

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

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

- **Railways** has made nearly **four thousand Covid Care coaches** with almost 64 thousand beds ready for use by States.
- Railway Ministry said, at present 169 coaches have been handed over to various states for Covid care.
- It has deployed Covid Care Coaches in **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi** to assist the states in view of rising corona cases in the country.
- In Delhi, Railways has catered to the full demand of State Governments' for 75 Covid Care coaches with a capacity of **one thousand 200 beds**.
- The Ministry said, 50 coaches are positioned at Shakurbasti and 25 Coaches at Anand Vihar stations.
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, ten coaches each are placed at Faizabad, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Bareilly and Nazibabad totalling to a capacity of **800 beds**.
- The Ministry said, new demand for Covid coaches have come from Nagpur District.
- In this direction, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Divisional Railway Manager, Nagpur and Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation.
- The Railways are also mobilising isolation Coaches at Ajni ICD area in Maharashtra as per the State demand.

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

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

National Fertilizers Limited directs to set up four Oxygen plants

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

Govt obtains 65 % more wheat in current Rabi season which compared to last year

- **Government** has said that about **65 per cent more wheat** has been procured during the current **Rabi Marketing Season in comparison to the corresponding period last year.**
- Consumer Affairs Ministry said, the procurement of Wheat is continuing smoothly in the procuring States of **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar at Minimum Support Price.**
- The Ministry said, a quantity of over **299 lakh tonnes of Wheat** has been procured against the last year corresponding purchase of around **181 lakh tonnes.**
- It said, about 29 lakh 46 thousand farmers have already benefited from the ongoing procurement operations with MSP value of over **59 thousand Crore rupees.**
- The Ministry said over **721 lakh tonnes of paddy** have been procured in the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21 and Rabi Marketing Season.
- About **one crore eight lakh farmers** have benefited from the ongoing procurement operations.

India, EU reaffirm commitment to support Afghanistan

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** and **EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell** have reaffirmed commitment to support Afghanistan in its path towards peace, security, self-reliance and prosperity.
- **Dr Jaishankar and Mr Borrell** called for **respecting and protecting the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.**
- They reaffirmed their strong and continued support to an inclusive, **Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process.**
- As representatives of the **world's largest democracies, External Affairs Minister Dr.Jaishankar and Mr.Borrell reaffirmed** that any political settlement in Afghanistan must protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Afghans, **including women, youth and minorities.**
- They reiterated that the nature of the peace settlement and its outcome will shape the future of international support and assistance.
- They jointly and firmly condemned the unacceptable level of violence perpetrated against the national forces of Afghanistan and civilians and the targeted assassinations of civil rights activists, media persons and Ulema.
- They reiterated their call for an immediate, permanent and comprehensive nationwide ceasefire.

India attains another milestone by administering more than 16 crore 4 lakh doses of covid vaccine

- **India** has scaled another peak in its effort to contain the **COVID-19 virus** with the administration of **more than 16 Crore four lakh vaccine doses** so far to its citizens.
- Union Health Ministry said, the country also administered **more than 13 Crore doses** as the first dose and more than three crore vaccine doses have been administered as the second dose.
- The Ministry said, **more than two lakh 29 thousand beneficiaries** of the **age group 18 to 44 years** received their first dose of COVID vaccine.

- The cumulative vaccination coverage for this age group is **over six lakh 62 thousand across 12 States and Union Territories.**
- The Ministry said that **more than five crore 29 lakh beneficiaries** in the age group of over 60 years has received the first dose and over one crore 23 lakh received the 2nd dose.
- The country has administered **nearly 11 lakh 50 thousand vaccine doses till 8 pm.**
- More than six lakh 15 thousand beneficiaries were vaccinated for 1st dose and over five lakh 33 thousand beneficiaries received 2nd dose of vaccine.

28 States, UTs start to raise food grains from FCI for free distribution to poor under PMGKAY

- **Government** said that **28 States and Union Territories** have started lifting food grains from Food Corporation of India depots for free distribution of food grains to the poor under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.**
- Last month, Centre had decided to **provide free food-grains to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries** covered under **National Food Security Act, NFSA** in the month of May and June.
- Under this scheme, five kilogram per person per month food grains will be provided to the NFSA beneficiaries belonging to **both Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Householders categories.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** had stressed that it is important that the poor people of the country have nutritional support when the country is facing the second wave of coronavirus.
- The Consumer Affairs Ministry said, Food Corporation of India has already positioned sufficient food grains in all States and UTs for successful implementation of the scheme.
- It said 28 States and UTs have started lifting **foodgrains from Food Corporation of India depots and Rs. 5.88 lakh tonnes of food grains** have been supplied for further distribution to beneficiaries.
- Lakshadweep has completely lifted May and June allocation whereas Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have already lifted 100 percent of May allocation.
- The Ministry said, the rest of the States and UTs have also been sensitized to immediately start lifting the foodgrains under the scheme.
- It has advised them to encourage migrant **NFSA beneficiaries** for using the facility of portability under One Nation One Ration Card plan.
- The Ministry said, Centre will bear the entire cost of implementation of this scheme, without any sharing by States and Union Territories.

EAM Dr S Jaishankar with UK's Home Secretary Priti Patel holds meeting in London

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar**, who is on a **four day visit to the UK**, held a meeting with **Home Secretary Priti Patel in London.**
- They signed the **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** that would facilitate legal travel and encourage talent flows between the two countries.
- Dr Jaishankar mentioned, the living bridge between **India and UK** will get stronger as a result.
- He said, this is an important outcome for the **India-UK Virtual Summit.**

Petroleum Minister flagged off 1st supply of UCO based Biodiesel blended Diesel

- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO, **Used Cooking Oil based Biodiesel blended Diesel from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.**
- The Centre had initiated Expressions of Interest for **"Procurement of Bio-diesel produced from Used Cooking Oil"** on the occasion of **World Biofuel Day on 10th August 2019.**
- Such "Expressions of Interest" are being periodically released by Oil Marketing Companies.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pradhan complimented the Oil industry on the stellar role played by them in keeping the fuel lines running despite the stiff challenges of the pandemic.
- He also lauded the OMCs for going beyond the usual business imperatives by extending support for **medical oxygen supply** to the nation in this crisis.
- Mr Pradhan also appreciated Indian Oil's leadership role in smoothening the Liquid oxygen logistics in the country through various initiatives.
- Regarding the first supply of UCO-based Biodiesel from **Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal**, the Minister termed it as landmark in **India's pursuance of Biofuels.**
- He said it will have a positive impact on the environment.
- This initiative will garner substantial economic benefits for the nation by shoring up **indigenous Biodiesel supply**, reducing import dependence, and generating rural employment.

Yoga Day promotional activities planned to conducted through digital & electronic platforms

- The **Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** have tapped into the spirit of **International Day of Yoga** to encourage the public to pursue Yoga as a daily routine for good health and well-being.
- The **two Ministries** came together to organize a **virtual event to mark 50 days** in the countdown to **International Day of Yoga 2021.**
- In view of the COVID surge all the Yoga Day promotional activities are being conducted through digital & electronic platforms to encourage participation by citizens from their respective homes.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** has, in this context, been propagating the message **"Be with Yoga, Be at Home"**.

EAM S Jaishankar had a meeting with US counterpart Antony Blinken in London

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** had a meeting with **his US counterpart Antony Blinken in London** on the sidelines of **G-7 Foreign Ministers' meeting.**
- The **two leaders** had detailed discussion on the global Covid challenge, focussing on expanded vaccine production capacity and reliable supply chains.
- The meeting also covered issues of **Indo-Pacific, UN Security Council, Myanmar and climate change.**
- Dr Jaishankar expressed appreciation for the strong US support to India at this difficult time, especially oxygen and Remdesivir.
- **Dr Jaishankar is on a 4-day visit London** beginning to participate in the G-7 Foreign Ministers Meeting, at which India has been invited as a guest country.

- He will thereafter undertake a **bilateral visit to the UK**.

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

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has said that large oxygen plants are to be set up **in all divisional headquarters of the state**.
- He was addressing a review meeting with the core group regarding prevention and arrangements for containing the spread of Covid-19.
- The state reported 13,417 fresh COVID cases while 11,577 patients recovered from the infection.
- Chief Minister Mr Chouhan said that the pace of infection has come down in the state. The Chief Minister informed that the availability of oxygen in the state is continuously increasing.
- Meanwhile, the number of active cases in the state rose to 94,276.
- With 98 patients succumbing to the infection, the death toll reached 5,319.
- Both Indore and Bhopal have more than 13,000 active cases.
- The growth rate of infection cases in 8 districts of Shajapur, Panna, Agar-Malwa, Umaria, Katni, Rajgarh, Anuppur and Guna has decreased.
- Under the **Kill Corona Campaign, 12 thousand 800 survey teams** are doing survey work in the state.

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

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

Madhya Pradesh govt announces Rs, 379 crore transferred into accounts of 16,844 beneficiaries under Sambal scheme

- In **Madhya Pradesh, 379 crore rupees** have been transferred into the accounts of **16 thousand 844 beneficiaries** under the Mukhyamantri Jan-Kalyan Sambal scheme.
- **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** said the state government accords high priority to benefit the poor families of unorganised sector workers.
- The Chief Minister informed that in the difficult times of crisis beneficiaries of **Sambal Yojana** are also being given three months of free ration along with financial assistance.
- He called upon the beneficiaries to take precautions against the corona and to protect others along with themselves.
- Meanwhile, **Free Swastha Aahar Yojana (Healthy Food Scheme)** for the corona patients of Bhopal is also being launched.
- **Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang** said that the patient will get nutritious food on time free of cost in the hospital where he is admitted.

- Minister Sarang said that as a pilot project, this scheme has been started in **110 hospitals in Bhopal**.
- On its success, this scheme will be started in other cities of the state as well.

West Bengal: Mamata Banerji to be sworn-in as CM for 3rd consecutive term

- **TMC leader Mamata Banerjee** will be sworn in as the **Chief Minister of West Bengal** for the **third time**.
- **Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar** mentioned that the swearing-in **ceremony** will be held at Raj Bhawan.
- Due to the corona situation, the list of guests invited to the ceremony at the Rajbhawan has been kept as short as possible.
- After the swearing in of the **Chief Minister**, newly elected **MLAs of the state** will take oath in the Assembly in two phases.

Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center' unveiled in Mumbai

- The **Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center'** was inaugurated by **MP Rahul Shewale** in **Mumbai**.
- This center has been set up in the parking lot of **Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar**.
- This first of its kind **'Drive in Vaccination Center'** facility has been made available to the citizens at a time when people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination center.
- The center also provides transportation facilities to the citizens who do not have their **own vehicles**.
- The vaccination has been started and the facility is available for **all the sections of the society**.
- **MP Rahul Shewale** informed that this facility will be provided in other multi-parking lots in the city, after assessing the success of this first project.

Delhi CM declared free rations for 2 months, Rs 5,000 aid to autorickshaw & taxi drivers

- The **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** announced that all ration card holders in the **National Capital** will be given free ration **for the next 2 months**.
- **This scheme by the government** will benefit **nearly 72 lakh ration card holders in Delhi**.
- Kejriwal also announced that all autorickshaw drivers and taxi drivers in the National Capital Territory of Delhi will be given **5000 rupees each** to provide them the much needed financial assistance during the time of the pandemic.
- The Chief Minister asserted that however the lockdown may not last for two months but the assistance has been extended by the Delhi Government to ensure food and livelihood to the poor amid the difficult times of COVID-19.

PM Modi with British counterpart Boris Johnson – to hold virtual Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will hold a **virtual Summit** with his **British counterpart Boris Johnson**.

- During the summit, apart from exchanging views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, both leaders will discuss Covid 19 cooperation and the global efforts to fight the pandemic.
- The **Summit** will be an important opportunity to elevate multi-faceted strategic ties and **enhance cooperation** on regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- A comprehensive **Roadmap 2030** will be launched during the Summit, which will pave the way for further expanding and deepening India-UK cooperation over the next decade across **five key areas**.
- These are **people-to-people relationships, trade and prosperity, defence and security, climate action and healthcare**.
- India and the UK have enjoyed a **Strategic Partnership since 2004**.
- It has been marked by regular high level exchanges and growing convergences in diverse areas.
- Mr Jhonson was to visit India late last month, But days before the visit, he called it off in view of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Govt declared some guidelines for Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

- Government has issued guidelines for '**Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)**.'
- Minister of Food Processing Industry **Narendra Singh Tomar** also launched an online portal for the PLISFPI.
- The Ministry said, as part of the Prime Minister's announcement of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, the Government has approved a new Central Sector Scheme namely PLISFPI for implementation during 2021-22 to 2026-27 with an outlay of 10 thousand 900 crore rupees.
- The aim is to support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with **India's natural resource endowment** and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets.
- The Ministry said it is inviting applications for availing sales based incentives and grants for undertaking Branding and Marketing activities abroad under the scheme from **three categories of Applicants**.
- In Category-1, the applicants are large entities who apply for Incentive based on Sales and Investment Criteria.
- Applicants under this category could undertake **Branding and Marketing activities** abroad also and apply for grant under the scheme with a common application.

Govt alarm the people: Vial for Remdesivir injection by name 'COVIPRI' is fake

- Government has said that a vial for **Remdesivir** injection by the name '**COVIPRI**' which is **in circulation** is fake.
- The Press Information Bureau mentioned no Remdesivir by the **name COVIPRI exists**.
- People have been advised not to buy medical supplies from unverified sources and beware of counterfeit medicines and injection.

Kerala: CPM led LDF all set to form new govt

- In Kerala, the **CPM led LDF** is all set to **form the new government**.

- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** handed over his resignation letter to **Governor Arif Mohammad Khan**.
- The CPI (M) and the LDF will soon begin discussions regarding the formation of the new government.
- The CPI (M) State Secretariat meeting scheduled to be convened will also discuss the matter in detail.
- Prior to this, members of the state politburo will also convene a meeting to discuss and decide further proceedings.

EAM S Jaishankar to Commence on 4-day visit to London

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** will embark on a **four-day visit to London beginning to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers of G7 countries**.
- India has been invited to the meeting as a guest country.
- The G7 members are **Britain, US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan**.
- The meeting is expected to discuss ways to deal with the coronavirus pandemic besides several other pressing issues facing the world.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari mentioned that Govt set target of road construction of worth Rs 15 lakh cr in next 2 years

- **Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** said the government has set a target of road construction of worth **15 lakh crore rupees** in next two years.
- He said the government is giving utmost priority to the development of infrastructure.
- Addressing the **Indo-U.S. Partnership Vision Summit** through video conferencing, Mr Gadkari exuded confidence that the Ministry will **achieve a target of 40 kilometres per day** of highway construction in the current fiscal.
- He said that the Government is permitting **100 percent FDI in the road sector**.
- The Minister added that in India, projects like the National Infrastructure pipeline for 2019-2025 is the first of its kind and the government is committed to providing world class infra to its citizens and improving the quality of their lives.
- He said that under the NIP, there are over **7,300 projects** to be implemented at a total outlay of **111 lakh crore rupees by 2025**.
- Mr Gadkari said that in the new era of bilateral relations, the national interests of India and the US are converging.
- There is growing confidence between both the administrations that all outstanding trade issues will be resolved and major trade agreements will be signed soon.
- The Minister invited the US companies to invest in infrastructure and MSME sectors in India.

LDF attains 2nd consecutive term in Kerala

- In **Kerala, Left Democratic Front (LDA)** has retained power for the second consecutive term.
- Pinarayi Vijayan government has become the **first government to get the second successive term in four decades**.
- In the **140 member Assembly**, CPM has won 62 seats, CPI 17, Congress 21, IUML 15, Kerala Congress (M) 5 and JD(Secular), Kerala Congress and NCP 2 seats each.

BJP-led NDA gets power in Assam for 2nd consecutive term

- In **Assam, BJP-led NDA** has retained power for the second consecutive term.
- The NDA has secured **75 seats in the 126-member assembly**.
- While **BJP won 60 seats**, its allies **Asom Gana Parishad** bagged 9 seats and UPPL 6 seats.
- Congress has won 29 seats and its ally AIUDF got 10 seats.
- Chief Minister and senior BJP leader won the **Majuli** seat by a margin of over 40 thousand votes.
- State BJP President Ranjit Kumar Dass, senior ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chandra Mohan Patowary, Ranjit Dutta, Parimal Suklabaidya, Naba Doley and Speaker of the Assembly Hitendra Nath Goswami won the election.
- For Congress, legislators Rockibul Hussain, Rekibuddin Ahmed, Rupjyoti Kurmi were re-elected to the assembly.
- Three senior leaders of Asom Gana Parishad Atul Bora, Keshab Mahanta and Phani Bhusan Choudhury won from their seats.
- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** has said that the success of the party in the state is the victory of the people of Assam.
- The Chief Minister said that voters have endorsed the good works of the government during the last 5 years.
- He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and other central ministers for all the support.

TMC comeback to power in West Bengal

- In **West Bengal, ruling Trinamool Congress** has retained power for the **third term** in a row but Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost her own Nandigram seat.
- Trinamool Congress has **won 209 seats** and leading at 4 seats.
- BJP has won 76 seats and is leading at one seat.
- BJP's Suvendu Adhikari defeated Mamata Banerjee by a margin of 1,956 votes in the key Nandigram constituency.
- United Front – an alliance of Left Front, Congress and the newly formed Indian Secular Front, failed miserably.
- For the first time since Independence, CPI-M has scored a duck in West Bengal.

Puducherry Assembly Election: Results favour of NR Congress

- In the **Union Territory of Puducherry**, So far the results of 20 constituencies have been announced officially.
- The National Democratic Alliance captured 11 seats and **Secular Democratic Alliance won in 5 seats**.
- 4 Independent candidates were also elected here.
- In the **NDA Alliance BJP won 3 seats**.
- In **Kamaraj Nagar constituency Mr Johnkumar** , and his son Richard who contested in Nellithoppu constituency won in this election.
- Namasivayam of BJP was also elected from Mannadipet.
- The **NR Congress candidates captured 8 seats** .
- The winning candidates are Theni.

Tamil Nadu Election Results 2021: DMK leader Stalin to be sworn in as CM on May 7

- **After a decade in opposition, the DMK won** a convincing victory over arch-rival AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and the ruling party managed to emerge as a formidable opposition, overcoming the **burden of ten year anti-incumbency to an extent.**
- As counting of votes polled in the April 6 TN Assembly elections progressed, it became amply clear that the DMK was dislodging the AIADMK from the seat of power.

J&K: DDMA Srinagar unveiled 24×7 dedicated Helpline at Covid-19 War Control Room

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Srinagar** has launched a **24×7 dedicated Helpline** at Covid-19 War Control Room to provide real time Covid-19 related facilities to the people.
- The facility was inaugurated by **Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole.**
- The residents of **Srinagar district can** log on to the website **waseela.in** and can get real time information about Covid-19 related facilities.
- **People can also dial helpline no's 01942483650 and 01942483651** for any query related to Covid-19 pandemic, the basic purpose of establishing the War Control Room in Srinagar is to provide instant information to the people about the number of **isolation beds, ICU beds, and oxygen beds** available in the city hospitals.
- It would also provide information about positive cases, tests conducted, and vaccination details apart from information regarding containment zones.
- Meanwhile, all the hospitals in Srinagar city have been connected with the Covid-19 **War Control Room** so that all the information could be timely updated on the website.
- The War Control Room will be functional round the clock for the facilitation of the general public.

1200 LPM oxygen generation plant commissioned at Gandhi Nagar Hospital

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, in pursuance of the Lieutenant Governor's directions regarding augmentation of Oxygen facilities in the hospitals, a **1200 litre per minute, LPM Oxygen Generation Plant** has been commissioned at the old block of **Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.**
- The hospital has been notified as a designated COVID hospital.
- With the commissioning of the plant, the hospital has become self-sufficient in meeting the medical oxygen needs and it can cater to **92 beds** at a time.
- The plant will substantially augment the availability of medical oxygen in the present oxygen bank reducing the **dependence on manual oxygen cylinders.**
- **Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Anshul Garg** inspected the functioning of the newly installed Oxygen Generation Plant and directed the hospital authorities to augment the existing bed capacity for efficient management of COVID patients.

Pradesh plans to supply over 2 lakh tap water connections across the State

- **Himachal Pradesh** has planned to provide **over two lakh tap water connections** across the State.
- Jal Shakti Ministry said that the Himachal **Pradesh government** has also reiterated its commitment to achieve **Har Ghar Jal target by July next year.**

- The State presented their **Jal Jeevan Mission Annual Action Plan** for the current financial year before the national committee chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti through video conference.
- Himachal Pradesh **has over 17 lakh rural households**, out of which around **76 per cent** have assured tap water supply.
- The Ministry said, since the announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission in August, 2019, **over five lakh tap water connections** has been provided and so far eight thousand 458 villages in the State have been declared Har Ghar Jal.
- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** is a flagship programme of the Central Government being implemented in partnership with the States with the objective to provide tap water connection in every rural household by 2024.

Centre let out in advance over Rs 8873 cr for SDRF to all States

- As a special dispensation, the Centre has released in advance over **8873 crore rupees** for **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** to all the States.
- The States can use **up to 50 percent** of the released amount for COVID-19 containment measures, that include meeting the cost of oxygen generation and storage plants in hospitals, ventilators, strengthening ambulance services, COVID-19 hospitals, thermal scanners, personal protective equipment, testing laboratories and testing kits.
- The **Finance Ministry** has released the amount ahead of the normal schedule of the **1st installment of SDRF**, which is generally released in the month of June.
- However, in relaxation of the normal procedure, not only the release of SDRF has been advanced, the amount has also been released without waiting for the utilization certificate.

NFAI bring out rich treasure of audio recordings on occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Dadasaheb Phalke

- On the occasion of the **151st birth anniversary** of the father of Indian cinema, **Dadasaheb Phalke**, the **National Film Archive of India (NFAI)** has published a rich treasure of audio recordings in the public domain.
- About **8000 minutes of interviews** of veteran film artists from the Indian film industry are now made available on the NFAI website.
- Starting from the **silent era of Indian cinema**, these are the fascinating tales of journeys of actors, technicians, producers, directors and studio owners.
- Conducted mostly in the 1980s, these interviews were recorded as part of the **Oral History Project of NFAI's Research Programme** and features long interviews of pioneering film personalities, narrating the experiences about their life, stories and anecdotes from the world of cinema.

I&B Ministry assemble year-long centenary celebrations of Satyajit Ray

- In homage to the **legendary filmmaker**, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will organize year-long centenary celebrations of late **Satyajit Ray** across India and abroad.
- **Satyaji Ray** was a renowned **filmmaker, writer, illustrator, graphic designer, music composer**.
- He started his career in advertising and found inspiration for his first film, Pather Panchali, while illustrating the **children's version of the novel by Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhyay**.

- The film catapulted him into international fame.
- Ray went on to make other great films such as **Charulata, Agantuk and Nayak**.
- He was also a prolific writer, making the **famous sleuth Feluda and scientist Professor Shonku**, a popular part of Bengali Literature.
- The Government of India honoured him with the **Bharat Ratna**, the **highest civilian award, in 1992**.

Finance Ministry planned to provide additional amount of upto Rs 15,000 cr to States

- The **Finance Ministry** has decided to provide an additional amount of **upto 15 thousand crore rupees** to States as **interest free 50 year loan** for **spending on capital projects**.
- The **Department of Expenditure** has issued fresh guidelines in this regard on the Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure for the **financial year 2021-22**.
- Capital expenditure creates employment, especially for the poor and unskilled, has a high multiplier effect, enhances the future productive capacity of the economy and results in a higher rate of economic growth.
- The Finance Ministry said, despite the adverse financial position of the Centre, it was decided last year to launch a Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure.
- **Under the Scheme, financial assistance** is provided to the State Governments in the **form of 50-year interest free loan**.

MP govt handover Rs 61 crore into accounts of over 6.10 lakh street vendors of state

- **Madhya Pradesh government** transferred **Rs 61 crore** into the accounts of **more than 6 lakh 10 thousand street vendors** of the state through **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
- Meanwhile, the state reported **12,400 new cases while 13,584 patients** have recovered.
- The state's recovery rate has been 83 percent.
- **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan** said that the government is fully committed to remove the difficulties faced by the poor due to covid pandemic.
- Meanwhile, the rate of corona infection is continuously decreasing.
- The state stands at **14th place in the country** in terms of corona infection.
- The number of active cases of corona in the state has come down to 90 thousand 796.
- The average positivity rate of the state has declined to 21.1%.
- Chief Minister Mr Chouhan said that the state is now getting adequate amounts of oxygen.
- On 29 April, the state received **2 MT of oxygen, while the state consumed 467 MT of oxygen**.

Madhya Pradesh govt initiates Corona Warriors Scheme

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the state government has **launched the Corona Warriors Scheme**.
- The government will take **the responsibility of family members of health workers** who have passed away while on Corona duty.
- Their families will be given honorarium of **Rs 50 lakhs by the government**.
- Meanwhile **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has said that the Corona vaccination campaign of people above 18 years of age cannot be started from May 1st due to non-receipt of vaccines from the manufacturing companies.
- The vaccines are likely to be received in the state on **May 3rd**.
- The Covid vaccine will be administered free of cost to those above **18 years of age**.

- Chief Minister Mr Chouhan while reviewing COVID condition directed that new vaccination centers should be established in view of Corona infection, vaccination work should not be done in hospitals.
- So far **80 lakh 66 thousand 980 doses of Corona** vaccines have been administered in the state, out of which **70 lakh 19 thousand 763 first and 10 lakh 47 thousand 217 second doses** have been administered.

Covaxin Prices for State govts reduced from 600 to 400 rupees

- **Bharat Biotech** reduced the cost of **COVAXIN** vaccine for State governments.
- It will now cost **400 rupees per dose for State Governments** instead of the earlier **announced price of 600 rupees per dose**.
- Bharat Biotech has said the decision has been taken recognizing enormous challenges being faced by the public health care system.
- The **COVAXIN will cost 1200 rupees per dose for Private Hospitals**.
- The price of vaccines for **export is 15 to 20 dollar**.
- Earlier, the price of Covishield vaccine for states was also **reduced from 400 to 300 rupees**.

NCW unveiled WhatsApp helpline number for pregnant women

- The **National Commission for Women** has launched a **WhatsApp helpline number for providing emergency medical assistance to pregnant women**.
- The number is **9354954224**.
- The move came after NCW noticed that pregnant women were facing difficulty in accessing medical aid.
- Expectant mothers from across the country can reach out to the Commission through this number which will be functional round the clock.
- A dedicated team is looking after **speedy redressal of grievances**.
- The commission can also be reached on the email **helpatncw@gmail.com**.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad speak for India at G-7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting

- **Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad** represented India at the **G-7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting**.
- He spoke about India's efforts to bring digital inclusion and empower ordinary citizens through the use of technology under the **Digital India programme**.
- The Minister also shared India's views on ensuring trust in the digital ecosystem, securing data privacy of users and creating a safe cyberspace with the **G-7 Digital Ministers**.

Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari initiates mobile COVID RT-PCR test laboratory in Nagpur

- **Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated a mobile **Covid RT-PCR test laboratory in Nagpur**.
- **Operated by Spice Health and Nagpur Municipal Corporation**, this lab has capacity to test 3 thousand samples per day and can give reports within 24 hours.
- He said that this facility will enable patients to diagnose the disease early.

- The Minister, while expecting to lower the time interval for obtaining the test report, said that the lab should work to get the **report within 12 hours**.
- Since this report will be available on mobile, there is no need to come in person here.
- Apart from Nagpur city, COVID samples from districts like Bhandara, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli in East Vidarbha will also be tested in this laboratory.
- In view of the shortage of oxygen in hospitals of Nagpur city, Gadkari informed that **200 Ventilators have arrived and soon 500 oxygen concentrators** will also be provided, all of which will be distributed in rural Vidarbha.
- He expected that this move would ensure uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen in Nagpur.
- The lab will test samples at a **cost of Rs 425**.
- A team of medical technicians is working in this mobile lab.
- The lab is available in the service of Nagpur's citizens from itself.

Maharashtra govt asked everyone on Maharashtra Day celebration in simple manner

- **Maharashtra government** has asked everyone to celebrate **Maharashtra Day** in a simple manner on **May 1**.
- Various restrictions have been imposed in the state under the break the chain guidelines and it will continue till 7 am on **1st May**.
- Due to which, flag hoisting function will only be carried out at the office of district collectors in district headquarters.
- State government has asked that only the Parent Minister of district, Divisional Commissioner, District Collector, Police Commissioner, ZP's CEO, Municipal Commissioner should attend the functions and no other guests should be invited.
- State has clarified that any kind of cultural or social programmes should not be organised at any place.
- It has also urged everyone to follow covid guidelines during the function.

Serum Institute of India drop the price of Covishield from Rs 400 to Rs 300 for states

- Serum Institute of India has dropped the price of **COVISHIELD** vaccine by **Rs 100** for the state government.
- **Serum's CEO Adar Poonawala** said that, as a philanthropic gesture, serum institute will provide COVISHIELD to states in **Rs 300** with immediate effect.
- This will save thousands of crores of state funds going forward.
- He said, this will enable more vaccinations and save countless lives.
- Serum had priced Covishield at **Rs 400 for state government** hospitals and **Rs 600 for private hospitals**.

PM Modi approved one lakh Portable Oxygen Concentrators under PM Cares Fund

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has sanctioned the procurement of **one lakh Portable Oxygen Concentrators from the PM Cares Fund**.
- The decision was taken at a **high-level meeting chaired by Mr. Modi** to discuss the measures needed to improve **Liquid Medical Oxygen Supply for COVID management**.
- The Prime Minister instructed that these Oxygen Concentrators should be procured at the earliest and provided in States with high case burden.

- In addition to the earlier sanctioned **713 Pressure Swing Adsorption, PSA oxygen plants under PM Cares Fund, 500 new PSA oxygen plants have been sanctioned under PM CARES Fund.**
- The PSA plants will augment the supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen at hospitals in district headquarters and Tier 2 cities.
- These **500 PSA plants** will be established with transfer of the indigenous technology developed by **DRDO** and CSIR to the domestic manufacturers.

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga conducts online Yoga training programmes

- **The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga** under **Ayush Ministry** is offering **online Yoga training programmes.**
- These online Yoga training programmes are **health-promoter and anxiety-relieving.**
- They offer a positive pathway to overcome the activity crisis faced by many people who are constrained to stay at home due to the pandemic.
- The **elementary training** course is called the **“Yoga Volunteer Training Course”.**
- Apart from imparting Yoga learning, it also gives the learner an opportunity to be endorsed as a **“Yoga Volunteer”.**
- Information about such **activities is available on the Yoga Portal, ayush.gov.in** and the popular Social Media handles of the Ayush Ministry and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- The Ayush Ministry has said that digital mode for yoga training has enabled the Institute to reach out to thousands of people.
- The Ministry has called upon all stake-holders to take up the role of ambassadors of Yoga and motivate people to take support of Yoga to tide over physical and emotional constraints imposed by the pandemic.

Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor appointed as judge of Chhattisgarh High Court

- The President has appointed **Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor**, Additional Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court, **to be a Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court.**
- It will be with effect from the date she assumes charge of her office.
- A notification in this regard was issued by the **Ministry of Law & Justice.**

DRDO to build 500 Medical Oxygen Plants within 3 months

- **Defence Research & Development Organisation, DRDO** will set up **500 Medical Oxygen Plants** within 3 months under the **PM CARES Fund.**
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed that the **Medical Oxygen Plant technology** developed by DRDO for On-Board Oxygen Generation for Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas will now help in fighting the current crisis of Oxygen for the COVID-19 patients.
- Singh appreciated the DRDO for using its technology to generate much needed oxygen for COVID-19 patients which he said will help in overcoming the present crisis.

Cabinet approves customs co-operation agreement with the UK

- The Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and the **United Kingdom on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.**

- The agreement would provide a legal framework for sharing information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of the two countries.
- It would help in proper application of Customs laws, prevention and investigation of Customs offences and the facilitation of legitimate trade.
- The agreement takes care of **Indian Customs' concerns** and requirements, particularly in the area of exchange of information on the correctness of the Customs value, tariff classification and origin of the goods traded between the two countries.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China unveiled core module of its space station

- **China launched** the core module of **its space station**, kicking off a series of key launch missions that aim to complete the construction of the station by the end of next year.
- The **Long March-5B Y2 rocket**, carrying the **Tianhe module**, blasted off from the **Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site** on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan.
- The **Tianhe module** will act as the management and control hub of the space station Tiangong, meaning Heavenly Palace, with a node that could dock with up to three spacecraft at a time for short stays, or two for long, **Bai Linhou**, deputy chief designer of the space station at the **China Academy of Space Technology (CAST)** said as reported by China's state news agency.

Australian govt vow 1.7 billion Australian dollars in childcare subsidies

- **Australian Government** has pledged **7 billion Australian dollars** in **childcare subsidies** to boost female **participation in the workplace**.
- The spending targets families with more than one child in daycare, boosting subsidies for those with two or more **children aged up to five years-old to a maximum 95% subsidy** for their second and subsequent children.
- **Australian government Treasurer Josh Frydenberg** said that the measures are targeted, and are an investment in making Australian economy stronger and boosting female working participation.
- He added that the treasury estimates the additional spending will encourage up to 300,000 in additional work hours a week – equivalent to **40,000 people** working an extra day a week and boost Australia's economic output by about 1.5 billion Australian Dollars a year.

US nods major solar energy project in California desert

- The **US government** has approved a **major solar energy project** in the **California desert** that will be capable of powering nearly **90,000 homes**.
- The Interior Department said in a statement, that the **550 million dollar Crimson Solar Project** will be sited on **2,000 acres** of federal land west of Blythe, California.
- The announcement comes as **President Joe Biden** has vowed to expand development of renewable energy projects on public lands as part of a broader agenda to fight climate change, create jobs.
- The project will include a battery storage system and will be sited on land designated for renewable energy development by the **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan**.

EU Commission endorse to ease travel restrictions on fully vaccinated tourists

- The **European Union Commission** has recommended easing restrictions on non-essential travel from overseas for those who received the last dose of an **EU-approved vaccine**.
- **EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** that it was time to revive the **EU tourism industry** and for cross-border friendships to rekindle safely.
- The EU currently only allows non-essential travel from seven countries.
- Discussions on the plans will begin.
- The EU has already announced plans for a **digital certificate**, which would cover anyone who is either vaccinated against Covid-19, has a negative test or has recently recovered.

ADB projected growth rate of Bangladesh for FY 2020-21 to 5.5-6.0 per cent

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has cut down the projected **GDP growth rate** of Bangladesh by at least 1 per cent from **its earlier figure of 6.8 per cent for the FY 2020-21**.
- The reduction in the projected figure is attributed to the recent surge in pandemic and lockdowns to control the spread of the Coronavirus.
- However, the growth rate is projected to pick up at **8 per cent in 2021-22 and 7.2 per cent in 2022-23**, said the ADB in its latest **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021** released.
- Country Director of **ADB Manmohan Parkash** said that the government of Bangladesh managed the first wave of COVID 19 in 2020 well with stimulus packages and other economic policies.
- Future economic growth will depend on recovery in domestic economic activities boosted by the implementation of the stimulus packages, rising inflow of remittances and rebound in the global trade.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar speaks in video conferencing with Foreign Minister of Portugal Augusto Santos Silva

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** had a conversation with **Foreign Minister of Portugal Augusto Santos Silva** through video conferencing.
- The Ministers reviewed the preparation for **India-European Union Summit**.
- Dr Jaishankar expressed confidence that both will produce strong outcomes.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

SII endorses accepting Rs 1,732 cr for 11 crore doses of Covishield vaccine

- **Serum Institute of India (SII)** endorsed the government statement that 100 per cent advance of Rs 1,732.50 crore has been released to the company on **April 28 for 11 crore doses of the Covishield vaccine for May, June and July**.
- "We endorse this statement, & the authenticity of the information.
- We have been working closely with the Government of India for the past year & thank it for its support.
- We remain committed to ramping up our vaccine production to save every life we can," SII said.

- The company's response came after the **Health Ministry** in a statement refuted allegations that it has not placed any fresh orders for the **Covishield** vaccine with SII.

G-7 ministers meet to hold first in-person talks in two years

- **Foreign and development ministers** from the **Group of Seven** leading industrial nations will be meeting in London this week in their first face-to-face discussions in two years, with U.S. Secretary of **State Antony Blinken holding talks with British host Dominic Raab**.
- The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and a post-Brexit trade deal are likely to feature in the discussions between **Blinken and Raab**.
- A possible prisoner exchange deal with Iran is also likely to feature in their talks.
- Speculation has mounted that the United States and the U.K. are in discussions with Iran over the release of prisoners, which could see the release of **British-Iranian woman Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**.

PepsiCo Foundation partners with SEEDS to set up COVID care centres, launch vaccination drive

- **PepsiCo Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, said it has partnered with **not-for-profit organisation, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)** to launch a community **COVID-19 vaccination drive** and set up **COVID care centres**.
- Under the partnership, over 1 lakh vaccines doses will be provided to communities, to be administered through the local healthcare system, while five COVID care centres will be set up for three months that will **be equipped with beds and medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders**, PepsiCo India said in a statement.
- Moreover, over **100 oxygen concentrators** will be provided to the Central government for distribution to various government hospitals across states, it added.

RBI urges Rs.3 crore penalty on ICICI Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **3 crore** on **ICICI Bank** for non-compliance with its directions in the matter of shifting of securities from one category to another.
- The central bank, in a statement, said the monetary penalty has been imposed on the Bank for contravention of certain directions contained in its Master Circular on **'Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio by Banks.'**
- "This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act),**" RBI said in a statement.
- This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers, the statement added.

IDBI Bank mulls now investing in NARCL

- **IDBI Bank** is considering picking up a stake in the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** which is being set up jointly by banks to clean up their books.

- **Rakesh Sharma, MD & CEO at IDBI Bank** said that large public sector and private sector banks will be investing in NARCL, with each bank taking **less than 10 per cent stake**.
- So, IDBI Bank will also consider investing in the company, Sharma said.
- He observed that consortium loans (**500 crore and above**) will be **transferred to NARCL**.
- The quantum of stressed loans to be transferred to NARCL will be a reasonably good number so that the bank is able to reduce its gross non-performing assets, he added.

Airtel Payments Bank: 6 percent interest on deposits of over Rs 1 lakh

- **Airtel Payments Bank** announced that customers with savings account deposits of over **Rs 1 lakh** will get an increased interest rate of 6 per cent per annum.
- The payments bank's offer comes after the RBI implemented guidelines for an enhanced **day-end savings limit of Rs 2 lakh for payments banks**.
- Airtel Payments Bank currently has over **5 crore** engaged users across its operations, its statement said, adding that the interest rate for accounts with less than **Rs 1 lakh deposit** will be at **2.5 per cent per annum**.

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

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

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

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has **projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound strongly to 11 per cent in current fiscal** on the back of continued economic recovery boosted by increased public investment, vaccine rollout and surge in domestic demand.
- The IMF forecast pitches India as the fastest-growing major economy and the only one expected to record a double-digit recovery from pandemic-hit 2020. China's economy is seen growing 8.4% in 2021 and 5.6% in 2022.

Govt gives nod to Telecoms for conducting trials for use & applications of 5G technology

- **Government** has given permissions to **Telecom Service Providers** for conducting trials for use and applications of **5G technology**.
- The applicants include **Bharti Airtel Limited, Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, Vodafone Idea Limited and MTNL**.
- These **Telecom Service Providers, TSP** have tied up with original equipment manufacturers and technology providers which are **Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and C-DOT**.
- In addition, **Reliance JioInfocomm Limited** will also be conducting trials using its **own indigenous technology**.
- The Communication Ministry said, at present, the duration of the trials is for a **period of six months**.
- This includes a time period of 2 months for procurement and setting up of the equipment.
- The permission letters specify that each TSP will have to conduct trials in rural and semi-urban settings also in addition to urban settings so that the benefit of **5G Technology proliferates across the country**.
- The objectives of conducting 5G trials include testing 5G spectrum propagation characteristics especially in the Indian context, testing of indigenous technology and to test 5G phones and devices.

L&T will soon deliver 22 oxygen generators to hospitals across India

- **Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** said it will soon deliver **22 oxygen generators** to various hospitals across India to address the severe crunch of oxygen for **COVID-19 patients** in the country “L&T will soon start delivering **22 oxygen generators** to various hospitals in India, where the scarcity is most acute.
- These units will absorb air from the atmosphere before converting it into medical-grade oxygen and pumping it into pre-existing pipes in the hospitals,” the company said in a regulatory filing.
- L&T said of these, the parts of the first tranche of nine equipment will **reach India by May 9**.
- These will be progressively **delivered from May 15 to hospitals** that are in acute need and do not possess required infrastructure to receive bulk oxygen supply, the company added.

RBI governor announced that 2nd purchase of G-secs worth Rs 35,000 crore under G-SAP 1.0 on May 20

- **RBI** said the **second purchase of government securities worth Rs 35,000 crore under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0)** will be done on **May 20** for an orderly evolution of the yield curve as a fresh COVID-19 wave threatens to hit the economy.
- The **first purchase of Rs 25,000 crore last month received enthusiastic response** from the market, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing slew of measures to provide relief to various segments of the economy hit by the second wave of the pandemic.
- RBI will do a second **purchase of government securities (G-secs) aggregating Rs 35,000 cr in two weeks**, he said.

- To provide clarity on its **bond-buying programme** through **open market operations (OMO)**, Das had announced Rs 1 lakh crore target for the first quarter under the new instrument called G-SAP 1.0. On the rate of price rise, he said, food and fuel inflation have pushed core inflation.
- Expected normal monsoon forecast should help contain food price inflation, he added.

Accenture vow USD 25 million for pandemic relief efforts in India

- **Global IT and professional services company Accenture** said it has **pledged USD 25 million (about Rs 185 crore) for pandemic relief** efforts in the country.
- This is in addition to the company's ongoing investments in people and communities, **Rekha M Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India**, said in a blog post on LinkedIn.
- Local and global efforts are already underway including **providing ventilators, oxygen concentrators, and medical kits**, she added.
- "Accenture stands in solidarity with India.
- We have made a fresh pledge of **USD 25 million (about Rs 185 crore) for pandemic relief efforts** in addition to ongoing investments in our people and communities.
- Additionally, we will be augmenting existing hospitals with **beds and ICUs and setting up portable hospitals**," she noted.

Bajaj Healthcare rollout generic favipiravir tablets for COVID-19 treatment

- **Drug firm Bajaj Healthcare** announced the launch of its **antiviral Favipiravir** tablets under the brand name '**Favijaj**' used for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 infections in the country.
- The company has received approval from India's drug regulator **DCGI to manufacture and market** the tablets, **Bajaj Healthcare** said in a BSE filing.
- "We hope the availability of an effective treatment such as **Favijaj** will considerably ease the pressure and offer patients much-needed and timely therapy options," **Bajaj Healthcare Joint MD Anil Jain**
- The company has successfully developed the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and the formulation for favipiravir through **its own in-house R&D team, Bajaj Healthcare**
- Shares of Bajaj Healthcare closed at **Rs 583.05 per scrip** on BSE, up steep 10.85 percent from its previous close.

Samsung vow \$5mn, Paytm to set up oxygen plants to support COVID-19 relief efforts

- **Tech giant Samsung** said it has pledged **USD 5 million (Rs 37 crore)**, while **Paytm Foundation** intends to **set up oxygen plants in 12-13 cities** as part of efforts to support India's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Samsung will donate USD 3 million to the **Centre and states of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**, and **provide USD 2 million worth of medical supplies, including 100 Oxygen Concentrators, 3,000 Oxygen Cylinders, and one million LDS syringes (to Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu)**, a statement said.
- **LDS or Low Dead Space** syringes minimize the amount of drug left in the device after injection, optimizing vaccine usage.

- The technology has demonstrated up to **20 percent greater efficiency** and if existing syringes were to deliver one million doses, LDS syringes could deliver **2 million doses** with the same amount of vaccine.
- Samsung has helped the manufacturer of these syringes increase production capacity, the statement said.

Serum Institute CEO to invest over USD 300 million in UK, may make inoculations

- **Serum Institute of India** is set to invest in facilities in Britain and could even manufacture inoculations in the **UK in future, Prime Minister Boris Johnson**
- Johnson's Downing Street office said the **GBP 240 million (USD 334 million) projects** would include a sales office, "clinical trials, research and development and possibly manufacturing of vaccines".
- The **Serum Institute of India (SII)** is the world's largest vaccine maker by volume, and has been at the forefront of producing the **lower-cost AstraZeneca coronavirus**
- SII has also begun phase one trials in the UK of a one-dose nasal vaccine for coronavirus.
- Downing Street said the vaccine maker's plans were part of a wider package of trade and investment deals with India worth GBP 1 billion that it expects to create over **6,500 jobs**.
- It was announced ahead of **virtual talks between Johnson and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Despite pandemic, TMB attains the impressive performance in FY21

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

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

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

Indian Bank and BSNL signed an MoU

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

Facebook to introduces vaccine finder tool on mobile app in India

- **Facebook** said it is partnering with the **Indian government to roll out a vaccine finder tool** on its mobile app in India, which will help people identify places nearby to get inoculated.
- The **social media giant** had, earlier this week, announced a **USD 10 million grant for emergency response efforts** for COVID-19 situation in the country.
- “Partnering with the **Government of India**, **Facebook** will begin rolling out its Vaccine Finder tool on the Facebook mobile app in India available in **17 languages to help people identify places** nearby to get the vaccine,” Facebook said in a post on the platform.
- In this tool, vaccine centre locations and their hours of operation have been provided by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 15.22 crore.
- Also, more than 2.45 crore people have registered themselves on the **Co-WIN digital platform** ahead of the Phase-3 of the COVID-19 vaccination for those above 18 years that is set to start from May 1.

Sidbi unveils loan products for oxygen companies

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi)** has launched **two quick-delivery schemes** to fund businesses in the **micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME)** segment that are helping combat the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- These schemes envisage 100 per cent funding up to an amount of **Rs 2 crore to a MSME unit** at an interest rate of **5-6 per cent per annum**, within 48 hours after receipt of all the documents or information.
- Borrowers can put in their applications online.
- The principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of **MSMEs has launched SHWAS (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of Covid)** and **AROG (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during Covid)**.

Agriculture Minister reported Target of food grains production for 2021-22 is 307 million tonnes

- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** has said that the **target of foodgrains production for 2021-22 is 307 million tonnes**.

- Mr Tomar said while addressing the **National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2021**.
- He said, higher production targets for pulses and oilseeds are important to reduce our dependence on import and to achieve the dream of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- During the conference, the discussion was held to review and assess the preparedness for management of Kharif crops and ensuring availability of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, machinery and their repositioning at Block levels.
- Mr Tomar said, agriculture sector has shown its resilience amid the adversities of COVID-19 pandemic.
- He said, Agriculture and allied sectors have registered a continuous growth in GDP contribution.
- As per **Economic Survey 2020-21**, the share of agriculture in GDP increased from **8 per cent in 2019-20 to 19.9 per cent in 2020-21**.

Tata group gets CCI approval for BigBasket deal

- The **Tata group's foray** into the India's growing **e-grocery market** has been sealed with the Competition Commission of India giving its nod to its \$1 billion acquisition of
- In a statement, the CCI said that it has given its approval for **Tata Digital, a subsidiary of Tata Sons, acquiring 63.4 per cent acquisition of Supermarket Grocery Supplies Ltd, a B2B entity that owns online retail firm BigBasket**.
- The deal, sources say, values BigBasket at over \$1.8 billion and is likely to provide an exit to both majority and minority stakeholders in the internet company, such as **Chinese internet giant Alibaba**.
- Tata Digital is also in the process of taking on the likes of **Vijay Shekhar Sharma's Paytm** in developing India's first 'super-app' and is already in talks to acquire e-pharma start-up 1mg.

Uber declared cash incentives for vaccinating 150,000 drivers

- **Uber** unveiled a **Rs 18.5 crore (USD 2.5 million)** initiative to get **150,000 drivers** on its platform vaccinated over the **next six months**.
- The company said in a statement, car, auto and Moto drivers on its platform showing valid digital vaccination certificates would be eligible for **Rs 400 for each of their two Covid vaccine shots**.
- **Head of Supply & Driver Operations, Uber India South Asia, Pavan Vaish**, said, "We will soon begin communicating this initiative to drivers across all our product lines, and encourage them to take up the offer."

Govt acquires over 258 lakh tonnes of Wheat benefiting more than 25 lakh farmers so far

- Government has said that the procurement of **Wheat in Rabi Marketing Season 2021-22** is going on smoothly in **States and Union Territories**.
- The Consumer Affairs Ministry said, over **258 lakh tonnes** of Wheat has been procured in the ongoing Rabi Marketing Season, benefitting **over 25 lakh farmers**.
- The procurement of Wheat has recently commenced in **Rabi Marketing Season** in the **States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, MadhyaPradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir at Minimum Support Price**.

- The Ministry said that Paddy procurement in the ongoing season **Kharif 2020-21** is continuing smoothly in the procuring States with purchase of over **715 lakh tonnes** of paddy against the last year corresponding purchase of 651 lakh tonnes.
- The Ministry said, more than one crore seven lakh farmers have already been benefited from the ongoing **Kharif Marketing Season procurement Operations with MSP value** of more than one lakh 35 thousand crore rupees.

IRDAI demands insurers to settle Covid related cashless insurance claims within 1 hour

- **Insurance regulator IRDAI** has directed insurers to approve **Covid-related cashless claims within 60 minutes** of receiving appropriate documents from the claimant.
- IRDAI announced the new rules after the Delhi **High Court** directed it to inform insurers to hasten the process of cashless claims so that hospital beds can be freed **quickly for new patients**.
- IRDAI also said that the decision on authorization for cashless treatment for COVID-19 claims shall be communicated to the hospital within a period of 60 minutes from the time of receipt of authorization request.
- Decision on the final discharge of patients covered in COVID-19 claims shall be communicated to the network provider within a **period of one hour** from the time of receipt of the final bill along with all necessary requirements from the hospital.
- It was earlier reported that network hospitals are turning back Covid patients with cashless insurance.

Hero MotoCorp unveils virtual showroom to sell vehicles amid coronavirus pandemic

- The country's top two-wheeler maker **Hero MotoCorp** said it has launched a virtual showroom feature to help customers buy its motorcycles and scooters through a seamless **digital experience amid rising in COVID-19 cases** in the country.
- The virtual showroom would enable customers to discover, engage and purchase the company's motorcycles and scooters digitally, **Hero MotoCorp** said in a statement.
- Providing a **360-degree view of the space and the product**, the feature allows customers to easily browse and explore the design, features, and technical details of each model right from the comfort of their homes, it added.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal pledges Rs 150 crore to help India fight against COVID-19

- **Vedanta said its Chairman Anil Agarwal** has pledged **Rs 150 crore** to help India in its fight against deadly COVID-19 second wave.
- The amount is over and above **Rs 201 crore** that was spent by Vedanta Group in 2020, it said in a statement.
- **"Anil Agarwal has pledged Rs 150 crore** to help the country in its fight against the rapidly spreading second wave of COVID-19," Vedanta said.
- The company will create **additional capacity of 1,000 critical care beds in 10 cities** across the country in an effort to support the Centre and states in **this challenging time**.
- The critical care beds will be placed in state-of-the-art **'field hospitals'** which will be attached to recognized and reputed hospitals.
- Each facility will have 100 beds in an air-conditioned tent with full electrical support and designed specifically for COVID care.

ICICI Bank unveils contactless banking platform for merchants

- **India's second largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank**, announced the launch of a comprehensive digital banking service that aims to empower **over two crore offline and online retailers** in the country.
- According to data from the Reserve Bank of India, the market for merchant services is expected to **increase 45 per cent to Rs 31 lakh crore by financial year 2022**, and ICICI bank intends to grab a large share of this market with its new offering, it said.
- "We believe that the self-employed and the MSME segment form the backbone of the Indian economy.
- There are over two crore merchants in the country with approximately **\$780 billion** in value of transactions in 2020.

Resolution to appoint Samit Ghosh as MD and CEO, Ujjivan Financial Services not approved by requisite share of votes

- A special resolution to appoint **Samit Ghosh as chief executive officer of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd.** was defeated as it **didn't get the requisite share of votes.**
- Ghosh, founder of Ujjivan, is currently **non-executive chairman.**
- According to details available on the stock exchange, the proposal for appointment Ghosh only received 70.5% votes in favour.
- Since this was a special resolution, it needs **75% votes in favour to be passed.**
- 75% of votes from the public non-institutional category were against the resolution. 13.87% of votes from the public institution category were also against the resolution.
- A special resolution to **reappoint Abhijit Sen** as independent director for a period of five years was also defeated with 30% shareholders rejecting the proposal.
- The major shareholders of Ujjivan Financial Services included Aberdeen Standard Investments, NewQuest Asia Investments, International Finance Corporation, among others.
- The public non-institutional investor category includes high net worth investors.
- Ghosh is the founder of Ujjivan Financial Services, which started operations as a non-bank microfinance lender in 2005.
- In **2017**, it launched **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank after getting a licence from the RBI.**
- Subsequently, the lending business was transferred to the bank and Ujjivan Financial Services is now a holding company.

Govt frond GPF, other non-government PF interest rate unchanged at 7.1%

- Government has left the **GPF and other non-government PF** interest rates unchanged at **1 percent.**
- **The Department of Economic Affairs** said that GPF and other Special Deposit Scheme interest rates of 7.1 percent will be applicable **for April to June quarter of the current financial year.**
- The government has decided to maintain the status quo on **General Provident Fund (GPF)** and other non-government PF, gratuity funds interest rate at 7.1 percent.
- The deposits made under the Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident, Superannuation and Gratuity Funds will also bear interest at **1 percent with effect from April 1, 2021.**

- The decision is in-line with its earlier decision to keep interest rate on small savings schemes such as **Public Provident Fund (PPF)**, NSC, etc unchanged for the current quarter.

LinkedIn list of best workplaces for 2021: top spot bags by TCS, Cognizant, Accenture

- IT services companies including **Tata Consultancy Services, Accenture, Cognizant, Infosys, Wipro** are some of the top workplaces in India in 2021, as per a survey by professional networking platform, LinkedIn.
- With the rapid acceleration of digitization undertaken by many sectors, the IT firms have provided a positive revenue guidance outlook for FY22 and expect a **double-digit growth and expansion in operating margins**.
- The IT service majors have also stated that the hiring momentum will remain strong during this fiscal with skill-based talent in demand especially as the companies grow their digital businesses.
- **As per the LinkedIn survey**, the emergence of the remote workplace model has especially made **the tech services firm a favourite among the employees** since these companies have said that they are looking at a permanent hybrid model in the future.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION NEWS

Stellantis in India appointed Roland Bouchara as CEO

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

Suprajit Engineering appointed US professional, James Ryan

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

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

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

RM Sundaram appointed as Director of Indian Institute of Rice Research

- **Raman Meenakshi Sundaram** has been appointed as **Director of Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR)**, an arm of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**.
- Prior to this elevation, he was working as **Principal Scientist (Biotechnology)** at the **institute's Crop Improvement Section**.
- "He put in 23 years at the **institute**."
- He is a scientist of global repute working in the **area of rice biotechnology, molecular breeding, and genomics** and **has over 160 research papers** in national and international journals of repute and has published several books, book chapters and popular articles.
- Sundaram's research accomplishments include the development of one of the first biotechnology products in rice, Improved Samba Mahsuri, which is high yielding, is of **fine-grain type**, has a low glycaemic index and is highly resistant to bacterial blight, it said.

Ola Electric appointed Wayne Burgess as Head of Vehicle Design

- **Ola Electric** announced the **appointment of Wayne Burgess as Head of Vehicle Design** for its entire product range, including scooters, bikes, cars and more.
- Commenting on the appointment, **Bhavish Aggarwal, Chairman and Group CEO, Ola**, said, "**Wayne** is a fantastic addition to our leadership team and will bring global appeal and design aesthetic to our industry-changing electric vehicles.
- As the world moves to EVs, the vehicle form factors will be fundamentally reimaged.
- Wayne's expertise in designing some of the most legendary vehicles will also help bring these new form factors to consumers.
- I look forward to collaborating with him to build the most iconic range of EVs in the world."

Government appointed Rabi Sankar as next RBI deputy governor

- The government has appointed **RBI Executive Director T Rabi Sankar** as the fourth deputy governor of the central bank.

- **Sankar fills the vacancy created by the retirement of BP Kanungo** on April 2, after completing a one-year extension.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** cleared his appointment for three-year tenure or till he superannuates, whichever is earlier.
- The **other three deputy governors** are **Michael D Patra**, who heads the all-important monetary policy department; **Mukesh Kumar Jain**, the commercial banker-turned-central banker; and **Rajeshwar Rao**.
- Sankar's portfolio may include the departments headed by Kanungo, which included fintech, information technology, payments system and risk monitoring.
- He had joined the central bank as a research officer in September 1990.

Tripurari Sharan appointed as new Chief Secretary of Bihar

- Senior **IAS officer Tripurari Sharan** has been appointed as **the new Chief Secretary of Bihar**.
- Sharan is an IAS officer of 1985 batch of Bihar cadre.
- The post of Chief Secretary was lying vacant following death of **Arun Kumar Singh who passed away due to COVID complications**.

BBB nominates Harsha Bangari for MD post at Exim Bank

- The **BanksBoard Bureau (BBB)** has **recommended Harsha Bangari** to the position of Managing Director in **Export-Import Bank** of India.
- Currently, **Bangari** is Deputy Managing Director (DMD) in **Exim Bank**.

DCB Bank invests in equity in India INX and India ICC

- **DCB Bank** announced that it has **acquired equity stake in two companies based at Gift City IFSC at Gandhinagar**.
- The Bank has **invested a sum of Rs. 5 crore** representing approximately **89% of post paid up capital of India International Exchange (IFSC)**.
- The Bank has also invested a sum of Rs.5 crore representing approximately 4.93% of post paid up capital of India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) (India ICC).
- **India INX is India's first exchange in International Finance Services Centre (IFSC)**.
- **India INX and India ICC are promoted by BSE (BSE)** and are the leading exchange and clearing corporation in the GIFT City IFSC at Gandhinagar.

About DCB Bank :

- Headquarters: **Maharashtra**
- CEO: **Murali M. Natrajan**
- Founded: **1930**

About Gift City :

- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) is a **business district near Gandhinagar in Gujarat, India**.
- It is **India's first operational greenfield smart city and international financial services centre**, which the Government of Gujarat promoted as a greenfield project, The

city is located on the banks of the **Sabarmati River** and is around **12 km (7.5 mi)** from **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport**

Kotak Mahindra Group declared new chiefs for insurance business

- **Kotak Mahindra Group** announced two key appointments for their **insurance businesses**.
- **Mahesh Balasubramanian** will be the **Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance** and **Suresh Agarwal** will be the **Managing Director and CEO of Kotak General Insurance**.
- These appointments will be effective **May 1, 2021**.
- These moves come as **G Murlidhar** completes a 10-year term as the **Managing Director of Kotak Life** and **superannuates on 30th April 2021**.
- He is one of the founding members of Kotak Life, and has played a pivotal role in not only growing the company to be profitable but also establishing it as a very high quality standard company, making Kotak Life amongst the leading Life Insurance companies in India.

Samir Seksaria appointed as CFO of TCS

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** veteran **Samir Seksaria** took over as **Chief Financial Officer** of the **country's largest IT services firm**.
- He **replaces V Ramakrishnan** who retired a day earlier.
- Seksaria started **his career in 1999** and spent his early years in consulting assignments involving regulatory compliance and M&A spin-offs, amongst others.
- He moved to **Corporate Finance in 2004** and played a critical role in the company's IPO.
- Prior to being appointed as CFO, he was heading the financial analytics, planning and business finance functions.

Industries appoints Subir Chakraborty as new MD, CEO

- **Subir Chakraborty** has taken over as **MD and CEO** of the storage battery major **Exide Industries**.
- He has replaced **Gautam Chatterjee**, who has now been appointed as **'whole-time advisor'** to the board of the company from May 1, 2021, for a period of three years.
- Chatterjee, a veteran in the company for the last **39 years**, was **reappointed as MD & CEO** for two years from May 1, 2019 till April 30, 2021.
- He will also cease to be a member of the board of directors of the company with effect from May 1.
- Based on the recommendation of the **nomination and remuneration committee (NRC)** and subject to approval of the shareholders, the **board of directors approved the appointment of Chakraborty as MD and CEO**, Exide said in a stock exchange filing.

Vikram Solar appointed Milind Kulkarni as CTO

- **Vikram Solar** said it has appointed **Milind Kulkarni** as its **Chief Technical officer (CTO)**.
- Kulkarni's role will be critical in product and technology development and manufacturing as well as design and process development, while supporting the company's expansion and achieving technological breakthroughs, it said in a statement.

- With a **PhD in chemical engineering and a master's degree in business administration** from **Washington University** in St. Louis, he has a diverse experience spanning 24 years in the fields of technology development and deployment, product development, application engineering and pre-sales.
- He has rich experience in the **renewables sector** and is also experienced in various leadership roles across semiconductor technology and solar energy, it added.

Niraj succeeds Rahul as Bajaj Auto chairman

- **Rahul Bajaj**, one of the most successful business leaders in the country, has finally decided to hang his boots at Bajaj Auto, the company he nurtured and steered to **one of the leading firms in two and three-wheeler space**.
- The **non-executive chairman of the Pune-based two and three-wheeler maker** has tendered his resignation which would come into effect from close of business hours on **April 30, 2021**, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing.
- In place of Rahul Bajaj, the company has appointed **Niraj Bajaj as Chairman with effect from May 1, 2021**, it added.
- Rahul Bajaj would continue as Chairman Emeritus of the company for a term of five years with effect from May 1, 2021.
- As a non-executive Chairman of the company, he has been at the helm of the company **since 1972** and the group for five decades.

Airtel Africa appointed Olusegun (Segun) Ogunsanya new MD, CEO

- **Airtel Africa named Olusegun (Segun) Ogunsanya, MD and CEO of Nigeria as the successor of Raghunath Mandava**, as the **new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** for Africa business,, following Mandava's announcement to retire.
- **Segun Ogunsanya** will join the Board of Airtel Africa with effect from October 1, 2021, the **Sunil Mittal**-driven telco in a statement said.
- Additionally, the telecom operator has appointed **Chief Financial Officer Jaideep Paul as an Executive Director** who would join the Board of Directors with effect from June 1, 2021.
- Airtel shares were 0.15% down at **Rs 543.50 on BSE**.

Axis Bank board gave nod to re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO

- **Private sector lender Axis Bank** said its board has approved the **re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry** as its **Managing Director and CEO** for three years with **effect from January 1, 2022**.
- "The board of directors of the bank considered and approved the proposal relating to re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank, for a further **period of 3 years**, with **effect from January 1, 2022 up to December 31, 2024**," Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.
- The appointment will be subject to the approval of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and shareholders of the bank, the filing added.
- Chaudhry was appointed as **Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Axis Bank** for a period of three years, with effect from January 1, 2019 up to December 31, 2021.

Tata Motors appointed Martin Uhlarik as global design head

- **Tata Motors has appointed Martin Uhlarik as the new Global Design Head of the Indian car manufacturer.**
- The announcement came soon after its outgoing global design Chief Pratap Bose decided to step down.
- Uhlarik has been previously working as the Head of Design for **Tata Motors European Technical Centre (TMETC).**
- He comes with an **experience of 27 years working for different carmakers over the time.**
- He had joined Tata Motors back in **2016** as the **Head of Design in the United Kingdom.**
- He is also credited with the development of the Impact 3 generation of vehicles.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw designated the board of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

- **Biocon Ltd announced** that its executive **Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** has been appointed to the **Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK)**, a world leader in cancer treatment and research, based in New York, the US.
- She is among the 52 members on the board and will serve for a term of three years with effect from **April 14, 2021, the Bengaluru-headquartered company said in a statement.**
- Mazumdar-Shaw is **the first woman of Indian nationality** to be appointed for this role, it said.
- MSK is ranked as one of the top two hospitals for cancer care in the US for more than 30 years and among the nation's top pediatric hospitals for cancer care, according to US News & World Report, the statement said.

Secretary, DoE in Finance Ministry T V Somanathan take charge as new Finance Secretary

- **IAS Officer T V Somanathan** who is serving as **Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry has been designated as the Finance Secretary.**
- He is a 1987 batch IAS Officer of Tamil Nadu Cadre.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved.

Border Roads Organisation appointed First Women Executive Engineer to command Road Construction Company

- Taking a step in the direction of women empowerment, the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** appointed its first women officer to command a Road Construction Company (RCC).
- Announcing the appointment, the Army in a statement said, "Feels proud to announce the **First woman Officer Executive Engineer (Civil) Vaishali S Hiwase** for taking over as Officer Commanding of a Road Construction Company that is responsible to provide connectivity of an Indo China Border Road."
- **Vaishali who is from Wardha, Maharashtra** is an M. Tech and was posted in a demanding tenure at Kargil, Ladakh prior to her taking over the command to undertake this challenge of cutting through the rocks.

Guidance Bureau Executive Director appointed for monitor Covid hospitals

- In a bid to monitor preventive measures taken against the spread of **Covid-19**, the **State government** has appointed **Dr Darez Ahamed**, Executive Director of Guidance Bureau, to monitor private healthcare institutions, Covid hospitals, medical college hospitals and listed hospitals which have the coverage of **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme** in and around Chennai, along with **MA Siddique**, **Secretary of Commercial Taxes**, who has been nominated as special coordinator for Greater Chennai Corporation.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

NTIPRIT conducts webinar on NavIC Opportunities for the Telecom Industry

- On April 28, 2021, National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), the apex training institute of Department of Telecommunications, Government of India conducted a webinar.
- The topic of the webinar is "NavIC Opportunities for the Telecom Industry" in collaboration with ISRO and Telecom Industry.

About NaviC:

- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system **established and maintained by ISRO**.
- It **covers India and a region extending up to 1,500 km beyond Indian mainland (primary coverage area)**.
- It provides position accuracy better than 20 m (20) and timing accuracy better than 50 ns (20).
- The actual measurements demonstrate accuracy better than 5 m and 20 ns respectively.

About NTIPRIT:

- National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT) is the **apex training institute of the Department of Telecommunications**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOURS

Singer Pink bags Icon Award at Billboard Music Awards

- **Singer Pink** will be **honoured** with the **Icon Award** at the **2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs)**.
- The award aims to recognize artists who have achieved success on the **Billboard charts and left an indelible impact on music**.
- Pink joins previous **honourees that include Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks**.
- "As a little girl, I always dreamed about being a singer and sharing my love of music with the world," the 41-year-old singer, who is the youngest recipient to date, said in a statement.

- “Years later, to receive the Billboard Music Awards Icon Award is hard to fathom! I feel so honoured to join the ranks of music idols like Cher, Garth Brooks, Janet Jackson and Stevie Wonder.

Odisha CM announces International award in memory of Manoj Das

- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced ‘**Manoj Das International Literary Award**’ in memory of the great litterateur who passed away at a hospital in Puducherry on April 27.
- The **international award with prize money of Rs 10 lakh will be given to Odia writers for their creative writing in English every year.**
- The Chief Minister also announced ‘**Manoj Kishore Sahitya Prativa Samman**’ to **create interest among youths for literature.**
- The award will be given at the high school level for original creative writing in **Odia and English.**
- The **prize money** for the awards will be **Rs 1 lakh each.**
- Similarly, the ancestral house of Das will be taken over by the State government and converted to ‘**Manmath-Manoj**’ memorial as per a proposal of family members in memory of the two illustrious brothers, eminent historian Manmath Nath Das and legendary writer Manoj Das.

Biocon Biologics’ new monoclonal antibodies facility won ISPE’s 2021 award

- **Biocon Biologics’ New Monoclonal Antibodies Manufacturing Facility Wins ISPE’s 2021 Facility of the Year Honorable Mention Award.**
- Bengaluru, India; April 28, 2021: **Biocon Biologics**, a fully integrated ‘**pure play**’ biosimilars company and a subsidiary of **Biocon Ltd.**
- Biocon Biologics, subsidiary of Biocon, announced that it has been awarded with the 2021 **Facility of the Year Award (FOYA)** from the **International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE).**
- The company received an Honorable Mention award for its monoclonal antibodies drugs substances manufacturing facility located at Biocon Park, Bengaluru, a 100-acre integrated complex with all infrastructure and utilities.

Production manager Swati Thiyagarajan on Oscar Award-winning documentary ‘My Octopus Teacher’

- **Environmental filmmaker Craig Foster** and his team scarcely imagined that their documentary, **My Octopus Teacher**, would travel around the world, let alone win the **highest honours at BAFTA and the Oscars.**
- Craig, who was supposedly going through a rough patch in his life, found hope in the form of an octopus in the **Great African Sea Forest.**
- His wife, and **production manager of My Octopus Teacher, Swati Thiyagarajan**, shares that his daily encounters with the creature got him back on track, made him feel closer to his family once again, and now, have helped win **an Academy Award.**
- Swati believes that acquisition of the film by Netflix convinced them that they were onto something.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU's AND AGREEMENTS

India, UK elevate bilateral ties to adopt comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Roadmap 2030

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his **British counterpart Boris Johnson** have adopted an ambitious '**Roadmap 2030**' to elevate bilateral ties to a '**Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**'.
- The Roadmap will pave the way for a **deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years** in the areas of people to people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health.
- In a **Virtual Summit** held, the two leaders discussed the Covid19 situation and ongoing cooperation in the fight against the pandemic, including the successful partnership on vaccines.
- **Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Johnson** for the prompt medical assistance provided by the UK in the wake of the severe second wave of Covid19 in India.
- Prime Minister Johnson appreciated India's role in extending assistance to the UK and other countries over the last year, including by way of supply of pharmaceuticals and vaccines.

Mountains to Mangroves – A Journey of 1000 Kilometers Webinar Launched

- **On April 24, 2021, The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar** series held its **86th webinar titled Mountains to Mangroves: A Journey of 1000 Kilometers**.
- The DekhoApnaDesh Webinar Series is **presented in technical partnership with the National e Governance Department, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- The objective of these Webinars is **to promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations**.
- The Webinars include glimpses of the culture, heritage, handicrafts and cuisine of the destinations, in addition to the tourist spots. Concepts of Responsible Tourism, Accessible Tourism, Wildlife, Trekking, Bicycling and MotorCycle Tours, etc. have also been promoted through the Webinars.
- Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer, tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.
- The Webinar was presented by **Shri Debajit Dutta, Director &CEO of Impression Tourism Services (India) Private Limited**, expert in experiential tours, adventure tours and offers voluntary Project services & community tourism initiatives as a part of sustainable tourism practice.

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

- **Switch Mobility**Ltd, an electric vehicle arm of Ashok Leyland Ltd, and **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** has entered into an agreement for establishing a **sustainable logistics network**.

- Under the arrangement, TVS Supply Chain Solutions will operate **1,000 e-light commercial vehicles** through their partners for its logistics operations provided by **Switch Mobility**.
- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions** has over two decades of experience in providing supply chain solutions across the globe through their fully integrated service offerings.

Assam Govt signs two MOUs with Bhutan & Nagaland

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

JSW Renew Energy sign pact with SECI for selling 540 MW green energy

- **JSW Renew Energy**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **JSW Future Energy**, has **signed** agreement with Solar **Energy** Corporation of India to **sell 540 MW** of the overall awarded capacity of **810 MW**.
- **JSW Future Energy** had won the wind **power** project by bidding **3 per kwh**, sources said.
- JSW Energy marked its entry into the wind power generation sector by winning **810 MW projects** in the auction conducted by **SECI in August 2020**.
- Sources aware of the developments said talks are currently underway between the company and SECI to sign a PPA for the remaining capacity won in the auction.
- The company was awarded the wind project against its quote of **Rs 3 per unit**.

Motilal Oswal PE Acquired over Rs 185 cr in Fincare Small Finance Bank

- **On May 03, 2021, Motilal Oswal Private Equity** picked up a minority stake in **Fincare Small Finance Bank** through a **secondary acquisition worth around Rs 185 crore (USD 25 million)**.
- The investment is through India Business Excellence Fund-III, a **fund managed and advised by Motilal PE**.

About Fincare Small Finance Bank :

- The Bengaluru-based **MFI-turned small finance bank started operations in Jul 2017**.
- Before converting into a small finance bank, Fincare Small Finance Bank largely conducted business from two entities – Disha Microfin focused on the western region and the south-focused Future Financial Services.
- Establishment : **2017**
- Headquarters : **Bangalore, Karnataka**
- MD & CEO : **Rajeev Yadav**
- **Motilal Oswal Private Equity** currently **manages three growth capital funds** under the India Business Excellence Fund labels, which are focused on providing growth capital to mid-market companies across sectors.

About MOPE :

- Establishment : **2006**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO : **Vishal Tulsyan**

CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

DRDO develops single crystal blades

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed **single crystal blades** that are **used in helicopter engines**.
- It has **supplied 60 of them to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** for the company's **indigenous helicopter development program**.
- This single crystal blades technology has been **developed by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL)**, one of the DRDO's laboratories.
- The DRDO will develop a **total five sets (300 blades) of single crystal blades**.
- Helicopters need compact and powerful aero-engines for operating at extreme conditions and to achieve this, state-of-the-art single crystal blades having complex shape and geometry, manufactured out of nickel based super-alloys capable of withstanding high temperatures of operation are used.

About Single crystal blades :

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

About DRDO :

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

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited :

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

US Army-led NATO military exercises DEFENDER-Europe 21 launched in Albania

- **On April 26, 2021, The US-Army led multinational, joint exercise 'DEFENDER-Europe 21'** was kicked off in Albania.
- It will be **conducted in more than 30 training areas in 12 countries** during April, May and June, including Western Balkan countries.
- This was the **annual US-led military exercises**.
- It will **consist of 28,000 forces from 26 nations**, including the United States, NATO countries and their allies.

- It is **designed to build readiness and interoperability between US and NATO and partner militaries.**

About DEFENDER – Europe :

- DEFENDER-Europe is an annual large-scale U.S. Army-led, multinational exercise, defensive in nature and focused on deterring aggression, which this year focuses on building operational readiness and interoperability with NATO and a greater number of allies and partners over a wider area of operations than ever before.

Indian Navy unveiled Op Samudra Setu-II for Shipment of Oxygen-filled Containers to India

- **Indian Navy** has launched **Operation Samudra Setu-II** to augment the ongoing national mission for meeting the Oxygen requirements.
- Mission deployed Indian Naval warships will undertake shipment of **liquid Oxygen filled cryogenic containers** and associated medical equipment in support of the nation's fight against COVID-19.
- Two ships **INS Kolkata** and **INS Talwar** have entered port of Manama, Bahrain for embarking and transporting 40MT of liquid oxygen to Mumbai.
- **INS Jalashwa** is enroute to Bangkok and **INS Airavat** to Singapore for similar missions.
- Last year Indian Navy had launched Operation Samudra Setu as part of the **Vande Bharat Mission** and repatriated approx 4000 (3992) stranded and distressed Indian citizens from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Iran.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad represents India at G-7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting

- Union Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** represented **India at the G-7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting.**
- **India's efforts to bring digital inclusion and empower ordinary citizens through the use of technology under the Digital India programme.**
- The Minister also shared India's views on ensuring trust in the digital ecosystem, securing data privacy of users and creating a safe cyberspace with the G-7 Digital Ministers.

DRDO Conducts Maiden Trial of Python-5 Air to Air Missile

- **On April 27, 2021, the DRDO successfully fired the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) from Tejas aircraft, at Goa.**
- Trials were also aimed to **validate the enhanced capability of the already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas.**
- It is a **series of missile trials to validate its performance** under extremely challenging scenarios.
- The missiles were fired from Tejas aircraft of **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) flown by Indian Air Force (IAF) Test pilots belonging to National Flight Test Centre (NFTC).**
- Python-5 air-to-air missile (AAM) has been **manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Israel**
- It is one of the most sophisticated guided missiles in the world.

About DRDO :

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CSIR-CMERI indigenously developed Oxygen enrichment technology

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

About CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute :

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

World's largest aeroplane by Stratolaunch completes test flight

- The **world's largest aeroplane, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles** and facilitate easy access to space, soared into clear skies over **California's Mojave Desert.**
- The company Stratolaunch **designed it to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space.**
- The aircraft named 'Roc' features a twin-fuselage design and the longest wingspan ever flown, at 385 feet (117 m), surpassing the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat of 321 feet (98 m).
- The Stratolaunch is **intended to carry a 550,000-pound payload** and will be able to **launch rockets from high altitude.**

About Stratolaunch :

- Headquarters : **Mojave, California, USA**
- CEO & PRESIDENT : **Jean Floyd**

Assam string puppetry Performs COVID campaign for the revival

- The **COVID-19 pandemic** has provided an Assam-based trust the opportunity to focus on a near-forgotten form of string puppetry called **Putola Nach**.
- In collaboration with the **UNICEF-Assam**, the **Anamika Ray Memorial Trust (ARMT)** has produced **three short videos** using string puppetry for creating mass awareness on COVID appropriate behaviour.
- It is performed in **three areas with distinct characteristics**.
- These areas are
 1. Barpeta-Nalbari in western Assam
 2. Kalaigaon in northern Assam
 3. Majuli "island" in eastern Assam.
- The puppeteers are happy to add dialogues or chants taken from bhaona.
- It **Basically Showcases Ramayana, either in its entirety and Mahabharata**

Scientists Discover The Smallest Black Hole In The Milky Way Galaxy Dubbed 'The Unicorn

- **Scientists** have discovered the smallest-known black hole in the Milky Way galaxy and the closest to our solar system.
- It was **nicknamed 'the Unicorn.'**
- The black hole is roughly three times the mass of our sun.
- The black hole is **located about 1,500 light years** – the distance light travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km) – from Earth.
- A **luminous star called a red giant orbits** with the **black hole in a so-called binary star system named V723 Mon.**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates India's first 3D printed house at IIT-M

- **On April 27, 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the country's first 3D printed house at IIT, Madras.
- The single-storey home has a **built-in area of 600 sq. ft.** and a functional space comprising a single bedroom, hall, and kitchen.
- It has been **built in just five days.**
- The entire ensemble is designed, developed, and realised by **Tvasta's indigenous 'Concrete 3D Printing' Technology**, which was developed by the faculty members and alumni of the IIT-Madras back in 2018.
- It was **developed in association with Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Centre for Innovation in Shelter.**
- The **3D Printed House would help to meet the deadline of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'housing for all' scheme by 2022.**

About TVASTA Manufacturing Solutions :

- Co-Founder : **Adithya V S**

About IIT- Madras :

- Director : **Bhaskar Ramamurthi**
- Chairman : **Pawan Kumar Goenka**

Indian Scientists develop high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean

- **Indian Scientists** have developed a **high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean MACS 1407**.
- It is suitable for cultivation in the **states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states**.
- Scientists from **MACS- Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi** have developed this higher yielding varieties and improved practices for the cultivation of soybean.
- The new variety **MACS 1407** gives 39 quintals per hectare and it is also resistant to major insect pests like girdle beetle, leaf miner, white fly and defoliators.
- It is suitable for rain-fed conditions of north- east India.

About ICAR :

- Establishment : **16 July 1929**
- Director : **Trilochan Mohapatra**
- Headquarters : **New Delhi**
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an **autonomous body responsible for coordinating agricultural education and research in India**.
- It reports to the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture**.
- The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president.
- It is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world

China launches robot prototype NEO-01

- **On April 27, 2021, China launched NEO-01** into low earth orbit.
- The NEO-01, which looks into **deep space and observes small celestial bodies, was launched by the government's Long March 6 rocket** with a small number of satellites.
- It is a **30kg robot developed by Shenzhen-based Origin Space will pave the way for future technologies capable of mining asteroids**.
- NEO-01 will use a **large net** to capture debris left behind by other spacecraft and then burn it using its electric propulsion system.
- China was stepping up efforts to land a probe on a near-Earth asteroid to collect samples, and also expediting a plan to build a defence system against near-Earth asteroids.
- Beijing has grand space ambitions, aiming to catch up with Russia and the United States and transform China into a major space power by 2030.

About China :

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

UK to get world's most powerful weather, climate change forecasting supercomputer by 2022

- **Microsoft and the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office** have decided to team up to **build the most powerful supercomputer in the world to forecast weather and climate change.**
- The supercomputer, which is most likely to be **operational in 2022.**
- It will also **help in protection from the impact of increasingly extreme floods, storms, and snow in the UK.**
- The UK Government, in February 2020, announced the funding of about **2 billion pounds (Rs. 12,400 crores)** for developing this supercomputer, which has been expected to be one of the top 25 supercomputers in the world.
- The Met Office will provide the highest quality weather and climate datasets as well as more accurate forecasts that will enable the decisions to allow people to stay safe.
- This will be a unique opportunity that will help in keeping not just the Met office but the UK at the forefront of high-performance computing and environmental modeling.

About Met Office :

- CEO : **Penny Endersby**
- Founder: **Robert FitzRoy**
- Founded: **1854**
- Headquarters : **Exeter, UK**

OneWeb launches Batch of 36 LEO satellites from Russian cosmodrome

- **OneWeb, a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator, launched another batch of 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia.**
- It is **co-owned by Bharti Global and the UK government.**
- The latest launch takes OneWeb's **total in-orbit constellation to 182 satellites.**
- These would form **part of OneWeb's 648 LEO satellite fleet that will deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity.**
- It will enable OneWeb to offer services **across the UK, Alaska, Northern Europe, Greenland, Iceland, the Arctic seas and Canada.**

About OneWeb :

- CEO: **Adrián Steckel**
- Founder: **Greg Wyler**
- Founded: **2012**
- Headquarters location: **London, United Kingdom**

CURRENT AFFAIRS : RANKING & INDEX

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

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

List of Top 5 Nations :

- United States (\$778 billion)
- China (\$252 billion)
- India (\$72.9 billion)
- Russia (\$61.7 billion)
- United Kingdom (\$59.2 billion)
- The three countries were ahead of Russia and Saudi Arabia together made up the world's top military spenders, accounting for 62% of the global military.

About Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) :

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

Brand Finance Report : LIC 10th most-valuable insurance brand, third-strongest globally

- State-owned insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation has emerged as the strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally in Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.
- The annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.

Purpose :

- To **identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally**.
- However, LIC's brand value **increased by almost 7 per cent to \$8.65 billion**.
- There are five Chinese insurance companies in the top 10 most valuable insurance brands globally, with Ping An Insurance emerging the world's most valuable insurance brand, despite recording a **26 per cent drop in brand value**.
- In the strongest insurance brands category, **Italy's Poste Italiane was at top position, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India**.
- However, the total brand value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6 percent from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021.

Based On the Report :

- Most Valuable Indian Insurance Brand – LIC (10th)
- Most Strongest Indian Insurance Brand – LIC (3rd)
- Most Valuable Global Insurance Brand – Ping An Insurance, China
- Most Strongest Global Insurance Brand – Poste Italiane, Italy

About LIC :

- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Comes Under Ministry of Finance

India ranked 49th in CGGI 2021

- Among **104 nations India** has been placed at **49th position in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021.**
- **Finland has topped the CGGI 2021 list.**
- **Venezuela is the last ranked country in the CGGI 2021.**

Rank	Score	Country
1	0.848	Finland
2	0.839	Switzerland
3	0.834	Singapore

- **India** had scored 0.516 and ranked **49th position** in CGGI 2021 Index.

About CGGI INDEX :

- In that Index each country is measured across over 50 open data points.
- The CGGI is an **annual index developed by the Chandler Institute of Governance based in Singapore**
- That **measures the effectiveness of governments in 104 countries across the world in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.**
- The Chandler Good Government Index shows the importance of measuring and investing in governance capabilities that matter.
- The index focuses on seven pillars:
 1. Leadership and foresight
 2. Robust laws and policies
 3. Strong institutions
 4. Financial stewardship
 5. Attractive marketplace
 6. Global influence and reputation
 7. Helping people rise.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : ENVIRONMENT

Two damselfly species *Euphaea thosegharensis* and *Euphaea pseudodispar* discovered in Western Ghats

- Researchers have collaborated to discover two damselfly species from Satara district in Maharashtra, which forms part of northern Western Ghats.
- The new endemic damsels named *Euphaea thosegharensis* and *Euphaea pseudodispar*.
- The discoveries have been published in the **Journal of Threatened Taxa**.
- It belonging to the genus **Euphaea**,
- Both were discovered by a team comprising Sriram Bhakare, Pratima Pawar and Sunil Bhoite from Mumbai and Kalesh Sadasivam and Vinayan Nair representing the Thiruvananthapuram-based Travancore Nature History Society.
- The specimens were spotted by **Dr. Bhakare in May 2020 at Thoseghar in Satara district**.

About *Euphaea thosegharensis* :

- *Euphaea thosegharensis* is similar to *Euphaea cardinalis*.
- It is Identified by its black hind legs.

About *Euphaea pseudodispar* :

- *Euphaea pseudodispar* is similar to *Euphaea dispar* but can be easily separated by its colouration and morphology.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : BOOKS & AUTHORS

Jhumpa Lahiri is coming up with a new book - Whereabouts

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

About the book :

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

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

- **Renowned Amitav Ghosh** authored A new book titled "The Living Mountain" is set to hit stands in **January 2022**.
- The book will be **published by HarperCollins Publishers India**.
- The book will also be published simultaneously in **Hindi**, and as an ebook and an audiobook.

- It is a fable for the current times: a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature, leading to an environmental collapse.

About the Book :

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SPORTS NEWS

World Snooker Championship: Mark Selby becomes World Snooker Champion for Fourth Time

- In **Snooker**, **Mark Selby** became the **World Champion for the fourth time**.
- It **took place from 17 April to 3 May 2021** at the **Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England**.
- Selby won the Championship **defeating Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory** at professional snooker tournament.
- He has now **moved up to second spot in world rankings, next only to Judd Trump**.
- Prior to this, **Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021**.

Lewis Hamilton wins Portuguese Grand Prix 2021

- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) **won the 2021 Portuguese Grand Prix**.
- It was **held on 2 May 2021** at the **Algarve International Circuit in Portugal**.
- This was the **second win of the season for Hamilton and 96th career victory**.
- This was the **third race of the season** of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
- **Max Verstappen** came second and **Valtteri Bottas** was third.

Sri Lankan all-rounder Thisara Perera Announces retires from international cricket

- **On May 03, 2021**, Sri Lanka all-rounder **Thisara Perera** announced his **retirement from international cricket**.
- The **32-year-old featured in six Tests, 166 ODIs, and 84 T20Is**. He tasted the most accomplishment in ODI cricket, scoring 2338 runs and scalping 175 wickets.
- Perera made his debut for Sri Lanka in an ODI against India in Kolkata in December 2009.
- The highlight came in **2014, when he was part of the Sri Lanka side that won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, beating India in the final in Dhaka**.

Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2021 – Ash Barty Wins Women's Single Title

- **World No 1 Ash Barty** won two titles and a brand new sports car at the **Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2021**.
- It took place at the Porsche Arena in **Stuttgart, Germany, from 19 to 25 April 2021**.
- It is a **third consecutive comeback triumph in the singles final** against Aryna Sabalenka.

- She also won the doubles title on a busy, fun and lucrative date with her American partner Jennifer Brady.
- It was **her first European tournament on clay since triumphing in the 2019 French Open.**

Archery World Cup: Atanu Das, Deepika Kumari Wins Gold

- **On April 25, 2021, Indian Archery newly-wedded couple Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari won individual gold medals** at the ongoing Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Guatemala.
- **Atanu Das** outclassed Spanish World Cup debutant **Daniel Castro 6-4** to claim his maiden individual World Cup medal.
- **Deepika defeated Mackenzie Brown of the USA 6-5**, via the tie breaker, in the gold medal matches.
- **Atanu** has also **won the mixed category with Ankita.**
- **India** produced its best-ever performance in the Archery World Cup with **3 gold and 1 bronze medal.**

About Archery World Cup :

- The Archery World Cup is a competition, **started in 2006.**
- It is organized by the World Archery Federation, where the archers compete in four stages in four countries and the best eight archers of each category (from 2010, four archers during 2006-09) advance to an additional stage to contest the Archery World Cup Final.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

International Labour Day or May Day – Observed on May 01

- **Labour Day** is an **annual holiday** to celebrate the achievements of workers.
- Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement, specifically the eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest.
- **May 1 is the International Day of Workers or International Labour Day** dedicated to workers and labourers across the world.
- This day celebrates labourers and encourages them to be aware of their rights.
- The day has its **origins in the labour union movement**, specifically the eight-hour day movement.
- It is also celebrated in countries in Central America, South America, and in some parts of the Caribbean.
- In the **United States, Australia, and Canada**, Labor Day or Labour Day is celebrated at different times of the year.
- India celebrated the first Labour day in the year 1923 and the day is referred nationally as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas or Kamgar Din.
- **Peter J. McGuire**, a carpenter and labor union leader, was the person who came up with the idea for Labor Day.
- He thought American workers should be honored with their own day.
- He proposed his idea to **New York's Central Labor Union early in 1882**, and they thought the holiday was a good idea, too.

Statehood day of Gujarat and Maharashtra – Observed on May 01

- **May 1** comes as the establishment day for the state of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- It was on this day **in the year 1960** that the former state of Bombay was segregated on a linguistic basis and **two states were formed — Maharashtra and Gujarat.**
- Gujarati, the official language of the state of Gujarat, comes as an Indo-Aryan language which emerged from local Prakrits and Sanskrit.
- Often named '**Jewel of Western India**', **Gujarat** has been on the world map since ancient ages.
- Gujarat was authoritatively formed in the year 1960 after the impression for the state originated in the year 1928 in a magazine by the name Kumar.
- Freedom fighter and writer K M Munshi originally proposed a concept called Mahagujarat.
- The list of the world's fastest-growing cities published by Forbes in 2010 positioned Ahmedabad at number 3 after Chongqing and Chengdu cities of China.
- Gujarat is also the home state of Mahatma Gandhi and **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** who is known by the name '**Iron Man of India**'.
- The day of pride for **Maharashtrian** as this day reminds us of our resplendent **history and culture.**
- Wishing **everyone a cheerful Maharashtra Day.**
- Maharashtra has been the land of Maratha warriors who have fought their enemies with courage.
- Let us always follow their footsteps.
- Maharashtra has been a prosperous and inspiring state which has many successful stories to tell to the world. Warm greetings on Maharashtra Day to all.
- **On the occasion of Maharashtra Day** let us join hands to make these celebrations memorable.
- Warm greetings on the occasion of Maharashtra Day to everyone.

World Tuna Day – Observed on May 02

- **World Tuna Day** is observed on **May 2 every year** to raise awareness about the **Tuna fish** and its importance to humans and earth and also to promote more sustainable fishing practices.
- The **United Nations (UN)** officially recognized the **World Tuna Day in 2017.**
- The first World Tuna Day was observed in the year 2017.
- Tuna is a saltwater fish comprising of some 15 different species across five genera.
- It was officially established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution 71/124, in December 2016.
- It aims to draw attention to the importance of conservation management and sustainable fishing.

World Laughter Day – Observed on first Sunday of May

- **World Laughter Day** was established in **1998** and the first celebration was on **July 28, 2008, in Mumbai, India**, arranged by **Madan Kataria**, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.
- World Laughter Day is celebrated every year on the **first Sunday of May** to spread awareness about the many healing benefits of laughter.

- “Everybody knows that laughing feels good, but few realize how valuable these simple tools can be in improving our everyday wellness and wellbeing,” states the official website of **World Laughter Day**.
- To make sure their followers enjoy a good chuckle on World Laughter Day, Mumbai Police took a trip down memory lane to remember some of the funniest excuses their officers have heard while on duty.

World Press Freedom Day – Observed on May 03

- The **United Nations General Assembly** declared **May 3** to be World Press Freedom Day or just World Press Day, observed to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press.
- Remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined under **Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and marking the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek in 1991.
- This year’s **World Press Freedom Day theme “Information as a Public Good”** serves as a call to affirm the importance of cherishing information as a public good, and exploring what can be done in the production, distribution and reception of content to strengthen journalism, and to advance transparency and empowerment while leaving no one behind.
- **Organized annually since 1993**, the Global Conference provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics and the broader public to discuss emerging challenges to press freedom and journalists’ safety, and to work together on identifying solutions.

World Asthma Day – Observed on First Tuesday of May

- **World Asthma Day (WAD)** is organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma, (GINA) (www.ginasthma.org)**, a **World Health Organization collaborative organization** founded in 1993.
- **This year’s World Asthma Day theme is “Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions”.**
- WAD is held each May to raise awareness of Asthma worldwide.
- WHO recognizes that asthma is of major public health importance.
- According to WHO, it was estimated that more than 339 million people had Asthma globally and there were 417,918 deaths due to asthma at the global level in 2016.
- Although asthma cannot be cured, it is possible to manage asthma to reduce and prevent asthma attacks, also called episodes or exacerbations.
- The **theme provides a call to action to address common widely held myths and misconceptions** concerning asthma that prevent persons with asthma from enjoying optimal benefit from the major advances in the management of this condition.
- Common **misconceptions** surrounding asthma include:
 - Asthma is a childhood disease; individuals will grow out of it as they age.
 - Asthma is infectious.
 - Asthma sufferers should not exercise.
 - Asthma is only controllable with high dose steroids.

Coal Miners Day – Observed on May 04

- Every year, **Coal Miners Day** is **observed on May 4** for the **toughest professionals and the miners working in coal fields**.
- This day is observed as an appreciation for the workers who sacrificed their lives, honour their accomplishments, and remember the tragedies that these hardworking individuals experience.
- So on this day, several organizations and communities raise funds to inform organizations in coal mining areas.
- Coal is one of the basic forms of energy.
- It is one of the most important primary fossil fuels that is rich in carbon.
- Miners put their lives at risk by tunneling, digging, and extracting **coal every single day**.
- Many miners face lung diseases which are caused due to **the inhalation of coal dust the whole day**.
- From this, we can conclude that coal mining is one of the most dangerous professions.
- India's half of the **commercial energy** needs are fulfilled by the coal industry.
- It's the fuel for generating power, making steel and cement.

International Midwives' Day – Observed on May 05

- **Each year, May 5** is marked as the **International Midwife Day** in order to recognize the contribution of midwives.
- This year's IDM **theme: "Follow the data: Invest in Midwives"**, will coincide with the launch of the State of the World's Midwifery (SoWMy) Report 2021 co-led by **United Nations Funds on Populations (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), and International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)**.
- International Day of the Midwives was first celebrated May 7th 1991, and has since been observed in over 50 nations around the world.
- The idea of having a day to recognize and honor midwives came out of the 1987 International Confederation of Midwives conference in the Netherlands.
- The day has been celebrated by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) since 1992.
- Midwives are women who possess practical knowledge about helping pregnant women during childbirth.

World Hand Hygiene Day – Observed on May 05

- Every year, the **World Hand Hygiene Day** is observed on **May 5**.
- The day is organized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to raise awareness among people across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.
- The **theme for 2021** is **'Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands'**.
- The day recognizes hand washing as one of the most effective actions that can be taken to avoid a huge range of infections including the COVID-19 virus.

World Press Freedom Day – this year theme has been published

- "The **theme** of this year's World Press Freedom Day, **"Information as a Public Good"**, underlines the indisputable importance of verified and reliable information.

- It calls attention to the essential role of free and professional journalists in producing and disseminating this information, by **tackling misinformation and other harmful content** – Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day

International Firefighters Day – Observed on May 04

- **International Firefighters’ Day** is observed on **May 4**.
- It was instituted after a proposal was emailed out across the world on **January 4, 1999** due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a **bushfire in Australia**.
- The day was instituted, **after the deaths of five firefighters** in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in **Australia on 2 December 1998**.

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

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

Workers’ Memorial Day – Observed on Apr 28

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

National Honesty Day – Observed on Apr 30

- **Honesty Day** is celebrated on **April 30 in the United States** to encourage honesty and straightforward communication in politics, relationships, consumer relations and historical education.
- It was invented by **Hirsh Goldberg**, who chose the last day of April for two reasons.

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- First, since the first day of that month, which is April Fools' Day, celebrates falsehoods.
- Second, it is the anniversary of the **First inauguration of George Washington on April 30, 1789.**
- **Hirsh Goldberg**, who was a **former press secretary of Maryland and writer of many novels, created the holiday** in the early 1990s while writing the first draft and researching for his book **The Book of Lies: Fibs, Tales, Schemes, Scams, Fakes, and Frauds That Have Changed The Course of History and Affect Our Daily Lives.**
- People can ask each other question and expect radically honest answers on Honesty Day, provided each of them are aware of the holiday.
- **Honesty Day is a campaign** for the prevention of political lies, and serves to increase awareness of the most deceitful lies in history such as the 1972 Richard Nixon Watergate Scandal, France's Dreyfus Affair, and Bernard Madoff's Ponzi Scheme.
- It is to urge politicians to stay away from lies and tell the truth.
- Every April 30th, Goldberg himself gives out honesty awards to companies, organizations, groups, and individuals that have remained truthful to their people.

International Jazz Day – observed on Apr 30

- **International Jazz Day** is an International Day declared by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2011** “to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.”
- The **International Jazz Day is celebrated on 30 April every year** to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.
- This Day was declared by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2011.**
- The 2021 celebration marks 10th Anniversary of International Jazz Day.
- The day was created on the idea of **jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock.**

International Dance Day – Observed on Apr 29

- **International Dance Day** is a global celebration of dance, created by the **Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute**, the main partner for the **performing arts of UNESCO.**
- Several dance events and festivals held on this date all over the globe.
- The International Dance Day 2021 **theme is: 'Purpose of dance'.**
- The event takes place every year on 29 April, which is the anniversary of the **birth of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet.**
- International Dance Day was started to spread the message of the benefits of dance, celebrate dance and bring people together.
- **International Dance Day on April 29** is an annual celebration of how dancing positively impacts our lives.
- The human body's ability to **move, groove, pop, and lock has captivated** the way we interact with music and express ourselves artistically.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

Noted Gujarati poet and folk singer Dadudan Gadhvi Passes Away

- The famous and noted Gujarati poet and folk singer Dadudan Pratapdan Gadhvi Passed Away.
- He was 80.
- He was also known as Kavi Dad.
- Besides, he had written songs for 15 Gujarati films.

Achievements :

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

Aeronautical Scientist Manas Bihari Verma Passes Away

- On May 03, 2021, The Indian aeronautical scientist, Manas Bihari Verma Passed away.
- He was 78.

About Manas Bihari Verma :

- He played a key role in the development of the country's first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas',
- He worked as a scientist at the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) for 35 years in the aeronautical stream.
- He was given the responsibility for the design of the Tejas aircraft mechanical system, where he led the team responsible for the full-scale engineering development of the Tejas aircraft in the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
- Verma had launched "Mobile Science Laboratory" (MSL) vans in 2010 in the rural areas of Bihar to impart knowledge in science to children.
- He retired as Director of ADA in 2005.

Achievements :

- He was conferred with Padma Shri award in March 2018.

Former J&K Governor Jagmohan passes away

- On May 04, 2021, Former Union Minister and Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Jagmohan passed away in New Delhi.
- He was 94.

About Jagmohan :

- He served as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Goa.
- He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha once and represented New Delhi in Lok Sabha thrice.

- He served as the **Union Minister for Communications, Urban Development, Tourism and Culture.**
- Jagmohan served two terms as **Jammu and Kashmir Governor**, once from 1984 to 1989, and then from January 1990 to May 1990.

Achievements :

- He was **honoured with Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016.**

'Shooter Dadi' Chandro Tomar passes away

- **On April 30, 2021, 'Shooter Dadi' Chandro Tomar passed away.**
- He was 89.
- Shooter Chandro Tomar, **nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi'.**
- She was **Hailing from the Baghat village in Uttar Pradesh.**
- Tomar was already 60-plus when she picked up a gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions, even inspiring a Bollywood movie on her life.
- Her feats ultimately **inspired the award-winning Bollywood movie 'Saand ki Aankh'.**
- Shooter Dadi **won many awards in the senior citizen category including Stri Shakti Sanman presented by the President of India.**

Veteran communist leader Dr Joginder Dayal passes away

- **On April 30, 2021, Communist Party of India's veteran leader Dr Joginder Dayal passed away.**
- He was 80.
- Dayal, who was a **senior leader of the CPI from Punjab.**
- He served as **president of Communist Party of India's All-India Student Federation as well as president of All-India Youth Federation.**
- Dayal was a leader of masses with the qualities of head and heart, who played a pivotal role to espouse the cause of unprivileged sections of the society.
- Dr Dayal relentlessly worked to ensure peace, harmony and amity in the state thus denouncing the sectarian and fissiparous forces.

Sitar maestro Pandit Devabrata Chaudhuri passes away

- **On May 01, 2021, Sitar maestro Pandit Devabrata Chaudhuri Passed away,**
- He was 85.
- Pandit Debu Chaudhuri was also a teacher and writer.
- He had penned six books and composed many new ragas.
- The Legend of Sitar **belonged to the Senia or Gharana style of music.**

Achievements :

- He bagged several prestigious titles, including **Padmabhushan, the Padmashree and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution in the field of music.**

Bikramjeet Kanwarpal passes away

On April 30, 2021, Actor Bikramjeet Kanwarpal Passed away.

- He was 52.

About Bikramjeet Kanwarpal :

- Kanwarpal was born in Solan Himachal Pradesh, India.
- He was the son of an Indian Army officer, Dwarka Nath Kanwarpal, who was awarded the Kirti Chakra in 1963.
- **In 1989 he was commissioned into the Indian Army.**
- He has been a part of many popular films, TV shows and web series.
- On television, he played **prominent roles in shows like Diya Aur Baati Hum, Yeh Hai Chahatein, Dil Hi Toh Hai and Anil Kapoor's 24.**
- He was a retired army officer.
- **Bikramjeet Kanwarpal made his acting debut in 2003 after retiring from the Indian Army.**
- He was **last seen in Disney Plus Hotstar's popular web series Special Ops.**

Renowned TV journalist and anchor Rohit Sardana Passes away

- **On April 30, 2021, Well-known TV journalist and anchor Rohit Sardana Passed away.**
- He was 40.
- Rohit Sardana had long been **associated with Zee Media.**
- He used to host the popular show – 'Taal Thok Ke', a debate programme that discusses contemporary issues in India on Zee News.
- Presently Rohit Sardana, who has been the face of TV media for a long time, used to anchor the show 'Dangal', which aired on 'Aaj Tak' news channel.
- Sardana was hugely popular with the masses for his good debating skills.

Achievements :

- **In 2018, Rohit Sardana was awarded the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award.**

Former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee passes away

- **On April 30, 2021, Former Attorney General of India and renowned jurist Soli Sorabjee Passed away.**
- He was 91.
- He was **designated senior counsel of the Supreme Court in 1971.**
- He served as the **Solicitor General of India from 1977 to 1980.**
- He became the **Attorney General of India for the first time from 1989 to 1990 and then from 1998 to 2004.**
- He was appointed by the United Nations as a Special Rapporteur for Nigeria in 1997 to report on the human rights situation in that country.
- Also, he became a member and later chairman of the UN Sub Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights from 1998 to 2004.

Achievements :

- He was **honored with India's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, in March 2002** for his **defence of freedom of speech and the protection of human rights.**

Michael Collins, the astronaut of Apollo 11, Passes away

- **On April 28, 2021, The American astronaut, Michael Collins, Passed away.**
- He was 90.

About Michael Collins :

- He was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon.
- **Collins spent seven years** of his career as an **astronaut with NASA.**
- Astronaut Collins was a **part of three crew members of Apollo 11** that went to the moon in 1969.
- He **travelled nearly 238,000 miles to the moon and came within 69 miles.**
- Collins later worked as a director of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington.
- In the three-man Apollo 11 crew mission in 1969, Collins kept the command module flying while the other two members, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.

Noted Odia and English writer Manoj Das passes away

- **On April 27, 2021, Manoj Das, an eminent Indian author who wrote in Odia and English, passed away.**
- He was 87.
- His **first book of poetry, Satavdira Artanada, in Odia,** was published when he was in high school.
- He **published a novel Jeebanara Swada,** a collection of short stories Vishakanyar Kahani, and a collection of poems Padadhawani.

Achievements :

- Das was **awarded Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020** for his contributions in the **field of literature and education.**
- He received the **first Sri Aurobindo Puraskar** for his research on the lesser-known facts of India's freedom struggle led by Aurobindo.
- He was also **honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award fellowship.**

Senior IIS Officer Sanjay Kumar Passes away

- **Senior Indian Information Service officer Sanjay Kumar** passed away.
- He was 56.

About Sanjay Kumar :

- Sanjay Kumar, **Deputy Director (Media and Communication)** in PIB was looking after the publicity requirements of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

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- He was also associated with publicity work of the Ministry of Tourism in additional capacity.
- He also served in the personal staff of a central Minister.
- Sanjay Kumar also served as PRO in NCERT.



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