

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **VP introduces commemorative postage stamp of former Chief of Brahma Kumaris Rajyogini Dadi Janki**

- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** released a commemorative postage stamp in the memory of **former Chief of Brahma Kumaris Rajyogini Dadi Janki** in New Delhi.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Naidu said, what makes **Brahma Kumaris** so special is that the organization is led by women.
- He said they have demonstrated that spiritual attainments transcend gender-based distinction.
- The Vice President said, society needs to be **educated on equal rights to women in every field**, not merely in letter, but in spirit, as well.
- He said, spirituality is the basis of all religions and the same spiritual thread binds them together. Mr Naidu said, we should draw inspiration from **Dadi Janki's life** which was dedicated to God and to selfless service of humanity.
- Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was also present on the occasion

#### **Jitendra Singh unveils 75 series Pension awareness to mark 75 years of India's independence**

- **Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh** launched **75 series Pension awareness** to mark **75 years of India's independence**.
- As a part of the **Amrut Mahotsav**, the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare will organize a wide range of activities.
- Dr Jitendra Singh said, it will be a highly innovative and creative method of observing the 75th year of India's independence by dedicating it to the cause of pensioners and elder citizens.
- He said this would personify the real essence of **Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav** by addressing the elder citizens through one of the youngest mediums of social platforms.

#### **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh initiates IAF Commanders' Conference 2021**

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **First bi-annual Indian Air Force, IAF Commanders' Conference 2021 at Air Headquarters Vayu Bhawan in New Delhi**.
- The conference of apex level leadership is aimed at addressing the issues of IAF's operational capabilities in the times to come.
- A series of discussions would be conducted over a period of three days to address strategies and policies related to capabilities that would give **IAF a significant** edge over its adversaries.
- Various welfare and Human Resource measures to improve HR and administrative efficiency will also be discussed.
- Air Force Commanders' Conference is a bi-annual conference held at **Subroto Hall, Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan**.
- The Conference provides a forum to the senior leadership of the IAF to discuss critical issues pertaining to **Operations, Maintenance and Administration**.

- The conference is attended by the Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief of all Commands of IAF, all Principal Staff Officers and all Director Generals posted at Air Headquarters.

### **NITI Aayog launches 'Poshan Gyan'**

- **NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University launched Poshan Gyan, a national digital repository on health and nutrition.**
- The launch event was addressed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO Amitabh Kant, Women and Child Development Secretary Ram Mohan Mishra and Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal.
- While launching the website, Dr Rajiv Kumar said, the creation of Poshan Gyan was a landmark moment.
- He said, real change can be brought about only through changing behaviours on the ground.
- The NITI Aayog Vice Chairman said, high malnutrition persists despite India being a food-surplus nation, which points towards a clear need for behavioural change.

### **EdCIL reward highest ever dividend of Rs 12.5 Cr for 2019-20**

- **EdCIL (India) Limited, a Mini Ratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprises under Ministry of Education, paid a highest ever dividend of 12.5 Crore rupees for the year 2019-20.**
- **Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** received the dividend cheque from **CMD of EdCIL Manoj Kumar** in the presence of **Additional Secretary (Technical Education) Rakesh Ranjan** and other officials of the Ministry and EdCIL.
- The company registered a turnover of 326 Crore rupees and a Profit before tax of **56 Crore rupees** during the year 2019-20.
- EdCIL offers Project Management and Consultancy solutions across education verticals covering ICT or IT Solutions, Online Testing and Assessment Services, Advisory Services, Infrastructure, Procurement and Overseas Education Services.
- The company is executing a mega-project of the Ministry of Education called Study in India to increase the number of inbound foreign students to India.
- The program includes setting-up of a large portal, call centre, social media campaign, branding, event management and setting-up of facilitation centres.

### **PM Modi interact with Intel CEO through video conferencing**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** interacted with **Chief Executive Officer of Intel, Pat Gelsinger** through video conferencing.
- Both had extensive discussions on the role of technology in furthering human progress.
- Mr Modi and Mr Gelsinger also discussed the Digital India efforts and investment opportunities in India.

### **Siachen Warriors celebrate 37th Siachen Day**

- The **Siachen Warriors** celebrated the **37th Siachen Day** with tremendous zeal and enthusiasm.

- **Brigadier Gurpal Singh** laid a wreath and paid homage to the martyrs at the **Siachen War Memorial, Base Camp** to commemorate their courage and fortitude in securing the highest and coldest battlefield of the World.
- On this day in 1984, Indian troops first unfurled the tricolour at **Bilafond Lalaunching Operation Meghdoot**.
- Since then, it has been a saga of valour and audacity not only in the face of the enemy but also in the face of icy peaks with extreme weather.
- To this day, the Siachen Soldier continues to guard the Frozen Frontier with determination and resolve against all odds.
- The Siachen Day honours all the Siachen Warriors who served their motherland while successfully thwarting enemy designs over the years.

### Haryana CM approves purchase of 200 acres of land for AIIMS

- **Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal** has **approved the purchase of 200 acres of land for the AIIMS** to be **set up in Rewari**, as well as the purchase of land for other seven projects.
- The Chief Minister was presiding over the meeting of the **High Power Land Purchase Committee** to buy the land available on e-Bhoomi portal for nine projects at Chandigarh.
- This approval was given after the landowners agreed on the price.
- Haryana Deputy Chief Minister, Sh. Dushyant Chautala was also present in the meeting.
- The Deputy Commissioners and landowners of the respective districts also joined the meeting through video conferencing.
- For the AIIMS to be built in Rewari, the committee approved the purchase of 200 acres of land at the rate of **40 lakh per acre**.
- For identifying the land for this project, the concerned Deputy Commissioner was asked to prepare a detailed report of the available land.

### 'Tamizh Puththandu' celebrated across Tamil Nadu

- **Tamizh Puththaandu**, the **first day of the Chithirai month** marks the beginning of the Tamil Calendar.
- It is an auspicious occasion for **new projects and new ventures in family and social circles**.
- Covid restrictions are in place in the State, people are celebrating the festival with Covid Appropriate Behaviour.
- In keeping with tradition houses are decorated with **rangolis at the doorsteps** and mango leaf festoons are hung at the entrance .Food with six different tastes are made at home.
- **Sweet,salt, bitter, sour, spicy and thuarpu dishes** are traditional menus for the day.
- The **vadai payasam pachadi or a yoghurt** based dish is generally prepared with mango.
- **Mango, jackfruit and banana, the mukhani dish** are considered to be the tastiest.
- People visit temples to pay obeisance and also visit friends and families.
- Chithirai is also the summer season of the year where the heat begins to rise above normalcy.
- With south and western districts of the State are pleasant because of the summer rains northern districts face the heat of the season.

## 'Vishu' – festival of harvest – celebrated by Keralites across globe

- **Keralites across the globe are celebrating,"Vishu the festival of harvest and prosperity.**
- Vishu, is the astronomical **New Year of the state marking** the sun's transit into the **Medam Rashi** .
- Lord Krishna is worshipped in this auspicious day that resonates with symbolism of abundance in every sense.
- The day begins with "**Vishukkani**" the first thing to be seen on this day , comprises of **lord Krishna adored with fruits and vegetables, kani konna flowers, gold ,coins etc.**
- Elders of the family offer their blessings in the form of Vishu kaineettam.
- In major temples such as Guruvayur, Sree padmanabhaswamy temple , Sabarimala etc vishu kani and special rituals will be held.
- Amid covid pandemic, Vishu is being celebrated under strict restrictions this time.
- Authorities had urged to restrict the celebrations to their own home and to avoid crowding in temples.

## Various regions of our country celebrate traditional New Year

- Various regions of the country are **celebrating traditional New Year** in the form of **Ugadi, Gudi Padava, Chaitra Sukladi, Cheti Chand, Vishu, Puthandu and Bohag Bihu.**
- According to the **Luni-Solar calendar**, the first day of the full moon of Chaitra is the beginning of the hindu new year.
- People of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana call it '**Ugadi**', and in **Karnataka, it is 'Yugadi'**.
- In Maharashtra, it is celebrated as '**Gudi Padwa**', and in Tamil Nadu, it is observed as '**Puthandu**'.
- In Kerala, the day is celebrated as '**Vishu**', In Punjab it is '**Vaisakhi**' and in Odisha, it is called '**Pana Sankranthi**'.
- In West Bengal, it is called '**Poila Boishakh**' and in Assam, '**Bohag Bihu**'.
- Telugu speaking people across the world are celebrating their Telugu New Year day, Ugaadi.
- Though the COVID Pandemic situation dampens the gaiety, people are observing the customary festivities with traditional fervour.
- The festival is being celebrated across the two Telugu states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar.

## Second Shahi Snan come about at Kumbh Mela in Haridwar

- **Second Shahi Snan** takes place at **Kumbh Mela in Haridwar** on the auspicious occasion of **Somavati Amavasya**.
- Devotees from different parts of the country reached **Haridwar** to take holy dip in the river Ganga at various **GHATS** in the city.
- **Second Shahi Snan of Mahakumbh** which is being organised here after 12 years.
- All the Sant Akhadas are taking part in the Shahi Snan according to the time allotted to them by the administration.
- **Nepal's last King Gyanendra Beer Vikram Shah Dev** is also at **Mahakubh for Shahi Snan**.
- Special arrangements have been made in Haridwar as devotees from across the country are reaching here for holy dip.

- The administration has imposed a number of restrictions to prevent the growing infection of Corona.

### MoS in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh promotes 'Teeka Utsav'

- **Minister of State in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh** called for celebrating the **Teeka Utsav** by facilitating vaccination among those who are entitled to receive the jab.
- Dr Singh, in the four days, the drive has to be carried out at multiple levels including personal level, social level and administrative level.
- He said, as responsible citizens, it is the obligation of each person to act as a catalyst in the **Vaccination Drive**.
- He said, those who have recovered from **COVID should take upon the responsibility** to spread awareness about the disease.

### PM aware people to follow four principles 'Each One, Vaccinate One' , 'Each One , Treat One' , 'Each One, Save One' to fight in pandemic situation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** appealed to everyone to follow a fourfold principle as the nation **kick-starts four day special vaccination drive, Teeka Utsav**.
- **Emphasising** on the need to follow both personal and social hygiene, Mr. Modi urged citizens to imbibe these four principles which include '**Each One, Vaccinate One**', '**Each One , Treat One**' , '**Each One, Save One**' , and people led creation of Micro Containment Zones.
- The Prime Minister said the 'Teeka Utsav' is the beginning of the second big war against Corona Pandemic.
- He also urged citizens to ensure zero wastage of COVID vaccines and asked those eligible to be vaccinated to get their jabs.
- Modi said during this time we have to move towards optimum utilization of the country's vaccination capacity.
- He added that this will also in a way increase our vaccination capacity.
- The Prime Minister asserted that the **Nation's success** in the fight against the pandemic will be determined by the fact that people don't step outside their houses without pressing needs.

### LG RK Mathur initiates National Training programme on Packaging in Leh

- In **Leh, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur** has launched a **National Training programme on Packaging**.
- This programme is organized under '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' in association with **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** and **Indian Institute of Packaging for products** from UT Ladakh.
- LG RK Mathur mentioned, with most women participation annually India is doing over fifty thousand crore home based business.
- While taking examples from **Punjab and Kolhapuri** leather goods and shoes, Mr. Mathur appealed that Ladakh has lots of potential in leather products.
- He advised the participants to look back to traditional handicrafts and other products for inspiration and earn money.

- He said, **Likir village in Leh** will be developed as Crafts Village to promote home made products, while **Raj Niwas** will have an exhibition of **Ladakhi products** to popularize them.
- Mr Mathur said, Ladakh handicrafts have a scope of a hundred crore rupees turnover in the coming Ten years of time.

### PM Modi makes virtual summit with his Dutch Counterpart

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has said that India and the **Netherlands** are working together for a supply chain in **Indo-pacific region**.
- Holding the **Virtual Summit** with the **Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte**, **Mr Modi** mentioned, the relationship between the two countries is based on the shared values of democracy and rule of law.
- He said, they are also developing convergence in new areas like **Indo-Pacific resilient** supply chains and global digital governance.
- Mr Modi added that establishment of a fast track mechanism for investment promotion also gives new momentum to strong economic cooperation between the two countries.
- He expressed confidence that post covid period many news opportunities will be generated in which **like-minded countries** can enhance mutual collaborations.

### India, Netherlands lauds the launch of strategic partnership in water sector

- **India and the Netherlands** have announced the launch of the **strategic partnership** in the water sector to further intensify ongoing cooperation and better coherence in the area.
- **India - Netherlands Virtual Summit held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte**, Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Sandeep Chakravorty said that both leaders have agreed to elevate the joint working group on water to a Ministerial Level.
- They also discussed broadening **bilateral cooperation in new areas of water including water budgeting**, cost effective decentralized treatment technology, converting wastewater to energy and river hazard management.
- He said both sides have announced the setting up of a fast track mechanism to facilitate bilateral trade and to resolve issues of **Dutch and Indian companies**.

### NITI Aayog unveils Online Dispute Resolution handbook

- **NITI Aayog** will launch the first-of-its kind **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) handbook** in India.
- ODR is the resolution of disputes outside courts, particularly **of small and medium-value cases**, using **digital technology and techniques of alternate dispute resolutions** such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.
- Supreme Court Judge, Justice **D Y Chandrachud** will deliver the opening address and launch the handbook.

### Rajnath Singh make talks with Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** held a meeting with the **Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev** in New Delhi.

- During the meeting, the two Ministers exchanged views to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation in various fields.
- They agreed that both sides must look at the possibility of defence industrial collaboration of mutual interest.
- The **Defence Minister of Kazakhstan thanked Rajnath Singh** for the opportunity given to the Kazakh troops for deployment as part of the Indian battalion in the **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**.
- Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar and other officials were also present in the meeting.

### Over Rs. 250 crore sanctioned for augmenting healthcare facilities in North East States

- **Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region, DoNER Dr. Jitendra Singh** has said that **more than Rs. 250 crore** had been sanctioned for augmenting healthcare facilities in the **North-Eastern States for effective management of COVID-19**.
- Chairing a meeting of the **Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of DoNER in New Delhi, Dr Singh** said that the fund has greatly helped in developing infrastructure for management of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

### India Russia Friendship Car Rally: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh flags off

- **Minister of State in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh** flagged off **India Russia Friendship Car Rally 2021**.
- The event was **organized by International Friendship Car Rally Association, IFCRA** in New Delhi.
- The Car rally will take place in Russia from **18th to 20th April**.
- This is the **5th IFCRA edition** and there are **14 participants from IFCRA** India representing the North East.
- Dr Singh said that Russia has been a reliable partner of **India and joint sporting events** will further strengthen the bonds of friendship.
- He said that diplomatic, social and cultural ties with Russia scaled new heights under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Minister hoped that participants from the North East region in this event will further add to growing bilateral ties.

### Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurates SARTHAQ initiative

- **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched an **initiative SARTHAQ** which will help in the implementation of **National Education Policy in the country**.
- The students and teachers' holistic advancement through quality education, SARTHAQ has been initiated as a part of the **Amrit Mahotsav celebrations**.
- The Education Minister said it will pave the way for the children and youths to meet the diverse **national and global challenges**.
- He said it will also help them to **imbibe 21st century skills, indian tradition, culture and value system as envisioned in National Education Policy**.
- He said, the implementation of SARTHAQ would benefit all stakeholders including 25 crore students, 15 lakh schools, 94 lakh teachers.

- He urged all the stakeholders to use this plan as a guiding light to undertake transformational reforms in the school education sector.
- The Minister chaired a high level meeting on implementation of National Education Policy.
- Secretary, Higher Education, Amit Khare and other officials were present in the meeting.

### PM Chaired High-level meeting to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will chair a meeting of the **High-Level Committee** to commemorate the **400th Birth Anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur** through video conferencing.
- **Home Minister Amit Shah** will also attend the meeting.
- The meeting will discuss the year-long calendar of events planned to mark this special occasion.
- The **High Level Committee** was constituted by the Centre on **24th October** last year, to approve policies, plans and programs related to the commemoration of the birth anniversary.
- It has **70 members** including the **Prime Minister as Chairman**.

### Union Ministers Dr Harsh Vardhan and Arjun Munda jointly inaugurates Tribal Health Collaborative- 'Anamaya'

- **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan** and **Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda** launched 'Anamaya'– the **Tribal Health Collaborative** through video conference.
- A multi-stakeholder initiative supported by **Piramal Foundation** and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**, 'Anamaya' will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities.
- On the occasion, **Dr Vardhan** said, in the past one year, several efforts have been made by the **Health Ministry to jointly address** the health gaps of the tribal communities with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- He said, recently, the **Tribal TB Initiative** was launched by both the Ministries to fulfill the Prime Minister's goal of **TB Mukht Bharat by 2025**, five years ahead of the global deadline.

### Union Cabinet approved PLI Scheme for Air Conditioners and LED Lights

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme– 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules'** for achieving manufacturing capacity of **Giga Watt** with an outlay of **Rs 4,500 crore**.
- The **National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules** will reduce import dependence in a strategic sector like electricity and will also support the **Atmanirbhar Bharat**
- Addressing the media in New Delhi after the Cabinet Meeting, **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said that the scheme will add an additional 10 thousand MegaWatt capacity of integrated solar Photovoltaic manufacturing plants and will bring direct investment of around **Rs 17,200 crore** in **solar PV manufacturing projects**.
- He said direct employment of **about 30 thousand** and **Indirect employment** of about 1 lakh 20 thousand persons will be generated.

### First online PDOT Programme for migrant workers unveiled to supplement physical training

- The first online **Pre-Departure Orientation Training, PDOT Programme** for migrant workers was launched today to supplement physical training being held in PDOT Centres.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** in association with Protector of Emigrants, Mumbai and other POEs has taken this initiative in view of Covid restrictions and to take advantage of technology.
- **Online PDOT** will continue even after COVID restrictions are eased to facilitate prospective migrants, who are not in a position to attend the **training in-person**, and to expand its reach.
- **PDO training** would help migrant workers to know about the culture, language and regulations of the destination country to ensure their safety and security.
- The **initiative** will provide prospective migrants with better skills and empower them further as they embark on the journey of migration.

### Nearly 68% loans under PMMY accord to women entrepreneurs

- **More than 28 crore 68 lakh loans** for an amount of **nearly 15 lakh crore rupees** have been sanctioned since launch of **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana**.
- The Yojana was launched in 2015 for providing loans upto **10 Lakh rupees** to **non-corporate, non-farm, small and micro-enterprises**.
- Finance Ministry has said that **about 68 percent of loans** have been given to women entrepreneurs and about 51 percent of loans have been given to **SC, ST and OBC borrowers**.
- **The Ministry of Labour and Employment** has said that this yojana has helped in generation of 1 crore 12 lakh net additional employment from 2015 to 2018.
- Women have accounted for **62 percent** of this estimated increase in employment.

### Sikkim: State Skill development Ministry to organize 1st regional workshop on PMKVY 3 at Gangtok

- **Union ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship or MSDE will organize the first regional workshop** to understand provisions of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0** or PMKVY 3.0 and to effectively implement the scheme in the NorthEast Region (NER) at **Gangtok, Sikkim**.
- The states covered include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The workshop is aimed at learning from the best practices and understanding the challenges related to PMKVY 3.0 and to build a detailed understanding on the use of the **Skill India Portal**.
- Some participants will attend the event through videoconferencing.

### Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan unveils construction of trans-border trade center

- **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan** have launched the construction of an **international center for trade and economic cooperation** named **'Central Asia'** on the borders of the two countries, the Uzbek Government.
- **Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov and his Kazakh counterpart Askar Mamim**, laid a capsule at the construction site of the logistic centre, which is located in the vicinity of the **border check post Gisht Kuprik**.
- According to a News release on Kazakh Prime Minister's official website, the center, which occupies **400 hectares of land**, will have a capacity of accommodating **35,000 people** and 5,000 trucks per day in both directions.
- The center is intended to become a large industrial, trade and logistics platform for the implementation of joint investment projects of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the news release said.
- It added that the most promising areas of industrial cooperation are the manufacturing sector, agro-industrial complex and light industry.
- Kazakhstan is Uzbekistan's third largest trade partner after China and Russia.

### PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Raisina Dialogue 2021

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the Dialogue through a video message.
- **President of Rwanda Paul Kagame and Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen** will also join the inaugural session as Chief Guests.
- **Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison** will also participate in the conference, in one of the subsequent sessions.
- The 4 day Dialogue will be held virtually.
- It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, held annually since 2016.
- It is jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation.
- The **theme** for the 2021 Edition is **"#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control"**.
- Over the course of four days, the Dialogue will have panel conversations on five thematic pillars – Whose Multilateralism? Reconstructing the UN and Beyond, Securing and Diversifying Supply Chains, Global 'Public Bads': Holding Actors and Nations to Account, Infodemic: Navigating a 'No-Truth' World in the Age of Big Brother and The Green Stimulus: Investing in Gender, Growth, and Development.

### EAM Jaishankar meet and talk with French counterpart in New Delhi

- **French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian** arrived in New Delhi on a **three day visit to India**.
- During the visit, Mr Le Drian will hold talks with **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- The visiting dignitary will call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- He will also meet **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar** at a panel discussion on Climate Change.

- **Mr Le Drian** will also participate in the **Raisina Dialogue**.
- He is scheduled to visit Bengaluru also.
- India and France enjoys a strategic partnership since 1998 which has been marked by regular high level exchanges and growing cooperation in diverse areas.
- Mr Le Drian's visit will pave the way for further strengthening of the partnership across trade, defence, climate, migration and mobility, education and health sectors in the post-Covid context.

### Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' to be unveiled in Bangladesh

- A **Sanskrit learning app** will be launched in Bangladesh by the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC)** of the **High Commission of India**.
- The Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the **Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)** to promote Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists and historians across the world.
- The Sanskrit learning app '**Little Guru**' is based on an interactive platform which will make Sanskrit learning easy, entertaining and fun.
- This app will help people who are already learning Sanskrit or those who are desirous to learn Sanskrit to do so in an easy manner based on games, competition, rewards, peer to peer interactions, etc.
- This App combines education with entertainment, said a press release issued by the High Commission of India.

### "Little Guru" app launched at Indian Embassy in Beijing

- The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** celebrated its **71st Foundation Day**.
- **Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre at Indian Embassy in Beijing** celebrated ICCR Foundation Day in the presence of a huge gathering of ICCR scholars in China and their disciples who learnt Indian dance and music.
- The ICCR has unveiled '**Little Guru**' app, **world's first Gamified Sanskrit learning App** which was **jointly launched in Beijing by Ambassador Vikram Misri and renowned Chinese scholar on Sanskrit and India studies, Professor Wang Bangwei**.
- Many Sanskrit Professors from Peking University and the students were also present.
- **Ambassador Vikram Misri** highlighted ICCR's role in promoting cultural, academic, and intellectual exchanges between India and the rest of the world.
- He said nearly **300 students in China** in the last few years have availed ICCR scholarships and hoped that more Chinese students will avail of these scholarships.
- Appreciating the launch of the Sanskrit Guru App, Prof. Wang said that outside India, China has a very long history of Sanskrit research along with studies on Buddhism.
- He said, Sanskrit is a basic language of **Indian culture and heritage** and a way to introduce Indian culture to people adding that **India and Chinese** scholars can collaborate in this field to deepen understanding between the two peoples.

### ICCR Foundation Day marked at Indian Embassy in Seoul

- **ICCR Foundation Day** was celebrated at **Indian Embassy in Seoul**
- **Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan**, highlighted the role of ICCR in promotion of Cultural Diplomacy and India's Soft Power.

- She said, over the years, ICCR has worked to propagate an image of India that augments its natural historical appeal, boosting cultural diplomacy and foreign policy” mentioned Ambassador Ranganathan.
- **Vinay Sahasrabudde, President, ICCR** noted, “During the last over 6 years, ICCR has received a new thrust under the guidance of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has shown keen interest to build onto India’s ‘soft’ power strengths”.

### **PM Modi holds Virtual Summit with his Netherlands counterpart**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will hold a **Virtual Summit** with his **Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte**.
- During the Summit, the two leaders will discuss in detail the **bilateral cooperation** and **look at new ways of strengthening the relationship**.
- They will also exchange views on the regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- The Summit follows the recent victory of Prime Minister Rutte in the parliamentary elections and will sustain the momentum in the bilateral relationship provided by **regular high-level interactions**.
- India and the Netherlands share cordial and friendly relations underpinned by shared values of democracy, rule of law and freedom.
- The Netherlands is home to the largest Indian diaspora in continental Europe.

### **PM Modi with Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan inaugurate range of Indian projects in Seychelles**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan** will jointly inaugurate a range of **Indian projects in Seychelles**
- The high level event will feature **joint e-inauguration** of the new Magistrates’ Court Building, and handing over of a Fast Patrol Vessel to Seychelles Coast Guard.
- It also includes handing over of a **Solar Power Plant and inauguration of 10 High Impact Community Development Projects**.
- The **new Magistrates’ Court Building** in the capital city **Victoria** is **India’s first major civil infrastructure project** in Seychelles built with grant assistance.
- It is a state of the art building which will substantially enhance the capacity of the Seychelles judicial system and aid in better delivery of judicial services.
- The **Fast Patrol Vessel**, which is a modern and fully equipped naval ship, has been made in India and is being gifted to Seychelles under Indian grant assistance to strengthen its maritime surveillance capabilities.

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS**

#### **FM N Sitharaman virtual meet with President World Bank Group David Malpass**

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and President World Bank Group David Malpass** met through virtual mode.
- Ms Sitharaman and Mr Malpass discussed various issues including Covid Vaccination, economic recovery, **World Bank Group lending envelope** for India and India’s strategy of green resilient and inclusive development.

- The Finance Minister shared the measures being taken by India to contain the spread of the second wave of pandemic including the five pillared strategy of test, track, treat, vaccination and covid appropriate behaviour.
- She also shared measures taken by Government of India including **distribution of LED bulbs**, ethanol blending programme under **National BioFuel Policy**, voluntary vehicle scrapping policy, incentivisation of Electric Vehicles to achieve green, resilient and inclusive development.
- Ms Sitharaman welcomed the initiative of the **World Bank Group** for increasing lending space for India to enhance availability of finance for development.

### Microsoft to obtain speech-recognition firm Nuance for USD 16 billion

- **Microsoft** is reportedly acquiring speech-recognition company Nuance Communications for nearly **USD 16 billion** and the deal could be announced (US time), the media reported.
- According to a **CNBC report citing sources**, Microsoft first approached Nuance in December last year.
- At about **USD 56 per share for Nuance**, the acquisition value could be nearly **USD 16 billion**.
- At USD 16 billion, Nuance would be Microsoft's second largest acquisition after LinkedIn that the company bought in 2016 for USD 27 billion.
- According to the report, Nuance could expand Microsoft's capabilities in voice software.
- Nuance is a US multinational computer software technology corporation, headquartered in Burlington, Massachusetts, that provides speech recognition and artificial intelligence.

### Paytm Payments Bank records 970 m digital transactions in March

- On average opening 1 million savings and current accounts a month.
- **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)**, , announced that it has become the top enabler of **digital payments** in the country by registering over **970 million digital transactions in March**.
- PPBL said that the record growth in digital transactions is largely owed to transactions in **Paytm Wallet, Paytm FASTag, Paytm UPI, and internet banking** over the last several quarters.
- PPBL is opening on an average 1 million savings and current accounts a month.
- With over **64 million accounts**, the bank's total deposits have crossed over **3200 crores**.

### NHB unveiled Rs.10,000-crore Special Refinance Facility-SRF 2021

- **National Housing Bank(NHB)** has rolled out a **10,000-crore 'Special Refinance Facility-2021'** (SRF-2021) to provide short term **refinance** support to housing finance companies (HFCs) and other eligible Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs).
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das** said the central bank will provide additional special liquidity facility of **10,000 crore** to **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) and National Housing Bank (NHB)**.
- The RBI kept the repo rate, the key interest rate at which it lends to commercial banks, unchanged at 4%. The central bank's rate setting committee was unanimous in its decision to stand pat on interest rates.

## China Development Bank to extend loan to Sri Lanka: USD 500 million

- **Sri Lanka inked an agreement with the state-run China Development Bank for a loan of USD 500 million**, less than a month after it signed a currency swap deal worth **USD 1.5 billion with Beijing**, to ensure fiscal stability in the country amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic.
- “China is a loyal friend, and reflecting the depth of our friendship, has been generously extending its helping hand to Sri Lanka when difficult challenges confronted us,” according to a statement released by the **Sri Lankan embassy in Beijing**.
- “This **USD 500 million loan** was a part of the **USD 1 billion loan (signed before)**, out of which USD 500 million was released last year,” it said.
- The loan will infuse much-needed foreign currency to the Lankan economy in order to face the COVID-19 challenges, it said.

## Deutsche Bank provide loan Rs.600 crore to NCDC

- **Leading German lender Deutsche Bank AG will lend €68.87 million (nearly ₹600 crore)** to the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**, a development finance statutory institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, for financing farmer cooperative initiatives in the country.
- The loan agreement between Deutsche Bank and NCDC is expected to be signed in presence of **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** and other dignitaries.
- “It is for the first time a German bank is coming forward to lend us **600 crore**, which may seem less as compared to the **Rs.3,000 crore** exposures we have to Sumitomo Mitsubishi Bank of Japan.

## Flipkart make partnership with Adani Group, to create 2,500 direct jobs

- **Flipkart** informed it has entered into a **commercial partnership with the Adani Group to strengthen logistics** and data centre capabilities of the **Walmart-owned company** and create about **2,500 direct jobs**.
- In this **two-pronged partnership**, **Flipkart will work with Adani Logistics Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, to strengthen its supply chain infrastructure and further enhance its ability to serve its rapidly growing base of customers, a statement said.
- It added that Flipkart will also set up its third data centre at Adaniconnex’s Chennai-based facility, leveraging the latter’s expertise and industry-leading data centre technology solutions.
- Adaniconnex is a new joint venture formed between **EdgeConneX and Adani Enterprises Ltd**.

## Jeep India and Axis Bank jointly launch Jeep Financial Services

- **Jeep India has tied up with Axis Bank** to launch **Jeep Financial Services**, which will curate financial solutions for **Jeep customers and Jeep brand dealers**.
- “**Formation of this entity strategically supports the anticipated growth in Jeep India’s business and a consequent rise in its customer base**,” the two companies mentioned in the statement.

- **Jeep brand dealers** will also benefit from this partnership as they will enjoy special interest rates and will contribute to a more seamless retail process, the statement further mentioned.
- Axis Bank and Jeep India will get access to each other's growing customer database.
- Jeep customers will be serviced from the bank's **4,586 branches** spread across India and also via on-site counters at high footfall Jeep brand dealerships.

### Priyanka Chopra Jonas to present at BAFTA awards 2021

- **Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas** has been announced as **one of the presenters** for the 74th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards.
- The **annual award ceremony**, which has been delayed from its usual February date due to the coronavirus pandemic, is scheduled to take place on **April 10 and 11 at the Royal Albert Hall here**.
- Chopra Jonas will be joined by other presenters, which include Phoebe Dynevor, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Cynthia Erivo, Hugh Grant, Richard E Grant, Tom Hiddleston, Felicity Jones, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, James McAvoy, David Oyelowo, and Pedro Pascal, the BAFTA announced.

### Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana completes six years

- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana** has completed six years.
- It is a scheme under which loans of **upto 10 Lakh rupees** are provided to the **non-corporate, non-farm, small and micro enterprises**.
- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana was launched on 8th April 2015.
- In these years, **More than 28 crore 68 lakh loans have been sanctioned**.
- The amount of these loans is around 15 lakh crore rupees with about 52,000 rupees being the average ticket size of the loans.
- Finance Ministry has said that under this scheme almost 24percent of loans have been given to new entrepreneurs; **about 68 percent of loans have been given to women entrepreneurs** and **about 51percent of loans have been given to SC, ST and OBC borrowers**.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment has said that this yojana has helped in generation of 1 crore 12 lakh net additional employment from 2015 to 2018.
- Women have accounted for 62 percent of this estimated increase in employment.

### IMF Projects growth rate for Bangladesh – 5 percent

- The **International Monetary Fund** has projected a **5 percent growth rate** for Bangladesh for the year 2021.
- In its latest **World Economic Outlook** released ahead of the spring meeting, the IMF projected that the **Bangladesh economy will grow at 7.5 percent in the year 2022**.
- Consequently, the GDP of Bangladesh is projected to grow from USD 329 billion in 2020 to USD 352 billion in 2021.
- The per capita GDP of Bangladesh currently at USD 1998 in 2020 will grow to USD 2122 in the year 2021 and USD 2330 in the year 2022.
- The IMF also made an upward revision in the global growth rate projection to 6 percent for the year 2021 and 4.4 percent for 2022.
- The report noted that an additional 95 million people are estimated to have fallen into extreme poverty in 2020.

- Commenting on the high growth rate projection in the **World Economic Outlook report**, **IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath** said that the 1.9 trillion dollar US stimulus and adapting to the continuing pandemic by the countries has contributed substantially to the positive change in the growth outlook.

### Digital healthcare platform Practo launches online consultations in 15 vernacular languages

- Leading digital healthcare platform **Practo** launched online consultations in 15 vernacular languages.
- **New Delhi:** This initiative will allow users to choose a doctor who can speak in their preferred language including **Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada and Bengali** — with more to be added soon.

### RBI decides to publish Financial Inclusion Index annually

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to publish the **Financial Inclusion Index**.
- To begin with, The FI index will be published annually in July for the previous financial year.
- **RBI's Governor Shaktikanta Das** said, Financial Inclusion has been a thrust area for the Government, RBI and other regulators, with **significant progress** made over the years.
- This index will be used to measure the extent of financial inclusion in the country.
- It will use **various parameters** and shall reflect the broadening and deepening of financial inclusion in the country.
- **Financial Inclusion** has been viewed as a key enabler for achieving inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION NEWS

#### K Madhavan appointed as President of the Walt Disney Company India and Star India

- **Media and entertainment conglomerate Walt Disney** has named **K. Madhavan** as president, the **Walt Disney Company India and Star India**, with immediate effect.
- Madhavan takes over from **Uday Shankar** who had stepped down as president, the **Walt Disney Company APAC and chairman, Star and Disney India, last October**.
- In this role, Madhavan will drive the strategy and growth of the company in India, with responsibility for the Disney, Star and Hotstar businesses and operations spanning across entertainment, sports and regional channels, and direct-to-consumer, the firm said in a statement.
- This includes oversight of channel distribution and advertising sales, as well as the local content production business which currently is responsible for the creation of **original programming across fiction, non-fiction, sports, and movies**.

#### President appointed Sushil Chandra as Chief Election Commissioner of India

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed **Sushil Chandra**, the senior-most Election Commissioner, as the Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- Mr Chandra will assume the charge.
- He will succeed **Sunil Arora** who demitted office.

- Before his appointment to the Election Commission, he was the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes CBDT.

### Siemens Healthcare India appointed Vivek Kanade as MD

- **Siemens Healthcare India** has elevated **Vivek Kanade as Managing Director Operations** effective **April 1**.
- Kanade, who joined the company **27 years ago**, was an executive director prior to his promotion as the MD, the company said in a statement.
- Siemens Healthcare India is the **wholly-owned subsidiary of Siemens Healthineers AG**, which is the medical technology arm of the diversified Siemens group of Germany.
- Kanade will continue to lead the business for Siemens Healthineers India, including manufacturing, sales and distribution, strategy for 'zone India', comprising neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, the statement said.

### Pramerica Life Insurance appointed Kalpana Sampat as MD, CEO

- **Private life insurer Pramerica Life Insurance** announced the appointment of **Kalpana Sampat its managing director and CEO**, effective April 9.
- Prior to this appointment, she was the chief operating officer for the company, a release said.
- "Sampat is a respected leader in life insurance with an exceptional record.
- The board is optimistic that the company can deliver substantial strategic and operational progress under her able leadership," **Pramerica Life Insurance Chairman Sunil Kumar Bansal** said in the release.
- Before joining Pramerica Life Insurance, Sampat was the **CEO for Swiss Reinsurance Co, India branch**, and was instrumental in its launch in 2015.

### ICMR appointed BP Acharya as advisor to NARFBR

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has appointed **retired Telangana bureaucrat BP Acharya**, as the advisor of the **National Animal Resource Facility for BioMedical Research (NARFBR)** that is coming up over an area of 100 acres at the Genome valley near Shamirpet.
- Acharya had served as the **Special Chief Secretary before** retirement and also as the DG of MCRHRD Institute of Telangana.
- The ICMR said that this appointment is in recognition of Acharya's efforts to create the world-class life sciences cluster in the Genome Valley and his contribution to the sector.
- The NARFBR project is being developed with an investment of Rs 300 crore and will cater to the pharma and biopharma/vaccine industry in the country in their preclinical animal trials.

### Ouhoumoudou Mahadou vow as new Prime Minister of Niger

- **Niger President Mohamed Bazoum** has appointed **Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou** as the new Prime Minister of the country effective from April 03, 2021.
- Prior to this, the **66-year-old Mahamadou** served as a minister in charge of the finance and mining portfolios.
- He replaces Brigi Rafini, who served as the Prime Minister of Niger from 2011 to 2021.

## About Niger:

- **Capital:** Niamey
- **Currency:** West African CFA franc

## Wipro appointed Subha Tatavarti as CTO

- IT services major Wipro Limited announced it has appointed former Walmart executive **Subha Tatavarti** as its chief technology officer.
- The company has also appointed Suzanne Dann as senior vice president and sector head for Capital Markets and Insurance, North America region.
- **Tatavarti will lead Wipro's Service Transformation, Topcoder, Robotics, SVIC, Technovation Centre, Open Innovation and Applied Research teams**, Wipro mentioned in a statement.
- **Tatavarti joins Wipro from Walmart**, where she led product, technology development and commercialization of enterprise infrastructure along with Security, data science and Edge platforms, it added.

## Vjosa Osmani elected as new President of Kosovo

- The **S. educated female law professor Vjosa Osmani** has been elected as the **new President of Kosovo**.
- The 38-year-old candidate of the ruling **Vetevendosje party** has been sworn in as the seventh president of the country for a period of five-year-term.
- She is the second female leader, in the post-war period of Kosovo.
- Previously, Osmani was acting president of the country between November 2020 and March 2021 and the speaker of the Assembly of Kosovo from February 2020 to March 2021.

## About Kosovo:

- **Capital:** Pristina
- **Currency:** Euro

## SsangYong Motor CEO Byung Tae Yea quits

- Mahindra & Mahindra is expecting interest from other **investors for SsangYong MotorCo (SYMC)** even as SYMC's **CEO, Byung Tae Yea, quit after failing to find a strategic investor for** the ailing company.
- "We can confirm that Byung Tae Yea, SYMCs current **CEO**, has tendered his **resignation**."

## About Ssangyong Motor:

- SsangYong Motor Company is the fourth largest South Korea-based automobile manufacturer, which is owned by Indian multinational automotive company Mahindra & Mahindra Limited.

## Tanla appointed Wipro veteran Viswanathan as its CFO

- **Tanla** Platforms Limited, a **Communications Platform-as-a-Service (Cpaas)** player, has roped in **Aravind Viswanathan**, who was with **Wipro** as its Senior Vice-President and **CFO** – iDEAS Global Business Line, as its **Chief Financial Officer**.
- He will take charge on June 1.
- Aravind joins the company from Wipro Limited, where he served as Senior Vice President and CFO – iDEAS Global Business Line.

## Govt appointed S Ramann as SIDBI Chairman & MD

- **The government** has appointed **S Ramann** as **Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.
- The appointment is for a **period of three years** from the date of his assuming the charge or until further orders, a government statement said.
- In December, Banks Board Bureau, the headhunter for **state-owned banks and financial institutions**, had recommended his name for the post.
- Ramann, a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer, is **currently the CEO of National E-Governance Services Ltd**, India's first Information Utility.

## Vivo appointed Virat Kohli as its brand ambassadors

- **Chinese smartphone major Vivo** mentioned it has appointed cricketer **Virat Kohli** as its **brand ambassador**.
- With the association, Vivo aims to reach the millennials and technologically driven consumers and a **360-degree marketing approach** will characterise the company's association with Kohli, a statement said.
- The **BBK Electronics' owned Chinese Smartphone Company**, according to market sources privy to the development, is engaged in negotiations to sign Kohli as the brand's India ambassador.
- The IPL title sponsor, third-largest selling smartphone brand in India, is also aiming to launch a massive campaign with Kohli during the IPL.

## Governor appointed Selvakumar as Vice-Chancellor of TANUVAS

- **Tamil Nadu Governor and Chancellor Banwarilal Purohit** appointed **KN Selvakumar** as the **new Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)**.
- Selvakumar, the senior most serving professor of the varsity, will hold the post for three years, according to a statement issued by the Raj Bhavan.
- He has teaching experience of around 32 years and is currently serving as the Dean of Madras Veterinary College.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOURS

### **Bhuvneshwar Kumar bags ICC Men's Player of the Month for March, Lizelle Lee bags women's award**

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for March which recognize and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket.
- **India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar** won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for March** for his impressive performances in India's recently concluded series against England.
- He was the standout bowler on either side in the white-ball series and was chosen the winner by fans and the **ICC voting academy**.

### **New Zealand captain Kane Williamson bags Sir Richard Hadlee Medal**

- **New Zealand men's captain Kane Williamson** was awarded the **Sir Richard Hadlee Medal** for the fourth time in six years, while Amelia Kerr and Devon Conway claimed double honours at the **New Zealand Cricket Awards for the 2020-21**
- Williamson's incredible home Test summer helped him claim the supreme award, along with the **International Test Player of the Year** and the **Redpath Cup** for first-class batting, after he amassed a whopping **639 runs** in just four innings at an average of 159.

### **HAL won Indian Society for Training & Development award**

- Bengaluru-based **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has bagged the first place for **Innovative Training Practices 2019-20** at the 30th **National Award** ceremony held recently at New Delhi by **Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD)**.
- "We are honoured to receive such a coveted award."

### **BAFTA Awards 2021: 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom' picks two awards**

- The **unconventional 74th edition of the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs)** held its **first of two ceremonies on April 10**, with the second one scheduled for the subsequent day.
- **'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom'** was the big winner on the opening night, taking home two golden masks.
- According to Variety, the first night of the 2021 BAFTAs, which was hosted virtually from **London's Royal Albert Hall by TV and BBC radio presenter Clara Amfo**, was a mostly craft-centered affair that also yielded wins for **'Mank', 'Tenet' and 'Sound of Metal'**.
- During the ceremony, eight primarily craft-focussed awards were handed out, including casting, costume, makeup and hair, production design, sound, special visual effects, British short film, and British short animation.
- The remaining awards — including the performance and best film categories will be handed out on the second night.

### **Chloe Zhao becomes first Asian woman to win top prize in DGA Awards history**

- **Filmmaker Chloe Zhao** won the top prize at the **Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards** for her feature film **"Nomadland"**, further bolstering the movie's frontrunner status for the upcoming Oscars.

- The **Beijing-born filmmaker** became the **first Asian woman** to win the trophy for best feature directing at the **73rd edition of the awards**, which were held, reported Deadline.
- She is also the second woman to earn the top DGA Award, after Kathryn Bigelow won for her 2009 movie **“The Hurt Locker”**.
- The filmmaker beat out acclaimed directors David Fincher (“Mank”), Aaron Sorkin (“The Trial of the Chicago 7”), Lee Isaac Chung (“Minari”) and Emerald Fennell (“Promising Young Woman”) to win the marquee award.
- “Nomadland” features Academy Award winner Frances McDormand as a woman who leaves home to travel around the American West after losing her job.

### **Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy to honour best performing volunteers With awards**

- **Elaborate arrangements** have been made for **honouring gram and ward volunteers** with **Seva Mitra, Seva Ratna and Seva Vajra Awards on the eve of Ugadi**.
- **Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** will present the awards to the best performing volunteers at an award ceremony organized at **Murali Resorts in Poranki of Penamaluru Constituency near Vijayawada**.
- **Special Chief Secretary** (Village and Ward Secretariats department) **Ajay Jain** will give introduction to the award ceremony followed by screening of a short documentary on the volunteers.
- The Chief Minister will address the gathering and launch cash incentive distribution and release a booklet.
- The objective of the awards is to recognize the efforts and services rendered by the village and ward volunteers and encourage them to do better.
- A total 2,22,900 volunteers under three categories will be felicitated.

### **Education Minister RP ‘Nishank’ give out AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment to winners**

- **Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** presented the **AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment** to the winners in New Delhi.
- Mr Pokhriyal welcomed the initiative of **All India Council for Technical Education, AICTE** for instituting the **Lilavati Awards** and stressed that such innovative steps shall be a great motivation for girls to join higher education.
- He said, this initiative will pave a path towards equality in education and innovation for women.
- He also informed that the Government has launched the Udaan **scheme** which aims to **enable girls of weaker socio-economic status** at school level to gain access to higher education.
- He said, the government has also started **Pragati Yojana** to give young women opportunity to further their technical education.
- The **Education Minister** highlighted that the **new National Educational Policy** has greatly emphasized on gender equality and students should participate in such initiatives to promote women empowerment.
- Based on the theme **‘Women Empowerment’**, AICTE finalized the winners from a total of 456 entries who competed across **6 sub themes, which include, Women’s Health, Self-Defense, Sanitation and Hygiene, Literacy, Women Entrepreneurship and Legal Awareness**.

## Ramnad forest ranger honoured with international ranger award

- **Ramanathapuram Forest Range Officer S Sathish** was honoured with the **International Ranger Award**.
- The award was **jointly announced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), International Ranger Federation (IRF), Global Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Allies**.
- He is one of the 10 recipients of the first edition of the award.
- Sathish was nominated for the **award by a senior scientist from Wildlife Institute of India K Siva Kumar**, for his efforts in conserving the **Gulf of Mannar National Park**.
- The IUCN, during a virtual event, announced the list of 10 awardees under the category 'International Ranger Award' from across the globe.
- The winners were chosen among 600 entries received from forest rangers in various countries.
- Sathish is one among the two Indians to be conferred the honour.

## Bhuvneshwar Kumar assumed for ICC monthly award

- **Experienced India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar** was among the cricketers nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award for March following his **standout performances** in the limited overs matches **against England**.
- The ICC **announced** the nominees to recognize the **best performances from both male and female cricketers** across all forms of international cricket.
- **Besides Bhuvneshwar**, the others in the men's category included ace leg-spinner **Rashid Khan of Afghanistan and Zimbabwe's Sean Williams**.
- The nominees among the women's comprised **Rajeshwari Gayakwad of India, South Africa's Lizelle Lee and India's Punam Raut**.
- Last month, Bhuvneshwar played three ODIs against England where he took 6 wickets with an economy rate of 4.65.
- He also went on to play five T20Is against them where he took 4 wickets with a fantastic economy rate of 6.38.
- He was the **standout bowler** on either side in the white ball series between India and England.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

### CCI approved Rising Sun Holdings' acquisition of 60% stake in Magma Fincorp

- **On April 12, 2021, The Competition Commission of India** approved **Adar Poonawalla-led Rising Sun Holdings Pvt Ltd.'s acquisition of a 60% stake in Magma Fincorp**.
- The commission approves the acquisition of **shareholding in Magma Fincorp Ltd. by Rising Sun Holdings, Sanjay Chamria and Mayank Poddar**.
- The transaction would result in a **total capital infusion of 3,456 crore into Magma Fincorp**.
- Rising Sun is part of Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla's Rising Sun group of companies. It is present in the financial services sector through its subsidiary, Poonawalla Finance Private Limited, which is a systemically important **non-deposit taking non-banking finance company (NBFC)**.

## Note :

- **Adar Poonawalla is also the CEO of the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines, including Covishield.**
- **Magma Fincorp is a systemically important non-deposit taking NBFC engaged in financing commercial projects, agriculture and small and medium enterprises, mortgage finance and general insurance.**
- **The firm focuses on providing these services in rural and semi-urban areas.**

## **Vedanta signed MoU with research institutes for value-creation from bauxite residue**

- **Vedanta, India's largest producer of aluminium** and its value-added products, has signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) for value-creation from bauxite residue (red mud), which is a by-product generated during processing of bauxite into alumina using the Bayer process.
- Bauxite is the primary ore for **aluminium**, that undergoes an intermediate refining stage to produce alumina, which then undergoes **electrolysis for producing aluminium**.
- Abundantly available on the Earth's crust, mining of bauxite is one of the most inherently sustainable mining processes.
- Approximately three tonnes of bauxite produce one tonne of alumina, and around two tonnes of alumina are required to produce one tonne of aluminium.

## **OneWeb signs MoU with Kazakhstan Government**

- **The company OneWeb has signed an MoU with the Kazakhstan government and local partners.**
- Bharti group-backed **low earth orbit (LEO)** satellite communications company **OneWeb** said it has partnered with the Kazakhstan government to accelerate connectivity in the country.
- **OneWeb, a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator, co-owned by Bharti Global and the UK government**, has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kazakhstan government and local partners to drive the Central Asian nation's ambitions to **digitize its economy boost connectivity** and become a pioneer in satellite communications.

## **Axis Bank becomes co-promoter of Max Life Insurance**

**On April 06, 2021, Axis Bank Ltd** informed it has become **co-promoters of Max Life Insurance Company Limited**, after completion of **the acquisition of 12.99% stake** collectively by the Axis Entities in the company.

- Axis Bank and its **two subsidiaries Axis Capital Limited and Axis Securities Limited** will collectively own 12.99% stake in Max Life after the consummation of the deal.
- The Axis Entities have a **right to acquire an additional stake of up to 7% in Max Life, in one or more tranches**, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** gave its formal approval in **February of 2021**.

## **About Max Life Insurance :**

- CEO: **Prashant Tripathy**
- Founder: **Analjit Singh**
- Founded: **2001**
- Headquarters : **New Delhi**

## About Axis Bank :

- CEO: **Amitabh Chaudhry**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- Founded: **1993, Ahmedabad**

## HDFC to acquires 10% stake in Kerala-based asset management firm

- **On April 06, 2021, Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) acquired 9 per cent stake in Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Ltd.**
- The Corporation has **invested in 3,88,303 equity shares of Rs 10 each of Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Limited** representing 9.9 per cent of its share capital issued on a private placement basis.

## About KIFML :

- It acts as an **asset management company.**
- Set up : **November 2018**
- It was **promoted by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).**
- To manage Kerala Infrastructure Fund.

## About HDFC :

- CEO: **Sashidhar Jagdishan**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- Founded: **August 1994, India**
- Chairman : **Deepak Parekh**
- CEO & Vice Chairman : **Keki Mistry**

## Byju's to acquire Aakash Educational Services for \$1 billion

- **On April 05,2021, The country's most valued online education firm, Byju's, acquired Blackstone Group-backed Aakash Educational Services (AESL) for an estimated \$1 billion cash and stock deal.**
- **Byju's aims to grow aggressively and bolster its presence across new edtech categories in India.**
- Byju's had acquired Aakash Educational Services Ltd (AESL) for about \$1 billion, to enter the competitive test preparation market, where it competed with Unacademy and Amazon India.
- Unacademy had acquired six test prep platforms, while Amazon India forayed into the segment with Amazon Academy.

## About Byju's :

# SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

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- Founder & CEO : **Byju Raveendran**
- Headquarters : **Bangalore**
- Establishment : **2011**.

## About AESL :

- Founder: **C. Chaudhry**
- Founded: **1988**
- Headquarters : **New Delhi**

## CCI approves proposed combination relating to acquisition of PAMPL, PTCPL & PRAPL by SAMC

- **On April 06, 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination relating to acquisition of Principal Asset Management Private Limited, Principal Trustee Company Private Limited and Principal Retirement Advisors Private Limited by Sundaram Asset Management Company Limited.**
- It relates to the **acquisition of 100% of the issued and paid- up equity share capital.**

## About the proposed combination :

- The schemes of the Principal Mutual Fund (PMF) shall be transferred to **Sundaram Mutual Fund (SMF)** and the trusteeship and management of the PMF schemes shall be transferred to Sundaram Trustee Company Limited (STCL) and SAMC.
- PAMPL is engaged in the business of **providing asset management services to the PMF and operating/ managing the PMF schemes.**
- PTCPL is engaged in the business of providing trusteeship services to the PMF.

## About SAMC :

- **SAMC is a public limited company** incorporated in India.
- It is a wholly **owned subsidiary of Sundaram Finance Limited (SFL).**
- SAMC is the investment manager for SMF and manages funds that cater to the investment needs of investors with different risk, reward and liquidity preferences.
- Establishment : **1996**
- Managing Director : **Sunil Subramaniam**
- Headquarters : **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

## About Competition Commission of India :

- Founded: **14 October 2003**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- First executive: **Dhanendra Kumar**
- Objectives: Enforce The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India

### **Narendra Singh Tomar launches Madhukranti portal and Honey Corners of NAFED in New Delhi**

- **On April 07, 2021**, The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched **Madhukranti portal** and **Honey Corners of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, NAFED** in New Delhi.
- **Madhukranti portal** is an **initiative of National Bee Board**
- It is **under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission**.
- **MoU** between the **National Bee Board and Indian Bank** was signed for this project.
- Indian Bank is the technical and banking partner for the development of the digital platform.
- Honey Corner is a specially designed space in National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) stores dedicated to sale of honey.

#### **Aim :**

- To bring an **increase in income of farmers, employment generation and increase in exports**.
- To bring transparency by introducing a traceability system in sourcing of honey.

#### **About the Portal :**

- This portal is being developed for **online registration to achieve a traceability source of Honey and other beehive products on a digital platform**.
- This will also **help in checking the quality and source of adulteration of honey**.

#### **About NAFED :**

- Founded: **2 October 1958**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman : **Bijendra Singh**

#### **About Indian Bank :**

- Headquarters: **Chennai**
- CEO: **Padmaja Chundururu**

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS : SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**

#### **Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Commanders' Conference 2021**

- **On April 15, 2021**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **First bi-annual Indian Air Force, IAF Commanders' Conference 2021**.
- It was **held at Air Headquarters Vayu Bhawan in New Delhi**.

#### **Aim :**

- The conference of **apex level leadership is aimed at addressing the issues of IAF's operational capabilities in the times to come**.

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- It would be conducted over a period of **three days to address strategies and policies related to capabilities** that would give IAF a significant edge over its adversaries.
- It is a **bi-annual conference held at Subroto Hall, Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan.**

### Purpose :

- The Conference **provides a forum to the senior leadership of the IAF to discuss critical issues pertaining to Operations, Maintenance and Administration.**

### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends Second Virtual G20 Finance Ministers

- **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** participated virtually in the **Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting.**
- It was **held under the Italian Presidency** here to **discuss policy responses to global challenges to restore strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.**
- The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors discussed Updates of the G20 Action Plan in response to COVID-19.
- In that Meeting They also **discussed supporting the financing needs of the most vulnerable economies, the progress on the international taxation agenda, promoting greener transitions and the pandemic related financial regulation issues.**
- Nirmala Sitharaman urged all G20 members to ensure equitable access and widespread distribution of vaccines.
- Nirmala Sitharaman reflected on the global growth projections and underlined the need for continued coordination amidst the persistence of uncertainties associated with the virus.
- The Finance Minister said that the G20 Action Plan has served as a good guidance tool and shaping recovery is the mainstay of its current update.

### To boost Seychelles' maritime security India gifts Rs 100 crore patrol vessel PS Zoroaster

- On April 08, 2021, India formally handed over Rs 100 crore patrol vessel "PS Zoroaster" to Seychelles.
- The virtual summit was held between Indian PM Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan.
- The PS Zoroaster is the fourth made-in-India patrol boat to be gifted to Seychelles since 2005.
- The other vessels gifted by India include PS Topaz (2005), PS Constant (2014), Patrol Boat Hermes (2016).

### About PS Zoroaster :

- The **9-metre patrol boat** was **built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering at a cost of Rs.100 crore.**
- It has a **top speed of 35 knots and an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles.**
- The vessel will be used for multi-purpose operations, such as patrolling, anti-smuggling and anti-poaching operations, and search and rescue.

### Other Projects :

- Modi and President Wavel Ramkalawan inaugurated the new **magistrates' court building in Mahé constructed with a \$3.5-million grant.**
- A **1 MW solar power plant built at a cost of \$3.4 million, and 10 community development projects during a virtual event.**

### About Seychelles :

- Capital: **Victoria**
- President: **Wavel Ramkalawan**
- Currency: **Seychellois rupee**

### Finance Minister attends 103rd Development Committee Meeting of World Bank-IMF Virtually

- **On April 09, 2021, Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** participated in the **103rd Meeting of the Development Committee** through video conferencing.

### The items on the agenda :

- **WBG and International Monetary Fund** Support for Debt Relief Under the Common Framework and Beyond.
- COVID-19 pandemic: World Bank Group Support for Fair and Affordable Access to Vaccines by Developing Countries
- From COVID-19 Crisis Response to Resilient Recovery – Saving Lives and Livelihoods while Supporting **Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID)**.
- The Government has announced Aatma Nirbhar Packages of ₹ 27.1 trillion, amounting to more than 13 percent of the GDP. These packages were meant not only to provide social protection to the poor and vulnerable but also to push forward the economic reforms.

### About World Bank :

- Headquarters: **Washington, D.C., United States**
- Founded: **July 1944, United States**
- Founders: **John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White**

### A New Book Akhtari : The Life and music of Begum Akhtar, Tributed to Singer Begum Akhtar

- A new book **Akhtari: The Life and Music of Begum Akhtar** to remember about the life and singing experience of indian singer Begum Akhtar.
- The **book will be released on April 30.**

### About the Book :

- It is originally **written in Hindi, is now available in English**
- **Edited by Yatindra Mishra**
- **Published by HarperCollins India.**

- The book, **featuring essays on her life and music**, remembrances by those who knew her well, and interviews with the legend herself.
- The book including the likes of Bismillah Khan, Lata Mangeshkar and Shubha Mudgal, recalls her eventful life and her music through essays in a new book.
- The translators Shuchita Mital, Madhu B Joshi, Shubhangi Mishra and Maneesha Taneja have played a commendable role

### **Achievements of Begum Akhtar :**

- 1968 – **Padma Shri Award**
- 1972 – **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**
- 1975 – **Padma Bhushan Award**
- On **October 07, 2017**, Commemorating her **103rd Birthday Google Dedicated a Doodle Profile.**

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### **In Delhi DRDO to set up Covid-19 hospital with 500 beds, ICU facilities**

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO** will set up a Covid-19 hospital with **500 beds equipped with ICU facilities in Delhi Cantonment.**
- The doctors would be **provided by both military and paramilitary forces for treating patients.**
- The **first 250 beds would be ready in the first 7 days and doctors would be provided by both military and paramilitary forces for treating patients.**
- The **facility will help treat the serious patients.**
- This will **increase the bed capacity in the city.**

#### **About DRDO :**

- Founded: **1958**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman : **Dr Satheesh Reddy**

#### **China opens 5G signal station at world's highest radar location**

- **China** has opened a **5G signal base at the Ganbala radar station in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet**
- It is the **world's highest manually operated radar station at an elevation of 5,374 meters.**
- The **mountain is located in Nagarze County in Tibet** which is in the vicinity of borders with **India and Bhutan.**

#### **Purpose :**

- The **stable and high-speed 5G signal enables the soldiers in the deep mountains** to keep up with the information society, leaving the monotonous and boring life on the border

- It is part of efforts to improve training and on-duty conditions for soldiers stationed in border areas.

### About China :

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

### Piyush Goyal Launches Electronic Marketplace e-SANTA For Aqua Farmers

- **On April 13, 2021, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** virtually inaugurated e-SANTA.
- It is an **electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers.**

### About e-SANTA :

- e-SANTA is a **completely paperless and end-to-end electronic trade platform between farmers and exporters.**
- e-SANTA will **raise income, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality levels, traceability, and provide new options for the aqua farmers.**
- The platform will **enable the farmers to get a better price** and the exporters to directly purchase quality products from the farmers enhancing traceability, a key factor in international trade.
- e-SANTA is a **digital bridge to end the market divide and will act as an alternative marketing tool between farmers and buyers by eliminating middlemen.**
- The term e-SANTA was **coined for the web portal, meaning Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture.**
- National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

### e-SANTA will RAISE the lives and income of farmers by

1. **Reducing risk**
2. **Awareness of products and markets,**
3. **Increase in income,**
4. **Shielding against the wrong practice,**
5. **Ease of processes**

### About NaCSA :

- CEO : **Shanmukha Rao**
- Located at : **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**
- Establishment : **2007**

### About MPEDA :

- MPEDA is given the **mandate to promote the marine products industry with special reference to exports from the country.**
- The Act empowers MPEDA to regulate exports of marine products and take all measures required for ensuring sustained, quality seafood exports from the country.

### **Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launches 'SARTHAQ', the NEP Implementation Plan for School Education**

- On April 08, 2021, **The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal chaired a high-level meeting on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- **The Department of School Education and Literacy has developed an indicative and suggestive Implementation Plan for School Education, called 'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ).'**

#### **About SARTHAQ :**

- SARTHAQ has been developed by the **Department of School Education and Literacy** to assist States and UTs with the goals and objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

### **Avian species count reaches 1,340 : New Species Three-banded rosefinch Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh**

- Scientists from the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) Speckled a New Avian Species three-banded rosefinch.**
- It was made in the hilly, coniferous forests of the Sela Pass in Arunachal Pradesh, about 3800 meters above sea level.
- **India's avian biodiversity count to a total of 1,340 species.**
- It Belongs to the **Family - Fringillidae**
- This is **seed-eating passerine birds** with a distinctively conical bill.
- The team comprises **BNHS assistant director Girish Jathar and researchers Atharva Singh and Himadri Sekhar Mondal.**
- They **published their findings in the latest issue of the journal Indian Birds**
- The **three-banded rosefinch** was the fifth new species recorded during the year **2021.**

### **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launches NanoSniffer, a microsensor based explosive trace detector**

- **On April 09, 2021, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched NanoSniffer, the world's first Microsensor-based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD).**
- It has been **developed by NanoSniff Technologies.**
- It is being marketed by **Vehant Technologies, a spin-off from a former IIT Delhi incubated startup Kritikal Solutions.**

#### **About NanoSniffer :**

- NanoSniffer is a **100 percent Made in India product** in terms of research, development & manufacturing.

- This is affordable device will reduce our dependence on imported explosive trace detector devices
- NanoSniffer **can detect explosives in less than 10 seconds**
- It will also encourage other institutions, startups and medium-scale industries to research & develop products indigenously.
- NanoSniffer is a step towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a self-reliant India.
- It also identifies and categorizes explosives into different classes.
- It detects all classes of military, conventional and homemade explosives.
- NanoSniffer gives visible & audibles with sunlight-readable color display.

### Ramesh Pokhriyal launches 'MyNEP2020' Platform for Digital Consultation

- **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the "MyNEP2020" Platform of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).**
- MyNEP 2020 Web Portal of the NCTE will be **operational from April 1 to May 15, 2021.**

#### About the Platform :

- The platform seeks to invite suggestions/inputs/membership from the stakeholders for preparing a draft for the development of National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and National Mission for Mentoring Program membership (NMM).
- This exercise of digital consultation envisages the participation of teachers, education professionals, academicians, and other stakeholders in preparing the documents on teacher policy for sustainable and positive change in the Teacher's Education Sector.

#### About NCTE :

- NCTE is a **statutory physique** that's accountable to cowl all of the facets of trainer schooling programmes together with analysis and coaching of individuals for equipping them to show at pre-primary, main, secondary and senior secondary levels in colleges, and non-formal schooling, part-time schooling, grownup schooling and distance (correspondence) schooling programs.
- Its most important goal is to realize deliberate and coordinated improvement of the trainer schooling system all through the nation.
- Founded: **1995**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairperson: **Vineet Joshi, IAS**

### Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform

- On April 05, 2021, **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union health minister** virtually launched the **Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).**
- The Integrated Health Information Platform is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).**
- India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system.
- It is the **world's biggest online disease surveillance**
- **NCDC and WHO** are associated with the development of the platform.

- The National Digital Health Mission and fully compatible with the other digital information systems presently being used in India.
- A health information system developed for real-time, case-based information, integrated analytics, advanced visualization capability.
- **IIHP to track 33 diseases** now as compared to the earlier 18 diseases.
- It is an advanced digital platform for scouting the earliest signs of disease spread in the smallest of villages and blocks in the country will immensely help in nipping in the bud any potential outbreak or epidemic.

### About NCDC :

- Director : **Sujeet Kumar Singh**
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Comes Under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

### About WHO :

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 7 April 1948

### CJI launches top court's SUPACE – AI-driven research portal

- On April 06, 2021, The Supreme Court unveiled its **Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal SUPACE**, designed to make research easier for judges, thereby easing their workload.
- The AI portal Supreme Court Portal For Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE) was launched in the presence of **incumbent CJI Bobde, Justice Nagrewara Rao, and CJI designate Justice N V Ramana**.
- It is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
- Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases.
- **Justice L Nageshwara Rao**, who is also the **chairman of the SC's Artificial Intelligence Committee**, delivered the opening address during the virtual launch of SUPACE.
- **Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde** was the **first-ever chairman** of the Artificial Intelligence Committee.
- **CJI Bobde first spoke of the use of AI** to assist the Supreme Court soon after he took oath as the Chief Justice in 2019.

### About Supreme Court of India :

- Established: 26 January 1950
- Total Number of Judges : 34

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : BOOKS & AUTHORS

### PM Modi Release Hindi Version of Odisha Itihaas

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** will release the Hindi translation of the book '**Odisha Itihaas**'.

- It was written by 'Utkal Keshari' Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab on 9th April 2021 from Ambedkar International Center, Janpath, New Delhi.
- The book, available in Odia and English.
- It has been translated into Hindi by Shri. Shankarlal Purohit.
- The event marking the release of the Hindi version has been organised by Harekrushna Mahtab Foundation.

### About Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab :

- He served as Chief Minister of Odisha from 1946 to 1950 and from 1956 to 1961.
- He wrote the book 'Odisha Itihaas' in Ahmednagar Fort Jail, where he was imprisoned for more than two years during 1942-1945.

### A Book Titled Exam Warriors Updated Version Released by PM Modi

- On March 29, 2021, The updated version of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book named 'Exam Warriors' was launched.

### About the Book :

- The book gives out various suggestions to both students and parents to deal with the examination pressure and stress.
- To raise awareness on topics like mental health, role of technology and time management.
- The book has been made available both online and in the bookstores.
- The book has new Mantras and a range of interesting activities.
- The book reaffirms the need to remain stress free before an exam.

### Note :

- Exam Warriors, first published in 2018.
- It was written by PM Modi to help young students deal with the stress of exams.
- Published in 15 languages, its Braille version was launched on World Braille Day (January 4) in 2020.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : SPORTS NEWS

### Indian Army Officer Breaks two Guinness World Records For Fastest Solo Cycling

- Indian Army's Lieutenant Colonel Bharat Pannu has earned two Guinness World Records for his fastest solo cycling.
- The first record was created when Lt Col Pannu cycled from Leh to Manali (472 km distance) on October 10, 2020, in just 35 hours and 25 minutes.
- He created a second record when he cycled the 5,942-km-long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes.
- He Started This cycling event from India Gate in New Delhi on October 16, and it ended back at the same spot on October 30.

## About Indian Army :

- Commander-in-Chief: President **Ram Nath Kovind**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Founded: **1 April 1895**

## Sports Minister inaugurates Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Rowing discipline in Srinagar

- **On April 10, 2021, Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurated Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Rowing discipline at the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy in Srinagar.**
- There are **currently 24 KISCEs across 23 States and Union Territories** and each of them **focuses on Olympics sports discipline.**
- This is **one of the two KISCEs from Jammu & Kashmir itself, with the Maulana Azad Stadium for Fencing discipline in Jammu.**
- A consolidated amount of Rs. 5.08 crores have been approved for the 2 centres in Jammu & Kashmir.

## About KISCEs :

- KISCEs is an ongoing endeavour to scale-up existing centres from the States and Union Territories to the world standard level keeping in mind the big picture of getting India excelled at the Olympics.

## Four sailors from India qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021

- In a historic first for the country, Four Indian sailors qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.
- The pair of **Ganapathy Chengappa, Varun Thakkar, and Vishnu Saravanan made the cut during an ongoing Asian Qualifiers in Oman on April 8, 2021.**
- This was after Nethra Kumanan on April 7 **became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics in the laser radial event in the Mussanah Open Championship.**
- It is an Asian Olympic Qualifying event.

## Note :

- It will also be the **first time that India will be competing in three sailing events in the Olympics.**

## About Tokyo Olympics :

- The **Tokyo Olympics will commence on July 23 till August 8, 2021.**
- MeanWhile, the Paralympics will be taking place from August 24 to September 5, 2021.
- Motto: **United by Emotion**
- Nations: **206 (expected)**
- Location: **Tokyo, Japan**

## FIFA suspends PFF , Chad football associations

- On April 07, 2021, FIFA suspended the **Pakistan Football Federation (PFF)** and **Chadian Football Association (FTFA)** after concerns over the governance of the two member associations.

### Note :

- Pakistan was **previously suspended from October 2017 to March 2018** after FIFA objected to a court decision to appoint an outside administrator to run the PFF after another dispute over a contested election.
- A group of **football officials led by Ashfaq Hussain**, which was elected by the Supreme Court in 2018 to run the PFF but was not recognised by FIFA, took over the headquarters recently and seized control from the **FIFA Normalisation Committee headed by Haroon Malik**.
- The **Chadian Ministry of Youth and Sports** had stripped the country's FA of its powers on March 10 following concerns over the way it was being run and a breakdown in communication.

### About Pakistan Football Federation :

- President: **Humza Khan**
- Headquarters : **Lahore, Pakistan**
- Founded: **1947**

### About Chadian Football Association (FTFA) :

- Founded: **1962**
- President: **Moctar Mahamoud Hamid**

### About FIFA :

- Founded: **21 May 1904, Paris, France**
- Headquarters: **Zürich, Switzerland**

## WWE Hall of Fame 2021 The Great Khali formally inducted

- On April 07, 2021, The Great Khali was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

### About Great Khali :

- He is **India's one-time World Heavyweight Champion**.
- The **official name of "The Great Khali" is Dalip Singh Rana**.
- He is arguably the biggest Indian wrestling star.
- He is **7'1"** tall.
- Khali is the **first Indian world champion in WWE**.
- He made his professional wrestling debut in 2000.

### About WWE :

- Founded: **21 February 1980, Massachusetts, United States**
- CEO: **Vince McMahon**
- Headquarters: **Stamford, Connecticut, United States**
- Founders: **Vince McMahon, Linda McMahon**

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **ICCR 71st Foundation Day: Observed on Apr 09**

- The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** is celebrating its **71st Foundation Day** on April 09.
- **Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre** at Indian Embassy in Beijing celebrated **ICCR Foundation Day on April 09**.
- In the presence of a huge gathering of ICCR scholars in China and their disciples who learnt Indian dance and music.
- The ICCR has unveiled '**Little Guru**' app, **world's first Gamified Sanskrit learning App** which was jointly **launched** in Beijing by **Ambassador Vikram Misri** and **renowned Chinese scholar on Sanskrit and India studies, Professor Wang Bangwei**.
- Many Sanskrit Professors from Peking University and the students were also present.
- **Ambassador Vikram Misri** highlighted ICCR's role in promoting cultural, academic and intellectual exchanges between India and the rest of the world.
- He said nearly 300 students in China in the last few years have availed ICCR scholarships and hoped that more Chinese students will avail of these scholarships.

#### **World Homeopathy Day: Observed on Apr 10**

- **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **April 10** to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the **world of medicine**.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of **German physician Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, who is considered as the founder of system of alternative medicine called Homeopathy.
- The year 2021 marks the 266th birthday of Samuel Hahnemann.

#### **International Convention on World Homoeopathy Day:**

- The **Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), Ministry of AYUSH**, organized a two day scientific conference on the occasion of **#WorldHomoeopathyDay** from April 10 & 11, 2021 in New Delhi.
- The **theme of the conference** is "**Homoeopathy - Roadmap for Integrative Medicine**"
- **Objective:** exchange of experience by policy makers and experts to identify strategic actions towards an effective and efficient inclusion of Homoeopathy in integrative care.

#### **Surveyors' Day: Observed on Apr 10**

- 10th April is celebrated as '**Survey Day**' throughout India.
- This **day** has a special significance in the History of **Surveying** as it is on this **day** that Major William Lambton started the **GTS (Great Trigonometrical Survey)** and the work of measurement of Great Arc from the **Cape Comorin to Bangalore, on 10th April, 1802**.

- The method of measurement through triangulation was conceived by the **EIC officer William Lambdon** and later under his successor George Everest, it became the responsibility of the Survey of India.
- One of the greatest accomplishments of the trigonometric survey was the measurement of Mount Everest, K2 and Kanchenjunga.

### **National Safe Motherhood Day – Observed on Apr 11**

- In 2003, the **Government of India** declared **April 11**, the anniversary of **Kasturba Gandhi's birth**, as **National Safe Motherhood Day**.
- The declaration was made at the request of **White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI)**, an alliance of **1800 organizations**.
- The goal of the **National Safe Motherhood Program** is to **reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality** and to **improve the maternal and neonatal health** through preventive and promotive activities as well as by addressing avoidable factors that cause death **during pregnancy**, childbirth and postpartum period.

### **World Parkinson's Day: Observed on April 11**

- Every year, **April 11** is observed as **World Parkinson's Day** to raise awareness of **Parkinson's disease**, which is a progressive nervous system disorder.
- The day marks the birthday of **Dr James Parkinson from London**, who was the first person to systematically describe the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson Disease.
- Apart from this, the month of April is observed as the Parkinson's Awareness Month.

### **International Day of Human Space Flight – Observed on Apr 12**

- The United Nations (UN) celebrates the **International Day of Human Space Flight** on April 12 each year.
- The day remembers the first human space flight on **April 12, 1961**.
- Statue of Yuri Gagarin, the world's first cosmonaut to have travelled in outer space.
- 12 April, of the **anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin**.
- It was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on **7 April 2011**, a few days before the **50th anniversary of the flight**.

### **B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day: Observed on Apr 14**

- **Ambedkar Remembrance Day** is also known as **Ambedkar Jayanti** or **Bhim Jayanti** which is observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B.R Ambedkar.
- This day celebrates the birthday of **Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar**, an Indian politician, and social rights activist.
- It marks **Babasaheb Ambedkar's birthday that was born on 14 April 1891**.
- **Ambedkar** struggled for equality throughout his life and thus, his birthday is celebrated as **'Equality Day'** in the country.
- He was a world-class lawyer, social reformer and **number one world-class scholar** as per the Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India.
- The **public holiday** has been declared by invoking powers under **Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881**.

- The centre had made a similar announcement in 2020 when it had declared April 14th as a national holiday.
- This year will be Dr. BR Ambedkar's **130th birth anniversary**.

### World Knowledge Day: Observed on Apr 14

- A Government Resolution issued by the **General Administration Department (GAD)** said **April 14** will now be celebrated as **Knowledge Day** in the memory of Dr. Ambedkar.
- The United Nations celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- In 2017, As per **Government of Maharashtra 14 April** is observed as **Knowledge Day (Dnyan Din)** in the Indian state of Maharashtra in **memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar**.
- **Ambedkar** is considered as **symbol of knowledge in the world**.
- B.R. Ambedkar is considered as symbol of knowledge in the world because he has done many **higher degrees** such as **M.A, MSc, PhD etc**.
- Know why Babasaheb Ambedkar was popularly known as '**Symbol of Knowledge**' Amid coronavirus lockdown, Indians will commemorate the Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Jayanti 2020 on April 14.

### World Chagas Disease Day: Observed on Apr 14

- The **World Chagas Disease Day** is observed on **14 April** to raise the public awareness and visibility among people about **Chagas Disease** (also called American trypanosomiasis) and the resources needed for the prevention, control or elimination of the disease.
- The WHO approved the designation of Chagas Disease Day on May 24, 2019 at the **72nd World Health Assembly**.
- It is **one of 11 official global public health campaigns** marked by WHO.
- The **first World Chagas Disease Day** was observed on **14 April 2020**.
- The day has been named after Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas, the Brazilian doctor who diagnosed the first case on 14 April 1909.

### Jallianwala Bagh massacre: Observed on Apr 13

- **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**, Jallianwala also spelled **Jallianwala**, also called Massacre of Amritsar, incident on **April 13, 1919**, in which British troops fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the **Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in the Punjab** region (now in Punjab state) of India, **killing several hundred people and wounding many hundreds more**.
- It marked a turning point in India's modern history, in that it left a permanent scar on Indo-British relations and was the prelude to Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi's full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.
- And the country came together to fight against the British and to free our mother nation.
- 28 years, 4 months & 2 days later, India got free and celebrated again.
- And **13th April 1919 was marked as the black day in the Indian history**.
- The park houses a memorial called Jallianwala Bagh Memorial.

## CRPF Valour Day: Observed on Apr 09

- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas)** is observed on 9 April every year, as a tribute to the brave men of the Force.
- 2021 marks **56th CRPF Valour Day**.
- It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several times larger, at the **Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat**.
- The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive.
- In the conflict, CRPF lost six personnel who had attained martyrdom.
- The **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has **saluted CRPF personnel**, on its Valour Day .
- Prime Minister said, "The courage of CRPF is widely known. On CRPF Valour Day, I salute this brave force and remember the bravery of our CRPF personnel in Gujarat's Sardar Patel Post in **1965**."

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

### Mahabharat Veteran actor Satish Kaul passed away

- **Veteran Punjabi Mahabharat actor Satish Kaul** Passed away.
- He was 74.

#### About Satish Kaul :

- He played the **role of Lord Indra in the TV show Mahabharat** .
- The actor began his career in the **early '70s, juggling between Hindi and Punjabi films**.
- He had **300 Punjabi and Hindi films** to his credit .
- Kaul was known for **1985 Doordarshan series Vikram Aur Betaal**.
- He has hits like **Maula Jatt, Sassi Punnu, Ishq Nimana, Suhag Chooda and Patola** to his credit and his exemplary work in **Ram Lakhan, Pyar To Hona Hi Tha, Aunty No 1, Zanjeer, Yaraana and Elaan**.

### Pakistan human rights icon I.A. Rehman Passes away

- **On April 12, 2021, IA Rehman**, an iconic Pakistani human rights defender and journalist, has Passed away.
- He was 90.

#### About I.A.Rehman :

- Rehman was born in 1930 in Haryana
- He was the **author of three books and advocate of peace between Pakistan and India**, the two South Asian nuclear rivals who have fought three wars since 1947.
- He was the **HRCP's honorary spokesperson and he worked as director of HRCP for two decades and was also the group's secretary-general till December 2016**.
- He was a **founding member of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy**.
- Rehman became **Chief Editor of the Pakistan Times newspaper in 1989**.

- Before his death, he was writing columns for Dawn newspaper

### Achievements :

- He Received **Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding and Nuremberg International Human Rights Award.**

### Legendary shooting coach Sanjay Chakravarty passes away at 79

- Legendary shooting coach **Sanjay Chakravarty** passed away.
- Chakravarty is credited for mentoring 2012 London Olympic Games bronze medallist Gagan Narang, and Olympians such as Joydeep Karmakar, Suma Shirur and Anjali Bhagwat in his career spanning more than four decades.

### Achievements :

- Chakravarty was honoured with the Dronacharya Award for his contribution to the discipline and the Dadoji Konddev Award by the State Government of Maharashtra.

### UK's Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, Passes away at 99

- On April 09, 2021, Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom Passed away.
- He was 99.

### About Prince Philip :

- Prince Philip was the **longest-serving consort of any British monarch.**
- He served **69 years supporting the Queen** and retired from the royal service in 2017.
- He was **officially known as The Duke of Edinburgh.**
- He was a Greek prince and he married Elizabeth in 1947.
- He played a key role in modernising the British monarchy in the post-World War 2 period

### About UK :

- Queen: **Queen Elizabeth II**
- Capital: **London**
- Prime minister: **Boris Johnson**

### India's first female commentator Chandra Nayudu passed away

- India's first female Cricket commentator Chandra Nayudu has passed away.
- She was 88.

### About Chandra Nayudu :

- She was the **daughter of former cricketer CK Nayudu.**
- She was a **professor of English at the local Govt Degree College, Indore.**
- She took an active interest in the game and was the first lady commentator of an international match.

- Chandra was an **active member of the MPCA** and took part in many of its activities.
- Chandra was a **very good Hindi commentator and first commentated in the MCC v Bombay game in the 1976-77 season.**
- She **wrote a book titled, “CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers”, in 1995.**

### About MPCA :

- It Stands – **Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association**
- President: **Abhilash Khandekar**
- Headquarters : **Indore**
- Founded: **1956**
- Secretary: **Sanjeev Rao**

### Veteran Renowned Journalist-author Fatima R Zakaria passes away

- On April 06, 2021, Veteran Renowned Journalist-author Fatima R Zakaria passed away.
- She was 85.

### About Fatima R Zakaria :

- She is the **former Editor of the Sunday Times, Mumbai.**
- She is the mother of a renowned global media personality.
- She was the **chairman of Maulana Azad Educational Trust and Khairul Islam Trust Mumbai.**
- Fatima R Zakaria was also the executive vice-chairman of the Board of Governors of the Trust's Institute of Hotel Management
- It is run in collaboration with the Taj Group of Hotels.

### Achievements :

- In **1983, Fatima Zakaria was awarded the Sarojini Naidu Award for unity in journalism.**
- She was also **awarded the Padma Shri in 2006** by the Government of India for his remarkable work in the field of literature and education.

### President of Gita Press Radheshyam Khemka passes away

- The **president of Gita Press, Radheshyam Khemka, passed away.**
- He was 87.
- Radheshyam Khemka, was **editor of Kalyan, a famous magazine of Sanatan Dharma for nearly 40 years**

### About Gita Press :

- **Gita Press was founded in 1923** by Jaya Dayal Goyanka and GhanshyamDas Jalan for promoting the principles of Sanatana Dharma.
- Gita Press is the **world's largest publisher of Hindu religious texts.**
- The press is **located in Gorakhpur city of Uttar Pradesh.**