

Monthly



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# NATIONAL NEWS

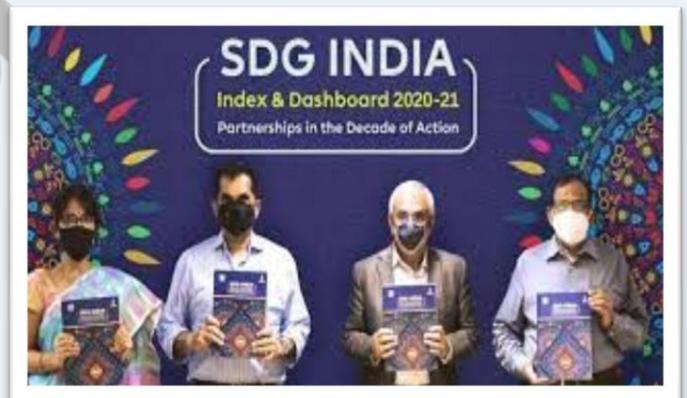
## No Class 12th Board Exams This Year!!!



Prime Minister Narendra Modi broke the news that the government of India has cancelled the Class 12th board exams conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) in wake of the safety of students amid covid pandemic. According to the PMO release, CBSE will now compile the results of Class 12 students according to “well-defined objective criteria in a time-bound manner”. Further, the government says that like last year, this year also students who still want to take the exams will be

given an opportunity when the situation improves. It is worth knowing here that in the 23rd May 2021 meeting, the CBSE had recommended that the exams be held between July 15 and August 26 and it suggested two options viz. regular exams in 19 major subjects at notified centres and shorter-duration exams at schools where the students are enrolled.

## Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21



Niti Aayog recently released the third Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that analyzed progress on social, economic & environmental parameters. In this index Kerala retained the top rank

with a score of 75. It was followed by both Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at the second spot with a score of 74 while Bihar crept at the bottom as the worst performer. Even Jharkhand & Assam were also the worst performers this year. It is worth knowing here that Niti Ayog's efforts of monitoring SDGs through the SDG India Index and Dashboard continues to be widely noticed and applauded across the globe as this seems to be a rare data-driven initiative to rank our states and union territories by computing a composite index on the SDGs

### **Good news For TET Aspirants !**

The Union government announced an extension of the validity period of the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualifying certificate from 7 years to an entire lifetime with retrospective effect from 2011. The move will result in an increase in employment opportunities for candidates who are looking forward to making a career in the teaching field. Further, this decision will make changes in guidelines of February 11, 2011, of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) which stated that TET will be

conducted by state governments and validity of the TET Pass certificate was 7 years from the date of passing TET.

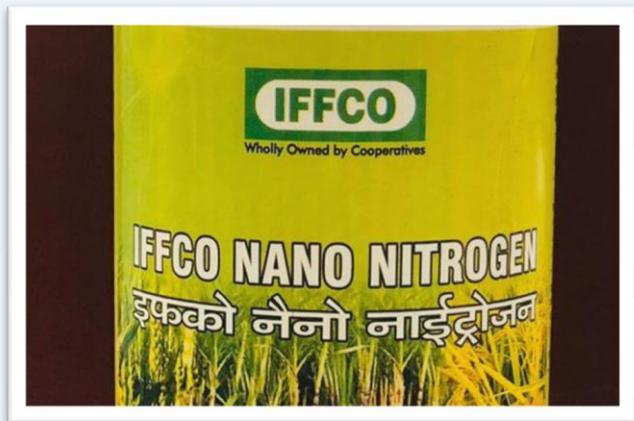
### **Padmakumar Nair : CEO Of National Asset Reconstruction Company**



The Chief General Manager of Stressed Assets Resolution Group at SBI, Padmakumar M Nair has been appointed as the CEO of the proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd., which is a proposed bad bank for taking over stressed assets of lenders. Bad bank is a financial institution that takes over the bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution. The announcement was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget for 2021-22 to consolidate and take over existing stressed assets of lenders and undertake their resolution. It is worth knowing here that the National Asset Reconstruction

Company Ltd will pay up to 15% of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85% will be government-guaranteed security receipts.

### **The Launch Of Nitrogen Fertilizer-Based Nano Urea**



Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) will introduce Nitrogen fertilizer-based Nano Urea in the market in June 2021. Urea produced from nano-technology is meant to improve the nutrients efficiency of the crops. It is worth knowing here that a 500-ml Nano Urea is equivalent to 45kg of normal urea and it costs around 240 rupees. It will not only reduce input cost of farmers by 15% but its cultivation will also increase the yield by about 20%. It is prepared by making quinhydrone mixed liquor, which is spread onto calcium cyanamide granules to form nano urea.

### **Dr Tahera Qutbuddin : The Arab World Nobel Prize Winner**

A professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago Dr Tahera Qutbuddin (originally from Mumbai) has been honored with the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award, which is said to be the Nobel Prize of the Arab world. With this, she has become the first Indian to receive this prestigious prize for her latest book “Arabic Oration – Art and Function”. Her book was published by Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden in 2019. Through this book she has presented a comprehensive theory of Arabic literature in its foundational oral period dating the seventh and eighth centuries AD. She has discussed at length its influence on modern-day sermons and lectures.

### **The Starting Of SAGE Project**

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Thaawar Chand Gehlot introduced the Senior care Ageing Growth Engine or (SAGE) project on 4th June 2021. It is meant to select, support,

and create “one-stop access” to elderly care products and services provided by reliable start-ups. Start-ups can apply for becoming a part of this project through a dedicated portal accompanied by a scheme. And the selection of the start-ups will be based on their innovative products and services, which they can provide across sectors like housing, health, and care centres plus their technological access linked to finances, food & wealth management besides legal guidance will also be considered.

### **Suresh Mukund : The First Indian 2020 ‘World Choreography Awardee**



The Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer Suresh Mukund, has succeeded in booking the 10th Annual ‘World Choreography Award 2020’, which are also known as Choreo Awards on his name in the ‘TV Reality

Show/Competition’ category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show ‘World of Dance’. With this, he has become the first Indian to win this prestigious award. He is the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew ‘The Kings’ that swept away the 2019 season of World of Dance. It is worth knowing here that the annual World Choreography Awards of Los Angeles are also known as the “Oscars of Dance” that display the most innovative and original works by the world’s best choreographers featured in television, film, commercials, digital content, and music videos.

### **The New Appointees In NHRC**

Former Supreme Court judge Arun Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on recommendation of a high-powered committee that consisted of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge. Besides him, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Mahesh

Mittal Kumar, and former Director of Intelligence Bureau, Rajiv Jain, had also been recommended as members of the NHRC. Apart from this, NHRC has issued advisories to ministries and states to look after adverse impact of covid-19 on labourers and migrant informal sector workers under its “2.0 series of Covid-19 pandemic advisories”. It covers their right to mental health; identifying, releasing and rehabilitating bonded labourers as well as protecting the rights of informal workers.

### **Demise Of Maharaja of Erstwhile Kutch State**

The Maharaja of Kutch, Maharao Pragmalji III, the titular ruler of the Jadeja dynasty of the erstwhile Kutch state passed away at the age of 85 because of complications related to COVID-19. Flashback reveals that he was born as Prithvirajji on 3rd May 1936 and was the eldest son of the erstwhile ruler of Kutch, Maharao Madansinhji. He was renamed Pragmalji III in October 1991 after his father's death. He was in favour of a separate state status for Kutch, which is the largest district in Gujarat which suffered a massive damage during the 2001 earthquake. The royal family

owned several palaces viz. Prag Mahal, Ranjit Vilas Palace, Aina Mahal and Vijay Vilas Palace that became popular after the Bollywood movie 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam' . He had given power to the Indian Union in May 1948.

### **India's First Standard Developing Organization 'RDSO'**



Research Design & Standards Organization (RDSO) wing of Indian railways in Lucknow has been declared as Standard Developing Organization (SDO) and with this, it has become India's first institution to achieve this status. RDSO is India's leading standard formulating body that undertakes standardization work for the railway sector. The Standard Development Organisation tag has been conferred under “One Nation One Standard” mission of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). With the SDO tag, standard

formulation procedures of RDSO will concentrate on consensus-based decision making. It will extensively engage all stakeholders like Industry, Academia, Test Houses, Users, Recognized Labs etc, in the standard making process from initial phases. It will increase competition among industries aiming for reduction in cost and improvement in quality. It is also expected to reduce import dependency and boost Make in India initiative.

### **The Roar of IIT Ropar's Accomplishments !**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar recently came in news for developing a detector named 'FakeBuster' and India's first indigenous temperature data logger "AmbiTAG" for the cold chain management. IIT Ropar in collaboration with Monash University, Australia developed a detector named 'FakeBuster' to identify fake people, who attend a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge. The innovation can also find faces manipulated on social media to defame or make a joke of someone. 'FakeBuster' can be employed online as well as offline. It runs on a 3D convolutional neural network for

predicting video segment-wise fakeness scores. The second innovation, "AmbiTAG" is a first-of-its-kind IoT device that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood. Technology Innovation Hub AWaDH will provide the USB shaped AmbiTag at production cost. It has the potential of recording the temperature of its immediate surroundings from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days on a single charge. AmbiTag device for COVID vaccine transportation.

### **MoooFarm's Co-founders In Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list!**



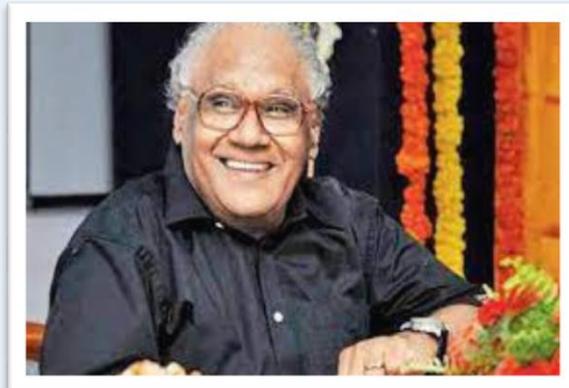
Gurugram based startup MoooFarm's Co-founders Jitesh Arora, Abhijeet Mittal, and Aashna Singh succeeded in securing a place in the most esteemed, recently announced Forbes 30 under 30

Asia list. They embarked their entrepreneurial journey in 2019 with MoooFarm, which is an award-winning technology start-up for dairy farmers. The startup raised around \$600k USD from Dutch-based accelerator Rockstar and a Dutch based Investment firm, Navus Ventures in 2020. The start up provides several utility services viz. E-dairy Mitra, MoooFarm Saba and the Cattle Trading platform.

### **IBF Will Now Be Known As “IBDF”**

The apex body of broadcasters, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has decided to cover digital streaming platforms and with this, it has changed its name to “Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF)”. This extended coverage will fetch broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms, under one roof. The decision has been taken after looking at the substantial jump in their viewership base during the covid-19 pandemic. Further, IBDF will form a new wholly-owned subsidiary that will look into all matters of digital media. In addition to this, a self-regulatory body called ‘Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCTC)’ will also be established for digital OTT platforms.

### **Bharat Ratna Professor Rao Became International ENI Awardee 2020!**



Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao has been chosen for the International ENI Award 2020 for his research in renewable energy sources and energy storage. He will be honored with this award on October 14, 2021, in an official ceremony that will take place at Quirinal Palace in Rome in the benign presence of the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella. He is a chemist, who has worked mainly in structural and solid-state chemistry, specifically on hydrogen energy as the only source of energy for the benefit of all mankind. His work covers photochemical and electrochemical production of hydrogen, hydrogen storage, non-metallic catalysis, and solar production of hydrogen. It is interesting to learn that the awardee has honorary doctorates from 60 universities from across the globe and has authored

around 51 books and 1,600 research publications. He is said to have earned all the possible awards in his field except the Nobel Prize.

### **India's 'UNITE AWARE' for UN Peacekeepers**

India in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Operational Support will launch a mobile tech platform 'UNITE AWARE', worth USD 1.64 million for the United Nations Peacekeepers, to improve their safety and security in the line of duty. India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu during his virtual address to UNSC Open Debate 'Peacekeeping Operations: Improving Safety And Security Of Peacekeepers' broke this information. It is worth knowing here that the Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month and the proposed platform will be launched during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021. UNITED AWARE is expected to increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers by providing terrain-related information.

### **Dr Nageshwar Reddy : The First Indian To Win Rudolf V Schindler award**



Padma Bhushan awardee and noted gastroenterologist and the chairman of AIG Hospitals, Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, bagged the Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and with this he became the first Indian to receive this prestigious award. This Award is said to be the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler who is considered as "The Father Of Gastroscopy." Dr Reddy has been felicitated with the award for being the first to promote endoscopy in India and lead the charge of educating numerous endoscopists across the globe.

## **Amartya Sen Received Spain's Top Award In Social Science**

Indian economist, philosopher and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar Sen, was bestowed the "Princess of Asturias Award" in the social sciences category which is Spain's top prize. He was selected among 41 candidates from 20 nations worldwide for his best-known work- "Poverty and Famines" in which he has demonstrated the fact that "hunger is not a result of lack of food, but is result of inequalities in its mechanisms of distribution". The award carries a Joan Miro sculpture as a symbol, an insignia, a diploma, and a cash prize of 50,000 Euros. Director General of Casa Asia (Barcelona), Javier Parrondo had forwarded his candidature for this award.

## **Himanta Biswa Sarma Became BWF Council Member**

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as a Member of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council for 2021-2025. Sarma was chosen among 31 contestants to the 20-member BWF Council at the virtual AGM and Council

election of BWF, where he garnered 236 votes in favour. Currently, he is also working in the capacity of the Vice President of Badminton Asia and the Chief Minister of Assam. Besides this, BWF President Paul-Erik Hoyer was re-elected unanimously. Same was the case with Deputy President Khunying Patama of Thailand and Vice-President Paul Kurzo of Switzerland.

## **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal : The New Director of CBI**



A 1985 batch IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal got appointed as the Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years. This appointment is said to be significant as the Supreme Court is hearing a petition filed by an NGO, Common Cause—on the delay in the appointment of a regular CBI chief. A high-powered committee led by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and comprising Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury selected him for the post. Prior to this, he has also served as director general of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

### **Demise of Nuclear Scientist Srikumar Banerjee**

Nuclear Scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, SriKumar Banerjee died of heart attack at 75. The veteran nuclear scientist had led the nuclear establishment when India and USA signed their nuclear deal and legislated Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill. The deceased had started his career with the Metallurgy department of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in 1968 after completing B. Tech in metallurgy from IIT Kharagpur. He earned a Ph. D for his work at BARC in 1974 and served as the director of BARC from 2004 to 2010. He was an expert regarding usage of specialized alloys in nuclear processes. Establishment of atomic energy in India was his credential. He was well acknowledged with “Shanti

Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for science and technology” in 1989 and Padma Shri award in 2005.

### **Pinarayi Vijayan Again Became CM of Kerala**



CPI(M) veteran Pinarayi Vijayan, once again took oath as Chief Minister of Kerala for the second time along with 20 ministers. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered his oath of office. He steered the Left Democratic Front (LDF) to an unprecedented consecutive victory in the April 6 assembly polls. It is interesting to learn that 15 ministers including the chief minister took oath in the name of the Indian Constitution, while five took it in the name of God. On this occasion an online musical gala featuring 54 singers, chronicling Kerala's achievements during the rule of various Left governments in the state since its

formation, greeted the dignitaries at the venue. Renowned singers viz. K J Yesudas, Hariharan, Sankar Mahadevan, Amjad Ali Khan, P Jayachandran, K S Chitra, Sujatha, and M G Sreekumar, music composer A R Rahman and actor Mohan Lal participated in the programme titled 'Nava Kerala Githanjali.

### **Rajesh Bansal : The New CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub**

The Board of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has appointed Rajesh Bansal as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the RBIH with effect from May 17, 2021. RBIH is meant to develop internal infrastructure to promote fintech research and facilitate engagement with innovators and start-ups. Prior to this, Rajesh Bansal has served at the RBI in various capacities in the fields of technology, financial inclusion and payment systems. The appointee has rich experience of more than twenty five years in designing technology-led population-scale payment products, electronic cash transfers, digital financial services, and digital IDs to enable inclusive development in India and multiple Asian and African markets. It is

worth learning here that Bansal, member of various committees of the RBI and the Government of India was also a member of the founding team of Aadhaar in context to designing India's Direct Benefits Transfer system and electronic KYC (eKYC).

### **Kyasanur Forest Disease: The New Threat In India**

Recently researchers discovered Kyasanur forest disease (KFD), which is emerging as a new public health problem & challenge in India. It is tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever which is endemic to South-western part of India, caused by a virus from family Flaviviridae and it is transmitted to humans through bite of infected hard ticks, acting as a carrier of KFD Virus. ICMR-National Institute of Virology has developed a point-of-care test, which will prove beneficial in diagnosing KFD which is also dubbed as monkey fever. This fever is usually found in remote areas which lack well-equipped sample handling and laboratory testing facilities. Monkeys are the prime hosts for KFD virus and human beings contract infection after the bite of nymphs.

## **INS Rajput Was Decommissioned!**



On 21st May 2021, Indian Navy's first destroyer INS Rajput got decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam after 41 years of service. It was brought into service on May 4, 1980. The glorious era of the Russian- built ship came to an end. During its service it participated in several operations like Operation Aman, off Sri Lanka to help the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF); Operation Pawan for patrolling duties off the coast of Sri Lanka as part of IPKF mission against LTTE between 1987 and 1990; Operation Cactus in 1988 to resolve the hostage situation off the Maldives Coast as the Indian forces rescued the Maldivian president and Operation Crowsnest off Lakshadweep. Apart from these, it also participated in numerous bilateral and multinational exercises. The ship was

also the first Indian naval ship that was affiliated with an Indian Army's Rajput Regiment.

## **Reliance Jio Building Largest International Submarine Cable System**



Reliance Jio revealed its plan of constructing the largest international submarine cable system centered on India. In collaboration with many important global partners and world-class submarine cable supplier SubCom, Jio is deploying two next-generation cables India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) system and India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system to support the extraordinary growth in data demand across the region. The IAX connects India eastbound to Singapore and beyond and IEX connects India westbound to the Middle East and Europe. Thus, the two systems will perfectly interconnect as well as connect

to the world's top inter-exchange points and content hubs for extension of service globally. They will enhance the ability of consumer and enterprise users to access content and cloud services in and out of India. Construction of these high capacities and high-speed systems will not only provide more than 200 Tbps of capacity spanning over 16,000 kilometers but will also put India at the center of the international network map, recognizing India's increased importance, growth, and quantum shift in data use.

### **Jharkhand Topped In Implementing Smart City Mission schemes**



Jharkhand topped the recent ranking released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, based on the progress of the implementation of the Smart City Mission's schemes running in different

100 cities of the Country's 36 states and union territories. Besides this, Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi climbed to 12th position in terms of progress of the ongoing mission plans in 100 cities. Delhi secured the 11th spot in the list of States and Union Territories and Bihar grabbed 27th spot and its capital Patna occupied 68th position in the list of cities.

### **Shankar Balasubramanian : The 2020 Millennium Technology Prize Awardee**

Chemist Indian-Origin Shankar Balasubramanian along with David Klenerman from Cambridge University were proclaimed the winners of the 2020 Millennium Technology Prize worth Euro 1 million by Technology Academy Finland (TAF). They have been honored with this prestigious global science and technology prize award for their development of revolutionary sequencing techniques. Balasubramanian, who is an India-born British professor of medicinal chemistry, and Klenerman, who is a British biophysical chemist, co-invented the Solexa-Illumina Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS), technology to enable

fast, accurate, low-cost and large-scale genome sequencing ( the process of determining the complete DNA sequence of an organism's constitution), which proved crucial in humanity's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. They have also co-founded the company Solexa to make the technology more broadly available to the world.

### **The Havoc Of Mucormycosis**

Mucormycosis or black fungus infection that affects the skin, lungs and brain is increasing among the COVID patients. Thus the National COVID Task Force recently issued an advisory against this rare disease. Redness around the eyes, nose, headache, fever, bloody vomits, shortness of breath, altered mental status, sinusitis, local pain on cheekbone, blackish discoloration over bridge of nose, chest pain, thrombosis, pleural effusion, necrosis, blurred vision, etc. It may lead to loss of eyes or upper jaws. The treatment of Mucormycosis includes infusion of saline, Amphotericin and other anti-fungal therapies. Rajasthan declared black fungus an epidemic under the Rajasthan Epidemic Act, 2020 and

prior to it, Haryana listed it as a notified disease and formed 'The Haryana Epidemic Diseases (Mucormycosis) Regulations, 2021'. The cases of black fungus and resultant deaths are also rising in Delhi, Maharashtra, UP, Uttarakhand and Gujarat.

### **The First Indian Women To Summit Mount Pumori (7,161 Metres)**



Two women mountaineers, Baljeet Kaur, of Solan district of Himachal and Gunbala Sharma of Rajasthan have defied all odds and a raging pandemic to become the first Indian women to conquer Mount Pumori (7,161 Metres) in Nepal. Besides this, they have also become the first in the country to scale a mountain that is part of the Everest Massif. Both the ladies are part of a 12-member team that

will attempt to conquer all four peaks viz. Mt Nuptse (7,862 metres), Mt Pumori (7,161m), Mt Lhotse (8,516m) along with the tallest mountain on earth, Mt Everest (8,848.86m). Prior to them, on May 10, 2021 two Indian male mountaineers, Hem Raj and Stanzin Norboo had climbed the same mountain, along with four sherpas.

### **Demise of Dr KK Aggarwal, Ex-Chief of Indian Medical Association**

Ex-Chief of Indian Medical Association, Dr KK Aggarwal died of Covid at the age of 62. This prominent face of the medical fraternity in the country was also a Padma Shri awardee of 2010. He was a cardiologist, who headed the Heart Care Foundation of India. During the pandemic, he had been vocal on several aspects of the coronavirus and had posted several videos and statements to raise public awareness. After his second shot of vaccine in February, he had posted a Q and A video on Facebook to address hesitancy and misconceptions.

### **India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre**



The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently established the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre at Pune. The centre is meant to boost the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra and act as a one-stop shop to export agricultural food productions. It is open to anyone who is involved in agricultural exports and will provide guidance regarding minimum residue level, orchard management, branding and marketing, country-wise protocols, special export treatments and government export schemes. The centre will conduct awareness programmes,

workshops and training programmes. The centre will help in realization of visions of Agri Export Policy that aims to double the agricultural exports i.e. around 60 billion USD by 2022. This centre has been established in Maharashtra as it is one of the leading states in agriculture. It is one of the largest producers of onions and pulses; second largest producer of cereals, soya bean, sugarcane and cotton and the third largest producer of sunflower.

### **Malerkotla : The 23rd District Of Punjab**



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh proclaimed Malerkotla as the 23rd district of the state on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The new district is a Muslim-dominated area that has been carved out of the Sangrur district of the state.

Malerkotla is 35 km from the Sangrur district headquarters. The government had promised a district status for Malerkotla in 2017. The new district will have a medical college in the name of Sher Mohammed Khan, who had been a Nawab of Malerkotla, a women's college, a new bus stand and a women police station.

### **Demise of RL Bhatia**

Senior Congress leader and former Governor of Kerala and Bihar, Raghunandan Lal Bhatia breathed his last at Amritsar at the age 101 years. He was elected as Member Parliament from Amritsar constituency in 1972, 1980, 1985 and 1992. He also worked in the capacity of a Foreign Affairs Minister, a Governor of Bihar from 2008 to 2009 and Governor of Kerala from 2004 to 2008. The senior leaders from several parties like Laxmi Kanta Chawala, Raj Kumar Verka, Ashwani Dekhti, Mamta Datta paid last tributes to him.

## **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank Received 'International Invincible Gold Medal'**

Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been chosen for 'International Invincible Gold Medal' honor during the two-day virtual session, which was attended by representatives from more than 110 countries. He will be formally honored with this medal on the occasion of Guru Purnima this year for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life. He has been praised for his continuous support and commitment to the world peace program and propagating ancient Vedic values, wisdom and traditional knowledge in the most scientific manner.

## **The State of Healthcare in India Report**

The real estate portal owned by US-based News Corp and its Australian group firm REA released its report titled 'State of Healthcare in India' in which Pune emerged as the topper while Delhi-NCR crept at the lowest position among eight major cities in health

infrastructure-related parameters, including number of hospital beds per 1,000 people, air quality, water quality, sanitation, liveability index etc. The report evaluated and ranked health infrastructure in India's most urbanised eight cities viz. Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune. Among the parameters around 40 per cent weightage has been given to the number of hospital beds. Pune is well equipped with 3.5 hospital beds per 1,000 people and with 3.2 hospital beds per 1,000 people, Ahmedabad is ranked second in the list. Despite a high number of hospital beds per 1,000 people and its top ranking in the ease of living index, Bengaluru is ranked third because of its poor air quality, water quality and availability, and municipal performance index.

## **Demise Of Mathematician Narasimhan**

Mathematician MS Narasimhan, who along with CS Seshadri was known for their work on Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem died at the age of 88. The deceased was a proud recipient of the Bhatnagar Prize (1975), the Third World

Academy Award for Mathematics (1987) and a Fellow of the Royal Society, London. He was also an Honorary Fellow of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. He was the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in the field of science. He had earned graduation from Loyola College, Chennai, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay. After that he did PhD from Mumbai University. In 1992, he headed the research group in mathematics at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste.

### **Manisha Kapoor Became Member of Executive Committee Of ICAS**

Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) broke the information that its general secretary Manisha Kapoor has been appointed to the executive committee of the International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS). Being one of the four global vice-presidents on the executive committee till 2023, Kapoor is expected to promote advertising self-regulation as an optimal mechanism for consumer protection, strengthen ICAS as a global alliance and facilitate knowledge sharing among SROs

to set up best practices and monitor global trends in advertising ecosystem that impact self-regulation. She will also coordinate with established and emerging digital platforms to make the online space more transparent and fair for consumers.

### **The Third Power Exchange of India**



Power regulator, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) recently approved registration to PTC, BSE and ICICI Bank-led Pranurja Solution Ltd to initiate India's third power exchange and the proposed exchange is likely to be operationalised by this year-end. PTC India and BSE Investments Ltd own 22.62% each in Pranurja Solutions while 9.04% is held by ICICI Bank Ltd. Besides them, 14 other investors including Greenko Energy, Jindal Power, Manikaran Power and Mercados Energy

Markets, each of whom is having shareholding less than 5%. The commencement of operation of the power exchange will be possible only after approval of the bye-laws, rules, and business rules and the technology including trading software in accordance with numerous provisions of the Power Market Regulations (PMR) 2010. After the approval, the registration of the power exchange will be effective for 25 years from the date of commencement of operation. It is worth knowing that the other two power exchanges of India are Indian Energy Exchange and Power Exchange of India Ltd.

### **Whitley Awards, 2021**

Nuklu Phom of Nagaland won the 2021 Whitley Award or “Green Oscar”(40,000 pounds) and with this he became the only Indian to receive the award. Nuklu Phom is founder of Lemasachenlok Society that works towards sensitising the locals about the bird Amur Falcons. This society established three reserves that helped to increase the number of roosting Falcons. This is the reason Nuklu Phom is famous with the nickname “Amur Falcon Man of Nagaland”.

Remember Nagaland is called the “Falcon Capital of the World”. The man also created “Biodiversity Peace Corridors” that involves 16 villages spread across four districts and adopts sustainable land use practices. Apart from conservation of wildlife and environmental protection he also worked in areas of health, education and microfinance.

### **Gita Mittal Became Arline Pacht Global Vision Awardee**



Former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal, has been proclaimed as one of the two recipients of the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021. The Award was presented to her at IAWJ’s Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony. She shared the award with

Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico. Instituted in 2016 by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), the award acknowledges a sitting/retired woman judge's contribution to IAWJ. With this, Justice Mittal became the first Indian judge to receive the award. Currently, Justice Mittal is the Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC), an independent, self-regulatory body for general entertainment channels set up by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF). It is worth registering here that she is the first woman to hold this position.

### **Demise of Arjuna Awardee V Chandrasekhar**

Former Indian Table Tennis Player V Chandrasekhar, who had been the three-time national table tennis champion died of covid complications in Chennai at the age of 64. The recipient of the Arjuna Award had reached the semifinals of the Commonwealth Games in 1982. He had served in the capacity of the president of Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association and Director and head coach of the SDAT-

Medimix TT Academy in the city. His playing career was cut short in 1984 after a botched knee surgery. Current Indian paddler G Sathiyar and former national champion S Raman are among his trainees.

### **MoU between ICAI and QFCA**

The Union Cabinet gave nod to signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA). The MoU will lead to cooperation between the two institutes to work together to strengthen the Accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar. It will increase opportunities for members of ICAI to provide professional services via establishing practice for providing professional services in Qatar in the areas of assurance and auditing, advisory, taxation, financial services and allied areas. The duo will explore the opportunities for Indian businesses in Qatar via roundtables and networking events.

## Death Of Kerala Iron Lady K R Gouri



Former minister and an old-time communist leader K R Gouri Amma breathed her last in Thiruvananthapuram. Hailing from Alappuzha district of Kerala, she became a member of Communist Party of India. She played a leading and significant role in fighting for the rights of unprivileged sections and labourers and was also called Iron Lady of Kerala in politics. She locked horns with the Travancore Divan Ramaswamy Aiyar in the Punnapra Vayalar struggle. Through the inaugural election of Kerala Assembly in 1957, she became the first revenue minister of the state. It is worth registering that the Iron Lady contested 17 elections in her life and succeeded in 13. She served on various ministerial

posts in six governments and played a key role in approval of several reformative legislations and among them was the Lands reforms act that advocated opposition to the expulsion of landless from government land. She founded her own party called the Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi.

### **National Technology Day: May 11**

Like every year, the country celebrated National Technology Day on 11th May 2021 to mark the anniversary of Pokhran Nuclear tests that were conducted in 1998 as well as to underline the significance of technological advancements for the country. “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future” was the theme of celebration for this year. On this occasion, the Ministry of Science and Technology organised several events across the country to celebrate the day. It is worth recollecting here that the Pokhran Nuclear tests were a series of nuclear bomb test explosions that were held in the Pokhran Test Range of Indian Army. Total five nuclear tests were

conducted and among them the first test was a Fusion Bomb and the rest four were fission bombs. These tests were conducted under the code named Operation Shakti and were a part of the initiative of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in which Dr APJ Abdul Kalam played a major role as a Chief Scientist conducting these tests.

### **Demise Of Renowned Sculptor, Rajya Sabha MP Raghunath Mohapatra**

Rajya Sabha MP and well known Sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra died of covid complications at the age of 78 years in Bhubaneswar. The deceased was the doyen of stone sculpture, an illustrious son of Odisha who infused life into stones and was one of the biggest ambassadors of Odisha's art, culture and history. The enrichment of Utkal art and sculpture was his credential. He was duly honored with Padma Shri (1976), Padma Bhushan (2001) and Padma Vibhushan (2013). He trained around 2,000 students

and had restored many monuments. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in July 2018, for Arts, Culture, and Heritage by the President of India.

### **Himanta Biswa Sarma Became The 15th CM Of Assam**

BJP candidate, Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam on May 10, 2021 at the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati. He has taken the place of Sarbananda Sonowal. He was elected unanimously by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Legislature Party and was appointed by the Governor Jagdish Mukhi. The new CM will re-verify the National Register of Citizens (NRC) list as in Assam NRC final list 2019, which was published on August 31, left more than 19 lakh people, so he will reverify 20 per cent in the bordering districts and 10 per cent in other districts in the NRC list. He also repeated his election campaign promise of bringing "laws against love jihad and land jihad".



## World Environment Day 2021

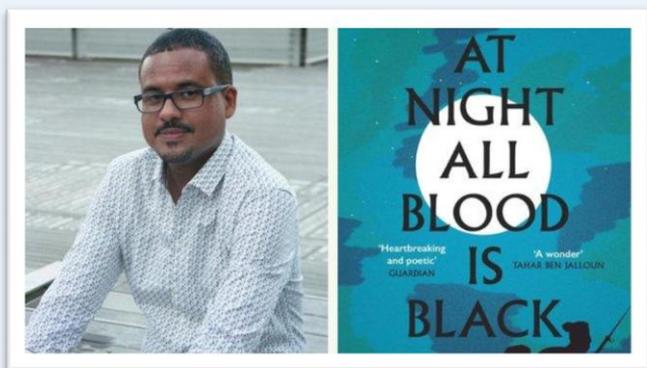


On 5th June 2021, World Environment Day (WED) was observed globally on the “Ecosystem Restoration” theme as only healthy ecosystems can enhance livelihoods, counter climate change and stop collapse of biodiversity amid the ongoing covid pandemic . It was hosted by Pakistan. On this occasion the UN started “UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)”, which is a global mission to revive billions of hectares of forests, farmlands, mountain ecosystems and marine ecosystems. The day draws the attention of governments, celebrities, businesses, and citizens to shift their focus on solving environmental issues.

## The 24th Anniversary Of BIMSTEC

“Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation”(BIMSTEC) completed 24 years of its existence on 6th June 2021. It is a promising regional grouping that made progress on several factors including finalisation of the master plan for connectivity. It was formed on June 6, 1997 in Bangkok under the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Myanmar was included in it in 1997 after which the group was rechristened as ‘BIMST-EC’ (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Nepal & Bhutan became its full members in 2004. It is meant to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development and accelerate social progress.

## David Diop wins International Booker 2021



David Diop became the first French novelist to win the International Booker prize for translated fiction with *At Night All Blood Is Black*, his first novel translated into English. Diop, the author of two novels, and his translator Anna Moschovakis shared the £50,000 annual prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a work translated into English. Instituted in 2005, the International Booker Prize was formerly known as the Man Booker International Prize. Albanian writer Ismail Kadare was the first recipient of this award. This is considered as a sister prize to the Booker Prize, awarded to a novel written in English.

### **The First Asia-Pacific Cybersecurity Council**

American multinational technology company Microsoft launched the first ever Asia-Pacific cybersecurity council

that consists of policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand with the objective of accelerating public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and sharing threat intelligence. Government agencies and state leaders are likely to join the forum, which will see participation of Microsoft and its cybersecurity industry advisors. This council will meet virtually on a quarterly basis. It has been done keeping in view the encounter rates for malware and ransomware attacks, which are said to be higher than average in the case of Asia-Pacific (Asia PAC-ific) or APAC.

### **Dr Patrick Amoth : The New Chair of WHO Executive Board**

Dr Patrick Amoth, the acting Director-General for Health, Ministry of Health of Kenya got appointed as the Chairman of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board, for one year during the 149th session of the WHO Executive Board under the leadership of the outgoing Chair Dr Harsh Vardhan. Mr Amoth has taken the place of Union Health Minister, Government of India, Dr

Harsh Vardhan, who completed his tenure as Chairman of WHO Executive Board on June 02, 2021 and will continue to be a member of the Executive Board of WHO till 2023. It is worth knowing that the chairman's post is held on a rotation basis for one year among regional groups.

### 3rd June : World Bicycle Day 2021



The annual World Bicycle Day (WBD) was observed on 3rd June across the globe with the objective of promoting health benefits of cycling among all age groups. The day is celebrated to draw the attention of people towards the fact that cycling is a zero-pollution mode of transportation which is necessary for a healthy environment. Further, the logo of WBD is Blue and White in colour, showing bicyclists around the globe. It has been designed by Isaac Feld and the accompanying animation has been created by Professor John E. Swanson. Its

tagline is #June3WorldBicycleDay. Flashback says that the campaign for promotion of the UN resolution for World Bicycle Day was led by professor Leszek Sibilisk, a social scientist in the United States and it was well supported by 56 countries.

### Laurence des Cars: The First Female Leader in 228 years



The world's largest museum in Paris, France, Musée du Louvre got its first female president in 228 years in the form of Historian Laurence des Cars. She was appointed as the female president of this museum by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron. The 54 year old is currently heading the Musée d'Orsay, the Paris landmark museum which is dedicated to 19th-century art. She will take the place of the current president, Jean-Luc Martinez on September 1, 2021. Jean-Luc Martinez had been heading the Orsay museum for the past eight years.

## **31st May : World No Tobacco Day**

The annual World No Tobacco Day was observed on 31st May 2021 on “Commit to Quit” theme. The member states of the World Health Organisation have been observing this day since 1987 to bring global attention towards the tobacco epidemic and associated preventable death. As per Lancet study, in 30 years around 200 million deaths were caused by smoking tobacco use and so tobacco control is crucial and necessary” part to reach WHO’s global goals of 25 percent reduction in “premature mortality” from non-communicable diseases by 2025 to comply with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As of 2019 China, India, Indonesia, USA, Russia, Bangladesh, Japan, Turkey, Vietnam, and Philippines emerged as the top 10 smoking nations.

### **Why Hong Kong Is In News ?**

Hong Kong has not one, but two reasons for scripting the news headlines. Firstly, a Hong Kong mountaineer, Tsang Yin-hung, got recorded for “world’s fastest ascent of Everest by a woman” in just 26 hours. She scaled the giant mountain in a record

time of 25 hours and 50 minutes in her third attempt. With this, she has surpassed the earlier record of Nepali women Phunjo Jhangmu Lama, who had completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes. Secondly, Hong Kong changed electoral law and reduced direct public vote. The number of seats in Hong Kong’s legislature has been expanded to 90, with 40 of them elected by a largely pro-Beijing election committee and the number of legislators elected directly by Hong Kong voters will be cut to 20, from the previous 35. The new law also authorizes the city's national security department to check the backgrounds of potential candidates for public office and sets up a new committee to ensure candidates are “patriotic.”

### **Bashar Al-Assad Became President Of Syria For The Fourth Time !!!**

Bashar Al-Assad, who is the 19th president of Western Asian nation, Syria since 2000, has been re-elected as President for the fourth time. Assad received 95.1 percent of the votes cast. The Syrian politician has succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad, who served from 1971 to 2000 and was the longest-

-serving (29 years) president. He also worked in the capacity of commander-in-chief of Syrian Armed Forces and regional secretary of Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party in Syria. He had begun his career in Syrian Army as a doctor.

### **28 May Was Amnesty International Day**

The annual Amnesty International Day was observed on May 28, 2021, to commemorate the foundation of Amnesty International, a Non-governmental Organization in London on 28th May 1961 in London, after the publication of the article "The Forgotten Prisoners" in The Observer, a British newspaper, by the lawyer Peter Benenson. The NGO looks into the protection of human rights, by working to prevent abuses to human rights, fight for justice for those whose rights have been violated, expand and enforce human rights protections in international law by lobbying governments and other powerful groups, and publicizing their violations. The organization was duly acknowledged with the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its "defense of human

dignity against torture," and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.

### **Isaac Herzog : The New President of Israel**



Veteran Israeli politician, Isaac Herzog, has been elected as the President of the country during the 120 member-parliamentary election for 2021. The 60-year-old Herzog has become the 11th President of Israel and will take charge of the office from July 09, 2021. He will take the place of Reuven Rivlin, who will complete his tenure in July 2021 after seven years in office. After joining the office, Herzog's first task will be "to build bridges" within Israeli society and with the Jewish diaspora and "safeguard the foundations of democracy".

## **Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski Won The European Golden Boot**

The Bayern Munich striker, Robert Lewandowski won the maiden European Golden Boot of his career. The champion scored an incredible 41 goals in 29 Bundesliga appearances to claim the top scorer spot in Europe. It was an unbelievable campaign from Lewandowski who was also able to break Gerd Muller's 49-year single-season scoring record en route to becoming the European Golden Boot winner. It is worth registering here that so far, Lewandowski's 41 goals in 29 appearances is the highest total recorded by any player in Europe. He succeeded in surpassing Lionel Messi who registered 30 goals (35 matches) during Barcelona's La Liga campaign and secured the second spot. Cristiano Ronaldo is right behind Messi in third place with 29 goals during his Serie A season. It is an incredible achievement for Lewandowski, who succeeded in bettering these two legendary players' goal-scoring numbers as they have both won this award multiple times. Further, Eintracht Frankfurt's Andre Silva grabbed fourth place with 28 goals and Borussia

Dortmunds Erling Braut Haaland ended up tied for fifth spot with Kylian Mbappe with 27 goals.

## **Andy Jassy : Amazon's Next CEO**



The current CEO of Seattle-based Amazon Web Services (AWS), Andy Jassy will officially become the CEO of the entire Amazon company on 5th July 2021. Jassy had joined the company in the late '90s and was assigned the task of exploring AWS. He will take the place of Jeff Bezos, who grew Amazon from an internet bookstore to an online shopping behemoth. Bezos will become executive chair of Amazon's board and will concentrate on new products and initiatives. Having a personal fortune worth \$167 billion, Bezos has plans to focus on his other ventures like his rocket ship company, Blue Origin, and his newspaper, The Washington Post.

## The Second BRICS Sherpas' and Sous Sherpas' Meeting



India presided over the second BRICS Sherpas' and Sous Sherpas' meeting in which BRICS partners negotiated key deliverables for India's BRICS 2021 Chairship. It is worth recalling here that the first BRICS Sherpa meeting was held in 2019 under the Presidency of Brazil in Curitiba, Brazil. And it is worth knowing here that Sherpa is the personal representative of the head of state or government and is usually quite influential even though he or she does not have authority to make a final decision over any agreement. Sherpa plays an important role in preparing for international summits like G7 and G20 summits.

### Lasso : The New President of Ecuador

Guillermo Lasso, a conservative, assumed the presidency of Ecuador and with this he became the first right-wing

leader in 14 years in Ecuador. The 65-year-old former banker, businessman, writer and politician had won Ecuador's Presidential Elections 2021 with over 52 per cent of votes against Andres Arauz, the left-wing economist in a second-round run-off last month to become the 47th President of the nation . He has succeeded Lenin Moreno. His oath was administered by Guadalupe Llori, the President of the National Assembly. As a President, Lasso's first challenge will be to revive the economy of Ecuador that has contracted by 7.8 per cent in 2020 and tackle the country's overall debt that stands at 63 per cent of GDP.

### The Knock Of H10N3 Bird Flu

Eastern province of Jiangsu in China, reported the first human case of H10N3 bird flu in the world. A 41-year-old man has become the first victim of infection. He was diagnosed with H10N3 avian influenza virus. H10N3 is a low pathogenic or less severe strain of virus in poultry. Its symptoms usually start 1–4 days after exposure to the virus and it includes mild to severe fever, runny nose, sore throat, headache, coughing, muscle pain and fatigue. It also has the

potential of causing pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, encephalitis, meningitis, and worsening of pre-existing health problems like asthma. As per the current knowledge the risk of its transmission is also very low. As per the available data, in the last four decades, only 160 isolations of this virus were reported, in wild birds or waterfowl across Asia and North America. So far it has not been detected in chickens.

### **Chinese Can Have Three Kids Now**

In a major shift in its population policy, China permitted couples to have up to three children, from the existing limit of two after recent census data showed a dramatic decline in births in the country. President Xi Jinping approved this change during a politburo meeting. The 2016 decision of relaxing China's one-child policy and allowing people to have a second child had failed to reverse the country's falling birth rate on account of the high cost of raising children in Chinese cities deterred many couples from starting families. The policy change is expected to fetch "supportive measures, which will be conducive to

improving the country's population structure, fulfilling the country's strategy of actively coping with an ageing population and maintaining the advantage, endowment of human resources"as per a news agency.

### **IAU approves 8 Features on Moon with Chinese names**

In May 2021, International Astronomical Union (IAU)'s Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN) gave nod to nomenclature of 8 features in the Moon with Chinese names around the location where China's Chang'e-5 Spacecraft landed in December 2020. So now the names of 8 features are Mons Hua, Mons Heng, Pei Xiu, Shen Kuo, Liu Hui, Song Yingxing, Statio Tianchuan, and Xu Guanqui. These locations have been named after China's famous Astronomers, Scientists, Mathematicians, Cartographers, Mountains, and a Constellation.

### **Col Goita Became The Transitional President Of Mali**

Mali's constitutional court in Bamako named interim Vice President and leader of a military coup Colonel Assimi Goita as

the new interim President of Mali. The 38 year old 'President of the transition, head of state' will announce the new prime minister of Mali within a few days. Goita is the leader of a military junta, the National Committee for the Salvation of the People, who assumed the office of interim Vice President in August 2020. Under his leadership, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was thrown out and he was also responsible for ordering the arrest of former President Bah Ndaw and former Prime Minister Moctar Ouane after a cabinet reshuffle that removed two military members. It is worth knowing that these two civilian leaders were leading the interim government to bring Mali back to civilian rule after the expulsion of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita

### **Fiame Naomi Mata'afa: Samoa's first female PM**

Fiame Naomi Mata'afa came in the news headlines not only for becoming the first female Prime Minister of Samoa, a country in Oceania but also for an extraordinary makeshift tent ceremony after the island nation's long-ruling

government refused to cede power and locked the doors of parliament. Ms Mata'afa and members of her Faatuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi (Fast) party gathered in a marquee in parliament's gardens, in the capital Apia, with supporters and took oath one by one. She was literally locked out of parliament by her opponent, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, who has been prime minister of the country for 22 years, and who has refused to step down.

### **NASA Will Send Its First Mobile Robot To Search For Water On The Moon**



The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is planning to search for water and other resources on the moon in 2023. As part of its Artemis program, the US agency is planning to send its first mobile robot to

the Moon in late 2023 in search of ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface. The Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER), which will be powered by solar power, will collect data that will assist NASA in mapping resources at the lunar South Pole that can be harvested for long-term human exploration at the Moon. It will help in detecting precise locations and concentrations of ice on the Moon and will help in evaluation of the environment and potential resources at the lunar south pole in preparation for Artemis astronauts.

### **Global Celebrations on Buddha Purnima**

More than 50 most prominent Buddhist religious leaders from across the globe participated in the virtual congregation on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on May 26, 2021. This Virtual Vesak Global Celebration on Buddha Purnima event was organised by the Culture Ministry of India the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). Buddhists and Hindus across South and Southeast Asia including Tibet and Mongolia commemorated the birth, enlightenment

and death of Gautama Buddha in Theravada Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana. Gautama Buddha was the founder of the religion of Buddhism. He is revered as the re-discoverer of an ancient path to release clinging & craving and escaping the cycle of birth & rebirth. His teachings are based on insight into arising of duḥkha and ending of duḥkha.

### **Microsoft Internet Explorer Will Bid GoodBye !**



Tech-giant Microsoft has announced its decision to shut-down its iconic Internet Explorer (IE) browser on 15th June 2022, after more than 25 years of its launch. The Internet Explorer (IE) browser was introduced in 1995. In its place, Microsoft is recommending its users shift to Microsoft Edge (2015) for a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience. According to Sean Lyndersay, a Microsoft Edge programme manager Microsoft Edge is capable of

addressing concerns like compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications. It is worth knowing here that Microsoft Edge has in-built Internet Explorer mode (IE mode), so users can access legacy Internet Explorer-based websites and applications straight from Microsoft Edge.

### **Demise Of China's 'Father Of Hybrid Rice'**

Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping, whose success in hybrid rice provided food security to China and transformed agriculture across the globe passed away at the age of 91. The deceased travelled to India, Vietnam, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and trained more than 3,000 scientists from more than 50 countries in Lanka and the United States and provided valuable advice to rice research personnel. It is worth knowing that the discovery of Nan-Yu No. 2 increased China's rice production from 5.69 billion tons in 1950 to 19.47 billion tons in 2000 that turned China into a grain surplus country for the first time. In 2004, he was acknowledged with the World Food Award "for his

breakthrough achievement in developing the genetic material and technologies necessary for breeding high yielding hybrid rice varieties".

### **Addition In India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative List**



The Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel informed that around six cultural heritage sites viz. Ganga Ghats of Varanasi, Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu, Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Military Architecture, Hire Benkal Megalithic site, Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. After this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has reached the figure of 48.

## **Martha Koome : Kenya's First Woman Chief Justice**

Martha Karambu Koome became Kenya's first woman chief justice. Appointed by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, the 61 year old lady is said to be a calm but staunch women's rights crusader, who has taken over the judiciary ahead of next year's general elections and she is likely to play a decisive role in adjudicating any eventual election disputes. She succeeded in winning the chief justice position over nine other candidates, including some of the country's most prominent lawyers and academics. She had a distinguished career with more than 33 years in private legal practice and as a member of the judiciary. She has taken the place of David Maraga, who created history by leading the Supreme Court when it annulled Kenyatta's 2017 re-election victory citing "illegalities and irregularities" and ordering a fresh election.

## **The Biggest Nuclear Power Project Of China & Russia**

China and Russia started the biggest Nuclear Power Project for which they signed an agreement in 2018. According

to the agreement, the duo agreed to construct Unit three and Unit Four of the Xudapu Nuclear Power Plant and Unit 7 and Unit 8 of the Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant. This construction is the major cooperation outcome of science and technology innovation and high-end equipment manufacturing between the two nations. Third generation VVER-1200 reactors will be employed in this project. After completion, the reactors will produce 37.6 billion kilowatt hours of electricity. This step will decrease 30.68 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and will also reduce the usage of fossil fuels.

## **20th May : World Bee Day**

Globe observed the annual World Bee Day on 20th May on "Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees" theme. 20th May 1734 was the day when the pioneer of beekeeping Anton Jansa was born in Central European nation Slovenia. This day was meant to recognize the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem. It is interesting to learn that around 33% of the world's food production depends on bees therefore they are important for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in

nature and helpful in reducing pollution. The UN Member States instituted this day on the proposal of Slovenia in 2017 and in 2018 this day was celebrated for the first time.

### **Penpa Tsering : President of Tibetan Exile Government**

The former speaker of Tibet's parliament-in-exile, Penpa Tsering got elected the new President of the exile government. Nearly 64,000 Tibetans, who are living in exile in India, Nepal, North America, Europe, Australia and elsewhere participated in the election, which was held in two rounds in January as well as in April. This was the third edition of the direct election of leadership after the withdrawal of the Dalai lama from politics. Born in a refugee camp in 1967 in Karnataka, Penpa Tsering became a Tibetan politician who was elected to the Parliament of the Central Tibetan Administration for two terms from 1996 and 2006 and between 2008 and 2016. He was also appointed as the speaker of the 14th and the 15th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. Now as President of

the Central Tibet Administration, he has succeeded the current President Lobsang Sangay.

### **Elon Musk & The Bloomberg Billionaires Index**



Tesla Inc chief Elon Musk lost his second rank to LVMH (Louis Vuitton) Chairman Bernard Arnault in the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index as the electric vehicle-maker's shares fell 2.2%. Musk's current fortune is \$160.6 billion, which is 24% less from its January high. One of the reasons for this drop is Elon Musk's tweet announcement that Tesla is no longer accepting digital currency as payment, which had Bitcoin tumbling as much as 15 percent last week. So at present Musk is the third-richest man in the world, after Amazon's Jeff Bezos, and Bernard Arnault. On the other hand Arnault has added the most, with his net worth rising by almost \$47 billion to

\$161.2 billion on account of increased sales of his firm's luxury goods in China and other parts of Asia.

## A-76 : World's Largest Iceberg



The continent of Antarctica came in news for conceiving the world's largest Iceberg named as A-76 that has recently calved off from the continent of Antarctica. It is 170 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide in dimension, floating on the Weddell Sea, which is a large bay in the Western Antarctic. It was spotted by a European Space Agency satellite called Copernicus Sentinel that is a two-satellite constellation that orbits the earth's poles. These satellites confirmed the observations made by British Antarctic Survey, which was the first witness of this breakaway. This Iceberg got calved naturally from an Ice shelf called Ronne Ice Shelf, which was floating on water.

This has led to rise in sea level. Apart from this, a new study states that Antarctica ices sheets are heading towards Climate Tipping Points (threshold that leads to large changes in the state of the system that are irreversible). There are numerous ice shelves in Antarctica that render instability to the towering ice cliffs after breaking due to the warming of ocean waters that are melting their lower edges. The fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) referred to the Climate Tipping Point as runaway Climate Change.

## Launch Of SBIRS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite

The United Launch Alliance launched a Space Tracking and Surveillance System, Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite via the Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida for missile warning, missile battlespace and defence characterization. It is meant to look into the Infrared Space Surveillance of the United States Space Force System. It is a 4,850 kilograms heavy satellite that has

been stationed at a height of 35,753-kilo metres. It is worth recalling here that Atlas V is a two-stage rocket that was fueled with rocket grade kerosene and liquid oxygen in its first stage and hydrogen and liquid oxygen in the second stage.

### **Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2021**



Fortune Magazine released the eighth edition of 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021 in which New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern emerged as topper. She was followed by mRNA Pioneers; Dan Schulman, CEO of PayPal; Dr John Nkengasong, director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; Adam Silver, Michele Roberts, Chris Paul and NBA Rescuers; Jessica Tan, founder of Ping An Group; Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury for the Church of England/Anglican

Church; Stacey Abrams, founder of Fair Fight; Reshorna Fitzpatrick, pastor for Proceeding Word Church, Chicago and Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India to complete the top ten list. The list celebrates leaders who made a difference amid the "truly unprecedented times" of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **30 People Were Awarded Capital Punishment In DR Congo**

In Democratic Republic of Congo, 30 people were awarded death sentences after clashes between two rival factions over the right to hold Eid celebrations in the Martyrs' Stadium of Capital city Kinshasa. The feud claimed the life of one police officer and injured dozens of members of law enforcement. Ten police vehicles were also damaged in the clashes. The DRC has been facing security, humanitarian and health crises in recent years. President Felix Tshisekedi has recently declared a state of emergency in two eastern provinces due to the presence of armed groups.

## **Iran's Simorgh Supercomputer**

Iran recently introduced its supercomputer called Simorgh, which is a hundred times more powerful than the previous Iranian supercomputers. The Supercomputer has been named after the phoenix-like bird Simurgh. Developed by the Amirkabir University of Technology in Tehran, the Simorgh Supercomputer is located at the Iranian High-Performance Computing Research Centre. Comprised of 42 racks in an area of 250 square metres, its current performance capacity is 0.56 petaflops, which will reach 1 to 10 petaflops after upgrading it to 400 square metres. This will happen at an estimated expenditure of 9 million USD. This supercomputer will be employed in image processing, artificial intelligence workload, traffic, weather data as well as in cloud hosting local private firms.

## **May 18 : World AIDS Vaccine Day**

Like every year, the World AIDS Vaccine Day was celebrated on 18th May 2021 on the "Global Solidarity" theme. The day is also known as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Vaccine

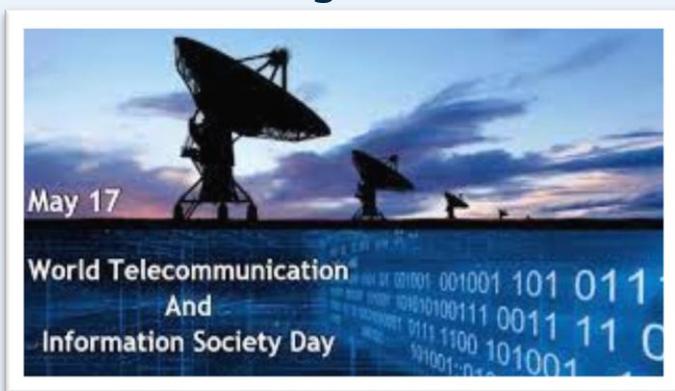
Awareness Day. It was meant to honour thousands of volunteers, health professionals, community leaders and scientists who work together to develop the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) vaccine. On this date in 1977, the then US President Bill Clinton in his speech at the Morgan State University seeded the concept of AIDS Vaccine. Although there is medical treatment for AIDS in the form of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART), yet there is no licensed HIV vaccine in the market.

## **Moctar Ouane Got Reappointed As Mali's PM**

The Malian presidency announced the reappointment of Moctar Ouane as the prime minister of Mali. President Bah Ndaw reappointed him to the post after submission of his resignation letter on 14th May 2021. He was appointed as Prime Minister of Mali in September 2020, after the military coup which overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August 2020. Prior to that ,Ouane had worked in the capacities of

the permanent representative of Mali to the United Nations(UN) from 1995 to 2002 as well as the diplomatic adviser to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African regional economic bloc. It is worth knowing that the Interim Government of Mali will hold a constitutional referendum on October 31, 2021, which will be followed by the elections in February 2022.

## World Telecommunication Day 2021



The annual World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2021 was celebrated on May 17, 2021 on “Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times” theme . This coronavirus pandemic has underlined the critical role of information and communication technologies more than

ever. It highlighted the role of digital technology, which has become the only way to stay in touch with friends and family. This day has been celebrated since 1969. It commemorates the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as well as the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.

## Leicester City Clinched FA Cup for The First Time

Leicester City clinched the FA Cup for the first time in their history by virtue of a stunning long-range strike from Youri Tielemans against Chelsea at the Wembley Stadium. This was their fourth final appearance. Northern Irish professional football manager and former player who is the manager of Premier League club Leicester City, Brendan Rodgers succeeded in winning his first major English trophy. Around 21,000 fans witnessed the game at the Wembley Stadium, which was the biggest crowd in England since the resumption of sporting events in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Mexico's Andrea Meza : The Miss Universe 2021



26 year old Andrea Meza from Mexico has won the 69th edition of Miss Universe, which took place at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida. She got an edge over more than 70 contestants from around the world. She was crowned by the former Miss Universe Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa at the event. She was followed by Miss Brazil Julia Gama, Miss Peru Janick Maceta del Castillo and Miss India Adline Castelino at the second, third and fourth spots respectively. In this pageant former Miss Universe contestants Cheslie Kryst, Paulina Vega and Demi-Leigh Tebow (who won the crown in 2017) served as competition analysts and commentators, and a panel of eight women comprised the jury to determine the winner.

## 16th May : International Day of Light

The annual International Day of Light was celebrated on 16th May to cheer the role that light plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development, and also in fields as diverse as medicine, communications, and energy. Besides this, on 16th May 1960 physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman conducted the first successful operation of the laser. The observation of the day enabled various sectors of society across the globe to engage in activities that display how science, technology, art and culture can help in achieving the objectives of UNESCO i.e. building the foundation for peaceful societies.

### Is China The Real Culprit ?

Recently a Chinese document titled "The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Man-Made Virus as Bioweapons" has come into light which reveals China's conspiracy of raging World War III with biological weapons. Authored by PLA researchers and scientists in 2015, the document states that SARS virus shall be used as a "New

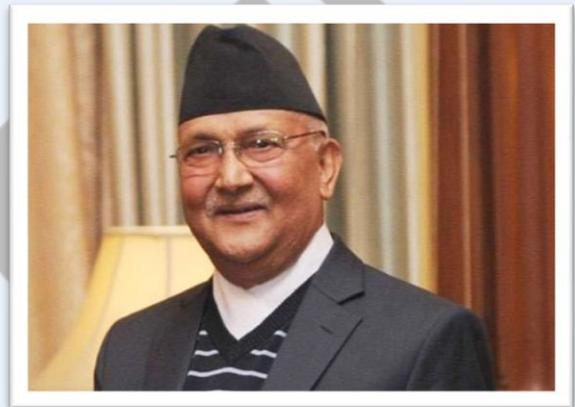
Era of Genetic Weapons”. The covid virus will be artificially manipulated into a human virus disease, then will be weaponized and released from restraint. The genesis of the document was located in the Chinese internet and is also there in an upcoming book called “What really happened in Wuhan” that covers the facts related to the origin of Covid virus. Brazil, US and Australia have made strong statements against actions after the release of the report and they condemn this Chinese action which sought economic benefits. COVID-19 virus is said to have come from Wuhan. China was dodging the WHO probe in this context and it was only after international pressure, it allowed the investigation to learn the origin of Covid.

### **Museveni Became President Of Uganda For Sixth Time**

Uganda’s President Yoweri Museveni took oath for his sixth term as president. Museveni won re-election in January 2021 and took the oath of office on 12th May 2021 at a ceremony in the capital, Kampala, that was broadcast on national television and attended by several

African heads of state and other foreign dignitaries. The 76-year-old vowed to “pay true allegiance” to the country, which he has ruled continuously since taking power as a rebel leader in 1986. Opposition leader Bobi Wine secured second place on the ballot.

### **K P Sharma Oli Again Became Prime Minister Of Nepal**



K P Sharma Oli took oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time on May 14, 2021 and his oath was administered by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. He was re-appointed as the Prime Minister as the opposition failed to prove their majority. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli recently lost a vote of confidence in the Nepal Parliament but now he has to take a Vote of Confidence within thirty days and in case if he fails to do so, Article 76 of the Constitution will

be initiated. The Article 76 states that the president of the country appoints the leader of the parliamentary party that gains majority in the house as Prime Minister as well as the council of ministers. In the instance where no party succeeds in gaining a majority in the House of Representatives, then the President can appoint any Member of the House of Representatives as Prime Minister and is given thirty days to prove his vote of confidence. If the Prime Minister is unable to gain a vote of confidence within thirty days, then the President shall appoint the leader of the party that gained the highest number of members in the House of Representatives. And again he is given the opportunity to prove his majority. But if none of these clauses materialize, then the President shall dissolve the parliament and launch fresh elections.

### **Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted: The 2021 World Food Prize**

One of three authors of the newest UN Discussion Paper: "The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets," Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted has been

honored with the 2021 World Food Prize for her groundbreaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems at all levels from the farm to food processing to final consumers . She researched small native fish species in Bangladesh with the aim of improving diets for millions of the most vulnerable people in Asia and Africa.

### **Axiom: The First Private Astronaut Mission to Space Station**



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently inked an agreement with an American privately funded space infrastructure developer, Axiom Space to send its astronauts to the International Space Station. With this, the mission "Ax-1" has become the first private astronaut mission to the space

station. Under this mission, the Axiom astronauts will spend eight days in the space station to coordinate with the space station on the ground. It is a sort of a testing or learning project. Axiom will buy crew supplies, orbit resources, cargo delivery to space and storage from NASA. It is worth knowing here that the International Space Station will retire by 2024 or 2028. Russia is now building its own space station and even India is also planning to launch its own space station in 2020. With this, India will join the row of the elite countries US, China and Russia. The proposed Indian Space Station will be smaller i.e. 20 tonnes, which will be used for performing microgravity experiments and not for space tourism. Space Stations have significance in collecting meaningful scientific data and are used to study the effects of long term space flight on the human body.

### **Martin Griffiths: The new UN Humanitarian Chief**

The United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen and Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths has been appointed as the new Chief at the United Nations 'Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA), for five years. Griffiths has taken the place of Mark Lowcock as the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC) of OCHA. OCHA aims to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. OCHA has headquarters in New York and Geneva.

### **Elisabetta Belloni : The First Woman Chief of Italy Secret Service**

Former Italian diplomat in Vienna and Bratislava, Elisabetta Belloni has been named to lead Italy's secret services, "the Department of Information Security (DIS)." Prime Minister Mario Draghi nominated her for the post and with this, she has become the first woman in the role of secretary-general of the foreign ministry, Italy's highest diplomatic post. This department looks into the country's foreign and domestic intelligence services and reports directly to the Italian government as well as deals with counter-espionage and cyber security. In the past, the appointee has also served in the Italian foreign ministry's crisis unit from 2004 to 2008.

## **Bill Nelson : The 14th NASA Administrator**

Former Senator Bill Nelson took oath as the 14th NASA administrator. The newly appointed administrator served in the U.S. Senate for 18 years from Florida and as a payload specialist on space shuttle mission 61-C in 1986. Now he is being tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency. Nelson has worked in public office for more than 40 years, first in the state legislature and U.S. Congress, then as State Treasurer. He was elected three times to the United States Senate and represented Florida. His committees covered the breadth of government policy from defence, intelligence and foreign policy to finance commerce, and health care.

## **“PASSEX”, The Indian-Indonesian Passage Exercise**

The navies of India and Indonesia conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the southern Arabian sea for improving interoperability and enhancing their mutual understanding. INS Sharda, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) with a Chetak helicopter embarked on board took part from Indian side whereas KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a 90m Corvette participated from the Indonesian side. It is worth remembering here that the last PASSEX between Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy witnessed participation of INS Kalpeni, IN Dornier and KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda.



## Sanjeet Won Gold At Asian Boxing Championships



Second-seeded Indian heavyweight boxer Sanjeet defeated the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan in the men's 91kg category final and won Gold at the Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai. This was the second gold medal for India as the first one was won by Pooja Rani in the women's 75kg earlier. The 19-member Indian contingent signed off this campaign with an unprecedented 15 medals, including two gold, five silver and eight bronze medals. It is worth recollecting here that their previous best

was 13 medals that included two gold, four silvers and seven bronze at the 2019 edition in Bangkok.

## India & The Ongoing Asian boxing championships



Pooja Rani Bohra won her second continental title in the form of gold medal in 75 kg category at Asian boxing championships in Dubai. She won convincingly with a 5-0 margin over Mavluda Movlonova of Uzbekistan. In this same championship, Six-time World champion Mary lost 3-2 to Nazym Kyzaibay and claimed a silver medal in 51 kg category, Lalbuatsaihi won silver medal in 64 kg category against Asian

bronze medallist Milana Safronova of Kazakhstan with a 3-2 and Anupama lost to Kazakhstan's Lazzat Kungeibayeva with 3-2 and received a silver medal in +81kg category.

## **Hockey Is Scripting News Headlines**

Incumbent Narinder Batra of India has again become FIH President for a second term till 2024 during the world body's virtual 47th Congress. He is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member, who got an edge over chief of Belgium Hockey Federation, Marc Coudron by a slim margin of just two votes to emerge victorious. In 2016, he was then an Executive Board Member of FIH as well as the Vice-President of the Asian Hockey Federation and had become the first Indian to head a global sports governing body in place of the outgoing FIH President Leandro Negre, for a four-year term. Apart from this, Odisha bureaucrat V Kartikeyan Pandian has been honored with the President's Award by the

International Hockey Federation (FIH) for his contribution to the promotion of hockey in Odisha. Besides this, Hockey India succeeded in winning the Etienne Glichitch Award for its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country during the 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards. Other awardees were Uzbekistan Hockey Federation (Pablo Negre Award), Polish Hockey Association (Theo Ikema Award), Sharon Williamson of New Zealand (HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award) and Ivona Makar (Guust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy)

## **Hassan Created 10,000m World Record !**

Long-distance runner Sifan Hassan broke the women's 10,000 meters world record at the 2021 FBK Games at Blankers-Koen Stadion in Hengelo, Netherlands. This meeting was part of the 2021 World Athletics Continental Tour Gold series. She finished the final 1000m in 2:46 on her way to clocking 29 minutes and 6.82 seconds to take more than 10-seconds off the previous world record. After this,

Hassan now has the world record in the mile (4:12.33), the 10,000m, and the one-hour run (18,930m) on her name. Prior to this, Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana held the previous world mark of 29:17.45, which was set in Rio at the 2016 Olympic Games.

### **Atletico Madrid : The Winner Of La Liga title**



On 22nd May 2021, Atletico Madrid defeated city rivals Real Madrid to clinch the La Liga title at the Jose Zorrilla stadium in Valladolid, Spain. Atletico won by 2-1 and this was its 11th Spanish La Liga title. Atletico finished top of the rankings with 86 points while Real, who snatched a late 2-1 win over Villarreal, came second on 84. Atletico Madrid has emerged as champion of Spain for the third time in 25 years. However, Atletico is said to have outperformed expectations so much this season that

they almost had little right to be champions. They have scored 67 goals from 53.07 expected goals (xG) in LaLiga and conceded 25 from expected goals against (xGA) of 37.8.

### **Cheers To Chelsea, The 2020-21 UEFA Champions League Winner!**

Chelsea defeated Manchester City by 1–0 in the final, to book the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League (UCL) title on their name, which took place at the Estadio do Dragao in Porto, Portugal. German forward Kai Havertz was the lone scorer of the goal in the 42nd minute of the football match. Manager Thomas Tuchel eventually got to lay his hands on the trophy a year after losing the 2020 final with Paris Saint Germain. This was the second Champions League title triumph for Chelsea, after their first victory in 2012. With this, they have become the 13th multiple winner of the UCL.

### **Kobe Bryant: The New Entrant Of Basketball Hall Of Fame**

Los Angeles Lakers legend, Kobe Bryant has been recently posthumously inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame at the ceremony

in Connecticut by NBA great Michael Jordan. His widow, Vanessa, accepted his induction on his behalf. The five-time NBA champion was adjudged as the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2008. He was retired in 2016 and died at the age of 41 in a helicopter crash in January 2020. Besides him, San Antonio Spurs star Duncan, Minnesota Timberwolves and Boston Celtics big man Garnett, two-time NBA champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich and WNBA legend Tamika Catchings were also inducted in the coveted Hall of Fame.

### **Nadal Won The Italian Open Singles**



The Spanish veteran Rafael Nadal won the Italian Open singles title after defeating his arch-rival Novak Djokovic

by 7-5 1-6 6-3 in the duo's 57th career meeting. Besides him, the Polish teenager Iga Swiatek won the Italian Open singles title after getting an edge over Karolina Pliskova by 6-0 6-0. Both Nadal and Swiatek are the reigning Roland Garros champions, who will next head to Paris to defend their titles. The other winners of the tournament are Nikola Mektic & Mate Pavic (Croatian pair) (Men's Doubles title) and Sharon Fichman (Canada) & Giuliana Olmos (Mexico) (Women's Doubles title).

### **Manchester City : The Premier League champions**

12th May 2021 turned out as a red letter day for Manchester City as it was crowned as Premier League champions for the third time in four seasons after it defeated Leicester by 2-1 in the English Premier League. City have already won the League Cup this season and can secure a treble if they get an edge over Chelsea in the Champions League final on 29th May 2021. This was Manchester City's fourth Premier League title.

## Babar Azam, Alyssa Healy Became ICC players of The Month



Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and Australian women's team wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy have been adjudged as the ICC players of the month for their stellar performances during the month of April. Azam was chosen for his consistent and outstanding performances across all formats in the recently concluded series against South Africa. His match-winning 82-ball 94 in the third ODI against South Africa fetched him 13 rating points to reach a career-best 865 points. He also contributed 122 runs from 59 balls in Pakistan's successful chase in the third match of a T20I series against South Africa. Healy was chosen for her dominant show against all types of bowling in the recent series against New Zealand. She scored 155 runs at an average of 51.66 and a strike rate of

98.72 and emerged as the leading run-scorer in Australia's series victory over New Zealand that extended their record-winning streak to 24 ODIs.

## The 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards



The Laureus World Sports Awards, 2021 was held in Seville, Spain to honour individuals and teams who have achieved in sports throughout the year. The names of winners include Naomi Osaka (tennis, Japan-Sportswoman of the Year); Rafael Nadal (tennis, Spain -Sportsman of the Year); Billie Jean King (tennis, USA-Lifetime Achievement) ; FC Bayern (football, Germany-Team of the Year); Patrick Mahomes (Football, USA-Breakthrough of the Year); Max Parrot (Snowboarding, Canada- World Comeback of the Year); Kickformore by Kickfair (football, German-Sport for Good) ; Mohamed Salah (football,

Liverpool & Egypt-Sporting Inspiration Award), Chris Nikic (athletics, America-Sporting Moment of the Year Award) and Lewis Hamilton (Formula One, Mercedes & UK-Athlete Advocate of the Year). It is worth noting that this year the Laureus World sports Award for Action Sports person of the year was not awarded. Established in 1999 by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, the award is supported by Mitsubishi, Mercedes Benz.

### **Why Did Naomi Osaka Withdraw From French Open?**

Japanese professional tennis player, World No. 1 seed as per Women's Tennis Association (WTA), Naomi Osaka created an uproar by announcing her withdrawal from Roland Garros 2021, after getting fined by French Open. Just because she decided not to speak with the press during the tournament, French Open fined her \$15,000 and warned her that she might face expulsion from the tournament. It is worth knowing that the bright tennis star is the first Asian player to hold top ranking in singles. She had been a four-time Grand Slam singles champion. She has been a reigning champion of the US Open as well as the Australian Open. She claimed her first

two Grand Slam singles at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open. She also became the first woman to win successive Grand Slam singles titles after Serena Williams in 2015.

### **Retirement pf Wicketkeeper BJ Watling**



New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling made an announcement about his retirement from international cricket after the three Tests, including the World Test Championship final against India in their upcoming England tour. He has played 73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20Is for his nation. He became the 9th wicketkeeper to hit a double century and the first to score a double against England in Bay Oval in 2019. He has been involved in two 350-plus stands, one with Brendon McCullum in 2014 against India and the other with Kane Williamson in 2015.



## Current Affairs

1. Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021 was held in .....  
(a) Pune (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai  
(d) Bengaluru (e) Chennai
2. Lt. General Pradeep Chandran Nair took charge as DG of .....  
(a) Gorkha Rifles (b) Jammu & Kashmir Rifles  
(c) Assam Rifles (d) Garhwal Rifles (e) None
3. Renowned ..... and Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam died at the age of 86.  
(a) Astrologer (b) Journalist (c) Social activist  
(d) Cardiologist (e) Musician
4. Which of the following appointed Paresh B Lal as Grievance Officer for India?  
(a) WhatsApp (b) Viber (c) WeChat  
(d) Line (e) Kik
5. Who among the following won the 2020-21 La Liga Title?  
(a) Real Valladolid (b) Atletico Madrid (c) Barcelona  
(d) Real Madrid (e) Sevilla
6. Global Day of Parents 2021 was celebrated on .....  
(a) 29<sup>th</sup> May (b) 30<sup>th</sup> May (c) 31<sup>st</sup> May  
(d) 1<sup>st</sup> June (e) 2<sup>nd</sup> June

7. T.V. Narendran of ..... has become the new President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22 in place of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd managing director and chief executive officer Uday Kotak.
- (a) SAIL (b) Hindalco (c) Tata Steel  
(d) Essar Steel (e) NMDC
8. Globe is celebrating World Milk Day on June 1, since .....
- (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2002  
(d) 2003 (e) 2004
9. A book titled 'Life in the Clock Tower Valley' authored by Shakoor Rather is about .....
- (a) Uttarakhand (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Jammu & Kashmir  
(d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Karnataka
10. .... DG Kuldiep Singh got an additional charge of National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- (a) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)  
(b) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)  
(c) Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)  
(d) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)  
(e) National Security Guard (NSG)
11. LG of ..... launched financial assistance scheme Special Assistance Scheme for COVID Mortalities (SASCM) for families having lost their bread-earner to pandemic.
- (a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands (b) Chandigarh  
(c) Puducherry (d) Ladakh (e) Jammu & Kashmir

12. ....Tejaswin Shankar won gold at outdoor meet in the US  
(a) Discus Thrower (b) Hammer Thrower  
(c) Javelin Thrower (d) High jumper (e) None
13. NASA announced two robotic missions to .....  
(a) Mercury (b) Venus (c) Mars  
(d) Jupiter (e) Saturn
14. .... Director Roberto Benigni has been chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 78th Venice International Film Festival, which will be held from 1st to 11th September 2021.  
(a) Australian (b) American (c) Russian  
(d) Italian (e) French
15. The 2021 Madrid Open Women's singles title of Aryna Sabalenka is her ..... Madrid Open Women's singles title.  
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third  
(d) Fourth (e) Fifth
16. Which of the following launched India's first Aadhaar based SIP payments?  
(a) ETMONEY Mutual Fund App  
(b) myCAMS Mutual Fund App  
(c) KFinKart- Investor Mutual Funds  
(d) Zerodha Coin  
(e) PayTM Money Mutual Funds App
17. .... Company Tecno roped in Ayushmann Khurrana as its Indian brand ambassador for 2021.  
(a) Japanese (b) Chinese (c) Korean  
(d) Italian (e) French

- 18.** NITI Aayog and ..... released report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'
- (a) JP Morgan Chase                      (b) Mastercard                      (c) HSBC  
(d) Citigroup                                      (e) Banco Santander
- 19.** "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures" was the theme of celebration for .....
- (a) World Heritage Day 2021  
(b) World Asthma Day 2021  
(c) World Hand Hygiene Day 2021  
(d) International Day of Families 2021  
(e) International Day of Living Together in Peace 2021
- 20.** According to a newly published paper in the Geoscience Data Journal about the deepest points in five oceans, the Molloy Hole is the deepest point of which of the following oceans?
- (a) Arctic                                      (b) Indian                                      (c) Southern  
(d) Atlantic                                      (e) Pacific
- 21.** Indian ..... Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021.
- (a) Swimmers                                      (b) Rowers                                      (c) Surfers  
(d) Wrestlers                                      (e) Golfers
- 22.** Arun Kumar Singh has been selected as the new chairman of .....
- (a) Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited  
(b) Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited  
(c) Burckhardt Compression (India) Private Limited  
(d) Ujala Pumps Private Limited  
(e) Pneumsys Advance Energy Solutions

23. Indian Railways developed first of its kind form-based codes for station redevelopment projects in which the codes or handbook/guidebook are compiled in ..... parts.
- (a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7  
(d) 8 (e) 9
24. Which of the following developed portable eco-friendly mobile cremation systems?
- (a) IIT Kharagpur (b) IIT Ropar (c) IIT Bombay  
(d) IIT Madras (e) IIT Kanpur
25. Record-setting .....Olympic sprinter Lee Evans passed away.
- (a) American (b) Australian (c) French  
(d) Italian (e) Spanish
26. .... writer, journalist and Sahitya Akademi awardee Homen Borgohain died at the age of 88 years.
- (a) Assamese (b) Bengali (c) Bodo  
(d) Garo (e) Khasi
27. Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the ..... Virtual Global Forum on TB Vaccine.
- (a) 1st (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> (c) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
(d) 4<sup>th</sup> (e) 5<sup>th</sup>
28. The National Basketball Association (NBA) has instituted a new award, “the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award” after American former professional basketball player, who helped in organizing a boycott of the ..... Olympics in Mexico City.
- (a) 1965 (b) 1966 (c) 1967  
(d) 1968 (e) 1969

29. Renowned ..... and Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam died at the age of 86.  
(a) Astrologer (b) Journalist (c) Social activist  
(d) Cardiologist (e) Musician
30. UN Chief honoured Indian peacekeeper Yuvraj Singh among the ..... UN personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty and due to the COVID-19 and related circumstances between January 1 and December 31, 2020.  
(a) 225 (b) 336 (c) 350  
(d) 499 (e) 525
31. Nepali Climber Kami Rita Sherpa climbed Mount Everest for the record ..... time.  
(a) 25th (b) 26<sup>th</sup> (c) 27<sup>th</sup>  
(d) 28<sup>th</sup> (e) 29<sup>th</sup>
32. India ranked ..... in World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Energy Transition Index 2021.  
(a) 85th (b) 86<sup>th</sup> (c) 87<sup>th</sup>  
(d) 88<sup>th</sup> (e) 89<sup>th</sup>
33. Meghan Markle released her ..... Children's Book, "The Bench", which is based on a poem she penned for prince Harry.  
(a) 1<sup>st</sup> (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> (c) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
(d) 4<sup>th</sup> (e) 5<sup>th</sup>
34. Which of the following launched a new diagnostic device COVIRAP ?  
(a) IIT Kharagpur (b) IIT Bombay (c) IIT Madras  
(d) IIT Kanpur (e) IIT Delhi

- 35.** Wrestler Seema Bisla won gold in women's .....kg category at World Olympic Qualifier at Sofia in Bulgaria.  
(a) 46 (b) 47 (c) 48  
(d) 49 (e) 50
- 36.** Rekha Menon became the ..... woman chairperson of NASSCOM.  
(a) 1<sup>st</sup> (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> (c) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
(d) 4<sup>th</sup> (e) 5<sup>th</sup>
- 37.** Indian ..... star , Olympic gold medalist MK Kaushik died of Covid-19 at 66.  
(a) Tennis (b) Table Tennis (c) Badminton  
(d) Hockey (e) Football
- 38.** Actress Abhilasha Patil, who passed away due to Covid-19 had worked in Hindi as well as ..... films.  
(a) Gujarati (b) Marathi (c) Bhojpuri  
(d) Odia (e) Rajasthani
- 39.** Rumana Sinha Sehgal, Software engineer turned entrepreneur from ..... won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021.  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Pune (c) Chennai  
(d) Mumbai (e) Hyderabad
- 40.** Vibha Harish, .....Entrepreneur got listed in Forbes Asia's 30 'Under-30' List.  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Pune (c) Chennai  
(d) Mumbai (e) Hyderabad

41. Wipro has overtaken HCL Tech to become the ..... most-valued Indian IT firm.
- (a) 1<sup>st</sup> (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> (c) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
(d) 4<sup>th</sup> (e) 5<sup>th</sup>
42. Parul Debi Das, who was the first female IAS officer of ..... passed away.
- (a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Assam  
(d) Tripura (e) Arunachal Pradesh
43. Indian champion Srihari Nataraj created a national record in .....
- (a) Chess (b) Swimming (c) Golf  
(d) Long Jump (e) shot put
44. .... appointed Mahesh Balasubramanian as MD.
- (a) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.  
(b) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd.  
(c) Aditya Birla SunLife Insurance Co. Ltd  
(d) TATA AIA Life Insurance Co.  
(e) SBI Life Insurance Co.
45. A new book titled “Living Mountain” has been authored by .....
- (a) Krishna Sobti (b) Amitav Ghosh  
(c) Vinayaka Krishna Gokak (d) Pratibha Ray (e) Bishnu Dey
46. Ramesh Powar, who has played ..... tests and 31 ODIs for India, has been appointed Head Coach of Indian Women’s Cricket team.
- (a) Two (b) Three (c) Four  
(d) Five (e) Six

- 47.** Which of the following footwear brands appointed Gunjan Shah as the new CEO?
- (a) Nike (b) Woodland (c) Reebok  
(d) Puma (e) Bata India
- 48.** Which of the following became the third Indian IT firm to scale Rs 3 trillion market cap?
- (a) HCL Technologies (b) Wipro Limited  
(c) Tech Mahindra Ltd (d) Larsen & Toubro Infotech Ltd  
(e) Mphasis Ltd
- 49.** World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to how much?
- (a) 8.3 (b) 9.6 (c) 10.2  
(d) 10.9 (e) 10.3
- 50.** Which state has launched the Indus Best Mega Food Park?
- (a) West Bengal (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Jharkhand  
(d) Andhra Pradesh (e) Karnataka



# ANSWERS



- 1.(b)** Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021 was held in New Delhi on 'Reorienting for the Future' theme. The three day conference insisted on the need for incorporation of new technologies like Artificial Intelligence and 5G, enhanced utilisation of cyber and space domains and continuous update of doctrines, tactics and procedures, empowerment of junior leadership through comprehensive HR reforms and increasing efficiency through organisational restructuring.
- 2.(c)** Lt. General Pradeep Chandran Nair took charge as DG of Assam Rifles. Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) recipient Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair, took over as the 21st Director General of this regiment, which is also popular with the name as Sentinels of the North-East. He has good experience of Assam Rifles and the North East as earlier he has served as an Inspector General and a Company Commander in Assam Rifles, besides having commanded Assam Rifles battalions as a Brigade Commander.
- 3.(c)** Renowned social activist and Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam died at the age of 86. He was a disciple of Acharya N.G. Ranga and former Member of Parliament P. Rajagopal Naidu. He founded the Tirupati-based Rayalaseema Seva Samithi (RASS) as a social organisation that is involved in reaching out to the mentally challenged, caring for the children, support to widows, tribal welfare, drug addiction victims and special care to senior citizens.

- 4.(a)** WhatsApp appointed Paresh B Lal as Grievance Officer for India. This appointment is in line with the government's new IT order that requires all the tech companies, like Google, Facebook, WhatsApp to appoint a grievance officer, nodal officer and a chief compliance officer from India. The appointed grievance officer shall address the complaint within 24 hours and dispose of the complaint within 15 days.
- 5.(b)** Spanish professional football club based in Madrid, Atletico Madrid has won the 2020-21 La Liga Title after defeating Real Valladolid by 2-1. Angel Correa and Luis Suarez scored for Atletico Madrid and Oscar Plano scored for Valladolid.
- 6.(d)** Global Day of Parents 2021 was celebrated on 1st June to honour parents and their commitments to children across the world. The day provides us a chance to appreciate parents and parental figures for the important role that they play in the development of families. It was instituted by the UN General Assembly in 2012
- 7.(c)** T.V. Narendran of Tata Steel has become the new President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22 in place of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd managing director and chief executive officer Uday Kotak. Narendran was the chairman of CII eastern region during 2016-17 and has led the industry body's national committees on leadership and human resources, besides being chairman of CII Jharkhand.
- 8.(b)** Globe has been celebrating World Milk Day on June 1, since 2001. The theme of celebration this year was "sustainability in the dairy sector with messages on nutrition". It was instituted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to appreciate dairy farmers and the dairy sector.

- 9.(c)** A book titled 'Life in the Clock Tower Valley' authored by Shakoore Rather is about Jammu & Kashmir. Published by Speaking Tiger, it talks about Kashmir's pristine past, its grievous present and always-uncertain future. It also covers historical and political information about Kashmir.
- 10.(b)** Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) DG Kuldiep Singh got an additional charge of National Investigation Agency (NIA). The 1986-batch West Bengal cadre officer, has been appointed as DG, CRPF up to September 30, 2022—the date of his superannuation.
- 11.(e)** LG of Jammu & Kashmir launched financial assistance scheme Special Assistance Scheme for COVID Mortalities (SASCM) for families having lost their bread-earner to pandemic. Under this scheme cash assistance of Rs 1000 per month shall be provided to spouse and the eldest member of the family.
- 12.(d)** High Jumper Tejaswin Shankar won gold at the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA. It also became the season's finest performance for the Indian but a centimetre short of his personal best and the current national record of 2.29m which he created in 2018.
- 13.(b)** NASA announced two robotic missions namely DAVINCI+and VERITAS to Venus to examine atmosphere and geological features on the planet. With funding of \$500m, each of the missions will be launched in between 2028 and 2030. DAVINCI+ is meant for "Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging" mission. And VERITAS i.e. "Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy" is meant to map the surface of Venus to understand its geologic history. It will also investigate how it developed differently than Earth.

- 14.(d)** Italian Director Roberto Benigni has been chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 78th Venice International Film Festival, which will be held from 1st to 11th September 2021. He is a two-time Oscar-winning actor-director. He had starred in and directed the holocaust comedy-drama film Life Is Beautiful (1997), for which he was awarded the Academy Awards for Best Actor (the first for a non-English speaking male performance) and Best International Feature Film. He was last seen in Matteo Garrone's live-action Pinocchio, for which he received a David di Donatello Award.
- 15.(a)** The 2021 Madrid Open Women's singles title of Aryna Sabalenka is her first Madrid Open Women's singles title. The world number seven, Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus got an edge over world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia. This is her 10th career WTA singles title, second WTA title of the season and first on clay court.
- 16.(a)** ETMONEY Mutual Fund App launched India's first Aadhaar based SIP payments to make investments more seamless and accessible to the widest section of Indian society. With this, anyone can now start a SIP online and set up automatic payments using a simple Aadhaar based OTP verification
- 17.(b)** Chinese Company Tecno roped in Ayushmann Khurrana as its Indian brand ambassador for 2021. The actor will be featured spearheading the new brand campaign across Tecno's product lines Spark, Camon and Pova.
- 18.(b)** NITI Aayog and Mastercard released a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'. This report identified the challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.

- 19.(a)** “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures” was the theme of celebration for World Heritage Day 2021 or the International Day for Monuments and Sites 2021. It was promoted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOSMOS) to preserve human heritage, vulnerability and diversity of the world's monuments.
- 20.(a)** According to a newly published paper in the Geoscience Data Journal about the deepest points in five oceans, the Molloy Hole (5,551 metres) is the deepest point of the Arctic ocean. Besides this, an unnamed deep (7,182m) within the Java Trench in the Indian Ocean ; another unnamed deep (7,432m) within the South Sandwich Trench in the Southern Ocean ; the Brownson Deep (8,378m) in the Puerto Rico Trench in the Atlantic ; and the Challenger Deep within the Mariana Trench in the Pacific are the other deepest points discovered in the global survey conducted between 2018 and 2019.
- 21.(b)** Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021. They qualified it in lightweight double sculls.
- 22.(a)** Arun Kumar Singh has been selected as the new chairman of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited. The post was lying vacant after D Rajkumar retired in August last year.
- 23.(b)** Indian Railways developed first of its kind form-based codes for station redevelopment projects in which the codes or handbook/guidebook are compiled in 6 parts. It is about station planning, guidebook for operationalizing national transit-oriented development policy for railway and station redevelopment, form-based codes for commercial development of railway land, codes for architectural design of commercial assets, green building codes for commercial development on railway land as well as codes for railway heritage assets.

- 24.(b)** IIT Ropar in collaboration with the company Cheema Boilers Limited developed a portable eco-friendly electric cremation system, which is one of its kind of technology that produces no smoke despite using wood for cremation. It is based on wick-stove technology. The cart-shaped mobile cremation system has stainless steel insulation on both sides of the cart for reducing heat loss and wood consumption.
- 25.(a)** Record-setting American Olympic sprinter Lee Evans passed away. Evans was the first man to crack 44 seconds in the 400 meters, winning the gold medal at the Mexico City Games in 43.86.
- 26.(a)** Assamese writer, journalist and Sahitya Akademi awardee Homen Borgohain died at the age of 88 years. He was a great litterateur, who also immensely contributed towards the field of journalism. 'Halodhia Choraye Baodhan Khai' is his most famous creation. He was the president of Asam Sahitya Sabha, and the chief editor of the Assamese daily Niyomiya Barta.
- 27.(e)** Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the 5th Virtual Global Forum on TB Vaccine. The Global Forum on TB Vaccines is the world's largest gathering of stakeholders striving to develop and deploy new vaccines to prevent Tuberculosis (TB).
- 28.(d)** The National Basketball Association (NBA) has instituted a new award, "the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award" after American former professional basketball player, who helped in organizing a boycott of the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City in wake of the then-recent assassinations of civil rights leaders Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., and the persistent mistreatment of Black people in America. The award will acknowledge players who are making strides in the fight for social justice. Abdul-Jabbar, who played 20 seasons in the NBA, won three consecutive NCAA championships (1967 to 1969) at UCLA.

- 29.(c)** Renowned social activist and Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam died at the age of 86. He was a disciple of Acharya N.G. Ranga and former Member of Parliament P. Rajagopal Naidu. He founded the Tirupati-based Rayalaseema Seva Samithi (RASS) as a social organisation that is involved in reaching out to the mentally challenged, caring for the children, support to widows, tribal welfare, drug addiction victims and special care to senior citizens.
- 30.(b)** UN Chief honoured Indian peacekeeper Yuvraj Singh among the 336 UN personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty and due to the COVID-19 and related circumstances between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Permanent Representative of India to the UN, TS Tirumurti saluted Singh's valour and contribution, and conveyed condolences to the family.
- 31.(a)** Nepali Climber Kami Rita Sherpa climbed Mount Everest for the record 25th breaking his own record for the most summits of the highest mountain in the world. He has been a guide for more than two decades and he climbed the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak in 1994 for the first time while working for a commercial expedition.
- 32.(c)** India ranked 87th in World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Energy Transition Index 2021. The report was prepared in collaboration with Accenture to track nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.
- 33.(a)** Meghan Markle released her 1st Children's Book, "The Bench", which is based on a poem she penned for prince Harry for Father's Day 2018, a month after their son Archie was born. The book "beautifully captures the special relationship between father and son, as seen through a mother's eyes," as per the Amazon description.

- 34.(a)** IIT Kharagpur launched a new diagnostic device COVIRAP. Bramerton Holdings has secured global rights for commercial dissemination of COVIRAP technology to other nations.
- 35.(e)** Wrestler Seema Bisla won gold in women's 50 kg category at World Olympic Qualifier at Sofia in Bulgaria. Seema Bisla won India's eighth Tokyo Games qualification spot in wrestling by winning in the semifinals of the World Olympic Qualifiers and on the other hand Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Pooja Dihag (76kg) were ousted from their categories competition in Sofia, Bulgaria
- 36.(a)** Rekha Menon became the 1st woman chairperson of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in its 30-year history. She has succeeded U B Pravin Rao, chief operating officer of Infosys as Nasscom's chairperson. TCS President Krishnan Ramanujam has become the vice-chairperson.
- 37.(d)** Indian hockey star , Olympic gold medalist MK Kaushik died of Covid-19 at 66. He was honored with the Dronacharya Award in 2002, had coached the Indian men's team to Asian Games gold in 1988. He was also head coach of the senior women's hockey team and the Indian women's team had won bronze medal at the Doha Asian Games in 2006 under his coaching.
- 38.(b)** Actress Abhilasha Patil, who passed away due to Covid-19 had worked in Hindi films like 'Good Newwz', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania' and 'Chhichhore', as well as Marathi films like 'Te Aath Diwas', 'Bayko Deta Ka Bayko', 'Prawaas', 'Pipsi' and 'Tujha Majha Arrange Marriage'.

- 39.(e)** Rumana Sinha Sehgal, Software engineer turned entrepreneur from Hyderabad won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021 conferred by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace. She was awarded for her contribution to the field of developing innovative and functional green products by recycling varied materials and non-biodegradable materials. She was the 'Mrs Universe Successful 2018'.
- 40.(a)** Vibha Harish, Bengaluru Entrepreneur got listed in Forbes Asia's 30 'Under-30' List. The 25-year-old young entrepreneur's health supplement brand Cosmix has become one of the fastest-growing ventures in the country in just one year of starting up. The startup produces a range of natural food mixes made from herbs, plants and berries, which are rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.
- 41.(c)** Wipro regained its position as the 3rd largest Indian IT services company with the market capitalization of ₹ 2.65 trillion by surpassing HCL Technologies' ₹ 2.62 trillion market cap, while the TCS remained at the top of the list with a market cap of ₹ 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.
- 42.(c)** Parul Debi Das, who was the first female IAS officer of Assam passed away. The daughter of the former cabinet minister of undivided Assam, Ramnath Das and the sister of former Assam Chief Secretary Naba Kumar Das was an Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer.
- 43.(b)** Indian champion Srihari Nataraj created a national record in 50m backstroke Swimming. He clocked 25.11 seconds to win the top prize at the Uzbekistan Open. Indian swimmers enjoyed a rich haul of 29 medals viz. 18 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze.

- 44.(b)** Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd. appointed Mahesh Balasubramanian as MD for 3 years. He was appointed after the retirement of G Murlidhar.
- 45.(b)** A new book titled “Living Mountain” has been authored by Amitav Ghosh. The Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author wrote a fable for the current times: a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature, leading to an environmental collapse
- 46.(a)** Ramesh Powar, who has played two tests and 31 ODIs for India has been appointed Head Coach of Indian Women’s Cricket team.
- 47.(e)** Footwear company Bata India has appointed Gunjan Shah as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from 21 June 2021, for a period of five years. He has replaced Sandeep Kataria. Shah has also served as the Chief Commercial Officer (COO) at Britannia Industries.
- 48.(b)** Wipro Limited has become the third Indian IT firm to scale Rs 3 trillion market cap after Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys. The company cracked its largest deal ever from German retailer Metro worth \$7.1 billion. It is worth knowing here that India has a total of 13 listed firms that have crossed the Rs 3 trillion m-cap and now Wipro has become the 14th firm to do so.
- 49.(a)** In its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects, World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8.3 per cent from its earlier estimate of 10.1 per cent, (the forecast has been revised up by 2.9 percentage points). It has also projected India's growth in FY23 at 7.5 per cent due to the impact of COVID-19.
- 50.(b)** Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in Raipur Chhattisgarh. This food park will also ensure value addition and support reducing wastage of agricultural produce