



Current Affairs Supplement

April 2021

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National

Rajasthan becomes 1st State to provide Health Insurance for all its residents

The State Government of Rajasthan began registrations for 'Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme (Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana). With this launch, **Rajasthan became the 1st State in India** to provide health insurance of up to **INR 5 Lakh** to each Family every year.



- The announcement of the Health Insurance Scheme was made during the presentation of the State Budget for the FY 2021-22.
- The Scheme is worth INR 3, 500 Crore.

BYJU'S the Edtech company acquired AESL for \$1 billion

Byju's, India's biggest online education startup has announced its acquisition of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a provider of test preparation services for **\$1 billion** (about Rs 7,300 crore). This deal is the biggest acquisition by Byju's until now.

The objective of the acquisition:

Byju's aims to increase its presence in the test prep space as its competitors/rival Unacademy made close to six acquisitions in the test prep space and Amazon India made an entry with Amazon Academy in 2020.

The cash-and-stock deal:

- AESL is a provider of test preparation services that gain entry for the students into the country's elite engineering and medical schools.
- After acquisition also AESL will continue to operate as a separate entity with founders J.C. Chaudhry and Aakash Chaudhry continuing to lead the entity.
- In 2019, AESL partnered with Blackstone to create India's largest digitally enabled, omni-channel test preparation company.
- Now after the acquisition, Blackstone will swap a portion of its 37.5% equity in Aakash for Byju's stake.

About BYJU'S:

Establishment – 2011

Headquarter – Bangalore, Karnataka

CEO -ByjuRaveendran

West Central Railway Becomes First Fully Electrified Indian Railways Zone

The electrification of the West Central Railways(WCR) was completed and WCR became the first fully electrified Indian railway zone. The WCR boasts a 3012 Route km electrified Network.



- After Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety(CCRS) Inspection and Commissioning of electrification of Kota – Chittaurgarh railway section (Srinagar – Jalindri) in Rajasthan WCR became the 1st of the 18 railway zones to achieve 100% electrification.

- The government ensures that the entire rail network will be fully electrified by December 2023 and the entire rail network will run on renewable energy by 2030.
- In February 2021, the New Farakka railway section, West Bengal, Eastern Railway Zone became the fully electrified rail network.

IISc Bangalore and Calcutta University Ranked Best in India : ARWU Ranking 2020

According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020 (ARWU 2020 also known as Shanghai Ranking) released by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore) was ranked as the best Higher Education Institute in India, while Calcutta University was ranked as the best University in India.



- At the Global Level, Harvard University (USA) was ranked as the Best University followed by Stanford University (USA) & the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom).
- IISc Bangalore** was the best ranked Indian Institute at the global level with a ranking in the category **501-600**.
- ARWU is an annual Publication.

World Ranking	Institution	Country
501-600	IISc Bangalore	India
1	Harvard University	USA
2	Stanford University	USA
3	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom

Best Institutes Ranking in India

Regional Rank	Institution	Global Rank
1	IISc Bangalore	501-600
2-4	IIT Madras	601-700

2-4	University of Calcutta	601-700
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Sonu Sood Appointed as Brand Ambassador for Punjab's Anti-COVID-19 Vaccination Drive

i. Capt Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab announced the appointment of actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood as the brand ambassador of the anti-coronavirus vaccination programme of the government of Punjab.

ii. As the brand ambassador, Sonu Sood will be reaching out and promote the benefits of the covid-19 vaccination

iii. The COVID-19 Vaccination Drive, one of the largest campaigns of Punjab aims to provide all with the required immunity to combat the pandemic.



India approves Use of Russia's Sputnik V Covid-19 Vaccine

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the use of Russia's Covid-19 vaccine, "Sputnik V" in India, to tackle the 2nd Wave of the virus spread in India. With this approval, India has 3 Covid-19 vaccines – Covaxin, Covishield and Sputnik-V.

- Sputnik-V is manufactured in India by Hyderabad based Dr Reddy's Laboratories.
- Covishield is manufactured in India by Serum Institute of India, Pune & developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca.
- India's indigenous vaccine "Covaxin" is manufactured by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR – National Institute of Virology.

India Celebrates 'Tika Utsav' Vaccination Festival to Combat COVID-19

The Government of India launched the **Tika Utsav**, a **four day COVID-19 vaccination festival** with an aim to vaccinate the maximum number of eligible people against COVID-19.

- Tika Utsav is India's Mass vaccination drive to combat COVID-19.
- The 4-day vaccination drive started on **11th April 2021**, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and continued till **14th April 2021** the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar.



Sanjaya Baru releases new book, 'India's Power Elite: Class, Caste and a Cultural Revolution'

India's famous political commentator, Sanjaya Baru, released his new book "India's Power Elite: Class, Caste and a Cultural Revolution". The book discusses the socio-cultural changes that happened in India after the 2014 General Elections.

- The book analyses the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi & Bharatiya Janata Party, on how the party wins state elections in places where it had no footprint.

About Sanjaya Baru:

i. He served as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's media advisor and chief spokesperson (PMO) between May 2004 and August 2008.

ii. He was the former Secretary-General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Other Books –

- The Accidental Prime Minister: The Making and Unmaking of Manmohan Singh
- 1991: How P.V. Narasimha Rao Made History
- Strategic consequences of India's economic performance
- India and the World: Essays on Geoeconomics and Foreign Policy

PM Narendra Modi Released 4 books on Life of BR Ambedkar Authored by Kishor Makwana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the Association of Indian Universities' 95th Annual Meet and National Seminar of Vice-Chancellors. On the occasion he released 4 books based on Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's life, which were authored by **Kishor Makwana**.

4-Books: Dr. Ambedkar Jivan Darshan, Dr. Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan, Dr Ambedkar Rashtra Darshan, and Dr. Ambedkar Aayam Darshan.

Note- 14th April 2021 marks the 130th birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar, which is celebrated in India as Ambedkar Jayanti.

About B R Ambedkar:

i. He is the 1st Law Minister of India & popularly known as the "**Father of Indian Constitution**".

ii. He was the inspiration behind the 1956 Dalit Buddhist movement in India.

iii. **Books by B.R. Ambedkar – Annihilation of Caste, Who Were the Shudras?, The Buddha and His Dhamma, The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution, Castes in India.**

Suresh Raina Authored His Memoir "Believe — What Life and Cricket Taught Me" With Bharat Sundaresan

Suresh Raina penned his Memoir "**Believe — What Life and Cricket Taught Me**" Co-authored by **Bharat Sundaresan** to be released by May, 2021. The book will be published by **Penguin Random House**.

Note – Memoir means a historical account or biography written from personal knowledge.

About the Book:

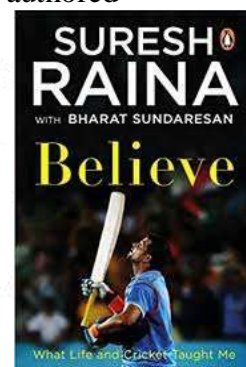
The Book is all about the Suresh Raina, it describes about his life, challenges he faced as a young cricketer.

About Suresh Raina:

i. He hails from Uttar Pradesh.

ii. He is the first Indian batsman to hit a century in all three formats (Test, ODI, T20I) of international cricket.

iii. He is also the 1st Indian player to score 6,000 and 8,000 runs in T20 cricket.



iv. He is the first cricketer in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to complete 5000 runs.

About Bharat Sundaesan:

He is a world-renowned, award-winning cricket writer currently based in Adelaide, Australia. He is the Australian correspondent and senior writer for Cricbuzz. He was well known for his book, "The Dhoni Touch".

Adani Group Became 3rd Indian Conglomerate To Cross 100 Billion USD mcap

Adani Group became the 3rd Indian conglomerate to cross 100 billion USD in market capitalization (**mcap**). On 6th April the total mcap of the 6 listed companies of Adani Group at the close of trading was Rs. 7.84 lakh crore (106.8 billion USD).

The other 2 Indian conglomerates to cross 100 billion mcap are Tata Group and Reliance Industries limited.

PhonePe becomes 1st company to cross 1 billion transactions in UPI

PhonePe, a Bengaluru based digital payments and financial services company has become the first company to cross 1 billion transactions on Unified Payment Interface (UPI). The company has crossed over 1.3 billion transactions on its platform across payment offerings of wallet, cards and UPI in March 2021. PhonePe has seen a growth in UPI transactions to 975.53 million in February 2021 from 902.03 million in December 2020.

Goa – India's only State to have a Uniform Civil Code

Recently, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde appreciated the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) of Goa, Goa is the **only Indian State** to have a UCC. The UCC calls for the formulation of one law for India, which would be applicable to all religious communities in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption.

- Goa Civil Code (also known as Goa Family Law) is based on the Portuguese Civil Code which was introduced in 1870.
- In Indian Constitution, UCC is placed among the non-justiciable Directive Principles of State Policy – **Article 44**.



New Book: "The Living Mountain" by Jnanpith Awardee Amitav Ghosh

Noted Indian writer Amitav Ghosh has authored a new book titled "**The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times**". This book was written during the course of the pandemic. It will be Published by **Harper Collins India**.

About the Book:

i. The Book is written in the Structure of a fable about Mahaparbat, the living mountain.

ii. It is a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature leading to an environment collapse.

iii. The book will also be published simultaneously in Hindi and as an ebook and an audio book.

About Amitav Ghosh:

HarperCollins India will publish **"The Living Mountain"**, the latest novel by renowned author **Amitav Ghosh**

bombayreads.com



i. Amitav Ghosh is one of the most prominent contemporary writers who is famous for connecting the past with the present in relevant ways in his novels.

ii. He is a recipient of the **Padma Shri, Jnanpith and Sahitya Akademi awards**.

iii. Shadow lines, The Glass Place, The Hunger Tide, River of Smoke, Flood of Fire are some of the greatest novels of Amitav Ghosh.

RBI Fixed the Bank's MD&CEOs Tenure at 15 years; Upper age limit at 70 years

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through its circular – “Corporate Governance in Banks – Appointment of Directors and Constitution of Committees of the Board”, has fixed **15 years** as the tenure for the Managing Director and Chief executive officers (MD & CEOs) or whole-time directors (WTDs) to hold their post in a bank.

- RBI's instructions are meant for private sector banks, small finance banks (SFBs) and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks.

• Note – The instructions are not applicable for foreign banks operating as branches in India.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Establishment – 1st April 1935

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Governor – Shaktikanta Das

Deputy Governors – Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, and M Rajeshwar Rao

Cost of vaccinating India's entire population above 18 years 0.36% of GDP: Ind-Ra

The India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) recently said the estimated cost to vaccinate all the Indians of age 18 years will be **Rs 67,193 crores**. This is **0.36% of the GDP** of the country.

- With this, the total size of the population eligible for vaccination is 84.19 crores.
- The Union Government will incur Rs 20,870 crores of the cost (**0.12% of GDP**) and the state government shall incur Rs 46,323 crores (**0.24% of GDP**).
- Highest burden would fall on Bihar at 0.6% of gross state domestic product (GSDP), followed by Uttar Pradesh at 0.47% and Jharkhand at 0.37% of GSDP.

Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act in Delhi comes into Force

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the ‘Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) (Amendment) Act, 2021’. The provisions of the Act came into effect from April 27, 2021.

- According to the legislation, the ‘Government’ in Delhi means the ‘Lieutenant Governor’ and the elected government of New Delhi have to seek the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor before taking any executive action.



- The Act amends the ‘**Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991**’.
- The bill was passed in both houses of the Parliament in March, 2021.
- The amended act states that “In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act 2021 (15 of 2021), the Central Government hereby appoints the 27th April 2021 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force,”.

Wipro Became 3rd Largest Indian IT Firm by Surpassing HCL Tech & sets to Reach Net-zero GHG Emissions by 2040

Wipro Ltd regained its position as the third-largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization (market-cap) of Rs 2.65 trillion by surpassing Noida-headquartered HCL Technologies’ Rs 2.62 trillion market cap. TCS remains at the top of the list of IT companies with a market cap of Rs11.51 trillion, followed by Infosys with Rs5.73 trillion market cap.

- **Net-zero GHG Emissions by 2040:** On Earth Day, Wipro announced its plan to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040 and committed an intermediate target to achieve a 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to its base year of 2016-17 (April-March).



International

India ranked 140th out of 156 Countries, Iceland tops in WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2021

India with a score of 0.625 has been ranked 140th out of 156 countries in the 15th edition of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Global Gender Gap Report 2021'. **Iceland** is the most gender-equal country in the world (for the 12th time) followed by Finland & Norway.



- India has slipped 28 places to 140 in 2021 (from 112 in 2020).
- The Global Gender Gap score in 2021 stands at 67.7% (remaining gap to close – 32.3%), the gap has widened by almost 0.6 percentage points.
- The global gender gap has increased by a generation from 99.5 years to 135.6 years (an increase of 36 years), due to the effect of the Pandemic.
- Among the South Asian Countries, **Bangladesh** was the top performer on the Gender Gap Index with a global ranking of 65.
- India, home to 0.65 Billion women, has widened its gender gap from around 66.8% in 2020 to 62.5% in 2021.

Rank	Country	Score (0-1)
140	India	0.625
1	Iceland	0.892
2	Finland	0.861
3	Norway	0.849

About World Economic Forum (WEF):

Executive Chairman – Klaus Schwab

Headquarters – Cologny, Switzerland

Russian President Putin signs Law paving way to rule until 2036

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a legislation which will enable him to run for two or more consecutive six-year terms, effectively permitting him to remain in office till **2036**.

- The legislation formalizes changes to the Russian Constitution which were endorsed by people through a referendum held in 2020.
- Before the signing of the new legislation, a President could serve only a maximum of two consecutive six-year terms.



Key Points

- Putin completes his ongoing **Fourth Term as President of Russia** in 2024.
- Putin has already governed Russia either as President or as Prime Minister for more than 20 years, making it the longest period a leader has been in power since Joseph Stalin.
- Putin was first elected as Prime Minister of Russia in 1999 and as President in 2000.
- Russia's Presidential Term was lengthened to 6 years (from 4 years) in 2008

Fact

- In countries like US, France and others the President can serve only a maximum of two consecutive terms.

SpaceX Announced 4 Member Crew for “Inspiration4”, World’s 1st all-civilian Earth Orbiter Mission

SpaceX announced the 4 member crew for the World’s 1st all-civilian Earth Orbiter Mission, “**Inspiration4**”. Christopher Sembroski, Dr. Sian Proctor, Jared Isaacman and Hayley Arceneaux were the 1st batch of civilians aboard the Crew Dragon Resilience spacecraft to be launched into orbit by SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket by September 15, 2021.

New Zealand introduces World’s 1st Climate Change Law for Financial Sector

New Zealand becomes the 1st country in the world to introduce a Climate Change Law for regulating the Financial Sector. As per the new law, All banks, insurers, investment managers with total asset value greater than NZ\$1 billion (USD 703 million) shall report the impacts of climate change on their investments to the government.

i. The law will be passed by 2022 & Companies have to submit the report by 2023.

ii. Previously, New Zealand has set targets to provide carbon-neutral public transport by 2025 & procure only zero-emissions public transport buses.

Background:

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in its 2015 Paris Conference, introduced the “Climate Action Plan 2050” that targets reducing the global temperature by 1.5 degree Celsius.



China opens 5G Signal base at Ganbala radar station, World’s Highest Radar Station

China opened its 5G Signal base at the World’s Highest Radar Station, “**Ganbala radar station**” which is located at a height of 5,374 meters, in the remote Himalayas of China’s Tibet autonomous region.

i. Stable high-speed 5G connectivity can be accessed by Soldiers of Chinese army, which will help them to be in-touch with the global information society.

ii. People’s Liberation Army of China constructed the 5G signal station at Ganbala, which is located in Tibetan border with India & Bhutan.

About China:**President** – Xi Jinping**Capital** – Beijing**Currency** – Yuan or Renminbi**Pass connecting India & China:**

- Niti Pass – Uttarakhand with Tibet
- Shipki La Pass – Himachal Pradesh with Tibet
- Nathu La Pass – Sikkim with Tibet
- Jelep La Pass – Sikkim with Tibet

UAE to send its 1st Rover, 'Rashid' to Moon by 2022

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Space Centre is planning to send its rover 'Rashid' to the moon on an unmanned spacecraft by **2022**. The rover will be deployed on the Moon using Japan based ispace company's Lunar lander. The rover is named after Dubai's ruling family (Current Ruler-Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid)



- The rover will be launched into space aboard a SpaceX rocket from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA.
- If the mission succeeds, UAE & Japan will join countries like US, Russia & China as nations that have put a spacecraft on the lunar surface.
- The rover will study the lunar surface, mobility on the moon's surface and how different surfaces interact with lunar particles.

India ranks 84th in Henley Passport Index 2021; Japan tops

According to 'Henley Passport Index : Q2 2021 Global Ranking' released by Henley & Partners, India has been ranked as **84th Most Powerful Passport** (visa-free score – 58). The Index has been topped by Japan, Singapore while Germany & South Korea together took the 3rd spot.



- India shares its ranking with Gabon & Tajikistan. Indian passport holders have access to 58 Visa-Free destinations.
- Around 199 different passports have been compared for the index.
- The index ranks passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa (or most travel friendly passports).
- It is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Rank	Passport	Visa-Free Score (Access to Countries)
84	India	58
1	Japan	193
2	Singapore	192
3	Germany, South Korea	191

Harry Potter's author J.K. Rowling set to release a Children's novel 'The Christmas Pig'

- JK Rowling, the British author who is well known for the Harry Potter fantasy series set to release her children's novel called "The Christmas Pig".
- 'The Christmas Pig' is a standalone book and it is aimed at kids aged 8 years and above. The book is illustrated by Jim Field.
- 'The Christmas Pig' will be released on October 12, 2021 by Hachette Children's Group Imprint Little, Brown Books.

About J.K. Rowling and her books:

She has won many awards and some of them include Legion of Honor in 2009 and Tony Award for Best play in 2008

India ranked 49th in Inclusive Internet Index 2021, Sweden tops : EIU, Facebook Report

India has been ranked **49th out of 120 countries** in the 'Inclusive Internet Index 2021' released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in partnership with Facebook. India shares its rank with **Thailand**.

- The Top 3 countries are – Sweden, United States, Spain.
- The 120 countries which have been covered in the report represent 98% of Global GDP & 96% of Global Population.
- The report is commissioned by Facebook and conducted by EIU ranks countries based on Internet availability, affordability, relevance and readiness of people to use it.



Rank	Country
49	India

1	Sweden
2	United States
3	Spain

Singapore becomes 1st Country to ratify Free Trade Agreement RCEP

Singapore ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), with this it became the 1st Participating country to ratify the RCEP, which is the World’s Largest Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

RCEP is an initiative led by China, India had pulled out of the pact in 2019.

RCEP



- In November 2020, 15 Asia -Pacific countries including 10 members of the ASEAN (**Association of Southeast Asian Nations**) and their 5 **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** partners China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia signed the RCEP.
- The agreement will enter into force after 6 ASEAN member states and 3 ASEAN FTA partners have ratified it.
- The participating countries are targeting entry into force on January 1, 2022.

About Singapore

Prime Minister (PM) – Lee Hsien Loong

Currency – Singapore Dollar (SGD)

India retains 142nd Rank, Norway Tops in World Press Freedom Index 2021

India with a score of 46.56 retained **142nd Rank** (out of 180 countries) in the World Press Freedom Index 2021 released by international journalism not-for-profit body, **Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF)** (also known as Reporters Without Borders).

- The index was topped by **Norway (for the 5th time)**, followed by Finland & Sweden.
- India has been classified as a country with a ‘bad’ environment for Press Freedom, it shared the classification with Brazil, Mexico & Russia.
- India was ranked 142nd in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index rankings.

World Press Freedom Index:-

- The World Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking, which ranks countries according to the level of freedom available to journalists. It has been releasing reports since 2002.

Rank	Country	Global Score *
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142	India	46.56
1	Norway	6.72
2	Finland	6.99
3	Sweden	7.24

About Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF)

Secretary-General – Christophe Deloire

Headquarters – Paris, France

South Korea's LG Electronics closes down mobile phone business

South Korea's LG Electronics has announced that it is closing down its mobile phone business unit worldwide after nearly six years of losses totalling \$4.5 billion. The decision was approved by its board of directors on 5 April 2021.

PM Modi Participates in Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021

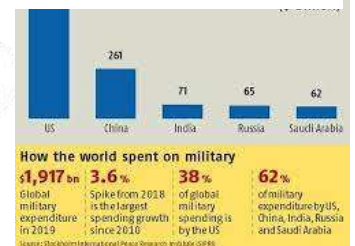
Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the **Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021** which was held virtually on April 22-23, 2021. He participated in the summit at the invitation of US President Joseph R. Biden, the summit was hosted by the US.

- **Theme** of the Summit – 'Our Collective Sprint to 2030'.
- Around 40 world leaders participated in the Summit.
- Major points of discussion – reducing greenhouse gas emission & meeting targets of Paris Agreement to keep Global temperature rise to below 2 Degree Celsius.
- The summit is one of the key events on climate before the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, COP26, scheduled to take place in Glasgow, Scotland, UK in November 2021.

India 3rd Highest Military Spender in 2020, US Tops: SIPRI Report

According to the report 'Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2020' released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India with a Military Expenditure of **USD 72.9 Billion in 2020** (3.7% of Global Share) was ranked as the **3rd Highest Military Spender** in 2020.

- The United States (US) was the World's Highest Military Spender in 2020 with a spending of USD 778 Billion (39% of Global Share) followed by China which spent around USD 252 Billion (13% of Global Share).



- The Total Global Military Expenditure rose to **USD 1981 Billion in 2020** (2.4% of Global GDP), which is an increase of 2.6% compared to 2019.
- SIPRI had ranked India as the 3rd Highest Military Spender of 2019 in its 2020 report.

Rank	Country	Spending
3	India	USD 72.9 Billion
1	US	USD 778 Billion
2	China	USD 252 Billion

About Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Director – Dan Smith

Headquarters – Stockholm, Sweden

India ranked 49th in Chandler Good Government Index 2021; Finland tops

India with an index score of 0.516 has been ranked 49th in ‘Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021’ – **1st Edition** produced by Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG). The Index was topped by Finland, Switzerland & Singapore.

- The Index has ranked 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
- The 2021 report is the 1st Edition of the CGGI. It measures each country over 50 open data points.
- The Index is made up of 34 Indicators which are organized into 7 pillars.

Rank	Country	Score
49	India	0.516
1	Finland	0.848
2	Switzerland	0.839
3	Singapore	0.834

About Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG)

Executive Director – Wu Wei Neng

Headquarters – Singapore

UK to get World's Most Powerful Weather Climate Forecasting Supercomputer by 2022

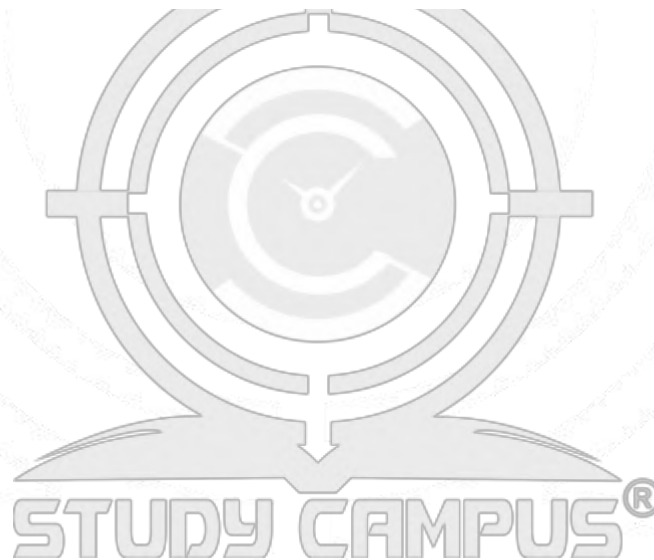
Microsoft and the United Kingdom(UK)'s Met Office are collaborating to build the world's most powerful weather and climate forecasting supercomputer in the UK. It is likely to be operational in 2022.

The Met Office has signed an agreement with Microsoft for the provision of a leading supercomputing capability to enhance weather and climate forecasting.



This state of the art supercomputer will be developed at a cost of **1.2 billion pounds(~ ₹12,400 crore)**.

- This is a part of the UK Government's commitment towards achieving Net Zero by 2050.
- The capabilities of this supercomputer are one of the world's most environmentally sustainable, which is powered by 100% renewable energy, delivered through market-leading energy efficiency.



Defence

India participates in French Maritime Exercise 'La Perouse' held in Indian Ocean

Navies of India & Three other QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Countries namely US, Japan and Australia participated in the Multilateral French Maritime Exercise 'La Perouse'. The Exercise took place from April 5-7, 2021 in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region and was led by the French Navy.



- It is the **1st time** ever that Indian Navy assets are participating in the French defence exercise.
- The Indian Navy Assets which participated in the exercise are INS Satpura, INS Kiltan along with P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The Indian Navy assets participated in drills at sea with ships & aircraft of French Navy (FN), Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) & United States Navy (USN).

La Perouse

The 1st edition of La Perouse joint exercise was initiated by France in **2019**.

- The participants of the 1st Edition exercise were Australia, Japan & US.
- It has been named after an 18th Century French Naval explorer, Jean-François de Galaup, comte de Lapérouse.

About France

President – Emmanuel Macron

Capital – Paris

Currency – Euro, CFP franc

1st Unit of Indigenously built ALH MK-III Aircraft 'INAS 323' commissioned into Indian Navy at Goa

On April 19, 2021, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the 1st Unit of the Indigenously built ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Mk-III Aircraft was commissioned into the Indian Navy at **INS Hansa, Goa**.

- INAS 323 Squadron will comprise of 3 ALH Mk IIIs. It will be commanded by Commander Samik Nundy.
- The ALHs are designed and developed Indigenously by the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The squadron will perform roles like Search and Rescue operations, Special Operations and Coastal Surveillance.

About Indian Navy:

Chief of the Naval Staff – Admiral Karambir Singh

NASA's 'Ingenuity' Becomes 1st Helicopter to take Controlled Flight on Mars

The 'Ingenuity', the experimental Mars helicopter of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) became the **first helicopter** to take powered, controlled flight on another planet (Mars).

This is hailed as a **Wright Brother Moment**.

Aim:

To demonstrate that powered controlled flight is possible on Mars.

Ingenuity:

i. Ingenuity is a mini 4 pound (1.8 kg) copter, which carried a bit of the wing fabric from the 1903 Wright flyer (Kitty Hawk), the first successful heavier than air powered aircraft.

ii. NASA has invested around **85 million USD** to build the Ingenuity, a 19 inch (48 cm) tall copter with carbon fiber blades.

The Ingenuity was taken to Mars along with the Perseverance rover and landed inside the Jezero crater.

iii. The Ingenuity was taken to Mars along with the Perseverance rover and landed inside the Jezero crater.

- Chief Pilot- Håvard Grip

The first image:

The first black and white image from Ingenuity showed the copter's shadow on the surface of Mars and the video of the Perseverance captured the first flight on Mars.



19th India-French Navy Bilateral Exercise 'VARUNA-2021' conducted in Arabian Sea

The 19th Edition of the Indian and French Navy Bilateral Exercise 'VARUNA-2021' took place in the Arabian Sea from April 25-27, 2021.

- The Indian side was led by **Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar**, while the French side was led by **Rear Admiral Marc Aussedat**, Commander Task Force 473.
- During the exercise, high tempo-naval operations at sea, advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises were carried out.

i. Participants

- From the Indian Navy – Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer **INS Kolkata** & other Indian Navy assets took part in the exercise.
- From the French Navy – **Aircraft Carrier Charles-de-Gaulle** and other assets took part in the exercise.

Varuna Naval Exercise

- Varuna is a bilateral naval exercise initiated in 1983; it was named as 'VARUNA' in 2001.
- It is a vital part of the Indo-French Strategic partnership and highlights the coordination and interoperability between the two navies.
- As per Indian Mythology, Varuna is the god of oceans.

Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise 'VAJRA PRAHAR 2021' conducted at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh

The **11th Edition** of the India-US Special Forces Exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2021' was conducted at Special Forces Training School at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh in March, 2021.

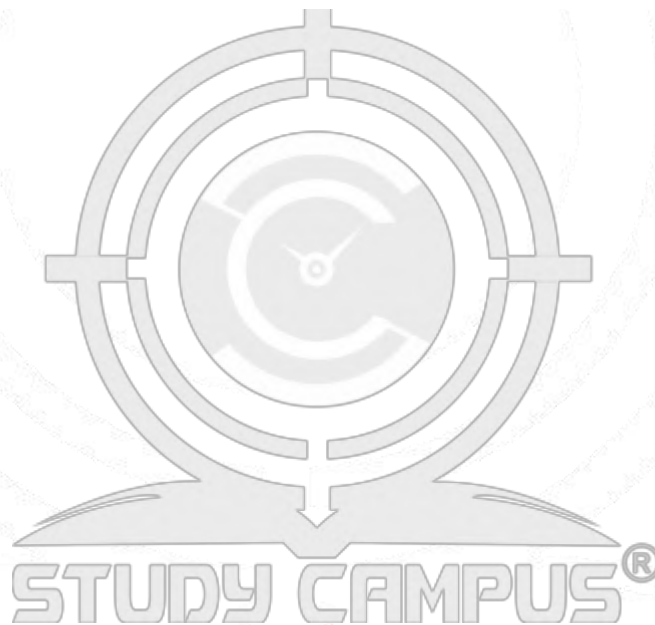
- The main objective of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the Special Forces of the two countries.
- Vajra Prahar is conducted alternatively between India & US to share best practices & experiences in areas like Joint Mission Planning & Operational Tactics.
- The navies of India & United States conducted a 2-day Passage Exercise 'PASSEX' in Bay of Bengal (Eastern Indian Ocean Region) from March 28-29, 2021.



About Indian Special Forces

3 Branches of the Indian Armed Forces have separate special forces units

Para SF – Indian Army; MARCOS – Indian Navy; Garud Commando Force of the Indian Air Force



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Subhash Kumar, Finance Director Of ONGC, Assumes Additional Charge as its CMD

According to the order issued by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)'s **Finance Director Subhash Kumar** assumes additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) due to the retirement of current **CMD Shashi Shanker**.



i. He had worked as Head Business Development, Finance and Budget and also as Head Treasury Planning and Portfolio Management Group at ONGC Videsh Ltd., from April 2010 to March 2015.

ii. He was also the Chief Financial Officer of Mansarovar Energy Colombia Limited, a 50:50 joint venture of ONGC Videsh and Sinopec of China.

iii. He is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and Associate Member of ICSI. He is an alumnus of Punjab University, Chandigarh.

Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli Became Brand Ambassador Of Digit Insurance

Captain of the Indian Men's cricket team, Virat Kohli became the brand ambassador of Digit Insurance, a general insurance company, which became the first unicorn of 2021 with a valuation of 1.9 Billion USD (around Rs. 13918 crores).

- As the brand ambassador of Digit Insurance, Virat Kohli will spread awareness about the Digit insurance mission towards making insurance simple.
- He will also create awareness about the importance of Insurance across India.

About Digit Insurance:

Chairman– Kamesh Goyal

CEO & Principal officer- Vijay Kumar

Headquarters– Bengaluru, Karnataka

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed Additional Director of Britannia

Urjit Patel, former Reserve Bank Governor has been appointed as the Britannia Industry's Additional Director in the category of Non-Executive and Independent Director with effect from 31st March 2021 for a term of 5 years i.e up to 30th March 2026.



- Urjit Patel was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during September 2016-December 2018 and was succeeded by Shaktikanta Das.
- He was also appointed as the RBI Deputy Governor from 2013 to 2016.
- He is currently the chairman of the governing body of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. He is also on the Investment Advisory Committee of the Army Group Insurance.

Nguyen Xuan Phuc Sworn In As President of Vietnam; Pham Minh Chinh Elected As Prime Minister

On 5th April 2021, **Nguyen Xuan Phuc (66 years old)** of Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), sworn in as the **President of Vietnam** at Hanoi, Vietnam. The 14th National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam elected **Pham Minh Chinh** of CPV as the **new Prime Minister (PM)** of Vietnam.

Nguyen Xuan Phuc Appointed as President:

- i. Nguyen Xuan Phuc replaced **Nguyen Phu Trong**, who was serving as both the President and General Secretary of Vietnam.
- ii. The resolution on electing him as the new president was adopted with an approval rate of 97.5%.
- iii. He was the only candidate who was nominated for President, this is the first time where a prime minister was nominated to the post of President.
 - He served as the Prime Minister of Vietnam from 2016 to 2021.
 - He has served as the member of 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th CPV Central Committee.

Pham Minh Chinh Appointed as Prime Minister:

The resolution to elect Pham Minh Chinh as the new PM was adopted by the top legislature with an approval rate of 96.25% at the ongoing 11th session of the 14th NA.

- Pham Minh Chinh has served as the deputy Minister of public security.
- He has been serving as the head of the organization commission under CPV Central Committee since Feb 2016.

Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana Appointed As 48th Chief Justice Of India

- i. The President of India Appointed Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Judge of the Supreme Court, as the 48th Chief Justice of India. The notification regarding the appointment was issued by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ii. He will take over as the Chief Justice of India on **24th April 2021** for a 16-month tenure till **26th August 2022**.
- iii. He will succeed the incumbent **Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde** who will retire on 23rd April 2021.
- iv. The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the **President of India** under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.

**About Ministry of Law and Justice:**

Union Minister– Ravi Shankar Prasad (Constituency- Patna Sahib, Bihar)

Vivo ropes in Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli as Brand Ambassador

On 7th April 2021, Vivo Communication Technology Co. Ltd. (**Vivo**) has appointed Indian Men's Cricket Team captain Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador.

Aim:

- To reach the millennials and technologically driven consumers.
- The association with sports personalities will support the brand to reach a wider audience.

About the association:

- i. As the Brand Ambassador of Vivo, Virat Kohli will spread awareness and promote the upcoming product series of Vivo.
- ii. The association of Virat and Vivo includes all the above the line (**ATL**) and below the line (**BTL**) activities like the upcoming events of the brand, TV, print, outdoor and social media campaign.

Additional info:

As a part of Vivo's commitment to the "Make in India" campaign, all the Vivo smartphone series are manufactured at the Facility at Greater Noida.

Vivo is one of the title sponsors of the Indian Premier League Cricket Tournament.

Other Indian Ambassadors of Vivo:

- Amir Khan
- Sara Ali Khan

World Bank Economist Poonam Gupta Appointed as 1st Woman DG of NCAER

On 5th April 2021, **Poonam Gupta**, economist of World Bank(WB) was appointed as the **first woman** Director General(DG) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). She will succeed **Shekhar Shah**, DG of NCAER since 2011, and assume office as the new DG of NCAER on **1st July 2021**.



- Poonam Gupta has been working with the World Bank since 2013.
- She has served as the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy(NIPFP) and professor of Macroeconomics at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations(ICRIER), an autonomous economic think tank.

About National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER):

Director-General– Shekhar Shah

Established in 1956

Location– New Delhi

President Ram Nath Kovind Appointed Sushil Chandra as 24th CEC of India

i.President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Senior-most Election Commissioner, **Sushil Chandra** as the **24th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India**. He succeeds **Sunil Arora** whose tenure ended on 12th April 2021. Sushil Chandra will assume charge on April 13, 2021. His tenure will end in Mid 2022.

ii.He was appointed in pursuance of **clause (2) of Article 324** of the Constitution of India.

iii.Prior to the appointment, Sushil Chandra was serving as the Election Commissioner from February 15, 2019 after retiring as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

About Election Commission of India:

Formation: 25 January 1950

Headquarters: New Delhi

ACC approves to Extend the Tenure Arun Kumar DG of DGCA By 6 Months

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet(ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension in the tenure of **Arun Kumar**, IAS as the Director General(DG)of Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) for a period of **6 months** beyond 20th April 2021 or until further orders.

About Arun Kumar:

i.Arun Kumar is a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre.

ii.He has been serving as the DG of DGCA since June 2019.



iii. Previously He had held an additional charge as DG of DGCA between May and July 2019.

iv. He has served as the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)

About Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):

i. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), an attached office of MoCA, is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation that deals with safety issues.

ii. It is also responsible for the regulation of air transport services to, from or within India.

Director-General– Arun Kumar

Headquarters– New Delhi

Ayushmann Khurrana Appointed as the Indian Brand Ambassador of Tecno

Tecno, global smartphone brand has appointed Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana as its Indian Brand ambassador. The 2021 initiative of Tecno aims to push the envelope of technology democratisation with innovation, new age smartphones.

- He will be spearheading the new Tecno Spark 7 campaign launched in India on 9th April 2021.

- He will feature in the campaigns across Spark, Pova, Camon smartphone series.

Ayushmann Khurrana:

In September 2020, Ayushmann Khurrana was appointed as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s advocate for the Children's Rights Campaign "For Every Child".

About Tecno Mobile – India:

CEO– Arijeet Talapatra

Headquarters– Noida, Uttar Pradesh

US President Joe Biden Nominated Bill Nelson To Serve As Next NASA Administrator

United States (US) President, **Joe Biden** had **nominated** former Astronaut, **Bill Nelson** to serve as next Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In May 2019, he was appointed to the NASA Advisory Council by former Administrator Jim Bridenstine. He was elected to the US Senate three consecutive times from 2001 to 2019.



Justice Sanjay Yadav Appointed as Acting CJ of Allahabad High Court; Succeeds Justice Govind Mathur

President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** appointed **Justice Sanjay Yadav**, judge of Allahabad high court as the Acting Chief Justice (CJ) of Allahabad High Court by exercising the power conferred by the Article 223 of the Constitution of India .

- He assumed charge as the Acting CJ on **14th April 2021**, succeeding Justice Govind Mathur who retired on 13th April 2021.

- Department of Justice, under the Ministry of Law and Justice notified regarding the appointment.

About Sanjay Yadav:

i. Justice Sanjay Yadav, started his career in 1986 and practiced in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh (MP) at Jabalpur.

ii. He has served as the Deputy Advocate General of MP.

- iii. He was later elevated as the Judge of MP High Court in March 2007 and made permanent judge in January 2020.
- iv. He served as the acting CJ of MP high court during October to November 2019 and from September 2020 to January 2021.
- v. He was transferred to Allahabad High Court as Judge in January 2021.

India's CAG G C Murmu Appointed External Auditor of OPCW

India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as **External Auditor** of the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** for a three-year term starting 2021.

- The appointment was made during an election process held at the OPCW Conference of State Parties held on April 21, 2021.
- **India** was also selected as a **member of the Executive council** of the OPCW representing the Asia group for another 2-year term.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- It is an intergovernmental organisation and Implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29th April 1997.
- It oversees the global endeavour for permanent and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons.
- Members – 193

About Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Director-General – Mr Fernando Arias

Headquarters – Hague, Netherlands

Rekha Menon becomes 1st woman Chairperson of NASSCOM

Accenture India's Chairperson and Senior Managing Director **Rekha Menon** has been appointed as the Chairman of IT industrial body, National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2021-22.

Highlights:

- Rekha Menon becomes the **1st woman Chairperson of NASSCOM**. Prior to this appointment she served as the Vice Chairperson of NASSCOM for the year 2020-21
- She succeeds UB Pravin Rao who is now a Chief Executive Officer and Whole Time Director of Infosys.
- NASSCOM also announced its Executive council which has **40 percent representation by women leaders**.

Note:

Krishnan Ramanujan, President and Head of Business & Technology Services, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been appointed as the **Vice Chairperson** for 2021-22.

About National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM):

Establishment: 1st March 1988

President: Debjani Ghosh

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Justice Rajesh Bindal appointed Calcutta HC Chief Justice

On 27th April 2021, President Ram Nath Govind appointed **Justice Rajesh Bindal as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court(HC)**. He will succeed Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan.

- He was appointed by the President of India under the powers conferred by **Article 223** of the Constitution of India.

About Justice Rajesh Bindal:

i. Justice Rajesh Bindal enrolled as an Advocate on September 14, 1985 and practised in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and Central Administrative Tribunal, in Taxation, Constitutional, Civil and Service cases.

ii. He was appointed as a Permanent Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on March 22, 2006.

iii. Then he was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Common High Court for Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union territory of Ladakh on 09.12.2020.

iv. Later he was transferred to Calcutta High Court on 05.01.2021.

Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel named the Chief of Communist Party; succeeds Raúl Castro

Miguel Díaz-Canel (60 years old), The President of Cuba has been named as the **first secretary** of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party. He succeeded **Raúl Castro** as the first non-Castro First Secretary of the communist party since the Cuban revolution in 1959.

- Raúl Castro has been serving as the first secretary since 2011.
- Raúl Castro and Fidel Castro, the two brothers, have ruled Cuba since the 1959 revolution which overthrew the rule of Gen Fulgencio Batista.

About Miguel Díaz-Canel:

i. Miguel Díaz-Canel started his political career as a member of the Young Communist League in Santa Clara.

ii. He became the Minister of Higher Education in 2009.

iii. He has served as the vice-president of the council of state in 2013.

iv. In 2018 he was elected as the President of Cuba and took over the presidency from Raúl Castro.

About Cuba:

President- Miguel Díaz-Canel

Capital- Havana

Currency- Cuban Peso

Expenditure Secretary TV Somanathan appointed as Finance secretary

Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan was recently appointed as the **Finance Secretary** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He will succeed **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**

- In the Finance Ministry, the senior-most secretary among the four secretaries in the finance ministry is designated as the finance secretary.

About TV Somanathan:

- i. TV Somanathan is a 1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre. Somanathan was awarded the Gold Medal for the Best IAS trainee of his cohort.
- ii. Somanathan was appointed as the Secretary, Department of expenditure (DoE) in finance ministry in December 2019.
- iii. Prior to that, he was serving as a principal secretary in Tamil Nadu cadre.
- iv. Earlier, he has served as a joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

Amitabh Chaudhry re-appointed as MD & CEO of Axis Bank

The board of Axis Bank approved the re-appointment of **Amitabh Chaudhry as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Axis Bank** for a period of **3 years**, with effect from January 1, 2022 up to December 31, 2024.



- Also the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shareholders of the bank have to approve the appointment.

About Amitabh Chaudhry:

- i. Amitabh Chaudhry was appointed as MD and CEO of Axis Bank for a period of three years, from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021.
- ii. Prior to joining Axis Bank, Amitabh Chaudhry was MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company

About Axis Bank:

Establishment: 1993

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline: Badhti ka Naam Zindagi

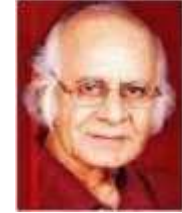
Honours/ Awards

Noted Marathi Writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale To Receive Saraswati Samman 2020

KK Birla Foundation has selected well known Marathi writer **Dr. Sharankumar Limbale**, as the recipient of **Saraswati Samman 2020** for his 2018 Marathi novel titled “**Sanatan**”.

The Saraswati Samman 2020 marks the **30th Saraswati Samman**.

The book – Sanatan, features the story of socio-cultural struggles of the untouchables.



About Saraswati Samman:

- i. The Saraswati Samman is an annual award instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
- ii. It is one of the highest literary awards in India.
- iii. The award includes a citation, a plaque and a cash award of Rs.15 lakh.
- iv. The winner of the award is selected from the outstanding works from 22 Indian languages.

About Dr. Sharankumar Limbale:

- i. Dr. Sharankumar Limbale hails from Solapur, Maharashtra.
- ii. He was the retired professor and director of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik, Maharashtra.
- iii. He has authored around 40 books of novels, poetry, stories and criticism.

Rajinikanth to be Honoured with 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2019

i. Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced that Rajinikanth (70 years old) will be honoured with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2019 as a recognition of his contribution to the film industry as Actor, Producer and screenwriter.

ii. Rajinikanth will be the **12th South Indian** to receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

iii. The inaugural Dadasaheb Phalke Award was presented to actor **Devika Rani** at the 17th National Film Awards held in 1970.

iv. Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest honour for the artists of the Indian Film Industry was instituted in 1969.

AP Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan Receives Kalinga Ratna Samman 2021

i. M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India presented the Kalinga Ratna Samman for the year 2021 to **Biswabhusan Harichandan**, governor of Andhra Pradesh (AP) to recognise his contribute on to literature.

ii. The award was presented during the 600th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Adi Kabi Sarala Das and the 40th Annual Day of Sarala Sahitya Sansad at the Sarala Bhawan, Cuttack.



About the Kalinga Ratna Samman:

- i. Kalinga Ratna Samman is an annual award instituted by the Sarala Sahitya Sansad in 2007.
- ii. The award recognises the person of Odisha who has contributed to any field at the national or international level.
- iii. The award carries a silver idol of Goddess Saraswati, a copper plaque and a shawl.

About Sarala Sahitya Sansad

President – Sri Sahadeva Sahoo, IAS (Retd.)

Head Quarter – Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Forbes' 35th Annual World's Billionaires List: Jeff Bezos tops the list; Mukesh Ambani Asia's richest person

i. Jeff Bezos, Founder of Amazon.com Inc topped the Forbes' **35th Annual world's Billionaires list** with a net worth of 177 billion USD followed by **Elon Musk** CEO of SpaceX and Tesla with a net worth of 151 billion USD and French Billionaire **Bernard Arnault** chairman of LVMH Moët Hennessy – Louis Vuitton SE with a net worth of 150 Billion USD with 2nd and 3rd rank.

ii. Ranked 10, **Mukesh Ambani**, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd became **Asia's richest person**, replacing Jack Ma.

iii. With 140 billionaires, India has the 3rd highest number of billionaires on the list.

iv. Mukesh Ambani topped India's 10 Richest Billionaires 2021 List of Forbes with a net worth of 84.5 billion USD, followed by **Gautam Adani** chairman of Adani Group with a net worth of 50.5 billion USD.

2021 EE British Academy Film Awards: Nomadland Won 4 BAFTA's Including Best Picture

i. The winners of the **74th edition** of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (**BAFTA**)'s annual film awards – **2021 EE British Academy Film Awards** were announced and presented over 2 ceremonies on 10th and 11th April 2021 over a virtual platform.

ii. The award ceremony was broadcasted across the BBC in the United Kingdom and across the globe.

iii. The film "**Nomadland**" directed by Chloé Zhao won the 2021 EE British Academy Film Awards under 4 categories – Best Film, Best Director, Best Leading Actress and Best Cinematography.

iv. Bukky Bakray won the EE Rising Star Award which was voted by the public.



About British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA):

BAFTA is a leading independent art charity.

Formed on 16 April 1947

Headquarters– London, United Kingdom

Oscar-Winning Producer, Guneet Monga received the Second-Highest Civilian French Honour

Guneet Monga, the Oscar-winning Indian film producer was awarded '**Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters**', **second-highest** civilian French honour by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Dria.

- She received the honour for her contribution to world cinema through her Indo-French productions and her work towards women's empowerment and gender equality.

About Guneet Monga and her work:

She is an Indian producer who has won the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards in 2019 for her short film '**Period. End of Sentence, 2018**'.

- **Famous works:** Gangs of Wasseypur series, Masaan and The Lunchbox."The Lunchbox" has won Critics Week Viewer's Choice Award at the 66th Cannes Film Festival.

About The Order of Arts and Letters of France:

It is a reward that will be given by France to the contributors across the globe under three categories such as Commander, Officer and Knight (Commandeur, Officier and Chevalier).

About France:

President – Emmanuel Macron

Capital – Paris

Currency -Euro, CFP franc

Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar & Virat Kohli featured in Wisden Almanack's ODI Cricketer of the Decade list

Famous Cricketing Magazine, Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, has named 5 best cricketers for each decade, starting from 1970's to 2010's to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1st One-Day International (ODI) match.

i. The list featured 3 Indian cricketers – **Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar & Virat Kohli.**

ii. Apart from them, England all-rounder **Ben Stokes** was declared the 'Cricketer of the Year' for a 2nd successive time.

Note – 1st ever ODI match was played between Australia & England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 5 January 1971.



About Wisden Cricketers' Almanack:

Wisden Cricketers' Almanack popularly known as the "Bible of Cricket" is an annual publication founded in 1864.

Origin- London, England

Indian Origin Businessman Yusuffali MA honoured with UAE's Top Civilian Award

Indian Origin Businessman Yusuffali MA along with 11 other individuals were awarded with "Abu Dhabi Award" UAE's top Civilian Award during the 10th edition of Abu Dhabi Awards held at Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- Yusuffali MA is the Chairman & Managing Director of Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group that operates a chain of hypermarkets & retail companies.

Soliha Shabir Named in India's World Records-Youngest & 1st Author in J&K to Recreate Life of Habba Khatoons poetry

22 year old Soliha Shabir from Dalgate, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir(J&K) has added her name in India's World Records, as the youngest and first author from J&K who has recreated the Life of **Habba Khatoons** poetry.

- She has authored 3 books 'In the lawn of dark', 'Obsolete- The poem Market' and 'Zoon – The heart of Habba Khatoon'.
- Her 3rd book titled – Zoon is the first book which recreated the theme of Habba Khatoon's poetry and essence.



Vibha Harish Founder of Bengaluru based Cosmix Featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2021

- i. Forbes launched the 6th annual Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list. 25 years old **Vibha Harish**, the founder of **Cosmix**, a Bengaluru based health supplement brand is featured on the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2021 list.
- ii. **Harshil Mathur** the co-founder and CEO of **Razorpay**, a leading Fintech Unicorn, is featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2021 list under the **Finance & Venture Capital** category.
- iii. The 2021 list features 300 young Entrepreneurs and Trailblazers under the age of 30 from across Asia who faced the challenges of the pandemic and found new opportunities amid the new normal.
- iv. The list is announced for 10 categories each honouring 30 individuals under the age of 30.

Rumana Sinha Sehgal won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021

Rumana Sinha Sehgal, Software engineer turned entrepreneur from Hyderabad, Telangana, won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021 by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace. She was virtually awarded for her contribution to the field of developing innovative and functional green products by recycling varied materials and non biodegradable materials.



Other Awards:

- Nationwide Award -under 50- Business Leader 2021 of Social entrepreneurship.
- International Influencer of the year 2021' at the Influencer Summit in January 2021.
- ReXKarmaveer Chakra (silver) and Global Fellowship award 2019 for her work in the zone of women and child empowerment.
- She was crowned as the 'Mrs Universe Successful 2018'.

Filmmaker Roberto Benigni won Venice Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement award

Oscar award winning Italian director as well as an actor Roberto Benigni has been conferred with the **Golden Lion Award** for Lifetime Achievement at the **78th Venice International Film Festival**. His career best movie was **Life is Beautiful**, which was released in the year 1997 film which fetched him the best actor and best international film Oscars.

Maharashtra's Priyanka Mohite becomes first Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna

A 28-year-old **Priyanka Mohite** from Maharashtra becomes the first Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna (8,091 metres), the 10th highest mountain peak in the world. She also climbed the world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 metres) in 2013, Mount Lhotse (8,516 metres) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 metres) and also Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres) in 2016.

- Annapurna is a massif in the Himalayas located in Nepal.

Uttar Pradesh won E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021

i. The Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) won the "E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021" ranking **first** under **Category I**. The award recognises the efforts of UP in implementing the e-applications developed by the Centre and other applications developed by the State Government.



ii. Uttar Pradesh was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh in 2nd rank and Odisha and Tamil Nadu in 3rd rank.

iii. The award was instituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) to promote the use of ICT in monitoring the works of gram panchayats.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Bird Sanctuary– Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary; Sandi Bird Sanctuary; Surajpur Wetland; SoorSarovar Bird Sanctuary

Rivers– Ganga; Yamuna; Betwa River.

93rd Academy Awards – Oscar 2021: Chloé Zhao, Frances McDormand and Anthony Hopkins Won Top Awards

i. The 93rd Academy Awards, also known as the Oscar 2021 was presented at the ceremony held at Union Station Los Angeles and the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood. The hostless ceremony was opened by **Regina King**.

ii. The nominations of the Oscar 2021 were announced by **Priyanka Chopra** and **Nick Jonas** in March 2021.

iii. The Academy Awards is annually presented by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**.

iv. **Chloé Zhao** is the 2nd woman to win the award Best Director since the award was instituted.

v. Welsh actor, director and film producer **Sir Anthony Hopkins (83 years old)** won the award for the Best Actor for his performance in the film “**The Father**”. The award was presented by Joaquin Phoenix.

vi. American actress and producer **Frances McDormand** won the Best Actress award for her performance in the film “Nomadland”.

About Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

President– David Rubin

CEO– Dawn Hudson

Headquarters– California, United States

Founded in 1927

Krithi Karanth becomes First Indian, Asian Woman to get ‘Wild Innovator Award’

On April, 27, 2021, the WILD ELEMENTS Foundation has awarded Dr Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), the ‘WILD Innovator Award’ for 2021, she became the first Indian and Asian woman to receive such an award.

Other winners: Richelle Thomas, Erika Allen, Laurell Sims, AnnaSophia

Robb, Genesis Butler (USA), Abigail Williams and Jayne Goss (United Kingdom), Sheila Funnell,

RessonKantai Duff (Kenya), Rosamira Guillen (Colombia), Dr Adriana Verges (Australia), and

Dominique Goncalves (Mozambique).

About WILD ELEMENTS Foundation:

- The foundation has made partnered with ‘WILD Innovators’ and ‘WILD Advocates’.



- **“Power of Three”** – Identifying the interconnectedness of animal kind, humankind, and plant kind is the specific approach of the foundation in addressing climate change.
- The foundation is planning to invest about \$3 million in sustainability and conservation organizations and at least \$10 million by 2030 in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

About Centre for Wildlife Studies

Establishment – 1984

Headquarters – Bangalore, Karnataka

Director – UllasKaranth

Jio Platforms, Byju’s in Time’s first list of 100 most influential firms

Reliance Industry Limited’s (RIL) technology wing **Jio Platforms** and e-learning startup **Byju’s** have made it to the TIME Magazine’s first-ever list ‘**TIME100 Most Influential Companies**’, which is an expansion of the TIME100 franchise.

The key factors considered for evaluation are,

- Relevance
- Impact
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Ambition

i.Jio Platforms was listed under the **Innovation category** alongside Zoom, Adidas, TikTok, Ikea, Moderna and Netflix.

ii.The magazine has listed Jio Platform for “leading digital transformation” in India.

iii.Byju’s was listed under **the Disruptors category** alongside Tesla, Huawei, Shopify, Airbnb and DiDi Chuxing.

About Jio Platforms:

Establishment:2019

Parent Company:Reliance Industries

Founder:Mukesh Ambani

Headquarters:Mumbai,Maharashtra

Sports

Shooting: India bags 30 Medals, Tops Medals Tally at New Delhi ISSF World Cup 2021

The 2021 ISSF World Cup took place at **Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges**, New Delhi from March 18-29, 2021. India topped the Medals Tally with 30 Medals (15 Gold, 9 Silver, 6 Bronze), while USA Grabbed the 2nd place with 8 Medals & Italy took the 3rd place with 4 Medals.



- The World Cup featured events across 3 disciplines (Rifle, Pistol & Shotgun).
- More than 300 shooters from across 43 countries participated in the event.
- It is India's most successful outing in a single edition of the World Cup stage. It is India's 6 consecutive No.1 Finish at the ISSF championships in the rifle/pistol events.
- It is an annual edition of the ISSF World Cup in the Olympic shooting events, governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

Event Winners

Medals Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
India	15	9	6	30
USA	4	3	1	8
Italy	2	–	2	4

About International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF):

President – Vladimir Lisin

Headquarters – Munich, Germany

Football – 9 cities in Australia & New Zealand to Host 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has announced the 9 host cities & 10 stadiums for the 2023 Women's Football World Cup spread across Australia & New Zealand.

Notably, the opening match will be held in Auckland, New Zealand and the Finals in Sydney, Australia. And Two of the semifinals are split between the countries.

Note- Previously, New Zealand & Australia Co-hosted Cricket World Cup in 2015

Host Cities:

- Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney from Australia
- Auckland, Dunedin, Hamilton and Wellington from New Zealand

Speciality of 2023's Event:

i. For the 1st time in the history of FIFA Women's tournament, 32 teams will be participating in the 2023 World Cup (Previously, only 24 teams).

ii. This is also the 1st time countries from 2 different confederations co-host a FIFA World Cup.

- Australia – Asian Confederation
- New Zealand – Oceania Confederation

iii. 1st time a Senior World Cup is hosted by a country from the Oceania confederation.

About FIFA:

FIFA Men's World Cup-2022 will be hosted by **Qatar**.

Headquarters– Zurich, Switzerland

Motto– For the Game. For the World

President– Gianni Infantino

FIFA started to award world player awards in 1991 & Last Awarded in 2009.

Virat Kohli regains Top spot in ODI Batsman rankings; India at 8th spot in ICC WC Super League Standings

After the 2021 England vs India 3-match One Day Internationals (ODI) series in March, 2021, Indian Skipper **Virat Kohli regained the No.1 Spot** in International Cricket Council (ICC) ODI Men's Batsman Rankings. With 2-1 victory in the 3-match series, **India** moved to **7th spot** in the ICC World Cup (WC) Super League Standings.

Note – As on April 7, 2021, India ranked at **8th Spot** in the ICC World Cup (WC) Super League Standings.

**Key Points:**

i. England retains the top spot in ICC WC Super League Standings.

ii. As on 7th April, 2021, Pakistan ranked at 2nd Position & Australia ranked at 3rd Position.

iii. Countries in the top 8 spots of the ICC WC Super League Standings will automatically qualify for the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup.

iv. As the host of the 2023 World Cup, India has already qualified for the tournament.

India's Stands in ICC Ranking:

- India's ODI Vice-Captain, Rohit Sharma moves to 3rd Spot in ICC ODI Men's Batsman Rankings.
- India Men's Test Team ranks 1st in the ICC Test match Team rankings, while retains 2nd spot in both T20 & ODI rankings.

About International Cricket Council (ICC):

CEO– Manu Sawhney

Headquarters– Dubai, United Arab Emirates(UAE)

Nethra Kumanan Becomes 1st Indian woman Sailor to Qualify for Olympics

Nethra Kumanan (23 years old) became the **1st Indian woman sailor** to qualify for the Olympics under the laser radial category. She will be the 10th Indian to qualify for a sailing event in the Olympics. She

secured the place through her performance at the **Mussanah Open Championship**, a qualifier for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

- 4 Indian Sailors including Nethra were qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- Vishnu Saravanan** (Laser Standard) and the pair of **Ganapathy Chengappa** and **Varun Thakkar** (49er Class) qualified during the Asian Qualifiers held in Oman.
- For the first time India will be competing in more than 1 sailing event at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Babar Azam – ICC No.1 ODI batsman

ICC Men's ODI Ranking:

i. Pakistan ODI captain, **Babar Azam**, replaced Indian Captain Virat Kohli to become the ICC Men's No.1 ODI Batsman.

ii. With 865 points, Babar Azam is 8 points ahead of Virat Kohli.

iii. Virat Kohli dominated in the ODI standings continuously for 1,258 days.

ICC announced Player of the Month for March 2021:

- Bhuvneshwar Kumar** – India – Men's Player of the Month
- Lizelle Lee** – South Africa – Women's Player of the Month

Wrestling : India bags 14 Medals in Asian Wrestling Champions 2021 at Almaty, Kazakhstan

India bagged 14 Medals (5 Gold, 3 Silver, 6 Bronze) in the 2021 Asian Wrestling Championships held at Almaty, Kazakhstan from April 13-18, 2021. It is the **34th edition** of the Asian Wrestling Championships.

- Iran & Kazakhstan both finished at the Top Position with 17 Medals each.
- The championships took place across 3 disciplines of wrestling – Men's Freestyle, Men's Greco-Roman & Women's Wrestling (Freestyle).
- It is organized by the United World Wrestling (UWW).

Rank	Country	Medals
1	Iran	17 (Gold – 7, Silver- 5, Bronze -5)
	Kazakhstan	17 (Gold – 7, Silver- 5, Bronze -5)
3	India	14

		(Gold – 5, Silver – 3, Bronze – 6)
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India's Medal Winners

Winner	Category	Medal
Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Men's Freestyle – 57 Kg	Gold
Vinesh Phogat	Women's Freestyle – 53 Kg	Gold
Anshu Malik	Women's Freestyle – 57 Kg	Gold
Sarita Mor	Women's Freestyle – 59 Kg	Gold
Divya Kakran	Women's Freestyle – 72 Kg	Gold
Bajrung Punia	Men's Freestyle – 65 Kg	Silver

About United World Wrestling (UWW)

President– Nenad Lalovic

Headquarters– Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland

Formula One : Max Verstappen wins Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2021

Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won the 2021 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix held at Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari Circuit in **Imola, Italy**.

- Mercedes Driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) finished in Second Place while McLaren's Lando Norris finished Third Place.
- This is Max Verstappen's 1st race victory of the Formula One 2021 season.
- It is the 2nd race of the 2021 Formula One Championships.
- The F1 Championships are organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

About Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA):

President – Jean Todt

Headquarters – Paris, France

TN's Arjun Kalyan becomes India's 68th Chess GrandMaster

18-year old Arjun Kalyan from TamilNadu(TN) became **India's 68th Chess GrandMaster(GM)** after winning against Dragan Kosic of Montenegro in the 5th round of the ongoing **GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" in Serbia.**

Key Points:

i. In order to qualify for the title of GM, a player must achieve 3 GrandMaster norms in events covering a minimum of 27 games and an ELO(Electric Light Orchestra) rating of at least 2500 at any point in their career.

ii. Arjun Kalyan already had 4 GM norms under his belt but his ELO was 2477. After playing a steady chess in the three closed round robin event he crossed the 2500 mark to become India's 68th GM.



About International Chess Federation(FIDE):

President: Arkady Dvorkovich

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.

Haryana & Delhi to Host 4th Khelo India Youth Games 2021 from 21st Nov to 5th Dec 2021

Haryana & Delhi is set to host the **4th edition** of the **Khelo India Youth Games 2021**, which will be held from 21st November 2021 to 5th December 2021. It will be held in Panchkula, Ambala, Shahabad, Chandigarh cities of Haryana & in Delhi.

- The decision was taken during the 1st meeting of the Executive Committee of the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 chaired by **VijaiVardhan**, Chief Secretary of Haryana at Chandigarh.
- This will be the **first** time that the Khelo India Youth games are held away from the January window and in **multiple cities.**

Organiser:

The games will be organised by Haryana Government and Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

4th Khelo India Youth Games:

- Around 25 types of sports, including 5 traditional sports like Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-ta, Mallakhamba and Yogasana for the under-18 category will be organised at the 4th Khelo India Youth Games.
- Some of the (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – **BRICS**) **BRICS Games 2021** will also be organised during Khelo India Games.
- Around 8500 players across India and other countries will be participating in the games.
- A Sports Expo will also be organised during the Khelo India games 2021.

Houston, USA to Host 2021 World Table Tennis Championship For 1st Time

The International Table Tennis Federation(ITTF) has confirmed that **the World Table Tennis Championship 2021** will be held as per schedule from November 23 to 29, 2021 in **Houston, United States of America(USA)**. This is for the 1st time USA will host the World Table Tennis Championship.



- The decision was made at a meeting of the ITTF executive committee on April 11.

- It is to be noted that, 2020 World Table Tennis Championship in Busan, South Korea was cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic.

Tennis : Rafael Nadal wins 2021 Barcelona Open

Spain's Rafael Nadal defeated Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas to win the 2021 Barcelona Open (68th Edition). This is the **12th Barcelona Open Title** for Rafael Nadal.

- The 2021 Barcelona Open (sponsored by Banc Sabadell) took place from April 17-25, 2021 at Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- Rafael Nadal won his 1st Barcelona Title in the year 2005.
- Barcelona Open is an annual tennis tournament for **male professional players** and is played on **clay courts**.

About Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)

CEO – Massimo Calvelli

Headquarters – London, United Kingdom

India's Mirabai Chanu, Jhili Dalabehera win Medals in the 2020 Asian Weightlifting Championships

India won 2 medals (1 Gold, 1 Bronze) in the 2020 Asian Weightlifting Championships held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan from April 16-25, 2021. The two medallists are – **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** (Manipur) – Bronze Medal in Women's 49 Kg weightlifting & **Jhili Dalabehera** (Odisha) – Gold Medal in Women's 45 Kg weightlifting.

- The Asian Weightlifting Championships are hosted by Asian Weightlifting Federation (AWF).
- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** (from Manipur) lifted 119kg in Clean & Jerk which is a **new World Record**.

Winner	Category	Medal
Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Women's 49 Kg	Bronze
Jhili Dalabehera	Women's 45 Kg	Gold

Obituaries

India's First Union Environment Minister Digvijaysinh Zala Passed Away At 88

Digvijaysinh Zala, India's first Union Minister of Environment and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Wankaner, Gujarat passed away at the age of 88 in Morbi, Gujarat. He was born on 20th August 1932 in Wankaner, Gujarat.

Digvijaysinh Zala was the head of the erstwhile princely state of Wankaner, Gujarat.

About Digvijaysinh Zala:

- i. Digvijaysinh Zala was elected as a member of the Gujarat legislative assembly in 1962 as an independent candidate and later elected as a member of the Swatantra Party in 1967.
- ii. As a member of Congress, He became the Member of Parliament from the Surendranagar constituency for two terms from 1979 to 1989.
- iii. He served as the first Environment Minister of India from 1982 to 1984 after the Ministry was established under Prime minister Indira Gandhi in November 1980.
- iv. He has authored the book titled "The Eco-vote: Peoples' Representatives and Global Environment" (1985).



Britains' Prince Philip, Duke Of Edinburgh Passed Away At 99

Britain's Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-serving royal consort in the history of British passed away at the age of 99 in Windsor Castle, London, United Kingdom. He was born as the Prince of Greece and Denmark on 10th June 1921 in Greece.

About Prince Philip:

- i. Prince Philip joined the British Royal Navy in 1939 and served in the Mediterranean and Pacific during World War 2.
- ii. He renounced his Greek title and became a British citizen and took his mother's anglicised name, Mountbatten.
- iii. King George VI bestowed the title of His Royal Highness on Philip and he was created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich.
- iv. He married Queen Elizabeth II on 20th November 1947 in Westminster Abbey.
- v. He retired from public life in August 2017.

Ibn Abdur Rehman Human Rights icon of Pakistan passed away at 90

On 12th April 2021, Ibn Abdur Rehman (I A Rehman), the human rights icon of Pakistan and former journalist, who was known as the "Titan of Human Rights" passed away at the age of 90 in Lahore, Pakistan. He was born in 1930 in Haryana, India (before Partition).

He was a protege of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, a great Urdu Poet.

About I A Rehman:

- i. I A Rehman has served as the Director of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) from 1990 to 2008 and Secretary-General of HRCP from 2008 to 2016.
- ii. He was the founder of the Pakistan India People Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPPFD).
- iii. He has served as the Chief Editor of Pakistan Times in 1989.

Awards:



- i. He received the **Ramon Magsaysay Award** for Peace and Understanding in **2004** along with Indian Admiral L Ramdas.
- ii. He won the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award for 2003 for his fight for peace and human rights.

G.V.G.Krishnamurty Ex Election Commissioner passed away at 86

On 14th April 2021 Former Election Commissioner **G.V.G.Krishnamurty** passed away due to age related ailments in New Delhi. He was born on 19 November, 1934 in Chirala, Andhra Pradesh (A.P.).

About G.V.G.Krishnamurty:

- i. G.V.G.Krishnamurty became the Election Commissioner of India in October 1993 and continued in service till 1999.
- ii. Before being appointed as the Election Commissioner he worked in the Central Law Ministry of Government of India from 1960 to 1992.
- iii. He was also one of the founding members of the Indian Society of International Law.

Legendary Tamil comedian Padma Shri Vivekh passed away at 59

Veteran Tamil actor **Padma Shri Vivekh** passed away in Chennai following a cardiac arrest. He was born on 19th November 1961 in Thoothukudi, Tamilnadu.

About Vivekh:

- i. Padma Shri Vivekh is popularly known as **Chinna Kalaivanar** in Tamilnadu.
- ii. He was awarded Padma shri by the Government of India in the year 2009 for his contribution to the film industry.
- iii. Apart from being an actor, he was a prominent social activist. He had launched a **Project Green Kalam**, under the mentorship of former Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- iv. Under this project he had planted around 33.23 lakhs plant saplings and have also planned to plant 1 crore plants.
- v. He had been awarded honorary doctorate by Sathyabama University and he had also won three film fare awards in the best comedian category.
- vi. He had also won the **Kalaivanar award** for his contribution to Tamil cinema by the Tamilnadu State Government.



Charles Geschke, Co-founder of Adobe & Developer of PDF Passed Away at 81

Computer Scientist, Charles Geschke, the co-founder of **Adobe**, who developed Portable Document Format (PDF) passed away at the age of 81 in San Francisco, Los Altos, United States (US). He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.

- He worked at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Centre and in 1982, he founded Adobe, along with John Warnock, his colleague from Xerox.
- In 2008, US President Barack Obama awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to him and John Warnock.



Father of Indian Banking reforms :Ex RBI Governor M Narasimham passed away at 94.

13th Reserve Bank of India(RBI) Governor Maidavolu Narasimham passed away at Hyderabad due to Covid-19.He was 94.He was born on 3rd June 1927 in Guntur,Andhra Pradesh.

About Maidavolu Narasimham:

- i.M Narasimham was popularly known as **The Father of Banking sector reforms in India** for his contribution to the Indian banking and financial sector.
- ii.He was first from reserve bank cadre to be appointed as RBI Governor.
- iii.He also served as the **Executive director** in **World Bank** and in **International Monetary Fund**
- iv.He also served as the **Vice President of Asian Development Bank(ADB)**.

Awards:

He was honoured with **Padma Vibhushan** award in the year 2000 for his contribution to Indian banking sector.

Committees Involved:

- i.He was the Chairperson of the committee on the Financial systems,1991 and the committee of Banking sector reforms,1998 which are popularly known as Narasimham committee-I and Narasimham committee-II.
- ii.Narasimham committee-I recommended the **merger of large Indian banks** which was the reason behind the recent merger of 10 nationalised banks.
- iii.It also proposed the concept of **Narrow Banking** and was also responsible for the creation of private sector banks like **ICICI Bank,HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank**.

Books:

He had written his story in his book **“From Reserve Bank to Finance Ministry and beyond:Some Reminiscences”**.

Padma Awardee, Islamic Scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan Passed Away at 96

Islamic scholar **Maulana Wahiduddin Khan**, the recipient of both **Padma Bhushan** and **Padma Vibhushan** has passed away at the age of 96 in New Delhi after testing positive for coronavirus. He was born in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh in 1925.



About Maulana Wahiduddin Khan:

- i.Maulana Wahiduddin Khan has authored more than 200 books which includes the commentary and a translation of the holy Quran in English, Urdu and Hindi.
- ii.He was the founder of the Islamic Centre in New Delhi.
- iii.He was featured among the 500 most influential Muslims, which ranked the influential Muslims in the world.

Awards:

- Padma Bhushan** for public affairs in **2000**.
- Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award in 2009
- Padma Vibhushan** for spiritualism in **2021**.
- National Citizens' Award (presented by Mother Teresa).

Padma Bhushan awardee nuclear scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam passed away

Veteran **Indian nuclear scientist and Padma Bhushan awardee Krishnamurthy Santhanam** who played an important role in 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests passed away.

About Krishnamurthy Santhanam:

- i.** During the tests of Pokhran- II ,Krishnamurthy Santhanam was the **field director of Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO)**.
- ii.** He was awarded the third highest civilian award, **Padma Bhushan in 1999** for his contribution to the field of science.
- iii.** He was also associated with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Atomic Energy(DAE) & Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses(IDSA).

Supreme Court Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar passed away at 63

Mohan M Shantanagoudar, the sitting judge of the Supreme Court passed away at the age of 63 in Gurugram, Haryana. He was born on 5th May 1958 hails from Dharwad in North Karnataka. He has been serving as the Supreme Court Justice since 17th February 2017 and was set to retire on 4th May 2023.



- He started his career as an advocate in 1980.
- In 2003 he was appointed as an additional judge of Karnataka High Court and later in 2004 he was appointed as the permanent judge.
- He was appointed as the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court in 2016.

STUDY CAMPUS®

Important Days with theme

World Health Day April 7, 2021: Theme, significance, history and quotes

World Health Day 2021: Health is not just about physical well-being but also about the mental and social aspects. A person is said to be healthy if he/she possesses all three. According to the WHO, health is central to human happiness and well-being. It also makes an important contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer and are more productive.



Millions of people around the world are prey to many terrible diseases.

Therefore, to raise awareness about the overall health and well-being of people across the globe every year World Health Day is celebrated.

World Health Day is celebrated on which date?

World Health Day 2021 celebrated every year on April 7 to recognize the widespread contributions of our medical faculty and the success of the World Health Organization.

World Health Day 2021: Theme

Each year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) selects a theme highlighting a particular priority area of public health. The theme for this year's global health awareness day is Building a fairer, healthier world.

"The greatest wealth is health." -Virgil

The campaign highlights WHO's constitutional principle that "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."

National Civil Services Day 2021 – April 21

- i. The **National Civil Services Day** is annually observed across India on **21st April** to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of the civil servants towards ensuring the seamless functioning of the public administration.
- ii. The April 21 was chosen to commemorate the day on which **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the first Home Minister of Independent India addressed the Administrative service officers at the Metcalfe House, Delhi in 1947. In his address he referred to the civil servants as the **“Steel frame of India”**.
- iii. The First National Civil Service day was observed on **21st April 2006**.
- iv. The government of India instituted the Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration in 2006 and in 2020 the award was comprehensively restructured to recognize the contribution of civil servants.

Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day 2021 – April 22

i. The United Nations (UN)’s **International Mother Earth Day** has been observed annually across the globe on **22nd April** since **2009**. The day aims to create awareness about the deteriorating environment, to protect the people’s livelihood and to stop the biodiversity decline.

ii. The theme of the Earth Day 2021 is **“Restore Our Earth”**.



iii. The day has been observed as the Earth Day since 1970 by the EARTHDAY.ORG in more than 190 countries. The 22nd April 2021 marks the celebration of the **51st Earth Day**.

iv. Earth Day was officially renamed to International Mother Earth Day in 2009.

World Book and Copyright Day 2021 – April 23

i. **World Book and Copyright Day** is annually observed across the globe on **23rd April** to promote the benefits of reading, publishing and copyright. The annual observance of the world book and copyright day is organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

ii. The year 2021 marks the observance of the **25th edition** of UNESCO's World book day.

UNESCO adopted the resolution during its 28th session of the General Conference held in Paris in 1995 and proclaimed the 23rd April of every year as the World Book and copyright day to pay tribute to the books of authors and encourage everyone to read.

iii. The 23rd April is a symbolic date of the world literature, which marks the death anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, all who died on the 23rd April 1616.

National Panchayati Raj Day 2021 – April 24

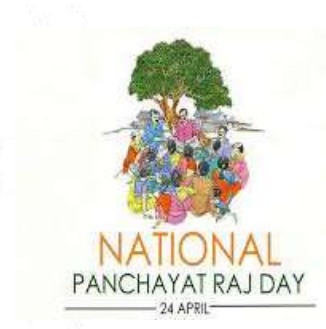
i. **National Panchayati Raj Day** or **Panchayati Raj Diwas** is annually observed across India on **24th April** to recognise the work of the Panchayat leaders towards building an Atma Nirbhar Bharat. The day is annually commemorated by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

ii. 24th April 2021 marks the celebration of the **12th National Panchayati Raj Day**.

iii. The Ministry has decided to commemorate the National Panchayati Raj Day 2021 as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

iv. The **first** National Panchayati Raj Day was observed on 24th April **2010**.

v. 24th April marks the institution of Panchayat Raj through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 which came into force in 1993.



World Intellectual Property Day 2021 – April 26

i. World Intellectual Property Day is annually observed across the globe on 26th April to create awareness about the impacts of the patents, copyright, trademark and designs. The day also aims to educate the general public about the role of Intellectual property (IP) rights in supporting innovation and creativity.

ii. The theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2021 is "IP and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs): Taking your ideas to market".

iii. In 2000, The member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations (UN) Agency for intellectual property proclaimed the 26th April of every year as the World Intellectual Property Day.



About World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):

Director General- Daren Tang

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Members- 193

Established in 1967