

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

PM Modi mark Leaders' Summit on Climate

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will address **Leaders' Summit on Climate**.
- The **two-day summit** will be held virtually and Mr Modi will make his remarks in the session which has the **theme - Our Collective Sprint to 2030**.
- The Prime Minister was invited by **US President Joe Biden** to participate in this summit.
- Nearly 40 other world leaders are participating in the Summit.
- They will represent countries which are members of the **Major Economies Forum** and those vulnerable to climate change, among others.
- The leaders will exchange views on climate change, enhancing climate actions, mobilizing finance towards climate mitigation and adaptation; nature based solutions, climate security as well as technological innovations for clean energy.
- They will also deliberate on how the world can align climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, while respecting national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.
- The summit is a part of a series of global meetings focusing on climate issues, being held in the run up to **COP26 in November 2021**.

Covishield to cost Rs 400 for state govt hospitals and Rs 600 for govt hospitals

- **Serum Institute of India** has announced the price for its **COVISHIELD vaccine** for State governments and Private Hospitals in the country.
- The Vaccine will cost **400 rupees per dose** for the state governments whereas **Private Hospitals** will have to **pay 600 rupees** for each dose.
- The announcement by the manufacturer of the **COVISHIELD vaccine** in India comes in light of the recent relaxation given by the Centre to accelerate the vaccination drive in the country.
- Under the new provisions the vaccine manufacturers and suppliers will be **selling 50 per cent** of their COVID vaccines to the Centre whereas the remaining 50 per cent will be given to **State governments and Private Hospitals in open market**.
- Serum Institute in a media statement released said that the new directive will help in scaling up the production of vaccines and will also ease its procurement by the **state administrations, private hospitals and vaccination centres**.

PM Modi declared India-US partnership on clean energy and climate change

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced a **US-India partnership on clean energy and climate change**.
- Addressing Leaders' Climate Summit, **Mr Modi** announced launch of India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership, which can be a **template of green collaborations to help developing countries** access to affordable green finance and clean technologies.
- Mr Modi said, together, we will help mobilize investments, demonstrate clean technologies, and enable green collaborations.

- Underlining that the concrete action is needed for **humanity to combat Climate Change**, he said, we need such action at a high speed, on a large scale, and with a global scope.
- The Prime Minister said, India's ambitious renewable energy target of **450 Gigawatts by 2030 shows our commitment**.
- Mr Modi said, despite our development challenges, we have taken many bold steps on clean energy, energy efficiency, afforestation and biodiversity.

Central Govt handles States and UTs to ensure free inter-state movement of oxygen-carrying vehicles

- The **Center has directed States and Union Territories** to ensure that there should be no restriction imposed on the movement of **Medical Oxygen between the States and transport authorities** shall be instructed to allow free inter-state movement of oxygen-carrying vehicles.
- **Union Home Secretary and Chairman of National Executive Committee Ajay Kumar Bhalla** have written a letter to Secretaries of Ministries and all the Chief Secretaries and Administrators of States and Union Territories in this regard.
- Mr Bhalla also directed to ensure that no authority shall attach the **oxygen-carrying vehicles** passing through the district or areas for making supplies specific to any particular district or areas.
- It said, there shall be free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles into the city, without any restriction of timing.
- Earlier, the Center had prohibited the **supply of Oxygen for industrial purposes** by manufacturers and suppliers from April 23 till further orders.
- However, this prohibition will not apply to the supply of oxygen for nine industries.
- These are Ampoules and Vials, Pharmaceutical, Petroleum refineries, Steel plants, Nuclear energy facilities, Oxygen cylinder manufacturers, Wastewater treatment plants, Food and water purification and Process industries which require uninterrupted operation of furnaces.

1st Oxygen Express with Liquid Medical Oxygen tankers - journey for Mumbai from Visakhapatnam

- The **first Oxygen Express with Liquid Medical Oxygen tankers** will start its journey for **Mumbai from Visakhapatnam tonight**.
- The Railway Ministry said, tankers filled with Liquid Medical Oxygen at Visakhapatnam are being transported through **Ro-Ro service of Railways**.
- The Ministry said, Railway is running Oxygen Express in response to its fight against COVID-19.
- **Another Oxygen Express** started its journey from **Lucknow to Bokaro** via Varanasi to fulfil the requirements of **Medical Oxygen in Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Ministry said, for the movement of the train, a green corridor was created between **Lucknow to Varanasi**.
- The distance of **270 Kilometre** was covered by the train in four hours 20 minutes with an **average speed of over 62 kilometre per hour**.
- Transportation of Oxygen through Trains is faster over long distances than road transport.

UP govt to invoke National Security Act, Gangster Act

- **Uttar Pradesh government** has said that it will invoke **National Security Act and Gangster Act** on those persons who are involved in **black marketing and holding of necessary medicines, oxygen and injections required for covid treatment**.
- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** assured that there is no dearth of oxygen for patients in the state and government is doing its best to provide oxygen to all hospitals.
- The Chief Minister said that very soon the state will get **25 lakh doses of remdesivir injection**.
- He directed officials to double the number of covid beds in each and every district of the state.
- The health department of the state issued new guidelines to the private and government hospitals for better management of treatment.
- Now private hospitals are allowed to take admissions of covid **patients up to 90 percent** of their covid beds capacity and 10 percent will be reserved for reference admissions.

'Health Safety Week' starts in Jharkhand to break chain of COVID-19

- **In Jharkhand**, the **"Health Safety Week"** begins from April 22 to break the chain of **COVID-19 infection**.
- People have been advised to stay home and not to move out without necessary work.
- Essential services and medical services continue to function.
- In Jharkhand the Health Safety Week has begun from **6 am in the morning April 22 till 6 am in the morning on April 29**, while unnecessary movement has been restricted in the State, only essential services, medical services, agricultural, industrial, and mining and construction activities have been permitted.
- The **State Level Bankers Committee** has decided to reduce the working hours of all public sector banks in **Jharkhand to 4 hours from 10 am in the morning to 2 pm** in the afternoon to break the chain of spread of COVID-19 infection.
- The State Government has requested people to not panic in the situation and follow the mandatory restrictions.
- Meanwhile, the **State Government has facilitated 2124 oxygen** supported hospital beds in the most affected areas to handle the COVID pandemic situation.
- A **300-bedded oxygen concentrator** supporter special COVID-19 ward has become functional in Ranchi.

PM Modi greets US President Joe Biden for joining LeadIT

- The **US has joined the India-Sweden climate initiative**, the **Leadership Group for Industry Transition, LeadIT**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed **US President Joe Biden** for joining LeadIT.
- The Prime Minister said it will help us meet **Paris Agreement goals**, strengthen competitiveness and create new sustainable jobs.

About LeadIT:

- The **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)** gathers countries and companies that are committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions from industry by **2050**.

- SEI serves as LeadIT's Secretariat.

PM Modi initiate the distribution of e-property cards under SVAMITVA scheme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch the distribution of **e-property cards** under the **SVAMITVA scheme**.
- In a virtual event over four lakh property owners will be given their e-property cards which will also mark the rolling out of the **SVAMITVA scheme** for implementation across the country.
- Prime Minister will also confer the **National Panchayat Awards 2021** on the occasion of **National Panchayati Raj day**.
- The **award money ranging from 5 to 50 lakh** will be directly transferred to the bank account of the Panchayats concerned on a real time basis.
- **Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** will also attend the event.
- **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme** was launched by the Prime Minister on 24th April last year as a Central Sector Scheme to promote a socio-economically empowered and self-reliant rural India.

About SVAMITVA scheme:

- The **Svavitva Yojana** was launched on **24 April 2020** with an aim to provide an **integrated property validation solution** for rural India.
- This scheme attempts to end property disputes in villages by demarcating the property of the villagers and providing them with the certificate of ownership of their property.
- The **SVAMITVA scheme** was **launched by the Prime Minister** on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, April 24, earlier this year and the distribution of property cards began on October 11.
- The SVAMITVA scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

Indian Navy processing the mission of 'Oxygen Express' to Island territories

- As part of the nation's fight against COVID 19, Indian Navy ships under Headquarters, Southern Naval Command at Kochi are progressing with the mission of **OXYGEN EXPRESS** in order to render support to the local administration of the **Union Territory of Lakshadweep (UTL)**.
- 25 Apr 21, INS Sharda, based at Kochi, undertook transfer of essential medical supplies to the capital of UTL, Kavaratti.
- The stores consisted of **35 Oxygen cylinders, Rapid Antigen Detection Test (RADT) kits, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),** masks and other items to fight the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The disembarkation of stores was coordinated by personnel from INS Dweeprakshak at Kavaratti.
- The ship then continued with her mission to the island of Minicoy for disembarkation of Oxygen cylinders and medical supplies.

EAM, Defence Minister announces grief over demise of nuclear scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** has expressed grief over the demise of an Indian nuclear scientist **Krishnamurthy Santhanam**.
- Dr Jaishankar said, K.Santhanam was deeply associated with **Defence Research and Development Organization**, Department of Atomic Energy and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- He said, Krishnamurthy Santhanam was a key figure in the **Pokhran -2, 1998**
- Dr Jaishankar said he educated a generation in the **Ministry of External Affairs on technology** regimes and export controls.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has said that he is deeply anguished by the demise of **K. Santhanam**.
- Mr Singh said, he will be remembered for his remarkable efforts and contribution in the field of Science and Technology in India. He said, Dr. Santhanam was associated with institutions like **DRDO, DAE and IDSA**.
- Defence Minister said, his role in successful 1998 nuclear tests was noteworthy

ITBP-run Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre to become operational in Delhi

- **Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital at Chhatarpur in South Delhi** will start functioning.
- **Standard Operating Procedure** for admission of patients will be strictly followed and all laid down protocols will be adhered to.
- **ITBP DG, SS Deswal** said that no walk-in admissions will be allowed in this Centre and only patients referred by District Surveillance Officers will be admitted.
- **ITBP** said patients will be first reporting at the reception, after initial documentation, physical examination will be done and they will then be admitted to **the Hospital** at their allotted bed.
- A kit will be provided to them after their admission.
- All medical treatment, medicines, food and other facilities will be **provided free of cost**.
- Services of stress counselors will also be provided.
- The Home Ministry has designated ITBP as the nodal force for **operationalizing the Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre at Radha Soami Beas, Chhatarpur in the National Capital**.

J&K: Five Gram Panchayats won National Panchayat Awards-2021

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, **five Gram Panchayats** have bagged prestigious **National Panchayat Awards-2021**.
- Gram Panchayat Kangroosa of district Baramulla and Gram Panchayat Hakermulla of district Budgam won **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP)**.
- Gram Panchayat Kootah of Kathua district was conferred with Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (**NDRGGSP**), Gram Panchayat Panzgam A, of Kupwara district won Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (**GPDPA**), while, Gram Panchayat Achabal A, of Baramulla district bagged Child Friendly Gram Panchayat Award (**CFGPA**).

- **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** applauded the Sarpanches and other PRI members of the **Awardee Panchayats** for putting in outstanding efforts for the effective and efficient delivery of public services for transformation of rural J&K.

Revised COVID-19 guidelines released for Ayurveda, Unani practitioners by Ministry of Ayush

- Responding to the need of fresh guidelines in the face of the emergence of the second wave of the pandemic, **Ministry of Ayush** released **revised guidelines for Ayurveda and Unani Practitioners** for COVID-19 Patients in Home Isolation and Ayurveda and Unani Preventive Measures for self-care during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- These Guidelines and Advisories were developed through an extensive consultative process by the **Empowered Committee within the Interdisciplinary Ayush Research and Development Task Force** setup by the Ministry of Ayush.
- The Ministry of Ayush issued an advisory on **29th January last year** on how to protect oneself from COVID-19 and how to stay healthy.
- In this context, the **Ministry of Ayush** has also promoted use of ready-made formulation like **AyushKwath Ayurveda** which is a simple admixture of four herbal ingredients.

Sichuan Airlines does a “U-Turn” – plan to resume cargo services to India

- **China’s state-run Sichuan Airlines** retracted its **announcement to suspend the cargo flights to India** taking crucial supplies like oxygen concentrators to India after it created controversy.
- In a **“U-Turn”** within hours of the cancellation, it said that it was working out a **new plan** to resume the services as reported by the state media.
- A logistics arm under Sichuan Airlines said that it was discussing a new plan to resume cargo services to India, as the country has been going through COVID-19 resurgence, state media reported.
- The sudden cancellation by Sichuan Airlines against the backdrop of China’s offer for assistance to India in COVID management caused embarrassment for Chinese government.
- **Prasar Bharati Correspondent in Beijing reported** that, Chinese Foreign Ministry did not comment on the cancellation at the regular press briefing.
- Instead, it suggested checking with the company concerned.

US President Joe Biden announced to provide assistance to India to deal with COVID-19 pandemic

- **US President Joe Biden** assured to provide assistance to India to deal with the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- Biden said he spoke with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and pledged America’s full support to provide emergency assistance and resources in the fight against COVID-19.
- He said, India was there for America, and America will be there for India.

Ministry of Steel said that Over 3,130 MTs of Liquid Medical oxygen supplied by steel Plants to various states

- **Ministry of Steel** has said that over **3,130 Metric Tonnes of Liquid Medical oxygen** was supplied **by steel Plants** to various states.
- It said that steel plants have been able to enhance the supply of liquid medical oxygen by taking various initiatives.
- This includes reduction in the **production of Nitrogen and Argon and production of only liquid medical oxygen in most plants.**
- The Ministry said that through continuous engagement with steel producers, safety stock of liquid medical oxygen of steel plants has been reduced to 0.5 days instead of the earlier 3.5 days.
- To facilitate faster movement of liquid medical oxygen, **the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** has directed that a certain number of nitrogen and argon tankers be converted to carry oxygen.
- **The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization** has issued permission for conversion.
- This will remove a major bottleneck in transporting oxygen to states.
- **Bhilai Steel Plant** is enhancing liquid oxygen production **by 15 MT.**
- The Steel Ministry has said that similar directions have been given to other Central Public Sector Enterprises owned steel plants to explore the possibility of enhancing their capacity.

Indian Army inaugurates Ladakh Ignited Minds project

- **To provide better educational opportunities for Ladakhi students, the Indian Army has initiated the project Ladakh Ignited Minds.**
- A Centre of Excellence and Wellness.
- **On behalf of Indian Army, Fire and Fury Corps** has signed a couple of **MoUs** with partner **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and executing agency, a Kanpur based NGO, **National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO)**, in Leh.
- Our correspondent reports that the project is aimed at providing better training facilities to disadvantaged Ladakhi students to give them opportunity to study in niche educational institutes.
- In its continuous efforts to maintain cordial Civil and Defence relations and better future for Ladakhi youth, the **Indian Army began a project called, Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness, in Ladakh.**
- Fire and Fury Corps of Indian Army with the support of HPCL and execution agency NIEDO will provide a holistic training for Ladakhi youth.
- In the first batch, comprising **20 girls, 45 students from Leh and Kargil districts**, would get training for **JEE and NEET entrance examinations.**
- **Fire and Fury signed MoUs with HPCL's J&K Chief Regional Manager Mr. Prince Singh and NIEDO's CEO Dr. Rohit Srivastav** in the presence of the 14 Corps GoC Lt.Gen PGK Menon, Member of Parliament Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and Advisor to Ladakh UT, Umang Narula.

Punjab CM assured ex-gratia, govt job for family members of martyr sepoy Prabhjit and Amardeep Singh

- **Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh** has announced **ex-gratia compensation of 50 lakh rupees**, along with a government job each to the family of **Sepoy Prabhjit Singh** and **Sepoy Amardeep Singh** of 21 PUNJAB, who laid down their lives in the line of duty.
- Both the soldiers were reported killed in an avalanche in Siachen glacier.
- **Captain Amarinder Singh** said that their utmost dedication to defend the country's unity and integrity, even putting their lives at risk, would inspire their fellow soldiers to perform their duties with far more devotion and commitment.
- Sepoy Prabhjit Singh hailed from **Village Hakamwala in Mansa** district and is survived by his parents and one elder brother.
- While Sepoy Amardeep Singh, a native of village Karamgarh in Barnala District, is survived by his father and a younger sister.

Gujarat CM encourages use of Ayurvedic, Homeopathic medicines to COVID-19

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** has encouraged the **state health and Ayush department** for maximum use of **Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medicines** to win the war against Covid19.
- He said that these will also help in increasing immunity of the people against the Coronavirus pandemic in the state.
- Presiding over the state-level Core Committee meeting at Gandhinagar, **Rupani** has directed the administration to order and distribute about 60 thousand kilogram of '**Amrit peya Ukala**' and '**Sanshamani-vati**' and **10- lakh doses of Homeopathic Arsenicum album-30 medicines**.
- Meanwhile, Gujarat has recorded 14340 new cases.
- According to the state health department, **7727 patients** recovered during the last 24 hours.
- Maximum 5619 new cases of Covid19 reported from **Ahmedabad, while Surat** recorded 1472 new cases.
- 158 patients lost their lives.
- With these, the death toll due to Covid19 in the state has reached up to 6486.
- Gujarat has now 1 lakh 21 thousand 461 active cases at present, out of which 412 patients are on ventilator.
- Meanwhile, 1 lakh 59 thousand 93 persons were vaccinated in the state.
- Now, Gujarat has vaccinated 1 crore 14 lakh 54 thousand 629 persons till now.

Tamil Nadu govt planned to reopen Vedanta's oxygen manufacturing plant at Tuticorin

- **Tamilnadu Government** after considering the **urgent need for increased oxygen production** has decided to **reopen Vedanta's oxygen manufacturing plant at Tuticorin**.
- The Vedanta group approached the Supreme Court to allow production of oxygen through its plant in Tuticorin.
- In an **all party meeting headed by Chief Minister Palanisamy** at the State Secretariat, Five resolutions including reopening of Vedanta production plant were passed.

- The all party meeting has resolved to allow the plant to manufacture the much needed requirement of oxygen in the State.
- The Government will render power supply to the plant for the manufacture of **1050 tonnes of oxygen** for a period of four months.
- All parties also resolved to prioritise the requirement of oxygen for the **State and the remaining oxygen would be sent to other states.**
- The government also said that members of different groups which oppose the industry will be given a place in the expert group to monitor oxygen production along with the **District administration.**
- The resolution states that according to the requirement the period of four months would be increased however the copper smelting plant will not be allowed to reopen.
- According to the State Government in the High Court, only **35 tonnes of oxygen out of the 1050 tonnes of oxygen manufactured everyday** in the plant is for medical use.
- The oxygen manufactured from the plant would be given for medical purposes to the **hospitals free of cost.**

Odisha government announces free vaccination to above 18 years of age

- The **Odisha government** has **announced free vaccination** for people **above 18 years of age.**
- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** said that the State Government will incur an expenditure of two thousand crore rupees to meet the goal.
- Ahead of the phase three of the nationwide vaccination drive to be rolled out from the first of May, the state government has geared up to inoculate about **93 crore people in the age group of 18 to 44 years.**
- Accordingly, it has placed orders before the Serum Institute of India for supply of **377 lakh doses of Covishield and Bharat Biotech** for supply of a **little more than 10 lakh doses of Covaxin**, while designating Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited as the nodal agency for vaccine procurement.

Gujarat govt declared free vaccinations for all above 18 years of age from May 1

- **Gujarat government** will provide **free vaccinations for all above 18 years of age from 1st of May.**
- This decision was taken during the high level core committee meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Vijay Rupnai at Gandhinagar.**
- State government has placed the order for **one and half crore doses of vaccines for the third phase of vaccination** in the state **starting from 1st May.**
- These include the order for one crore doses of covishield vaccine from Pune based SII and 50 lakh doses of Covaxin vaccine from Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech.
- Gujarat has 6 thousand government and private vaccination centers.
- Meanwhile, Gujarat has recorded 14,296 new cases of Covid19.
- 6727 patients recovered during the last 24 hours and were discharged from the hospitals.

Railways makes 4,000 Covid Care coaches with almost 64,000 beds

- **Railways** has made nearly **four thousand Covid Care coaches** with almost 64 thousand beds ready for use by States.

- Railway Ministry said, at present 169 coaches have been handed over to various states for Covid care.
- It has deployed Covid Care Coaches in **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi** to assist the states in view of rising corona cases in the country.
- In Delhi, Railways has catered to the full demand of State Governments' for 75 Covid Care coaches with a capacity of **one thousand 200 beds**.
- The Ministry said, 50 coaches are positioned at Shakurbasti and 25 Coaches at Anand Vihar stations.
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, ten coaches each are placed at Faizabad, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Bareilly and Nazibabad totalling to a capacity of **800 beds**.
- The Ministry said, new demand for Covid coaches have come from Nagpur District.
- In this direction, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Divisional Railway Manager, Nagpur and Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation.
- The Railways are also mobilising isolation Coaches at Ajni ICD area in Maharashtra as per the State demand.

Health Minister initiates blood donation camps at 13 different locations in four states

- **Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated **blood donation camps at 13 different locations** in **Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh**.
- The blood donation camps are being organized by the Competent Foundation with the help of various associations, **NGOs and blood banks to fulfill the blood demand during COVID pandemic**.
- He appreciated the efforts of the foundation to organize blood donation camps with more strength and expansion for fulfilling the blood requirement due to COVID pandemic.
- **Harsh Vardhan** exhorted masses to at least donate blood once a year.
- He also said that in 2021, the country is better prepared mentally and physically with more experience to beat the COVID pandemic as compared to last year.
- The Minister appreciated the fact that this blood donation camp has been set up following all COVID protocols, guidelines and SOPs.

National Fertilizers Limited directs to set up four Oxygen plants

- **National Fertilizers Limited** has ordered the setting up of **four Oxygen plants**.
- These plants will be set up in government hospitals in Noida, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Bhopal.
- Each plant will have a capacity of **70 cylinders per day**.

Madhya Pradesh CM ensured large oxygen plants will be set up in all divisional headquarters of

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has said that large oxygen plants are to be set up **in all divisional headquarters of the state**.
- He was addressing a review meeting with the core group regarding prevention and arrangements for containing the spread of Covid-19.
- The state reported 13,417 fresh COVID cases while 11,577 patients recovered from the infection.

- Chief Minister Mr Chouhan said that the pace of infection has come down in the state. The Chief Minister informed that the availability of oxygen in the state is continuously increasing.
- Meanwhile, the number of active cases in the state rose to 94,276.
- With 98 patients succumbing to the infection, the death toll reached 5,319.
- Both Indore and Bhopal have more than 13,000 active cases.
- The growth rate of infection cases in 8 districts of Shajapur, Panna, Agar-Malwa, Umaria, Katni, Rajgarh, Anuppur and Guna has decreased.
- Under the **Kill Corona Campaign**, **12 thousand 800 survey teams** are doing survey work in the state.

Meghalaya attain the target of Har Ghar Jal by December next year under JJM

- **Meghalaya** has planned to achieve the target of **Har Ghar Jal by December next year under Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- Jal Shakti Ministry said, the annual action plan meeting on planning and implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission in Meghalaya** was held through video conferencing.
- The mission is a **flagship program** of the Central government to provide household **tap water connection to every rural household** of the country by
- Meghalaya has five lakh 89 thousand rural households, out of which tap connections are provided to 16 per cent rural households.
- The State has provided 87 thousand tap connections on 2020-21.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nine Bangladeshis in Forbes 30 under 30 lists of innovators in 10 industries for Asia

- **Nine Bangladeshis** feature in the **Forbes 30 under 30 lists of innovators in 10 industries for Asia**.
- Forbes announced its **6th annual 30 under 30 Asia list for 2021 featuring 300 young entrepreneurs, leaders and trailblazers across Asia**.
- The list includes people who are finding new opportunities amidst the challenging environment brought out by the COVID pandemic.
- The nine Bangladeshis have been included under the categories enterprise technology, social impact and retail and e-commerce.
- Earlier, between 2016 till 2020 nine Bangladeshis were listed in the Forbes 30 under 30 lists for Asia.
- **Shehzad Noo Taus Priyo and Motasim Bir Rahman** co-founded Gaze which builds API for visual recognition with AI supporting features.
- The **AWARENESS 360** is an **NGO** founded by **Shomy Chowdhury and Rijve Arefin** which works on personal hygiene issues like hand washing, sanitation etc.
- Ahmed Imtiaz Jami has supported 1 million people to help overcome poverty.
- It has provided support for education, health and nutrition through the **NGO OBHIZATRIK**.
- **Morin Talukder's e-commerce venture Pickaboo** lists quality products and helps in fast delivery of products.
- Mir Sakib's startup company Cramstack helps industries with natural language driven search interfaces to analyse and visualise data.

- The list is announced for ten categories including arts, entertainment and sports, Finance and venture capital, media, marketing and advertising, enterprise technology, social impact and consumer technology among others.
- Each category lists 30 young individuals **under 30 years** of age making their mark in the respective categories.
- The list was compiled through a rigorous process of selection from more than **2500 online nominations**, said the Forbes.

Chinese President Xi Jinping took part in US-led Climate Summit

- **Chinese President Xi Jinping** will take part in the **virtual climate summit** convened by **US President Joe Biden** in which several world leaders, including **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, will participate. Xi's confirmation comes days after John Kerry, US special envoy on climate change, held talks with his **Chinese counterpart, Xie Zhenhua**, in Shanghai.
- Chinese Foreign Ministry announced, "At the invitation of **US President Joe Biden**, **President Xi** will attend and deliver an **'important speech'** at the **Leaders' Summit on Climate** by video link from Beijing."
- The US and China are the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases.
- Xi made veiled references to the **US-led West** in an online speech delivered at an economic forum, rejecting what he called hegemonic powers in global governance and saying there should be no **'bossing' and 'meddling'** in other countries which is seen as a continuation from Alaska meeting last month between the two countries.

Myanmar Army Chief took part in ASEAN meeting in Jakarta

- The **Head of the Military government of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing** will embark on his first foreign visit after the **coup to Indonesia to participate in the ASEAN leaders meeting**.
- Quoting diplomats and officials in Jakarta, the Reuters reported that **seven Southeast Asian leaders from the 10 nation ASEAN grouping** are likely to take part in the summit meeting called to discuss the crisis caused by the military takeover of the government on February 1.
- **Thailand and the Philippines** announced that they will send their Foreign Ministers for the meeting.
- The ASEAN meeting is the first concerted international effort to find a solution to the crisis where at least **739 protestors** have been killed since the protests began after the military take over on **February 1**.

EU plans to set global standards for AI

- The **European Commission** announced tough draft rules on the use of **artificial intelligence**, including a ban on most surveillance, in an attempt to **set global standards** for a key technology dominated by China and the United States.
- The rules, which envisage hefty fines for violations and set strict safeguards for **high-risk applications**, could help the **EU take the lead in regulating AI**, which critics say has harmful social effects and can be exploited by repressive governments.
- The move comes as **China moves ahead in the AI race**, while the Covid-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of algorithms and internet-connected gadgets in daily life.

- “On artificial intelligence, trust is a must, not a nice to have.
- With these landmark rules, the EU is spearheading the development of new global norms to make sure AI can be trusted,” **European tech chief Margrethe Vestager** said in a statement.

UK now ready to consider digital currency ‘Britcoin’

- **British authorities** are exploring the possibility of creating a **new digital currency that Treasury chief Rishi Sunak** indicated could be **known as Britcoin**“.
- **The Bank of England and the Treasury** said that they will work together to assess the benefits of a central bank digital currency, at a time when cash payments are generally on the decline, partly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The bank said the **new currency**, if it comes to pass, would be a new form of digital money for use by households and businesses and would exist alongside **cash and bank deposits**, rather than replacing them.
- Digital currencies, which are only available in digital or electronic form, are already being explored or even implemented in several other countries, with many proponents drawing inspiration from the **success of Bitcoin and other so-called cryptocurrencies**.

About Britcoin:

- Dubbed “**Britcoin**” by the press, the **BoE** said any **UK digital currency** would be a **new form of digital money** that could be used by both households and businesses.
- It would exist alongside cash and bank deposits, rather than replacing them.

WHO Launches global immunization strategy to save 50 million lives by 2030

- A **UN-led global immunization strategy** was unveiled to reach **more than 50 million children** who have missed lifesaving jabs against measles and other diseases because of COVID-19 disruption.
- **WHO, along with UNICEF** and the **vaccine alliance Gavi**, said their **new global strategy** has the potential to save 50 million lives within less than a decade.
- **WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said, to avoid multiple outbreaks of life-threatening diseases like measles, yellow fever and diphtheria, it must be ensured that routine vaccination services are protected in every country in the world.
- A WHO survey showed more than one third of countries were still seeing disruptions to their routine immunization services.
- The joint statement said, around 60 mass vaccination campaigns were currently postponed in 50 countries, putting 228 million people, mostly children, at risk of diseases such as measles and polio.

PM Modi thanked Japan for provide the Covid-19 assistance

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga** discussed cooperation in key areas, including creating resilient supply chains and ensuring reliable supply of critical materials, to overcome challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- During a phone conversation, the two leaders discussed the Covid-19 situation in each other's country and close **India-Japan cooperation to overcome regional and global challenges** due to the pandemic.
- Such bilateral cooperation includes “working together to create resilient, diversified and trustworthy supply chains, ensuring reliable supply of critical materials and technologies, and developing new partnerships in manufacturing and skill development”, the external affairs ministry said in a readout.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

India's export of Agricultural and allied commodities expressed an impressive increase of 18.49 per cent during 2020-2021

- India has witnessed an impressive increase of almost **5 per cent in export of Agricultural and allied products** during **April 2020 to February 2021** as compared to the same period, the previous year.
- The country had witnessed **tremendous growth of 727 per cent in Wheat export and 132 per cent in Non-Basmati Rice export**, despite the prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Some other commodities that posted significant positive growth in exports include cereals, soya meal, spices, sugar, raw cotton, fresh vegetable, processed vegetables and alcoholic beverages.
- India took care not to disturb the world food supply chain and continued to export even during the pandemic.
- The export of Agricultural and allied commodities during **April 2020 to February 2021 was over Rs 2 lakh 70 thousand crore.**
- The imports of Agricultural and allied commodities during this period witnessed a slight increase of 2.93 per cent.
- During this period, despite COVID-19, the balance of trade in agriculture has favorably increased.

Hero joins hands with Taiwan's Gogoro

- **Hero MotoCorp** has formed a partnership with **Taiwan's Gogoro Inc** to develop **electric vehicles** for the Indian market.
- The two companies will establish a battery swapping joint venture to bring **Gogoro's battery swapping platform** to India and will collaborate on EV development to bring **Hero-branded, powered-by-Gogoro Network** vehicles to the domestic auto market.
- With this partnership, **Hero MotorCorp** will make its first direct entry into the **EV space**, which at present is dominated by another **Hero Group company, Hero Electric, and Hero MotoCorp-backed start-up Ather Energy.**
- Hero's main rivals, **Bajaj Auto and TVS Motor Company**, also already have a small presence in this fast growing category.
- India's two-wheeler EV market saw a 1.6-fold increase in FY21, from 24,839 units sold in FY20 to 40,837 in FY21. Experts believe EVs may account for 25-30 percent of total two-wheeler sales by 2030.

ReNew Power projects 105-megawatt solar project in Gujarat

- **ReNew Power** informed it has commissioned a **105 megawatt (MW) solar generation** facility in Gujarat.
- The project has a **25-year power purchase agreement** with **Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL)** to provide clean electricity to the state at a tariff of **Rs 2.68/kWh**, a company statement said.
- This project located in the Patan district of Gujarat, takes ReNew's total operational solar capacity in the state to 145 MW and total aggregate solar capacity to **7 GW across India**.
- Since March, ReNew Power has announced commissioning of **over 500 MW** of combined wind and solar energy projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- "The 105 MW Gujarat project commissioning is a significant step forward for ReNew Power.
- The project has been commissioned amidst a COVID-19 surge and reflects the commitment of our team to contribute towards India's ambition of achieving **450 GW of clean energy by 2030**," said Founder, Chairman and **CEO of ReNew Power, Sumant Sinha**.

Ola to launch e-scooter in July and to set up 1 lakh charging points in 400 cities

- **Ola Electric** said it will bring its electric scooter to the **Indian market in July this year**, and is working on setting up a '**Hypercharger Network**' to include **one lakh charging points across 400 cities**.
- Last year, Ola had announced an **Rs 2,400 crore** investment for setting up its first electric scooter factory in Tamil Nadu.
- Upon completion, the factory will create nearly 10,000 jobs and will be the world's largest scooter manufacturing facility that will initially have an annual capacity of 2 million units.
- "We will put out the factory by June, which will have the capacity to manufacture 2 million units and then we'll ramp up - **over the next 12 months** - after the factory is set up the sale will also start at the same time, so factory gets completed in June, sale starts in July," **Ola Chairman and Group CEO Bhavish Aggarwal**

World Bank assist Bangladesh to provide USD 250 mn for jobs, COVID-19 pandemic

- The government of **Bangladesh** signed an agreement for **USD 250 million** financing from the World Bank to help create more and better jobs, recover faster from the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience to future crises.
- This was the third and the last in the series of credits totaling **USD 750 million** under the **Programmatic Jobs Development policy** focusing on creation of inclusive and quality jobs while supporting the government in responding to the **COVID-19 crisis**.
- It supports policies to modernize the trade and investment regime; improve social protection for workers; and help youth, women, and vulnerable people access quality jobs, said the press release issued by the World Bank.
- **World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan Mercy Tembon** said that this financing supports government policies to protect those most affected by the pandemic.
- He said it will create more and better jobs as Bangladesh continues its journey towards its vision of becoming an **upper-middle income country**.

Ind Ra predicts India's FY22 GDP growth forecast to 10.1 per cent

- **India Ratings and Research** revised down India's **FY22 real GDP growth** forecast to **1 per cent**, from **earlier projection of 10.4 per cent**, citing the second wave of COVID-19 infections and slower pace of vaccination.
- At a time when large parts of the country are experiencing tremendous pressure on medical infrastructure, the agency said it expects the second wave to start subsiding by mid-May.
- Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank maintained its **5 per cent GDP growth estimate**, but Governor Shaktikanta Das has flagged the rising cases as the biggest impediment to recovery.
- Other brokerages and analysts have also been revising down their forecasts in the light of the second wave.
- The economy is estimated to have contracted by **6 per cent in FY21**.

RBI restricts American Express Banking Corp, Diners Club International Ltd to adding new customers

- **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed restrictions on **American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Limited** from adding new customers to their card networks from **1st of next month**.
- RBI said, these entities have been found non-compliant with the directions on **Storage of Payment System Data**.
- The apex bank clarified that the order will not impact existing customers.
- The RBI indicated that both these service providers had failed to comply with directions **regarding mandatory storage of customer data** within systems in India.

Bharat Biotech now ready to sell Covaxin at Rs 600 to States, Rs 1200 to private hospitals

- **Bharat Biotech** has announced the cost of **COVAXIN** for State governments and Private Hospitals.
- It will cost **600 rupees per dose for State Governments** and **1200 rupees per dose for Private Hospitals**.
- The price of vaccines for export is 15 to 20 dollars.

Govt extends deadline to making payment for Vivad Se Vishwas scheme till June 30

- **Government** has extended certain timelines in order to give **respite to taxpayers** in difficult COVID times.
- It has extended the deadline for making payment under **tax dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas by two months till 30th of June**.
- Time limit for passing of any order for assessment or reassessment under the **Income Tax Act** has been **extended till 30th June**.
- Finance Ministry said the decision was taken following requests received from taxpayers, tax consultants, and other stakeholders that various time barring dates, which were earlier extended to 30th April, may be further extended.

Paytm introduced 'Wealth Community' for young investors

- **Home-grown digital financial services platform Paytm** has launched a **new video-based wealth community called the Paytm Wealth Community**.
- Paytm Wealth Community is an investing community based on video, and “will enable users to attend live sessions conducted by subject matter experts across an array of wealth topics like **Stocks, F&O, IPO, ETFs, Mutual Funds, Gold, Fixed Income, and Personal Finance**,” the company said in an official release.
- “Users will be able to learn from experts, interact with them to clarify doubts, and also chat with other users on the platform to discuss various wealth-related topics,” it said.

Budget proposal not affected ULIP segment of ICICI Pru Life: MD and CEO

- Optimistic about the outlook for the life insurance industry, **NS Kannan, Managing Director and CEO, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**, said as of now Covid-related claims for the sector are under control.
- In an interview with **BusinessLine**, he said while there continues to be demand for protection and health products, underwriting norms have become stricter for retail protection.

Blackstone planned to buy majority stake in Mphasis

- Blackstone said that the private equity funds managed by it have entered into definitive agreements to acquire a majority stake in **Mphasis Ltd**.
- A wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, UC Investments and other long-term investors will co-invest along with Blackstone.
- **Mphasis** is one of the leading providers of information technology services, specializing in cloud and digital solutions.
- It has deep domain expertise in **banking, financial services and insurance sectors (BFSI)** and serves **35 of the top 50 US BFSI firms**.
- Mphasis also has long-term relationships with multiple marquee global customers.

'Talks with DBS Bank DBS' to buy Citi's consumer banking business in India

- “**Talks with DBS Bank** is at an advanced stage and they are keen to take up the entire consumer banking operation,” said a person familiar with the development.
- Citi declined to comment to an email query sent by **BusinessLine** on the issue.
- “At this juncture, the details are still unclear.”

Xiaomi launches Rs 1.2 lakh TV, flagship Mi 11 Ultra phones

- The **Indian market's largest smartphone-seller Xiaomi** introduced its **flagship smartphone, the Mi 11 Ultra (5G)**, for the local market with a **Rs 69,999 price tag**.
- At this price band, Mi's new offering will compete against the likes of the **Apple iPhone and the Samsung Galaxy S series**.
- The Chinese company also launched another premium segment product in a **75-inch smartTV the QLED TV 75 at Rs 1, 19,999**.

- Mi's pricey TV offering features a **75-inch QLED 4K UHD panel** with **3,840 x 2,160** resolutions and a 178-degree viewing angle for wide visibility, according to the specifications.
- The model also runs an Android 10 operating system and bundles **Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and YouTube apps**.
- The Mi 11 Ultra has two displays: a 6.81-inch WQHD alongside a Samsung E4 AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and Corning Gorilla Glass Victus.

Neobank Fi partnership with Federal Bank to open instant savings account

- The **savings account**, to be issued in three minutes, is aimed at digital-first millennials.
- **Fi**, the Bengaluru-based **neobank** for salaried millennials, has announced its **partnership with Federal Bank** to issue an **instant savings account** equipped with a debit card, in three minutes.
- Founded in 2019, Fi is the brainchild of ex-Googlers who pioneered Gpay, Sujith Narayanan and Sumit Gwalani.
- It offers an **interactive, personalized, and transparent digital banking experience**.
- Users gain access to a **new-age savings account and money management tools** with features that help users know their money, grow their money and organize their funds.
- Fi aims to assist a **consumer's financial journey beyond digital payments** to other services — insurance, lending, and investment opportunities.
- Commenting on the launch, **Sujith Narayanan, CEO & Co-founder, Fi**, said, "We are excited to introduce a proposition that reimagines the way digital-first millennials perceive and interact with their money.
- Fi aims to be a meaningful partner in their money aspiration journey, enabling them to simplify finances and de-mystify savings.
- Our platform leverages cutting-edge tech and data science for deriving actionable insights that empower users to take control and do more with their finances.
- We look forward to delivering a first-of-its-kind, personalized, flexible and transparent banking experience and building long-term customer relationships."

RBI : article for monitoring movement of funds between banks and ARCs

- Introduction of a bad bank may help "**shape the operations**" of the **existing asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)**, an RBI paper said, noting that a sizable bulk of assets bought by such entities has not been resolved for a long time.
- The paper, published in the central bank's monthly bulletin for April, also flagged risks of an excessive reliance on banks by the ARC industry.
- It said **banks supply nonperforming assets (NPAs) to the ARCs**, hold shareholding in these entities and also lend to them, which makes it necessary to monitor if there is a "circuitous movement of funds between banks and these institutions (ARCs)".
- In her **Budget speech for FY22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** had declared that a new ARC will be created to hold the sour assets of the state-run lenders and resolve such assets professionally.

Punjab Govt pays Rs.10,085 cr online directly to farmers for buying wheat

- With wheat harvesting in full swing in Punjab and Haryana, farmers, for the first time, have started receiving **minimum support price (MSP)** payment directly in their bank accounts under the **Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme (DBT)**.
- The government data shows **5,385 crore** has been transferred so far in the ongoing procurement season by the **Central and State procurement agencies** to farmers against purchase of their crops in both the States.
- In **Punjab, 2,600 crore** has been paid to accounts of farmers till April 20 under the scheme.
- In **Haryana, 2,785 crore** have been transferred directly to the accounts of farmers.
- Punjab Food Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu said “under the DBT scheme payments more than Rs.2,600 crore has been paid to the accounts of farmers till April 20”.

RBI allows 15-year tenure for MD & CEO for private banks

- In a major reform step, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has capped the **tenure of bank MD and CEOs** with immediate effect.
- In a circular to all the commercial banks, the RBI said that the posts of **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Whole Time Director (WTD)** cannot be held for **more than 15 years**.
- Further, the MD and CEO or WTD who is also a promoter or a major shareholder, cannot hold these posts for **more than 12 years**.
- Banks will have to comply with the instructions by **October 1, 2021**.
- The central bank further said that the extant instructions on upper age limit for MD & CEO and WTDs in the private sector banks would continue and no person can continue as MD & CEO or WTD beyond the age of **70 years**.

UP-based Shivalik SFB came up for operations

- **Uttar Pradesh-based Shivalik Small Finance Bank** has commenced operations as a **small finance bank** with **effect from April 26, according to the Reserve Bank of India**.
- The Reserve Bank had issued a licence to the bank **under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to carry on the business of small finance banks in India, the RBI said.
- Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. was granted an in-principle approval for transition into a small finance bank, as announced in the press release on January 6, 2020, **under the “Scheme on voluntary transition of Urban Co-operative Bank into a Small Finance Bank”** issued on September 27, 2018.

RBI issued guidelines: UCBs and NBFCs to appoint auditors for 3 years

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for appointment of Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs)/Statutory Auditors (SAs) in commercial banks, urban co-operative banks and non-banking finance companies from FY22 onwards, whereby they will have to appoint SCAs/SAs for a continuous period of three years.
- A Circular on **‘Guidelines for Appointment of Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs)/ Statutory Auditors (SAs) of Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs), UCBs and NBFCs (including HFCs)’** has been issued.

- These guidelines provide necessary instructions for appointment of SCAs/SAs, the number of auditors, their eligibility criteria, tenure and rotation, etc. while ensuring the independence of auditors.
- However, non-deposit taking **NBFCs with asset size below Rs 1,000 crore** have the option to continue with their extant procedure.
- As the guidelines are being implemented for the first time for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and NBFCs from 2021-22**, “they shall have the flexibility to adopt these guidelines from the second half of FY 2021-22, in order to ensure that there is no disruption”.

Social worker in Odisha opens oxygen bank to lend cylinders for free to needy patients

- In the midst of a dangerous second wave, a **city-based social worker Atif Alam** has opened a **medical oxygen bank to lend oxygen cylinders** to needy patients **free of cost**.
- The **33-year-old man** who runs a social organization ‘**Social Star Club**’, started the oxygen bank earlier this month and it **currently has 45 cylinders in stock**.
- Last year in May when the Covid cases were on the rise, Atif through his organization had started providing oxygen cylinders, medicated beds, air beds and wheelchairs to patients in need on a rotation basis.
- He had five oxygen cylinders then.
- When people came to know about Atif’s philanthropic works, some of his well-wishers and patrons offered to donate oxygen cylinders.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund marks its applications cross Rs. 8,000 crore

- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund** has crossed the **eight thousand crore mark**.
- The investment will give a boost to several agricultural projects which will unlock value for farmers across the country.
- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has informed that a **total of eight thousand 665 applications** worth **eight thousand 216 crore rupees** have been received for the fund.
- The largest share of 58 per cent has been contributed by **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies** followed by agri-entrepreneurs and individual farmers.
- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has brought farmers and agri-businesses together with newer partnership models.
- The fund will facilitate medium and long-term debt financing facilities for investment in agricultural projects through interest subvention and credit guarantee.
- **Under the scheme, one lakh crore rupees** will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3 percent per annum and credit guarantee coverage for loans up to two Crore rupees.

ADB projected India GDP growth to rebound to 11% in FY21-22, moderate to 7% in FY22-23

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has **projected India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound strongly to 11 per cent in current fiscal** on the back of continued economic recovery boosted by increased public investment, vaccine rollout and surge in domestic demand.

- The IMF forecast pitches India as the fastest-growing major economy and the only one expected to record a double-digit recovery from pandemic-hit 2020. China's economy is seen growing 8.4% in 2021 and 5.6% in 2022.

Despite pandemic, TMB attains the impressive performance in FY21

- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)** has reported an impressive performance on many parameters in **FY21** that include strong growth in net profit, good asset quality and higher business.
- The **Tuticorin-based bank's net profit grew 48 per cent at Rs.603 crore in 2020-21** as compared to **408 crore** in 2019-20.

ADB sanctioned \$1.5-billion fiscal support to India for pandemic situation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** said it has provided **\$ 1.5 billion** to India to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The institution had announced a package of **\$ 20 billion in April 2020** to provide financial support to 26 countries to help fight the pandemic, it said in a release.
- "ADB's \$ 16.1 billion pandemic response in **2020**, through a **\$ 20 billion package** announced in April 2020, was provided in various ways, most notably via a new COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option which had provided quick-disbursing fiscal support to 26 countries, including \$ 1.5 billion to India, by the end of the year," it said.
- Out of the \$ 16.1 billion, \$ 2.9 billion was for the private sector, which included direct support to companies, as well as through trade and supply chain finance to keep trade networks functioning.
- ADB committed a record \$ 31.6 billion in 2020 to help Asia and the Pacific tackle the COVID-19 outbreak; support a green, sustainable recovery from the pandemic; and address long-term development challenges.
- The **\$ 31.6 billion ADB** committed from its own resources in 2020 was 32 per cent higher than 2019's \$ 24 billion.

Indian Bank and BSNL signed an MoU

- **Indian Bank signed an MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** to provide seamless telecom services to the bank at a competitive rate.
- The release said, the MoU was signed in the presence of executive director of Indian Bank and chief general manager of BSNL, **Chennai Telephones** and will provide access to latest technologies at great competitive rates.
- The bank is already using services of **BSNL** and **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited** for its Wide Area Network across the country **Dr VK Sanjeevi**, chief general manager of Chennai Telephones said that BSNL and its subsidiary MTNL is connecting 5,000 branches and ATMs of Indian Bank.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION NEWS

Rajeev Srivastava appointed as Head - Products and Business Development of HDFC Securities

- **HDFC securities** announced the appointment of **Rajeev Srivastava as Head of Products and Business Development**.
- Srivastava has almost two decades of experience in working with large retail companies including ICICI Bank and Perfetti Vanmelle, according to a statement.
- He was previously associated with Reliance Securities as Chief Business Officer.
- **Dhiraj Relli, MD and CEO, HDFC securities**, said, "Rajeev brings along with him a wealth of experience in dealing with products and outlining business strategies.
- He would add great value to our product offerings while helping our customers with a wide spectrum of investment options to choose from.
- Rajeev's understanding of the markets will play a **critical role in greater penetration of HSL brands** for our existing and new customers."

RBI nods appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as part time Chairman, HDFC Bank

- **Private sector lender HDFC Bank** said the **Reserve Bank** has approved appointment of former **Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time chairman of the bank**.
- "The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide its communication dated April 22, 2021, has approved the appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the **part time chairman** of the bank for a **period of three years with effect from May 5, 2021** or the date of his taking charge, whichever is later," HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing.
- HDFC Bank said a meeting of the board of directors of the bank will be convened in due course inter-alia to consider the appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time chairman and additional independent director of the bank.

Rekha Menon became first woman chairperson of Nasscom

- **Accenture India's head, Rekha M Menon** is the **first woman Chairperson of the IT industry body, Nasscom**.
- Menon, who was earlier a member of the executive council of the representative body, **takes over from Pravin Kumar Rao, the Chief Operating Officer at Infosys**.
- In a video statement, Menon said that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues to test the resilience of our more than 4 million people, even as it has created new opportunities for growth with technology emerging as the lifeline for societies and economies across the world.
- "As we cautiously navigate the pandemic, I look forward to working with the **NASSCOM Executive Council** and its members to drive our industry's long-term growth by augmenting India's position as the digital talent nation for the world, driving people-first innovation, and working with the government to create a conducive policy environment needed for sustainable growth," she added.

Cyient's Executive Chairman B V R Mohan Reddy steps down

- **Former Nasscom chairman BVR Mohan Reddy** said it was very "sad" to see a "**good CEO**" like Vishal Sikka **stepping down** as the CEO of Infosys, and added that promoters have no say after leaving a company.

- The company said Sikka, the **first non-founder CEO** of Infosys, has abruptly resigned due to the “continuous assault” and “campaign” by founder and ex-chairman NR Narayana Murthy.
- Reacting to this, Murthy said he is not seeking “any money, position for children, or power”, while expressing anguish over the board’s allegations that his “continuous assault” led to Sikka’s exit.
- Reddy said: “It is very sad to see a good CEO leaving a great company for avoidable reasons.
- The promoters have **no locus standi (right to interfere or have say in the matter)** once they leave the company.”

Experian India appointed Neeraj Dhawan as MD

- Credit Information Company **Experian India** appointed **Neeraj Dhawan** as its new **managing director**.
- Prior to this, he was chief credit officer at CSB Bank, focusing on retail, SME, and analytics, a release said. ‘It will be my endeavour to grow and strengthen the **India**
- **With his leadership and industry experience, Neeraj** will introduce strategies to accelerate Experian India’s growth, enabling the team to achieve organizational goals and excellence in operations.
- Leveraging Experian’s global strengths, and by **introducing innovative solutions** across Decision Analytics, Credit Services, Data Quality, and Consumer Services, Neeraj will further enhance Experian’s anchor products in India.

IOB appointed EY as its digital consultant

- **IOB** said the consultant has been appointed as part of its growth strategy and to transform its banking services into a digitized form.
- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has appointed **Ernst & Young as digital consultant** to achieve the goal of increasing the share of digital services.
- IOB said the consultant has been appointed as part of its growth strategy and to transform its banking services into a digitized form.

DDMA appointed senior bureaucrats as nodal officials to oversee oxygen supply

- **Amid shortage of medical oxygen in several hospitals** across the city, the **DDMA appointed two senior bureaucrats as nodal officers** to ensure smooth movement of tankers and facilitate oxygen supply to city hospitals.
- It has also directed the Delhi Police to provide security to the tankers from manufacturers’ sites to various health facilities here.
- The move comes hours after **Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia** alleged that the police officials in **Uttar Pradesh and Haryana** were blocking oxygen transport to the national capital, and urged the Centre to ensure normal supply even if that meant taking the help of paramilitary forces.

Justice NV Ramana Sworn As New 48th Chief Justice of India

- **Justice NV Ramana** took oath as the **48th Chief Justice of India**.

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** administered him the oath at Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi in a small ceremony due to Covid restrictions.
- In the farewell to **Justice SA Bobde, who retired as the Chief Justice**, Justice Ramana said, “We are going through testing times as we battle the Covid wave.
- Lawyers, judges and court staff are all affected due to the virus. Some hard measures may be necessary to break the chain of transmission. We can defeat the pandemic together with dedication.
- “Another challenge Justice NV Ramana faces is filling up six vacancies in the top court.
- During Justice SA Bobde’s tenure, not a single judge has been appointed to the top court.
- Born in an agricultural family in Andhra Pradesh’s Krishna district on August 27, 1957, Justice Ramana, 63, will be the country’s top judge for a year and four months till August 26, 2022.
- He is the second Chief Justice of India from Andhra Pradesh; Justice K Subba Rao was the ninth Chief Justice of India from 1966-67.

GC Murmu elected as External Auditor by OPCW for 3 years

- **India’s Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) GC Murmu** has been chosen as the external auditor of the Hague-based **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**.
- GC Murmu has been appointed as the **external auditor** of OPCW for a period of three-year starting 2021.
- OPCW is a prestigious intergovernmental organization based in “**The Hague, Netherlands**”, working for the elimination of chemical weapons.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU’S AND AGREEMENTS

Indian Bank and Chennai Angels sign ink pact for start-up financing

- Public sector lender Indian Bank has entered into a pact with **Chennai-based angel investment group ‘The Chennai Angels For financing start-ups under the bank’s loan product Ind SpringBoard**.
- The MoU was signed.
- Under this project, Indian Bank will support start-ups by extending credit facilities up to **50 crore** for working capital needs and also fund term-loan requirements for acquiring fixed assets for their units, said the bank in a statement.

Switch Mobility signed an inks pact with TVS Supply Chain for sustainable logistics network

- **Switch Mobility** Ltd, an electric vehicle arm of Ashok Leyland Ltd, and **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** has entered into an agreement for establishing a **sustainable logistics network**.
- Under the arrangement, TVS Supply Chain Solutions will operate **1,000 e-light commercial vehicles** through their partners for its logistics operations provided by **Switch Mobility**.
- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions** has over two decades of experience in providing supply chain solutions across the globe through their fully integrated service offerings.

Assam Govt signs two MOUs with Bhutan & Nagaland

- **The Assam Government** has signed **two MOUs** in Guwahati with **Bhutan and Nagaland** for **procurement of oxygen**.
- A **new oxygen plant** is being **set up in Bhutan**.
- The Assam government has also come to know of an oxygen plant in Dimapur in Nagaland and both the states have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

PM Modi to attend Leaders' Summit on Climate on April 22

- **On April 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will **participate in the Leaders' Summit on Climate** hosted by **US President Joe Biden**.
- A total of **40 world leaders** had been **invited for the two-day virtual Summit** to galvanize efforts by the major economies to tackle the climate crisis.
- This Summit **coincides with the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Paris Agreement on climate change for signature**.
- **Theme** of the Summit is **Our Collective Sprint to 2030**.
- The summit is one of several major climate-related events in the run-up to COP-26, a global event scheduled for November 2021.
- The leaders participating in the Summit represent countries which are members of the Major Economies Forum and those vulnerable to climate change.

Objectives of the Summit :

- Using the technology available to adapt to climate change but also reduce emissions.
- Use nature-based solutions to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Protect lives and livelihoods by finding ways to adapt to climate change.
- Build new businesses and industries.
- The Leaders will exchange views on enhancing climate actions, mobilizing finance towards climate mitigation and adaptation including nature based solutions, climate security as well as technological innovations for clean energy.

Note :

- **India** is the only country which has **overachieved its targets as per the Paris Agreement** and continues its commitment to switch to renewable energy resources.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : RANKING & INDEX

India Ranks 87th In Global Energy Transition Index 2021 ; Sweden Tops

- **On April 21, 2021, India** was placed at the **87th (Score 53)** position **among 115 countries in the 2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI)**,
- The report **Published from the World Economic Forum (WEF)** and prepared in collaboration with Accenture also draws on insights from ETI.

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- The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, and **Sweden has a score of 79 is in the first** position followed by Norway (2nd) and Denmark (3rd).
- As per the report, 92 out of 115 countries tracked on the ETI increased their aggregate score over the past 10 years, which affirms the positive direction and steady momentum of the global energy transition.

List of Top 10 Countries :

Rank	Country
1	Sweden
2	Norway
3	Denmark
4	Switzerland
5	Austria
6	Finland
7	UK
8	New Zealand
9	France
10	Iceland

- **Zimbabwe is the last ranked** country in the index.

About the Index :

- The index benchmarks 115 countries on the current performance of their energy systems across three dimensions: economic development and growth, environmental sustainability, and energy security and access indicators and their readiness to transition to secure, sustainable, affordable, and inclusive energy systems.

About World Economic Forum :

- Headquarters: **Cologne, Switzerland**
- Founder: **Klaus Schwab**
- Founded: **24 January 1971**

About Accenture :

- CEO: **Julie Sweet**
- Headquarters: **Dublin, Ireland**
- Founder: **Clarence DeLany**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOURS

Mar Coorilos selected for maiden Golden Lantern Award

- WHI, an organization having special consultative status with the **Economic and Social Council, UN**, has chosen **Geevarghese Mar Coorilos Metropolitan, Diocese of Mumbai**, for its maiden Golden Lantern Award.

- The award is being conferred on the metropolitan for his outstanding efforts in **social, educational and charitable spheres**.
- He was chosen for the award for his free education initiatives for slum children, health and treatment schemes designed for **TB patients**, exemplary contributions to the education sector and opening up of theology learning for women in the upcoming Theo University.
- **Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** will give away the award in **Thiruvananthapuram in mid-July**.

AP panchayat raj department conferred 17 awards

- The **State Panchayat Raj department** has bagged **17 awards** announced by the **Union Panchayat Raj Ministry**.
- The **awards are under different categories**, including Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Purashkar, Gram Panchayat Development Plans, Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award and e-Panchayat Puraskar.
- While **Guntur and Krishna districts got awards** in the district level,
- **Sadum** (Chittoor district),
- **Kakinada Rural** (East Godavari),
- **Penugonda** (Anantapur) and
- **Vijayawada Rural** (Krishna district) got awards in the mandal level.
- **Renimakulapalle** (Chittoor),
- **Tallapalle** (Nellore),
- **Kondepalli** (Prakasam),
- **Tada Kandriga** (Nellore),
- **Peddalabudu** (Visakhapatnam),
- **Gullapalli** (Guntur)
- **Varkuru** (Kurnool),
- **Pennabarthi** (Nellore),
- **G Ragampeta** (East Godavari),
- **Vellanti** (Nellore) got awards under different categories in the gram panchayat level.
- **Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy** said it bagged **15 awards last year**.

'Nomadland' bags top honours at Independent Spirit Awards, Riz Ahmed best actor

- **Chloe Zhao's** meditative drama "**Nomadland**" continued its **winning streak this award season** by **bagging best picture, best director and other awards at the 36th annual Film Independent Spirit Awards**.
- The story, about a woman who embarks on a nomadic journey through American west after she loses her job, has emerged as the Oscars frontrunner after winning accolades at **Producer's Guild of America (PGA) Awards, British Academy Film and Television Awards (BAFTA) and Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards**.
- **Nomadland also won Zhao** the best editing trophy while the **best cinematography** honour went to its cinematographer Joshua James Richards.
- Hosted by **'Saturday Night Live'** cast member **Melissa Villasenor**, the awards were broadcasted live on IFC channel on April 22, three days before the Oscars.

93rd OSCAR Awards conferred

- **Actor-filmmaker Emerald Fennell**, “Another Round” and **Daniel Kaluuya** were the early winners at the **93rd Academy Awards**.
- Fennell won best original screenplay Oscar for her #MeToo drama “**Promising Young Woman**”, while best adapted screenplay Academy Award went to Christopher Hampton and Florian Zeller for their Anthony Hopkins-Olivia Colman-starrer “**The Father**”.
- **Daniel Kaluuya** won **best supporting actor Oscar** for his role in “**Judas and the Black Messiah**”.
- “Another Round” from Denmark won the Oscar for best international feature film.
- The **film is directed by Thomas Vinterburg and stars Mads Mikkelsen**.
- “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” won makeup and hairstyling, and costume design Oscars.
- **Filmmaker Chloe Zhao** has scripted history at the **93rd Academy Awards** by becoming the **first woman of colour and only the second woman in the Oscars’** history to win the best director trophy.
- **Kathryn Bigelow** was the **first woman to win best director in 2009** for her film “**The Hurt Locker**”.
- The 2021 Oscar for the ‘**Best Animated Feature Film**’ was taken home by Pixar’s ‘Soul’, becoming the only film ever to win that award without playing in the US movie theatres.
- Last October, with the COVID pandemic having closed most of the nation’s cinemas, Disney announced that it would release ‘Soul’ as a Christmas release exclusively on its streaming service Disney+.
- The movie centered on a jazz musician who’s trying to reunite his accidentally separated soul and body.
- This marked the first time a full-length Pixar feature had been released for home viewing without first playing in movie theaters.
- **South Korean actor Youn Yuh-jung**, the **feisty grandmother** in “**Minari**”, captured more than her grandson’s heart.
- Youn, a prominent film and TV actor in her home country of South Korea, won the best supporting actress award at Oscars.
- She’s the second Asian actress to win in the category; more than four decades after Japanese-born Miyoshi Umeki earned the trophy for 1957’s “Sayonara”.

‘Absolute Proof’ bags worst movie at 2021 Razzie Awards

- The **election-fraud film “Absolute Proof”**, singer **Sia’s heavily panned directorial debut “Music”** and **Rudy Giuliani, former New York City mayor**, were the top winners at the **2021 Razzie Awards**, given to the **worst movies and performances of the year**.
- The Golden Raspberry Awards, popularly known as the Razzies, were held, as per the tradition.
- “Absolute Proof”, directed by My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell, which claimed that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from former President Donald Trump, was named the worst picture at the ceremony, reported Entertainment Weekly.
- The **pro-Donald Trump film** also bagged the **worst acting title** for Lindell for his appearance in the film as himself.

Thilakan award for Theatre and film director Pramod Payyannur

- **Theatre and film director Pramod Payyannur** has been selected for the **Thilakan Smarakavedi's "Thilakan Award"**, named after the late actor, for overall contribution.
- The jury noted that Pramod's new cultural mission titled "**Theatrum Farme**" and multimedia presentations uphold a value-based new cultural view.
- The award comprises **Rs 30,001 cash prize** and a citation.
- **Thilakan Smarakavedi secretary Kodumon Gopalakrishnan** and **President Babu Kiliroor** said the award will be presented in **July first week**.
- The jury members were Ibrahim Vengara, Thottam Bhuvanachandran, Sreeja Arangottukara and Manilal.

Kovai.co bags Bootstrapped Saas startup award

- **co, Coimbatore-based software as a service (SaaS) start-up**, was named "**Bootstrapped SaaS startup of the Year**" by **SaaSBoomi**, at the inaugural edition of **SaaSBoomi awards**.
- It is a first-of-its-kind annual awards ceremony that facilitates a platform to recognize and laud most deserving SaaS start-ups in India.
- For the current edition, eight different categories were introduced.
- Each company's self-nominated applications were reviewed by the jury, and the **top five finalists were selected**.
- Later, through a voting mechanism, winners were selected and announced.

Stellantis in India appointed Roland Bouchara as CEO

- **Roland Bouchara** has been elevated to the **role of CEO & MD** of automaker Stellantis India operations with full responsibility for the **Jeep and Citroen national sales companies (NSCs)**, along with the group's manufacturing activities.
- Newly formed automaker Stellantis after the **merger of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Groupe PSA** has merged the operations of both the erstwhile carmakers in India and announced the appointment of Roland Bouchara as the new chief executive and managing director of Stellantis India.
- Bouchara was leading the entry of **PSA's Citroën brand** in India as the senior vice president of sales and marketing prior to this.
- He will oversee Jeep and Citroën national sales companies in India as well as the group's manufacturing operations, as per a company statement.

Suprajit Engineering appointed US professional, James Ryan

- Auto parts maker **Suprajit Engineering** has appointed **James Gerard Ryan** as President – Controls & **Cables** Global Operations (except India). The company, in a regulatory filing to exchanges, said **Jim Ryan** is a **US** national and a seasoned **professional** with rich experience in the controls and **cables**
- He has been in executive and general management roles within a global manufacturing environment, with a proven record of providing impactful results to overall business performance and development.

Haryana State Govt appointed HSIIDC MD Anurag Agrawal & Director MSME, Dr. Vikas Gupta for mapping of liquid oxygen manufacturing plants

- **Haryana Government** has appointed the **Managing Director of Haryana State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Anurag Agrawal and Director, MSME, Dr. Vikas Gupta** for mapping of liquid oxygen manufacturing plants and monitoring their production and diversion to **medical use**.
- **Mr Anurag Aggarwal** will be responsible for Industrial Estates and **Dr Vikas Gupta** for the rest of the State for mapping of liquid oxygen manufacturing plants and monitoring their production and diversion to medical use.
- Giving this information the government spokesperson informed that the **Ministry of Home Affairs under the Disaster Management Act, 2005** had issued directions that the use of liquid oxygen is not allowed for any non-medical purpose and that all units manufacturing liquid oxygen shall maximize their production and make it available to the Government for medical purposes only with immediate effect and until further orders.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

VARUNA – 2021 India-France Naval Exercise to begin in Arabian Sea

- **From April, 25 to 27 2021, The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'Varuna-2021' has started in the Arabian Sea.**
- The **three-days exercise** between the **navies of two countries** will be seeing high tempo-level operations at the sea, which will include advanced anti-submarine and air defence exercises, tactical manoeuvres, intense fixed and rotary wing flying operations.
- The aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle with its carrier air wing (Rafale marine, E-2C Hawkeye, hélicoptères Caïman marine and Dauphin), "one multi-mission frigate, Provence, one air defence destroyer, Chevalier Paul, and one command and supply ship, Var

Objective :

- The units of the two navies in the **Varuna bilateral naval exercise will endeavour to enhance their warfighting skills in order to demonstrate their ability as an integrated force to promote security, peace and stability in the maritime domain.**

About Indian Navy :

- **Founded: 26 January 1950**
- Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS): **Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar**
- Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS): **Vice Admiral M. S. Pawar**
- Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): **Admiral Karambir Singh**
- Commander-in-Chief: **President Ram Nath Kovind**

DRDO develops single crystal blades

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed **single crystal blades** that are **used in helicopter engines**.
- It has **supplied 60 of them to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** for the company's **indigenous helicopter development program**.

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- This single crystal blades technology has been **developed by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL)**, one of the DRDO's laboratories.
- The DRDO will develop a **total five sets (300 blades) of single crystal blades**.
- Helicopters need compact and powerful aero-engines for operating at extreme conditions and to achieve this, state-of-the-art single crystal blades having complex shape and geometry, manufactured out of nickel based super-alloys capable of withstanding high temperatures of operation are used.

About Single crystal blades :

- Single crystal blades having complex shape and geometry are manufactured out of nickel-based superalloys that are capable of withstanding high temperatures.
- Few countries such as the US, the UK, France and Russia have the capability to design and manufacture single crystal components.

About DRDO :

- Founded: **1958**
- Headquarters: **DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi**
- Chairman : **Dr G Satheesh Reddy**

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited :

- Headquarters: **Bengaluru**
- Founder: **Walchand Hirachand**
- Founded: **23 December 1940, Bengaluru**

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's 40th Scientific Expedition To Antarctica Returns To Capetown

- **On April 10, 2021, The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA)** hosted by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** successfully returned to Cape Town, after completing a journey of **around 12 thousand nautical miles in 94 days**.
- The 40-ISEA comprised Indian scientists, engineers, doctors, and technicians, who began their journey from the **Mormugao Port of Goa to Antarctica on 7 January, 2021**.
- The team reached its **destination station Bharati on 27 February, 2021, and Maitri on 8 March, 2021**.
- On the way to Antarctica, the voyage team deployed four autonomous Ocean Observing DWS (Directional Wave Spectra) wave drifters between **35 degree and 50 degree south latitudes** in collaboration with Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.
- The expedition positioned a team of 20 personnel at Bharati led by Atul Suresh Kulkarni from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism and 21 personnel at Maitri led by Ravindra Santosh from the Indian Meteorological Department.

ISRO to support eight joint research projects of IIT-D

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will support **eight joint research projects** mooted by the **space technology cell (STC)** of the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi**.
- Space Technology Cell (STC), which was set up in the year **2019** as part of a **Memorandum of Understanding signed between ISRO and IIT Delhi**.
- The ISRO will support the **projects under its “respond” programme for varying duration of one to three years**.
- The eight collaborative research projects on which the scientists from different ISRO centres and IIT, Delhi, will work jointly include application for aerospace, space and hydro-extremes to bring about applications for drought and flood forecasting.
- The unit will establish an **Indian Land Data Assimilation System (ILDAS)** for identifying hydrologic extremes.

Names of eight joint research projects of IIT-D :

- Establishing a **Coupled Indian Land Data Assimilation System (ILDAS)** for identifying hydrologic extremes.
- **Classical Trajectory Monte Carlo Simulations of the Plasma dynamics in electrodeless plasma thruster**.
- **Analysis of Variable Stiffness Composite Honeycomb Sandwich Structures with Embedded Delamination**.
- **Indigenous Sensor based Real Time Flood Warning Smart System**.
- **Impact of Satellite Observations in a Coupled System for Predicting Storm Tides and its Coastal Inundation**.
- **Development of a Numerical Simulator for Micro-fabricated Electrospray Thrusters**.
- **Designing Speciality Glasses Employing Machine Learning and Meta-Heuristic Optimization**.
- **Low-Pressure Systems (LPSs) and their nonlinear interaction with other scales in the atmosphere through the lens of Scale Energetics**.

About IIT Delhi space technology :

- The IIT Delhi space technology cell has been functional since November 2019.

Russia's Space Agency Roscosmos, to launch its own space station in 2025

- **On April 20, 2021, Russian space agency Roscosmos** announced that it will **launch its own space station in 2025**.
- Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov informed in recent days that **Moscow was considering whether to leave the ISS programme from 2025**.

About ISS :

- **International Space Station (ISS)** which is currently in orbit is one of the **most ambitious international collaborations in human history**.
- The ISS was **launched in 1998 with cooperation between Russia, the US, Japan, Canada and the European Space Agency**.

About Roscosmos :

- Chief : **Dmitry Rogozin**
- Founded: **25 February 1992**
- Headquarters: **Moscow, Russia**

About Russia :

- President: **Vladimir Putin**
- Capital: **Moscow**
- Currency: **Russian ruble**

SpaceX rocket ship launches 4 astronauts on NASA mission to ISS

- **On April 23, 2021, NASA and Elon Musk's commercial rocket company SpaceX launched a new four-astronaut team on a flight to the International Space Station the first crew ever propelled into orbit by a rocket booster recycled from a previous spaceflight.**
- The company's Crew Dragon capsule Endeavour, also making its second flight, streaked into the darkened pre-dawn sky atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket as its nine Merlin engines from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

About SpaceX :

- Founder & CEO : **Elon Musk**
- Founded: **6 May 2002**
- Headquarters: **Hawthorne, California, United States**

About NASA :

- Headquarters: **Washington, D.C., United States**
- Founder: **Dwight D. Eisenhower**
- Founded: **1 October 1958, United States**
- Administered by: **Steve Jurczyk**

China names first Mars rover 'Zhurong'

- **On April 24, 2021, China's first Mars rover will be named Zhurong after a traditional fire god.**
- The rover is aboard the **Tianwen-1** probe that **arrived in Mars orbit on February 24 and is due to land in May to look for evidence of life.**
- It is part of Chinese space plans that include launching a crewed orbital station and landing a human on the moon.
- **China in 2019 became the first country to land a space probe on the little-explored far side of the moon and in December returned lunar rocks to Earth for the first time since the 1970s.**
- **Tianwen-1's goals include analysing and mapping the Martian surface and geology, looking for water ice and studying the climate and surface environment.**

Note :

- **China would become the third country** after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a robot rover on Mars.

About China National Space Administration :

- Founded: **22 April 1993**
- Administrator: **Zhang Kejian**
- Headquarters: **Haidian District, Beijing, China**

About China :

- Capital: **Beijing**
- President: **Xi Jinping**
- Currency: **Renminbi**

CSIR-CMERI indigenously developed Oxygen enrichment technology

- **On April 25, 2021, CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, in association with MSME-DI, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Government of India jointly organised a Webinar on 'Oxygen Enrichment' Technology.**
- Oxygen Enrichment' Technology, **effective for treating COVID- 10 Patients.**
- The unit is capable of delivering medical air in the **range of up to 15 LPM with oxygen purity of more than 90%.**
- This unit can even **deliver up to 70 LPM at a purity of around 30%.**

About CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute :

- It is a constituent laboratory of the **Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).**
- This institute is the **only national level research institute in the field of mechanical engineering in India.**
- It was founded to develop national mechanical engineering technology, particularly in order to help Indian industries.
- Director: **Harish Hirani**
- Director General: **Shekhar C. Mande**
- Founded: **26 February 1958**

India is world's 3rd largest military spender in World in 2020; US Tops

- **On April 26, 2021, India** was retained as the **third biggest military spender in the world in 2020** according to new data titled **'SIPRI Military Expenditure Database.**
- It is **published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).**

List of Top 5 Nations :

- United States (\$778 billion)
- China (\$252 billion)
- India (\$72.9 billion)

- Russia (\$61.7 billion)
- United Kingdom (\$59.2 billion)
- The three countries were ahead of Russia and Saudi Arabia together made up the world's top military spenders, accounting for 62% of the global military.

About Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) :

- Headquarters: **Solna**
- Founded: **6 May 1966**
- Director: **Dan Smith**
- Location: **Stockholm, Sweden**

CURRENT AFFAIRS : ENVIRONMENT

New species of insect discovered in Kosovo – Potamophylax coronavirus

- Professor **Halil Ibrahim** has discovered a **new insect species named Potamophylax coronavirus** found in **Kosovo's western Bjeshket e Nemuna (Accursed Mountains) national park**.
- As an associate professor of the **Natural Sciences Faculty at Pristina University, Prof Ibrahim collected the species**, which turned out to be endemic to the national park, 75 miles (120km) west of the capital Pristina, and found it was quite different from the other species in the Balkans.
- It is considerably **smaller, and lives in a different habitat, in open, high-altitude zones, some 2,000 metres (6,500ft) above sea level**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : BOOKS & AUTHORS

Climate Change Activist-Author Aakash Ranison Launches His E-Book Titled Climate Change Explained – For One And All

- On the occasion of **Earth Day on April 22, 2021, Aakash Ranison, a well-known Climate Change Activist and Sustainability Influencer** launches an **eBook "Climate Change Explained – for one and all**.

About the book :

- The book **focuses on the serious topic of climate change and how it can affect every individual's life**.
- The book is exclusively available on **aakashranison.com for free from 22nd April 2021**.
- It will also be available on Amazon, iBook, & Google Books as well at a nominal cost of INR 20 from 10th May 2021.
- The author explains **the impact of climate change and aims to motivate readers to reduce its outcome with the help of simple sustainable solutions**.
- The book is a mix of facts, data, and information about climate change, having topics like "Greenhouse effect, global warming, Carbon footprint" and their effects on earth in the near future.

New Book Titled The Living Mountain By Jnanpith Awardee Amitav Ghosh

- The **Living Mountain** is a new story by Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author **Amitav Ghosh**.
- It will be **Published by HarperCollins Publishers India**.

About the book :

- The Living Mountain is a beautifully told **story within the structure of a fable. It is a tale about Mahaparbat, the Living Mountain.**
- It is a fable for the current times: a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature, leading to an environmental collapse.
- The book will also be **published simultaneously in Hindi, and as an ebook and an audiobook.**

About Amitav Ghosh :

- Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta in 1956.
- He is the author of several acclaimed works of fiction and non-fiction including The Shadow Lines, In an Antique Land, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, the Ibis Trilogy, The Great Derangement, Gun Island and Jungle Nama.
- **In 2019, the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, was conferred on him, making him the first English-language writer to receive the award.**

Rafael Nadal Wins 12th Barcelona Open Title

- **On April 25, 2021, Rafael Nadal** defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-7(6), 7-5.
- He collected a record-extending **12th Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell trophy.**
- The **Barcelona Open Title 2021 held from April 17 to 25, 2021, at Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, Spain.**

About Barcelona Open :

- The Barcelona Open is an **annual tennis tournament for male professional players.**
- The event has been held in Barcelona, Spain every year from 1953, and is played on clay courts at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona.

Jhumpa Lahiri is coming up with a new book – Whereabouts

- Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri is coming up with a new book Titled **Whereabouts.**
- It will be published under the Hamish Hamilton imprint of Penguin Random House.
- This is the English translation of her first Italian novel and will come out in April 2021.
- The book is an English translation of Italian novel 'Ias Dove Mi Trovo' which was written by the author Jhumpa Lahiri itself and published in 2018.

About the book :

- The book deals with an unnamed female protagonist over 45 years as she looks at her life, glancing, sideways, back and forth, chronicling life, relationships and burden of relationships in short, succinct chapters.

Book Titled “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times” by Amitav Ghosh

- **Renowned Amitav Ghosh** authored A new book titled “The Living Mountain” is set to **hit stands in January 2022.**
- The book will be **published by HarperCollins Publishers India.**
- The book will also be published simultaneously in **Hindi**, and as an ebook and an audiobook.
- It is a fable for the current times: a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature, leading to an environmental collapse.

About the Book :

- The Living Mountain is a **beautifully told story within the structure of a fable.**
- It is a tale about Mahaparbat, the Living Mountain; the indigenous valley dwellers who live and prosper in its shelter; the assault on the mountain for commercial benefit by the Anthropoi, humans whose sole aim is to reap the benefits of nature; and the disaster that unfolds as a result.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SPORTS NEWS

ITBP sets up water sports & adventure training institute in Uttarakhand

- A **Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI)** has been **established by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand.**
- **On April 16, 2021, The institute was inaugurated by Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.**
- ITBP's Mountaineering and Skiing Institute at Auli, will independently run this institution.
- It will **impart training in aero, water and land-related sports and adventure activities.**
- Currently, three ITBP teams – kayaking, canoeing and rowing – have been deployed here, in which around 59 sports persons are available.
- This institution will **boost national and international tourism and it will increase opportunity of employment for the people of the state.**

About Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) :

- **Founded: 24 October 1962**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi, India**
- **Director General : S S Deswal**
- **Comes Under Ministry of Home Affairs**

About Uttarakhand :

- **Chief minister: Tirath Singh Rawat**
- **Governor: Baby Rani Maurya**

Puma ropes in Washington Sundar & Devdutt Padikkal as Brand Ambassadors

- **Global sportswear brand Puma** has roped in **Indian cricketers Washington Sundar and Devdutt Padikkal as the brand ambassador.**
- The duo will be joining the company's roster of **brand ambassadors that include Indian captain Virat Kohli; wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul; women's national cricketer, Sushma Verma and veteran cricketer Yuvraj Singh.**
- Puma India, which recently announced its **partnership with Royal Challengers Bangalore, has been consistently investing in India's sport ecosystem.**

About Puma :

- Puma is a German sports brand, involved in designing, developing, selling and marketing footwear, apparel and accessories.
- Founder: **Rudolf Dassler**
- Founded: **1948, Herzogenaurach, Germany**
- CEO: **Bjørn Gulden**
- Headquarters: **Herzogenaurach, Germany**

Tamil Nadu's Arjun Kalyan becomes 68th Indian Grandmaster

- **Tamil Nadu teenager Arjun Kalyan became India's 68th Chess Grandmaster.**
- He crossed the **2500 ELO mark** after beating **Dragan Kosic in the fifth round of GM Round Robin "Rujna Zore-3" in Serbia.**
- The **18-year-old from Chennai** had come close to achieving the feat last week.
- Arjun is **coached by IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov.**

About Grandmaster :

- Grandmaster (GM) is a **title awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE.**
- Grandmaster is the **highest title a chess player can attain.**

About FIDE :

- Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- CEO: **Geoffrey D. Borg**
- Founded: **20 July 1924, Paris, France**
- Membership: **195 national associations**

2021 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships : India Clinches Historic Win with 11 Medals

- **From April 13 to 23, 2021, The 2021 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships** was held in **Kielce, Poland.**
- It is a **10-day biennial event**
- It witnessed **414 boxers from 52 countries.**
- **From India, eight boxers competed in the finals**
- **Eight Boxers including 7 female players and one male.**

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- In that, India ended the tournament with 11 medals (8 gold & 3 bronze) to finish top in the medal table.
- The previous best outing for India had come in the 2018 edition where they won 10 medals.

List of Winners :

Gold Medal Winners

1. Gitika – 48kg
2. Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu – 51kg
3. Poonam Pinia – 57kg
4. Vinka – 60kg
5. Arundhati Choudhary – 69kg
6. Thokchom Sanamacha Chanu – 75kg
7. Alfiya Pathan – +81kg
8. Sachin – 56kg

Bronze Medal Winners

1. Bishwamitra Chongtham – 49kg
2. Ankit Narwal – 64kg
3. Vishal Gupta – 91kg

In November 2021 Houston to Host Table Tennis World Championships

- The **ITTF World Table Tennis Championships**, the **Harris County Houston Sports Authority** has announced that it will **host the event November 23–29, 2021, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.**
- It **will be the first time the United States has hosted the tournament.**
- The **rescheduled event will coincide with and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic mission between the United States and China that was dubbed “Ping Pong Diplomacy.”**
- The **Decision** was made at a meeting of the **ITTF executive committee on April 11.**

About ITTF :

- Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- President: **Thomas Weikert**
- CEO: **Steve Dainton**
- Founded: **1926**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

National Earth Day – Observed on Apr 22

- **Earth Day** is an annual event on **April 22** to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

- The **theme this year is “Restore Our Earth”** and its focus is on natural processes, emerging green technologies and innovative thinking that can restore the world’s ecosystems. And therefore, the theme also rejects the belief that only mitigation and adaptation are the ways to address climate change.
- **First held on April 22, 1970**, it now includes a wide range of **events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG** including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.
- **International Mother Earth Day (Earth Day)** is celebrated **every year on 22 April** to recognize that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth.
- The day was **established in 2009 by the United Nations General Assembly**.
- Every year around the world, Earth Day organizers promote green campaigns to save the Earth.
- Celebrate National Earth Day by getting engaged in Earth Day activities in your area.

World Book Day- Observed on Apr 23

- **World Book Day** is celebrated **every year on April 23**.
- **UNESCO** undertakes the responsibility of the event.
- The **first** ever World Book Day was celebrated on **April 23, 1995**.
- The date was decided by **UNESCO** as it was also the **death and birth anniversary of William Shakespeare**, a world famous author.
- World Book and Copyright Day: Keeping Covid-19 in mind, the **theme** for this year is **‘To share a story’**.
- **Tbilisi** has been chosen to be the **World Book Capital in 2021**.
- **April 23** is globally observed as the World Book Day, also known as the **World Book and Copyright Day or International Day of the Book**.

UN English Language day & UN Spanish Language day - Observed on Apr 23

- The **UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day** is observed annually on **23 April**.
- For English, 23 April has been chosen to **mark both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare**.
- For Spanish Language, the Day was chosen because the day is also observed as Hispanic Day in Spain, meaning the Spanish speaking world.
- Why is the Day observed?
- They are one of the six official languages used by the United Nations throughout the Organization. These are: **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish**.
- Each language has been assigned a day of celebration by **UN’s Department of Public Information in 2010** to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.

World Veterinary Day - Observed on Last Saturday of April

- The **World Veterinary Association (WVA)** started celebrating the day in the year 2000.
- WVA is the world’s largest family of veterinarians and aims at providing a **“common voice”** for all the veterinary doctors across the globe.
- The World Veterinary Day is celebrated annually on the **last Saturday of April**.

- The **World Veterinary Association** declared the theme for 2021 as **'The Veterinarian Response to the Covid-19 Crisis'**; keeping in mind the ongoing pandemic situation that took a toll on animal welfare as well.

National Panchayati Raj Day – Observed on Apr 24

- **National Panchayati Raj Day** is the national day of **Panchayati Raj System in India** celebrated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on **24 April annually**.
- Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh declared the **first National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2010**.
- The reason for celebrating Panchayati Raj day is the **73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992**.
- The passing of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 came into force with **effect from 24 April 1993**.
- So the **National Panchayati Raj Diwas (Day)** is celebrated every year in India on 24th April.

About Panchayati Raj system:

- The system later came to be known as **Panchayati Raj**, which was **inaugurated** by the then Prime Minister **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** on 2 October 1959 at Nagour in Rajasthan.
- The first elections under the **Rajasthan Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads Act, 1959** were held in September-October 1959.
- On 24 April 1993, the **Constitutional (73rd amendment) Act of 1992** came into force in India to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace – Observed on Apr 24

- The **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** is marked on **24 April since 2019**.
- The day was **declared by the UN General Assembly** in December 2018 and was observed for the first time on 24 April 2019.
- **Multilateralism** requires states to follow international norms and pay more respect to international institutions; this is contrasted with **unilateralism**, where a single state can influence how international relations can be conducted.
- The day aims to spread knowledge about the advantages of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities.

World Day for Laboratory Animals – Observed on Apr 24

- **World Day for Animals in Laboratories** is observed every year on **24 April**.
- The surrounding week has come to be known as **"World Week for Animals In Laboratories"**.
- The **National Anti-Vivisection Society** describes the day as an **"international day of commemoration"** for animals in laboratories.
- The **World Day of Laboratory Animals** has been observed annually on April 24th with the associated **"Lab Animal Week" (20th-26th April) since 1979** as a movement to end the sufferings of the animals that are used for testing in the laboratories around the world and replace them with the advanced scientific non-animal.

National DNA Day – Observed on Apr 25

- **National DNA Day** is a United States holiday celebrated on **April 25**.
- It commemorates the day in 1953 when James Watson, Francis Crick, Maurice Wilkins, Rosalind Franklin and colleagues published papers in the journal Nature on the structure of DNA.
- In the United States, DNA Day was **first celebrated on April 25, 2003**, by proclamation of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- However, they only declared a one-time celebration, not an annual holiday.
- Every year from 2003 onward, annual DNA Day celebrations have been **organized by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)**, starting as early as April 23 in 2010, April 15 in 2011 and April 20 in 2012.
- **April 25 has since been declared “International DNA Day” and “World DNA Day” by several groups.**

World Malaria Day – Observed on Apr 25

- **World Malaria Day** is an international observance commemorated every year on **25 April** and recognizes global efforts to control malaria.
- Globally, 3.3 billion people in 106 countries are at **risk of malaria**.
- In 2012, malaria caused an estimated 627,000 deaths, mostly among African children.
- The day aimed at taking urgent action in the control of the deadly disease.
- Malaria is a life-threatening disease that is caused by the bites of infected mosquitoes.
- The **World Health Assembly established World Malaria Day in May 2007**.
- The goal of the event is to furnish countries in the impacted regions the platform to study from each other’s experiences and support one another’s initiatives.

International Delegate’s day – Observed on Apr 25

- The **International Delegate’s Day** is observed on **April 25**, to raise awareness of the role of representatives and delegates of the **Member States to the United Nations**, in preventing war and conflict and paving the way for peaceful and prosperous societies through dialogue and collaboration, particularly during the most difficult of times.
- **United Nations (UN)** organized the first official **International Delegate’s Day on April 25, 2020**.
- The day acknowledges the **850 delegates** who participated in the **San Francisco Conference seventy-six years ago in 1945**, followed by signing of the Charter of the United Nations.
- The agreement resulted in the creation of the United Nations, an organization that now comprises **193 Member States**.

World Intellectual Property Day – Observed on Apr 26

- **World Intellectual Property Day** is observed annually on **26 April**.
- The event was established by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in **2000** to “raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life” and “to celebrate creativity, and the contribution made by creators and innovators to the development of societies across the globe”.

- 26 April was chosen as the date for **World Intellectual Property Day** because it coincides with the date on which the Convention Establishing the **World Intellectual Property Organization** entered into force in 1970.
- This event has been criticized by a number of activists and scholars as one-sided propaganda in favor of traditional copyright, ignoring alternatives related to copy left and the free culture movement.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work – Observed on Apr 28

- The annual **World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April** promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.
- The day is promoted by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** since 2003 to prevent accidents and illnesses at work.
- The **theme** for 2021 is “**Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises – Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems**”.
- As workers we are responsible to work safely and to protect ourselves and not to endanger others, to know our rights and to participate in the implementation of preventive measures.
- The **whole objective of Occupational Safety and Health is to prevent diseases, injuries, and deaths** that are due to working conditions; no one should have to a job related injury or disease because of their employment.
- Significant changes are constantly occurring in the **workplace for example: Longer working hours.**

Workers’ Memorial Day – Observed on Apr 28

- Workers’ Memorial Day, also known as **International Workers’ Memorial Day or International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured** takes place annually around the world on **April 28**, an international day of remembrance and action for workers killed, disabled, injured, or made unwell by their work.
- The day has been organized worldwide by the **International Trade Union Confederation** since 1996.
- Its purpose is to remember workers killed in incidents at work or by diseases caused by work and honour the victims of occupational accidents and diseases by organizing worldwide mobilizations and awareness campaigns on this date.
- **Theme 2021: ‘Health and Safety is a fundamental workers right.’**

CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh passes away

- **On April 21, 2021, Eminent Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh** passed away.
- He was 89.
- Ghosh was born on February 6, 1932, at Chandpur in present-day Bangladesh.

Achievements :

- In **2011, he was awarded Padma Bhushan** and in **2016 he received the Jnanpith Award.**

- In 1977, he received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his book 'Babarer Prarthana'.
- He was honoured with a second Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999.

Veteran actor Kishore Nandlaskar passes away

- **On April 20, 2021, Veteran actor Kishore Nandlaskar**, who was a popular face in both Marathi and Hindi films, passed away.
- He was 81.
- The actor made his debut in 1982 with Marathi film 'Navare Sagle Gadhav' and went on to act in movies like 'Bhavishyacha Aishi Taishi: The Prediction', 'Gaon Thor Pudhari Chor' and 'Jara Japun Kara'.
- He was last seen in **Mahesh Manjrekar web-series '1962: The War In The Hills'**.
- In Hindi films, his notable performances, Nandlaskar is known for his roles in Khakee (2004), Vaastav: The Reality (1999), Singham (2011), Jis Desh Mein Ganga Rehta Hain (2000), Simmba (2018).

Chad President Idriss Deby Passes away

- **On April 20, 2021, The President of the Republic of Chad, Idriss Deby Itno**, passed away.
- Deby was 68.
- Déby, spent more than **three decades in power and was one of Africa's longest-serving leaders**.
- He was even declared **winner of the 2021 presidential election, paving the way for him to stay in power for six more years**.
- Deby **first won elections in 1996 and 2001**.
- After this he continued to win in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021.

About Chad :

- Capital: N'Djamena
- Currency: Central African CFA franc

Renowned qawwali singer Farid Sabri of 'Sabri Brothers' fame passes away at 58

- **On April 21, 2021, Renowned qawwali singer Farid Sabri of the Sabri Brothers duo** passed away in Jaipur.
- He was 58.
- Farid Sabri and Amin Sabri were known for their evergreen numbers like '**Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin Der Na Ho Jaye**' and '**Ek Mulakat Zaruri Hai Sanam**'.
- He had collaborated with his father, Lata Mangeshkar and Suresh Wadkar on the song for the film Henna.
- His qawwali in the movie Sirf Tum (1999) was also a huge hit.

Veteran Hindi Film Actor Amit Mistry Passes Away

- Popular **Gujarati and Hindi film actor Amit Mistry**, Passes away.
- He was 47.
- The actor was a **prominent face in the Gujarati theatre circuit**.

- His work in Hindi films like “Kya Kehna”, “Ek Chalis Ki Last Local” and especially his **collaborations with filmmaker Raj-DK including “99”, “Shor In The City” and “A Gentleman”** got him wider attention.
- He is known for starring in films like “Shor In The City”, “Bey Yaar” and Amazon Prime Video series “Bandish Bandits”.
- Mistry earned acclaim in the **2020 hit web series “Bandish Bandits” in which he played musician Devendra Rathod.**

Music Composer Shravan Rathod of “Nadeem-Shravan” Fame Passes Away

- **Shravan Rathod of the iconic composer duo Nadeem-Shravan** Passed away.
- He was 66.
- Nadeem Saifi and Shravan Rathod, who were **popularly known as Nadeem-Shravan, were among the most sought-after composers of the 90s.**
- Together, They composed some of the iconic hits as part of the soundtracks for movies such as Aashiqui (1990), Saajan (1991), Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke (1993), Pardes (1997) and Raja Hindustani (1996), among others.
- Nadeem-Shravan **parted ways in the 2000s and reunited to compose for David Dhawan-directed Do Knot Disturb in 2009.**

‘Father of Banking Reforms M Narasimham passes away at 94

- **On April 20, 2021, Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor M Narasimham** passed away.
- He was 94.

About M Narasimham :

- **Narasimham served the first and only governor** to be appointed from the Reserve Bank cadre.
- He was the **13th RBI governor for seven months** from May and November, 1977 prior to the joining of IG Patel as the Governor.
- Narasimham stepped in the RBI bank as a Research Officer in the Economic Department. However, later he joined the government and served as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs.
- He later became **Secretary in the Finance Ministry.**
- Narasimham was known for being the chair of two high-powered committees on banking and financial sector reforms namely Committee on the Financial System (1991) and the Committee of Banking Sector Reforms (1998).
- Some major recommendations made by Narasimham Committee include: Bank structures and mergers, Asset reconstruction, Rural banking, Capital adequacy and Private banks and modernization of public sector banks, among other things.
- He had **served as India’s executive director at the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank.**
- He was felicitated with **India’s second highest civilian honor Padma Vibhushan in 2000.**

SC judge Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar passes away

- **On April 25, 2021, Supreme Court judge Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar** Passed away.
- He was 62.

About Mohan M. Shantanagoudar :

- Justice Shantanagoudar was born in 1958 in Karnataka.
- He was enrolled as an advocate in 1980.
- He **specialised in Civil, Criminal and Constitutional matters.**
- Justice Shantanagoudar **had served as State Public Prosecutor of Karnataka from 1999 to 2002.**
- He was **appointed permanent judge of the Karnataka High Court in September 2004.**
- He was appointed **Chief Justice of Kerala High Court in 2016** and was **elevated to the Supreme Court on February 17, 2017** and was **scheduled to retire only on May 4, 2023.**
- He was the **ninth senior most judge of the Supreme Court.**

Former Chief of SSB Arun Chaudhary passes away

- **On April 25, 2021, Former Sashastra Seema Bal chief Arun Chaudhary** Passed away.
- He was 66.

About Arun Chaudhary :

- He is a **1977-batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre.**
- Chaudhary served for nearly two decades in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) he headed the Jammu and Kashmir desk.
- He was **once also tipped to become the chief of the Intelligence Bureau.**
- In **December 2012, he was appointed director general of the SSB and retired from service on April 30, 2014.**

About Sashastra Seema Bal :

- Sashastra Seema Bal is a **border guarding force of India deployed along its border with Nepal and Bhutan.**
- It is **one of the Central Armed Police Forces under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Founded: **1963**
- Minister responsible: **Amit Shah**

Doyen of Indian Classical Music Pandit Rajan Mishra Passes Away

- **Renowned classical music singer Pandit Rajan Mishra** passed away.
- He was 70.

About Pandit Rajan Mishra :

- Pandit Rajan Mishra was born in 1951 into a family of classical music enthusiasts in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi.
- He was a **vocalist in the khyal style of Indian classical singing.**

Achievements :

- He was **awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India, in 2007.**
- He was also a **recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Gandharva National Award and the National Tansen Samman.**

Former Maruti Suzuki MD Jagdish Khattar passes away

- **On April 26, 2021, Former managing director of Maruti Suzuki India, Jagdish Khattar, passed away.**
- He was 79.

About Jagdish Khattar :

- He had **served at Maruti Suzuki India Limited from 1993 to 2007.**
- He **joined Maruti in 1993 as director of marketing** and went on to become its MD in 1999, first as a government nominee and then in May 2002 as the Suzuki Motor Corporation nominee.
- In **October 2007 Khattar launched an entrepreneurial venture named Carnation Auto.**

About Maruti Suzuki India Limited :

- CEO: **Kenichi Ayukawa**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman : **R C Bhargava**

Veteran Indian Nuclear Scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam Passes away

- **Indian nuclear scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam Passed away.**

About Krishnamurthy Santhanam :

- Dr Santhanam was a nuclear scientist and the **field director of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) during the tests of Pokhran-II**
- He was **associated with institutions like DRDO, DAE and IDSA.**
- His role in successful 1998 nuclear tests was noteworthy.
- He was **awarded Padma Bhushan in 1999 by the Government of India.**

Noted Gujarati poet and folk singer Dadudan Gadhvi Passes Away

- The **famous and noted Gujarati poet and folk singer Dadudan Pratapdan Gadhvi Passed Away.**
- He was 80.

- He was also known as Kavi Dad.
- Besides, he had written songs for 15 Gujarati films.

Achievements :

- For his contribution to literature and education, in 2021, he was honored with **Padma Shri**.
- He had received the Gujarat Gaurav Award as well as the Jhaverchand Meghani Award.



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