

# Current Affairs Of May 2021

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## National

### DOT Permits TSPs to Conduct 5G Trials in India

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of

Communications has permitted the telecom service providers (TSPs) including Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio



Infocomm, Vodafone Idea, and MTNL to conduct the 5G trial in India. The TSPs have tied up with the original equipment manufacturers and technology providers like Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung, and the C-DoT. These trials will be on a non-commercial basis.

- The operators are permitted to use their existing spectrums for the (800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2500 MHz) 5G trial.
- The experimental spectrum includes mid-band 3.2 GHz to 3.67 GHz, millimetre wave band 24.25 GHz to 28.5 GHz, and sub-gigahertz band 700 GHz.

### Reliance Retail Became the World's 2nd Fastest-Growing Retailer – Deloitte

In the “2021 Ranking of Global retail powerhouses” by Deloitte, millionaire Mukesh Ambani’s **Reliance Retail Ltd** has been ranked the **2nd fastest-growing retailer** in the world, which is 1 rank down from its 2020 rank (In 2020 it was ranked 1st).

**Note** – South Korea’s **Coupang** is the World’s 1st Fastest-Growing Retailers.

#### List of Global Powers:

- In the report of the list of Global Powers, Retailing Reliance Retail Ltd was ranked **53rd** (ranked 56th in 2020’s list) and it was the only Indian entry in the global list of 250 retailers.
- In the list of Global Powers of Retailing and World’s Fastest Retailers, Reliance Retail took place consecutively for the 4th time.

- The list has 7 United States(US) retailers among the top 10 and 1 from the United Kingdom(UK) (Tesco PLC at 10th position)

Rank	Country
1	US giant Walmart Inc
2	Amazon.com Inc
3	Costco Wholesale Corporation of US
4	Schwarz Group of Germany.
53	Reliance Retail Ltd

#### About Reliance Retail Ltd:

i. In FY20, it recorded a 41.8 percent Year-on-Year (YoY) growth which was driven primarily by a 13.1 percent increase in the number of stores in its consumer electronics, fashion and lifestyle and grocery retail chains, to 11,784 stores.

ii. Reliance Retail is partnering with WhatsApp to further accelerate Reliance Retail’s digital commerce business on the JioMart platform using WhatsApp and to support small businesses on WhatsApp.

#### About Deloitte:

**Headquarters** – London, United Kingdom

**Global Chief Executive Officer** – Punit Renjen

#### About Reliance Retail Ltd:

It is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited

**Establishment** – 2006

**Headquarters** – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Founder** – Mukesh Ambani

### Punjab set to become 1st Indian state to join Global COVAX Alliance

Punjab is set to become the **1st Indian state** to join the Global **COVAX** (COVID-



19 Vaccines Global Access) Alliance. Joining the Alliance will help Punjab to address the **Anti-Covid-19 vaccine shortage & to procure vaccines** at the best price.

- The decision to join the Global COVAX Alliance was taken during a virtual Cabinet meeting headed by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

### COVAX

i.It is an global initiative co-led by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), **GAVI Alliance** (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation), World Health Organization (WHO), and key delivery partner **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund).

- Its main objective is to accelerate the development & manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines & guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.
- In October 2020, WHO had stated around 180 countries had joined the COVAX program.
- Its aim is to deliver 2 billion doses of effective, approved COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021.

### Pune ranks 1st among urban cities of India with adequate Health Infrastructure – Housing.com Report

According to 'State of Indian Healthcare – Indian Cities through the lens of healthcare 2021' report released by Housing.com, an real estate portal – **Pune, Maharashtra is the**



**healthiest city among the top 8 urban cities of India** with regard to parameters like number of hospital beds, ease of living, water quality, and local body performance.

- The top 3 cities are – Pune, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- At 8th, Delhi NCR (National Capital Region) was ranked the least among the 8 cities.
- The other cities are Mumbai Metropolitan Region – MMR (4th Rank); Hyderabad, Telangana (5th); Chennai, Tamil Nadu (6th); Kolkata, West Bengal (7th).
- The report also states that India has the lowest number of doctors (0.86) per 1, 000 people (Developed economies have between 2-4 doctors per 1, 000 people).

### Startup 'Jupitice' develops World's 1st Private Digital Court for Dispute Resolution

'Jupitice Justice Technologies', an Chandigarh-based startup has developed **World's 1st Private Digital Court** (powered by Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence) to resolve disputes under the Private Justice System through **Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR)**.

- The platform is designed for private justice system arbitration, conciliation, mediation & negotiation.
- It allows parties involved in disputes to conduct arbitration, conciliation or mediation without the help of an administering body.

### ADR

- The process by which disputes between the parties are settled or brought to an amicable result without the intervention of Judicial Institution and without any trial is known as **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**.
- Acts which deal with ADR in India – **The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, Conciliation Act was enacted in 1996.
- Government of India passed the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to establish an independent body called Arbitration Council of India (ACI) for

promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other ADR mechanisms.

### **About Jupitice Justice Technologies**

**CEO & Founder** – Raman Aggarwal

**Location** – Chandigarh

### **Rajnath Singh releases 1st batch of Anti-COVID-19 drug ‘2-DG’ developed by DRDO**

Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh released the 1st batch of Anti-COVID-19 therapeutic drug ‘2-DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose)’. It is the **1st indigenous therapeutic drug** developed by India to fight COVID-19.

- It has been developed by the **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**, a lab of Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) in collaboration with Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad, Telangana.
- In May 2021, Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) had approved emergency use of 2-DG as adjunct therapy (supplement therapy) in **moderate to severe COVID-19 patients**.
- It is an oral drug. The clinical trials of the drug showed that it fastens the recovery process and reduces oxygen dependency by around 40%.

### **Jharkhand tops in Implementation of Smart City Projects: MoHUA**

**Jharkhand has clinched the 1st Position** among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects, Rajasthan came second in the rankings. The rankings were released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).



- The ranking is based on factors like smart city plan implementation, ongoing work and

tendering process, utilisation of funds and provision of utility certificates to the Central Government.

- Rajasthan has climbed 27 ranks to get to the 2nd position, it was ranked 29th in the previous rankings.

### **Smart City Mission**

- It was launched in **2015** with an overlay of INR 48, 000 Crores.
- Objective** – To promote sustainable & inclusive cities for giving a decent quality of life to its citizens.
- Around 100 cities have been selected for area-based and pan-city development between 2019 and 2023.

**INR 6, 450 Crore** was allocated in Union Budget 2021-22 for the Smart Cities Mission.

### **Cyclone Tauktae makes Landfall in Gujarat**

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the ‘extremely severe cyclonic storm’ – ‘**Tauktae**’ made landfall in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The cyclone originated from the Arabian Sea.

The cyclone brought severe rains, winds of upto 150 - 160 kmph & damages to the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, and Daman & Diu.

- The name ‘Tauktae’ for the cyclone has been given by **Myanmar**, It means ‘**gecko**’, a highly vocal lizard in Burmese dialect.

### **Who names the Cyclones?**

IMD is among the 6 Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMC) in the world.

- It is mandated to issue advisories & name cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- A panel consisting of 13 countries – India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Maldives, Oman, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab

Emirates and Yemen, names cyclones in the IOR.

### **About India Meteorological Department(IMD):**

IMD is functioning under the Ministry of Earth Sciences(MoES), Government of India.

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, India

**Director-General of Meteorology (DGM)** – Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

### **Cheetah to be re-introduced into India at Kuno National Park, MP**

Cheetah, declared extinct in India in 1952 is set to be re-introduced into India in November, 2021 at the Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh (MP). It is the **1st time** in the world that a large carnivore will be relocated from one continent to another.



- As per the plan, 10 African Cheetahs will be brought from South Africa & Namibia and reintroduced in India.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved a budget of INR 1, 400 Lakh for the 2021 Fiscal under ‘**Project Cheetah**’.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) will release money for the project to Madhya Pradesh and the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in June, 2021.
- India’s last Cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947.

### **Three-Member Panel formed by Supreme Court**

**i.**In January 2020, the Supreme Court set up a three-member committee, composed of Ranjit Singh, Former Director of WII; Dhananjai Mohan, Director of WII; DIG, Wildlife, MoEFCC to guide the NTCA on the reintroduction process.

### **Conservation Status of Cheetah**

They are listed as ‘Vulnerable’ by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

### **India Records Highest Ever FDI Inflow of US\$81.72 Billion in FY21**

As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India has attracted the highest ever total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of **US\$81.72 billion during FY21**, which is **10 percent** more than FY20 of US\$74.39 billion.

- FDI equity inflow grew by 19 percent in FY21 (US\$ 59.64 billion) compared to FY20 (US\$ 49.98 billion).

#### **i.Top Investing countries in FY21:**

**Singapore** is the top investing country with **29 percent** of total investment, followed by the U.S.A with 23 percent and Mauritius with 9 percent.

#### **In terms of Percentage Increase:**

- In terms of percentage increase in investment in FY21 compared with FY20, among the top 10 countries, Saudi Arabia is the top investor as it invested US\$ 2816.08 million in FY21 when compared with US\$ 89.93 million in FY20.

#### **ii.Top Investment Sectors in FY21:**

Sector	Share of FDI Equity inflow
Computer Software & Hardware	44 percent
Construction (Infrastructure) Activities	13 percent
Services Sector	8 percent

#### **iii.Top Recipient States in FY21:**

Gujarat is the top recipient state for the 4th consecutive year with a 37 percent or US\$ 30.23 billion share of the total FDI equity inflows followed by Maharashtra 27 percent and Karnataka 13 percent.

### **About Ministry of Commerce & Industry:**



**Union Minister**– Piyush Goyal (Rajya Sabha – Maharashtra)

**Minister of State (MoS) Independent Charge (I/C)** – Hardeep Singh Puri (Rajya Sabha – Uttar Pradesh),

**Indian Diplomat Shivshankar Menon Authored Book Titled “India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present”**

A new book titled “**India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present**” has been released, which has been authored by **Indian diplomat Shivshankar Menon**. The book is published by **Brookings Institution**.



The book is published by **Brookings Institution**.

**About The Book:**

- i. The book talks about the changes in Independent India’s foreign policy choices throughout its history and maps its present-day challenges.
- ii. It also analyzes how India’s policies are likely to evolve in response to new challenges.
- iii. It looks at modern India’s role in Asia’s and the broader world.

**About the Author:**

- Shivshankar Menon was the **former National Security Adviser of India** under Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh (2010-2014).
- He had previously served as the **Foreign Secretary** in the Ministry of External Affairs from 01 October 2006 – 31 July 2009.

**Mylab Coviself :India’s First Home Covid Test Kit By Mylab Discovery Solutions**

The Pune-based company **MyLab Discovery Solutions** has developed **India’s first self-use Rapid Antigen Test Kit for Covid-19** called **Mylab CoviSelf**. It has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- As per the ICMR’s guidelines, the self-use test kit can be used by symptomatic individuals and immediate contacts of confirmed cases.
- The test kit can be bought without a prescription from pharmacies and online and will cost **Rs 250**. It takes 2 minutes to conduct the test and 15 minutes to get the result.

**Cyclone Yaas makes Landfall in South of Balasore, Odisha**

Indian Meteorological Department (**IMD**) stated that the ‘**very severe cyclonic storm**’ – **Yaas** made landfall south of the Balasore region of Odisha. The cyclone originated from the Bay of Bengal.



- The storm crossed the north Odisha coast about 20 km south of Balasore with estimated wind speeds of 130-140 kmph.
- As the cyclone names are given by countries on a rotational basis, the name ‘Yaas’ for the cyclone has been given by Oman. Yaas is a Persian language and it means Jasmin.

**The naming of Cyclones:**

i. World Meteorological Weather Organization (WMO) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (UN ESCAP) started preparing names for impending cyclonic storms with suggestions from its member countries in 2000.

ii. India along with 12



other nations like Bangladesh, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan. Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, UAE are part of the panel.

iii. The last cyclone name utilized which was named by India was Gati means 'speed.'

**Criteria:**

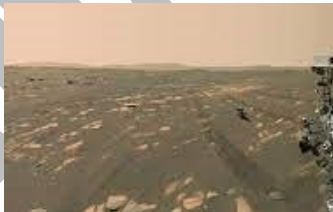
- The name should be gender, religious, culture, and politically neutral
- The maximum length of the name should be **8 letters**

## International

### NASA 'Perseverance' Mars Mission – Oxygen Produced from Mars for the 1st Time

NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Rover 'Perseverance' landed on Mars in February, 2021.

It has produced Oxygen from Mars using an instrument



called 'MOXIE' – **Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment.**

- It is the **1st time** that Oxygen is being produced on another planet.

- **MOXIE** produced 5 grams of Oxygen from Carbon dioxide which is enough for an astronaut to breathe for 10 minutes on Mars.
- It works through Electrolysis using extreme heat to separate oxygen atoms from molecules of carbon dioxide.
- The atmosphere on Mars is about 95% carbon dioxide.
- The production of Oxygen is **critical to human exploration of Mars**, both as a source of air for astronauts and as an essential **ingredient for rocket fuel** to fly astronauts back home.

#### Developed by

MOXIE is sponsored by NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) and Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate.

- It is a joint venture between NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), MIT Haystack Observatory, and MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

#### About National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Administrator** – Steve Jurczyk

**Headquarters** – Washington D.C., USA

### World's Largest Aeroplane built by Stratolaunch completes Test Flight

The World's Largest Aeroplane codenamed 'Roc' successfully completed its 2nd Test Flight. The Aeroplane being built by Stratolaunch, an US based Aerospace Company was tested at Mojave Air and Space Port in California, US.



- The Aeroplane has 2 flights under its belt and has a wingspan of 385 feet (117 feet).
- It is designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space. It is also capable of launching rockets from high altitude.

- It is capable of carrying 550, 000-pound payload and can achieve a top speed of up to 190 mph (320 kph).
- The 1st flight of the Aeroplane was done in April, 2019.

### Background

i.Stratolaunch was established in 2011 by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

- In 2019, Stratolaunch was acquired by US based Cerberus Capital Management.

### SpaceX Returns 4 Astronauts to Earth from ISS; in a Rare Night Splashdown off Florida coast

A SpaceX Crew Dragon

capsule, **Resilience** carrying **4 astronauts** returned from the International Space Station(ISS) and splashdown into the **Gulf of Mexico** off the coast of Panama City, **Florida, USA** after a six-and-a-half-hour flight.



- Since the arrival of Apollo 8 in the Pacific Ocean on December 27, **1968**, this was the U.S. crew's **first night** time splashdown (in darkness).
- The **4 Astronauts** were: Victor Glover, Mike Hopkins and Shannon Walker (3 from **America**) and Soichi Noguchi (one from **Japan**)

### Background:

i.On November 15, 2020, from NASA's Kennedy Space Center the 4 astronauts (Victor Glover, Mike Hopkins, Shannon Walker, Soichi Noguchi) were aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft and Falcon 9 rocket under SpaceX **Crew-1 mission** for a 6-month science mission to ISS.

ii.Now they came back in the same capsule called Resilience after **167 days**-mission, after their undocking now 7 people left in the ISS.

iii.The next astronaut launch of SpaceX for NASA was

planned over in October 2021.

### About Crew-2 mission:

On 23rd April 2021, SpaceX through its Falcon 9 rocket sent 4-astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) on a NASA commercial crew mission, "Crew-2 mission" from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. Click here to know more

### About SpaceX:

**Establishment** – 2002

**Chief Executive Officer** – Elon Musk

**Headquarters** – California, USA

### Meghan Markle to Release Her 1st Children's Book Titled "The Bench"

Meghan Markle, The Duchess of Sussex, is set to release her debut book, titled "The Bench". It is a children book that narrates the bond between a father and son through the mothers perspective.

- The book is published by Random House Children's Books.
- The illustrations of the book are done by award-winning artist Christian Robinson.

### About the Book:

i.The book was inspired by the relationship between fathers and sons.

ii.The audiobook edition of the book narrated by Megahan will also be released in June.

### About Meghan Markle:

i.Meghan Markle born as Rachel Meghan Markle on 4th August 1981 in Los Angeles, California.

ii.She was an American Actress who has featured in the General Hospital, Cuts, the War at Home, CSI: NY and 90210.

iii.She was well known for her role as Rachel Zane in the 2011 series "Suits".

iv.She married Prince Harry in 2018. Her official titles are The Duchess of Sussex, Countess of Dumbarton and Baroness Kilkeel.

### India received USD 83 Billion in Remittances in 2020, tops in Remittance Inflows: World Bank Report



According to Resilience COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens report released by the World Bank, India received **USD 83 Billion** as Remittances in 2020, a drop of just 0.2% from 2019 (USD 83.3 Billion in 2019). It topped the list of Low- and Middle-Income Countries with maximum Remittance Inflows, India was followed by China (USD 59.5 Billion), Mexico (USD 42.8 Billion).

- The officially recorded remittance flows to Low-and Middle-income countries reached USD 540 Billion in 2020, just 1.6% below 2019 total of USD 548 billion.
- Remittance outflow was maximum from the United States (USD 68 Billion), followed by UAE (USD 43 Billion), Saudi Arabia (USD 34.5 Billion).
- Remittances outflow from India in 2020 was USD 7 Billion, against USD 7.5 Billion in 2019.

### Top 3 Countries with Remittance Inflows in 2020

Country	Remittance Inflow
India	USD 83 Billion
China	USD 59.5 Billion
Mexico	USD 42.8 Billion

### Top 3 Countries with Remittance Outflows in 2020

Country	Remittance Outflow
US	USD 68 Billion

UAE	USD 43 Billion
Saudi Arabia	USD 34.5 Billion

### **Ruskin Bond's New Book Titled "All Time Favourites for children" to be Released**

Most Renowned author **Ruskin Bond**, is coming up with a new book titled "**All Time**

**Favonpurites for Children**" on his 87th

birthday on May 19, 2021. It will be published

by **Puffin**, children's imprint of Penguin

Random House. Illustrations of the book was done by Kashmira Sarode.

#### **About the Book:**

It is a collection of short stories which will feature some of his most celebrated characters and stories like 'Rusty's Adventures', 'Grandfather's Stories' as well as new stories like 'Goldfish Don't Bark', 'Friends from the Forest' and many more.

#### **About Ruskin Bond:**

i. Ruskin Bond is an Indian author of British descent.

ii. He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014** for his contribution to the field of literature.

iii. He has also won the Sahitya Academy Award for his English novel "Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra" in 1992.

iv. His first novel, "The Room on the Roof" which was written when he was seventeen, received the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize in 1957.

**Actress Kalki Koechlin Authored Her Debut Book Titled "Elephant In The Womb"**

Actress **Kalki**



**Koechlin** has authored her debut book titled **“Elephant In The Womb”**, a non-fiction book on motherhood. The illustrations of the book were done by **Valeriya Polyanychko**. The illustrated book will be published by the Penguin Random House, India (PRHI).

**About the book:**

- i. The book focuses on the physiological discomfort and manic expectations during motherhood.
- ii. The book features the personal essays and think pieces of Kalki.

**About Kalki Koechli:**

- i. Kalki Koechli is a French citizen born in 1982 in Puducherry, India.
- ii. She has also starred in Hindi and Tamil Movies.

**Nobel Prize-winning Author Kazuo Ishiguro, Authored a New Book Titled “Klara and the Sun Novel”**

A Book titled **“Klara and the Sun Novel”** authored by Nobel Prize-winning author **Kazuo Ishiguro** has been published by **Penguin Random house**

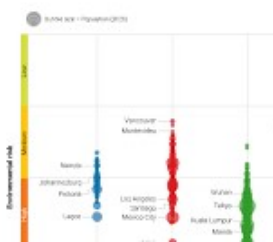
**About the Book:**

**Klara and the Sun** is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

**About the author**

- i. Kazuo Ishiguro, a British novelist was born in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1954 and moved to Britain in 1960.
- ii. He was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature in 2017** & also won the **Man Booker prize in 1989** for his novel **‘The Remains of the Day’**.
- iii. He was given a knighthood in 2018 for Services to Literature. He has also won Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from France and the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star from Japan.

**Verisk Maplecroft Report-India has 43 of the World’s 100 Most Environmentally Riskiest cities; Jakarta Topped**



According to the ‘Environmental Risk Outlook 2021’ released by Verisk Maplecroft, India has 43 of the World’s 100 most environmentally riskiest cities. Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the most riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi & Chennai (Tamil Nadu).

- 99 of the World’s 100 riskiest cities are in Asia (43 in India and 37 in China).
- **Lima, Peru is the only non-Asian city** to be listed in the World’s 100 Riskiest cities.
- **Glasgow, Scotland** was ranked as the **safety city** in the report.

**World’s 3 most environmentally riskiest cities**

1	Jakarta, Indonesia
2	Delhi, India
3	Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**Environmental Risk Outlook 2021**

- The report ranks the world’s 576 largest urban centres based on their exposure to a range of environmental and climate-related threats.
- The report is based on 9 risk indices which evaluate the liveability, investment potential and operational risk landscape of cities with a population over 1 million.
- The 2021 report is the 1st instalment in the Cities@Risk series of Verisk Maplecroft.

**New Shepard: Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin Sets 1st Space Tourism Flight in July 2021**

Amazon founder **Jeff Bezos**’s rocket company, **Blue Origin**, announced the first flight that aboard its **New Shepard rocket**, and crew capsule which



is designed to carry up to **6 tourists** per flight, beyond an invisible line, known as the Karman line, which separates Earth from space.

- The first flight is scheduled to take place in **July 20,2021** and one seat was auctioned off to the highest bidder.
- Note – The space tourism rocket was named after **Alan Shepard** – the second man and the first American to travel into space.

### **Five Deeps Expedition measures Extreme Depths of World's 5 Oceans**

The Five Deeps Expedition has measured the extreme depths of the World's 5 Oceans – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic & Southern ocean (also known as Antarctic ocean).

- The **Challenger Deep (10, 924 m)** in **Mariana Trench** in Pacific Ocean remains the Deepest Trench in the world.
- The 2nd Deepest Trench in the world is the **Horizon Deep (10, 816 m)** in the **Tonga Trench, Pacific Ocean.**

### **Ocean & Deepest Points**

- Atlantic Ocean** – **Brownson Deep (8, 378 m)** in **Puerto Rico Trench**
- Southern Ocean** (Antarctic ocean) – **Factorian Deep (7, 432 m)** in **South Sandwich Trench**
- Indian Ocean** – **Unnamed Deep (7, 187 m)** in **Java Trench**
- Pacific Ocean** – **Challenger Deep (10, 924 m)** in **Mariana Trench** (deepest trench in the world).
- Arctic Ocean** – **Molloy Hole (5, 551 m)**

### **Five Deeps Expedition**

- American undersea explorer **Victor Lance Vescovo** of the US launched the **Five Deeps Expedition** in 2018.

- The **Five Deeps Expedition** was the first to reach the deepest point in each of the Earth's five oceans.

### **World's largest iceberg named A-76 breaks off from Antarctica**

A huge iceberg named **A-76** has become the world's largest iceberg, which has broken off from western Antarctica into the **Weddell Sea**. It measures around **170 km** long and **25 km** wide, with an area of **4,320 sq km**.

- It was spotted by the **British Antarctic Survey** and confirmed by using images from the **Copernicus Sentinel-1** mission satellite of **European Space Agency(ESA)**.

## **Defence**

### **Indian Navy Launches Operation Samudra Setu-II for Shipment of Oxygen-filled containers to India**

Indian Navy has launched **Operation Samudra Setu-II** for shipment of **Liquid**

**oxygen-filled cryogenic containers & associated medical equipment** to India from other countries. For

this Operation, **Indian**

**Navy deployed, 7 Indian Naval ships(INS)** viz. **INS Kolkata, INS Kochi, INS Talwar, INS Tabar, INS Trikand, INS Jalashwa and INS Airavat.**

**i.**It is part of the ongoing national mission for meeting **Oxygen requirements** in India. The demand for **Oxygen** has increased in India due to **COVID-19.**

**ii.**As part of the deal,

### **In the 1st Batch:**



- **INS Kolkata, INS Talwar** was deployed in **Persian Gulf**, has entered the port of Manama, Bahrain for transporting 40 MT (Mega Tonnes) of Liquid Oxygen to Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **INS Jalashwa** is enroute to Bangkok, Thailand & **INS Airavat** to Singapore for transporting Oxygen.

### In the 2nd Batch:

- The second batch of ships comprising **INS Kochi, INS Trikanand** and **INS Tabar** mission deployed in Arabian sea have also been diverted to join the national effort.

### **Operation Samudra Setu**

- It was launched in May 2020 as part of the **Vande Bharat Mission**.
- Under the Operation, Indian Citizens were repatriated from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Iran, who were left stranded due to COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Operation was undertaken by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, Home Ministry, Health Ministry & other agencies of Central and State Governments.

### **Armed Forces Launched Operation ‘CO-JEET’ to Fight Covid-19 in India**

The Indian Armed Forces has launched operation “CO-JEET” to support anti-COVID-19 efforts of the country.

- Lieutenant General **Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar** is monitoring the steps & working on strategies to provide relief to Covid-19 Patients. She is the 3<sup>rd</sup> woman to become a three-star general in the armed forces behind **Punita Arora(1<sup>st</sup>)** & **Padmavathy Bandopadhyay(2<sup>nd</sup>)**.
- “CO-JEET stands for co-workers of all of the three Forces who will lastly obtain ‘Jeet’ (victory) over COVID.

### About Op CO-JEET:

- It aims to strengthen medical infrastructure and oxygen supply chains and to ensure mental wellbeing of people.
- The personnel of the Army, the Air Force and the Navy have been engaged to help restore oxygen supply chains, set up COVID beds and provide help to the civilian administration in its fight to control the pandemic.

### About Indian Armed Forces:

**Minister of Defence:** Rajnath Singh

**Defence Secretary:** Ajay Kumar, IAS

**Chief of Defence Staff:** General Bipin Rawat

### **India & Indonesian Navies conduct ‘PASSEX’ in the Arabian Sea**

The Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Southern Arabian sea. The main aim of the exercise



was to improve interoperability and understanding between the Navy units of two countries.

- From the Indian Navy, **INS Sharda**, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) with a Chetak helicopter participated in the exercise.
- From the Indonesian Navy, **KRI Sultan Hasanudin**, a 90m Corvette took part in the exercise.
- An Passage Exercise is usually conducted by 2 navies, to make sure that the navies are able to communicate and cooperate in times of war or humanitarian relief.

### **Fact**

- ‘**Garuda Shakti**’ is a bilateral exercise between the Special forces of armies of India & Indonesia.

### About Indonesia

**President** – Joko Widodo

**Capital** – Jakarta

**Currency** – Indonesian Rupiah

### About Indian Navy

**Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**– Admiral Karambir



Singh

**Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy) – New Delhi**

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

**Niraj Bajaj Named The Chairman Of Bajaj Auto; Rahul Bajaj To Be Named Chairman Emeritus**

Bajaj Auto has named Niraj Bajaj, the non-executive Director of Bajaj Auto as its new chairman. He will succeed Rahul Bajaj with effect from 1st May 2021.



The company has also named Rahul Bajaj as Chairman Emeritus for a period of 5 years with effect from 1st May 2021.

**About Niraj Bajaj:**

**Career:**

- i. Niraj Bajaj joined the board of Bajaj Auto Limited on 9th September 2006.
- ii. He is one of the promoter directors of Bajaj Group.
- iii. He is a member of the board of Directors of Bajaj Allianz Life and General Insurance Co Ltd.
- iv. He has served as the President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Alloy Steel Producers Association and Indian Stainless Steel Development

Association.

**Sports:**

i. Niraj Bajaj represented Nation Table Tennis between 1970 to 1977.

ii. He was thrice named as the 'All India Table Tennis Champion' and 'ranked India No 1 four times.

**About Rahul Bajaj:**

i. Rahul Bajaj took over Bajaj Auto in 1972.

ii. At the age of 82 he retired as the Non-Executive Chairman and Chairman of Bajaj Auto with effect from 30th April 2021.

**T Rabi Sankar appointed as the 4th Deputy Governor of RBI**

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed **T Rabi Sankar**, the Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the **4th Deputy Governor of RBI**. ACC has cleared his appointment for a period of **3 years** or till his date of superannuation.

- He succeeds **B P Kanungo**, who retired on 2nd April 2021 after serving one year extension period.
- RBI cannot hold more than 4 deputy governors. The other 3 Deputy Governors of RBI are Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael D Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.

**About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**

RBI was originally established as a private organisation and was nationalised in 1949.

**Established on April 1, 1935**

**Former Supreme Court Judge P C Pant appointed Acting Chairperson of NHRC**

Justice (retired) Prafulla Chandra Pant (PC Pant), a Former Supreme Court Judge had been appointed as **Acting**

**Chairperson** of National Human Rights

Commission (NHRC) with effect from April 25, 2021. He Succeeds Justice **H.L. Dattu**, whose tenure ended on December 2, 2020.



- His appointment was authorized by President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- The term of office of the NHRC Chairperson and members of the NHRC is for five years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

### **Gist About Appointment:**

- NHRC Chairperson should be Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- Section 2 Sections 3 and 4 of The Protection Of Human Rights (Amendment) Act (TPHRA) lay down the rules for appointment to the NHRC. The Chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India, on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:
  - The Prime Minister (Chairperson), The Home Minister, The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House), The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House), The Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House), The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House).

### **PV Sindhu, Michelle Li Named Athlete Ambassador for IOC's 'Believe in Sports' Campaign**

Badminton World Federation(BWF) World Champion and Olympic medal winner **Pusarla Venkata**

**Sindhu(PV Sindhu)** and **Michelle Li**, a Canadian badminton player have been named the **athlete**



**ambassador** for International Olympic Committee(IOC)'s "**Believe in Sports**" Campaign. Both the badminton players(shuttlers) will work towards creating awareness about competition manipulation among the athletes.

### **Believe in Sports:**

The **Believe in Sports** Campaign was launched by the IOC in **2018** to raise awareness about the threat of competition manipulation among the athletes, coaches

and officials.

### **About International Olympic Committee(IOC):**

**President**– Thomas Bach

**Established on** 23rd June 1894

**Headquarters**– Lausanne, Switzerland

### **Mamata Banerjee becomes West Bengal CM for 3rd Consecutive Term**

Mamata Banerjee who belongs to the party of Trinamool Congress (TMC) took oath as the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal for 3rd Consecutive Term (2011-2016, 2016-21).

- She is the **8th Chief Minister** of West Bengal (WB).
- Mamata Banerjee was administered the **oath of office by Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar**.
- Mamata Banerjee took oath as CM, even though she was defeated in her constituency of Nandigram.

- **Under Article 164(4)** of the Constitution, an unelected member can assume office as CM but he or she has to either win a bypoll or get elected to the Legislative Council within 6 months to retain the position.

### **Article 164**

Article 164 of the Indian constitution deals with appointment of Chief Ministers and other ministers. It has 5 sections.

### **MK Stalin becomes Tamil Nadu CM; N Rangasamy becomes CM of Puducherry for 4th time**

M K Stalin who belongs to the party of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam took oath as the **23rd Chief Minister (CM)** of Tamil Nadu (TN). This is M K Stalin's 1st Term as CM of TN.

- He was administered the oath of Office & Secrecy by TN Governor Banwarilal Purohit at Raj Bhavan, Chennai.

**i.** Meanwhile, N Rangasamy who belongs to All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) took oath as the CM of Puducherry. It is Rangasamy's 4th Term (2001-06, 2006-08, 2011-16) as CM of Puducherry.

- He was administered the oath of Office & Secrecy by Puducherry Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Niwas, Pondicherry.
- ii. The State Assembly elections to TN & Puducherry were conducted on April 6, 2021.

**Fact**

- Article 164 of the Indian Constitution deals with the appointment of Chief Ministers and other ministers.
- According to Article 164 (1A), the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed 15 % of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that state.

### Himanta Biswa Sarma Becomes 15th Chief Minister of Assam

**Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Assam.**

He has replaced Sarbananda Sonowal. Both the candidates are from BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party).



- He was administered the oath by Governor **Jagdish Mukhi**.

**Key points:**

- BJP-led NDA (National Democratic Alliance) secured a comfortable majority in Assam **winning 75 seats of the total 126 constituencies**.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma was a former member of the Indian National Congress and then joined Bharatiya Janata Party on 23 August 2015.

### K P Sharma Oli Re-appointed as Prime Minister of Nepal

**KP Sharma Oli**, (69 years old) Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (**CPN-UML**) was re-appointed as the Prime Minister (**PM**) of Nepal by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

- KP Sharma Oli has previously served as the PM of Nepal from 2015 to 2016 and from 2018 to 2021.

**Key points:**

- KP Sharma Oli was reappointed since the opposition parties failed to secure majority seats in the House to form a new government.
- President Bidhya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to KP Sharma Oli at the ceremony at Shital Niwas.
- KP Sharma Oli has to take a vote of confidence at the house within 30 days, failing which the attempt to form a government under Article 76(5) will be initiated.
- At present he needs 136 votes to form a majority government.

**About Federal Parliament of Nepal:**

- The house has 275 members of which 165 were elected from single-member constituencies and 110 elected through a proportional electoral system, considering the whole country as a single electoral constituency.
- In the lower house of the Parliament, the Nepali Congress and Maoist Centre have 61 and 49 seats respectively.
- Janata Samajwadi Party (**JSP**) has 32 seats in the lower house.

### Pinarayi Vijayan Becomes Kerala Chief Minister for The Second Time

**Pinarayi Vijayan was sworn in as Kerala Chief Minister for a second time**, after guiding the CPM-led Left Democratic Front government to a historic second successive term in the 2021 election

**Key points:**

- He is the **first Chief Minister in Kerala to get a**

**second consecutive term.**

ii. The Left Democratic Front (LDF) alliance won 99 of 140 seats in this election.

iii. The Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Minister-designate Mr. Vijayan and 20 members of his Cabinet at the Central Stadium, located behind the Government Secretariat.

### **Sir David Attenborough Appointed as COP26 People's Advocate for the UN Climate Change Conference 2021**

**Sir David Attenborough**, world-renowned broadcaster and natural historian, has been appointed as the People's Advocate for the **26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)-2021**, which will be held in **Glasgow, Scotland**, United Kingdom (UK) in November 2021. **UK and Italy** will host COP-26.

- As a People's Advocate, he will take action to tackle the issue of climate change.
- Indian Origin, Alok Sharma was the Britain's President-Designate of COP26.

### **Indian-American Neera Tanden Appointed as Senior Adviser To US President Joe Biden**

The U.S administration has announced that **Indian-American Neera Tanden** is set to join the White House as a **senior adviser to President Joe Biden**.

- She is currently working as the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).
- Neera Tanden previously served as a senior adviser for health reforms at the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- The two main tasks given to her are,

- Launching a review of the US Digital Service, and
- Planning contingencies that could result from the Supreme Court's consideration of

Republican lawsuits seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act.

### **Narinder Batra Re-elected as FIH President for a 2nd Term**

**Narinder Batra**, Indian Olympic Association president was re-elected as **president** of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term at the virtual 47th Congress of the FHI held on May 22, 2021.



- Narinder Batra is also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

#### **Key points:**

- In the virtual presidential election at the FIH Congress, Narinder Batra secured 63 votes and emerged as the winner in the online voting process, in which 124 member associations participated. His rival Marc Coudron, chief of Belgium Hockey Federation obtained 61 votes.
- Till 2024, Narinder Batra will be the president of FIH, as the FIH has reduced the term from 4 years to 3 years in 2020 due to the postponement of the Congress.
- Batra was the first non-European who had been appointed as the president of the FIH in 2016 at the 45th congress, and also became the first Indian to head the international federation of an Olympic sport.

#### **About International Hockey Federation (FIH):**

FIH is the international governing body of field and indoor field hockey.

**Establishment** – 1924

**Headquarters** – Lausanne, Switzerland

**Chief Executive Officer** – Thierry Weil

### **Prashant Kumar Mishra Appointed As Chief Justice Of Chhattisgarh High Court**

**Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** has been appointed acting Chief Justice of the **Chhattisgarh High Court** and will take charge from



June 1, 2021. The appointment was made in view of the impending retirement of Justice PR Ramachandra Menon who is set to demit office on May 31, 2021.

i. He also served as Advocate General and became a judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court in December 2009.

ii. In exercising the powers conferred by **Article 223 of the Constitution of India**, **President Ramnath Govind** appointed Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court.

**Note:**

Chief justices and judges of high courts retire at the age of 62, while the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the Supreme Court retire at the age of 65 years.

**Subodh Kumar Jaiswal DG of CISF was Appointed as the Director of CBI**

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has appointed **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal** as the Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a



period of **2 years** from the date of assumption of charge.

- He has been serving as the Director-General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- He was recommended for the post by the 3-member selection committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**About the Selection Committee:**

The 3 members high-level Selection committee led by PM Narendra Modi consists of Chief Justice of India NV **Ramana** and Leader of Opposition in Lok

**Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.**

**About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):**

CBI was established as the Special Police Establishment in 1941

**Director**– Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

**Headquarters**– New Delhi

**Bashar Al-Assad Re-Elected for 4th Term as the President of Syria**

**Bashar al-Assad** (55-year-old) was re-elected for a 4th seven-year term as the President of Syria. He received around 95.1% of the votes cast and won the election against former state minister Abdallah Salloum Abdallah and Mahmud Merhi. He belongs to Syrian Ba'ath Party.

**About Bashar Al-Assad:**

i. Bashar Al-Assad became the president of Syria at the age of 34, succeeding his father

Hafez al-Assad.

ii. He was also appointed as the commander of the armed forces and secretary-general of the Baath Party.

iii. He won his second term as the President of Syria in 2007.

**About Syria:**

**President**– Bashar al-Assad

**Capital**– Damascus

**Currency**– Syrian pound

## Honours/ Awards

### 11th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2021: Jungle Cry won Best Film Jury Award

“Jungle Cry” directed by Sagar Ballary won the **Best Film (Jury) award** at the 11th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2021.



The Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival Awards is annually presented to appreciate the talents and skills of the film industry.

#### Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival:

i. Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival is India's only independent film festival established in 2011 in Delhi NCR.

ii. The Film Festival is annually organised on 30th April to mark the birth anniversary of Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, the father of Indian Cinema, who is fondly known as ‘Dada Saheb Phalke’.

### Tyler Perry received The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at Oscar 2021

American Actor Tyler Perry received the **Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award**, an Oscar statue, at the 93rd Academy Awards(Oscar 2021) Ceremony. He

was honoured for his contribution towards the recovery of the entertainment industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The **Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award** is presented to an individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry.
- The award is named after Danish actor and translator **Jean Pierre Carl Buron**, professionally known as ‘Jean Hersholt’, who was a philanthropist

### Nepali Mingma Tenji Sherpa Sets World Record by climbing Mount Everest Twice

On May 13, 2021, Nepali mountain guide, **Mingma Tenji Sherpa**, a 43-year-old, had created a world record by climbing 8848.86-meter-high **Mount Everest**(world's highest peak) twice in the shortest span of just four days.

- Previously, Indian mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa had held the record for fastest dual ascents on Mount Everest in 118 hours and 15 minutes in 2017 and still holds the record for fastest dual ascent on Mount Everest by a woman
- On May 8, Nepali mountain guide **Kami Rita Sherpa** broke his own record of the most ascents of the world's highest peak for the 25th time.

### Justice Gita Mittal became 1st Indian to Receive Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021 by IAWJ

Justice **Gita Mittal**, Former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) High Court received the **Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021** by the International Association of Women



Judges (IAWJ). She became the **first India Judge** to receive the honour.

She was declared as one of the recipients of the award. She shared the award with **Justice Margarita Luna Ramos of Mexico**.

- The award was presented at IAWJ's Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony.

#### **About Arline Pacht Global Vision Award:**

The Arline Pacht Global Vision Award was instituted by IAWJ in **2016** to recognise the contribution of the sitting or retired women judges to the IAWJ and the goals of IAWJ.

#### **About Gita Mittal:**

i.Gita Mittal is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC), a self-regulatory body for general entertainment channels established by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF). She is the first woman to hold this post.

ii.She has served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court in 2017.

In 2018 she became the first woman to be appointed as the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

#### **About International Association of Women Judges**

##### **(IAWJ):**

**President-** Hon. Vanessa Ruiz

**Founded in-** 1991

**Headquarters-** Washington, DC, United States

#### **Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, 1st woman of Asian heritage won the World Food Prize 2021**

Indian Descent **Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted**, a native of Trinidad and Tobago and a citizen of Denmark, won the **2021 World Food**

**Prize** for her research, insights and innovations in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems. She was born in 1949 on the Caribbean island of Trinidad.



- She becomes the **first woman of Asian heritage** to receive this award.
- The award carries a cash prize of **250,000 USD** (around Rs 1.8 crore).
- The award was announced by **Barbara Stinson**, President of the World Food Prize Foundation.

#### **About World Food Prize Foundation:**

**President** – Ms. Barbara Stinson

**Headquarters** – Des Moines, Iowa, United States of America

#### **Y Nuklu Phom Became the only Indian to win Whitley Award 2021 for “Biodiversity Peace Corridor”**

**Y Nuklu Phom**, a church worker from Nagaland, won the **Whitley Award 2021** for his efforts toward



creating “**Biodiversity Peace Corridor**”, a network of community-owned forests in Nagaland and protecting the **Amur Falcon**. He is the **only Indian** to win the prestigious award.

- The award to Y Nuklu Phom was donated by the MAVA Foundation.
- The Whitley Award is also known as the ‘**Green Oscar**’.

#### **About Whitley Award:**

i.The award was established by Edward Whitley OBE in **1993**.

ii.The award is annually presented to the individuals from the global south by Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN).

iii.Each winner receives **40000 pound** (around RS 41 lakhs) in project funding over 1 year.

**About Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN):****Headquarters**– London, United Kingdom**Fortune’s List of World’s 50 Greatest Leaders: NZ PM, Jacinda Ardern tops; Adar Poonawalla in Top 10**

Fortune Magazine released its ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021 which is topped by New Zealand(NZ) Prime Minister(PM) Jacinda Ardern. Serum Institute of India’s CEO Adar Poonawalla is on the 10th spot and he is the only Indian among the top 10 names on the list.

**Key points:**

- i. Jacinda Ardern is recognised for her efficiency in tackling and stopping the coronavirus surge in New Zealand.
- ii. Adar Poonawalla is recognised for taking the task of bringing an end to the global pandemic by supplying COVID-19 vaccines.
- iii. mRNA Pioneers have been listed second on the list.
- iv. Daniel H Schulman, American business executive and president and CEO of PayPal, has been named the third Greatest Leader on the list.
- v. Other names who made it to the list of top 10 of the top 50 leaders include NBA Rescuers; Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention’s John Nkengasong; Ping An’s Jessica Tan among others.

**Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank gets ‘International Invincible Gold Medal 2021’**

Union Education

Minister **Dr Ramesh**

**Pokhriyal Nishank** was awarded **International Invincible Gold Medal 2021** by **Maharshi**



**Organisation.** He has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.

**Key points:**

- i. The award will be formally presented to Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Guru Purnima this year(24<sup>th</sup> July

2021).

- ii. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was selected for this award by a high-powered committee duly constituted under the leadership of worldwide president of Maharshi Organisation, Dr Tony Nader.

**Andrea Meza of Mexico Crowned with Miss Universe 2020**

**Mexican Model Andrea Meza** was crowned as the **Miss Universe 2020** at the televised event held in Florida, US. She became the **3rd** Mexican woman to be crowned as Miss Universe. She is a software engineer.



- Miss Universe 2020 was the **69th** Miss Universe pageant.

**Miss Universe 2020:**

Final Results	Contestants
Miss Universe 2020	Andrea Meza – México
1st Runner-up	Julia Gama – Brazil
2nd Runner-up	Janick Maceta del Castillo – Peru
3rd Runner-up	<b>Adeline Castelino – India</b>

**Key points:**

- i. **Miss Universe 2019: Zozibini Tunzi**, the Miss Universe of 2019.
- ii. Zozibini Tunzi, a public relations professional was the **first Black woman** from South Africa to win the contest when she has crowned Miss Universe in 2019 and she held the title since December 2019 as Miss Universe pageant in **2020 was cancelled** due to



COVID-19

**About Miss Universe Organization:**

Miss Universe is an annual international beauty pageant run by the Miss Universe Organisation, Currently owned by the WME/IMG talent agency.

**Establishment** – 1952

**Headquarters** – New York City, USA

**Prof Shankar Balasubramanian & Prof David Klenerman won 2020 Millennium Technology Prize by TAF**

Cambridge University Chemists – Professor **Shankar Balasubramanian** and Professor **David Klenerman** won

the **2020 Millennium Technology Prize** for



the development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques – Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS). The award is presented by the Technology Academy Finland (TAF).

- Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman jointly invented the Solexa-Illumina Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS), which enables fast, accurate, low cost and large scale genome sequencing.
- Sauli Niinisto**, President of the Republic of Finland and the Patron of the prize presented the award over a virtual ceremony.

**About Technology Academy Finland (TAF):**

**CEO**– Markku Ellilä

**Headquarters**– Espoo, Finland

**Elon Musk Loses 2nd-Richest Ranking to Bernard Arnault; Jeff Bezos Tops: Bloomberg Billionaires Index**

On May 20, 2021, Tesla and SpaceX’s Chief Executive Officer **Elon Musk** lost his world’s 2nd-richest person position in Bloomberg Billionaires Index due to a sharp drop in Tesla’s share by 2.2 percent. Musk was overtaken by LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton’s Chairman **Bernard Arnault**.

- Bernard Arnault’s net worth climbed by almost \$47 billion to \$161.2 billion due to a rise in the sale of his firm’s luxury goods in China and other parts of Asia.

**Top 3 Richest Person:**

1. Jeff Bezos (United States)
2. Bernard Arnault (France)
3. Elon Musk (United States)

**Indian’s Position in the Index:**

As on May 20, 2021, **Mukesh Ambani** topped among Indian’s in the list. He was ranked 13th Globally. He was followed by **Gautam Adani**(14th Globally), **Azim Premji** (44 Globally).

**About Elon Musk:**

**i.**Musk became the world’s richest person in January 2021 after Tesla’s shares surged almost 750 percent in 2020 due to a boom in technology-driven stocks.

**ii.**He also held the top spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index in March 2021, now he has a fortune of \$160.6 billion, 24% down from its January value.

**iii.**His Bitcoins also started falling suddenly as much as 15%, after he stated that Tesla was no longer accepting the digital currency as payment.

**MMA Fighter Conor McGregor tops the Forbes’ World’s 10 Highest-paid Athletes 2021**

Forbes’ annual ranking of the **World highest-paid athletes for 2021** was

released. Mixed Martial Arts(MMA) Fighter **Conor McGregor** from Ireland topped the list with a total earning of 180 million



USD(around 1313 crores). McGregor is followed by football players **Lionel Messi** (2nd) with 130 million USD and **Cristiano Ronaldo** (3rd) with 120 million USD and American footballer **Dak Prescott**(4th) with 107.5 million USD.

**Top 3 Highest paid athletes:**

Rank	Name	Sport	Total earning (USD)
1	Conor McGregor	MMA	180 million
2	Lionel Messi	Football	130 million
3	Cristiano Ronaldo	Football	120 million

Click here for the complete list: Forbes' World highest-paid athletes for 2021

**Highlights:**

- i. This is the first time where the top four athletes have earned over 100 million USD each.
- ii. The total earning of the top 10 is around 1.05 billion USD which is around 28% more than the total earning of the top 10 athletes of 2020 (819.2 million USD).
- iii. 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer ranked who topped the 2020 list ranked 7th in the 2021 list with a total earning of 90 million USD.
- iv. Cristiano Ronaldo, LeBron James and Roger Federer have remained constant on the Forbes top 10 lists for 10 years.

**About Conor McGregor:**

- i. Conor McGregor (32 years old) has competed in only one Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) bout held in January 2021 where he lost to Dustin Poirier.
- ii. He has made around 158 million USD through off-field activities which made him the 3rd sports personality after Tiger Woods and Roger Federer to earn more than 70 million through off-field activities in a year.
- iii. In 2018 he was featured among the top 10 Highest-paid Athletes, ranked 4th.

**Hockey India Won the Etienne Glichitch Award by FIH**

Hockey India won the Etienne Glichitch Award in recognition of Hockey India's contribution towards the growth and development of Hockey.

Various individuals, teams and organisations received the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Honorary Awards at the virtual conference organised by the FIH as a part of its 47th Congress.

**About Etienne Glichitch Award:**

- i. The Award is given every two years by the Executive Board on the recommendation of the Awards Panel.
- ii. The award is presented once every two years in conjunction with the Ordinary Congress.

**About Hockey India:**

**President-** Gyanendro Ningombam  
**Secretary General-** Rajinder Singh  
**Headquarters-** New Delhi

**Gautam Adani become Asia's 2nd Richest Man: Bloomberg Billionaire Index**

Based on the data compiled by Bloomberg Billionaire Index, Adani Group's founder and chairman **Gautam Adani** became **Asia's 2nd richest man**. Reliance Industries' chairman and India's richest man Mukesh Ambani topped in the **Asia's Richest Man- Bloomberg Billionaire Index**.

**Ranking of Asia's Richest Person:**

Ranking	Country	Richest person	Net worth
1st	India	Reliance Industries' Mukesh Ambani	\$76.5 billion



2nd	India	Adani Group's Gautam Adani	\$66.5 billion
3rd	China	Zhong Shanshan	\$63.6 billion
4th	China	Ma Huateng	\$60.5 billion

### Robert Lewandowski Won Europe's Golden Shoe Award

Bayern Munich's **Robert Lewandowski (Poland)** was awarded with **Europe's Golden Shoe** also known as **European Golden Boot**, as he finished as the top scorer in Europe's leading domestic leagues.



- He scored a record-breaking 41 goals in the Bundesliga en route to Bayern's ninth consecutive league title.
- The Award was presented by **European Sports Media**. Argentina's **Lionel Messi** won the maximum number of awards (6 awards).

#### Key points:

- By breaking Gerd Muller's single season Bundesliga record, Lewandowski became the **first** Bundesliga striker to win the Golden Shoe.
- He beat out Barcelona's Lionel Messi, Juventus's Cristiano Ronaldo, PSG's Kylian Mbappe, and fellow Bundesliga rivals Erling Haaland (Borussia Dortmund), and Andre Silva (Eintracht Frankfurt).
- Tottenham Hotspur captain and striker **Harry**

**Kane** has won the Premier League Golden Boot for the third time.

#### About European Golden Shoe:

It is also known as European Golden Boot, is an award that is presented each season to the leading goalscorer in league matches from the top division of every European national league.

### Bernard Arnault overtakes Jeff Bezos to become world's richest person

According to the **Forbes Real-Time Billionaires**

**List**, on **24th May 2021**,

French tycoon **Bernard**

**Arnault**, CEO and majority

owner of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis

Vuitton(LVMH), became the **world's richest**

**person** with an estimated net worth of 186.3 billion

USD. He overtook Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon,

whose net worth was 186 billion USD and Elon Musk,

CEO of Tesla whose net worth was 147.3 billion USD.



### Indian Economist Amartya Sen Won Spain's Princess of Asturias Award 2021 for Social Science

Indian economist and Nobel Laureate **Amartya**

**Kumar Sen** won Spain's top award – Princess of

Asturias Award 2021, under the Social Science

category. The jury announced the list of 2021 laureates

over the virtual platform.

- Amartya Sen won the award for his research on famines and his theory of human development, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance.
- The award comprises a Joan Miro sculpture, a diploma, an insignia and a cash prize of 50,000 Euros (around Rs 44.25 lakhs).

#### About Princess of Asturias Awards:

- The Princess of Asturias Awards is annually presented by the Princess of Asturias Foundation which recognises the scientific, technical, cultural,

social and humanitarian work carried out at an international level by individuals, institutions or groups of individuals or institutions.

ii. The awards were first presented in 1981.

### **Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao Won the Energy Frontier Award 2020: 13th Eni Award**

i. Bharat Ratna Professor Chintamani Nages Ramachandra Rao (C.N.R.

**Rao**) has received the **Energy Frontier Award 2020** for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage.



The **Energy Frontier Award 2020** is also known as the **International Eni Awards 2020**. It will be presented on 14th October 2021 at the official ceremony which will be held at the Quirinal Palace in Rome, Italy.

- The 2020 International Eni Awards mark the **13th edition** of the Eni Awards.
- The award is considered the **Nobel Prize in Energy Research**.

ii. **CNR Rao received the award** for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and other materials and a 2-dimensional systems like graphene, boron-nitrogen-carbon hybrid materials, and molybdenum sulfide (Molybdenite – MoS<sub>2</sub>) for energy applications and green hydrogen production.

**Suresh Mukund Became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian to Win Annual ‘World Choreography Award 2020’** Emmy Award-nominated choreographer **Suresh Mukund** became the **1st Indian** to receive Annual World Choreography Award, he won the **10th Annual World Choreography Award 2020**. He won the award in the best choreography category for a television reality show- World of Dance, The Kings.

i. The World Choreography Awards is an annual live show that celebrates creativity and innovation by recognizing excellence in the art of media

choreography. It takes place once a year in Los Angeles, California.

## Sports

**Football- Manchester City won the 2020-21 League Cup title for the fourth consecutive time**

**Manchester City** clinched a fourth consecutive **2020-21 League Cup or EFL Cup or Carabao Cup Football title** after beating Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley Stadium, England.

- It has now matched Liverpool’s record of eight League Cup titles.

**Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Portuguese GP 2021; Jack Miller wins 2021 Spanish Grand Prix of MotoGP**

Mercedes’ driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won the Portuguese Grand Prix 2021 of Formula One (F1) held at Algarve International Circuit in Portimao, Portugal. It is Hamilton’s 97th Career Victory.



i. **Moto GP** – In MotoGP, **Australia’s Jack Miller (Ducati)** won the 2021 Spanish GP held at Circuito de



Jerez, Andalusia, Spain.

### Formula One- Portuguese Grand Prix 2021:

i.Red Bull Racing Honda's Max Verstappen (Netherlands) finished 2nd followed by Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas (Finland).

- It is the **15th time that an Formula 1 Podium** (highest in F1 history) has been held by the Trio of Hamilton, Verstappen & Bottas (in no particular order).
- The F1 Championships are organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

### MotoGP

i.Australia's Jack Miller (Ducati) won the 2021 Spanish GP held at Circuito de Jerez, Andalusia, Spain. Italy's Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati) finished 2nd, followed by Italy's Franco Morbidelli (Yamaha).

- The MotoGP championships are organized by Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM).

### ICC Men's Team Ranking 2021 Annual Update: India Ranked 2nd in T20 & 3rd in ODI Format

The International Cricket Council(ICC) released the men's team rankings following the annual update carried out on 3rd May 2021. **India** has retained its **2nd** place behind England on the ICC team ranking in the Twenty20(T20) Format. India has dropped to the **3rd** position in the **ODI** Ranking behind New Zealand(1st) and Australia(2nd).



- This annual update excludes the results from 2017-2018 and halves the weighting of matches played in 2019-2020, which includes the World Cup 2019.
- The current update which rates all the matches played since May 2020 at 100 percent and

the matches played in the previous 2 years at 50 percent.

### ICC team Test ranking 2021:

- The annual update of the test ranking will be carried out after the conclusion of the ongoing Pakistan-Zimbabwe series.
- At present the test ranking is topped by India followed by New Zealand and Australia respectively.

### Highlights:

- 5 countries – Gambia, Ghana, Hungary, Sierra Leone and Sweden – have lost their rankings after the update.
- To remain in the rankings, 80 countries have played 6 T20Is over the past 3 years despite the global pandemic.

### Top 3 of ICC team Ranking 2021:

Rank	Team	Rating
<b>ODI</b>		
1	New Zealand	121
2	Australia	118
3	India	115
<b>T20</b>		
1	England	277
2	India	272

3

New Zealand

263

### Manchester City Won Premier League 2020-21 Defeating Manchester United

Manchester City won the 2020-21 Premier League by

defeating Manchester United. 2020-21 Premier League is the 29th edition of Premier League, the top English professional league for association football clubs.



i. It is Manchester City's 5th Premier League title and 7th English league title. It was also the Manchester City's third title in the last four seasons.

ii. With this victory, Manchester City Football Club equalled the number of Aston Villa Football Club's win & was behind Manchester United Football club, Liverpool Football Club & Arsenal Football Club.

### Winners of 22nd Laureus World Sports Awards – 2021

The 22nd Laureus World Sports Awards 2021 were unveiled at a Digital Awards Ceremony from Sevilla, Spain. Spanish Tennis Player **Rafael Nadal** won the Sportsman of the year title, while Japanese Tennis player **Naomi Osaka** won the Sportswomen of the year title.

- This is Nadal's 4th Laureus Title (2014, 2011, 2006), and the 2nd Laureus Title for Naomi Osaka (previous one coming in 2019).
- The Laureus World Sports Awards are awarded annually by **Laureus Sport for Good Foundation**.
- First held in 2000, the awards honour the greatest and inspirational sporting triumphs of the year.
- The awards are given across 6 Categories. Apart from the 6 categories, awards are also given for Lifetime Achievement, Athlete

Advocate of the year, Sporting Inspiration & Sporting Moment of the Year award.

### Complete List of Winners

S.No	Award	Recipient
1	Laureus World Sportsman of the Year	Rafael Nadal Country – Spain, Sports – Tennis
2	Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year	Naomi Osaka Country – Japan, Sports – Tennis
3	Laureus World Team of the Year	Bayern Munich German Football Club

### Formula One: Lewis Hamilton wins Spanish Grand Prix 2021

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won the Spanish Grand Prix 2021 for the 6th time (5th consecutive victory). The Spanish GP was held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya in Montmela, Spain. The victory is also his 98th F1 Race Win (highest-ever in F1).



- Lewis Hamilton also became the **1st Formula One driver to seal 100 pole positions** (1st

position in the starting grid when the race is starting).

- Red Bull Racing Honda's Max Verstappen (Netherlands) finished 2nd followed by Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas (Finland).
- The F1 Championships are organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

### Lewis Hamilton

- Records – Joint-record 7 World Drivers' Championship titles (tied with Michael Schumacher), most F1 wins (98), most Pole Positions (100) & most Podium Finishes (169).

### About Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

**President** – Jean Todt

**Headquarters** – Paris, France

### Tennis – Overview of 2021 Italian Open

Spain's **Rafael Nadal** defeated Serbia's Novak Djokovic to win the Men's Singles Title of 2021 Italian Open (78th Edition), also known as Rome Masters. This is Nadal's 10th Italian Open Title.

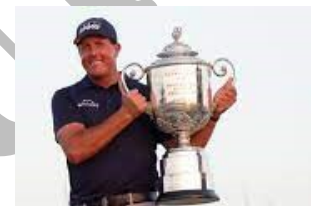
- In the Women's Category, **Iga Swiatek (Poland)** defeated Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic) to win the Women's Singles Title of Italian Open 2021.
- The Italian Open 2021 (also known as Rome Masters or Internazionali BNL d'Italia) took place at the Foro Italico venue in Rome, Italy from May 8-16, 2021.
- The **Clay court Tournament** is an ATP Tour Masters 1000 event & a WTA 1000 event.
- Nadal's 1st Italian Open Title came in 2005.

Category	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal	Novak Djokovic

	(Spain)	(Serbia)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

### Phil Mickelson won 2021 PGA Championship

A 50-year old World Golf Hall of Fame member, American Golfer **Phil Mickelson** won the 2021 PGA Championship, who surpassed Julius Boros (48) to become the oldest major championship winner in the history of golf after capturing his sixth major.



- This was the 45 titles since 1991 and became the first player in PGA Tour history to win tournaments 30 years apart.

### Obituaries

#### Ex-attorney general & Padma Vibhushan Awardee, Soli Sorabjee passed away at 91

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Veteran lawyer and Padma Vibhushan

Awardee, **former attorney general Soli Sorabjee** passed away

due to covid-19

Delhi. He was 91. He was born on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1930 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

#### About Soli Sorabjee:

i. Soli Sorabjee was designated Senior Advocate of the Bombay High Court in 1971. He served as Solicitor-General of India from 1977 to 1980.

ii. Then he was appointed as Attorney-General for India in 9 December 1989 up to 2 December 1990, and then again on 7 April 1998 to 2004.

iii. He then became the chairman of the UN Sub Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights from 1998 to 2004.



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

**Former Union Minister & Padma Awardee Jagmohan Malhotra passed away at 93**  
**Former Union Minister , Padma Awardee and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) governor Jagmohan Malhotra** passed away at the age of 93 after battling a brief spell of illness. He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1927 in Punjab (British India).

**About Jagmohan Malhotra:**

- i. Jagmohan served two terms as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He had also served as the lieutenant governor of Delhi and governor of Goa, Daman & Diu.
- ii. He belonged to BJP (Bharathiya Janata Party) and served as the **Union Minister for Urban Development and Tourism** in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government.
- iii. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016** for his contributions in different spheres as a public servant.

**Padma Bhushan Rev. Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom, India's longest-serving Bishop Passed Away at 103**

Padma Bhushan Reverend (Rev) Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan, a well-known religious leader and India's longest serving Bishop passed away at the age of 103 in Pathanamthitta, Kerala. He was born on 27th April 1918 in Travancore, British India.



**About Rev. Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom:**

- i. He was ordained as Deacon of the Church in 1944 and in 1953 he was consecrated as Bishop.
- ii. He was exalted as the Suffragan Metropolitan in May 1978, Officiating Metropolitan on 15th March 1999 and Metropolitan of Mar Thoma Syrian Church

on 23rd October 1999.

iii. Serampore University honoured him with a Doctorate Degree to recognise his contribution to Theology.

iv. He was honoured with **Padma Bhushan in 2018.**

**Note:**

Malayalam filmmaker, Blessy made the documentary '100 years of Mar Chrysostom' on the life and vision of Rev. Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom.

The documentary starred Narendra Modi, Mohanlal, Jagathi Sreekumar.

**Former Union Minister Chaudhary Ajit Singh Passed Away due to COVID-19**

Former Union Minister and the Chief of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), **Chaudhary Ajit Singh** passed away at the age of 82 in Gurgaon, Haryana. He passed away due to COVID-19 complications.

Ajit Singh, the son of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh was one of the first IITians in Indian Politics.

He was born on 12th February 1939 in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

**About Ajit Singh:**

- i. Ajit Singh first became a member of Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 1986.
- ii. He has served as the President of Lok Dal (A) and Janata Party in 1987 and 1988 and later he founded the RLD in 1996.
- iii. He was a 7-time Member of Parliament (MP) from the Baghpat constituency of Uttar Pradesh.
- iv. He has served as the Union Food Minister under the government led by Narasimha Rao.
- v. He has also served as the Minister of Agriculture from 2001 to 2003 and in 2011 he served as the Minister of Civil Aviation.

**Eminent Sculptor, Rajya Sabha Member, Padma Awardee Raghunath Mohapatra Passed Away Eminent sculptor , Rajya**





**Sabha member and Padma Awardee Raghunath Mohapatra** passed away due to covid-19 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was born on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1943 in Puri, Odisha.

**About Raghunath Mohapatra:**

- i. In 2018, Raghunath Mohapatra was nominated by President Ram Nath Kovind as the first person from Odisha to the Rajya Sabha.
- ii. He was awarded India's second highest civilian award **Padma Vibhushan in 2013** for his contribution to the field of stone sculpture.
- iii. He had also won **Padma Bhushan award in 2001 and Padma Shri award in 1976** for his contribution to the field of stone sculpture.
- iv. At the age of 22 he had won the National award for Sculpture in 1964
- v. He was also nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India as a Member of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in 2000.

**World's Oldest Women Sharp Shooter,'Shooter Dadi'- Chandro Tomar Passed Away**

The 89-year-old sharpshooter **Chandro Tomar** passed away in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh after suffering from COVID-19. Chandro Tomar popularly known as "**Shooter Dadi**", started her shooting career in her 60's and was acclaimed as the **World's Oldest Women Sharp Shooter**.

- i. The 2019 movie "Saand Ki Aankh" was based on the biography of Chandro Tomar and Prakahi Tomar (2nd oldest woman shooter in the world).
- ii. Both Chandro Tomar and Prakahi Tomar belong to Johri village, Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh.

**Padma Bhushan Indu Jain, Chairperson of Times Group Passed Away at 84**

Padma Bhushan **Indu Jain**, Chairperson of Times Group, passed away at the age of 84 due to COVID-19 complications in Delhi. She has been described as a philanthropist, a proponent of Women's right and a patron of the arts. She was born on 8th September 1936 in Faizabad,

United Provinces, British India (present Uttar Pradesh).

**About Indu Jain:**

- i. Indu Jain became the Chairman of Times Group in 1999.
- ii. She established the Times Foundation in 2000 with an aim to achieve sustainable development and transformational changes.
- iii. She has served as the founder president of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) established in 1983.
- iv. She served as the Chairperson of Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust, founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain in 1944 to promote Literature in Indian languages.
- v. She has addressed the United Nations at the Millennium World Peace Summit held in 2000.

**Awards:**

- Padma Bhushan in 2016 for Trade and Industry.
- Lifetime achievement award from the Institute of Company Secretaries of India in 2019
- Award for lifetime contribution to media by the All India



Management association in 2018.

- Lifetime achievement award by the Indian Congress of Women.

**RL Bhatia: Congress Leader & Former Governor of Kerala, Bihar Passed Away**

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Senior Congress leader and former Governor of Kerala, Bihar, **Raghunandan Lal Bhatia (R L Bhatia)** passed away due to covid-19 in Amritsar, Punjab. He was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1921 in Amritsar, Punjab.

**About R L Bhatia:**

- i. R L Bhatia was elected as **Member of**

**Parliament(MP), six times from**

**Amritsar** parliamentary constituency.

ii.He served as the Minister of State for External Affairs in the PV Narasimha Rao government in 1992.

iii.He had also served as **the governor of Kerala from 2004 to 2008 and the governor of Bihar from 2008 to 2009.**

iv.Earlier,he served as Unit president and general secretary of the Congress Party in Punjab.

v.He was also known as an **old horse of the Congress party.**

**Noted Environmentalist and Padma Vibhushan Awardee Sunderlal Bahuguna Passed Away**  
Well-known environmentalist,Gandhian and Padma Vibhushan Awardee

**Sunderlal**

**Bahuguna** passed away due to COVID-19 related complications in



Rishikesh,Uttarakhand. He was born on 9 January 1927 in Maroda,Uttarakhand.

**About Sunderlal Bahuguna:**

i.In 2009, Sunderlal Bahuguna was awarded **Padma Vibhushan** by the government of India for his contribution to environment conservation.

ii.In 1981 he was awarded Padma Shri by the government of India, but he refused it.

iii.He played an important role in the Chipko Movement and the Anti-Tehri Dam movement.

iv.He created the Chipko movement 's slogan **“Ecology is the permanent economy.”**

v.He was also awarded the **Right Livelihood Award in 1987** for Chipko Movement.

**Important Days with theme****International Labour Day 2021 – May 1**

The International Labour Day is annually observed across the globe on May 1st to recognise the achievements of the workers and to create



awareness about the exploitation of workers.

The International Labour Day is also known as International Workers Day or May Day.

- The day is observed in many countries like India, Cuba and China.

- The Day was first celebrated on May 1st 1890.

**Background:**

The Marxist International Socialist Congress adopted the resolution on 14th July 1889 for an international

demonstration to demand that workers should not be made to work more than 8 hours a day.

**Labour Day in India:**

The first Labour day in India was observed in Chennai by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1st 1923.

**World Press Freedom Day 2021 – May 3**

i. The United Nations (UN)'s World Press Freedom Day is annually observed across the globe on 3rd May. The day is dedicated to the freedom of press and highlights the need for the government and people to respect their commitment to press freedom.

ii. The day focuses on the challenges and issues faced by the journalists and other media professionals. The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2021 is “**Information as a Public Good**”.

iii. **Maria Ressa**, Investigative journalist and media executive from the **Philippines** has been named the winner of the **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2021**.

**World Immunization Week: UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham leads global vaccination drive**

Former England Footballer, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador and founder of the 7 Fund for UNICEF, David Beckham released a video ahead of World Immunization Week 2021 (April 24th-30th) for creating awareness among the parents around the world to vaccinate their children against deadly diseases.

**World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2021- May 8**

**The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is annually observed across the globe on **8th May** to celebrate and acknowledge the volunteers, members and staff who support the people in need.

The day also commemorates the birth anniversary



of **Henry Dunant**, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was born on 8th May 1828.

- The theme of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2021 is “**Together we are #unstoppable!**”.

**Background:**

i. The annual celebration of World Red Cross day was proposed by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (**IFRC**).

ii. The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on **8th May 1948**.

i. The World Red Cross Day was renamed as the **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day**.

**About International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):**

**President**– Peter Maurer

**Headquarters**– Geneva, Switzerland

**National Technology Day – 11th May 2021**

**The National Technology Day** is annually observed across India on **11th May** to celebrate India's major advancement in the field of Science and Technology. The day marks the anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran Nuclear tests, a series of 5 nuclear tests conducted by India.



- The theme of National Technology Day 2021 is “**Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future**”.
- The day also marks the first flight of the first indigenous aircraft “**Hansa-3**”.
- The day also celebrates the various achievements of India in the field of Technology and innovation.

**Background:**

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1998 – 2004) declared the 11th May as the National Technology Day to mark the successful nuclear test conducted at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan in 1998.

The first National Technology Day was celebrated on **11th May 1999**.

**About Technology Development Board(TDB):**

TDB was constituted in September 1996 under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.

**Chairperson**– Ashutosh Sharma

**Headquarters**– New Delhi

**International Nurses Day 2021: May 12**

The International Nurses Day (IND) is annually celebrated across the globe on May 12 to highlight the importance of nurses in healthcare and to appreciate their work towards healthcare.



The International Nurses Day marks the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale**.

The theme of IND 2021 is **Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare**.

**Background:**

i. The international Nurse Day was first proposed by Dorothy Sutherland, an officer from the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1953.

ii. The first international nurses day was observed by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in **1965**.

**About International Council of Nurses(ICN):**

ICN is a federation of around 130 national nurses associations that represent more than 27 million nurses across the globe.

**President**– Annette Kennedy

**Headquarters**– Genève, Switzerland

**Founded in**– 1899

**World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2021: May 17**

Every year on **17th May** is celebrated as **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)** throughout the world.

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

**The theme of World Telecommunication Day 2021 : Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times.**

The coronavirus pandemic has indeed highlighted the critical role of information and communication technologies more than ever.

**About International Telecommunication****Union(ITU):**

**Establishment:** 1865

**Members:** 193 countries and about 800 sector members including academic institutions and private sector entities have membership of ITU.

**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.

**World Metrology Day 2021 – 20 May**

**World Metrology Day (WMD)** is annually observed across the globe on **20th**

**May** to celebrate the International system of Unit.

The day marks the annual celebration of the signing of the **Metre**

**Convention on 20 May 1875** in Paris, France by 17 nations.



- The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is **“Measurement for Health”**.
- The theme aims to create awareness about the important role of measurement in the health and wellbeing of everyone.
- The objective of the Metre Convention: worldwide uniformity of measurement.



**Aim:**

To create awareness about the role of metrology and its advancement in the respective fields.

**International Tea Day 2021 – May 21**

The United Nations(UN)'s **International Tea Day** is annually observed across the globe on **21st May** to celebrate the cultural heritage, health benefits and economic importance of tea.

The observance of the international tea day is led by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (**FAO**) of the UN.

**Background:**

i. The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/74/241 on 19th December **2019** and proclaimed the 21st May of every year as the International Tea Day.

ii. The **first** International Tea Day was observed on **21st May 2020**.

**Anti Terrorism Day 2021 – May 21**

**Anti Terrorism Day** is annually observed across India on **21st May** to wean away youth from terrorism and to highlight the suffering of the



common public and its effect on the national interest.

The day also marks the death anniversary of former prime minister **Rajiv Gandhi**.

21st May 2021 marks the 30th death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

**Background:**

i. On 21st May 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu by Terrorist.

ii. The government led by VP Singh decided to observe the 21st May of every year as the Anti Terrorism day. The official announcement of the day was made after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

**World Hunger Day 2021 – May 28**

World Hunger Day is annually observed across the globe on 28th May to create awareness about the 815 million people across the globe who are living in chronic hunger. The day also aims to celebrate the sustainable solution to hunger and poverty.

- The World Hunger Day was the initiative started by The **Hunger Project** in **2011**.

The theme of World Hunger Day 2021 is “**Access Ends Hunger**”.

Under the theme, the day highlights the importance of **access to education, health care and technology** in ending hunger.

**About The Hunger Project:**

**Founded in 1977**

**Headquarters**– New York, United States