓ It sets anti-money-laundering law standards.
- ✓ There are now 22 countries or territories on the so-called grey list.

Baihetan Hydro power Station

- ✓ China began operating the world's second-largest hydro power station (Baihetan Hydro power Station) recently.
- ✓ Baihetan Hydro power Station has been built with a total installed capacity of 16,000 megawatts.
- ✓ The hydropower dam is built on the upper section of the Yangtze River.
- ✓ Yangtze is the longest river in China.
- ✓ Three Gorges dam (China) is the largest hydro power station in the world in terms of power generation.

MEDICINE

diABZI

- ✓ Scientists have identified a new drug that is reportedly very effective in preventing severe COVID-19 in mice already infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- ✓ The drug identified is diABZI.

India to get world's first DNA-plasmid vaccine

- ✓ India Western have the world's first DNA plasmid vaccine by Zydus Cadilla which has made in India.
- ✓ The Indian m-RNA vaccine which can be stored the temperature 2 to 8 Degree Celsius.
- ✓ The other vaccine that the government expects soon is Biological E- a protein sub unit vaccine.

Covovax

- ✓ Serum Institute of India has begun manufacturing the first batch of Covovax.
- ✓ It is a Covid-19 vaccine developed by Novavax Inc.
- ✓ Novavax is an US-based biotechnology company.

ECONOMY

Tax exemptions

- ✓ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman after the 43rd GST Council Meeting, announced that the GST Council

has decided to exempt the import duty on COVID-19 related items till August 31, 2021.

- ✓ In the view of rising cases of Black Fungus in the country, the Council has also included Amphotericin B in the exemptions list which includes other covid relief items.

Business Confidence Survey

- ✓ FICCI has published its quarterly “Business Confidence Survey”.
- ✓ According to it, Business confidence of Indian companies has come down to its lowest in three quarters in May.
- ✓ In last survey, confidence was at decadal high.
- ✓ Business Confidence Index (BCI) declined due to decline in optimism levels of participating companies with respect to current conditions.
- ✓ BCI stands at 51.5 in latest survey, after hitting 74.2 in previous survey round.

GDP data

- ✓ The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released India’s gross domestic product (GDP) data for January-March quarter of financial year 2020-21.
- ✓ Before second wave of Covid-19, India’s GDP grew 1.6 per cent in fourth quarter (January-March) of 2020-21.
- ✓ However, for all quarters together, GDP contracted to 7.3 percent.

RBI keep policy repo rate unchanged

- ✓ RBI has kept the benchmark interest rate and change Amit covid-19 uncertainty and fears over inflation.
- ✓ The projected gross domestic Product growth rate will be 9.5% for the current fiscal year. RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 4%, the sixth time in a row.
- ✓ RBI reverse repo rate or RBI 's borrowing rate also remains unchanged at 3.35%.

RBI monetary policy

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India unveiled its bi-monthly monetary policy.
- ✓ It has kept the interest rates unchanged.

Highlights

- ✓ Monetary policy opened a Rs 15,000-crore liquidity window for contactintensive sectors such as hotels and tourism.
- ✓ On the liquidity front, it announced securities purchases of Rs 40,000 crore in June quarter while Rs 1.2 lakh crore in September under G-SAP 1.0 to revive the growth.
- ✓ Repo rate was kept at 4 per cent while reverse repo rate was kept unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- ✓ G-SAP 2.0 will be launched to buy bonds worth Rs 1.2 trillion.

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- ✓ Under it, RBI will also buy bonds issued by state governments.

Note

- ✓ G-SAP 1.0 is Government Security Acquisition Programme 1.0 announced by RBI.
- ✓ It is for orderly evolution of yield curve in Financial Year 2022.

Bitcoin

- ✓ El Salvador has become the first country to formally adopt bitcoin as legal tender.
- ✓ Proposal to legalise cryptocurrency was put forward by President Nayib Bukele.

World's best banks

- ✓ DBS has been named by Forbes in their list of world's best banks 2021 in India category.
- ✓ It was ranked number one out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ The second bank on the list is Kerala-based CSB bank.
- ✓ State Bank of India ranks seventh in the list.

Covid vaccines to remain in 5% slab

- ✓ Finance minister has announced that covid vaccines will continue to attract GST at 5%.

- ✓ Medication to treat mucormycosis, widely known as Black fungus, will not be taxed under the indirect tax regime.
- ✓ GST rate for rent receiver has been announced from 12 % to 5%.

44th meeting of GST Council

- ✓ 44th meeting of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on June 12, 2021.
- ✓ GST Council has accepted recommendations of Group of Ministers (GoM) which was set up to look on tax relief on Covid-19 medical supplies.
- ✓ Several changes in GST rate have been made.
- ✓ This would be applicable till September 30, 2021.
- ✓ GST rate for ambulances has been reduced from 28 percent to 12 percent.
- ✓ GST rate for COVID-19 testing kits, medical-grade oxygen and ventilator have been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent.
- ✓ Rate on hand sanitisers has been reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.
- ✓ For temperature check equipment, rate was reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.
- ✓ 5% GST tax will be applicable on pulse oximeters, including personal imports, from earlier 12 percent.

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- ✓ On specified inflammatory diagnostic kits was reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent.
- ✓ GST rates on gas or electric or other furnaces used in crematorium including the installation charges has been reduced to 5% from 18%.
- ✓ No GST rate would be imposed on Covid-19 related drugs including Tocilizumab and Amphotericin B.
- ✓ Earlier it was kept at 5 percent.
- ✓ GST rates on anticoagulants such as Heparin and Remdesivir have been cut to 5 percent from 12 percent.
- ✓ 5% tax would be applied on ventilator masks or cannula or helmets.

DBS Bank - World's Best Bank 2021

- ✓ DBS Bank has been named by Forbes in their list of World's Best Banks 2021.
- ✓ DBS was ranked 1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ This is the third edition of the 'World's Best Banks' list by Forbes.
- ✓ It was conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista.
- ✓ Recently, **DBS Bank India was recognised as 'India's Best International Bank 2021'** by Asiamoney.
- ✓ The bank was also Global Finance's pick for 'Best Bank in the World' in the same year.

- ✓ DBS was named ‘**Safest Bank in Asia**’ for the **12th consecutive year** by New York-based trade publication Global Finance in 2020.
- ✓ Previously, DBS was named ‘World’s Best Bank’ by leading financial publication Euromoney in 2019.
- ✓ CEO of DBS bank is Piyush Gupta.
- ✓ Its Headquarters is in Singapore;
- ✓ Its tag line is “**Make Banking Joyful**”.

India's fund in Swiss banks rise

- ✓ Once passed by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through India based branches and other Financial Institutions, jumped to 2.55 billion Swiss francs in 2020.

Second in share of central bank surplus transfers – India

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India was second in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2020-21.
- ✓ Turkey has been ranked first.
- ✓ The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes 0.44% of GDP. The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes 0.5% of GDP.

Annual bank statistics 2020

- ✓ The Annual bank statistics 2020 is released by Swiss national bank.

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- ✓ India with Swiss Francs (CHF) 2.55 billion (INR 20, 706 Crore) has been placed at 51st place in the list of foreign clients' money in Swiss Banks during 2020.
- ✓ It has increased from 899 million CHF (INR 6, 625 Crore) in 2019.
- ✓ The United Kingdom (UK) topped the list with CHF 377 billion.
- ✓ It is followed by US (152 billion).

Centrum to takeover PMC bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cleared proposal to takeover of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperatives Bank (PMC Bank).
- ✓ The Consortium of non-bank lender Centrum Financial Services & fintech startup BharatPe will take over it.
- ✓ This decision was taken in the backdrop of collapse of Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperatives Bank.

RBI's Approval

- ✓ The RBI has decided to grant in-principle approval to Centrum so as to set up a small finance bank.
- ✓ It will be set up under on-tap licensing norms.
- ✓ On-tap licensing means, when regulator gives out bank licences on continuous basis rather than once in several years.

World Investment Report 2021

- ✓ "World Investment Report 2021" was released by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ✓ As per the report, India received USD 64 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2020.
- ✓ It has emerged the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows across the world.
- ✓ The United States remained the largest recipient of FDI.
- ✓ China was the second-largest recipient

India's bank credit-to-GDP ratio

- ✓ The bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to a five-year high of a little over 56 per cent in 2020.
- ✓ This is according to the latest data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- ✓ At a 56.075 per cent credit-to-GDP ratio, total outstanding bank credit stood at USD 1.52 trillion in the country in 2020.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AmbiTAG- India's first indigenous Temperature Data Logger

- ✓ **IIT Ropar** has developed "AmbiTAG" which is India's first indigenous temperature data logger developed for cold chain management.

- ✓ AmbiTAG is shaped as **USB device**. It continuously records temperature of its immediate surroundings.
- ✓ It can detect temperatures “**from -40 to +80 degrees**” in **any time zone for 90 days** on a single charge unlike other devices available in market that record data only for duration of 30- 60 days.
- ✓ Recorded data can be retrieved by connecting USB with any computer.
- ✓ Ambitag was developed under Technology Innovation Hub – AWaDH which stands for “Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub” and its Startup ScratchNest.
- ✓ It carries out extensive research in agriculture and water.

NGC 691

- ✓ NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope captured beautiful photo of spiral galaxy called “NGC 691”.
- ✓ It is an **unbarred spiral galaxy** located about 125 million light-years away in **Aries constellation**.
- ✓ It was discovered by German-born British astronomer William Herschel in November, 1786.

IAU approves chinese names

- ✓ The international astronomical Union has approved 8 Chinese names to identify regions on the moon.

- ✓ These areas are located in the same place where China spacecraft Chang E-5 landed in 2020 to collect samples from the lunar surface.

NASA to send water bears to Space Station

- ✓ NASA will send 128 glow-in-dark baby squids and some 5,000 tardigrades (also known as water bears) to the International Space Station for research purposes.
- ✓ The water animals, which will be launched aboard SpaceX's 22nd cargo resupply mission to the ISS, are part of experiments that could help scientists design improved protective measures for astronauts.

NASA announces Two Robotic Missions to Venus

- ✓ American space agency, NASA, has announced its two new robotic missions namely **Davinci+ and Veritas**, to Venus to examine atmosphere and geological features on the planet.
- ✓ They will be launched in between 2028 and 2030.
- ✓ Both the missions will be launched with aim to understand, how Venus surface is capable of melting lead and how this planet became an inferno-like world.
- ✓ Venus has its surface temperature as **500 degree Celsius** which is hot enough to melt lead.

IIT-Hyderabad develops Nano-Fibre based AmphotericinB

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB.
- ✓ This was the first attempt to fabricate nanofibrous oral tablets of Amphotericin B to cure Kala Azar.

Madad Map

- ✓ It is India's first country-wide map showing availability of hospital beds in realtime updates.
- ✓ This portal was launched by Project Madad (help).
- ✓ Washington-based Dr Rajesh Anumolu was head architect of 'Madad Maps'.

XraySetu

- ✓ A new AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' has been developed to help in the early detection of COVID 19, with the help of Chest X-ray.
- ✓ The solution will be beneficial for early detection especially in rural areas,
- ✓ In rural areas, RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available.
- ✓ XraySetu will operate through WhatsApp.
- ✓ It will identify COVID positive patients even from low-resolution Chest X-Ray images sent over Whatsapp-based Chatbot.

- ✓ The solution has been developed by ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park), established by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), in collaboration with Bangalore based HealthTech startup Niramai and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

‘EAST’ - China’s Artificial Sun

- ✓ The China’s EAST (Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak) reactor is an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device.
- ✓ The EAST Tokamak device is designed to mimic the energy generation process of the sun.
- ✓ It replicates the process of nuclear fusion process carried out by the sun and stars.
- ✓ It has set a new record after it ran at 216 million degrees Fahrenheit (120 million degrees Celsius) for 101 seconds.
- ✓ EAST is one of three major domestic tokamaks that are presently being operated across the country.
- ✓ Other two are HL-2A reactor and J-TEXT.
- ✓ Also, in 2020, South Korea’s KSTAR reactor set a record by maintaining a plasma temperature of 100 million degrees C for 20 seconds.

ESA announces orbiter to study Venus

- ✓ European Space Agency (ESA) has announced about its probe called 'EnVision' to study Venus, after American Space agency NASA decided to send two missions to the planet.
- ✓ EnVision will be the next orbiter to circle over Venus. It will provide a holistic view of planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere.
- ✓ It will determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, even though they lie in habitable zone to the Sun as opposed to Nasa probes DAVINCI+ and VERITAS which will enter into atmosphere of Venus.
- ✓ ESA will launch its probe by 2030.
- ✓ Venus is not inhabitable like Earth but has witnessed severe climatic changes.
- ✓ It has developed a toxic atmosphere which is enshrouded with thick sulphuric acid-rich clouds.

WISA Woodsat

- ✓ European Space Agency (ESA) will launch world's first wooden satellite in the Earth's orbit.
- ✓ It is called as WISA Woodsat.
- ✓ It will be launched to test the applicability of wooden materials such as plywood in spacecraft structures.
- ✓ Wooden satellite will be launched with a Rocket Lab Electron rocket.

- ✓ It will be launched from Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.
- ✓ Satellite has been designed and built in Finland.

New study on cancer causing virus

- ✓ Indian scientists have found that the cancer causing virus Epstein Barr Virus affects the glial cells and the non neural cells in the central nervous system and alerts molecules like phospho-inositol.
- ✓ The scientist's team used Raman spectroscopy system to trace the propagation mechanism of the virus.

Shenzhou-12

- ✓ Chinese spacecraft, Shenzhou-12, blasted off from Gobi Desert on a Long March rocket.
- ✓ This Spacecraft will ferry three men to an orbiting space.
- ✓ They will stay for three-month.
- ✓ This will be the first time China will send humans into space since 2016.
- ✓ Shenzhou-12 means Divine Vessel.

CHIME telescope results

- ✓ Scientists with the CHIME Collaboration have assembled the largest collection of fast radio bursts (FRBs) in the telescope's first FRB catalogue.
- ✓ **CHIME is Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment.**

- ✓ It is a large stationary radio telescope in British Columbia, Canada.
- ✓ Sight of an FRB is considered a rare thing in the field of radio astronomy.
- ✓ Radio astronomers had only caught sight of around 140 bursts in their scopes since the first FRB was spotted in 2007.
- ✓ FRBs are oddly bright flashes of light which blaze for a few milliseconds before vanishing without a trace.
- ✓ They are registered in the radio band of the electromagnetic spectrum.

World's most powerful magnet

- ✓ France is set to get the world's most powerful magnet for a fusion reactor that aims to replicate the process that powers the sun.
- ✓ Dubbed as Central solenoid, the powerful magnet is strong enough to lift an Aircraft carriers 6 feet in the air.
- ✓ It will be Central component of Trans energy project.

Boundary between Solar System and Interstellar Space

- ✓ The Scientists have created first-ever 3D map of boundary between our solar system and interstellar space called Heliosphere.
- ✓ This 3D map was created using data from NASA's IBEX satellite.

- ✓ The Boundary of heliosphere has been mapped for the first time.
- ✓ It will provide for scientists to understand how solar and interstellar winds interact.
- ✓ Earlier, this boundary was mentioned in theories of Physics models.
- ✓ This is the first-time scientists were able to measure it and make its three-dimensional map.

T2T-CHM13

- ✓ Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) consortium, an international collaboration of around 30 institutions has sequenced the “first truly complete human reference genome”.
- ✓ The new sequence is named as “T2T-CHM13”.
- ✓ This unlocks newer regions in human DNA.
- ✓ It might help understanding of a wide variety of disorders affecting people.

Flex-fuel Engines

- ✓ Central government is planning to make production of vehicle with flex-fuel engines mandatory for carmakers in India.
- ✓ This decision was taken days after advancing cut-off date for mixing 20 per cent ethanol in petrol from 2030 to 2025.
- ✓ Flex-fuel engines are already in vogue in countries such as Brazil, Canada and United States.

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- ✓ In these countries, a lot of vehicle owners use ethanol as fuel for their cars.
- ✓ Flexible-fuel vehicle or flex-fuel vehicle or dual-fuel vehicle is an alternative fuel vehicle in which internal combustion engine are designed to run on more than one fuel.
- ✓ They usually run-on gasoline blended with either ethanol or methanol fuel.

CASSAVA

- ✓ ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) have found CASSAVA as a raw material for bioethanol production to meet Ethanol Blending Petrol (EBP) programme target of 2025 by India.
- ✓ As a biofuel crop, cassava has several advantages over sugarcane.
- ✓ Cassava is having a high starch content and ability to grow under low management conditions.
- ✓ It has been globally recognised as a potential candidate for bioethanol production.
- ✓ Cassava, also known as Tapioca, production in India is estimated to be 4.98 million tonnes.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, followed by Kerala accounts for major amount of production.

- ✓ Before the manned missions, China will send robots to Mars that will study possible sites to set up base and to build systems to extract resources there.
- ✓ Resources would be extracted to study it properly for manned mission.

Ingenuity on its 8th flight

- ✓ NASA's experimental Mars helicopter called Ingenuity undertook its 8th flight on Red Planet.
- ✓ Ingenuity is a small robotic helicopter which is operating on Mars under NASA's Mars 2020 mission.
- ✓ Ingenuity was built by Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA.
- ✓ Ingenuity was originally designed to fly only five times.
- ✓ But its steady successes made agency to extend its mission and experiment with more ambitious flights.

Nirbhay

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'.
- ✓ It is tested from an Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore.
- ✓ This was the eighth test flight of the missile.
- ✓ The first test flight of Nirbhay was held on 12 March 2013.
- ✓ Nirbhay is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile indigenously designed and developed by DRDO.

- ✓ It has a strike range of about 1500 km.

Biocompatible nanogenerator developed

- ✓ Scientists have fabricated a simple, cost effective, biocompatible, transparent nanogenerator.
- ✓ It can generate electricity from vibrations all around for use in optoelectronics, self-powered devices, and other biomedical applications.

First improved version of Gaganyaan

- ✓ ISRO will launch the first and Prove the mission in December 21, as part of the human spaceflight program 'Gaganyaan'.
- ✓ The objective of the Gaganyaan program is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth Orbit on board and Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth safely.
- ✓ ISRO's heavy-lift launch of GSLV Mark III has been identified for the mission.

LiDAR based survey of forest areas

- ✓ The Union Environment Minister released the Detailed Project Reports of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) based survey of forest areas in ten states.
- ✓ The 10 mapped states are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.

- ✓ The Survey of Forest Areas Project was awarded to WAPCOS.
- ✓ WAPCOS is a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- ✓ It is a first of its kind and a unique experiment using LiDAR technology.
- ✓ This survey will help augment water and fodder in jungle areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict.
- ✓ LiDAR technology has been found to have 90% accuracy.

ENVIRONMENT

Heat deaths due to Global Warming

- ✓ Recently a study was conducted to calculate human cost of climate change.
- ✓ According to it, more than **one-third of world's heat deaths** are related to global warming each year.
- ✓ Highest percentages of heat deaths due to climate change were **recorded in cities of South America**.
- ✓ **Southern Europe and southern Asia** were recorded as other hot spots for heat deaths due to climate change.
- ✓ **35% of heat deaths in United States** were due to climate change.
- ✓ It includes global warming caused due to human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases and large-scale shifts in weather patterns.

IIT Roorkee researchers discover new fossils

- ✓ IIT Roorkee researchers have discovered New fossils that show India what home to a variety of cows millions of years ago.
- ✓ Free cows, or Dugongs, are an endangered species of herbivorous Marine mammals, feed on sea Grace in Shallow coastal waters.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration report

- ✓ UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food & Agriculture Organisation of UN (FAO) launched ‘UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration’ report for 2021- 2030.
- ✓ It called the nations to meet commitments of restoring 1 billion hectares of land.
- ✓ As per the report, the world is facing triple threat of climate change, loss of nature and pollution.

Blue-finned Mahseer

- ✓ According to TATA Power, Blue-finned Mahseer has moved to “least concern” status which was listed in red list of endangered species of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) earlier.
- ✓ TATA group is involved in conservation of blue-finned and golden mahseer for 50 years in Lonavala. Golden mahseer is still in danger of going extinct.

- ✓ They are commercially important game fish and highly esteemed food fish.

Forest and tree cover increases by 24.56%

- ✓ The forest and tree cover in the country has reached 24.56% of the Geographic area which is spread over 8 lakh square kilometres.
- ✓ India has increased its forest and tree cover by 15000 square kilometre in the last 6 years.
- ✓ India is also home to rich wildlife and biodiversity having 70% of tiger and Asiatic lions and 60% of leopard Global population.

Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative

- ✓ India along with Govt. of United Kingdom launched the Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI).
- ✓ It was launched under the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) at the 12th Chief Energy Ministerial (CEM).
- ✓ IDDI is a global coalition of public and private organisations who are working to stimulate demand for low carbon industrial materials.
- ✓ It is coordinated by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- ✓ IDDI is co-led by the UK and India.
- ✓ The current members also include Germany and Canada.

World Bank study on glacier melt

- ✓ The World Bank had recently conducted a research study on impact of Black Carbon over the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges.
- ✓ In these places the glaciers are melting faster than the global average ice mass.
- ✓ The report is titled “Glaciers of the Himalayas, Climate Change, Black Carbon and Regional Resilience”.

Highlights

- ✓ Black carbon (BC) deposits produced by human activity accelerate the pace of glacier and snow melt in the Himalayan region.
- ✓ The rate of retreat of HKHK glaciers is estimated to be 0.3 metres per year in the west to 1.0 metre per year in the east.

CO2-neutral cement plant

- ✓ Heidelberg Cement plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world’s first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030.
- ✓ This could be done via carbon capture technology.
- ✓ Heidelberg Cement is the world’s second-largest cement maker.

Largest dinosaur species discovered

- ✓ A gigantic dinosaur discovered in Australia outback has been identified as a new species and recognised as one of the largest to ever roam the Earth, according to Palaeontologists.
- ✓ It has a nickname Cooper.

Sea snot

- ✓ Turkey's Sea of Marmara has witnessed the largest outbreak of 'sea snot'.
- ✓ Sea of Marmara connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea.
- ✓ Sea snot is a slimy layer of grey or green sludge.
- ✓ It can cause considerable damage to the marine ecosystem.
- ✓ It is formed when algae are overloaded with nutrients.

Keeling Curve

- ✓ The amount of carbon in Earth's atmosphere in May 2021 reached its highest level in modern history.
- ✓ It is indicated by the Keeling Curve.
- ✓ Keeling Curve is a global benchmark for carbon levels in the atmosphere.
- ✓ It is named after its creator Dr. Charles David Keeling.
- ✓ It is a graph that represents the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in Earth's atmosphere since 1958.

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- ✓ Its measurements are taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii.

Pyrostria laljii

- ✓ A 15-metre-tall tree that belongs to genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered in Andaman Islands.
- ✓ The new species Pyrostria laljii, is also the first record of the genus Pyrostria in India.
- ✓ Trees belonging to these species are usually found in Madagascar.

Operation Olivia

- ✓ Coast Guard have enforced laws and started operation Olivia to protect Olive Ridley turtles in Odisha.
- ✓ Operation Olivia was started by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), first in early 1980s.
- ✓ This operation helps in protecting Olive Ridley turtles every year.

Great Indian Bustards and related conflict with Power Lines

- ✓ The Great Indian Bustards are making it slow to manoeuvre while flying.
- ✓ They have poor frontal vision and a habit of scanning earth while flying over flat grasslands across western borders of India. As a result, they often collide with power lines.

- ✓ Wide-open regions are home to Indian Bustard. These regions are also an ideal location for wind and solar projects.
- ✓ As a result, Indian Bustard are coming in way of renewable energy sources.
- ✓ Efforts to save bustard could set back India's climate goals, which depend heavily on availability of such wasteland.

15-m tree discovered in Andaman and Nicobar Island

- ✓ A 15 metre-tall tree that belongs to the genus of the coffee family have recently been discovered from the Andaman Islands by a team of researchers from India and the Philippines.
- ✓ The new species, *Pyrostria laljii*, is also the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India.

Great Barrier Reef

- ✓ UN committee recommended to add Great Barrier Reef to the list of "in danger" World Heritage Sites.
- ✓ However, this recommendation is opposed by Australia which is blaming political interference.
- ✓ Recommendation was made by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) committee.

- ✓ This happens to be lowest in 44 years and fourth lowest since 1901.
- ✓ The lowest ever average maximum temperature in May was recorded in the year 1917 at 32.68-degree Celsius.

Three species of crocodiles

- ✓ Odisha has become the only state in India to have all the three species of crocodiles.
- ✓ Three species in the state of Odisha are:
 - ✚ Reptile freshwater Gharials at Satkosia in Mahanadi,
 - ✚ Muggers in Bhitarkanika National Park and
 - ✚ Saltwater crocodiles.
- ✓ Odisha has witnessed natural nesting of Gharials (a critically endangered species) for the first time since they were introduced in its rivers in 1975.

Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority

- ✓ Union ministry of Environment, forest & Climate Change has notified about constituting a Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority.
- ✓ The Notification was issued under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ✓ Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority is a 15-member body.
- ✓ This will be constituted to protect & improve the quality of coastal environment.

- ✓ Its primary work is to prevent, abate and control environmental pollution in Coastal Regulation Zone of Karnataka.
- ✓ The Term of office of present members is for three years.

Green Hydrogen Initiatives

- ✓ India hosted a two-day summit on Green Hydrogen Initiatives.
- ✓ This Summit involves the BRICS nations.
- ✓ This prestigious event offers a platform to share their respective Green Hydrogen initiatives & views on how to take it to next level in their countries.
- ✓ This Online event was hosted by India's largest power producer and global energy majors called NTPC Ltd.
- ✓ Green Hydrogen is obtained entirely from renewable power sources.

Assam to race endangered Turtles

- ✓ The Assam forest department has adopted a vision document to raise at least 10,000 endangered black softshell turtle by 2030.
- ✓ Black softshell turtle, arrest of India's 28 turtle species were believed to be 'extinct in the wild' till recently.

Colombian Butterflies

- ✓ Colombia is home to world's largest variety of butterflies. It accounts for 20% of all known species.

- ✓ They registered the species in document titled “Checklist of Colombian Butterflies.”
- ✓ About 200 butterfly species are found in Colombia.

Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary

- ✓ Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary becomes the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan.
- ✓ This will be the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India.
- ✓ Rajasthan's other three tiger reserves are,
- ✓ Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur,
- ✓ Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar and
- ✓ Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota.

Note

- ✓ Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with 9 tiger reserves.
- ✓ It is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Biodiversity Garden

- ✓ In a first in India, Uttarakhand has inaugurated 'Bharat Vatika'.
- ✓ It showcases 24 species of trees from 28 states and 5 union territories.
- ✓ Established in Haldwani of the Nainital district, the Vatika in to promote the national integration with the display of the magnificent biodiversity of the country.

NAVY

Pakistan and Egypt hold military exercise

- ✓ Pakistani and education forces are taken part in the '**Sky Guardians 1**' exercise to bolster military cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ It began in Cairo, focused on robust and realistic training to conference existing and emerging trends in the air domain.

INS Sandhayak decommissioned

- ✓ Indian navy's oldest hydrographic survey ship INS Sandhayak was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam after serving the nation for 40 glorious years.
- ✓ The ship has been an active participant in many significant operations such as **operation Pawan**(assisting the Indian peace keeping force in Sri Lanka in 1987) and operation rainbow.

CORPAT Exercise

- ✓ India and Thailand started 31st edition of **Coordinated Patrols or CORPAT**, with the aim of reinforcing maritime links between two countries and to keep **Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade**.

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- ✓ This is the first biannual exercise in which **Saryu, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel** called Saryu from Indian Navy and **His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft** from both navies are participating.
- ✓ Both the countries share friendly ties as both are members of Bay of Bengal grouping of seven countries which brings South Asian, Thailand and Myanmar from South East Asia under single platform.

Saudi, US forces launch military exercise

- ✓ The royal Saudi land forces and the US Army ground forces have launched a joint exercise in the North Western region of the kingdom.
- ✓ The exercise called "**Falcon Claws 4**" aims to strengthen military relations between the two countries.

India, Japan conduct bilateral Naval exercise

- ✓ Ships of the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self defence force participated in a joint Naval exercise at the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted to realise "free and open Indo-pacific".

INS Sahyadri bags best ship title

- ✓ Indian navy's Sahib has been given the best ship title at the fleet awards function 2021.

Shatrujeet Brigade conducts airborne exercise

- ✓ The Shatrujeet Brigade, of the Indian Army conducted Maroo Strike, an airborne exercise to validate its Rapid response capability.
- ✓ The exercise was preceded by a service of intense preparation involving joint planning and integration between the Indian army and Indian Airforce elements taking part in the exercise.

INS Trikand participating in IN-EUNAVFOR

- ✓ Indian Naval ship Ttrikand, mission deployed for anti piracy operations, is participating in the maiden IN-EUNAVFOR joint Naval exercise in the Gulf of Aden.
- ✓ Other countries that are participating are Italy, France and Spain.

Indian ships participated in passage exercise

- ✓ Indian Naval ships Kochi and Teg along with P8I and MiG29K are craft are participating in a passage exercise with US Navy carrier strike group Ronald Reagan.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Ravi Shastri's book

- ✓ Cricket legend, commentator and one of team India's most successful coaches, ravi Shastri husband a book titled "**Stargazing: The players in my life**".

Vinod kapri's new book

- ✓ Author and filmmaker Vinod kapri has come up with the new book "1232km: The Long Journey Home".
- ✓ The book Chronicles the journey of 7 migrant workers from Bihar, who journey back home on their bicycles and reached their destination after 7 days during lockdown.

Book on Veer Savarkar

- ✓ Historian Vikram Sampath has come up with the second and concluding volume of the book on the life and workers of Veer Savarkar titled "**Savarkar: A Contested Legacy(1924-1966)**".

Salman Rushdie's book

- ✓ A book titled "**Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020**" is authored by Salman Rushdie.

Supriya Paul's book

- ✓ Supriya Paul has come up with the stories of some unique individuals in her new book "**All you need is Josh: Stories of courage and conviction in 21st century India**".
- ✓ The stories in the book have been edited by the fall and published by Bloomsbury.

Salman Rushdie's book

- ✓ Essays 2003-2020 Language's of Truth was written by Salman Rushdie.

Meghan Markle's book

- ✓ Meghan Markle, Britain's Duchess of Sussex, release the debut children's book dedicating it to her husband Prince Harry and their two-year old son Archie.
- ✓ The book titled "**The Bench**" look at the relationship between father and the son through a mother's Eyes.

Amartya Sen's book

- ✓ Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir 'Home in the World'.
- ✓ The book will be published in July by Penguin Random House.

2021 Pulitzer Prize Special Citation

- ✓ Darnella Frazier, the teenager who recorded the infamous video showing George Floyd's murder at the hands of Minneapolis police was awarded a 2021 Pulitzer Prize Special Citation.

Suresh Raina's autobiography

- ✓ Cricketer Suresh Raina have come up with his autobiography 'Believe- what life taught me'.

Ruskin Bond's new book

- ✓ The Indian British author Ruskin Bond has authored a new book titled 'It's a Wonderful Life'.
- ✓ It is published by Aleph Book Company.
- ✓ He is a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.
- ✓ His First Novel was 'The Room on the Roof'.

SPORTS

Asian Boxing championship

- ✓ Indian boxer Sanjeet kumar has won a gold medal in 91 kg weight category at the ASBC asian Boxing championship.

UEFA Champions League title – Football

- ✓ Chelsea defeated Manchester City 1–0 in the final, to lift the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League title.
- ✓ It was played at the Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal.
- ✓ **Kai Havertz scored the only goal of the football match.**
- ✓ This is the second Champions League title for Chelsea, after winning the first won in 2012.

Fouaad Mirza

- ✓ Expert horse rider Fouaad Mirza has completed the minimum Eligibility requirement to compete in Olympics Games' event.

- ✓ She officially became the first Indian to qualify for Olympics after the 2000 Sydney games.

Chhetri: Second highest International goal scorer

- ✓ India men's Football Team Captain Sunil Chhetri overtook Ali Mabkhout and Lionel Messi to become the second highest International goal scorer among active men's player.

The Hundred Women's Competition

- ✓ 5 Indian women cricketers have joined the hundred women's competition.
- ✓ Cricketers are Shefali Verma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma.
- ✓ The dormant will be organised by the England and Wales Cricket board and played in 100-ball format, will see some of the best women cricketer from around The World compete for different franchises.

French Open women's singles

- ✓ Barbora Krejckova has won her maiden Grand Slam Women's Singles Tennis title. Barbara became the first Czech women's singles champion since 1981.

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat wins a gold medal

- ✓ Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the women's hockey 3 freestyle gold at Holland ranking serious in Warsaw.

- ✓ This was India's 2nd medal at the event.

French open Men's Singles title

- ✓ Novak Djokovic has won his 19th Grand Slam title in French open 2021 in Men's single category at Roland Garros in Paris.

ICC Hall of Fame

- ✓ The ICC has inducted 10 icons of the game, including India's Vinoo Mankad, into its illustrious Hall of Fame. Two players each from five eras have been chosen.
- ✓ The announcement has been coincided with the inaugural World Test Championship final.
- ✓ The match is to be played between India and New Zealand from June 18 in Southampton at England.

MP para shooter wins gold at Peru event

- ✓ Madhyapradesh Shooter, Rubina Francis won the gold in the 10 metre air pistol para women event at the world shooting para sport cup in Peru.

Poland open - Vinesh Phogat

- ✓ The Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the 53 kg category at the Poland Open.
- ✓ It is her third title of the season.
- ✓ Earlier, She had won gold at the Matteo Pellicone event (March) and Asian Championship (April).

Mawya Sudan

- ✓ Mawya Sudan has become the 12th woman officer to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the IAF.
- ✓ She is the first woman fighter pilot from Jammu and Kashmir (Rajouri district).

Laurel Hubbard

- ✓ The New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard becomes the **first transgender athlete** to compete at an Olympic Games.
- ✓ She is 43-year-old.
- ✓ She will be the **fourth oldest weightlifter** at an Olympics.
- ✓ She is to participate in the women's super-heavyweight 87kg-plus category in Tokyo.

Ons Jabeur

- ✓ Tunisia's Ons Jabeur became the first Arab woman to win a WTA title.

Captain of men's hockey team

- ✓ Hockey India has named Manpreet Singh as captain of the 16 member Olympic Bond men's hockey team.
- ✓ Birendra Lakra and harmanpreet Singh where named vice captains.

World test Championships

- ✓ New Zealand has become ICC world test Championship after beating India.
- ✓ This is their first ever ICC title.

Karnam Malleswari

- ✓ Delhi government has appointed Olympic medalist Karnam Malleswari as the first Vice Chancellor of Delhi sports University.
- ✓ Malleswari is the first Indian woman five letter to bring home and Olympic medal.

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

- ✓ Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce became the second-fastest woman of all time.
- ✓ She clocked 10.63 seconds at a 100m meet in Kingston.
- ✓ She is behind 100 metres world record holder Florence Griffith-Joyner.
- ✓ Florence Griffith-Joyner holds the women's 100m world record of 10.49 seconds, set in Indianapolis in 1988.

Zhizhen

- ✓ Zhang Zhizhen has qualified for Wimbledon to become the first Chinese man in the open Era to play in the Grand Slam tournament.

200m butterfly event at the SetteColli trophy in Rome, Italy.

Deepika Kumari

- ✓ Ranchi women Deepika Kumari has set a new record by clinching three gold medals in a single day during the ongoing Archery world Cup stage 3 in Paris.

Mitali Raj

- ✓ Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj became the first women's cricketer to play in ODI cricket for 22 years.

Ali Daei and Cristiano Ronaldo

- ✓ Asian football legend Ali Daei had scored a remarkable 109 goals in 149 appearances for Iran between 1993 and 2006.
- ✓ This record was met recently by Cristiano Ronaldo.
- ✓ Ali Daei congratulated Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) after he scored his 109th goal.
- ✓ The goal was scored in Euro 2020 game against France.

Abhishek Verma

- ✓ Abhishek Verma won his 2nd World Cup gold medal in Archery recently.
- ✓ He is the first Indian man to win two World Cup gold medals in individual compound event.

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- ✓ Verma won a shoot-off against American heavyweight Kris Schaff in gold medal match.

Rahi Sarnobat

- ✓ In the ISSF world Cup shooting, India's Rahi Sarnobat won gold in the women's 25 metre pistol event in Osijek, Croatia.

Will Smith's autobiography

- ✓ Actor Will Smith revealed the title and cover of his upcoming autobiography “Will”.
- ✓ The book is to be published by Penguin Press.
- ✓ Will Smith is co-writing the book with author Mark Manson.
- ✓ The cover is designed by New Orleans artist Brandan “BMike” Odums.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

3 Indian peacekeepers to be honoured - UN

- ✓ Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav are among those to be honoured with the UN’s prestigious medal.
- ✓ Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ✓ Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.

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- ✓ Moolchand Yadav was associated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).

Little Rakesh and Jerry Wind win an award

- ✓ The authors Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind have made history by winning the prestigious international business book of the Year award for 2021.
- ✓ They were rewarded for their recently launched the book Transformation in Times of crisis.

WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award

- ✓ World Health Organisation has awarded Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan with 'WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award'.
- ✓ This is for his accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.
- ✓ Dr Harsh Vardhan leadership was instrumental in the 2019 national legislation to ban E-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.

International Dublin Literary Award 2021

- ✓ Mexican author Valeria Luiselli won the International Dublin Literary Award 2021 for her novel '**Lost Children Archive**'.
- ✓ Established in 1994, the International Dublin Literary Award is considered as one of the **world's wealthiest awards for literature**.

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- ✓ It's noted that the author also won the **Rathbones Folio Prize in 2020 for the same book.**

2021 version of Gamers' cap

- ✓ New Zealand all-rounder Kyle Jamieson was awarded the 2021 version of Gamers' cap.
- ✓ Gamers' Cap award is given to the player who has been voted as 'Cricketer of the year' by the players and support staff.

At Night All Blood is Black

- ✓ French novelist David Diop won the prestigious International Booker Prize for his book “At Night All Blood is Black”.
- ✓ The Paris-born writer became the first French winner of the prize.
- ✓ The book was first published in 2018 in French.
- ✓ The book's translator Anna Moschovakis won half the £50,000 (\$70,850) prize.

Best film National Award

- ✓ 'Water Burial', film based on the Monpa dialect of Arunachal Pradesh, has won the best film national award in the environment conservation category.
- ✓ The Monpa Tribe in Arunachal Pradesh lives at a height of 8000-9000 feet above sea level.

Actress Lakshmi Devy wins an award

- ✓ Indian American actress and filmmaker Lakshmi Devy has won the prestigious Gold Remy Award for Direction at the 54th world best Houston International Film Festival.
- ✓ She was awarded for her film "when the music changes".

2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards

- ✓ Kerala-based Thomas Vijayan has won the 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards.
- ✓ This is for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree.
- ✓ The photograph is titled 'The World is Going Upside Down'.
- ✓ Vijayan was adjudged as the overall winner of the competition from over 8,000 entries.
- ✓ Nature TTL is the world's leading online nature photography resource.

Greenpreneur award 2021

- ✓ **Dr Charu Khosla**, from Punjab has won the prestigious Greenpreneur Award 2021.
- ✓ He has been awarded for exemplary work in 'Energy Management'.

BAFTA TV Awards 2021

- ✓ Michaela Coel scooped Best Actress and Best Mini-series awards for her show I May Destroy You.

- ✓ Paul Mescal took home the award for Best Actor for his performance in Normal People.
- ✓ The winners of the BAFTA TV awards were announced at London's Television Centre.
- ✓ The BAFTA TV Awards or British Academy Television Awards are presented annually since 1955.

Indian origin journalist wins Pulitzer prize

- ✓ Megha Rajagopalan, an Indian origin journalist, has won Pulitzer Prize for exposing China vast infrastructure for the training Muslims.
- ✓ Another journalist of Indian Origin, Neil Bedi, own a Pulitzer for local reporting.

The PEN Pinter prize

- ✓ Tsitsi Dangarembga, Zimbabwean writer has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize.
- ✓ She has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize, praised for her “ability to capture and communicate vital truths even amidst times of upheaval”.
- ✓ Dangarembga was also shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for her work ‘This Mournable Body’.
- ✓ Established in 2009, PEN Pinter prize is given in memory of Nobel-laureate playwright Harold Pinter.

2021 UK Asian Film Festival

- ✓ Indian actress Tillotama Shome has won the Best Actor award at the 2021 UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF).
- ✓ Tillotama won the award for her role in the film 'Raahgir: The Wayfarers'.
- ✓ The film has been directed by Goutam Ghose.
- ✓ The UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) 2021 was the 23rd edition of the annual event.
- ✓ Filmmaker Goutam Ghose has also won the Best Director award at the UKAFF.

Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award

- ✓ The Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), R.S. Sodhi, was conferred with the Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award.
- ✓ This was awarded by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo.
- ✓ It is awarded in recognition of enhanced productivity and efficient milk supply chain.
- ✓ He is the first Indian to have received the prestigious award, in the last 20 years.

IIT Roorkee professor get an award

- ✓ Professor from IIT Roorkee professor Shailesh Ganpule, has received an award the 'NSG counter-IED & Counter-

Terrorism innovator award 2021' for his design of a blast resistant helmet.

Shyam Sundar wins UN land conservation award

- ✓ Rajasthan based climate activist Shyam Sundar Jyani's environment conservation concept, family Forestry has won the United Nations' land for life award 2021.
- ✓ The announcement was made by the UN convention to combat desertification.

2021 Land for Life Award

- ✓ The 2021 Land for Life Award has been won by Familial Forestry of Rajasthan.
- ✓ Familial Forestry is a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green "family member."
- ✓ The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) organises the Land for Life Award every two years.
- ✓ This is to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance.
- ✓ The theme for the 2021 Award is "Healthy Land, Healthy Lives".
- ✓ Land for Life Award has been considered as the world's highest reward regarding land conservation and restoration.

European Inventor Award 2021

- ✓ Indian American chemist Sumita Mitra has been honoured with European inventor award 2021 in the 'Non- European Patent Office Countries' category.
- ✓ She successfully integrator nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing feelings.

Kofi Annan Changemakers 2021 initiative

- ✓ Zeinorin Stephen Angkang is selected as one of world's 12 'exceptional young leaders' for the Kofi Annan Changemakers 2021 initiative.
- ✓ She has been selected by the Geneva-based Kofi Annan Foundation.
- ✓ She is a 29-year-old woman from Manipur's Ukhrul district.
- ✓ Angkang has been selected for her involvement with indigenous farmers of the Tangkhul Naga tribe in Manipur.

Open Society Prize

- ✓ The Former Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja has been chosen for the prestigious Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize.
- ✓ She has been selected for the award in recognition of her commitment to public health services.

- ✓ The Open Society Prize, the highest civilian recognition by the university.
- ✓ It is annually awarded to persons of exceptional distinction who serve the ideals of an open society.
- ✓ In 2020, Nobel Laureate Svetlana Alexeyevich received the Open Society Prize.

7 Navy Pilots awarded prestigious "Wings"

- ✓ In Tamilnadu, indian Navy Pilots were awarded the prestigious "Wings" by vice admiral ajendra Bahadur Singh.

Smart City Awards 2020

- ✓ Smart City Awards 2020 was announced under the 'Smart Cities Mission'.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh was ranked as top performing state under India Smart Cities Award Contest 2020.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh came second while Tamil Nadu at third position.
- ✓ Surat and Indore won best smart cities award for their overall performance in 2020.
- ✓ Best union territory award was conferred to Chandigarh.
- ✓ These awards were announced to mark six years of three urban transformative missions.
- ✓ Those missions are,
 - ✚ Smart Cities Mission,

- ✚ Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and
- ✚ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.

Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021

- ✓ The Journalist Palagummi Sainath has been awarded the Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021.
- ✓ He is a committed journalist who has continued to investigate impoverished farming villages in India.
- ✓ The award was established by Japan's Fukuoka city and the Fukuoka City International Foundation.
- ✓ It is given to individuals and organisations for their work in preserving Asian culture.
- ✓ He received the United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organization's Boerma Prize in 2001.
- ✓ He also received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for outstanding contribution to Asian journalism in 2007.

The Order of Polar Star

- ✓ RK Sabharwal has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star'.
- ✓ He is the Chairman & Managing Director of Engineers India Limited.
- ✓ The President of Mongolia recognises the outstanding contribution made by him towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia.

PERSONALITIES

Ashok Kumar

- ✓ India's international wrestling referee Ashok Kumar will be the one Indian who will be officiating bouts during the Tokyo Olympics to be held between July 23 and August 8, 2021.
- ✓ The United World Wrestling, body of the sport, nominated him.

Swapan Dasgupta

- ✓ Former journalist Swapan Dasgupta has been Re-nominated to the upper House of Parliament by the government.
- ✓ The president nominates renowned personalities to the upper house on the advice of the government.
- ✓ The nominated members are drawn from fields such as literature, science, sports, art and social service.

Dr Harsh Vardhan complete his tenure at WHO

- ✓ Union Health Minister Dr Harshvardhan addressed the 149th session of the World Health Organisation, executive board meeting through video conference.
- ✓ He has successfully completed his tenure as chairperson of Executive Board of WHO.

M Ananda krishnan passes away

- ✓ He had served as Vice-Chancellor of Anna University and was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.
- ✓ He had also served as Chief Science Officer in the United Nations in New York.
- ✓ He was honoured with Padma Shri award.
- ✓ Chief Minister Stalin described Mr Anandkrishnan as the hero behind the DMK government's decision to scrap entrance examinations for higher education earlier.

Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020

- ✓ The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020 list has been unveiled recently.
- ✓ It features women under 40 across various fields.
- ✓ Rhea Chakraborty has bagged the number 1 spot on Times Most Desirable Women 2020 list.
- ✓ She was in the news for most of last year due to the sudden demise of Sushant Singh Rajput and the controversy around his death.
- ✓ Miss Universe 2020, 3rd runner-up Adline Castelino bagged the second spot in the list.
- ✓ Actress Disha Patani, Kiara Advani and Deepika Padukone were on the third, fourth and fifth spot respectively.

Dr. Vidhi Nagar

- ✓ Dr. Vidhi Nagar, kathak dance teacher from
- ✓ BHU's faculty of Music and stage arts, dancing given a D.Litt degree indira Gandhi Sangeet University, Khairagarh.
- ✓ She is the first woman to get D.Lit in the field of Kathak dance.
- ✓ She has also written the novel 'Kathakputli' program which shows the closeness of two styles of dance.

Sonu Sood launches a new initiative

- ✓ After Sonu suit has announced free coaching scholarships for those Aspiring to join civil services.
- ✓ He launched initiative-**SAMBHAVAM** to help IAS aspirants.

Virendra Nanavati

- ✓ Virendra Nanavati is the first Indian to be elected as a Bureau member of the International Swimming Federation (FINA).
- ✓ He was elected for the term of 2021-2025.
- ✓ He is currently a vice-president of Indian Olympic Association and executive director of Swimming Federation of India (SFI),
- ✓ He is also a former general secretary of SFI.

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- ✓ He is also a vice chairman of FINA Technical Swimming Committee.
- ✓ He is also the senior vice president of Asia Swimming Federation.

Milkha Singh

- ✓ The Indian athlete Milkha Singh died at the age of 91.
- ✓ Milkha Singh was a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and 1958 Commonwealth Games champion.
- ✓ He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics.
- ✓ He was bestowed the Padma Shri in 1959.
- ✓ He was popularly referred as the 'Flying Sikh'.
- ✓ He was born in a village Gobindpura in the Muzaffargarh district now in Pakistan in undivided India in 20th November 1929.
- ✓ During the partition of India, he moved to India from Pakistan in 1947.

Aashish Chandorkar

- ✓ The government of India has appointed a private person Aashish Chandorkar as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation.
- ✓ He has a term of three years.
- ✓ For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission.
- ✓ Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.

Kenneth Kaunda

- ✓ Zambian politician Kenneth Kaunda has passed away.
- ✓ He served as the first President of Zambia.
- ✓ He served for 27 years from 1964 to 1991.
- ✓ Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964.

Sumant Sinha

- ✓ United Nations Global Compact has recognised Sumant Sinha, Chairman & MD of ReNew Power, as one of the ten SDG Pioneers 2021.
- ✓ This honour comes in recognition of Sumant's work to advance access to clean and affordable energy (SDG 7).
- ✓ SDG Pioneers are business leaders selected by the UN Global Compact.
- ✓ They are selected for doing an exceptional job to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata

- ✓ Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata has emerged as the topper of the list of EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of Century.
- ✓ He is the only Indian among the top 10 list, compiled by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation.
- ✓ He was the founder of Tata Group.
- ✓ Jamsetji Tata was the founder of Tata Iron and Steel Works Company (TISCO) in Jamshedpur.

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- ✓ Jamsetji Tata is regarded as the “Father of Indian Industry”.
- ✓ Jawaharlal Nehru referred him as “One-Man Planning Commission”.

APPOINTMENTS

Arun Kumar Mishra

- ✓ Former Supreme Court judge, Arun Kumar Mishra took over as the chairman of National Human Rights Commission.
- ✓ The National Human Rights Commission of India is a statutory public body constituted on **12 October 1993** under the protection of Human Rights ordinance.

Alapan Bandyopadhyay

- ✓ West Bengal chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay was immediately appointed as the Chief Advisor of chief minister Mamata Banerjee after his retirement.
- ✓ He will take on the new role from June 1 for a period of three years.

Dr Patrick Amoth

- ✓ The acting Director General for health Dr. Patrick Amoth has been elected the chairperson of the executive Board of the World Health Organisation.

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country to be appointed as a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

- ✓ She has been appointed by AIBA for her enormous knowledge and experience in the field of boxing.

Head of religious affairs directorate

- ✓ Varanasi Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agarwal has been appointed the first director of the Directorate of religious affairs headquarter in Varanasi.

Suresh N Patel

- ✓ Vigilance commissioner Suresh N Patel will act as the Central Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.
- ✓ The appointment was necessitated after Sanjay Kothari completed his term as the Chief.

Jeremy Kessel

- ✓ Twitter has appointed its Global Legal policy director as the new grievance officer for users in India.

MISCELLANEOUS

Country's first NFT Marketplace launch

- ✓ India's first Crypto Exchange, WazirX, announced to the country's first NFT marketplace.

Fire in the mountains

- ✓ Film maker Ajitpal Singh's acclaimed movie "Fire in the Mountains" has won the audience award for best feature at the 19th Indian film festival of Los Angeles.

The State of Ransomware 2021 report

- ✓ Global cybersecurity firm, Sophos, published its "the State of Ransomware 2021 report".
- ✓ It finds that 68% of Indian organisations were hit by ransomware in last 12 months.

Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22

- ✓ Harvard University has topped the ranking globally followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and Oxford University respectively.
- ✓ As many as 68 Indian institutes have made it to the list of the top 2000 higher education institutes across the world.
- ✓ IIM-Ahmedabad has bagged 415th rank, followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at 459th rank.

World's most livable cities 2021

- ✓ Auckland in New Zealand has been named the most livable City globally by The Economist Intelligence Unit.
- ✓ The livability Index based on more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors.

Home price index

- ✓ Indian property market has moved down 12th parts in Knight Frank Global House price index to 55th rank in the first quarter of 2021 against 43rd rank in 2020.
- ✓ Turkey continues to lead the index for the fifth consecutive quarter while Spain was the weakest performing territory.

Times Higher Education Asia university rankings 2021

- ✓ IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore have secured ranks among the top 100 universities in Asia.
- ✓ IISc Bangalore ranked at 37th position.
- ✓ IIT Ropar is placed at 55th rank.
- ✓ IIT Indore at 78th rank among the top 100 universities.
- ✓ Tsinghua University, China has gained the first position in the Asia university rankings 2021.
- ✓ The second place is also secured by China's Peking University.

QS World University Rankings 2022

- ✓ The London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released the QS World University Rankings 2022.
- ✓ Eight Indian universities have found a place among the best 400 global universities in the QS World University Rankings 2022

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- ✓ Three Universities got featured among the top 200. They are, o IIT-Bombay - 177. o IIT-Delhi - 185 o IISc, Bengaluru - 186
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has also been adjudged as “world’s top research university”.
- ✓ It has achieved a perfect score of 100/100 for Citations Per Faculty (CPF) indicator, which measures research impact.
- ✓ This is the first time that any Indian institute has scored a perfect 100 in research or any other parameter.
- ✓ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) of USA has topped the ranking for the 10th years in a row.
- ✓ MIT is followed by the University of Oxford of England in the second position.
- ✓ Stanford University of USA and the University of Cambridge of England shared the third spot.

Bdelloid rotifer

- ✓ A microscopic animal reportedly came back to life after being frozen for 24,000 years in Siberia.
- ✓ The micro-animal was frozen in siberia's permafrost.
- ✓ The micro-animal is as called bdelloid rotifer.

CRICURU

- ✓ Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag has launched an experiential learning portal for Cricket coaching named CRICURU.

- ✓ CRICURU is India's first AI-enabled coaching website.

Head the world's largest family

- ✓ Ziona Chana, the man who believed to head the world's largest family died at the age 76.
- ✓ He was from Mizoram.
- ✓ He was with at least 39 wives and 94 children and 33 grandchildren.
- ✓ Ziona was the leader of a Christian sect, called Chana pawl.
- ✓ It allowed its male members to be polygamous.
- ✓ Ziona was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not in 2011 and 2013 for having the world's largest family.

Gelfand challenge

- ✓ World's second youngest Grandmaster D Gukesh won the Gelfand Challenge chess title.
- ✓ With this win, also one a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters champions chess tour.

Global peace index 2021

- ✓ India has become the 135th most peaceful country in the world and the first in the South Asia region.
- ✓ Global peace index 2021 placed Bangladesh at 90 first position compared to 98% of 2020, making it the three

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most peaceful country in South Asia behind Bhutan and Nepal.

- ✓ Globally Iceland was on the top of the peace index followed by New Zealand, Denmark and Portugal.

Green Ghana

- ✓ At least 5 million trees were planted by the citizens in Ghana in just one single day.
- ✓ This was done under the "Green Ghana" program.

Diamond weighing 1000 carats

- ✓ A huge diamond weighing more than 1,000 carats has been discovered in the southern African country of Botswana.
- ✓ The diamond could be the **third-largest mined in history** and was unearthed by a firm called Debswana.

'Lambda' variant

- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated 'Lambda' variant, as a 'Variant of Interest' (VOI).
- ✓ It was initially detected in Peru in August 2020.

Green Fungus

- ✓ Green Fungus is Aspergillosis.
- ✓ It is an infection caused by Aspergillus.
- ✓ It is a type of fungus that lives indoors and outdoors.

- ✓ Covid-19 survivor in Indore (Madhya Pradesh) was diagnosed with Green Fungus infection.

Yellow watermelon

- ✓ German Agro Chemicals major Bayer as launch with the first ever Innova variety yellow gold 48 under Seminis brand in India.
- ✓ This watermelon has been developed from superior germplasm as part of Bayer's global Research and Development efforts.

Positive impact rating 2021

- ✓ Free Indian business schools have been ranked as the pioneering B-school in the positive impact rating 2021.
- ✓ This year, only fore business schools globally made it to the top of "pioneering" list, of which three are from India.

Reuters Digital News Report 2021

- ✓ 10th edition of Reuters Digital News Report 2021 was published recently.
- ✓ The report is published by Reuters Institute for Study of Journalism (RISJ).
- ✓ India was ranked at 31st position in the category of “trust in news”.
- ✓ Finland, with 65%, has highest levels of overall trust in news.
- ✓ USA, with 29 %, has the lowest levels of trust.

Cochin Airport wins an honour

- ✓ The Cochin International Airport Ltd has won the airport Council International's Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Airport Service Quality.
- ✓ The ACI, global body of airport operators established the regulation for those airports which, in the opinion of the passengers, have consistently delivered excellent services in the Airport Service Quality Survey.

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QS EMBA Rankings 2021

- ✓ The Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore has been ranked the best in India in the latest edition of QS Executive MBA Rankings.
- ✓ IIM Bangalore has bagged the 39th spot globally.

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- ✓ It makes it the only Indian institute to feature in the list of the top 100.
- ✓ In the Asia-Pacific category, IIM Bangalore holds the 10th spot.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Milk Day - June 01

- ✓ World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the **United Nations in 2001**.
- ✓ It is observed to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 will focus on **Sustainability** in the dairy sector with messages around the environment, nutrition, and socio-economics.

Global Day of Parents day - June 1

- ✓ It is annually to honour parents and their commitments to children across the world.
- ✓ It is a United Nations observance day.

World Reef Awareness Day is observed - June 1

- ✓ It helps to create awareness among various business communities and the general public about the fragile biological system of our oceans' coral reefs.

Telangana Formation Day – June 02

- ✓ The state of Telangana was officially formed on 2 June 2014.
- ✓ In February 2014, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 bill was passed by the Parliament for the formation of Telangana state.
- ✓ It comprised ten districts from the former north-western Andhra Pradesh.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day - Jan 30

- ✓ The ongoing 74th World Health Assembly declared January 30 as ‘**World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day**’.
- ✓ The proposal to recognise the day was floated by the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ A major milestone in the movement to recognise the global burden of these diseases was the London Declaration on NTDs.
- ✓ It was adopted January 30, 2012.

World Bicycle Day - June 03

- ✓ The day is observed to draw people’s attention towards the importance and benefits of riding a bicycle.
- ✓ It is a well-known fact that riding a bicycle is not only good for one’s health but is also good for the environment as it is a zero-pollution mode of transportation.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - June 04

- ✓ This is observed globally to affirm UN's commitment to guard the rights of children.
- ✓ This day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

World Environment Day - June 05

- ✓ World Environment Day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment.
- ✓ The theme of this year's World Environment Day is 'Reimagine. Recreate. Restore.'
- ✓ Pakistan is the global host for the day this year.
- ✓ The first time World Environment Day was celebrated in 1974 with the slogan "Only one Earth".

UN Russian Language Day - June 06

- ✓ Russian is one of the six official languages used by the United Nations throughout the Organization.
- ✓ The day was established by the UNESCO in 2010.
- ✓ 6th June is chosen as UN Russian Language Day as it coincides with the birthday of Aleksandr Pushkin.
- ✓ He is a Russian poet. He is considered the father of the modern Russian language.

- ✓ Under India's Vaccine Maitri initiative, India sent the life-saving doses to BIMSTEC neighbours on priority.
- ✓ The supply has been sent to five BIMSTEC Nations - Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

World Ocean Day - June 08

- ✓ This day is observed to raise global awareness about the importance of the ocean in our lives and the ways through which we can protect it.
- ✓ "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods" is the theme for World Oceans Day 2021.
- ✓ The government of Canada had proposed the concept of World Ocean Day, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

World Brain Tumour Day - June 08

- ✓ World Brain Tumour Day is marked in order to educate people about the disease.
- ✓ The day was started by the German Brain Tumour Association in year 2000.
- ✓ As per the National Health Portal, the cases of brain tumours are on the rise in India.
- ✓ The government has introduced the National Cancer Control Programme for early detection of tumours and thus control and prevention of cancer.

Birsa Munda's death anniversary - June 9

- ✓ June 9 marks the death anniversary of tribal Freedom Fighter Birsa Munda.
- ✓ Birsa Munda had participated in anti-missionary and anti-establishment activities 68090 in Chaibasa.
- ✓ He was arrested by the British police on 3rd March 1900.

Coral Triangle Day - June 09

- ✓ The Day is observed by the Coral Triangle Initiative.
- ✓ The Initiative is a multilateral partnership of six countries namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste.
- ✓ It is a multilateral partnership of six countries that are working to sustain marine and coastal resources and address issues such as food security.
- ✓ The Coral Triangle Initiative is also called the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security.

World Accreditation Day 2021 - June 09

- ✓ World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated every year to promote the role of accreditation in trade & the economy.

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- ✓ The theme for WAD 2021 is “Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.
- ✓ WAD is a global initiative, jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

International Level Crossing Awareness Day - June 10th

- ✓ This day is observed as the International Union of Railways (UIC).
- ✓ The theme of ILCAD 2021 is “**distraction**”.
- ✓ The motto is “Distraction kills!”
- ✓ “South-Central Railway (SCR)” of India observed the day by creating awareness programmes for public at level crossing gates.
- ✓ SCR is one among 18 zones of Indian Railways.
- ✓ Jurisdiction of SCR lies with states of Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Secunderabad railway station is current headquarter of SCR.

World Blood Donor Day - June 14

- ✓ The day was observed with the aim of creating awareness about need for safe blood and life-saving components of blood which is required for transfusion.

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- ✓ Theme for this year is “**Give blood and keep the world beating**”.
- ✓ The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2021 is Rome, Italy.
- ✓ The day was first organised in 2005.
- ✓ It was then a joint initiative of World Health Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- ✓ World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on 14th June to mark birthday anniversary of Karl Landsteiner.
- ✓ Landsteiner was awarded with Nobel Prize for his discovery of ABO blood group system.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15

- ✓ The day is observed globally to raise a voice for the elderly who are abused and victimized.
- ✓ The theme for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is 'Access to Justice'.
- ✓ The day was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011.
- ✓ It was recognized following a request from the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).

World Day against Child Labour 2021 - June 12

- ✓ The day is observed to raise awareness regarding detrimental consequences of the Child Labour.

- ✓ The day was celebrated under theme- ‘Act Now: End Child Labour.’
- ✓ 2021 has been declared as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour by the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day against Child Labour in 2002.

International Albinism Awareness Day - June 13

- ✓ The day is to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide.
- ✓ “Strength beyond all odds” is the theme for this year’s International Albinism Awareness Day.
- ✓ Albinism results in a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin and eyes.

Global Wind Day - June 15

- ✓ The Global Wind Day is organised by Wind Europe and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and the national associations.
- ✓ This day is introduced to create awareness of the benefits of wind energy for the general public.
- ✓ The first Global Wind Day was held in 2007.

ASEAN Dengue Day - June 15

- ✓ This day is celebrated to create awareness on dengue prevention and control at the regional and National level.

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- ✓ It is celebrated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ✓ The theme of the ASEAN Dengue Day is “ASEAN Unite Against Dengue Amidst the Pandemic”.
- ✓ The theme of 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”.
- ✓ The 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held in 2010 declared the 15th June of every year as the “ASEAN Dengue Day”.
- ✓ The first official ASEAN Dengue Day was observed on 15th June 2011.
- ✓ India observes the National Dengue Day on 16th May.

International Day of the African Child - June 16

- ✓ The day was set aside to raise awareness of the importance of education for children in Africa.
- ✓ The day not only honours the participants of the Soweto Uprising in 1976 but also raises awareness of the imperative need for improvement of the education of African children.

Note

- ✓ On June 16th, 1976, thousands of black students from Soweto, South Africa, took to the streets to protest.
- ✓ It was the protest for the prevailing disparity in the education system that preferred quality education for the whites over the black population in Africa.

International Day of Family Remittances - June 16

- ✓ The day was adopted by the United Nations.
- ✓ It recognizes the migrant workers who send money home to their family members.
- ✓ The first International Day of Family Remittances was celebrated on June 16, 2015.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - June 17

- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, and highlight methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.
- ✓ “Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land” is the theme for this year.

World Crocodile day - June 17

- ✓ The day is celebrated as a global awareness campaign to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.
- ✓ India is home to three crocodilian species, namely o The mugger or marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) - IUCN Vulnerable.
 - ✚ The estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)-IUCN Least Concern.
 - ✚ The gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)-IUCN Critically Endangered.

Sustainable Gastronomy Day - June 18

- ✓ The day is observed globally to focus the attention of the world on the role that sustainable gastronomy plays in our lives.
- ✓ The day was designated by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2016.
- ✓ Gastronomy means the practice or art of choosing, cooking, and eating good food.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict - June 19

- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world.
- ✓ It also say tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.
- ✓ On 19 June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly announced this day.

National Reading Day - June 19

- ✓ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) celebrates this day.
- ✓ The Day is celebrated to honour the late P.N. Panicker, whose death anniversary falls on June 19.
- ✓ He is the father of the 'Library Movement in Kerala'.

- ✓ This year marks the 26th National Reading Day.
- ✓ The week following June 19 will be observed as Reading Week.
- ✓ The entire month till July 18 will be observed as Reading Month.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day - June 19

- ✓ This day is observed to increase awareness and understanding of the sickle cell disease and the challenges faced by its patients and their families.
- ✓ Sickle cell disease causes patients to have sickle-shaped red blood cells.
- ✓ This leads in blocking blood flow.
- ✓ It is an inherited blood disorder.

World Refugee Day - June 20

- ✓ The day seeks to honour refugees, highlights their plight to the world and seeks to improve their lives.
- ✓ The theme for this year is “Together we heal, learn and shine.”

World Humanist Day - June 21

- ✓ The day is celebrated every year around the world on the June solstice (June 21).
- ✓ The day aims to spread awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance and means to effect change in the world.

- ✓ The day has been organised by the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), since 1980.

World Hydrography Day June - 21

- ✓ This day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).
- ✓ It is an annual celebration to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography.
- ✓ This year, the IHO is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of its formation.

International Yoga Day - June 21

- ✓ World is celebrating the 7th International Yoga Day this year.
- ✓ It is celebrated with the motto of achieving “One World, One Health”.
- ✓ This year, day is celebrating under the theme “Yoga for wellness”.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the mYoga mobile app on this occasion.
- ✓ The app has been developed in collaboration between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Ministry of AYUSH.

World Music Day - June 21

- ✓ This day is celebrated to honour amateur and professional musicians.

- ✓ The aim of celebrating World Music Day is to
- ✓ provide free music to everyone and
- ✓ encourage amateur musicians to showcase their work to the world.

International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice - June 21

- ✓ This day bring awareness about solstices and equinoxes and their significance for several religions and ethnic cultures.
- ✓ There are two solstices that occur annually.
- ✓ It happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere (Northern and Southern).
- ✓ They are
- ✓ “Summer Solstice” - the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shortest day on the southern hemisphere - June 21
- ✓ “Winter Solstice” - the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and longest day on the Southern hemisphere - December 21.

World Rainforest Day - June 22

- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the preservation of rainforests.

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- ✓ With the efforts of groups called the Rainforest Partnership, the first World Rainforest Day was introduced on 22 June in the year 2017.
- ✓ This year, the theme is ‘Protected Together. Now. Forever’.

International Olympic Day - June 23

- ✓ This day signifies the Olympic Games which is held every four-year featuring summer and winter sports competitions.
- ✓ Olympic Day is observed on the basis of three pillars. They are,
 - ✚ Move
 - ✚ Learn
 - ✚ Detect
- ✓ World Olympic Day was introduced in 1948.
- ✓ It was started to commemorate the birth of modern Olympic Games on June 23, 1894.
- ✓ Modern Olympic Games was born at Sorbonne in Paris.
- ✓ Theme for 2021 is “Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout on 23 June.”

United Nations Public Service Day - June 23

- ✓ This day is to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process and to value public service to the community.

- ✓ As a part of the occasion, a virtual event named “Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs” was conducted.
- ✓ This event will be hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the government of the United Arab Emirates.

World Vitiligo Day - June 25

- ✓ The day is observed to build global awareness about vitiligo.
- ✓ Vitiligo is a skin disorder leading to loss of colour in the skin.
- ✓ It creates a variety of patterns on the skin from loss of pigment.
- ✓ The first World Vitiligo Day was observed on June 25, 2011.

Day of the Seafarer - June 25

- ✓ This day is observed to pay respect to Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.
- ✓ The day is organised by the International Maritime Organization.
- ✓ 2021 marks the 11th anniversary of this day.
- ✓ The theme of the 2021 campaign is “Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future”.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - June 26

- ✓ The day is observed by the United Nations as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- ✓ The theme for this year is “Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives”.
- ✓ Headquarters of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is in Vienna, Austria.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day - June 27

- ✓ United Nations celebrates the work of MSME in local and global economies and their contribution to sustainable development.
- ✓ The day also recognises the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ The theme is “MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery”.

National Statistics Day - June 29

- ✓ The National Statistics Day is celebrated every year India to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.

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- ✓ End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (SDG 2 of the UN) is the theme of this year's National Statistics Day.
- ✓ The day also acknowledges the notable contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in fields of statistics, statistical system, and economic planning.
- ✓ He is often referred to as the 'father of Indian statistics.
- ✓ In 1933, he had founded the first Indian statistical journal Sankhya.
- ✓ He is also best remembered for the statistical measure of Mahalanobis distance.
- ✓ He had founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).
- ✓ The Union Government had designated June 29 as National Statistics Day in 2007.
- ✓ The Second Five-Year Plan had relied on Mahalanobis mathematical description of Indian economy.
- ✓ This plan had encouraged the development of heavy industry in India.
- ✓ This later became as Nehru-Mahalanobis model or Basic Industry strategy of economic growth.

World Asteroid Day - June 30

- ✓ It is an annual UN-sanctioned global awareness campaign event.
- ✓ The Day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis

communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat.

International Day of Parliamentarism - June 30

- ✓ The Day celebrates parliaments and ways during which parliamentary systems of government improve the everyday lives of individuals throughout the world.
- ✓ The Day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.
- ✓ This day also acknowledges the formation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- ✓ Inter-Parliamentary Union was established in 1889.

World Allergy Week - June 13 to 19

- ✓ The World Allergy Organization organizes the World Allergy Week.
- ✓ It was held from June 13 to 19, 2021.
- ✓ The topic of 2021 World Allergy Week is Anaphylaxis.
- ✓ The theme of the World Allergy Week 2021 is “Anaphylaxis: Be Aware. Be prepared. Save lives”.
- ✓ Anaphylaxis is most commonly related to food allergy.
- ✓ The First World Allergy Week was observed in 2011.