



Current Affairs Supplement

June2021

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National

'PM- CARES for Children' scheme launched to support children against COVID-19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new scheme under PM-CARES for children who affected in COVID-19. Children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid 19 will be supported under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme.

The supportive measures are:-

- i. Each child will receive a monthly financial support once they attain 18 years of age for next five years and they will get a fund of Rs.10 lakh when they turn 23.
- ii. Children under 10 years and Children between 11 to 18 years will be given admission to Central Government schools or in private schools.
- iii. Expenditure of School fees, uniform, and textbooks will be provided under PM-CARES fund.
- iv. Free health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs will be given to the children under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) and premium amount till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM CARES.

About PM-CARES

A public charitable trust under the name of 'Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)' has been set up in 2020 to provide financial assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural.

- **Prime Minister** is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund

India's GDP Contracts by 7.3% in FY21, Rises 1.6% in Q4: NSO

The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, estimated India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for **Q4 FY21** at **1.6 percent** with a contraction of **7.3(-7.3) percent** for **FY21** (Earlier projection 8(-8) percent) against 4 percent expansion in FY20.

- This is the **1st full-year contraction** in the Indian economy in the last 4 decades since 1979-80 when GDP had shrunk by 5.2 percent.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA):** In FY21, India's GVA in economy reduced by **6.2 percent**, compared to a 4.1 percent rise in FY20. GVA in Q4 recorded a growth of 3.7 percent, compared to 1 percent in Q3. GVA contracted 22.4 percent and 7.3 percent in Q1 and Q2 of FY21.

About Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation:

Minister of State (MoS), Independent Charge – Rao Inderjit Singh

NITI Aayog's SDGs India Index 2020-21; Kerala Tops Among State, Chandigarh Tops Among UTs

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) released the **3rd** edition of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index** and dashboard for 2020-21 in New Delhi.

- Report Title: '**SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020-21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action**'.



- The index was launched by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar** along with other members.
- State wise Top Rank: Kerala** has retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75 and Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.
- Union Territories (UTs) wise Top Rank: Chandigarh** topped among the UTs, followed by Delhi, Puducherry. Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has been adjudged as the worst performer.

Index development:

The index was designed and developed by NITI Aayog in consultations with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the UN agencies led by United Nations in India, the States and Union Territories, and the key Union Ministries.

Paytm To Launch India's Largest IPO, Aims To Raise \$3 Billion

Digital payments provider **Paytm** is going to launch its **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** and raise about **\$3 billion (around Rs 21,800 crore)**, which would be **India's largest IPO** debut ever.

- Paytm backed by Softbank commonly called One97 Communications Private Limited has targeted around **\$25 Billion to \$ 30 Billion from an IPO**. It is 1.5-1.8 times the current valuation of \$16 billion.
- Paytm IPO will break the record of Coal India Limited IPO offering which raised more than Rs 15000 crore that was launched in 2010.

Salman Rushdie Authored a New Book Titled "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020"

Indian Born British Writer **Salman Rushdie** has authored a new book titled **"Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020"** a collection of nonfiction essays, criticism and speeches with a focus on his view and imaginations of the change in literature and culture written between 2003 and 2020.

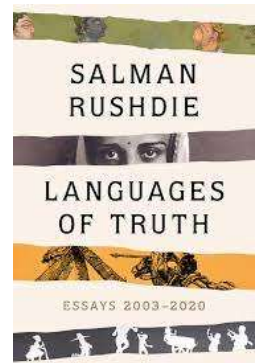
The book was published by Penguin Random House.

About the Book:

- The book provides the analytical views of the author on the evolution of literature and culture.
- He explores the work of authors from Shakespeare and Cervantes to Samuel Beckett, Eudora Welty, and Toni Morrison mean to him.

About Salman Rushdie:

- Salman Rushdie is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.
- He is a former president of PEN American Center.
- In 2007, He was made a Knight Bachelor by Queen Elizabeth II.
- He has authored around 14 novels, published 4 works of nonfiction and co-edited 2 anthologies.

**Pharmeasy Acquires Medlife, Becomes India's Largest E-Pharma Company**

An online medical platform, **PharmEasy** has acquired its rival **Medlife**, to create **India's largest online pharmacy**.

- API Holdings, the parent of PharmEasy, has acquired 100 percent equity shares of Medlife in return for **19.59 percent equity share capital, estimated at \$250 million.**
- Medlife has now ceased to operate with effect from May 25, 2021, following the merger with PharmEasy.
- With this acquisition, Medlife users will automatically become PharmEasy users.
- With this total combined entity set, PharmEasy will serve around 2 million customers a month.

Vijay Gokhale Authored a Book Titled 'Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest'

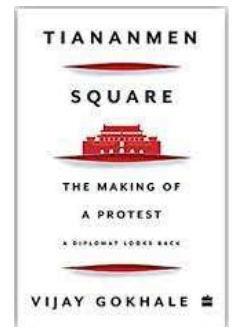
A book titled 'Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest' authored by **Former Indian foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale** was launched. This book is published by **HarperCollins Publishers.**

About the book:

- This book describes the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests in China which the author witnessed as a young diplomat 32 years ago.
- This book is the very first book of Vijay Keshav Gokhale and it focuses on Deng Xiaoping, the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and also on Xi Jinping.

About Vijay Keshav Gokhale:

- Vijay Keshav Gokhale was the thirty-second foreign secretary of India.
- He also served as Ambassador to Germany and China, and as High Commissioner to Malaysia
- He is considered as one of the most astute China experts in India.



NITI Aayog Recommended Privatisation of Central Bank & Indian Overseas Bank

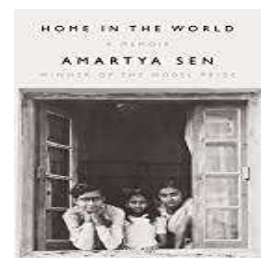
Government think-tank **NITI Aayog** has recommended the names of **Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** for privatization in the current fiscal (**2021-22**), as part of the disinvestment process announced in the Union Budget 2021-22.

- According to the Budget 2021-22, two public sector banks (PSBs) and one general insurance company in 2021-22 will be privatised, as per the new PSE (Public Sector Enterprise) policy for 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.
- Central government has set a disinvestment target of **Rs 1.75 lakh crore for FY22.**
- The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Department of Financial Services (DFS) will examine the proposal and discuss legislative changes needed for the privatisation of banks.

Amartya Sen authored new book – "Home in the World"

Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen**, authored a new book titled "**Home in the World**" which is set to be published by Penguin Random House in July 2021. The book describes the early life of Amartya Sen and explores the idea of 'home'.

Outline of Book:



- i. The book opens up with the days when Amartya Sen grew up with his grandparents in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ii. He also shares how Rabindranath Tagore gave him his name 'Amartya' (meaning 'Immortal').

About Amartya Sen:

Amartya Sen was born in 1933 in the Bengal Presidency of British India.

Currently, works as a Professor of Economics and Philosophy, at Harvard University.

Notable Awards:

- i. He was the **1st Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Economics**, when he received the award in 1998 for Welfare Economics.
- ii. Received India's Highest Civilian Award – **Bharat Ratna** in 1999
- iii. Received USA's National Humanities Medal in 2012
- iv. Received France's Highest Civilian Award – Legion of Honour in 2013

Popular Books – 'Development as Freedom', 'The Idea of Justice', 'The Argumentative Indian', 'Identity and Violence'

Bharti Airtel, Tata Group partner to implement 5G network solutions for India

Bharti Airtel & Tata Group have announced a strategic partnership for implementing 'Made in India' 5G network solutions for India. The 5G Technology will be based on 'O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network)' based Radio and NSA/SA (Non-Standalone/standalone) Core Technology.



- The **Tata Group has developed the O-RAN technology indigenously**.
The usage of O-RAN technology reduces network costs by around 40% and is more efficient.
- Bharti Airtel will pilot and deploy the indigenously solution as part of its 5G rollout plans in India. The pilot services will begin from January 2022.
- The solution will be rolled out initially for India and subsequently for exports.
- Bharti Airtel has already partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for system integration as well as offering technology.
- Airtel became the first telecom company in India to demonstrate 5G over its live network in the city of Hyderabad. India is the world's second-largest telecom market after China.

About Bharti Airtel

Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

Headquarters – New Delhi

About Tata Group

Tata Sons Private Limited is the holding company of Tata Group and promoter of all Tata Group companies.

Chairman of the Board at Tata Sons – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tamil Nadu's Economic Advisory Council Includes Esther Duflo, Raghuram Rajan

Tamil Nadu government has constituted an "Economic advisory council to the chief minister". Its members include:

- **Esther Duflo** – Nobel laureate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA
- **Raghuram Rajan** – Former Reserve Bank of India governor

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

On the basis of recommendations of this council, the government will revitalise the economy in the state and ensure that benefits of economic growth reach all segments of society.

This was revealed by Governor Banwarilal Purohit during his address to the 16th State Assembly.

CSE's Ease of Living Index 2020 ranks Bengaluru as Most Liveable City in India

According to the 'Ease of Living Index 2020' released by Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) – Bengaluru (Karnataka) with a score of 66.7 has been ranked as India's most liveable capital city followed by Chennai, Tamil Nadu at No. 2, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh at No. 3. The Index is part of the report titled State of India's Environment 2021.



- Only 3 state capitals feature in the Top 10 most liveable cities list.
- This is the 2nd edition of Ease of Living Index 2020, the 1st edition was published in 2018.

Parameters

The Index is based on 4 Parameters – Quality of life, Economic ability, Sustainability & Citizens' perceptions. Based on which, Indian cities were rated out of 100.

- The Ease of Living Index 2020 has included the parameter – citizen's perception for the first time.

Capital City	Ease of Living Index Score
Bengaluru, Karnataka	66.7
Chennai, Tamil Nadu	62.61
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	60.9

About Centre for Science & Environment (CSE)

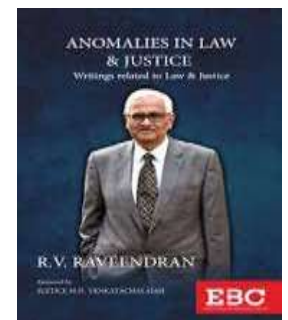
Headquarters – New Delhi

Founder – Director – Anil Kumar Agarwal

Director General – Sunita Narain

CJI Ramana Released Justice R V Raveendran's Book 'Anomalies In Law And Justice'

Chief Justice of India(CJI) Justice NV Ramana released a book titled "Anomalies in Law and Justice" written by the former Supreme Court judge



RV Raveendran.

- The former Chief Justice of India M N Venkatachaliah, former Supreme Court judge B N Srikrishna, and senior advocate Arvind Datar also attended the virtual book-release event.

About the Book:

i. It explains various deficiencies in the law which are required to be overcome, so that the common man does not lose faith in the judiciary and the legal system.

ii. The book is divided into two parts. The first part is addressed to the common man, along with judges and lawyers. The second part is specifically addressed to lawyers and judges.

About Justice RV Raveendran:

i. He has seen several high-profile cases like the OBC reservation, 1993 Bombay bombings and the Krishna Godavari basin dispute.

International

India Hosted 2021 BRICS Foreign Affairs Minister Meeting Virtually

India hosted the 2021 BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Foreign Affairs Minister Meeting virtually. External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, S Jaishankar Chaired the meeting, since India is the Chair of BRICS for the year 2021. BRICS supports proposal by India, South Africa to temporarily waive patents on COVID-19 vaccines

BRICS supported a proposal by India and South Africa to temporarily waive patents on COVID-19 vaccines as it held extensive deliberations on effectively combating the coronavirus crisis.



About BRICS:

BRICS represents 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade.

2021 Chair – India

2021 India's Theme – 'BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'.

WHO Named COVID-19 Variants 1st Found in India as 'Kappa' & 'Delta'

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has named the B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 variants of COVID-19 that were first identified in India as 'Kappa' and 'Delta' respectively.

- This is aimed to help the people discussion of Variants of Concern (VOCs) and Variants of Interest (VOIs).
- This naming will not replace the existing scientific names.



Background:

The government of India has objected to terming the B.1.617 mutant of the novel coronavirus as "Indian Variant" and issued an advisory to the social media platforms to remove all the contents referring to the B.1.617.2 strain as the 'Indian variant'.

Note:

Similarly the authorities of Singapore have issued an advisory on the reference of the "Singapore variant" of the virus on social media.

Other Variants of Covid-19: The B.1.1.7 strain first detected in the UK will be known as "Alpha", while the B.1.351 variant detected in South Africa is now 'Beta', P.1 variant first found in Brazil is "Gamma" and the P.2 variant is "Zeta". The strains found in the US are "Epsilon" and "Iota".

NASA Plans Two New Missions to Venus; New Zealand Made a Space Agreement With NASA

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to implement two new missions DAVINCI+ and VERITAS to Venus, Earth's nearest also called sister planet. NASA will spend \$500 million for each mission. Both missions will be expected to launch between 2028-2030.



- **DAVINCI+** (short for Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of

Noble Gases, Chemistry and Imaging) – It will measure the composition of Venus' atmosphere to understand how it formed and evolved, as well as determine whether the planet ever had an ocean.

- **VERITAS** (an acronym for Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography and Spectroscopy) – This mission will map Venus' surface to determine the planet's geologic history and understand why it developed so differently than Earth.

Aim -Mission aim to study the atmospheric and geological features of Venus, also known as Earth's sister planet. The closest planet to Earth and the second planet from the Sun, Venus is similar in structure but slightly smaller and much warmer than Earth.

US Became the 2nd Largest Source of FDI to India in 2020-21; Singapore Tops – DPIIT

As per the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the **United States(US)** became the **2nd** largest source of foreign direct investment(**FDI**) into India during FY21 by replacing **Mauritius**.

- **Singapore** remained the top largest source of FDI into India for the 3rd consecutive fiscal year.

FDI's growth in FY21:

i. In FY21, FDI into the country grew **19 percent** to USD 59.64 billion amidst measures taken by the government for policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business.

ii. The total FDI (including equity, reinvested earnings, and capital) in FY21 rose by 10 percent to the highest-ever USD 81.72 billion, as against USD 74.39 billion in FY20.

Country-wise Ranking over FDI inflow in FY21:

Sn	Country	FDI inflow
1.	Singapore	USD 17.41 billion
2.	US	USD 13.82 billion
3.	Mauritius	USD 5.64 billion

Sectors wise Ranking:

Sn	Sector type	FDI inflow
1.	computer software and hardware	USD 26.14 billion
2.	construction – infrastructure activities	USD 7.87 billion

3.	services sector	USD 5 billion
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India elected to UN Economic and Social Council for term 2022-24

India along with 17 other countries has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the **2022-24 term** beginning on January 1, 2022. India was elected in the **Asia-Pacific States Category** along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.



- ECOSOC is one of the 6 main organs of the UN. It is the coordinating body for the economic and social work of UN agencies and funds
- ECOSOC's 54 members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.

Other Countries to get elected

- From the African States, Ivory Coast, Eswatini, Mauritius, Tunisia and Tanzania were elected.
- From the eastern European states – Croatia, Czech Republic were elected.
- From the Latin American and Caribbean states, Belize, Chile and Peru were elected.

About UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

President – Munir Akram

Headquarters – New York, USA

Members – 54

Established in – 1945



New Zealand's Auckland named World's Most Liveable City: EIU Report 2021

According to the Global Liveability Index 2021 released by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), New Zealand's Auckland has been named as the World's Most Liveable City due to its ability to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic faster and lift restrictions earlier than other cities in the world even though city had more COVID-19 cases.

- Osaka (Japan), and Adelaide (Australia) came 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- Auckland has replaced Vienna (Austrian Capital) as the most liveable city. Vienna had topped the list since 2018.
- The Index is based on a survey conducted between February 22-March 21, 2021 and ranks 140 cities. Globally, the average livability score has fallen by 7 points compared to average pre-pandemic score.
- The Liveability Index is a bi-annual index and ranks cities based on **5 Indicators** – stability, healthcare, education, culture and environment, and infrastructure.
- Syrian Capital, Damascus remained the least liveable city at Rank 140.

Rank	Index Score	Location
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1	96.0	Auckland, New Zealand
2	94.2	Osaka, Japan
3	94.0	Adelaide, Australia

QS World University Rankings 2022: MIT, USA ranked World's Best University, IIT Bombay Top ranked Indian University

According to the **18th Edition of QS World University Rankings 2022** released by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds), **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** in USA was ranked as the **World's No. 1 University** (for the 10th consecutive time) followed by University of Oxford (UK) while Stanford University (USA) & Cambridge University (UK) shared the 3rd spot. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) was the top ranked Indian University at 177 (score of 46.4)

India at QS World University Rankings 2021		
RANK		
172		Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)
185		Indian Institute of Science
193		Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)

i. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc Bengaluru) was ranked as the World's top research university in accordance with quotes per faculty indicator.

- IISc Bengaluru received a score of 100 out of 100 for quotes per metric faculty (CPF).
- ii.** Around 1300 Universities in 2022 rankings. They were ranked based on **6 Indicators** – Academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per faculty, faculty/student ratio, international faculty ratio and international student ratio.

Rank	University	Score
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA	100
2	Oxford University, UK	99.5
3	Stanford University, USA	98.7
3	Cambridge University, UK	98.7

Indian University Rankings

Indian Rank	University	World Rank
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1	IIT Bombay	177
2	IIT Delhi	185
3	IISc Bengaluru	186

El Salvador Becomes First Country To Adopt Bitcoin As Legal Tender

El Salvador has become the first country in the world to grant legal tender status to bitcoin. The use of bitcoin as a legal tender will become law in 90 days. The use of bitcoin will be totally optional.

According to World Bank data, remittances from bitcoin to El Salvador account for \$6 billion in 2019. It is around a fifth of GDP in 2019 & a highest ratio across the world.

Merits:

- Bitcoins will be used to buy goods and pay taxes and bank loans and Bitcoin exchanges will not be subject to capital gains tax.
- It will bring financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation and economic development.

About Bitcoin:

Bitcoin is the first decentralized cryptocurrency which was released in 2009.

It is a digital currency which does not have a central bank or single administrator.

About El Salvador:

Capital: San Salvador

Currency: United States Dollar

President: Nayib Bukele

Firmina – World's Longest undersea cable built by Google

Google announced its plan of connecting the United States of America (USA) with South American countries by constructing an Open subsea cable. The subsea cable was named as "**Firmina**" honouring Brazil's 1st poet 'Maria Firmina dos Reis'.

i. It is the **World's longest subsea cable**, which is capable of fully operating through a **single power source**, in case if other power sources become temporarily unavailable

ii. Firmina will be connecting the East Coast of the USA with Las Toninas, **Argentina**, and additional landings in Praia Grande, **Brazil**, and Punta del Este, **Uruguay**.



About Google:

Alphabet is the parent company of Google

Established – September 1998

Founders – Larry Page & Sergey Brin

CEO – Sundar Pichai

Overview of the 47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021

The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021 (Outreach Session of the G7 meeting) took place in a Hybrid format from June 11-13, 2021 at Cornwall, United Kingdom (UK). It was **hosted by the United Kingdom (UK)** as it holds the Presidency of G7 for 2021. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the meeting.

- Theme for the Summit – '**Building Back Better**'.
- The UK invited Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa (jointly called 'Democracy 11') as Guest Countries to the 2021 summit.
- The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit has been called as the **1st ever net-zero G7** as all have committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Key Points

- The G7 countries & the Guest countries signed the '**Open Societies Statement**' which supports 'Human rights for all, both online and offline and Freedom of Expression.'
- The G7 leaders issued the **Carbis Bay Declaration**.
 - As part of the declaration, the UK will set up an **Animal Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre at Pirbright Institute** in Surrey, England which is aimed at stopping viruses jumping into the human population.
- During the summit, the G7 leaders launched the '**Build Back Better World (B3W)**' Project to counter China's Belt and Road Infrastructure (BRI) initiative.
- UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched the **500 million pound Blue Planet Fund..**

About G7

Members – 7 (U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan)

2021 Presidency – United Kingdom

Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, UAE – Elected to UN Security Council for 2022-23

Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were elected by the 75th session of the General Assembly as the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the **2022-23** term.



- The elected 5 non-permanent members will take their seats on the 15-member body of the UNSC.

About the 15-member of UNSC:

i. The **15-member body** of the UNSC consists of **5** permanent veto-wielding members and 10 non-permanent members. To ensure geographical representation, the **10** non-permanent seats are allocated based on the regional groups.

ii. **Permanent Members:** China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States

iii. **Non-permanent members:**

- **Existing members:** India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway (Terms at the Council will end December 31, 2022).
- **Newly elected members:** Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and UAE (Term begins at January 1, 2022)
- **Vacating members:** Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam (Terms will end December 31, 2021).

Note – The newly elected members will replace the vacating members in the assembly

About the Election Process:

i. The election will be based on regional representations, and the candidates require a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly to be elected, even if candidates are running unopposed in their regional group.

India ranked 51st in terms of Money Deposited in Swiss Banks, UK tops: SNB Statistics 2020

According to 'Annual Bank Statistics of 2020' released by Swiss National Bank (SNB), the Central Bank of Switzerland – India with **Swiss Francs (CHF) 2.55 billion (~ INR 20, 706 Crore)** has been placed at 51st place in the list of foreign clients' money in Swiss Banks during 2020. The United Kingdom (UK) topped the list with CHF 377 billion, followed by US (152 billion).



- The CHF 2.55 Billion (includes deposits made by Indian individuals, firms, deposits made in India-based branches of Swiss Banks and other financial institutions) has **increased from 899 million CHF (INR 6, 625 Crore) in 2019.**
- This reverses a two-year declining trend, and takes the aggregate fund to the highest level since 2006 (6.5 Billion CHF).
- The increase in aggregate funds of Indian clients in 2020 is due to increase in holdings via securities and similar instruments.
- In the 'Annual banking statistics, 2019' India was placed at the 77th position.

About Swiss National Bank (SNB)

Chairman of the Governing Board – Thomas J. Jordan

Head Offices – Berne, Zurich

India ranked 120 in Sustainable Development Report 2021, Finland Tops

According to the 6th Edition of 'Sustainable Development Report 2021 (SDR 2021)' released by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), India with a score of 60.1 has been placed at **120th rank out of 165 countries.** Finland topped the Index followed by Sweden & Denmark.



- For the 1st time since 2015, all countries have shown a reversal in progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- SDR 2021 has been written by a group of authors led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President of the SDSN and has been published by Cambridge University Press.

SDR Report

- SDR is an annual report which ranks the 193 UN member countries based on their performance against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- It has been released since 2015 and is based on official data sources (UN, World Bank, etc.) and non-official data sources (research institutions and non-governmental organizations)

Rank	Country	Index
120	India	60.1
1	Finland	85.9
2	Sweden	85.6
3	Denmark	84.9

About Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

President – Jeffrey Sachs

Headquarters – Paris, France & New York, USA

Global Peace Index 2021: India ranked 135, Iceland Tops

According to the **15th Edition of Global Peace Index 2021 (GPI 2021)** released by Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), India with a score of 2.553 has been ranked 135 out of 163 countries, which specifies 'Low State of Peace'. Iceland topped the GPI 2021 Index followed by New Zealand & Denmark.



- The average level of **global peacefulness decreased by 0.07 per cent** in the 2021 Global Peace Index. It has deteriorated for the 9th time in the last 13 years.
- The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region remained the world's least peaceful region, while Europe remained the most peaceful region in the world. 8 of the 10 most peaceful countries are from Europe.
- In the 2020 GPI, India was ranked 139th.

Global Peace Index

- GPI measures the relative position of nations' and regions' peacefulness. It is an annual report and was first released in 2009.
- It ranks countries based on 23 indicators across 3 domains: societal safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation. It covers 99.7 percent of the world's population.

Rank	Country	Index Score
135	India	2.553
1	Iceland	1.1

2	New Zealand	1.253
3	Denmark	1.256

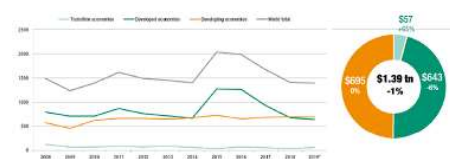
About Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP)

Founder & Executive Chairman – Steve Killelea

Headquarters – Sydney, Australia

UNCTAD Report: India 5th Largest recipient of FDI inflows, US Tops

According to the 'World Investment Report 2021' released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – India received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows worth **USD 64 billion in 2020** making it the 5th largest recipient of inflows in the world. The US with 156 Billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by China (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion).



- **Global FDI inflows declined to USD 1 Trillion** in 2020 (35% decline) compared to USD 1.5 trillion in 2019 due to pandemic.
- India's FDI inflow has increased to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019 (37% increase) due to acquisition in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) industry.
- India was ranked 8th in the UNCTAD's 2020 Report based on its FDI Inflows.

Countries with Largest FDI Outflows

- Countries with Largest FDI outflows are China (133 billion), Luxembourg (127 billion) & Japan (116 billion). India was ranked 18th with USD 12 billion (compared to USD 13 billion in 2019).

FDI Inflows in 2020

Rank	Country	Value
5	India	USD 64 billion
1	US	USD 156 billion
2	China	USD 149 billion
3	Hong Kong, China	USD 119 billion

FDI Outflows in 2020

Rank	Country	Value
18	India	USD 12 billion
1	China	USD 133 billion
2	Luxembourg	USD 127 billion
3	Japan	USD 116 billion

American Actor Will Smith announced his first Memoir titled “Will”

American Actor, rapper, and producer **Will Smith**, is set to publish his first memoir titled “**Will**” in November 2021. The book is co-written by **Mark Manson**, the author of The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck. The book will be published by Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

About “Will”:

- i. The cover art of the book was created by Brandan “BMike” Odums, a visual artist from New Orleans.
- ii. The book features Will Smith’s journey from being raised in West Philadelphia to becoming a Hollywood star and rapper.
- iii. The book features the story about the life and career of Will Smith.
- iv. Will Smith will also narrate the audiobook of Will from Penguin Random House Audio.



About Will Smith:

- i. Will Smith has won the grammy award for Best Rap Solo Performance in 1998 and 1999, Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group in 1992, and Best Rap Performance in 1988.
- ii. He has starred in various films like The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Bad Boys, Men in Black, and Pursuit of Happyness among others.

Pakistan remains in FATF’s ‘Grey List’

Pakistan has been retained on the ‘**Grey List**’ or **list of countries under ‘increased monitoring’** by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global terror financing watchdog. It has been retained due to its inability to prosecute the top leadership of UN Security Council-designated Terror groups.

- FATF also placed **Malta**, a member of European Union, on the ‘Grey List’ along with countries like Haiti, Philippines and South Sudan.
- FATF confirmed in its update that as of 25 June 2021, **Ghana** had been removed from the FATF List of Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring (Grey list).

Grey List and its consequences:

Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. The consequences are problems in getting loans from IMF, World Bank and other international agencies; reduction in international trade; International Boycott.

Defence

Indian Navy receives 1st Set of 3 MH-60 Romeo Helicopters from the US in July

Indian Navy is set to receive the first set of 3 MH-60 Romeo helicopters, a multi-role helicopter from the United States of America(USA) in July 2021.

- India and the US have signed a deal of over Rs 15,157 crore (2.13 billion USD) to procure 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin in 2020.
- The MH-60 Romeo helicopters are equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices along with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes, and precision-guided weaponry.



Naval Exercise: 31st Edition of India-Thailand CORPAT conducted in Andaman Sea

The 31st Edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (**Indo-Thai CORPAT**) (**Bi-Annual**) between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy was conducted from June 9-11, 2021 in the Andaman Sea.

- From the Indian side, **INS Saryu**, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) took part in the exercise.
- From Thailand's side, **His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi**, an OPV took part in the exercise. Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies took part in the exercise.
- The main purpose of the exercise is to keep the Indian Ocean safe and secure for International trade. It aims to consolidate interoperability between Indian Navy & the Royal Thai Navy.



Background

India & Thailand have been conducting the CORPAT Bi-Annual exercise along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2005.

Inaugural edition of Indian Navy-European Union Naval Force Exercise held at Gulf of Aden

The inauguration edition of the Joint Naval Exercise between **Indian Navy (IN) & European Union Naval Force Somalia (EU NAVFOR also known as Operation Atalanta)** took place at Gulf of Aden from June 18-19, 2021.

- From the Indian side, **Indian Naval Ship Trikanth** participated in the exercise. From the European side a total of 5 warships participated in the exercise. They are Italian Navy Ship ITS carabinieri, Spanish Navy Ship ESPS Navarra, and two French Navy Ship FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf.
- The exercise aims to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain.
- Simultaneously, a virtual '**Information sharing Exercise**' was conducted between Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region and the Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa.

IAF, Indian Navy conduct Passage Exercise with the US Navy in IOR

i. On June 23-24, 2021, Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in the two days Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the United States (US) Navy during its asset transit through Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

ii. India was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Kochi** and **INS Teg** along with **P8I** and **MiG 29K** aircraft.

iii. US was represented by the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) comprising Nimitz class aircraft carrier **Ronald Reagan**, Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer **USS** (United States Ship) **Halsey** and Ticonderoga class guided missile cruiser **USS Shiloh**.

**About United States:**

Capital– Washington, D.C.

Currency– United States Dollar

President– Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.

Indian Ambassador to US– Taranjit Singh Sandhu

DRDO successfully test-fires Nuclear capable cruise missile ‘Nirbhay’

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the nuclear capable **subsonic cruise missile ‘Nirbhay’** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. It is **India’s 1st indigenously developed** cruise missile.



- ‘Nirbhay’ is designed and developed in India by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which comes under DRDO.
- The Missile has a range of 1000 kms and is capable of reaching speeds of 0.6 – 0.7 Mach.
- It is capable of carrying multiple payloads and can engage several targets in a single flight.
- It can be launched from all 3 platforms – Land, Sea & Air.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Chairman – Dr G Satheesh Reddy

Headquarters – New Delhi

India’s 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier to be Commissioned by 2022: Defence Minister

Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh has stated that India’s 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) will be commissioned into Indian Navy’s Eastern Naval Command as **‘INS Vikrant’** by mid-2022. It is being built at **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**.



- The commissioning of INS Vikrant will enhance the combat capability, reach and versatility to India’s defence.
- IAC contains nearly 75% indigenous content and has been designed by **Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Design (DND)**.
- It is being built at a cost of INR 24,000 crore and was originally targeted to be commissioned by 2018.

- At present, India has only one Aircraft Carrier – the Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya.
- i. Rajnath Singh visited the **Karwar Naval Base** in Karnataka which is being developed under Project Seabird. The **ongoing Phase-IIA of Project Seabird** aims to make it the **largest Naval base in Asia**
- ii. He stated that India should aim to be among one of the top 3 naval powers in the world in the next 10-12 years period.
- iii. Indian Army issued a tender – Request For Information (RFI) for the procurement of **1,750 Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles (FICVs)** to replace the Russian-origin BMP-2.

About Indian Navy

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) – Admiral Karambir Singh

Appointments or Resign/Retired

J B Mohapatra Becomes Interim Chairman Of CBDT

Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra (J B Mohapatra), a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, was appointed as **the interim chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.

- He will succeed **Pramod Chandra Mody** whose extended tenure ended on 31st May 2021.
- The appointment was made by a competent authority of the Revenue Department.
- He is appointed for a period of **three months** or till the appointment of a regular chairman, whichever is earlier.



About J B Mohapatra:

- i.J B Mohapatra has been recently appointed as a member of CBDT along with other two members Anu J Singh and Anuja Sarangi.
- ii.Before this appointment, he was serving as the principal chief commissioner of Income Tax for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana region.

About the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):

- i.CBDT is the administrative and policy-making body for the Income Tax Department.
- ii.The CBDT is headed by a chairman and can have six members. All of these officers are in the rank of special secretary.

T V Narendran Elected As New President Of CII

The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has elected **Tata Steel Ltd Chief Executive Officer(CEO) and Managing Director(MD) T.V. Narendran** , as its **President** for the year 2021-22.

- He will succeed **Uday Kotak**,MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, who has completed his term.

About T.V. Narendran:

- i.T.V. Narendran was the Chairman of CII Eastern Region during 2016-17.
- ii.He has also led CII National Committees on Leadership and Human Resources besides being Chairman of CII Jharkhand.

Note:

Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bajaj Finserv Ltd., has been elected as **president-designate of CII for 2021-22**.

Pawan Munjal, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hero MotoCorp,has been elected as **CII vice-president for 2021-22**.

Jagjit Pavadia Becomes President Of International Narcotics Control Board

The former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the **Indian Revenue Service (Customs)**, **Jagjit Pavadia** has been elected as the **President of Vienna based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)** in its 131st session for a period of five years.



- She succeeds **Cornelis P. De Joncheere**.
- She is the **first Indian** to be appointed as the Chief of the INCB and the **second woman** to hold this office.
- Cornelis P.De Joncheere served as the President of INCB for the past 2 years (From 2019 to Mid - 2021).

About Jagjit Pavadia:

i.Jagjit Pavadia has served as the Narcotics Commissioner of India, Central Bureau of Narcotics for six years from 2006-2012.

ii.Also, She has been a member of the INCB since 2015, where she was elected as the Vice-President of the board in 2016.

About INCB:

INCB is the independent, quasi-judicial body established by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. The thirteen members of the Board are elected in a personal capacity by the Economic and Social Council for terms of five years.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Justice Arun Kumar Mishra Appointed as the Chairperson of NHRC

Former Justice of Supreme Court, Arun Kumar Mishra appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** of **India**. He was appointed as the Chairperson for a period of **3 years**.



He succeeds **Justice Prafulla Pant**, who has been serving as the interim Chairperson of NHRC. Before Prafulla Pant, former Chief Justice of India (CJI), **H L Dattu** served as the Chairperson of NHRC & retired from the post on December 2020.

About Arun Kumar Mishra:

- i.He served as the Judge in Supreme Court from 2014 to 2020.
- ii.He earlier served as the Justice of the Rajasthan and Calcutta high courts.

Gist about National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

- After amending the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 in 2019, the eligibility criteria for the post of chairperson of NHRC and state human rights commissions were revised.
- With this amendment, Justice/Formal Justice of Supreme Court can also be appointed as the chairperson of NHRC. Before this amendment, Chief Justice of India (CJI) can only be appointed as the chairperson of NHRC.

Dr.Patrick Amoth Of Kenya Becomes Chairman Of WHO Executive Board

During the **149th session** of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive board, **Dr Patrick Amoth of Kenya** has been appointed as



the **Chairman of WHO Executive Board**, for a period of **one year**.

Key Points:

- i. He succeeds **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, Union Health Minister of Government of India, who completed his tenure as Chairman of WHO Executive Board on June 02, 2021.
- ii. The chairman's post is held on a rotation basis for one year among regional groups.
- iii. Dr Patrick Amoth is the acting Director-General for Health, Ministry of Health of Kenya.
- iv. Dr. Harsh Vardhan will continue to be a member of the Executive Board of WHO till 2023.

About WHO:

Director General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 7 April 1948

About Kenya:

Capital: Nairobi

Currency: Kenyan shilling

President: Uhuru Kenyatta

Maldives' Abdulla Shahid Elected as President of the 76th Session of UN General Assembly

Maldives' Foreign Minister **Abdulla Shahid** elected as President of the **76th** session of the United Nations (UN) **General Assembly**.



- The 193-member General Assembly voted on June 07, 2021, to elect the President, who will preside over the 76th session of the UN body that will start in September 2021.
- Out of the 191 ballots cast, Abdulla Shahid got 143 votes, and Zalmi Rassoul, former foreign minister of Afghanistan, got 48 votes.
- Turkish **Volkan Bozkır** is the president of the **75th** session of the UN General Assembly.

Note – According to the established rules of regional rotation, the President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly was to be elected from the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

About United Nations General Assembly:

- It occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UNs.
- The Assembly will make recommendations to States on international issues and it has also initiated actions – political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal – which have benefited the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

Establishment – 1945 under the Charter of the UN

Headquarters – New York, USA

Members – 193

Former UP Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey Appointed as Election Commissioner

The Government of India has appointed Anup Chandra Pandey, retired IAS officer of 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh Cadre as the Election Commissioner of India with effect from the date he assumes the office. He will retire in February 2024.

- He was appointed to the position which was previously held by former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora who retired on 12th April 2021.
- Anup Chandra Pandey will join Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Sushil Chandra** and Election Commissioner **Rajiv Kumar** in the 3 member top executive body of the Election Commission of India (ECI) which will oversee the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand.

About Anup Chandra Pandey:

i. Anup Chandra Pandey has served as the chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh (UP) under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from 2018 to 2019.

ii. He has also served as the Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner of UP.

About Election Commission of India (ECI):

Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.

ECI was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)– Sushil Chandra

Headquarters– New Delhi

LIC Chairman M R Kumar Gets Nine-Month Extension

The Government has given a **nine-month extension to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Chairman M R Kumar** till March, 2022 in view of the ongoing preparation for the initial public offer (IPO).

- M R Kumar was to retire on June 30, 2021 upon attaining the age of 60 years.
- To provide extension beyond 60 years, the rules under **the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956**, have been amended

Key Points:

- According to Budget 2021, the IPO of LIC would be floated in 2021-22 as part of the ambitious Rs. 1.75 lakh crore disinvestment target.
- The authorised capital of LIC has been increased to Rs. 25,000 crore from Rs. 100 crore to facilitate the listing.
- Currently, the government of India owns a 100 percent stake in LIC.

GC Chaturvedi Reappointed As Part-Time Chairman of ICICI Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the **re-appointment of Girish Chandra Chaturvedi (GC Chaturvedi) as the part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank** for a period of **three years** starting July 1, 2021.

- Reappointment was approved earlier by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held on August 14, 2020.

About Girish Chandra Chaturvedi:

- Girish Chandra Chaturvedi was an IAS Officer, Uttar Pradesh (1977 Batch).
- He served as the Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Currently he is the Chairman of the National Stock Exchange also.

About ICICI Bank:

Corporate Office: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established: 1994



Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Director(CEO):Sandeep Bakhshi

Tagline:Hum Hai Na,Khayal Apka

UNGA President-elect Appointed Indian Diplomat K Nagaraj Naidu as Chef de Cabinet

Abdulla Shahid, Foreign Minister of Maldives and the president-elect of the 76th United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) appointed Indian Diplomat **Kakanur Nagaraj Naidu**, India's Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations(UN) as his **Chef de Cabinet**.

- He has also appointed Maldives Diplomat Thilmeeza Hussain as the Special Envoy of the President of the General Assembly (PGA).

Naftali Bennett Appointed as the 13th Prime Minister of Israel

On 13th June 2021, Naftali Bennett was sworn in as the 13th Prime Minister of Israel. He succeeds Benjamin Netanyahu who has been serving as the PM of Israel for the past 12 years.



- Israeli parliament Knesset elected him as the Prime Minister by a 60-59 vote of confidence in the 120-member house.

About Naftali Bennett:

- Previously Naftali Bennett was a Former minister of Defense under Prime Minister Netanyahu.
- He has also served as Minister of Various departments including, Economy, Education, Religious Services and Diaspora Affairs.
- He was also a high-tech software entrepreneur.

About Israel:

Capital:Jerusalem

President:Isaac Herzog

Currency: Israeli New Shekel

Justice Sanjay Yadav Appointed as Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

President of India,**Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed **Justice Sanjay Yadav** as the **Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court** with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

- He has been currently working as the acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court since April 14,2021.
- He was appointed by the exercise of the power conferred by **clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India**.

About Justice Sanjay Yadav:

- Earlier Justice Sanjay Yadav served as the deputy advocate general of Madhya Pradesh.
- Later he was elevated as a judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh and then he was transferred to Allahabad High Court.

About Allahabad High Court:

Allahabad High Court was established in 1866 as the High Court of Judicature for the North-Western Provinces and was changed to the **High Court of Judicature at Allahabad** from 11 March 1919.

- It is the fourth oldest High Court in India after Calcutta, Madras and Bombay High Courts.
- It is the highest judicial body of Uttar Pradesh and it has a bench in Lucknow

Microsoft appointed CEO Satya Nadella as Chairman

Microsoft Corporation appointed its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Satya Nadella as its Chairman. He will succeed **John Thompson** who will now serve as lead independent director.



- Notably, Satya Nadella backed billion dollar acquisitions like LinkedIn, Nuance Communications and ZeniMax.
- Satya Nadella was appointed the CEO of Microsoft in 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer.

Antonio Guterres re-elected as UN Secretary General for 2nd 5-year term starting Jan 1, 2022

On June 18, 2021, Antonio Manuel de Oliveira Guterres (72) aka Antonio Guterres, was re-elected as the Secretary General of United Nations (UN) for a 2nd 5-year term from January 1, 2022 to **December 31, 2026**.



- His appointment was made by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the recommendation of the 15-nation UN Security Council (UNSC) and announced by the President of the 75th session of the UNGA, **Volkan Bozkir**.
- It should be noted that as per UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the UNGA on the recommendation of the UNSC.

About Antonio Guterres:

- An ex-Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, he has been serving as the Secretary General since 2017.
- He is the 9th person to assume the position of UN Secretary General.
- He also served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 to 2015.
- Recently, he called for debt relief extension for middle-income countries amid COVID-19 crisis.

Points to be noted:

- There has been **no woman Secretary General** in the UN's 75-year history
- India has also supported the re-election of Antonio Guterres.

About United Nations (UN):

Establishment– 1945

Members– 193 (India became its member on October 30, 1945)

Secretariat– New York, United States (US)

Iranian Chief Justice Ebrahim Raisi Won Iran Presidential Election

Iranian Chief justice **Ebrahim Raisi** became the **President-elect of Iran**, after winning the 2021 Iranian presidential election. He



will succeed Hassan Rouhani.

- This election appeared to see the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history.
- Ebrahim Raisi won 17.9 million votes overall, nearly 62% of the total 28.9 million casted.

About Ebrahim Raisi:

- i. Ebrahim Raisi is currently serving as the Chief Justice of Iran.
- ii. He has also served in several positions in Iran's judicial system, such as Deputy Chief Justice, Attorney General and Prosecutor general of Iran.
- iii. He was one of the four people in the prosecution committee popularly known as the Death Committee, which was responsible for the execution of thousands of political prisoners in Iran in 1988.
- iv. He will be the first serving Iranian president sanctioned by the U.S. government even before entering office.

About Iran:

Supreme leader: Ali Khamenei

Capital: Tehran

Currency: Iranian rial

Suresh N Patel Appointed as Central Vigilance Commissioner

Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel has been appointed as acting Central Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) with effect June 24, 2021, until the appointment of the central vigilance commissioner.

- He succeeded Sanjay Kothari whose term ended on June 23, 2021.

About Suresh N Patel:

- i. Suresh N Patel is currently serving as the Vigilance commissioner in CVC.
- ii. Prior to this, he served as the Managing Director and CEO of Andhra Bank in 2015.
- iii. Also he worked as the executive director in Oriental Bank of Commerce.
- iv. He had been a member of the management committee of Indian Banks' Association and member of Bankers' Institute of Rural Development at NABARD.

About Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

The commission is headed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and can have a maximum of two vigilance commissioners.

Formed: February 1964

Headquarters: New Delhi

Central Govt Extended Attorney General KK Venugopal's Term by 1 Year

The Central Government extended the tenure of Attorney General (AG), K K Venugopal by 1 year till June 30, 2022.

About KK Venugopal:

- i. He became the 15th AG of India by replacing AG Mukul Rohatgi on July 1, 2017. His actual term was about 3 years and this was the second time that the



centre is extending the tenure of AG as his tenure was extended by 1 year in **June 2020**.

ii. He was being the incharge of the central govt's legal defence in several sensitive cases pending in the Supreme Court such as the constitutional challenge to dilution of Article 370 of the constitution and Citizenship Amendment Act, the central govt's management of the COVID-19, the case challenging Section 124-A of the penal code that criminalises sedition, etc.

iii. Recently he represented the Government of India (GoI) in a case which led to the cancellation of Class 12 exams due to COVID-19 and the framing of an internal assessment scheme for the CBSE and the ICSE to evaluate the marks of students.

About Attorney General (AG):

i. Appointment: AG, who is the chief legal adviser of GoI will be appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Union Cabinet under **Article 76(1)** of the Constitution.

ii. Tenure: No fixed term, AG will hold office during the pleasure of the President (i.e. He could be removed by the President at any time).

CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh Got Additional Charge as DG of NIA

Kuldiep Singh, Director-General (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), has been given additional charge, as the DG of National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. He will replace **Y C Modi** who retires on May 31, 2021 (superannuation).

- Kuldiep Singh is a 1986-batch West Bengal cadre officer, he has been the DG of CRPF since March, 2021.
- Y C Modi is a 1984-batch IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, who was appointed chief of the federal anti-terror probe agency in September 2017.

Note – Kuldiep Singh will hold the post of DG of NIA till the appointment and joining of the successor.

About Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):

It is India's largest Central Armed Police Force and assists the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency.

Establishment – 27th July 1939

Headquarters – New Delhi

About National Investigation Agency (NIA):

NIA is India's counter-terrorism task force. The agency is empowered to deal with terror-related crimes across states without special permission from the states.

Headquarters – New Delhi

Honours/ Awards

Authors Of The Book Transformation In Times Of Crisis Won International Business Book Of The Year Award 2021

Notion Press authors **Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind** won the **International Business Book of the Year Award 2021** for their recently launched book **Transformation in Times of Crisis**.

This book provides the knowledge to thrive business even in a crisis for entrepreneurs and business owners.

About Nitin rakesh:

i. Nitin Rakesh is the **Chief Executive Director(CEO) and Executive Director** of IT major **Mphasis**.

ii. He has won 'Gold Stevie Award' for Tech Innovator of the Year in 2019.

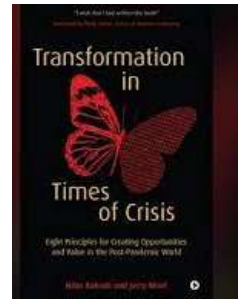
About Jerry Wind:

i. Jerry Wind is an internationally renowned academician and is currently **Lauder Professor Emeritus** and **Professor of Marketing** at the **Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania**.

About The Business Book Awards:

i. The Business Book Awards is one of the biggest and most prestigious events in the calendar for business book writers all over the world.

ii. It highlights leadership, change, and sustainability in business through the promotion of business books and their authors.



David Diop won International Booker Prize 2021; Became 1st French Writer to Win the Award

French novelist **David Diop** won the **International Booker Prize 2021** for “**At Night All Blood Is Black**”. The Book is translated from the French Book titled “**Frere d’ame**”. It was Translated by **Anna Moschovakis**. David Diop became the first French writer to win the Award. The Booker Prize Foundation presents the International Booker Prize.



The French Book ‘Frere d’ame’ was written by **David Diop** and published by **Pushkin Press**. The book was translated into English by **Anna Moschovakis**.

- The prize carries a cash award of 50,000 Pound (around Rs 51 lakhs) which will be split between David Diop and Anna Moschovakis.

About At Night All Blood Is Black:

“At Night All Blood Is Black” the 2nd novel of David Diop, was inspired by his Senegalese great-grandfather’s silence about his experiences in World War I(WWI).

About International Booker Prize:

The International Booker Prize formerly known as the Man Booker International Prize has been awarded since 2005.

DBS Tops the Forbes World’s Best Banks 2021 List in India

DBS, a leading financial services group headquartered in Singapore, **tops** the Forbes list of the **World’s Best Banks 2021** in India. DBS ranked number 1 out of the 30 domestic and international banks in India for the 2nd



consecutive year.

This is the **3rd edition** of the World's Best Banks' list by Forbes.

This survey on the banking relations of around 43000 banking customers in 28 countries was conducted by Forbes in partnership with **Statista**, a Market research firm.

- The DBS has also topped the World's Best Banks 2021 in Indonesia and has secured the 2nd rank under Singapore category and 10th under Taiwan category.

About DBS Bank:

CEO– Piyush Gupta

Headquarters– Singapore

Winners of 2021 Pulitzer Prizes Announced: The Night Watchman, Malcolm X biography won Arts Pulitzer

The winners of the **2021 Pulitzer Prizes** for Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced over a virtual ceremony.

The winners of the 2021 Pulitzer prize constitute the **105th class of Pulitzer Prize winners**.

Aminda (Mindy) Marqués González and Stephen Engelberg were the co-chair of the Pulitzer Prize board.

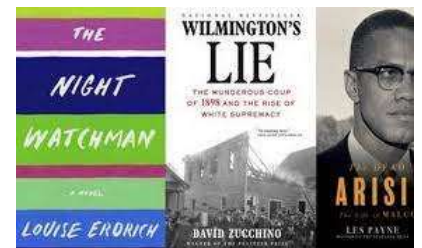
Highlights:

i.Darnella Frazier, who recorded the murder of Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin, received a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize Board.

ii.The **New York Times** won the Public Service Pulitzers for its extensive coronavirus coverage that exposed racial and economic inequities, government failures in the United States and beyond.

iii.**Louise Erdrich** won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the fiction category for his book titled “**The Night Watchman**”.

iv.**Late Les Payne and Tamara Payne** won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the **Biography** category for the book titled “**The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X**”.



Indian-American Sumita Mitra Won European Inventor Award 2021

Indian-American chemist, **Sumita Mitra** won the European Patent Office's (EPO) **European Inventor Award 2021** under the **Non-EPO countries category** for her innovative dental filling invention using Nanotechnology. The 2021 European Inventor Award ceremony was held digitally.

Sumita Mitra's Invention:

i.She was the 1st one to have successfully integrated **nanotechnology** into dental materials, and has invented stronger, durable & aesthetically pleasing **dental fillings**.

ii.The filling is developed by Mitra along with her team using a technique for creating linked clusters of nanoparticles or 'nanoclusters'.

European Innovator Award: It is the Europe's most prestigious award, was launched by EPO in **2006** and presented annually by it to honour individual and team inventors from Europe and beyond, who have made an exceptional contribution to society, technological progress and economic growth through their pioneering inventions.

About European Patent Office (EPO):



It is the world's leading authority in patent information and patent searching.

Headquarters – Munich, Germany

President – António Campinos

KK Shailaja Awarded CEU Open Society Prize 2021

K K Shailaja, Teacher and Former **Kerala Health Minister** was awarded with the **Central European University's (CEU)** highest award – '**Open Society Prize 2021**' for her commitment to public health services.

- She has recognized especially for her determined leadership and community-based public health work, saving lives during COVID-19.

About CEU's Open Society Prize:

- i.It is the highest civilian recognition by CEU, it is awarded annually to an outstanding individual/organization's achievements that have contributed to the creation of an open society.
- ii.It was instituted and 1st awarded in 1994, to philosopher Karl Popper, whose book *The Open Society and Its Enemies* (1945) presented a philosophy of tolerance, openness and democratic values.

About Central European University's (CEU):

Establishment – 1991

President – Michael Ignatieff

NTPC won 38th Position among Top 50 Great Place to Work; Got Recognition of India's Best Employers

National Thermal Power Corporation(NTPC) Ltd. a Maharatna CPSU (central public sector undertaking) under the **Ministry of Power** has been recognised as a '**Great Place to Work**' for the 15th year in a row by the Great Place to Work (GPTW) Institute. It was the only PSU to feature consistently among India's Top 50 Best Workplaces.



- Under the category of 'India's Great Place to Work' it ranked at **38th** position from its 47th position of 2020, it also won its **first-ever** recognition of – '**India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021**' from GPTW.
- Great Place to Work Certification:** It is the most definitive 'Employer-of-Choice' recognition that organizations aspire to achieve, it is considered the 'Gold Standard' in identifying and recognizing Great Workplaces with High Trust and High-Performance Cultures.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Human resources (HR) Excellence Role model award, the highest award in the field of People Management in the country was also received by NTPC in March 2021.

About National Thermal Power Corporation(NTPC) Ltd.:

Establishment – 1975

Headquarters – New Delhi

CMD – Gurdeep Singh

Jamsetji Tata: World's Top Philanthropist of Last Century

The founder of Tata Group, **Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata** has emerged as **the biggest philanthropist globally** in the last century (between 1901-1999) by donating **\$102.4 billion**, according to the list of top 50 givers prepared by the **Hurun Report and EdelGive Foundation**.



- Total global donations in the last century stood at \$832 billion.
- The only other Indian in the list of 50 global philanthropists is Azim Premji, former chairman of Wipro. He is ranked at 12th position.
- Bill Gates & Melinda French Gates ranked second with donations worth \$74.6 billion. They are followed by Henry Wellcome (\$56.7 billion), Howard Hughes (\$38.6 billion), and Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion) respectively.

Delhi Metro Won Japan Society of Civil Engineers Award

Delhi Metro's Phases I, II and III projects have won the **"Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award" for the year 2020** by Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE).

Key Points:

- i. The Delhi Metro's project was termed as high-quality Infrastructure development project by JSCE.
- ii. Delhi Metro's projects were recognised for bringing awareness of safety and efficiency at construction sites in India and providing safe and comfortable transportation for residents.
- iii. Earlier, the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) post-evaluation study rated Delhi Metro's project execution capability at '3', which is the highest possible grade indicating that the performance was excellent.

Journalist P Sainath Awarded Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize 2021

Renowned journalist and founder of PARI (People's Archive of Rural India) **P Sainath** (Palagummi Sainath) has been awarded Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021. He was awarded for promoting civil cooperation through his writing.

The award is given in three categories: Academic Prize, Culture Prize and the Grand Prize.



- The Academic Prize is won by Prof. Kishimoto Mio of Japan for her understanding of Chinese history and
- The Arts and Culture Prize is won by filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand for increasing understanding of Japan in Thailand and for pursuing "a deeper philosophical insight into the future of humanity."

Key Points:

- i. The award is given to individuals and organisations for their work in preserving the Asian culture.
- ii. The Grand Prize has earlier been awarded to Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh, historian Romila

Thapar, and sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan.

iii. The last Indian to be awarded the prize was A. R. Rahman (2016).

iv. Eleven Indians have received the Fukuoka Prize so far. **About the Fukuoka Prize:**

The Fukuoka Prize was established by Japan's Fukuoka city and the Fukuoka City International Foundation. It is given to individuals and organisations for their work in preserving Asian culture.

The Prize was established in 1990 and the prize value varies as for,

- Academic Prize – 3 million yen.
- Culture Prize – 3 million yen.
- Grand Prize – 5 million yen.

Sports

Football: Chelsea Won the UEFA Champions League 2020/2021

Chelsea won the **UEFA Champions League 2020/2021** title defeating Manchester City with 1-0 in the final. The finals of the UEFA Champions League 2020/2021 was held in Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal. This marks Chelsea's 2nd Champions League title.

- This is Europe's premier club football tournament organised by Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).



Football: Atletico Madrid Won 2020-21 La Liga Title

Atletico Madrid has won the **2020-21 La Liga Title** or officially known as **LaLiga Santander** and were crowned as **champions of Spain** by defeating Real Valladolid in the last match that was held at the Jose Zorrilla stadium in Valladolid, Spain. It is administered by the **Liga Nacional de Fútbol Profesional**.

- Atletico Madrid finished top of the standings on 86 points.
- Real Madrid came second with 84 points.
- Atlético Madrid clinched their eleventh La Liga title.

ICC Expands Men's T20 & 50 over ODI World Cup for Upcoming Events; India's Shafali Verma tops in ICC T20 Rankings

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the Global Cricketing Calendar for 2024-2031, which includes key changes to world cricket tournaments. ICC also announced an eight-team Champions Trophy will be hosted in 2025 and 2029.

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup(50 Over):-

- ICC expanded the participating teams from 10 to 14 teams with 54-match events for the 2027 and 2031 Men's ODI Cricket World cup.
- ICC reduced the number of qualifying teams to 10 from the usual 14 during the 2011 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup:- ICC also increased the number of teams to 20, playing 55-matches in total from 2024 – 2030 Men's T20 World Cup and it will take place only every two years.

Note : India hosts ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2021 & ODI World Cup in 2023.

Indian women cricketer Shafali Verma became top in T20 rankings

India's **Shafali Verma**, 17 years old becomes the World **No.1** Batter in ICC Women's T20 format.



BharatPe Becomes ICC's Official Partner Till 2023

The International Cricket Council

(ICC) announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership

with **BharatPe** for being its **global tournament sponsor from 2021 to 2023**.

Key Points:

- i. As per the agreement, BharatPe will promote the association across broadcast and digital platforms, as well as execute in-venue brand activations at all the ICC events.
- ii. This Deal includes all editions of men's and women's 50-over, T20 World Cups and the World Test Championship as well as U-19 world cups that happen until 2023.

Note:

The company currently has its own 'Team BharatPe' comprising of 11 Indian cricket stars as its brand ambassadors, namely, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Suresh Raina, Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Shubhman Gill.

About BharatPe:

BharatPe is one of India's leading financial services companies for merchants.

Founded: 2018

Co Founder & Chief Executive Director(CEO): Ashneer Grover

Headquarters: Delhi

Indian Football player Sunil Chhetri Became 2nd Highest International Goal Scorer

Sunil Chhetri, 36-year-old Indian Footballer, became the **2nd highest International goal scorer** among the active players. He overtook Lionel Messi of Argentina by scoring his 73rd and **74th** Goal during the FIFA 2022 World Cup qualifiers against Bangladesh. Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal tops the list with 103 international goals.

- Sunil Chhetri has been placed 11th on the all-time goal-scorers list in men's international football.



IPL's Remaining Matches To Be Held In UAE In September-October 2021

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced to complete the remaining matches of VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 season in the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) in the months of September-October 2021. 14th edition of IPL postponed on May after several players and support staff across teams tested positive for COVID-19. As many as 29 matches were held this season before the tournament came to a halt.

Tennis: Overview of 125th Edition of French Open 2021

The **125th Edition of French Open 2021** (also known as Roland Garros) took place from May 30-June 13, 2021 at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.

- It is the 2nd Grand Slam of 2021 and is a **Clay-Court**
- It is organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

Novak Djokovic wins his 2nd French Open Title

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) to win the Men's Singles Title French Open 2021. It is Djokovic's **2nd French Open Title & 19th Grand Slam Title**.

- Djokovic became the **1st player in the Open Era to win all 4 Major Grand Slams twice** (which is called a double career Grand Slam).

Barbora Krejckikova wins both Women's Singles & Doubles Title of French Open

Barbora Krejckikova (Czech Republic) defeated Anastasia Pavylyunchenkova (Russia) to win the Women's Singles Title of the French Open. It is her maiden Grand Slam Title, she became the 1st woman from Czech Republic to clinch the French Open Singles title since Hana Mandlikova in 1981.

- Barbora along with her partner Katerlina Siniakova (Czech Republic)** defeated Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) & Iga Swiatek (Poland) to win the **Women's Doubles Title of French Open 2021**.
- With both wins (singles & doubles), Barbora became the **1st woman** since Mary Pierce in 2000 to **win the Singles and Doubles Title** in the same year at French Open.

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
Women's Singles	Barbora Krejckikova (Czech Republic)	Anastasia Pavylyunchenkova (Russia)
Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejckikova & Katerlina Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) & Iga Swiatek (Poland)

Indian Wrestler Vinesh Phogat wins gold at Poland Open ranking Series

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the women's 53kg category gold medal at the Poland Open ranking Series, She played the final against Khrystyna Bereza of Ukraine. This was India's second medal at the event after Ravi Kumar Dahiya's won silver in the men's 61kg category.



Filipino Japanese Yuka Saso wins U.S. Women's Open 2021

Yuka Saso became the first Filipino (Philippines) player to win a major Golf Tournament, Saso a dual citizen with a Filipino mother and Japanese father tied Park Inbee as the youngest champion at the

tournament, after winning the 76th US Women's Open golf championship 2021 at the Olympic Club in San Francisco.

Neeraj Chopra wins gold medal in Meeting Cidade de Lisboa in Portugal

Indian Javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** from Haryana won the gold medal in the Meeting Cidade de (Meeting, City of Lisbon) in Lisbon, Portugal, with a throw of 83.18 metres recorded with his sixth and last attempt. He had qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020 with a throw of 87.86m in South Africa (January 2020).

F1: Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins 2021 French GP

Red Bull Racing Honda's Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won the 2021 French Grand Prix (GP) held at Paul Ricard Circuit, France. It was the 7th GP of 2021.

- Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) finished 2nd, while Red Bull Racing Honda's Sergio Perez (Mexico) finished 3rd in the race.
- Max Verstappen leads the 2021 F1 Drivers Championship by 13 points. He is followed by Lewis Hamilton.
- 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

IOA ropes in MPL, Amul, JSW Group as sponsors for Tokyo Olympics 2020

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has roped in mobile gaming platform **MPL Sports Foundation** as the principal sponsor for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, 2022 Asian Games & Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The association is for one-and-a-half years (till December 31, 2022). As per the deal, It will pay a total of Rs eight crore to IOA.

- **Amul** has agreed to be a sponsor for the Tokyo Olympics with an amount of Rs 1 crore for a period till 31st december, 2021.
- Similarly, IOA also roped in **JSW Group** as sponsor for Tokyo Olympics with a sponsor amount of Rs 1 crore.

Cricket: New Zealand win Inaugural Edition of ICC World Test Championship 2021

New Zealand defeated India in the finals of the 2019-2021 ICC World Test Championship to win the **Inaugural Edition of ICC World Test Championship 2021** (for men). The finals was held at **Rose Bowl, Southampton, England** from June 18-23, 2021.

- New Zealand's **Kyle Jamieson** was named as the Player of the Match Award.
- New Zealand received a cash prize of USD 1.6 million along with the ICC Test Championship Mace.
- It is New Zealand's 1st major ICC Trophy.

ICC World Test Championship

i. It is a league competition for Test Cricket organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

- 9 Teams competed in 71 Test matches in 27 series across two years from 2019-21.

Jadeja Ranked as World's Number 1 All Rounder

According to ICC's latest rankings released on June 22, 2021 – India's Ravindra Jadeja was ranked as the World's No. 1 All-rounder in Test Cricket (replacing West Indian Jason Holder).

About International Cricket Council (ICC)

Chairman – Greg Barclay

Headquarters – Dubai, UAE

Kiren Rijiju launched India's Olympic theme song titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai"

On June 23, 2021, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Kiren Rijiju, Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports (MoYAS) launched the official Olympic theme song titled "**Lakshya Tera Samne Hai**" of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics or Summer Games (July 23 to August 8, 2021). The song has been composed and sung by singer **Mohit Chauhan**.

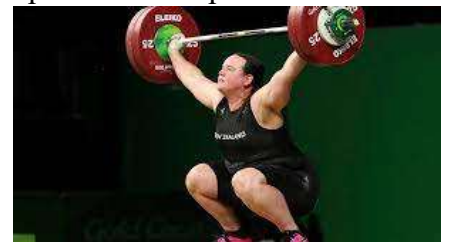


- It was launched during an event of International Olympic Day at the JLN (Jawaharlal Nehru) Stadium in New Delhi organised by Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- IOA president Narinder Batra and secretary-general Rajeev Mehta also participated in the event.

Laurel Hubbard: First transgender athlete to compete at Olympics

New Zealand's Laurel Hubbard has become the first ever transgender athlete picked to compete at an Olympics. She will compete in the women's 87-kg weightlifting category for Tokyo Olympics 2020. Hubbard has satisfied the IOC's requirements for trans women.

Note* Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.

**Deepika Kumari wins hat-trick Gold Medals in Archery World Cup Stage-3 to reclaim World No.1 position**

In June 2021, Indian Woman archer Deepika Kumari created history by winning Gold in all 3 recurve events – Women's individual, team and mixed pair events in the Archery World Cup Stage-3 event that was held in Paris, France.

Note – Deepika Kumari is the only Indian Woman Archer to participate in Tokyo Olympics

Gold Medal Events:

Women's Individual – Deepika Kumari won Gold against Russia's Elena Osipova with a 6-0 victory



Women's Team – Team India's Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari won Gold against Mexican Women's Team

Mixed pair – Deepika paired with her husband Atanu Das winning Gold medal against Netherland's Sjef van den Berg and Gabriela Schloesser

i. After winning the events, she was ranked as World Number 1 Woman Archer by the World Archery Federation

ii. Over the years, she has won a total of 9 Gold, 12 Silver and 7 Bronze medals in the World Cup.

About World Archery Federation:

Founded – 1931

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

President – Uğur Erdener

Sajan Prakash becomes first-ever Indian swimmer to make Olympic 'A' cut

A 27- year old Indian Swimmer **Sajan Prakash** from kerala has become first-ever Indian swimmer to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic 2020 by breaching the 'A' standard time in the men's 200m butterfly event at the 2021 Sette Colli Trophy in Rome, Italy.



- The Games 'A' standard was set at 1:56.48 seconds, he had completed **1:56:38 seconds** that is 0.10 seconds faster at the FINA-accredited Olympic qualifier.
- He competed in the Olympic Games Rio 2016 under the universality quota.

Shafali Verma becomes youngest Indian to make debut in all formats

Indian opener Shafali Verma becomes youngest Indian to make debut in all formats, Verma who hails from haryana took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across all three cricket format for India and she became the fifth youngest cricketer overall in the list, headed by Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Obituaries

Former President, Prime Minister of Mauritius Padma Vibhushan Anerood Jugnauth Passed Away

The Former President and Prime Minister of Mauritius, Padma Vibhushan awardee Anerood Jugnauth passed away. He was born on March 29, 1930 in Palma, British Mauritius.

About Anerood Jugnauth:

- i. Anerood Jugnauth was honoured with **Padma Vibhushan** in 2020 by the Government of India
- ii. He was considered as the **Father of the Mauritian Economic Miracle** of the 1980s.
- iii. He was the **longest serving Prime Minister of Mauritius with more than 18 years** of tenure.
- iv. He served four consecutive terms as Prime Minister from 1982 to 1995 and was appointed again in 2000.
- v. He also served as the **President of Mauritius from 2003-2012**.
- vi. He was also honoured with **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** for strengthening India's relationship with Mauritius.

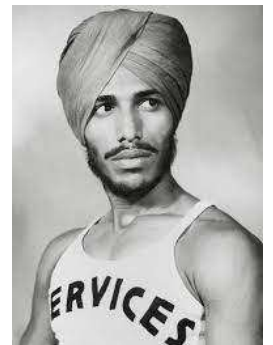


Indian sprinter Padma Shri Milkha Singh Passed Away

Legendary Indian sprinter Padma Shri **Milkha Singh**, who is popularly known as 'Flying Sikh' in the athletic field, passed away at the age of 91 in Chandigarh. He was born on 20th November 1929 in Govindpura, Pakistan.

About Milkha Singh:

- i. Milkha Singh represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics and in the 1960 Olympic games held in Rome, Italy and completed 4th at the 400m race.
- ii. This remained a national record for around 40 years which was surpassed by athlete Paramjeet Singh in 1998.
- iii. He has won four Asian Golds and he also won India's first-ever Track and Field Commonwealth Games Gold in the 400 meters race at the Commonwealth Games held in 1958 in Cardiff.
- iv. The Government of India honoured him with the **Padma Shri** in 1959 for Sports.



Former Indian Women Volleyball Captain Nirmal Kaur Passed Away

Former Indian women volleyball team captain **Nirmal Kaur**, who is the wife of sprint legend Milkha Singh, passed away due to Covid-19 complications at Mohali, Punjab.

- She served as Director of Sports for Women in the Punjab Government. She also worked as joint director sports, Chandigarh, and director sports, Chandigarh, after her retirement from Punjab.
- Milkha Singh wrote about Nirmal Kaur in the chapter The jewels in my crown in his autobiography The Race of My Life released in 2013.



Important Days with theme

World No Tobacco Day 2021: May 31

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year around the world on 31st May to spread awareness about the dangers of using tobacco. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), tobacco kills more than 8 million people every year around the world.

• **Theme of WNTD 2021** is “Commit to Quit”

Objective of 2021 theme :- This yearly celebration alerts the people about the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies especially Covid-19 is an infectious disease that mainly attacks the lungs and tobacco use continues to be one of the biggest health threats especially during this pandemic.

About World Health Organisation (WHO):-

World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Director General – Tedros Adhanom



World Bicycle Day 2021 – June 3

United Nations (UN)'s **World Bicycle Day** is annually observed across the globe on **3rd June** to create awareness about the importance and benefits of riding bicycles.

The UN declared the 3rd June as World Bicycles day to highlight the benefits of cycling and to acknowledge the versatility, uniqueness and longevity of the two-wheeler.

Background:

i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/72/272 on 12th April 2018 and proclaimed the 3rd June of every year as World Bicycle Day.

ii. The First World Bicycle Day was observed on 3rd June 2018.

About United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):

President – Volkan Bozkir

Headquarters – New York, United States

World Environment Day 2021 – 5 June

United Nations (UN)'s **World Environment Day** is annually observed across the globe on **5th June** to promote and encourage the involvement of the government, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus on environmental issues.

Theme:

- World Environment Day 2021 is focused on ecosystem restoration and its theme is “**Reimagine. Recreate. Restore.**”



- **Pakistan** is the host of **2021 World Environment Day**, they host the day with the theme “**Ecosystem restoration**”.

Background:

i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/2994 (XXVII) on 15th December 1972 and proclaimed the 5th June of every year as World Environment Day.

2021 Events in India:

- i. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has jointly organised an event on World Environment Day.
- ii. The theme of the 2021 World Environment Day event is “**Promotion of biofuels for better environment**”.

About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

Executive Director– Inger Andersen

Headquarters– Nairobi, Kenya

World Day Against Child Labour 2021 – June 12

United Nations (UN)’s **World Day Against Child Labour** is annually observed across the globe on **12th June** to highlight the focus on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts required to eliminate Child Labour.

- UN declared 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.
- Based on the theme “**Act now: end child labour**”, a high-level virtual event will be carried by International Labour Conference (ILC) on 2021 World Day Against Child Labour.

**Background:**

- i. The World Day Against Child Labour was formally launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002.
- ii. The **first** World Day Against Child Labour was observed on **12th June 2002**.

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

Director-General– Guy Ryder

Headquarters– Genève, Switzerland

Created in– 1919

International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice 2021 – 21 June

The United Nations (UN)’s International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice is annually observed across the globe on **21st June** to create awareness about solstices and equinoxes and to highlight their significance in various religions and ethnic cultures.

June 21 is also known as “**Summer Solstice**”.

Background:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/73/300 on 20th June 2019 and proclaimed the 21st June of every year as the International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice in its different manifestations.

International Day of Yoga observed on June 21

United Nations (UN) International Day of



Yoga (IDY) is annually celebrated on June 21 all over the world. This year 2021 marks 7th International Day of Yoga. The day aims to raise awareness and promote the benefits of practicing yoga worldwide.

- The theme of IDY 2021 is ‘**Yoga for well-being**’.
- The 1st IDY was celebrated on 21st June 2015.

Background

- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared June 21st as International Day of Yoga in 2014 by resolution 69/131. The proposal for establishing an International Day for Yoga was proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during UNGA’s 69th session.

International Olympic Day 2021 – June 23

The **International Olympic Day** is annually observed across the globe on **23rd June** to promote the Olympic movement. The day commemorates the creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 23rd June 1894 in Paris, France.

Background:

- The proposal for the celebration of the World Olympic Day was presented by Doctor Gruss, IOC member in Czechoslovakia during the 41st Session of the International Olympic Committee in Stockholm in 1947.
- The idea of an Olympic Day was approved at the 42nd Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) held in January 1948 in St Moritz, Switzerland.
- The **first Olympic Day** was celebrated on **23 June 1948**.

About International Olympic Committee (IOC):

President– Dr. Thomas Bach (Germany)

Headquarters– Lausanne, Switzerland

National Statistics Day 2021 – June 29

The National Statistics Day is annually observed on **29th June** to popularise the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of **Padma Vibhushan Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (P C Mahalanobis)** who was referred to as the “**Father of Indian Statistics**”.

Aim:

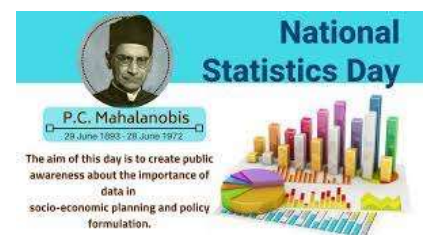
To popularise the use of Statistics in everyday life and to create awareness on the benefits of Statistics towards framing policies.

The theme of the National Statistics Day 2021 is “**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture**”.

Background:

Aim:

- 29th June was declared as the National Statistics Day by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
- National Statistics Day is celebrated at the National Level to recognise the contributions of Prof. P C Mahalanobis towards establishing the National Statistical System.



iii. The first National Statistics Day was first observed on **29th June 2006**.

About Indian Statistical Institute (ISI):

President– Bibek Debroy

Location– Kolkata, West Bengal