

# VIDHIGYA CLAT

**CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE**

India's Best  
Current Affairs  
& Mentorship  
Magazine for  
Law Aspirants

**MAR.  
2021**

**SPECIAL  
FEATURES**

**TOPPERS' TALK WITH  
SIDDHANT BAHETI**

**CHECK YOUR  
QUIZDOM**  
AT PAGE NO. 55

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Amitabh Bachchan Received the FIAF Award 2021

Sharad Pagare chosen as the recipient of the  
prestigious Vyas Samman 2020

**BANGABANDHU  
SHEIKH MUJIBUR  
RAHMAN**

Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020  
will be conferred on Bangabandhu  
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

# VIDHIGYA

# LAW



# PUN



One day in Contract Law class, Professor Vidhaan asked one of his better students Vidhi, "Now if you were to give someone an orange, how would you go about it?" The student replied, "Here's an orange." The professor was livid. "No! No! Think like a lawyer!" The student then replied, "Okay, I'd tell him, 'I hereby give and convey to you all and singular, my estate and interests, rights, claim, title, claim and advantages of and in, said orange, together with all its rind, juice, pulp, and seeds, and all rights and advantages with full power to bite, cut, freeze and otherwise eat, the same, or give the same away with and without the pulp, juice, rind and seeds, anything herein before or hereinafter or in any deed, or deeds, instruments of whatever nature or kind whatsoever to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding...'"

Be  
LAWgical

# VIDHIGYA TOPPERS' TALK WITH CLAT TOPPER



**Siddhant Baheti** hailing from Indore city from Madhya Pradesh has achieved this feat and made it large. He has secured admission to **National Law School of India University - (NLSIU) Bengaluru**, also known as 'Harvard of East'.

Know the success secrets, habits and the prep strategy he adopted that fetched him this success in CLAT 2020.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** Hi Siddhant, Many Congratulations on achieving this feat. Tell us something about yourself.

**Siddhant:** I am Siddhant Baheti from Indore. I did my schooling from The Emerald Heights International School, Indore and had the Humanities stream in my +2. I have aced CLAT along with 98.2 % in class XII. I studied at Vidhigya and was part of the year long Target batch.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** There are different fields after 12th, what motivated you to make a career in law?

**Siddhant:** Law as a field is very diverse and it can impact every single aspect of our lives. Law as a field is very engaging. You learn about new fields and experience realities of life as well. My father is also a lawyer so I have a first-hand experience to understand rights, duties and the law. As of now, I want to understand and experience the

**10<sup>TH</sup>  
MP STATE  
RANK**

**CLAT 2020  
AIR 77**

**SIDDHANT BAHETI**  
NLSIU, Bangaluru  
Emerald Heights International  
School, Indore

intricacies of the law and then decide on the future. While litigation does remain an obvious choice, I do not intend to stay put without experiencing alternate career choices in law.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** During your CLAT preparation, did you ever think that you would end up being at NLSIU Bengaluru with AIR 77.

**Siddhant:** Obviously not. The process is important. Not the result. If you keep doing your work, the result would come by itself. And also, yearn to learn rather than to achieve. There is always proportionate justice done. Result is nothing but a reflection of the process (and some luck). So, focus on the process rather than the result.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** Tell us about your CLAT preparation?

**Siddhant:** CLAT 2020 was my first attempt at CLAT and luckily it worked. I started preparing in May 2019 and with a delayed CLAT, I had some 16 months of time preparing for it. During my entire preparation, I focused on giving mocks and analyzing them properly. Essentially the preparation was based on reading, understanding and analyzing. I read three newspapers- The Hindu, The Indian Express and The Times of India. With a delayed CLAT, I had time to keep revising the various editorials in those papers.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** How did you prepare for the FIVE sections of the paper? Can you elaborate on your preparation strategy for each section?

**Siddhant:** A proper strategy how to go about the paper is helpful. Understanding the pattern of the exam is very important. I always began with GK and would finish it in maximum 5 minutes. I would do QT next and keep 15 minutes for it. Since legal reasoning is the most important section of the paper, I allotted 40 minutes for that section. This left me with an hour for English and Logical Reasoning. While individual sections are important, you need to keep in mind that you need to solve the paper as a whole and not just that section. That is why time management is very important (with all emphasis). Also, keeping a buffer time of 5-8 minutes is very helpful since you can revisit the doubtful questions again while make a try at the particularly complex ones.

Also, the number of attempts to be made is to be kept in mind. That depends on the difficulty of the question paper. I generally attempted in the range of 140-145 questions. After the mock, analyze each question. This would help in covering all topics while at the same time, revising things as well.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** Since the

CLAT pattern has witnessed a paradigm shift in CLAT 2020 specially in Legal reasoning and Logical reasoning section, how did you manage these subjects?

**Siddhant:** CLAT 2020 marked a shift towards a reading intensive paper. That meant it would be reading passages and understanding them simultaneously. Legal reasoning was mostly based on newspaper articles and since you do read newspapers, you can understand the passage quicker. If you are reading newspapers like TH and IE, you would be aware of the current legal happenings and this was what I did. Initially, logical reasoning was tough to understand but with practice and solving more mocks, I got the broader idea of solving it.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** COVID pandemic was a very big disruption as perceived by many, how did you manage your study during the lockdown?

**Siddhant:** Of course, the pandemic did affect my mental health. Since admissions are very important, there was also a general sense of disarray as well. But one thing I always used to tell myself was I should focus on things I can control and not worry about other things. There exists a pandemic but I can do nothing to stop it. So I tried to channelize my energy towards studies while at the same brooding about life

and law. Mentors at Vidhigya were a constant support in this endeavour. They helped me to focus and also helped to set routines and a daily pattern to study.

One thing I would like to share is please limit using social media. Not just to manage time better but to also stay away from what is happening to the outer world. Our purpose is to give CLAT and not to know what X thinks about Y. While it is good to have opinions, you must realise those opinions won't help you in the exam. At one point, I had a screen time of 7 hours just for Instagram. So I deleted my account so as to cut off. So understand your priorities and everything else would fall into place by itself.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** What was your study routine and best practices for CLAT?

**Siddhant:** During the early phases of my preparation, I used to study at night. I would stay awake the whole night and then sleep at 8 in the morning. While I could study, I was also lethargic and felt some stress. Then I changed my routine and started waking up at 3 in the morning. This was the best decision for my preparation since I had an uninterrupted 3 hours in the morning and could also read newspapers early in

the morning. Waking up early helped me channelize my energies better. It helped me to understand and learn things better since my mind was fresh. While you can also learn while studying at night, it is more cumbersome since you are putting stress to a tired mind. Waking up early helped me to streamline my entire day and I could plan things better. Emphasis should not be on the number of hours one studies but upon the quality of study. For a break, I would refresh my mind and body by playing cricket. Routines for everyone are different and at the end of the day, it all boils down to the individual how one prioritizes studies.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** Did you take mock tests; how many did you take? Are they useful?

**Siddhant:** As far as I remember, we had some 101 mocks. I took every mock and used them to understand my approach towards the paper. A mock is very important since it helps in simulating the actual exam. Before every mock, I would follow a process of switching of my mobile one hour before the exam and then just think about approaching the paper. Mocks at Vidhigya were intensive and are very near to the actual exam. Even if it is not possible to give a mock, going through the mock is helpful to have a glance at the GK section. Also,

understand what your mentors tell you. I simply followed the advice given to me by my mentors and it worked wonders for me. So do listen to them. It would seem challenging in the initial bit but it all pays off in the end.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** There are certain times when you don't score good in your Mock Tests and you feel low about it. Did it happen to you? If yes, how did you cope with such feelings?

**Siddhant:** Generally, my scores in the mocks used to be in the range of 70 to 80 for the majority of the time. It was during the lockdown only that the score went above 100. Scoring in mocks is important but again it is a relative factor. Don't rely on mock scores a lot. I had mocks where I had a score of 130 and my rank would be 15 and then there were mocks where the score would be 78 and my rank was 1. So, for me scoring was not very important. It was more about the percentile rank and how I did in comparison to others. Obviously, a low score is a disappointment but you need to see whether you gave the mock in the right state of mind. Since it is a reading intensive paper, it is natural to feel lost after some time. So have a complete analysis of the mock from this state of mind. At the end, mocks are just an indicator of your preparation. Don't have a lot of fluctuations in the scores.

Try to be consistent and the with the right state of mind, the score would improve on its own.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** Though you are not at the campus for physical classes but your online classes have started. How does it feel to be at the best law school of this country?

**Siddhant:** It all looks good being at the top law school from the outside but honestly it is very rigorous and intensive. The professors here are good. But it is about the student community that it so good about NLS. Every student brings a unique perspective which can be learned and worth inculcating in our lives. The quality of discussions that we have, I haven't seen them before. I haven't interacted a lot with people here since it is online. But whenever I talk to someone here, they are all helpful and share different perspectives. With NLS, it is easy to establish very good connections since its alumni base is very good and diverse. This is very important if someone wants to go in the field of litigation. Also, there are 22 student run clubs related to various activities and you get to do a lot of things. It is good being here. I interact with people who have come from varied

backgrounds and regions of the country. This is the best thing being at NLS since I learn so much from everyone every day. You understand the realities of life and intellectually grow as a person. This is something worth striving for.

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** Your message for the other CLAT Aspirants preparing for upcoming CLAT exams?

**Siddhant:** Just one thing. Believe in yourself and focus. Don't worry about other things while studying. Since you have time by your side, I would say try to read as much as you can. Reading relevant things. Not Harry Potter. It can be strenuous if the exam gets delayed like last year. But take one day at a time. Each day adds to the learning process. Focus on yourself. Believe in your abilities. Do not worry about results. Worry whether you can learn or not. Honestly, you should be curious to know things yourself. With curiosity, the learning process begins. Give more mocks with the right state of mind. And then see how the magic unveils within yourself. All the best!

**Vidhigya Correspondent:** Wish you success in all your academic and professional pursuits. Stay Blessed and Stay LAWgical !!!

# CLAT

# 1<sup>ST</sup>

## STATE RANK MP & CG AIR 14

**Aman Patidar**  
St. Paul H.S. School, Indore  
NLSIU, Bengaluru



I am thankful to my mentors at Vidhigya for filling me with confidence and capability. I will be indebted forever to them. To all the champions out there have faith and patience, keep working for your ultimate goal. As Bahul Sir says "Only Work Works".

*Aman.*

### — VIDHIGYANS MAKING IT LARGE @ NLSIU, BENGALURU —



**Tanay Kaushal**  
IBP Global Academy  
Ujjain



**Jerrin Mathew**  
St. Arnold's HS. School  
Indore



**Siddhant Baheti**  
The Emerald Heights  
International School,  
Indore



**Nayan Anand**  
Brilliant Academy,  
Indore



**Akshat Baldawa**  
Subhash H.S. School,  
Indore



**Ashi Gautam**  
St. Raphael's H.S. School  
Indore

### — VIDHIGYANS MAKING IT LARGE @ NLU, DELHI —



# 1

**CITY RANK  
AILET  
Sanika Gadgil  
NLU Delhi**  
St. Raphael's HS. School  
Indore



**Chelsea Sawlani**  
Choithram School  
Indore



**Vaidehi Pendum**  
Delhi Public School  
Indore



**Lavesh Verma**  
St. Paul HS School  
Indore



**Amit Malviya**  
MG Convent HS School  
Sajapur



**Akshat Baldawa**  
Subhash HS School  
Indore



**Jerrin Mathew**  
St. Arnold's HS School  
Indore



**Tanay Kaushal**  
IBP Global Academy  
Ujjain

### VIDHIGYANS MAKING IT LARGE @ — NALSAR, HYDERABAD —



**Tanu Rajangaokar**  
The Shishukunj School  
Indore



**Minal Nihore**  
St. Raphael's School  
Indore



**Krupashankar Damade**  
St. Mary's School  
Harda



**Hemant Chouhan**  
JNV  
Ujjain



**Vaidehi Pendum**  
Delhi Public School  
Indore

### VIDHIGYANS MAKING IT LARGE @ — WBNUJS, KOLKATA —



**Mantasha Khaishagi**  
Shri Kanwartara School  
Mandleshwar



**Srishti Solanki**  
Gyansagar Academy  
Ujjain



**SYMBIOSIS**  
**STATE RANK-1**  
**Siddharth  
Sisodiya**  
Choithram School,  
Indore



**MHCET**  
**CITY RANK-1**  
**Shambhavi  
Shani**  
St. Raphael's School,  
Indore



**NMIMS MUMBAI**  
**AIR-2**  
**Parv  
Pancholi**  
St. Paul School,  
Indore

### HIGHEST NLU SELECTIONS from INDORE CLASSROOM

Programme year on year

**2018** | **2019** | **2020**  
**55** | **73** | **69**

EVERY 8<sup>TH</sup> STUDENT OF  
NLIU, Bhopal 2019 is a Vidhigyan

EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> VIDHIGYAN (YLP)  
made it to NLUs in CLAT 2019

197 NLU SELECTIONS IN  
CLAT 2018, 2019 & 2020  
(Highest ever in the history of Indore)

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# IMPORTANT DAYS

**1<sup>st</sup> March**

## Zero Discrimination Day

Zero Discrimination Day is annually observed across the globe on 1<sup>st</sup> March to highlight the need to take actions to end the inequalities based on income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity race, class, ethnicity, and religion. The Zero Discrimination Campaign was launched by the UNAIDS – United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency



Virus (HIV)/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013, World AIDS Day. The UN has organised various campaigns and activities across the globe to mark Zero Discrimination Day.

The symbol of Zero Discrimination Day is the butterfly, widely used by people to share their stories and photographs as a way to end discrimination and work towards positive change.

**1<sup>st</sup> March**

## World Defense Day

World Defense Day is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The day is observed to raise awareness of public protection from natural and technogenic disasters and rescue service work. World Civil Defense Day was instituted by the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) General Assembly in 1990. It commemorates the day when the ICDO Constitution came into force as an intergovernmental organization in 1972. International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) was created in 1931 by French Surgeon-General George Saint-Paul in Paris, France. The organization was recognized by the French Parliament in June 1935. Today 50 countries are members of ICDO.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March**

## World Wildlife Day

**Theme 2021 - "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet"**

World Wildlife Day is annually observed across the globe on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to celebrate the wild fauna and flora across the globe and to create awareness about



the conservation of wildlife. The objective of the day is to promote forest and forest wildlife management practices that accommodate both human well-being and the long-term conservation

of forests and to promote the value of traditional practices that contribute to establishing a more sustainable relationship with these crucial natural systems.

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> March

#### World Hearing Day

**Theme 2021 - "Hearing care for ALL! Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate"**

World Hearing Day is annually observed across the globe on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and to promote hearing care across the globe. The day aims to promote public health actions for ear and hearing care. Unaddressed hearing loss is the leading cause of morbidity and poses an annual cost of \$750 billion globally. Around 466 million people live with disabling hearing loss, the majority of them reside in low and middle-income countries and lack access to the required services and interventions.

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### 4<sup>th</sup> March

#### National Safety Day

**Theme 2021 - "Learn from Disaster and Prepare for a Safer Future"**

National Safety Day is annually observed across India on 4<sup>th</sup> March to create awareness about the safety and hygienic measures which should be inculcated in the lifestyle of the general people. The 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> National Safety Day. The National Safety Day is a national campaign celebrated by various departments, industries, Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs), and regulatory agencies of India. The National Safety Day which was started as a one-day campaign on 4th March is observed as the National Safety Week from 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

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### 4<sup>th</sup> March

#### National Security Day

The National Security Day which is also known as the Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas is annually observed across India on 4<sup>th</sup> March to acknowledge and appreciate the works of the security forces of the country. The day is celebrated to showcase the gratitude to all the security forces like, Police force, para military force, commandos, guards, army, and other security personnel who put their life on the line for the safety and security of others. The day is marked to remember the sacrifices of the security personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

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### 6<sup>th</sup> March

#### National Dentist's Day

National Dentist Day is celebrated to thank the dentist, who helps us to keep our teeth healthy. This day is celebrated annually every 6th of March in India and the USA. Dentist day is marked to honour dentists all over the world for their role in keeping us healthy and for giving us a healthy and beautiful smile. It is said that presumably 6th March is chosen because in 1790, on this day an

American dentist John Greenwood served as a personal dentist of George Washington's who had invented the first known dental foot engine. A French surgeon, namely Pierre Fauchard in 1723 was credited as the Father of Modern Dentistry. He had published his influential book, *The Surgeon Dentist, a Treatise on Teeth*. In the book, he explained a comprehensive system for caring for and treating teeth. Colgate in 1873 produced the first toothpaste, and mass-produced toothbrushes followed a few years later.

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## 7<sup>th</sup> March

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Janaushadhi Diwas

#### Theme 2021 - "Seva bhi – Rozgar bhi"

The Janaushadhi Diwas also known as Generic Medicine Day, is annually observed across India on 7<sup>th</sup> March, the last day of the Janaushadhi Diwas Week (1<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> March). The day aims to disseminate the endeavors of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), an initiative by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, to provide quality medicine at an affordable price. The first week of March (1<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> March) is annually observed as the Janaushadhi Week and the last day of the week 7<sup>th</sup> March is celebrated as 'Janaushadhi Diwas'.

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## 8<sup>th</sup> March

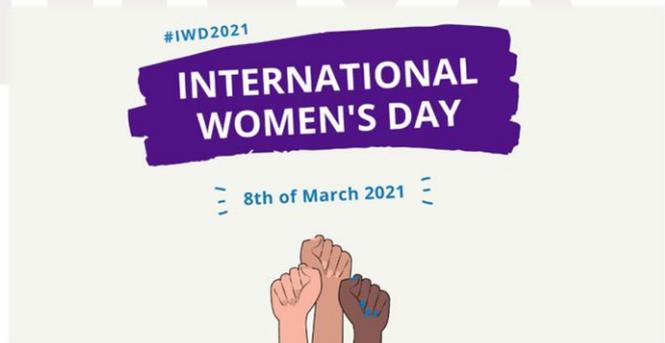
### International Women's Day

#### Theme 2021 - "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"

International Women's Day is annually observed across the globe on 8<sup>th</sup> March to recognise the achievements of women regardless of their nation, ethnicity, language, culture, economic or political. The International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 celebrates the efforts of women and girls across the globe towards shaping an equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme of International Women's Day 2021 is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world". The theme of IWD 2021 is in line with the theme of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women "Women in public life, equal participation in decision making". The theme of the International Women's Day Campaign is "#ChoosetoChallenge".

*International Women's Day* is observed every year on 8<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate the women's movement and struggle for equality. Since 1977, the *United Nations Women* is organizing International Women's Day (IWD) all over the world to recognize women for their efforts in changing the individual lives as well as of nations. The first National Woman's Day was observed in the US on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1909. The day celebrates women's achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political.

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**11<sup>th</sup> March****World Kidney Day****Theme 2021 - "Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere – Living Well with Kidney Disease"**

World Kidney Day is annually observed across the globe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of March to create awareness about the functions of Kidney and to educate the importance of kidney health and reduce the impacts of kidney diseases. The World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF). Globally around 195 million women are affected by kidney diseases. The Government of India rolled out the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme in 2016 as a part of the National Health Mission (NHM) to provide free dialysis service to poor people. The scheme was launched with the support of the public-private partnership (PPP) at the district hospitals.

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**14<sup>th</sup> March****International Day of Mathematics****Theme 2021 - "Mathematics for a Better World"**

International Day of Mathematics is annually observed across the globe on 14<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate the beauty and importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life. The day also marks the birth anniversary of renowned mathematician and physicist Albert Einstein and the death anniversary of theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking.

The Pi Day was observed on 14<sup>th</sup> March since the date written in MM/DD Format – 3/14 represents the value of Pi – 3.14. Prior to the recognition of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2019, The International Day of Mathematics was observed as Pi Day. The first pi day was observed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1988 which was organised by Physicist Larry Shaw. The first International Day of Mathematics was observed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

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**15<sup>th</sup> March****World Consumer Rights Day****Theme 2021 - "Tackling Plastic Pollution"**

World Consumer Rights Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 15<sup>th</sup> March to highlight the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe, and sustainable marketplace for everyone. The world Consumer Rights day is coordinated by Consumers International, the membership organisation for consumer groups across the globe. The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2021 is "Tackling Plastic Pollution". The campaign under "tackling plastic pollution" will create awareness and encourage consumers across the globe to adopt and promote sustainable practices.

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**16<sup>th</sup> March****National Vaccination Day**

The National Vaccination Day, also known as National Immunisation Day, is annually observed across India on 16<sup>th</sup> March to create awareness about the importance of vaccination. The

government of India aims to raise awareness about the vaccination against poliovirus and other deadly viruses. The day was first observed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1995, the day on which the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme became operational. On 16<sup>th</sup> March 1995, the first dose of oral polio vaccine was administered in India. And the last polio case in India was reported on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

## 18<sup>th</sup> March

### Global Recycling Day

#### Theme 2021 - "Recycling Heroes"

Global Recycling Day is annually observed across the globe on 18<sup>th</sup> March to promote the importance of recycling across the globe.

The day calls for the world to work together to change the mindset of governments, businesses, communities, and individuals across the globe to consider recyclables as resources. The theme of 2021 recognises the people, places, and activities that showcased the importance of recycling towards an environmentally stable planet.



## 19<sup>th</sup> March

### 14<sup>th</sup> World Sleep Day

#### Theme 2021 - "Regular Sleep, Healthy Future"

The World Sleep Day is annually observed on the Friday before the Spring Vernal Equinox. The day is aimed to celebrate sleep and create awareness about the importance of sleep and issues related to sleep, including the medicine, education, and social aspects. The world Sleep day is annually organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society. World Sleep Day was initiated by a group of healthcare providers and members of the medical community who were working and studying in the area of sleep medicine and research.

## 20<sup>th</sup> March

### International Day of Happiness

#### Theme 2021 - "Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind"

International Day of Happiness, annually observed across the globe on 20<sup>th</sup> March, is dedicated to the importance of happiness in people's life. The theme aims to unite humans to enhance and advance the happiness of individuals, organisations and communities, and nations in harmony with nature. The world happiness fest annually organizes the 6-day Happiness Celebrations from 18<sup>th</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> March as World Happiness Week.



## 20<sup>th</sup> March

### World Sparrow Day

World Sparrow Day is observed on 20<sup>th</sup> March every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of sparrows in the ecosystem. It also

conveys the message of conservation of sparrows that are disappearing faster than other common birds. The World Sparrow Day was initiated by the founder of The Nature Forever Society, Mohammed Dilawar. The first World Sparrow Day was observed in the year 2010. In 2011, the World Sparrow Awards were instituted. The award recognizes the individuals who have made the most significant contributions toward conserving the environment and protecting common species.

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## **20<sup>th</sup> March**

### **World French Language Day**

French Language Day is observed on 20th March annually. The observation of French language day was established by UNESCO in 2010. The United Nations named six language days in recognition of the six official languages of the UN in 2010. It aimed to bring attention to the history, culture, and achievements of each of the languages. The UN selected 20 March to celebrate the French Language Day in honour of the 40th anniversary of the International Organization of La Francophonie.

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## **21<sup>st</sup> March**

### **World Down Syndrome Day**

**Theme 2021: We CONNECT so that we can**

World Down Syndrome Day was observed on 21<sup>st</sup> March every year. The observation of the day aims to raise public awareness and understanding of Down syndrome. The day aims to showcase the abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome. It is a congenital disorder that is caused by an extra 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome. UN reported that Down Syndrome affects about 1 in 800 births worldwide. It causes intellectual disability and associated medical issues. Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition. In November 2011, the UN decided to officially observe the event from 2012 onwards, inviting governments and businesses to take part in World Down Syndrome Day.

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## **21<sup>st</sup> March**

### **International Day of Nowruz**

International Day of Nowruz is celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> March. It is Iranian or Persian New Year which is celebrated worldwide. The UN general assembly recognized 21<sup>st</sup> March as International Day of Nowruz in 2010. Nowruz is the day of the vernal equinox and marks the beginning of spring in the Northern hemisphere, and it marks the first day of the first month (Farvardin) of the Iranian and Afghanistan calendars. The Nowruz festival has also rooted in Zoroastrianism, a monotheistic religion that originated in ancient Iran.

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**21<sup>st</sup> March****International Day of Forests****Theme 2021 - "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being"**

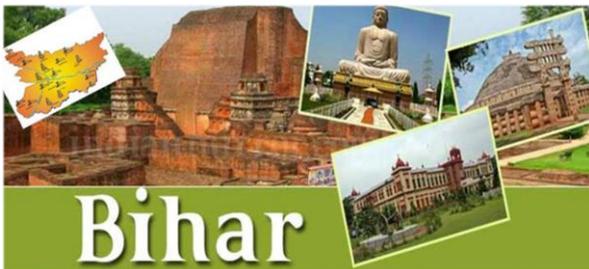
The United Nations International Day of Forests is annually observed across the globe on 21<sup>st</sup> March to create awareness about the importance of all types of forests. The day is annually organised by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and other organizations in the field. The forest cover of India has increased and currently it around 24.56% of the total geographical area of India.

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**21<sup>st</sup> March****World Poetry Day**

World Poetry Day was observed on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The World Poetry Day aims to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard within their communities. The observation of World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999. The days aim to honour poets, writing, and teaching of poetry, revive oral traditions of poetry recitals, promote the reading, foster the convergence between poetry and other arts such as theatre, dance, music, and painting, and raise the visibility of poetry in the media.

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**22<sup>nd</sup> March****Bihar Day**

Bihar celebrated its 109<sup>th</sup> foundation day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. The theme for the event of the year 2021 was 'Jal Jivan Haryali'. The state was carved out from the Bengal presidency on this day in 1912. The Day is a public holiday in Bihar. Due to the pandemic situation, the Bihar government has decided to celebrate the event on a small scale.

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**22<sup>nd</sup> March****World Water Day****Theme 2021 - "Valuing water"**

World Water Day is observed every year on 22<sup>nd</sup> March all over the world. It focuses attention on the importance of water and how to preserve it. As we know that water is essential for life, without water, we can't survive. Up to 60% of the human adult body is water. All plants and animals need water to survive. If there were no water,



there would be no life on earth. The observation of the day was initiated in the year 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. United Nations

General Assembly passed a resolution to observe 22nd March of each year as the World Day for Water. The day was first observed on 22nd March 1993. The day focuses on the importance of freshwater. World Water Day aims to take action to tackle the global water crisis. The day focuses on supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG-6): water and sanitation for all by 2030.

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### **23<sup>rd</sup> March**

#### **World Meteorological Day**

**Theme 2021 - "The Ocean, our climate and weather"**

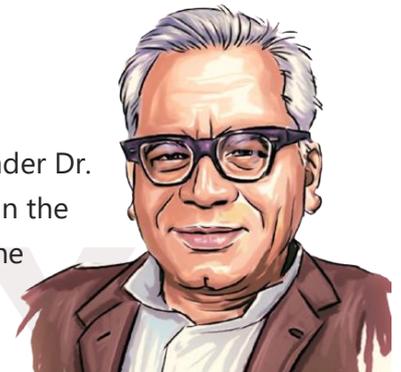
The United Nations World Meteorological Day is annually observed across the world on 23rd March to create awareness about the importance of the role of people and their behaviour in protecting the Earth's atmosphere. The day marks the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization, an intergovernmental body on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1950.

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### **23<sup>rd</sup> March**

#### **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia's birth anniversary**

23<sup>rd</sup> March marks the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and socialist leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1910. He was an activist in the Indian independence movement and a socialist political leader. During the last phase of British rule in India, he worked with Congress Radio which was broadcast secretly from various places in Bombay until 1942.



### **23<sup>rd</sup> March**

#### **Shaheed Diwas or Martyr's Day**



The government of India annually observes the 23<sup>rd</sup> March as Shaheed Diwas or Martyr's day to honour the 3 young freedom fighters- Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru. The 90<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of the 3 youngsters was observed on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Lala Lajpat Rai was assassinated during the lathi charge. As an act of revenge for his death, 3 youngsters,

Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, Shivaram Rajguru along with support from Chandrasekar Azad threw bombs over the Central Legislative Assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1929. Charged with a Murder crime, the British government hanged the 3 freedom fighters on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. During their hanging, Bhagat Singh made the historic slogans "Inquilab Zindabad", which later became the slogan of India's armed struggle.

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**24<sup>th</sup> March****World Tuberculosis Day****Theme 2021 - 'The Clock is ticking'**

World Tuberculosis Day is observed annually on 24<sup>th</sup> March. It is observed to raise awareness about the global epidemic of Tuberculosis (TB). It is one of the 11 official Global Public Health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization. According to WHO, TB remains one of the World's deadliest infectious killers. Each day, around 4000 people die due to TB & close to 28,000 people get affected due to TB. The three countries with the largest share of global burden were India (27%), China (14%) & Russia (8%). The date, 24<sup>th</sup> March, marks the day when Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of the bacterium that causes TB in 1882. The discovery opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.

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**26<sup>th</sup> March****Bangladesh Independence Day**

Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of its independence on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. It was 50 years ago on the night of March 25, 1971, that Pakistan's military launched a violent crackdown on the city of Dhaka, then part of East Pakistan. On 26 March 1971, Bangladesh was proclaimed as an independent nation by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, this led to the Bangladesh Liberation War when a guerilla war ensued between Pakistan and Bangladesh liberation forces with Indian support.

Indian forces helped by giving arms and training to the soldiers of the Mukti Bahini. India entered into combat officially on 3 December 1971 when Pakistan attacked Indian Air Force Bases.

Pakistan was unable to defend Dhaka once India entered into the war. On 16<sup>th</sup> December 1971, Pakistan surrendered. India won the war and Bangladesh became a free country.

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**27<sup>th</sup> March****Earth Hour****Theme 2021 - "Climate Change to Save Earth"**

Earth Hour is annually observed across the globe on the last Saturday of March as a symbolic gesture towards the commitment to preserve the Earth and to support actions against Climate Change. Earth Hour is one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Every year, On Earth Hour, millions of people across the globe switch off their non-essential electric lights for an hour between 8.30 PM and 9.30 PM. The Earth Hour was started by the World Wide Fund of Nature, formerly World Wildlife Fund, and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007.

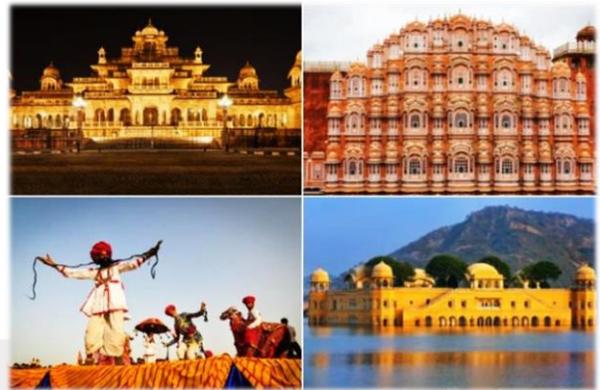
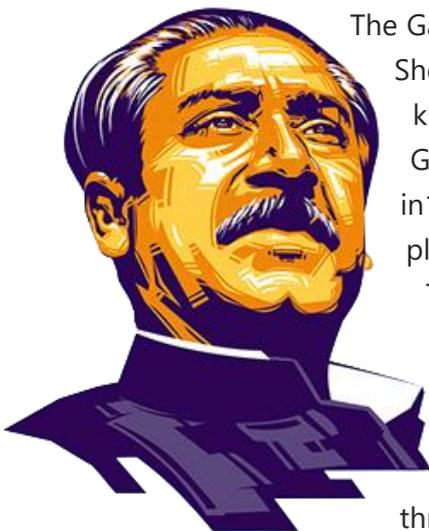


**27<sup>th</sup> March****World Theatre Day**

World Theatre Day is observed annually on the 27<sup>th</sup> March by the international theatre community. The objective of World theatre day is to enable theatre communities to promote their work on a broad scale to make people aware of the value and importance of this art in its forms and support it. World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI). The day has been celebrated since 1962. ITI was established in 1948. It was initiated by the first UNESCO Director-General, Sir Julian Huxley, and the playwright and novelist JB Priestly. ITI aims to build and promote culture, education, and the arts, and focus its endeavours on improving the status of all members of the performing arts professions. ITI has more than 90 Centres across the world.

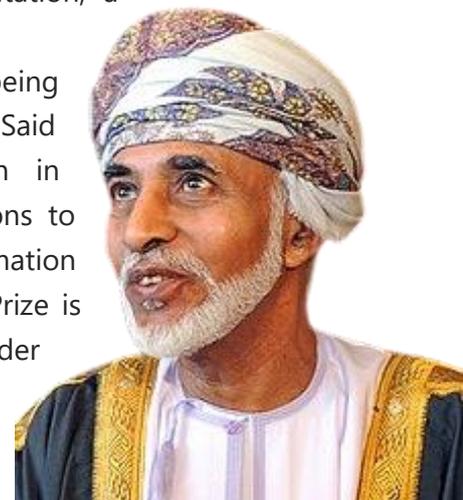
**30<sup>th</sup> March****Rajasthan Day**

Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on 30<sup>th</sup> March to commemorate the day on which the state came into existence. Rajasthan earlier known as Rajputana came into existence on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1949. The state mostly comprises lands of Rajputs including the erstwhile nineteen princely states. It is the largest state of India in terms of the area and also shares borders with Pakistan's Punjab province.

**AWARDS AND HONOURS****Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman****Gandhi Peace Prize 2020**

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 will be conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was the first President of Bangladesh. He is known as the "Father of the Nation" or simply "Mujib" in Bangladesh. Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government in 1995 and carries an amount of ₹1 cr, a citation, a plaque, and exquisite traditional handicraft.

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman. The award has been given in recognition of his outstanding contributions to social, economic, and political transformation through Gandhian methods. The Jury for the Prize is chaired by PM Modi and comprises of two ex-officio members and the Leader of Opposition Party in Lok Sabha.



**ICAR****King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award**

Ambassador of India to Thailand Suchitra Durai received the prestigious King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award of the Food and Agriculture Organization on the behalf of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This award is recognition of ICAR's excellent contributions in "Soil Health Awareness" on the theme "Stop soil erosion, save our future" during the year-2020.

**Anne Lacaton****Pritzker Prize 2021**

French architects Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal have won the 2021 Pritzker Prize for architecture, considered to be the profession's highest honour. The two are known to create sustainable buildings by using pre-existing structures in their work. Lacaton and Vassal's most recent work is the transformation of the Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France 2012).

**Vijaya Gadde, Rishi Sunak, Apoorva Mehta, Shikha Gupta, Rohan Pavuluri****TIME Magazine's Annual List of 100**

5 Indian-origin personalities & 1 Indian Activist have been featured in the 2021 TIME100 Next (TIME Magazine's 100 emerging leaders list). The 5 Indian origin personalities are Vijaya Gadde (Chief Legal Officer of Twitter), Rishi Sunak (Britain's Finance Minister), Apoorva Mehta (Founder & CEO of Instacart), Shikha Gupta (Executive Director of Nonprofit 'Get Us PPE') & Rohan Pavuluri (Founder of Nonprofit 'Upsolve'). Bhim Army Chief Chandra Shekhar Azad is the sole Indian activist who has been named in the list.

**Kiran Bedi****Baton of Honour**

President Ram Nath Kovind presented a baton of honour and a letter of appreciation to former Puducherry lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The Baton which is decorated with the emblem of the Indian Republic was given as a memento for recognizing Kiran Bedi's service in the Union Territory of Puducherry and to appreciate her constitutional duties discharging method. She was the first female IPS officer of India; she started her service in 1972. In 2004 she received the United Nations Medal United Nations for her outstanding service. She was the 24<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry (29 May 2016 – 16 February 2021).



**Sonu Gandhi****SERB award**

Dr. Sonu Gandhi has been awarded the prestigious SERB Women Excellence Award. He is a scientist at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad, and has recently developed a smart nanodevice for the detection of Rheumatoid arthritis, cardiovascular disease, etc. The award was instituted by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Dept of Science and Technology.

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**Tamilisai Soundararajan****Top 20 Global Women of Excellence Award – 2021**

Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan was conferred with the Top 20 Global Women of Excellence award – 2021 through a video conference from the USA. The award was presented by the USA on the recommendation of a Multi-Ethnic Advisory Task Force, headed by US Congressman Danny K. Davis. The award was conferred, based on her contribution towards women's rights, gender parity, women empowerment, and women equality. Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan after receiving the award made a call to the global arena for creating a Gender Equal world & promote women in decision-making at higher levels. Dr.



Tamilisai Soundararajan holds the portfolio of Governor of Telangana & Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

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**Koneru Humpy****BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year 2020**

Padma Shri Koneru Humpy, a 33-year-old chess player from Andhra Pradesh won the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year (BBC ISWOTY) 2020. The award was given based on the public vote in which Koneru Humpy won against sprinter Dutee Chand, airgun shooter Manu Bhaker, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, and hockey captain Rani Rampal. Koneru Humpy became the youngest female grandmaster in 2002 at the age of 15; the record was broken by Hou Yifan of China in 2008. She won the 2020 Cairns Cup, the elite-level tournament for female players.

**Sasmita Lenka****UN's 2020 Asia Environmental Enforcement Award**

Sasmita Lenka, Divisional Forest Officer, Athagarh Forest Division, Odisha received the United Nations's 2020 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards under the category Impact and Gender Leadership. She became the first Indian to receive the award. The 2020 theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards was "Fighting Transboundary Environmental Crimes". The award

recognises the excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions or teams combating transboundary environmental crime.

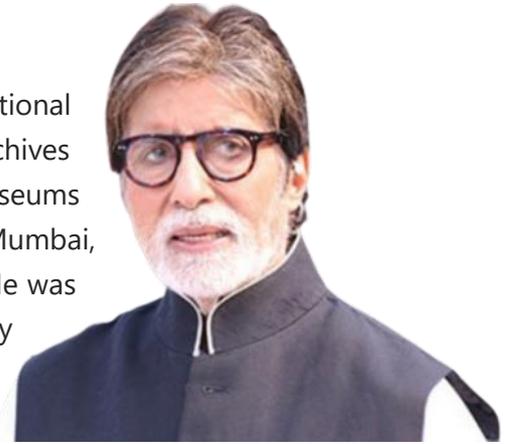
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### **Amitabh Bachchan**

#### **FIAF Award 2021**

Amitabh Bachchan received the FIAF Award 2021 from the International Federation of Film Archives (French: Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film, FIAF), an international organization of film archives and museums across the globe over a virtual award ceremony hosted from Mumbai, Maharashtra. Amitabh became the first Indian to receive this award. He was nominated by the FIAF Affiliate Film Heritage Foundation, founded by filmmaker and archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur in 2014 to preserve the endangered Film heritage of India.

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### **HDFC Bank**

#### **India's Best Bank for SMEs**

HDFC Bank has adjudged the 'India's Best Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021 of Asiamoney for the transformation of its Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) business. HDFC's advances to MSMEs as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, are about ₹2.02 trillion (\$28 billion) which is 38% higher than in 2019. It has a compound annual growth rate of 23% for the past six years, making it India's second-largest bank for MSME lending. It is awarded by Asiamoney to identify banks that have excelled across a range of core banking activities over the past 12 months in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan.

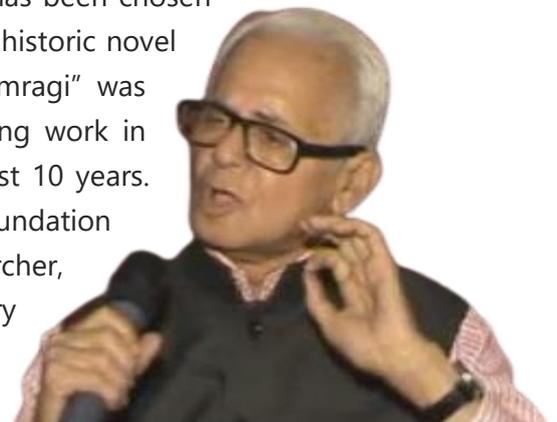
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### **Prof. Sharad Pagare**

#### **Vyas Samman 2020**

Hindi writer Professor Sharad Pagare from Madhya Pradesh has been chosen as the recipient of the prestigious Vyas Samman 2020 for his historic novel titled "Patliputru ki Samragi". The novel – "Patliputru ki Samragi" was printed in the year 2010. The award honours the outstanding work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the past 10 years. Vyas Samman is an annual award initiated by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991. Dr. Sharad Pagare is a distinguished scholar, researcher, and professor of historical past. He has received various literary honours like Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Akademi and Bharat Bhushan Samman.

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## **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)**

### **11<sup>th</sup> CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21**

On March 18, 2021, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power has been conferred with the 'Role Model' Award at the 11th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National HR Excellence Award 2020-21. NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award. The award was presented at the virtual conference "Learn from the Achievers". It is the highest level of recognition in the field of Human Resources by CII. This is the second time when the award of Role Model has been conferred to any organization.

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## **67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards**

The 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards for the year 2019 were announced on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

Malayalam movie Marakkar Arabikkadilinte Simham will be awarded the Best Feature Film Award. Kangana Ranaut will get the Best Actress award for her movies Manikarnika -The Queen of Jhansi and Panga. Manoj Bajpayee and Dhanush will be awarded the Best Actor award for the movie Bhonsle and Asuran respectively.



## **63<sup>rd</sup> Grammy Awards**

At the 63<sup>rd</sup> Grammy Awards, held in Los Angeles, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish won the top prizes. Taylor Swift was awarded 'album of the year' for her lockdown album 'Folklore', while Billie Eilish's "Everything I Wanted" won 'record of the year'. Swift is the first female artist ever to win an album of the year three times. She won the award previously in 2010 and 2016.



Beyonce became the most awarded female artist in Grammy history with her 28<sup>th</sup> win. She was honored for 'Savage' and 'Black Parade'. Beyoncé and her nine-year-old daughter Blue Ivy Carter won the best music video award for "Brown Skin Girl" making Carter one of the youngest Grammy winners in history. British singer Dua Lipa won best pop vocal album for "Future Nostalgia."

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## **Bangladesh Independence Award**

Bangladesh has announced the names of 9 individuals and 1 organization for conferring the Independence Award, the highest civilian award of Bangladesh for the year 2021. Four individuals have been selected posthumously for the award. The award is being given since 1977. The recipients of the award get a gold medal and a cash reward of Taka 5 lakh.

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## 78<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards

The 78<sup>th</sup> Golden Globes Awards ceremony was held on March 1, 2021.

- Nomadland won the Best Motion Picture (Drama).
- Andra Day won the Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture (Drama).
- Sacha Baron Cohen won the Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) category.
- Rosamund Pike won the Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy).
- Emma Corin has won the Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series (Drama) category.
- John Boyega won the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Television Series.
- Netflix's The Queen's Gambit is the Best Television Limited Series, Anthology Series, or Motion Picture Made for Television.
- Schitt's Creek won the Best Television Series (Musical or Comedy).

## Sahitya Akademi Awards

Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 20 languages. Seven books of poetry, four of the novel, Five short stories, two plays, and one each of memoirs and epic poetry in 20 Indian languages. The awards for Malayalam, Nepali, Odia, and Rajasthani will be announced later. Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India. It is a dream for all Indian writers to look forward to one of the prestigious literary awards. The political writer M Veerappa Moily, poet Arundhathi Subramaniam will be bestowed with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2020.



S.No	Language	Book Title	Author
1	Assamese	Bengsata (Short stories)	Apurba Kumar Saikia
2	Bengali	Eka Eka Ekashi (Memoirs)	Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay
3	Bodo	Gwthenay Lamayao Gwdan Agan (Short stories)	Dharanidhar Owari
4	Dogri	Baba Jitmal (Play)	Gian Singh
5	English	When God Is a Traveller (Poetry)	Arundhathi Subramaniam
6	Gujarati	Banaras Diary (Poetry)	Harish Meenakshru
7	Hindi	Tokeri Mein Digant ' Their Gatha" (Poetry)	Anamika
8	Kannada	Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam (Epic Poetry)	M. Veerappa Moily
9	Kashmiri	Tilasm-e-Khanabadosh (Short stories)	Hiday Koul Bharti
10	Konkani	Yugaparivarathanancho Yatri (Poetry)	RS Bhaskar
11	Maithili	Gachh Roosai Achhi (Short Stories)	Kamalkant Jha
12	Manipuri	Malangbana Kari Hai (Poetry)	Irungbam Deven
13	Marathi	Udya (Novel)	Nanda Khare
14	Punjabi	Aam Khass (Short stories)	Gurdev Singh Rupana

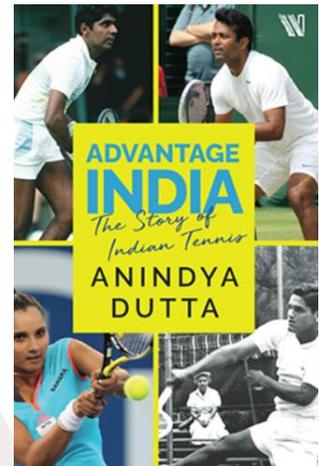
15	Sanskrit	Vaishali (Novel)	Mahesh Chandra Sharma Gautam
16	Santali	Gur Dak Kasa Dak(Poetry)	Rupchand Hansdah
17	Sindhi	Jehad (Plays)	Jetho Lalwani
18	Tamil	Sellaatha Panam (Novel)	Imaiyam
19	Telugu	Agniswaasa(2015-17) Poetry	Nikhileswar
20	Urdu	Amawas Mein Khwab (Novel)	Hussain-ul-Haque

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis

#### Anindya Dutta

Anindya Dutta, a banker turned author, penned a new book titled "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis", a chronicle of Indian Tennis. Advantage India is a well-researched account of the journey of Indian tennis, with a special section on the Doubles game and on women's tennis in India. The book provides the extensive history of Indian tennis on both men's and women's sides. The book is the result of the detailed research of Anindya Dutta on the data from the archives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and British newspapers from the past 200 years. Anindya Dutta's other books include, We are The Invincibles: The Incredible Story of Bradman's 1948 team (2019), Wizards: The Story of Indian Spin Bowling (2019), The Greatest Year: The 1971 Tours of West Indies and England (2020).

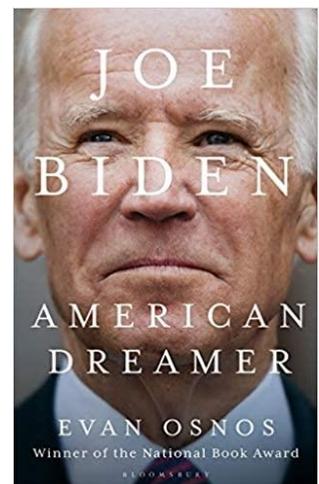


### Joe Biden: American Dreamer

#### Evan Osnos

National Book Award Winner Evan Osnos has authored a new Book "Joe Biden: American Dreamer" a biography of American President, Joe Biden that features both the personal and public life of Joe Biden. The author portrays President Joseph R. Biden Jr. as a man who has sustained a 50-year political career and became the President and a man who is marked with deep personal losses. The book captures the characters and features of the presidential election.

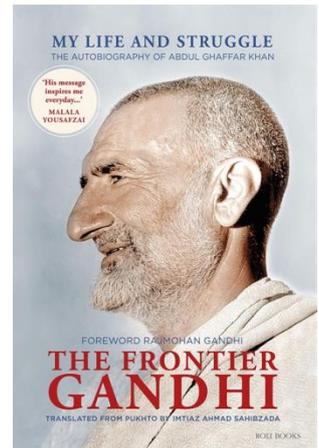
Evan Osnos book "Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China," based on his 8-year life in Beijing won the 2014 National Book Award. The book was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He has also authored the book "Joe Biden: The Life, the Run, and What Matters Now." published in 2020.



**The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle**

**Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan’s**

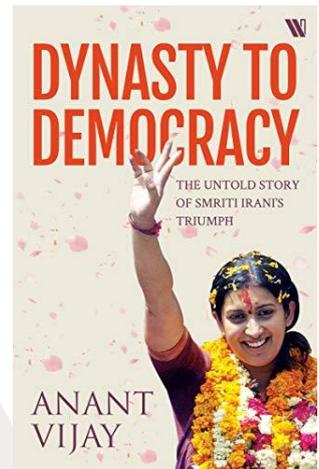
The autobiography of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as the “Frontier Gandhi” & fondly known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan, titled “The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle” is set to be published in English by the publishing house Roli Books. This will be his first autobiography in English. The foreword of the book is written by historian Rajmohan Gandhi, Grandson of Gandhi, and the book was originally written in Pashto and published in 1983.



**Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph**

**Anant Vijay**

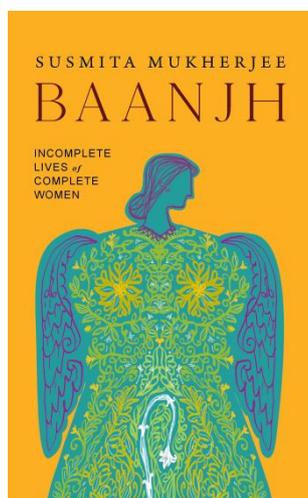
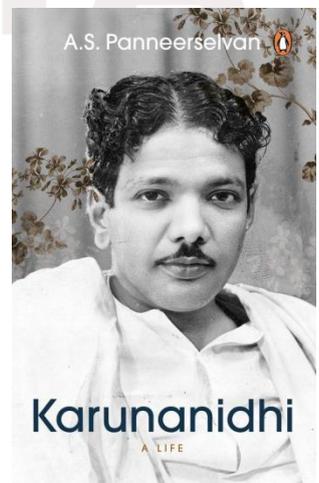
Westland Publication Ltd announced the release of the English translation of Anant Vijay’s book named ‘Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph’. The Book is a translation of a Hindi book titled ‘Amethi Sangram: Aitihāsik Jeet Ankahi Dastan’, which was published in December 2020. The English translation is also done by Anant Vijay. The book is about an attempt to understand the reasons behind Irani’s success in Amethi, and her political methods. The book traces her journey from her defeat in 2014 to her victory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.



**Karunanidhi: A Life**

**AS Panneerselvan**

Readers’ editor at The Hindu, AS Panneerselvan authored a new book titled “Karunanidhi: A Life”, a book about the 8-decade political career of Muthuvel Karunanidhi. The foreword of the book was written by N. Ram, former editor in chief of The Hindu. The book is about Karunanidhi, the writer turned politician who served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for 5 terms and the leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) for over five decades. The book features his controversial political career as the regional leader and his contribution to Tamil history, literature, and culture.



**Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women**

**Susmita Mukherjee**

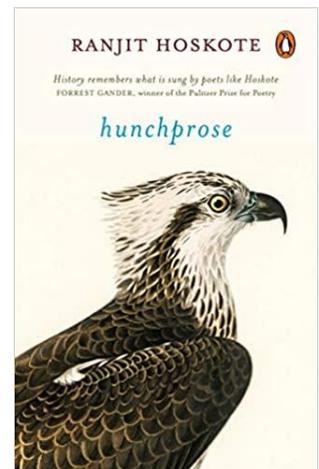
Actor, Screenwriter, and Playwright Susmita Mukherjee have authored her 2<sup>nd</sup> book titled “Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women”. The book is a collection of 11 short stories that portray the lives of women from various social backgrounds. The book features the world of the women

who are living in the excluded society to the women living in higher levels of society.

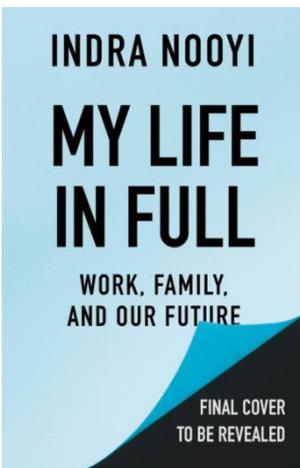
## Hunchprose

### Ranjit Hoskote

The Indian poet, art critic, cultural theorist, and independent curator Ranjit Hoskote released his recent 8<sup>th</sup> poetry collection titled 'Hunchprose' in English. The poems are about the turbulent times we live in and celebrate every aspect of humanity and being human. Ranjit Hoskote was honoured with Sahitya Akademi Award for lifetime achievement in 2004. He has received the Sahitya Akademi Golden Jubilee Award, the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award, and the SH Raza Literature Award under the title



'Everyone Agrees: It's About to Explode'.



## My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future

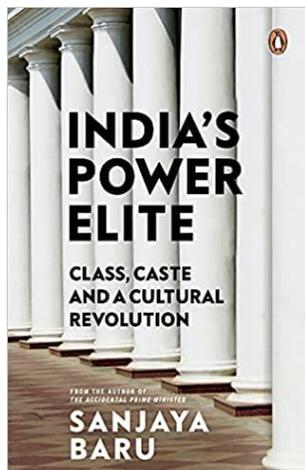
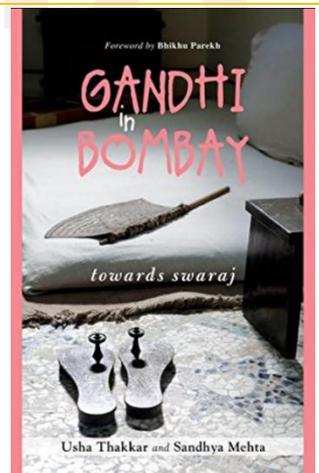
### Indra Nooyi

Padma Bhushan awardee Indra Nooyi, the former CEO of PepsiCo is set to publish her memoir titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family, and Our Future". The book features the life of Indra Nooyi from her childhood in India to her life at Yale University as an immigrant to her life as a person of color in the elite corporate world. The book also features her work-life balance between being a mother of 2 and working at PepsiCo.

## Gandhi in Bombay

### Usha Thakkar and Sandhya Mehta

The book "Gandhi in Bombay" was released in 2017. Recently, The India tourism Mumbai, Regional Office of Ministry of Tourism in the Western Region organized an online book reading session of "Gandhi in Bombay" by the authors Dr. Usha Thakkar and Sandhya Mehta as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India @ 75) is a series of events to be organised by the Government of India to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence.



## India's Power Elite: Caste, Class, and Cultural Revolution

### Sanjaya Baru

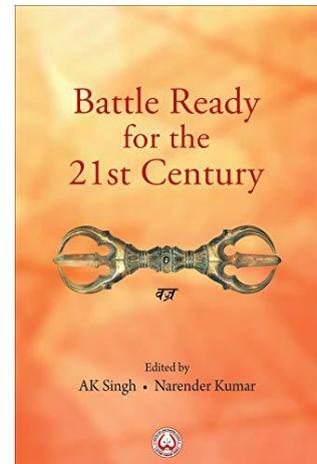
Sanjaya Baru's book named "India's Power Elite: Caste, Class, and Cultural Revolution" to be released in April by Penguin Random House India. The book talks about the inside story of India's power elite. Through this book, the author unveils the emerging dynamics of political, economic, and cultural power in contemporary India. It mainly analyzes the fault lines and

power struggles dominating our political, economic, and social institutions. Sanjaya Baru is a former media advisor to Manmohan Singh (May 2004 to August 2008) and currently teaches at the Indian School of Public Policy.

## Battle Ready for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### General Bipin Rawat

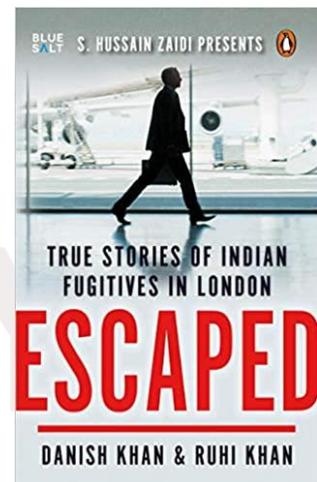
India's Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat along with Former Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Deepak released a book, "Battle Ready for 21<sup>st</sup> Century" at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). The book was co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh, Distinguished Fellow CLAWS & Brigadier Narender Kumar, a visiting Fellow CLAWS. The book methods to strategically manage border conflict in future in all possible fronts- Land, Air, water, cyber & cognitive domains to avoid war.



## Escaped: True Stories of Indian Fugitives in London

### Danish Khan & Ruhi Khan

The new book titled "Escaped: True Stories of Indian Fugitives in London" Authored by Danish Khan & Ruhi Khan was released on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. The book features 12 high-profile cases where the guilty party has escaped to England. The book investigates and explains the details of these cases using eyewitness accounts and archival records. The book features the cases of extradition over 70 years to solve the legal quagmire which caused the debate in the court of her majesty and consternation in the power corridors of New Delhi. The fugitives featured in the book are,

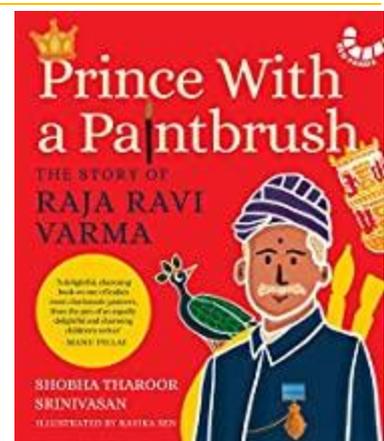


- Vijay Mallaya
- Nirav Modi
- Sanjeev Chawla aka Sanjay
- Iqbal Memon aka Mirchi
- Nadeem Saifi
- Hanif Patel aka Tiger Hanif
- Raymond Varley
- Arti Dhir and Kaval Rajjada
- Ravi Shankaran
- Narang Brothers
- Dharma Jayanti Teja
- Mubarak Ali Ahmed.

## Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma"

### Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan

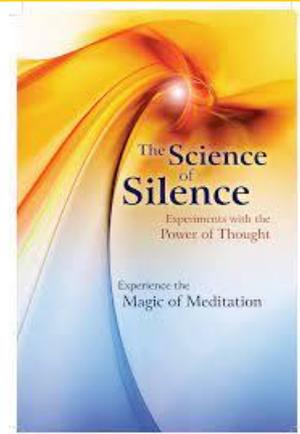
Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan has authored the book titled "Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma". Published under Westland's 'Red Panda' imprint, it aims to inspire young readers to learn about the famed artist and how he made his entry and mark in the art world. Srinivasan has earlier authored children's books like "Indi-Alphabet" and "How Many Lines in a Limerick?"



## My Experiments with Silence

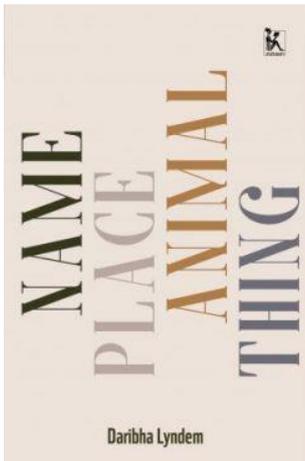
**Sameer Soni**

Samir Soni has authored the book titled "My Experiments with Silence". Soni's book aims to be a personal account of his dialogues with himself during his growing-up years in Delhi, his stint at Wall Street, and his time in Bollywood. The book will be published by OM Books International.



## Name Place Animal Things

**Daribha Lyndem**

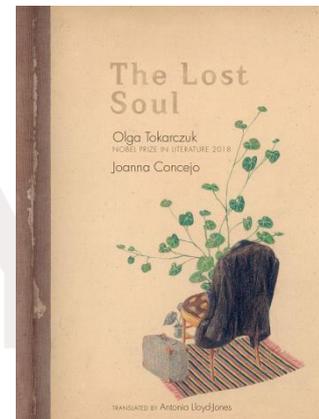


Daribha Lyndem has authored the book titled "Name Place Animal Things". The book is published by Zubaan Publishers Pvt. Ltd. The book features a young Khasi woman who lives in the city of Shillong, Meghalaya in the early 2000s. The book has interconnected stories that move through age, lives, and places and covers the breadth of childhood, and moves into the awareness of adulthood.

## The Lost Soul

**Olga Tokarczuk**

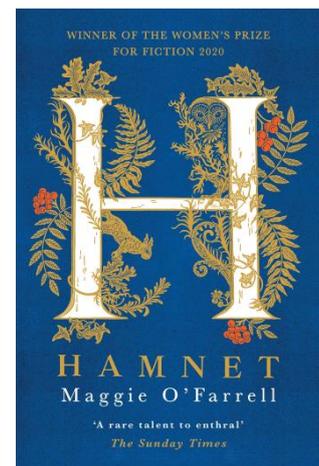
It is a story that beautifully weaves together the voice of the Nobel Prize-winning Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk and the finely detailed pen-and-ink drawings of illustrator Joanna Concejo, who together create a parallel narrative universe full of secrets, evocative of another time. Here a man has forgotten what makes his heart feel full.



## Hamnet

**Maggie O'Farrell**

Irish-British novelist, Maggie O'Farrell's novel 'Hamnet', an imagined take on the death of Shakespeare's son from the bubonic plague, has won the National Book Critics Circle (NBCC)'s award 2020 for the fiction category. Every year at March National Book Critics Circle awards are given to honour literature published in the United States in six categories—autobiography, biography, criticism, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. This novel explores the impact of Shakespeare's son, Hamnet's illness, and death on his family. The novel has also won the United Kingdom's Women's Prize for Fiction.



## SPORTS

🏹 The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports restored the recognition of the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) as National Sports Federation after a decade. The recognition granted by the Ministry with immediate effect is for the period till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. GFI's accreditation was revoked by

the ministry in 2011 exactly 10 years before due to fighting within the federation. The ministry stated that Recognition may be revoked again if the terms or conditions of the recognition or its own constitution are violated.

🏆 Jammu & Kashmir retained the top spot in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Khelo India Winter Games, which was held at Gulmarg, J&K. With 11 Gold, 18 Silver and 5 Bronze Medals J&K led the medal tally during the closing ceremony of the Khelo India Winter Games in Ski Resort of Gulmarg. The top 3 positions were as follows-

- Jammu & Kashmir won 11 Gold, 18 Silver, and 5 Bronze Medals.
- Karnataka won 5 Gold, 4 Bronze Medals.
- Maharashtra won 3 Gold, 3 Silver & 2 Bronze Medals.

Jammu & Kashmir retained the top spot for the second consecutive time. The event saw the participation of over 1200 athletes from 27 states & the Union Territories of India. Following the success of the event, Principal Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Alok Kumar retained the venue for 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg, J&K. Both the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is held at Gulmarg, J&K. The event was organized by J&K Sports Council & Winter Games Association of J&K.

🏆 The Disciplinary Panel of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) imposed sanctions on Madhavan R, Weightlifter, and Ruchika, Boxer for the violation of NADA's code on the usage of prohibited substances. The Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) has banned Madhavan R and Ruchika for 4 years and 2 years respectively. Madhavan R was tested positive for the prohibited substance Phentermine & Mephentermine and Ruchika was found positive for Furosemide. The athletes have an option to appeal against the ADDP's sanction to the higher panel Anti-Doping Appeals Panel (ADAP).

🏆 Chadalavada Anandha Bhavani Devi who hails from Tamil Nadu became the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Indian Fencer to qualify for an Olympics. She was assured of qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after Hungary lost to South Korea in the Quarter-finals of the Team event of the 2021 Fencing Sabre World Cup being held at Budapest, Hungary. Bhavani Devi will be a part of the women's individual sabre event at Tokyo 2020 & She qualified through the Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) Method. Bhavani Devi, a Sabre Fencer is also an 8-time National Champion. The Tokyo Olympics 2020 is set to take place from July 23, 2021 - to August 8, 2021.



🏆 Mithali Raj became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Woman Cricketer & 2<sup>nd</sup> International Women Cricketer (after England's Charlotte Edwards) to score 10,000 runs in International Cricket across all 3 formats of Cricket. Mithali Raj has scored 6, 974 runs from 212 One Day Internationals (ODI); 2,364 runs from 89 T20 Internationals & 663 runs in 10 Test matches. Mithali Raj hails from Rajasthan; she made her debut for

India in June 1999.

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🏏 The cricket authorities in Pakistan have renamed the historic KRL Stadium in Rawalpindi, Pakistan as Shoaib Akhtar Stadium to honour Akhtar for his services to Pakistan cricket for years.

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🏏 Achanta Sharath Kamal, an Indian table tennis player, win over Muhammad Rameez (Pakistan) in the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament held in Doha, Qatar, and became the first Indian Paddler to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. This marks the 4<sup>th</sup> appearance of Kamal at the Olympic games. He won over Muhammad Rameez in the second men's singles round-robin match in the South Asia group secured a spot form him in the delayed Games which will begin in July 2021.

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🏏 Mumbai cricket team won the 2021's Vijay Hazare Trophy in the finals against Uttar Pradesh, captain of Mumbai, Prithvi Shaw became the 1<sup>st</sup> player to score 800 runs in a single edition. Previously, Mayank Agarwal held the highest run-scorer record with 723 runs from the 2018 edition. In the same match, Uttar Pradesh batsman, Madhav Kaushik, scored 158 runs recording the highest runs scored by a batsman in the tournament's final.

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🏏 A song 'Girl Gang' by New Zealand singer Gin Wigmore, has been announced as the official song of the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the 2022 International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's World Cup at Mt Maunganui Beach, New Zealand. The tournament is set to be hosted in New Zealand from 4<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022. The song is from Wigmore's fourth album Ivory released in 2017.

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🏏 India Legends cricket team won the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Road Safety World Series T20 tournament against Sri Lanka Legends in the Finals. Tillakaratne Dilshan, captain of Sri Lanka Legends won the Player of the series. Sachin Tendulkar was the captain of India Legends. 7 Countries Participated in the series viz, India Legends, SriLanka Legends, South Africa Legends, West Indies Legends, England Legends, Bangladesh Legends, Australia Legends. The 2020-21 Road Safety World Series T20 cricket tournament 2020-21 was organized by the Road Safety Cell of Maharashtra to raise awareness about road safety.

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🏏 The final of the ICC World Test Championship between India and New Zealand will be played in a bio-secure bubble at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton. The decision, taken by the ICC Board, follows discussions with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). India qualified for the final after beating England 3-1 in the recently-concluded Test series.

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🏏 Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan broke Australian spin legend Shane Warne's mega record on 14 Mar 2021 as he bowled 99.2 overs in the recently-concluded 2<sup>nd</sup> Test against Zimbabwe at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, it is the most number of overs in a single Test in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Warne had bowled 98 overs in a



Test match against South Africa in Cape Town in 2002. The 22-yr-old Afghan spinner achieved this feat in the ongoing 2<sup>nd</sup> Test against Zimbabwe at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

## RANKINGS

### Hurun Global Rich List 2021

Rank	Name	\$bn	Company	Country
1 *	Elon Musk	197	Tesla	USA
2 ↓	Jeff Bezos	189	Amazon	USA
3 ↓	Bernard Arnault	114	LVMH	France
4 ↓	Bill Gates	110	Microsoft	USA
5	Mark Zuckerberg	101	Facebook	USA
6 ↓	Warren Buffet	91	Berkshire Hathaway	USA
7 *	Zhong Shanshan	85	YST	China
8 ↑	Mukesh Ambani	83	Reliance	India
9	Steve Ballmer	80	Microsoft	USA
9 *	Bertrand Puech & Family	80	Hermes	France

\* New to top 10 – No change

Rank	Country	No. of Billionaires	Change
1-	Greater China	1,058	259
2-	USA	696	70
3-	India	177	40
4-	Germany	141	19
5-	UK	134	15
6↑	Switzerland	100	12
7↓	Russia	85	-6
8↑	France	68	17
9↓	Brazil	59	-10
10↓	Thailand	52	-5

- The world adds 412 billionaires – 8 billionaires a week - to take a total record to 3,228 billionaires.
- Elon musk of tesla adds a record \$151bn to become the richest man in the world for the first time, with \$197bn. He took the number 1 spot for the 1<sup>st</sup> time and at the age of 49 years is the youngest to take the No.1 spot.
- China pulls away from the USA, leading with 1058 billionaires, up 259, compared with the USA with 696 billionaires, up 70. China and the USA make up over half of the known billionaires in the world.
- India third with 177, up 40. Germany, UK, and Switzerland follow with 100+ each.
- Jeff Bezos, last year's richest man, second with \$189bn, despite adding \$49bn.
- Mukesh Ambani with a wealth of \$ 83 Billion (~ INR 6 Lakh Crore) became the 8<sup>th</sup> Richest Person in the World.
- Hurun Global Rich List 2021 is the 10<sup>th</sup> Year of ranking.
- It ranked 3, 228 Billionaires from 2,402 companies & 68 countries.

- Apoorva Mehta of Instacard & Nikhil Kamath of Zerodha (both 34 years) became the youngest Indian Billionaires with a net worth of \$ 1.7 Billion.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> N-LRSI index 2021

In accordance with the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the NCAER Land Record and Services Index (N-LRSI) 2021, almost 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) have shown an improvement in their effort to digitise land records. Their mean has shown an increase of 16.6% in 2020-21 from 38.7 in 2019-20 to 45.1 in 2020-21 (out of 100 points). Notably, Madhya Pradesh topped the list for the second year in a row and followed by West Bengal (2<sup>nd</sup>), Odisha (3<sup>rd</sup>), Maharashtra (4<sup>th</sup>), and Tamil Nadu (5<sup>th</sup>). Only 13 states allow the online mode of payment for property registration while nine states are still using paper stamps for it. The index has been prepared by NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research) with support from Omidyar Network India through its Property Rights Research Consortium.

## Ease of Living Index 2020 & Municipal Performance Index 2020

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Housing and Urban Affairs announced the release of the final rankings of the Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 and the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020

The rankings under Ease of Living Index 2020 were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people. 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted in 2020. The analysis categorises them into Million+ populated cities (those with a population of more than a million) and Less than Million populated cities (those with a population of less than a million) along with all the cities under the Smart Cities Program.

Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai. In the Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhubaneshwar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

Similar to the EoLI index, the assessment framework under MPI 2020 has classified municipalities based on their population- Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population. In the Million+ category, Indore has emerged as the highest-ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

The MPI examined the sectoral performance of 111 municipalities (with Delhi being assessed separately for NDMC and the three Municipal Corporations) across five verticals which comprise 20 sectors and 100 indicators in all totality. The five verticals under MPI are Services, Finance, Policy, Technology, and Governance.

<b>Ease of Living Index</b>				
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Population Million+</b>		<b>Population Less than Million</b>	
	<b>City</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Score</b>
1	Bengaluru	66.70	Shimla	60.90
2	Pune	66.27	Bhubaneshwar	59.85

3	Ahmedabad	64.87	Silvassa	58.43
4	Chennai	62.61	Kakinada	56.84
5	Surat	61.73	Salem	56.40
6	Navi Mumbai	61.60	Vellore	56.38
7	Coimbatore	59.72	Gandhinagar	56.25
8	Vadodara	59.24	Gurugram	56.00
9	Indore	58.58	Davangere	55.25
10	Greater Mumbai	58.23	Tiruchirapalli	55.24

**Municipal Performance Index**

Rank	Population Million+		Population Less than Million	
	Municipality	Score	Municipality	Score
1	Indore	66.08	New Delhi MC	52.92
2	Surat	60.82	Tirupati	51.69
3	Bhopal	59.04	Gandhinagar	51.59
4	Pimpri Chinchwad	59.00	Karnal	51.39
5	Pune	58.79	Salem	49.04
6	Ahmedabad	57.60	Tiruppur	48.92
7	Raipur	54.98	Bilaspur	47.99
8	Greater Mumbai	54.36	Udaipur	47.77
9	Visakhapatnam	52.77	Jhansi	47.04
10	Vadodara	52.68	Tirunelveli	47.02

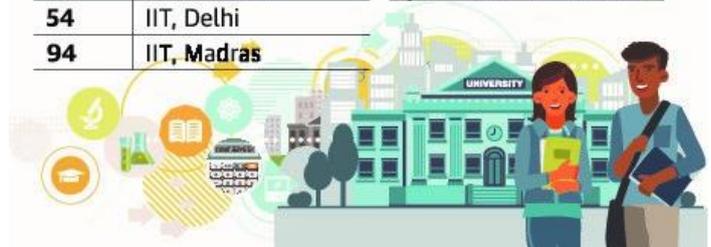
**QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021**

The number of Indian Institutions in the list of top 100 in QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings by Subject 2021 has increased to 12 from 8. These are IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISc Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi, and O.P Jindal University. This annual ranking covered a total of 51 disciplines, grouped into five broad subject areas to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a particular subject.

**Top universities**

Four Indian institutions feature in the top 100 list of QS World University Rankings under two subjects - Engineering and Technology and Natural Sciences

Engineering and Technology		Natural sciences	
Rank	University	Rank	University
1	MIT, U.S.	1	MIT, U.S.
2	Stanford, U.S.	2	Stanford, U.S.
3	Cambridge, U.K.	3	Harvard, U.S.
49	IIT, Bombay	92	IISc, Bangalore
54	IIT, Delhi		
94	IIT, Madras		



**UNCTAD's 'Technology and Innovation Report 2021'**

India was the biggest 'overperformer' in frontier technologies than the country's per capita Gross Domestic Products (GDP) would suggest, according to a recent country-readiness index of the

Technology And Innovation Report 2021. The report was released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The report examines the likelihood of frontier technologies widening existing inequalities and creating new ones. It also addresses the national and international policies, instruments, and institutional reforms that are needed to create a more equal world of opportunity for all, leaving no one behind. India's actual index ranking is 43, while the estimated one based on per capita income is 108. This meant that India overperformed other countries by 65 ranking positions. India was followed by the Philippines, which overperformed by 57 ranking positions. India performed well in research and development. This is reflected in its abundant supplies of qualified and highly skilled human resources available at a comparatively low cost. However, countries such as the United States, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom were "best prepared" for frontier technologies.

### Economic Freedom Index 2021

<b>Index</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>Top 3</b>	<b>Released by</b>
Economic Freedom Index 2021	121 <sup>st</sup>	1. Singapore 2. New Zealand 3. Australia	The Heritage Foundation

The Heritage Foundation, a US Conservative think-tank, recently launched the "Economic Freedom Index". The index was prepared by covering 184 countries this time for the period of July 2019 to June 2020. India with a score of 56.5 was ranked 121 (category – 'Mostly Unfree'). Singapore topped the list for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a row followed by New Zealand & Australia. India ranked 26<sup>th</sup> among 40 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that the index has been published after the COVID-19 Pandemic. Around 184 Countries have been covered in the Index; the Period of study is from July 2019 – June 2020.

The biggest news generated from the "2021 Index of Economic Freedom" was however not the rankings or how COVID-19 impacted the scores but that The Heritage Foundation decided to exclude Hong Kong from its rankings for the first time ever. The Heritage Foundation said that the reason for leaving Hong Kong out is that the Special Administrative Region and its economic policies have now come under the direct control of Beijing.

The index ranks 12 indicators from property rights to financial freedom under four categories: rule of law, size of government, regulatory efficiency, and open markets.

### PwC's Global CEO Survey

<b>Index</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>Top 3</b>	<b>Released by</b>
PwC's Global CEO Survey	5 <sup>th</sup>	1. US 2. China 3. Germany	PricewaterhouseCoopers

According to PwC's (PricewaterhouseCoopers) 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Global CEO Survey, India emerged as the 5<sup>th</sup> most attractive growth destination in the world. India has slipped one position to 5<sup>th</sup>, after being surpassed by the United Kingdom which took the 4<sup>th</sup> Position. The USA emerged as the Number one market favoured by CEOs over the next 1 year followed by China, Germany. The survey covered 5,

050 CEOs in 100 Countries & Territories including India. Japan took the 6<sup>th</sup> position overtaking Australia. 76% of CEOs expect the global economic recovery to improve in 2021.

The Top 5 threats of 2021 according to CEOs are

- Pandemic & other Health Crises
- Cyber Threats
- Over-regulation
- Policy Uncertainty
- Uncertain Economic Growth

### IQAir Report

<b>Index</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>Top 3</b>	<b>Released by</b>
IQAir Report	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1. Bangladesh 2. Pakistan 3. India	IQAir (Swiss Air Technology Company)

According to the '2020 World Air Quality Report' released by IQAir (Swiss Air Technology Company), India was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Most Polluted Country in the World in 2020 after Bangladesh & Pakistan. Delhi was the most polluted Capital City for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive time it was followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh) & Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia). In the case of the World's most polluted cities, Hotan of China came first followed by India's Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) & Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh). The rankings are based on the annual average PM 2.5 (Particulate Matter) of the year 2020. It covered 106 Countries.

### World's Most Dangerous Roads

<b>Index</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>Top 3</b>	<b>Released by</b>
World's Most Dangerous Roads	4 <sup>th</sup>	1. South Africa 2. Thailand 3. USA	Zutobi

According to the Study conducted by the International driver education company, Zutobi, South Africa was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the World's Most Dangerous Roads study, it was followed by Thailand. The United States ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>. India was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the study. The Study was conducted among 56 Countries. Similarly, The Study states that Norway has the World's Safest Road & topped in the study in World's Safest Roads, it is followed by Japan in the 2<sup>nd</sup> place & Sweden in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.

The Study has analyzed each country on the following five factors, giving each one a normalized score out of ten for each factor, before taking an average final score across all five factors.

The 5 factors of the study are,

- Estimated road traffic death rate (per 100,000 population),
- Maximum motorway speed limit (mph),
- Seat-belt wearing rate (front seat),
- Road traffic deaths attributed to alcohol,
- Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit for drivers (g/dl).

### World Happiness Report 2021

<b>Index</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>Top 3</b>	<b>Released by</b>
World Happiness Report 2021	139 <sup>th</sup>	1. Finland 2. Iceland 3. Denmark	United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)

India with a score of 3.819 has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the 'World Happiness Report 2021' an publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN). The ranking was topped by Finland (tops for the 4<sup>th</sup> Time). This is the 9<sup>th</sup> World Happiness Report and is based on surveys conducted during the time period of 2018-20. It ranks the world's 149 countries on "how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be".

The least happy countries were Afghanistan (149), Zimbabwe (148) & Rwanda (147). Apart from Afghanistan (149), all neighbouring countries ranked higher than India.

The World Happiness Report 2021 is a publication of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, powered by data from the Gallup World Poll. Including the World Risk Poll by Lloyd's Register Foundation, and the life satisfaction data collected during 2020 as part of the Covid Data Hub.

### Intellectual Property Index 2021

<b>Index</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>Top 3</b>	<b>Released by</b>
Intellectual Property Index 2021	40 <sup>th</sup>	1. USA 2. UK 3. Germany	US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)

India with a score of 38.40% has been ranked 40<sup>th</sup> out of 53 Global Economies in the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the 'International Intellectual Property Index: Recovery through Ingenuity 2021' released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). USA, UK & Germany topped the Index. The IIP Index released annually by GIPC evaluates the IP rights, patents, copyright policies, commercialization of IP assets, and ratification of International Treaties of 53 Global economies. The report states that India needs a unified IP framework that supports India's competitiveness. IP framework is needed for sectors like advanced manufacturing, biopharmaceutical products, and creative content.

India has shown real improvement over the past few years, the report said, adding that it has made a string of positive efforts which resulted in a score increase because of stronger enforcement efforts and precedent-setting court cases involving copyright and trademark infringement.

### Human Performance Indicator (HPI) Index

According to Jones Lang LaSalle's Human Performance Indicator (HPI) Index, India ranked highest in workplace satisfaction at 98 percent. As per the report, India leads other Asia-Pacific (APAC) countries with 81 percent of high performers practicing flexible working, including flexible hours and work-from-home. The Key Factors impacting workplace satisfaction in high performers are a wider range of sophisticated workplaces and technologies.

### **TBI Index 2021**

On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day on 24<sup>th</sup>, March Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare inaugurated the celebrations at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in Delhi. During the event, Lakshadweep (UT) & the District of Budgam (Jammu & Kashmir) were declared Tuberculosis (TB) free.

Himachal Pradesh achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Rank in India amongst the states with a population of more than 50 Lakhs, to end Tuberculosis under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). India also resolved to end Tuberculosis by 2025. Ending the TB epidemic by 2030 is among the health targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India has 30% of the World's TB cases.

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## **COMMITTEES & HEADS**

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### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

#### **Committee to commemorate the 75 years of Independence**

The Government of India constituted a National Committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate the 75 years of Independence Day which falls on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The day will be commemorated at the national and international level in the form of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The celebration of the 75 years of independence was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 75 weeks prior to the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The day also marks the 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Salt satyagraha from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi.

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### **H K Mittal**

#### **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**

The Government of India has constituted an expert advisory committee to execute and monitor the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). The committee will be chaired by H K Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology.

The committee is responsible for the overall execution of the SISFS. The committee will evaluate and select incubators for the allotment of the fund under the scheme. It will also monitor the progress of the scheme and take the required measures to effectively utilise the funds to achieve the objectives of SISFS. On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry approved the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) for a period of 4 years starting from 2021-22. This will be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The SISFS is aimed to support around 3600 startups across India. The total investment of the scheme, ₹945 crore will be divided over 4 years for providing seed fundings to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

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**Prahlad Singh Patel****Advisory Committee for Studying Sarasvati River**

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) released a notification stating that it has reconstituted an Advisory Committee for Multidisciplinary Study of the River Sarasvati (also known as Ghaggar-Hakra River). It will be headed by Union Minister for Culture (Currently- Prahlad Singh Patel). It has been reconstituted for the next two years (2021-23) after the earlier term's panel ended in 2019 (it was constituted in 2017). The committee will review the work done by the previous panel and then formulate a plan.

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## APPOINTMENTS

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**Mary Kom****Chairperson of AIBA Champion & Veterans Committee**

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has appointed 6-time Boxing World Champion Mary Kom as the new chairperson of the AIBA Champion and Veterans Committee. She was elected by the mail vote of the Board Member of AIBA. The AIBA Champion and Veterans Committee were formed in December 2020. It consists of boxing veterans across the globe and champions who have achieved significant results.

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**Tarun Bajaj****Additional charge of Revenue Secretary**

The appointments committee of Cabinet notified that Department of economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj has been given the additional charge of the post of secretary, department of revenue under the Ministry of Finance, He succeeds Ajay Bhushan Pandey who retires from 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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**Ajai Malhotra****1<sup>st</sup> Indian Chairperson, Advisory Committee of UNHRC**

Ajai Malhotra has become the first Indian to be elected as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). His 3-year term on the committee will expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Advisory Committee is a body of 18 independent experts serving as a think-tank to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

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**Pramod Chandra Mody****Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**

The Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India announced that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)



has approved a 3 months extension in the reappointment of Pramod Chandra Mody as Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

The 3-months extension is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 or until further notice. Pramod Chandra Mody, 1982-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, was appointed as the Chairman of CBDT in February 2019 succeeding Sushil Chandra. In August 2019 he was reappointed as the Chairman of CBDT till 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. His Tenure was extended in August 2020 for 6 months with effect from September 2020 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.



**Vijay Raghavan**  
**Principal Scientific Advisor**

Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) Vijay Raghavan's term has been extended by one year. He was appointed PSA in 2018 after retiring as Secretary of, Department of Biotechnology. His contract ends on April 2 but has now been extended until April 2022.

**Saurabh Garg**  
**CEO, UIDAI**

Saurabh Garg has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Senior bureaucrat Saurabh Garg has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Garg as the CEO, UIDAI in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.



**Tirath Singh Rawat**  
**CM Uttarakhand**

Tirath Singh Rawat, Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha), was sworn in as the 9th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand following the resignation of Trivendra Singh Rawat on 9th March 2021 following the unease over his governance. He was the first Education Minister of Uttarakhand when the state was formed in 2000. He was elected as the secretary-general of the BJP's Uttarakhand Unit in 2007. In 2019, He was elected to the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha as a Member of Parliament from Garhwal, Pauri constituency.

**Atish Chandra**  
**Chairman and MD, FCI**

Atish Chandra has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India. Atish Chandra will be Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India in the rank

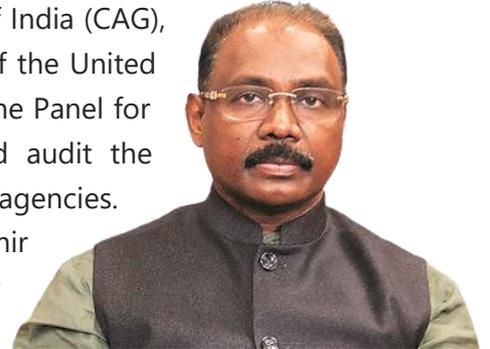
and pay of Additional Secretary, the order said. Chandra, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

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### **Girish Chandra Murmu**

#### **Chairman, UN's Panel of External Auditors**

Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, 14<sup>th</sup> Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), is reappointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations for the year 2021. He was initially elected as Chairman of the Panel for 2020. Girish Chandra Murmu will lead the panel to report and audit the accounts and management operations of the UN and its specialised agencies. He was the first Lt Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in October 2019 after its formation under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.



### **Thomas Bach**

#### **President, International Olympic Committee**

The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) re-elected Thomas Bach for an additional term of 4 years as the President of IOC until 2025. His current term as the President of IOC will finish on the closing day of the Tokyo Olympic Games on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and his second term as the President will start on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and will conclude in 2025. He was the only candidate of the IOC presidential election which was held during the 137<sup>th</sup> IOC session held in Athens.



### **GP Samanta**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Chief Statistician of India**

GP Samanta, an advisor in the Department of Statistics and information management, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was appointed as the 4<sup>th</sup> Chief Statistician of India for a term of 2 years. Samanta replaces Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji, a 1986 batch IAS officer who has been the CSI since September 2020. The CSI will also hold the post of the Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. In addition to the function of Secretary of MoSPI, the CSI will also be the head of the National Statistical Organisation and Secretary of the National Statistical Commission.

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### **Samia Suluhu Hassan**

#### **President, Tanzania**

Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in as the first female president of Tanzania. She took the oath of the office after the sudden death of John Magufuli from an illness shrouded in mystery. The 61-year-old took the oath of office in Dar es Salaam before inspecting troops at a military parade and receiving a cannon salute.

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**Kapil Dev****Board Member, Professional Golf Tour of India**

Former Indian Cricketer Kapil Dev was inducted into the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) as a board member. He will be working towards the development of Golf in the country. As a member of the PGTI board, he will be convincing the corporates to associate and invest in Indian golf. He will work towards getting more attention from sponsors and investors and making golf more popular in India.

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**Dr. Harsh Vardhan****Chairman, Stop TB Partnership Board**

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was appointed as the Chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board' for a term of 3 years starting from July 2021. The appointment is in recognition of his contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025. The Stop TB Initiative was established following the 1st session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Tuberculosis Epidemic held in March 1998 in London. On 25th September 2019, Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the "TB Harega Desh Jeetega" campaign along with the National TB Prevalence Survey.

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**Anurag Thakur****Captain, Territorial Army**

Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur has become the first serving member of parliament to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army. The four-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant in July 2016.

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**Sanjeev Kumar****Chairman, Airports Authority of India**

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Sanjeev Kumar as Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). He is appointed in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. He has taken up the position which was served by Anuj Aggarwal as the Interim Chairman. Before Anuj Agarwal appointment, Arvind Singh served as the Chairman of AAI.

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**MA Ganapathy****Director-General, National Security Guard**

Senior IPS officer M A Ganapathy was appointed Director-General of the National Security Guard. Ganapathy, a 1986 batch IPS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, is currently DG, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

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**Kuldiep Singh****Director-General, Central Reserve Police Force**

Senior IPS officer Kuldiep Singh was appointed Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force, on 16 Mar'21. Singh, a 1986 batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre, is presently the Special DG, CRPF.

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**Dr. Vivek Murthy****US Surgeon General**

Indian American Physician, Dr. Vivek Murthy, was sworn in as the 21<sup>st</sup> Surgeon General of the United States of America. This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> time as Surgeon General of the US. Previously In 2013, nominated by Former President Obama, he held the position as the 19<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General. He was the youngest ever to hold the office at the age of 37. As the surgeon general, he will be advising President Biden on the COVID-19 pandemic and the government's leading voice on public health.

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**Woochong Um****Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

Woochong Um has been appointed as the Managing Director General of Asian Development Bank (ADB). He will report to ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. He will play a key role in enhancing ADB's internal and external communications across all activities that involve operations, knowledge, fund-raising, and institutional reforms.

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**Anish Shah****MD & CEO, Mahindra, and Mahindra Ltd**

Anish Shah was appointed as the MD & CEO of Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (M&M) with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. He took over from Pawan Goenka who retired as the MD and CEO, and member of the Board of Directors of M&M on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. Anish Shah is currently serving as the deputy managing director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company. He will oversee the operations of all the companies under the Mahindra Group along with the automobile and tractor manufacturing businesses.

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👑 Chief Justice of India SA Bobde has recommended the name of Justice NV Ramana as his successor. Chief Justice Bobde is set to retire on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. Justice Bobde was sworn in as the 47<sup>th</sup> CJI in November 2019. Once cleared for an appointment, Justice Ramana is expected to take over as the next CJI on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and will retire on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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## OBITUARIES

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### **Olivier Dassault**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021, French Billionaire and Member of French National Assembly, Olivier Dassault of Les Republicains party died in a helicopter crash in Normandy, France at age 69. Olivier Dassault the heir of Dassault Groupe (Dassault Aviation, Le Figaro etc) was born on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1951 in Boulogne-Billancourt, France. He was the son of businessman and politician Serge Dassault.

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### **Lou Ottens**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Lou Ottens, the Dutch engineer who invented the audio cassette tape, passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021. He also engineered the concept of magnetic tape players and computer discs (CDs). Ottens founded the cassettes in 1960s when he was employed with tech giant Philips.

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### **M G George Muthoot**

**5<sup>th</sup> March**

M G George Muthoot, the Chairman of the Muthoot Group, passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. He was instrumental in making Muthoot Finance Ltd, the largest gold financing company in India and the first-ever NBFC to join the '₹1,000-cr net profit club'. He was ranked India's 26<sup>th</sup> richest person with a net worth of \$4.8 bn by Forbes magazine in 2020.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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🚧 The President of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, inaugurated the advanced digital cobalt therapy machine "Bhabhatron-II" for cancer treatment at the Joseph Ravoahangy Andrianavalona Hospital (HJRA) in Antananarivo in the presence of India's Ambassador to Madagascar Abhay Kumar. It should be noted that Bhabhatron-II is donated by India to Madagascar under the cooperation of the health sector. It is developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). This donation also caters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Indian Ocean Region.

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🚧 In order to mark the Golden Jubilee of 1971 War of Liberation, IAF (Indian Air Force) Chief RKS Bhaduria gifted Legacy Alouette III Helicopter to Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), in return BAF gifted a legacy F-86 Sabre aircraft to the IAF. The exchange of aircraft took place in Dhaka during his 4-day visit to Bangladesh in February 2021. India & Bangladesh are celebrating 50 years of the Liberation War in which 90,000 Pakistani Soldiers surrendered to the Indian Army. IAF Chief RKS Bhaduria was

inducted into the 'Mirpur Hall of Fame' at Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC), Dhaka.

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🏹 The National People's Congress of China on 30 March 2021 unanimously approved the changes to be introduced to the Hong Kong Constitution. These electoral reforms reduce the number of directly elected legislators in Hong Kong. The number of directly elected representatives to Hong Kong's legislature will fall from 35 to 20, while the size of the legislature would increase from 70 to 90 seats.

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🏹 According to data released by the International Energy Agency (IEA), Global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions declined by 5.8% or 2 Billion Tonnes in 2020 due to the Pandemic. It is the largest annual percentage decline since World War II. More than 50% of the total global drop in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2020 was due to the decline in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from oil use in the Transport & aviation sectors. China recorded an increase in emissions for the year 2020, emissions increased by 0.8% or 75 million tonnes. In India (World's 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitter after China, USA), annual emissions declined by 7% (or 160 Metric tons of Carbon Dioxide (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>)) in 2020. In the USA the emissions decreased by 10% in 2020.

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🏹 The USA becomes India's 2<sup>nd</sup> Biggest Oil Supplier in February 2021. India's imports from America increased to 48% to a record 545, 300 BPD in February 2021 accounting for 14% of India's overall imports last month. Saudi Arabia slipped to the No.4 Position for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since January 2006. Nigeria rose to 3<sup>rd</sup> Position and UAE slipped to 5<sup>th</sup> Position.

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🏹 Facebook announced preliminary agreements with three Australian publishers, a day after the Parliament passed a law that would make the digital giants pay for news. Facebook said letters of intent had been signed with independent news organizations Private Media, Schwartz Media, and Solstice Media.

According to the News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code Bill 2020, big tech and social media giants like Facebook and Google will have to pay local news outlets for using their content. The move is being studied worldwide as it will set a precedent in the use of web-based news and content that may permanently impact the use of the Internet in Australia.

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🏹 Sri Lankan Cabinet approved a Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) proposal for developing the West Container Terminal (WCT) of Colombo South Port with parties nominated by the Indian & Japanese Government. The port will be developed in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. Indian High Commission has nominated Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ Consortium) while the Japanese government is yet to nominate a party. As per the agreement, the WCT will be operated over a period of 35 years as a Public-Private Partnership model with APSEZ & its local representative John Keels Holding PLC & the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. India & Japan will have an 85% stake in the WCT. On February 1, 2021, Sri Lankan Government

decided to eject India & Japan from a 2019 Tripartite agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT) of the Colombo Port.

🚩 Humanoid robot Sophia, which was created by Hong Kong-based Hanson Robotics, has sold a self-portrait of itself for \$688,888. The artwork was sold via crypto art platform Nifty Gateway and is the first instance of NFT (non-fungible tokens) art created by artificial intelligence (AI) being sold. The artwork is titled Sophia Instantiation.



🚩 Oscar-nominated actor Elliot Page will become the first transgender man to star on the front cover of TIME magazine. Elliot Page was nominated for various awards for Oscar-winning 2007 independent film Juno and plays a leading role in the Netflix hit The Umbrella Academy. American actress Laverne Cox had become the first trans woman to appear on the cover of TIME in 2014.

🚩 The Philippines signed an implementing arrangement for 'procurement of defense material and equipment with India during a pact's signing ceremony at the Camp Aguinaldo in Manila, headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The agreement involves the procurement of defence equipment by the Philippines from India. It is a foundational agreement for government-to-government contracts and will serve as a guide for the Philippines and India on policies and procedures in defense procurement. Under this pact, there is a possible sale of the Indo-Russian BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines. India and Russia have been planning to export the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to several other countries.

🚩 The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution sponsored by India to mark 2023 as 'International Year of Millets'. The resolution was initiated by India along with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia & Senegal. The resolution titled 'International Year of Millets 2023' was supported by over 70 nations. Its objective is to raise awareness about the health benefits of the grain & suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions.

🚩 Australia is building the World's 1<sup>st</sup> Sanctuary for 'Platypus', an egg-laying mammal is a semi-aquatic creature that generally lives in small streams & slow-moving rivers at a cool temperature. Platypus is considered to be a protected species in Australia, whose population was severely affected in 2019-20 Australia bushfires. The sanctuary is built to promote its breeding & rehabilitation, consisting of mostly ponds & burrows housing up to 65 platypuses is planned to be built by 2022.



🏹 The Parliament of New Zealand has passed legislation that allows the mothers and their partners who have suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth the right of paid leave. New Zealand's parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or stillbirth, becoming only the second country in the world to do so. The bereavement allowance, passed unanimously in parliament late on Wednesday, gives employees three days' leave when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth without having to tap into sick leave.

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🏹 Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering & terrorist financing watchdog (headquarters in Paris, France) has retained Pakistan on its 'grey list' (also called as 'Increased monitoring group') till June 2021 as Pakistan had failed to implement the 27-point action plan mandated by FATF. It means that Pakistan will have difficulties getting financial aid from International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank & European Union.

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🏹 Turkey withdrew from a European treaty on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a decree to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention that was signed in 2011. Turkey was the first country to ratify the Council of Europe convention adopted in Istanbul.

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🏹 Spain's parliament has voted through a law legalising euthanasia, allowing terminally ill or gravely injured patients to end their own suffering. This makes Spain the fourth European nation to decriminalise assisted suicide, alongside the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. The Spanish legislation will permit euthanasia in which medical staff intentionally end a life to relieve suffering.

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🏹 Dr. S Jaishankar, Union Minister, Ministry of External Affairs inaugurated the new cultural center of the High Commission of India in the old India House Building, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> culture center for the high commission of India after the Dhanmondi center at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka. He inaugurated the Cultural Centre in Dhaka during his visit to Bangladesh on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the invitation of his counterpart Dr. AK Abdul Momen. The new center has the facilities for conducting short-term courses on Indian Art forms and holding cultural programs and art exhibitions. This center will act as a center of the unique relationship between India and Bangladesh

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🏹 6,00,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India, were offered to Ghana under the vaccine deployment initiative of the United Nations (UN), making it the 1<sup>st</sup> country in the world to receive COVAX vaccines. Already 92 countries in the lower & middle-income group have signed to the UN-backed COVAX program. COVAX is planning to distribute 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by 2021.

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🇱🇰 Sri Lanka will soon ban the burqa or face veil. Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekara informed that authorities would henceforth use the controversial Prevention of Terrorism (PTA) law to deal with religious extremism. Over 1,000 madrasas would also be shut.

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🇨🇭 Switzerland has banned full facial coverings including the niqab and burqa in almost all public places. As many as 51.21 percent of voters voted in support of the controversial proposal in the referendum. The approval by voters means that facial covering will be banned in all publicly accessible places, including on the streets, in public offices, on public transport, in restaurants, shops, and in the countryside.

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🇮🇹 Italy joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) (also known as International Agency for Solar Policy and Application (IASPA)) after signing the amended ISA Framework Agreement. Vincenzo de Luca, Ambassador of Italy to India signed the Italian membership to the ISA. The new ISA Framework Agreement came into force on January 8, 2021. Under the new amended framework, the membership of ISA is open to all member states of the United Nations. Previously, it was open to countries that were partially or entirely located within the Tropics.

At present, 73 countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement. Under the new amended framework, the membership of ISA is open to all member states of the United Nations. Previously, it was open to countries that were partially or entirely located within the Tropics. The signed copies of the agreement were received by an additional secretary (ER) as representative of MEA. MEA is the depositary of the ISA Framework Agreement. It is an alliance of over 121 countries.

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🇰🇪 Kenya won't take part in proceedings of the International Court of Justice over its maritime border dispute with neighbouring Somalia. The main point of disagreement between the two neighbours is the direction in which their maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean should extend. According to Somalia, the sea border should be an extension of the same direction in which their land border runs.

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🇺🇸 The United States has prevented Turkey from supplying 30 locally made attack helicopters to Pakistan. The ATAK-12 is a twin-engine, tandem seat, multi-role, all-weather attack helicopter based on the Agusta A129 Mangusta platform and is equipped with American engines. Turkey and Pakistan had signed a USD 1.5 billion deal for the Turkish-made helicopter gunships in July 2018.

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🇬🇧 Burglars, thieves, and robbers released from prison will be made to wear GPS tags to track their movements in a world-first scheme to crack down on neighborhood criminals. This was announced by the UK government on 17 March 2021. Under the new rules, such offenders who have served a prison sentence of a year or more will be automatically fitted with a tag on release.

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🇳🇴 The World's 1<sup>st</sup> Ship Tunnel, 'Stad Ship Tunnel' is to be constructed in Norway. The tunnel will run underneath the mountains in Norway's Stadhavet peninsula and will help ships to cross the

Stadhavet sea. The works on the bridge will commence in 2022 and are expected to get completed by 2025-26. It measures 1,700 meters long, 37 meters high & 26.5 meters wide. It is capable of holding ships of up to 16,000 tonnes (16,000 long tons; 18,000 short tons). The Estimated cost for building the ship tunnel is 2.8 billion Norwegian kroner (~ \$ 330 million).

🏔️ A 7-year-old boy from Hyderabad Virat Chandra has become one of the youngest in the world to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa at 19,341 feet. Virat Chandra achieved the rare feat on March 6, 2021. Earlier in March 2021, a nine-year-old girl from Andhra Pradesh became the youngest girl in Asia to have conquered Mount Kilimanjaro.

## NATIONAL NEWS

🏗️ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' (India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge) virtually between India and Bangladesh over the Feni River at Sabroom in South Tripura. During the event, he also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for eight other infrastructure projects together worth ₹ 3,518 crores. The Maitri Setu Bridge will help improve connectivity and enhance economic opportunities for people of both countries. Maitri Setu Bridge is 1.9 Km long. Maitri Setu Bridge Connects Tripura, India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd constructed the Bridge at a project cost of ₹133 Crores. With this inauguration, Tripura is set to become the 'Gateway of North East' with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, which is just 80 kms from Sabroom.



🏗️ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the curtain-raiser activities of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (India@75), the government's initiative to mark 75 years of India's Independence at the event organized in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It will continue till 15 August 2023. He also flagged off the Padyatra (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad to Dandi, Gujarat as a part of the India@75 program. This marks the 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Gandhi's 1930 Dandi March. He has also launched various cultural and digital initiatives for the celebration of India@75.

🏗️ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Ayurveda Festival 2021, the largest Ayurvedic event held anywhere across the world. The event is held in a virtual format is organized by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) from March 12-19, 2021. The Festival aims to popularize Ayurveda & Traditional forms of Medicine. The event was originally scheduled to be held in Angamaly, Kerala in May 2020 but was postponed due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. International Ayurveda Seminar 2021 was organized with the Focal Theme: Strengthening Host Defence System –Ayurveda A Potential Promise. Around 25 Countries participated in the event.

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🏹 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 launched the updated edition of Exam Warriors. The Exam Warriors module is also available on the NaMo App. The new edition of the book has been enriched with valuable inputs from students, parents, and teachers. The book also aims at the importance of stress-free examinations by prioritizing knowledge rather than focusing on marks.

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🏹 The Uttar Pradesh government has organized a 'Banana Festival' at Buddha Park in Kushinagar from March 22 to 25, 2021. The main goal of organizing this festival is to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan for a self-reliant India. Banana-made products from Kushinagar are included in the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

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🏹 Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the complete disinvestment of Air India. Air India is a first-rate asset but has an accumulated debt of ₹60,000 Crore. The government has started the process to sell its entire 100 percent stake in Air India that has been in losses since it merged with Indian Airlines in 2007.

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🏹 Centre has proposed up to 25% tax concession on the purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate. Road, Transport and Highways Ministry on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021, published the draft rules regarding concession in motor vehicle tax against scrapped vehicles. In the case of personal vehicles, tax concessions will be available up to 8 yrs while for commercial vehicles, it will be up to 15 yrs.

Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that more than 3.7 crore job opportunities will be created in the country with the implementation of the Vehicle Scrapping Policy. Additional GST revenue of 30 to 40 thousand crore rupees will be generated through this move. The policy is aimed at creating an ecosystem for phasing out unfit and polluting vehicles.

Airbags for front-seat passengers in all cars will be mandatory for new vehicles. The government plans to implement this norm for all new models of cars which are manufactured from April 1, 2021, onwards. Previously, the government had made having an airbag mandatory for the driver's seat in all cars. This had come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

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🏹 India's and Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will come upon the bank of the Ganges in the premises of Patna University in Bihar. 50% of the world's river dolphin population are in Bihar, Dolphin a highly endangered species under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and declared the National Aquatic Animal in 2009.

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Despite the bloody border conflict in 2020, ban on hundreds of Chinese mobile apps, and restrictions in investment, China with \$75.9 billion regained its spot as the Largest Trading Partner of India. China is closely followed by the USA and UAE as the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Trading Partners of India. 51% of the total imports from China were accounted for by the purchase of Heavy Machineries. It is to be noted that in 2019 China was India's largest trading partner with \$85.5 billion trade and slipped to 2<sup>nd</sup> spot only in 2020 with \$77.7 billion trade.

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Jal Jeevan Mission has achieved a new milestone of providing over 4 Crore rural households with a tap water supply. Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by PM Modi on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The mission aims to provide a tap water supply to every rural home by 2024. Goa has become the first state in the country to provide 100 percent tap water supply followed by Telangana and Andaman and the Nicobar Islands.

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India sent 1,000 metric tonnes of rice along with 1 lakh Hydroxychloroquine tablets in INS Jalashwa to the drought-hit Madagascar. The Indian Ocean region country was in severe drought for the past 3 years and currently, the situation has worsened. An Indian Navy Training team is sent along with the consignment to train the Madagascar Special Forces. Earlier, In 2018, a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice was delivered onboard an Indian naval vessel to Madagascar. In March 2020, India delivered 600 tonnes of rice as HADR assistance to Madagascar.

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The merger of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV has been finalised and it is replaced by the single banner, Sansad TV. This is an attempt to cover beyond the proceedings of the two houses and feature the functions of parliament and Parliamentarians when the houses are not in session. The merger is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Ravi Capoor Retired IAS officer of the 1986 batch has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV. The merger was the result of the decision of the Rajya Sabha Chairman, Venkaiah Naidu, and Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla. A committee headed by former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash was formed to work out the integration of the two channels.

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The Border Road Organisation (BRO) has built a 200 feet bridge across the Rishiganga river, connecting 13 villages in Uttarakhand. The bridge was built by BRO in a record 26 days, as a replacement to the 90-meter Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) bridge that was washed away in the February 7 flash floods in the Rishiganga river. The flash flood had also washed away the Rishiganga Hydroelectric Project, leading to 200 workers getting trapped. As a tribute to the sacrifice of the Power plant workers, the bridge was named "The Bridge of Compassion".

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India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant of 100 MegaWatt (MW) capacity being constructed at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana is set to be commissioned by May-June, 2021. It will be India's largest floating solar plant in a single location as of now. It is being developed by NTPC South (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) at a cost of INR 423

Crore over the water surface of Sri Ram Sagar Project Reservoir. It will also be India's biggest floating solar plant, by generation capacity, to date.

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🚩 Google has honoured 'India's Satellite Man Udupi Ramachandra Rao with a doodle on his 89<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, who was an Indian space scientist and chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) between 1984-94, supervised the 1975 launch of India's first satellite "Aryabhata." He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1976 and Padma Vibhushan in 2017 and became the first-ever Indian to be inducted into the Satellite Hall of Fame in the year 2013 by the Society of Satellite Professionals International.



🚩 India's 1<sup>st</sup> 'Transgender Community Desk' launched in Gachibowli Police Station, Hyderabad, Telangana by Cyberabad Police chief VC Sajjanar. This desk is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiative in the country. It is the world's first-ever help desk for the transgender community and it will be managed by a Police Liaison Officer and a member of the transgender community who is designated as a community coordinator.

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🚩 A new passenger train service between Dhaka, Bangladesh, and New Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India was set to start from the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh. The direct train between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri will run through the Chilahati-Haldibari cross-border rail route. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina will flag off the new passenger train on the occasion of the Birth Centenary Celebration of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib and 50 years of Liberation of Bangladesh. The Haldibari-Chilahati train route was opened for goods transport in December 2020 train after a gap of 55 years during the virtual summit between two prime ministries. The passenger train will also run on the same route.

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🚩 Sugamya Bharat App has been launched by the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment. Sugamya Bharat APP — a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application is a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector, and ICT ecosystem in India. The app provides for five main features, 4 of which are directly related to enhancing accessibility, while the fifth is a special feature meant only for Divyangjan for COVID-related issues.

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🚩 Mera Ration mobile app launched by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution under the 'One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)' plan. The mobile app has been developed by the Department of Food & Public Distribution along with the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), with a focus on Migrant workers, Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers & other relevant stakeholders.

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🏗️ Indian Railway has successfully connected the 2 ends of the main arch of 'Chenab Bridge' – World's Highest Railway Bridge. It is being built by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) at a cost of INR 12,000 Crores. The bridge is 1.315 Kms long and is to be completed by the end of 2021. It is being constructed over the River Chenab which is 35 Metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. The bridge will connect Bakkal (Katra) and Kauri (Srinagar) in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir UT. Three agencies; IRCON, KRCL, and Northern Railway with extensive experience in the construction of rail lines are involved in this project.

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🏗️ Andhra Pradesh government has launched India's first govt-run ambulance network for animals. The Animal Husbandry Department has been further directed to set up one Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic at every assembly constituency. These mobile ambulances shall provide veterinary first aid services along with spot diagnosis and attending to emergency cases.

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🏗️ India's First Grade Separated Urban Expressway 'Dwarka Expressway is expected to complete before 2022 Independence Day i.e. August 15. The total length of the expressway is 29 km, of which 18.9 km falls in Haryana and the remaining 10.1 km is in Delhi. It connects Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram, Haryana has been constructed under the Bharatmala Project at a price of ₹8,662 crores. This will be called an engineering marvel of India with the longest (3.6 kilometers) and widest (8 lanes) Urban Road Tunnel in India. The project has a total estimated consumption of two lakh MT of steel, which is 30 times that of Eiffel Tower, France. The total estimated consumption of 20 lakh Cum of Concrete is six times of the Burj Khalifa building, UAE. Bharatmala Pariyojana (Project) is a centrally-sponsored and funded road and Highways project of the Government of India. This program will subsume all existing Highway Projects including the flagship National Highways Development Project (NHDP), launched by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1998.



🏗️ Bihar Cabinet has approved the state's own Ethanol policy called 'Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021'. The approval has made Bihar the 1<sup>st</sup> State in India to implement Ethanol Promotion Policy under the National Policy of Biofuels, 2018. Its objective is to make Bihar an ethanol hub & as investors' coveted destination. Investors will get a 15% Capital subsidy (maximum of INR 5 Crore). Investors will also get exemption from Stamp duty, Registration and land conversion fees, electricity duty reimbursement, and employment and skill development subsidy. The policy gives importance to issuing licenses & clearances in a time-bound manner for new standalone ethanol units. Through this policy, the Bihar government aims to produce around 50 Crore liters of Ethanol each year.

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🏰 Andhra Pradesh became the first state of India to incorporate the Gender Budget in its annual budget of the fiscal year 2021 to 2022 with an aim to provide better service to women. International women's day, Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that the state would become the first state of India to incorporate the Gender Budget in its annual budget of the fiscal year 2021 to 2022 with an aim to provide better service to women.

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🏰 Maharashtra state ranked first in the state-wise distribution of High Net-worth Individual (HNI) households in accordance with 'Wealth Report 2020' released by Hurun India. Based on the report there are 4.12 lakh dollar-millionaire households / affluent households in India with a net worth of at least ₹7 crores. Maharashtra is the highest Gross/Net State Domestic Product (GSDP) Generating state in India with a growth rate of about 13.16% and it is contributing around 16 % of national GDP.

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🏰 Haryana state government has approved a bill that reserves 75 percent of the private sector jobs with gross salary up to ₹ 50,000 per month for the people of the state. The bill, tabled by Mr. Chautala last year, makes it mandatory for the private sector companies to reserve 75 percent of jobs with a salary up to ₹ 50,000 per month for natives of Haryana. It also contains a clause company can invoke if suitable local candidates cannot be found. In such cases, they may hire from outside so long as they inform the government of such a step.

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## SUMMITS

🏰 The first-ever 'The India Toy Fair 2021' was held virtually on February 27, 2021 – March 2, 2021, on the underlying themes of 'Atmanirbhar (Self Reliant) Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local' to boost the Indian toy manufacturing industry. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi where he urged the manufacturers to use less plastic and more recyclable material. The fair was in the form of a digitally through the platform <https://theindiatoyfair.in>. It is an accessible exhibition and platform for the public to browse and buy toys and also to participate in events, activities, and network with the various stakeholders of the toy Industry. India's toy market stands at around \$1.5 billion, but it is dominated by imported toys.

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

🏰 MapmyIndia has been integrated with India's official vaccination registration portal – 'Co-WIN' (COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network) to enable users to locate nearby COVID-19 vaccine centers. Using the portal, Users can insert their current location or enter their address, pin code, or location of interest to check nearby vaccination centers. The feature will be available on MapmyIndia's app & also the Co-WIN portal. The 2nd Phase of COVID-19 Vaccinations started on March 1, 2021, in order to make the vaccination effort easier MapmyIndia has put all COVID-19 vaccine centers across India on MapmyIndia's maps.

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🏗️ IIT Madras-incubated startup Pi Beam has launched an Electric Two-wheeler called 'PiMo' which can charge faster than a smartphone & has a range of 50 Kms. Nearly 90% of PiMo's product components are manufactured in India to embody the 'Make in India' spirit.

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🏗️ "Fugaku" the Japanese supercomputer that topped the Top500 list for 2 consecutive years is now fully operational. The supercomputer that was developed for 6 years by the Japanese scientific research institute RIKEN and Fujitsu was used in projects to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan's Research Organization for Information Science and Technology (RIST) has selected 74 projects that will use the supercomputer in FY2021. This will work towards the Japanese government's vision of an ultra-smart Society 5.0.

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🏗️ HP (Hewlett-Packard) has made the World's first PC using plastic waste from the ocean. To build on HP's sustainability commitment, The HP Pavilion line-up (HP Pavilion 13, HP Pavilion 14, and HP Pavilion 15 laptops) uses the post-consumer recycled and plastic waste in Ocean in the construction of speaker housing. The Pavilion series is set to keep around 92000 plastic bottles out of the ocean and landfills. The outer boxes and fiber cushions used for the packaging of the new PCs are 100% sustainably sourced and recyclable.

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🏗️ Coronavirus may be vulnerable to ultrasound vibrations, within the frequencies used in medical diagnostic imaging, according to a study. The researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology modeled the mechanical response of the coronaviruses to vibrations across a range of ultrasound frequencies. They found that vibrations between 25 and 100 megahertz triggered the virus's shell.

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🏗️ Technology company Google has launched a new web platform 'Women Will' that will support one million rural women entrepreneurs in India to help them pursue their ambitions and improve their livelihoods. Google will implement this through the 'Women Will' web platform launched at the virtual Google for India event on 8 March, International Women's Day. Available in English and Hindi, the Women Will platform is designed for women aspiring to explore entrepreneurship.

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## **WORLD OF ECONOMY & BUSINESS**

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🏗️ Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google stated that Google.org the Philanthropic arm of Google will support 1 Million women entrepreneurs in rural India by providing them with business tutorials, mentorship & accelerator programs. It will be implemented through Google's 'Women Will' web platform which was launched on the occasion of International Women's Day. A grant of \$ 500, 000 will be provided to NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Service Companies) Foundation for supporting 1 Lakh women Agri workers with digital and financial literacy. NASSCOM Foundation will provide training to women farmworkers of 6 states – Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh on Digital & Financial Literacy.

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📌 A bond sponsored by the Danish Red Cross is the first to offer dedicated insurance against volcanic eruptions. Initial investors include Schroder Investment Management and Plenum Investments, a firm specializing in insurance-linked securities. The bond will cover 10 volcanoes, including Mexico's Popocatepetl and Nevado del Ruiz in Colombia.

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📌 As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data, India's Foreign exchange (Forex) reserves to become the world's fourth-largest by surpassing Russia. India's foreign currency holdings fell by \$4.3 billion to \$580.3 billion and Russia's forex holdings were \$580.1 billion. As of March 2021, International Monetary Fund (IMF) table, China has the largest reserves, followed by Japan, Switzerland, India, and Russia. Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank(RBI) in foreign currencies, which can include foreign currencies, bonds, treasury bills, and other government securities. Most of the foreign exchange reserves are held in U.S. dollars, as it is the most traded currency in the world.

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📌 The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has eased the listing norms for large companies by enabling them to divest a minimum of 5 percent in the Initial public offering (IPO). The minimum public float for large firms with post-issue market capital exceeding ₹1 trillion is reduced from 10% of post-issue market capital (existing provision) to ₹10,000 crores. In addition to this, there will be 5% of the incremental amount beyond ₹1 trillion. A company with a post-issue market cap of ₹2 trillion will have to divest a minimum of 7.5%, instead of 10%.

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📌 The Swedish automaker, Volvo has announced that it will make only electric vehicles by 2030. The automaker phasing out the production of all cars with internal combustion engines — including hybrids. Volvo's announcement follows General Motors' pledge earlier this year to make only battery-powered vehicles by 2035.

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📌 Global payment giant PayPal Inc on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 announced a new feature 'Checkout with Crypto'. 'Checkout with Crypto' will allow users to instantly transact via cryptocurrencies on its platform. The users holding Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin will be able to instantly convert their cryptocurrencies into US dollars at checkouts to make purchases.

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📌 Corporate Affairs Ministry has made it mandatory for companies to disclose profit or loss incurred on crypto transactions and the amount of cryptos they hold in their balance sheets. The ministry announced the amendments made in schedule III of the Companies Act with effect from 1 April 2021. The govt has also asked companies to disclose deposits from any person in the form of cryptocurrency.

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📌 IDBI Bank has been removed from the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), after almost four years. The RBI had placed IDBI Bank under the framework in

May 2017, after it had breached the thresholds for capital adequacy, asset quality (net NPAs were over 13% in March 2017), return on assets, and leverage ratio. The LIC-owned IDBI Bank had reported a standalone net profit of ₹378 crores for the December quarter.

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📌 According to a report 'India Trend Book 2021' released by EY-IVCA (Ernst Young-Indian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association), India's e-commerce market is expected to be worth \$ 99 Billion by 2024. It is also anticipated to grow at a 27% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) over the period 2019-24. Grocery & Fashion/apparel will be the key drivers of this growth. India will have 220 million online shoppers in India by 2025. The Penetration of the online retail market is expected to be 10.7% by 2024, compared to 4.7% in 2019. The report also states that by 2023, 1.2 % or \$ 10.5 Billion of India's grocery sales will be online. Indian Government aims to build a \$ 1 Trillion Digital economy by 2025 through Digital India Programme.

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## DEFENCE

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📌 For the First Time, the Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the Annual Multinational Large force employment warfare exercise 'Desert Flag VI' held at the Al-Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates. The exercise is hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force from March 3-27, 2021. It is the 1st time that IAF is participating in a multilateral exercise in the Gulf Region. The objective of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to Participating forces and Training them in order to undertake Simulated Air Combat operations in a controlled environment.

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📌 Indian Coast Guard ship 'Vajra', the sixth offshore patrol vessel to enhance coastal security, was formally commissioned into service in Chennai. The ship was indigenously designed and built by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding Limited. Sixth in the series of seven offshore patrol vessels, Vajra is fitted with highly sophisticated navigation and communication systems.

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📌 Indian Army has leased 4 Heron TP medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) from Israel for 3 years. The leases were done under the emergency procurement program of the Indian army. The drones made by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will be delivered between August & September 2021. The estimated cost of Leasings is \$ 200 Million; the leasing agreement can be further extended up to 2 years. The UAVs will be deployed along with the 3, 448 Km long India-China border.

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📌 According to a study released by the defense website, 'Military Direct' China has the strongest military force in the world. The US, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61, and then France with 58. The UK just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9<sup>th</sup> place with a score of 43. China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index.

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🚢 India and the US conducted a two-day naval exercise in the eastern Indian Ocean Region. The Indian Navy deployed its warship Shivalik and long-range maritime patrol aircraft P8I in the 'PASSEX' exercise while the US Navy was represented by the USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group. It was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

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🚢 The second edition of the joint military exercise 'Dustlik' has been conducted between India and Uzbekistan. The second edition of exercise Dustlik is aimed at carrying out joint counter-terror operations in a mountainous rural and urban scenario. Intelligence-based surgical operations, Special Forces tracking techniques, surveillance through a hi-tech command post, slithering operations from helicopters were some of the key elements of the exercise.

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🚢 On International Women's Day, the Indian Navy deployed four women officers onboard its warships after over three decades. Two of them are posted on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya while two are deployed onboard the Indian naval tanker ship INS Shakti. The last time women officers were posted on warships was in 1998.

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🚢 6 Indian Air Force (IAF) Su-30-MKI fighters took off for the United Arab Emirates to participate in the multinational exercise 'Desert Flag'. 10 countries including the US, France, and Saudi Arabia are scheduled to take part in the exercise. IAF's two C-17s will join the Indian team for the exercise.

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🚢 On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, International Women's Day, for the first time in 23 years since 1998, the Indian Navy has deployed 4 women officers onboard its warships. 2 of the 4 officers were posted on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and the other 2 were deployed on the tanker ship INS Shakti. The women officers were first posted on the maritime force vessels in 1998 and the decision was reversed due to logistical and other reasons. Recently Indian Navy has posted Lieutenant Commander Karabi Gogoi as the first women's defense attache abroad in Moscow, Russia.

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🚢 India commissioned its Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel called 'INS Dhruv' (codenamed as VC 11184), with this it became the 5<sup>th</sup> Country after USA, France, Russia & China to possess such a Tracking vessel. It was constructed at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam under the Make in India initiative at a ~ cost of INR 725 Crore. It is one of the Largest Warships to be built at an Indian Yard. It was originally commissioned into the Indian Navy in a secret manner in October 2020.

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🚢 The United States and Japan announced the firing of 2 Ballistic Missiles by the North Korean military into the Sea. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has banned North Korea from testing ballistic missiles & holding Nuclear programs. North Korea also fired 2 non-ballistic missiles in the Yellow Sea in March. Previously in March, the USA and South Korea held a Joint Military Exercise in the Korean peninsula.

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## SPACE

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🚀 France started its 5-day long 1<sup>st</sup> Military Exercise in Space, "AsterX" to analyse its ability against attacks on its Satellites & other defense equipment. The exercise was named on the memory of its Astérix, the 1<sup>st</sup> satellite launched in 1965. Alongside the French Space Forces Command, the new US Space Force and German space agencies also participated in the space exercise. The exercise consists of 18 simulated events that are conducted from an operations room. The Events are designed in a way to Stress test the Space defense system of France.

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🚀 ISRO launched the 'Sindhu Netra' satellite using PSLV-C51 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The Sindhu Netra satellite has been developed by the young scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It is capable of automatically identifying the warships and merchant ships operating in the Indian Ocean region.

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🚀 Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched 1 primary satellite 'Amazonia-1' & 18 co-passenger satellites from India (5) & the USA (13) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. PSLV C-51/Amazonia-1 mission is the 1<sup>st</sup> Dedicated PSLV Commercial Mission for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), which is the ISRO's commercial arm (setup in 2019). This is ISRO's 1<sup>st</sup> Launch of 2021. It has launched 14 Missions in 2021. With this India has totally launched 342 foreign satellites from 34 countries. It is the 53<sup>rd</sup> Flight of PSLV & the 3<sup>rd</sup> Flight of the PSLV-DL Variant.

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🚀 SpaceX successfully tested its 'Starship SN10' prototype rocket after two failed attempts. The rocket successfully up to an altitude of 10,000 Kms & safely landed back on the ground but exploded six minutes after the landing. The test launch was considered successful as the Starship prototype successfully landed after attempting the belly-flop maneuver (a type of free fall in which the atmosphere gradually slows down its speed). Starship is being developed by SpaceX to get people & payloads to the moon, Mars & other distant destinations.

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🚀 Russia launched the 'Arktika-M' 1<sup>st</sup> satellite to monitor climate change in the Arctic Region. The satellite was launched from a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. Arktika-M is the first of two satellites launched by Russia for creating a Hydrometeorological & climate monitoring system to monitor the climate & environment in the Arctic. The second Arktika Satellite is set for launch in 2023. The satellite will be able to monitor & take images every 15-30 minutes of the Arctic due to its highly elliptical orbit which passes over the northern latitudes. The satellite will be able to retransmit distress signals from ships, aircraft, people in the remote part of the International Coaspas-Sarsar search and rescue program.

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🚀 Russia and China signed an MoU on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for the joint construction of a lunar space station. The lunar station will be designed as a "complex of experimental research facilities created on the surface and/or in the orbit of the Moon". The collaboration will promote international cooperation on the project and offer equal access to any nation that wants to take part.

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🚀 The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight demonstration of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur in Balasore, Odisha. This test not only proved the performance of SFDR and its subsystems including the booster motor and nozzle less motor but also showed the capabilities of many new technologies. With this test, DRDO achieved a technological advantage of developing long-range air-to-air missiles (AAMs) with SFDR.

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🚀 Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) is a joint Robotic Lunar mission of India and Japan that aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's south pole in the year 2024. LUPEX is a robotic Lunar mission that aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's south pole in the year 2024. The discussions took place in a virtual meeting between ISRO & JAXA. The Indian side was led by ISRO Chairman K Sivan while the Japan delegation

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🚀 The world's 1<sup>st</sup> all-civilian mission to space has announced the final 2 members of the 4-person crew that will undertake a historic voyage to the stars at the end of 2021. Christopher Sembroski and Dr. Sian Proctor will join previously announced crew member Hayley Arceneaux under the command of Jared Isaacman. SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket will launch the crew aboard a Dragon spacecraft later in 2021.

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🚀 Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) called 'NISAR' (NASA-ISRO SAR) which is capable of producing high-resolution images. It will be used for the Joint Earth Observation Satellite Mission of ISRO & NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration), USA. The Radar penetrates clouds & darkness enabling NISAR to produce high-quality images round the clock in any weather. NISAR is the 1<sup>st</sup> satellite mission to use 2 different radar frequencies (L-band & S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface. The agreement for developing 'NISAR' was signed between NASA & ISRO in 2014.

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🚀 The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) & Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) virtually reviewed the progress made under the Joint Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission. LUPEX is a robotic Lunar mission that aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's south pole in the year 2024. The discussions took place in a virtual meeting between ISRO & JAXA. The Indian side was led by ISRO Chairman K Sivan while the Japan delegation was represented by Hiroshi Yamakawa, President of JAXA.

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## ENVIRONMENT

🦎 Researchers from India's University of Delhi and Kerala Forest Research Institute along with the University of Minnesota, USA have discovered 5 new species of Shrub Frogs (genus *Raorchestes*) in the Western Ghats. Their findings were published in 'PeerJ' journal, the findings came as an outcome of a long comprehensive study on the Shrub frogs that was conducted in the Western Ghats over a period of 10 years.

5 New Species:

- *Raorchestes kakkayamensis* (Kakkayam Shrub Frog)
- *Raorchestes drutaahu* (Fast-calling Shrub Frog)
- *Raorchestes keirasabinae* (Keira's Shrub Frog)
- *Raorchestes sanjappai* (Sanjappa's Shrub Frog)
- *Raorchestes vellikkannan* (Silver-eyed Shrub Frog)

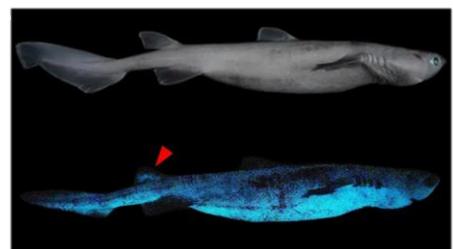


🦎 *Hemiandrus Jacinda* is a species of wētā, a giant flightless cricket and native to New Zealand was first described by Steven A. Trewick. It was named after New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and was published in *Zootaxa* journal. This species is bigger and more brightly coloured than the previous one and found in native forests in Northland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, and Coromandel in the upper North Island.

*Hemiandrus Jacinda* has been named after New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. The cricket is red in colour and "long-limbed," something which is similar to Ardern's Labour party colour and symbol.

🦎 Sometime between the year 1843 and 1848, a small brown-grey songbird with a distinctive black eye-stripe had been found. It wasn't spotted for more than 170 years after that report. However, on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020, a solitary black-browed babbler (*Malacocincla perspicillata*) was spotted in Indonesia. The finding was reported on 25 February 2021 in *Birding ASIA*, the biannual bulletin of the Oriental Bird Club.

🦎 Scientists studying sharks off New Zealand have discovered the three deep-sea species which glow in the dark. This is the first time that bioluminescence sharks have been documented. One of them is now the largest-known luminous vertebrate. Bioluminescence is the production of visible light through a chemical reaction by living organisms which is a widespread phenomenon among marine life.



🦏 The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the African Elephants: African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) as Critically Endangered and the African Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) as Endangered in the IUCN Red List. Due to extreme Poaching, the population of African Forest Elephants fell by 86% in the last 31 years & African Savanna Elephants fell by 60% in the last 50 years.

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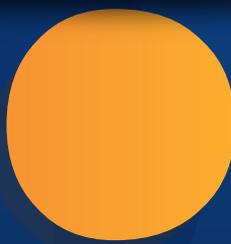


# VIDHIGYA

**SPECIAL FEATURE**



**CHECK YOUR  
QUIZDOM**



**QUIZ ZONE FOR CLAT ASPIRANTS**

# CLAT 2020

# 7 STUDENTS IN TOP 30 RANKS OF MP



**MP RANK-1**

**AIR-14**

**AMAN PATIDAR**  
St. Paul H. S School,  
Indore  
NLSIU, Bengaluru



**MP RANK-10**

**AIR-77**

**SIDDHANT BAHETI**  
The Emerald Heights School, Indore  
NLSIU, Bengaluru



**MP RANK-14**

**AIR-110**

**TANU RAJANGAOKAR**  
The Shishukunj International, Indore  
NALSAR, Hyderabad



**MP RANK-21**

**AIR-187**

**MANTASHA KHAISHAGI**  
Shri Kanwartara School, Mandleshwar  
WBNUJS, Kolkata



**MP RANK-24**

**AIR-212**

**RISHITA SETHI**  
Choithram School, Indore  
NLIU, Bhopal



**MP RANK-25**

**AIR-222**

**SRISHTI SOLANKI**  
Gyansagar Academy, Ujjain  
WBNUJS, Kolkata



**MP RANK-30**

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## QUIZ – ZONE

### Passage – 1

The new Information and Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 under Section 79 of the IT Act has created a flutter. The news media has paid extraordinary attention, space, and time to it as it unfolded, and with good reason. Few people dispute the need for some kind of regulation of digital media. But the debate is over whether it does what is needed. How empowering a tool are the new rules for the public, who are the ultimate users?

From the press statements of the minister for information and broadcasting [1] and minister for information technology [2], it seems that the new rules seek to rein in the online media and the social media platforms by intervening in their content and that the overarching objective is to get the digital platforms to be enveloped into “the law of the land”. (I draw a technical distinction between “online platform” from “digital platform” — the first is an unbundled series of news stories released across time, while the latter is a package, similar to a printed newspaper.)

Because the interpretations of sensitive laws of the land by government agencies — in regard to the freedom of expression versus sedition, for example — in recent years have been disputed, a certain amount of skepticism with regard to Rules 2021 should be expected. Experts have questioned whether the new rules even pass the test of constitutionality — in terms of rationale, purpose, proportionality, necessity, and possible impingement on people’s basic rights.

1. Which of the following has been replaced by [1] & [2] in the passage above?

- (a) Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar
- (b) Prakash Javadekar, Ravi Shankar Prasad
- (c) Prakash Javadekar, Anurag Thakur
- (d) Ravishakar Prasad, Anurag Thakur

2. Which law governs activities related to the use of computer resources in India?

- (a) Information Technology Act, 1999
- (b) Information Technology Act, 2000
- (c) Information Technology Act, 2002
- (d) Information Technology Act, 2020

3. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) Rampant use of social media attacking the dignity of women is a major concern.
- (b) Spread of fake news, misuse of social media by criminals and anti-national elements, attempts to settle corporate rivalries through social media are concerns arising out of social media.
- (c) Defamatory and obscene contents and blatant disrespect to religious sentiments through platforms are growing.
- (d) Identifying the originator and bringing them to justice was never a problem.

4. Which of the following statement is incorrect about guidelines related to Social Media?

- (a) The rules prescribe due diligence that must be followed by intermediaries, including social media intermediaries.
- (b) The rules seek to empower the users by mandating the intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, to establish a grievance redressal mechanism for receiving resolving complaints from the users or victims.
- (c) Intermediaries should ensure online safety and dignity of users, specially women users.
- (d) Rules divide social media intermediaries into three categories.

5. Distinction of social media intermediaries is based on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) geographical area of influence
- (b) year of incorporation of social media platform
- (c) number of users on the social media platform
- (d) None of these

6. Grievance Officer shall acknowledge the complaint within \_\_\_\_\_ hours and resolve it within \_\_\_\_\_ days from its receipt.

- (a) 24, 7
- (b) 15, 24
- (c) 24, 15
- (d) 24, 30

7. In how many age-based categories the content of OTT platforms is required to be classified?

- (a) 7
- (b) 6
- (c) 5
- (d) 4

8. Publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India
- (b) Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act
- (c) (a) and (b)
- (d) None of these

### **Passage – 2**

The [1], Government of India announced the Ease of Living (EOL) Index for Indian cities on 4<sup>th</sup> March. This year 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise which forms the base for the EOL index.

As per the survey, [2] ranks highest among the million-plus population cities, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai. Shimla ranked topmost for cities with a population of less than one million, followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, and Salem.

Srinagar and Dhanbad are at the bottom of the Index in the million-plus cities, and Muzaffarpur and Satna rank lowest among the less-than-one-million-population cities.

The Indian EOL Index is similar to the Global Liveability Ranking published annually by the [3] that assesses which locations around the world provide the best or worst living conditions. It quantifies individual living style in 140 cities all over the world. Each city is assigned a score for nearly 30 quantitative and qualitative factors across stability, healthcare, culture and environment, and education and infrastructure. In the year 2019, Austria's capital, Vienna was the top city. Cities from Australia, Canada, and New Zealand have dominated the top 10 positions in this index and reflect easy accessibility of goods, services, infrastructure, and personal security. New Delhi and Mumbai ranked 118<sup>th</sup> and 119<sup>th</sup> respectively out of 140 cities covered the global rankings list.

**9.** Which of the following has been replaced by [1] in the passage above?

- (a) Home Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of these

**10.** Which of the following has been replaced by [2] in the passage above?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Navi Mumbai
- (d) Gurgaon

**11.** Which of the following has been replaced by [3] in the passage above?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) UNDP
- (c) Germanwatch
- (d) Economist Intelligence Unit

**12.** Which city topped the Municipal Performance Index 2020 in the million+ population category?

- (a) Indore
- (b) Mysuru
- (c) Surat
- (d) Navi Mumbai

**13.** The Ease of Living Framework does not include?

- (a) Quality of Life
- (b) Economic Ability
- (c) Sustainability
- (d) Natural Resources

**Passage – 3**

The bundle of instruments known as SuperCam on board the **[1]** Mars rover has collected its first samples in the hunt for past life on the Red Planet, mission scientists said Wednesday.

The return to Earth years from now of the rocks and soil it retrieves "will give scientists the Holy Grail of planetary exploration," Jean-Yves le Gall, president of France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), which mostly built the mobile observatory, commented via a YouTube broadcast.

These "pieces of Mars", he said, may "finally answer this fascinating and fundamental question: was there ever life elsewhere than Earth?"

After seven months in space, **[2]**'s **[1]** rover gently set down on Martian soil last month and sent back black-and-white images revealing the rocky fields of Jezero Crater, just north of the Mars equator.

"The critical component of this astrobiology mission is SuperCam," said Thomas Zurbuchen, deputy head of **[2]**'s Science Mission Directorate.

Mounted on the rover's mast, the shoebox-sized gizmo is packed with spectrometers, a laser, and an audio recording device to analyse the chemistry, mineralogy, and molecular composition of Mars' famously red surface.

**14.** Which of the following has been replaced by **[1]** in the passage above?

- (a) Hope
- (b) Perseverance
- (c) Reconnaissance
- (d) Curiosity

**15.** Which of the following has been replaced by **[2]** in the passage above?

- (a) CNES
- (b) NASA
- (c) UAESA
- (d) JAXA

**16.** Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) Mars is called a red planet.
- (b) Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and named after the Roman god of war.
- (c) Mars has a thin atmosphere that mostly contains CO<sub>2</sub>.
- (d) Mars has maximum moons in the Solar system.

**17.** Which of the following was the first country to achieve Mars landing?

- (a) US
- (b) Russia
- (c) China
- (d) EU

18. Which of the following statement is incorrect about the mentioned mission?

- (a) It will search for signs of ancient microbial life, which will help to explore the past habitability of Mars.
- (b) The rover has a drill to collect core samples of Martian rock and soil, and then store them in sealed tubes for pickup by a future mission that would ferry them back to Earth for detailed analysis.
- (c) Collected samples to be sent back to Earth sometime in the 2030s for analysis.
- (d) All are correct.

19. Mangalyaan was launched in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) 2010
- (b) 2013
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2018

**Passage – 4**

As many as 76,293 first-time pregnant mothers of the district got benefited till February this year under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

The object of the scheme is to reduce [1] rate of mother and child during pregnancy. A pregnant woman gets financial assistance of [2] in three installments for her upkeep and her unborn child. The purpose of providing financial assistance is to provide nutritious food to pregnant women.

According to AK Singh, nodal officer of the project, the Central government after launching the scheme in January [3], had directed the department concerned to give a hundred percent benefit to first-time pregnant women. Efforts were being made to achieve a hundred percent target. Till February 2021, around 76,293 women who got pregnant for the first time have been registered, he added.

Briefing the process of financial assistance Dr. Ghazala said, "After registration, in the first installment a mother gets Rs 1000, the second installment is released after first examination and six months pregnancy and the third installment of Rs 2000 is given after registration of birth and vaccination", she said. The financial assistance is given through DBT mode, she added.

20. Which of the following has been replaced by [1] in the passage above?

- (a) morbidity
- (b) fatality
- (c) emergency
- (d) mortality

21. Which of the following has been replaced by [2] in the passage above?

- (a) ₹ 5000
- (b) ₹ 7000
- (c) ₹ 8000
- (d) ₹ 10000

**22.** Which of the following has been replaced by **[3]** in the passage above?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2018

**23.** Which of the following statement is/are correct about beneficiaries?

- (a) All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) with the Central Government or the State Governments or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.
- (b) All eligible Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who have their pregnancy on or after the scheme launch date for the first child in the family.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of these

**24.** Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) PMMVY is executed by the Health Ministry.
- (b) Cash benefits are provided to pregnant women directly in their bank accounts.
- (c) Scheme provides partial wage compensation to women for wage loss during childbirth and childcare.
- (d) PMMVY- Common Application Software is a web-based software application that enables tracking the status of each beneficiary under the scheme

**25.** What is the approximate number of beneficiaries of PMMVY till FY 2020?

- (a) Around 10 million
- (b) Around 17.5 million
- (c) Around 2.25 million
- (d) Around 29 million

### **Passage – 5**

In a resolution adopted Thursday, the European Parliament symbolically declared the entire **[1]** bloc as an “LGBTIQ Freedom Zone” – the acronym meaning lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex, and queer.

The move comes as a response against member state **[2]**'s controversial move to create more than 100 “LGBTIQ ideology-free zones” around the country since 2019, and more generally against the backsliding of LGBTIQ rights in some EU countries, particularly in **[2]** and **[3]**, the legislature said in a press release.

A majority of countries in the EU (23/27) recognise same-sex unions, with 16 legally recognising same-sex marriage. **[2]** is part of the small minority that does not acknowledge such relationships.

Its president, Andrzej Duda last year said that "LGBT ideology" is more "destructive to man" than communism imposed on the country by the Soviet Union.

[2] is also among the countries that bar same-sex couples from adopting children together, although many such couples get around this rule by applying to adopt as single parents. The country has now announced plans to close the loophole by introducing background checks on applicants. Under the proposed law, those found to be applying as a single parent while being in a same-sex relationship will be criminally liable.

**26.** Which of the following has been replaced by [1] in the passage above?

- (a) 26-member
- (b) 27-member
- (c) 28-member
- (d) 29-member

**27.** Which of the following has been replaced by [2] in the passage above?

- (a) Netherland
- (b) Poland
- (c) Austria
- (d) Sweden

**28.** Which of the following has been replaced by [3] in the passage above?

- (a) Hungary
- (b) Germany
- (c) Italy
- (d) France

**29.** Which of the following country was first to recognise same-sex marriages?

- (a) UK
- (b) France
- (c) Switzerland
- (d) Netherland

**30.** Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) A majority of countries in the EU recognise same-sex unions.
- (b) Some countries have been pushing forward a conservative Catholic social agenda.
- (c) As per the latest EU Parliament resolution, LGBTIQ persons everywhere in the EU should enjoy the freedom to live and publicly show their sexual orientation and gender identity.
- (d) All are correct

**31.** Who among the following has become the most awarded woman artist in GRAMMY Awards history?

- (a) Katy Perry
- (b) Taylor Swift
- (c) Adele
- (d) Beyonce

**32.** Joe Biden: American Dreamer is written by \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Joe Biden
- (b) Evan Osnos
- (c) William Barr
- (d) Joe Hartzler

**33.** Which of the following team won Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Mumbai

**34.** Who among the following was appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) Champions and Veterans Committee?

- (a) Mary Kom
- (b) Vikas Krishnan
- (c) Rajan Sharma
- (d) Laishram Sarita Devi

**35.** Joint Military Exercise Dustlik was conducted between India and which of the following country?

- (a) Tajikistan
- (b) Kazakhstan
- (c) Uzbekistan
- (d) Kyrgyzstan

**36.** World's first ship tunnel is being constructed in which of the following country?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Finland
- (c) Denmark
- (d) Sweden

**37.** Who among the following was chosen BBC Sportswoman of the year 2020?

- (a) Mary Kom
- (b) PV Sindhu
- (c) Saina Nehwal
- (d) Koneru Hampi

- 38.** India's biggest floating solar power plant is being developed by \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) Reliance
  - (b) NTPC
  - (c) Adani
  - (d) Suzlon
- 39.** Who among the following has been appointed as chief statistician of India?
- (a) Atish Chandra
  - (b) GP Samant
  - (c) MA Ganapathy
  - (d) Anish Shah
- 40.** Which of the following is no more in the list of PCA, as confirmed by RBI in March 2021?
- (a) IDBI Bank
  - (b) IOB
  - (c) UCO Bank
  - (d) Central Bank of India
- 41.** My Life in Full: Work, Family, and Our Future will be a memoir of \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman
  - (b) Indra Nooyi
  - (c) Kiran Majumdar Shaw
  - (d) Kalpana Morparia
- 42.** Which of the following is the correct theme of International Day of Happiness 2021?
- (a) Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind
  - (b) Keep Healthy. Stay Wise. Be Kind
  - (c) Keep Calm. Stay Healthy. Be Kind
  - (d) Keep Healthy. Stay Calm. Be Kind
- 43.** Which country topped Hurun Global Rich List 2021 (count of billionaires)?
- (a) China
  - (b) US
  - (c) Germany
  - (d) India
- 44.** Aster X is the first space exercise of which of the following country?
- (a) US
  - (b) China
  - (c) Russia

(d) France

**45.** Final match of the ICC World Test Championship will be played in which of the following country?

- (a) India
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) England
- (d) Australia

**46.** In march 2021, the central bank of which of the following country decided to print 1 million currency notes due to hyperinflation?

- (a) Peru
- (b) Zimbabwe
- (c) Venezuela
- (d) Argentina

**47.** Who among the following became the first MP to become Captain in the Indian Army?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Kiran Rijju
- (c) Tejasvi Surya
- (d) Anurag Thakur

**48.** Super 75 Scholarship Scheme is associated with which of the following UT?

- (a) Puducherry
- (b) Lakshadweep
- (c) J&K
- (d) Ladakh

**49.** Who among the following was the recently appointed attorney general of the US?

- (a) William Barr
- (b) Mitch McConnell
- (c) Merrick Garland
- (d) Joe Hartzler

**50.** A new passenger train service between Dhaka and \_\_\_\_\_ was set to start from the 26th March 2021 marking the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh.

- (a) Darjiling
- (b) New Jalpaiguri
- (c) Asansol
- (d) Dibrugarh

### **Answers and explanations**

1. Ans. (b)

Sol. Minister for information and broadcasting is **Prakash Javadekar** and Minister for information technology is **Ravi Shankar Prasad**.

2. Ans. (b)

Sol. In India, the **Information Technology Act, 2000**, as amended from time to time, governs all activities related to the use of computer resources. Section 69 of the Act confers on the Central and State governments the power to issue directions "to intercept, monitor or decrypt any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer resource.

3. Ans. (d)

Sol. With billions of messages being exchanged every day, with people posting every nook and corner of the world, at times from untraceable and unidentifiable ids, tracing the originator was always an issue.

4. Ans. (d)

Sol. To encourage innovations and enable the growth of new social media intermediaries without subjecting smaller platforms to significant compliance requirements, the Rules make a distinction between **social media intermediaries and significant social media intermediaries**.

5. Ans. (c)

Sol. The distinction is based on the **number of users on the social media platform**. The government is empowered to notify the threshold of the user base that will distinguish between social media intermediaries and significant social media intermediaries. The Rules require the significant social media intermediaries to follow certain additional due diligence.

6. Ans. (c)

Sol. Grievance Officer shall acknowledge the complaint within **twenty-four** hours and resolve it within **fifteen** days from its receipt.

7. Ans. (c)

Sol. The OTT platforms, called the publishers of online curated content in the rules, would self-classify the content into **five** age-based categories- **U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult)**.

8. Ans. (c)

Sol. Publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe **Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act** thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media.

9. Ans. (b)

Sol. **MoHUA** has announced the EOL Index.

10. Ans. (a)

Sol. **Bengaluru** emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai.

11. Ans. (d)

Sol. **Economist Intelligence Unit** prepares Global Liveability Index.

12. Ans. (a)

Sol. The assessment framework under MPI 2020 has classified municipalities based on their population- Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and less than a million population. < In the Million+ category, **Indore** has emerged as the highest-ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal. < In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

13. Ans. (d)

Sol. The EoLI 2020 strengthens its scope by consolidating the framework with the addition of a Citizen Perception Survey in the index, holding a weightage of 30%. It, therefore, examines the outcomes that lead to existing living conditions through pillars of Quality of Life, Economic Ability, Sustainability, spanning across 13 categories of -Education, Health, Housing, and Shelter, WASH and SWM, Mobility, Safety and Security, Recreation, Level of Economic Development, Economic Opportunities, Environment, Green Spaces, and Buildings, Energy Consumption, and City Resilience, that account for 70% of the overall outcome.

14. Ans. (b)

Sol. **Perseverance** is the most advanced, expensive, and sophisticated mobile laboratory sent to Mars. It was launched to search for signs of ancient microbial life, which will advance NASA's quest to explore the past habitability of Mars. It is different from previous missions because it is capable of drilling and collecting core samples of the most promising rocks and soils, and setting them aside in a "cache" on the surface of Mars. It was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020. NASA's Perseverance mission scientist informed on 10<sup>th</sup> March that a bunch of instruments known as SuperCam had collected its first sample of any past life on the Red planet.

15. Ans. (b)

Sol. Perseverance was launched by **NASA**.

16. Ans. (d)

Sol. **Jupiter has maximum moons in the Solar system.** Mars has only two small moons, Phobos and Deimos.

Mars is known as the 'Red Planet' because of its red colour, which comes from a large amount of iron oxide (or 'rust') in its rocks and soil.

**17. Ans. (b)**

Sol. **Russia** (then USSR) in 1971 became the first country to carry out a Mars landing, Mars 3. The second country to reach Mars's surface is the United State of America (USA). Since 1976, it has achieved 8 successful Mars landings, the latest being the 'InSight' in 2019.

**18. Ans. (d)**

Sol. NASA's Perseverance mission scientist informed on 10<sup>th</sup> March that a bunch of instruments known as SuperCam had collected its first sample of any past life on the Red planet. The rover has a drill to collect core samples of Martian rock and soil, and then store them in sealed tubes for pickup by a future mission that would ferry them back to Earth for detailed analysis. Perseverance will also test technologies to help pave the way for future human exploration of Mars. NASA's Perseverance rover stayed for seven months in space and gently set down on Martian soil on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It sent black-and-white images revealing the rocky fields of Jezero Crater, just north of the Mars equator. On the mast of the rover, a shoebox-sized gizmo packed with spectrometers, a laser, and an audio recording device is mounted to analyse the chemistry, mineralogy, and molecular composition of Mars's red surface. SuperCam's laser can flash objects smaller than a pencil point from as far away as seven meters and enables the observation of spots beyond the reach of the rover's robotic arm. It is believed by Scientists that around 3.5 billion years ago the crater in which Perseverance landed was abode to a river that flowed into a deep lake, placing sediment in a fan-shaped delta. The task of the rover is to collect more than two dozen rock and soil samples in sealed tubes and sent them back to Earth sometime in the 2030s for analysis.

**19. Ans. (b)**

Sol. The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or Mangalyaan, is a space probe launched by the Indian Space Research Organization on **5<sup>th</sup> November 2013**. It was India's first interplanetary mission. The indigenously-built space probe has been in the Martian orbit since 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The mission made India the first Asian country, and the fourth in the world after Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency, to get to the planet. ISRO spent \$75 million to launch the mission, making it the least-expensive Mars mission to date.

**20. Ans. (d)**

Sol. The object of the PMMVY is to reduce the **mortality** rate of mother and child during pregnancy.

**21. Ans. (a)**

Sol. Beneficiaries receive a cash benefit of **₹ 5,000** in three installments on fulfilling the following conditions: Early registration of pregnancy Ante-natal check-up Registration of the birth of the child

and completion of the first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family. The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentives under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on average, a woman gets ₹ 6,000. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), has crossed 1.75 crores, eligible women, till the financial year 2020.

**22.** Ans. (c)

Sol. PMMVY, a maternity benefit program was implemented in all districts of the country with effect from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2017**.

**23.** Ans. (c)

Sol. **Both the statement regarding beneficiaries are correct.**

**24.** Ans. (a)

Sol. PMMVY is executed by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**. All the other statements are correct.

**25.** Ans. (b)

Sol. A total sum of ₹ 5,931.95 crores was paid to **1.75 crore** eligible beneficiaries between the financial year 2018 and 2020.

**26.** Ans. (b)

Sol. After Brexit, the European Union currently counts **27 countries**.

**27.** Ans. (b)

Sol. **Poland and Hungary** are the two countries who against such relationships and favouring laws.

**28.** Ans. (a)

Sol. **Poland and Hungary** are the two countries who against such relationships and favouring laws.

**29.** Ans. (d)

Sol. The Danish (Denmark) was the first to grant same-sex unions almost the exact same rights as marriages, with its Registered Partnerships Act of 1989. However, the law stopped short of calling same-sex unions "marriages," and couples could not be married in the Danish state church or adopt a child. Even so, the law was viewed as an important stepping stone at the time.

It wasn't until 2001, however, that a country fully legalized same-sex marriage. That country was the **Netherlands**.

**30.** Ans. (d)

Sol. **All the given statements are correct.**

**31.** Ans. (d)

Sol. The 28-time GRAMMY winner Beyonce is the most awarded woman artist in GRAMMY history; she is tied with Adele at six for most GRAMMY wins in one night by a woman. Aside from her wins, Queen Bey has amassed 79 GRAMMY nominations, more than any other woman artist. Georg Solti holds the record for the most GRAMMY Awards won in any genre with 31.

**32. Ans. (b)**

Sol. Evan Osnos has authored a new Book "Joe Biden: American Dreamer" a biography of American President, Joe Biden that features both the personal and public life of POTUS.

**33. Ans. (d)**

Sol. Mumbai defeated Uttar Pradesh in the final of Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021-21 season to clinch their fourth title in the Indian domestic tournament. Named after the legendary Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare, the first player in the nation to score a triple century in First-Class cricket, the tournament has been in existence since 1993-94.

**34. Ans. (a)**

Sol. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has appointed 6-time Boxing World Champion Mary Kom as the new chairperson of the AIBA Champion and Veterans Committee. She was elected by the mail vote of the Board Member of AIBA. The AIBA Champion and Veterans Committee were formed in December 2020. It consists of boxing veterans across the globe and champions who have achieved significant results.

**35. Ans. (c)**

Sol. The India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commenced recently in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand. This was the Second Edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies. The first edition of the exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.

**36. Ans. (a)**

Sol. The 1.7-kilometer Stad Ship Tunnel, which will have a pair of stone entrances designed by Snøhetta, has been given the green light, and construction is now set to begin in 2022. The Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) received an assignment letter from the Ministry of Transport and Communications to begin preparing for the construction of the project. Designed to make shipping safer along the west coast of Norway, the Stad Ship Tunnel will connect the Kjødepollen bay and Vanylvsfjorden so that cargo and passenger ships of up to 16,000 tonnes can avoid dangerous shipping routes around the Stad peninsula. It is believed to be the first tunnel for large ships built anywhere in the world.

**37. Ans. (d)**

Sol. World rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year award.

**38. Ans. (b)**

Sol. India's biggest floating solar power plant by generation capacity (100MW) is being developed by the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) at Ramagundam in the Peddapalli district of Telangana. The project is in line with India's commitment to attain the target of 175 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2022 including 100 GW of solar installed capacity.

**39. Ans. (b)**

Sol. The Government has appointed GP Samanta as Chief Statistician of India. He will also hold the charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). Samanta will replace Kshatrapati Shivaji who was given an additional charge in MoSPI in September after the superannuation of Pravin Srivastava on August 31, 2020.

**40. Ans. (a)**

Sol. The Reserve Bank of India has taken IDBI Bank Ltd out of its prompt corrective action list after it found the state-run lender was not in breach of the central bank's parameters. The performance of IDBI Bank Limited, currently under the Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF) of RBI, was reviewed by the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) in its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It was noted that as per published results for the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the bank is not in breach of the PCA parameters on regulatory capital, Net NPA, and Leverage ratio.

**41. Ans. (b)**

Sol. Indra Nooyi, the trailblazing former CEO of PepsiCo is writing her memoir that is expected to be released later this year. Titled My Life in Full: Work, Family, and Our Future carries insight and a call-to-action from one of the world's most-admired business leaders on how our society can really blend work and family – and advance women – in the twenty-first century.

**42. Ans. (a)**

Sol. 20th March is celebrated as the annual International Day of Happiness. The day was started by the United Nations to promote the idea that feeling happy is a global human right and everyone has the right to pursue their happiness. For this year's International Day of Happiness, the theme is 'Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind', which is heavily inspired by last year's global pandemic of coronavirus.

**43. Ans. (a)**

Sol. As per Hurun Global Rich List 2021 Country-wise, China leads with the most number of billionaires at 1058, followed by the US (696), India (177), Germany, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland at over 100 each. The world added 8 billionaires a week in 2020 – 421 in a year – taking their total number to a record 3,288, according to the 10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021.

**44. Ans. (d)**

Sol. France launched its first military exercise in space this week to evaluate its ability to defend its satellites and other defense equipment from an attack. Michel Friedling, the head of France's newly created Space Command said the exercises are a "stress-test of their systems. He said that they were a first for the French army and even a first in Europe. The exercise, codenamed "AsterX" in memory of the first French satellite from 1965, will be based on 18 simulated events in an operations room. During the drill, the French military will monitor a potentially dangerous space object as well as a threat to its own satellite from another foreign power possessing a considerable space force. The new US Space Force and German space agencies are taking part in the French exercises which began on Monday and will last until Friday. The French Space Forces Command, Commandement de l'Espace (CdE) was created in 2019 and is set to have 500 personnel by 2025.

**45. Ans. (c)**

Sol. India will take on New Zealand in the final of the inaugural World Test Championship in a bio-secure bubble at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton from June 18-22, the game's governing body ICC. Initially, the final was supposed to be held at the Lord's but the ICC Board and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) decided to change the venue to ensure that the fixture could be staged safely with the potential impact of COVID-19 minimised for all involved.

**46. Ans. (c)**

Sol. Venezuela's central bank said that it would introduce a banknote worth 1 million bolivars, as years of incessant hyperinflation, continue to batter the value of the crisis-stricken South American country's currency. The new banknote will be worth just 52 U.S. cents at the current official exchange rate. Interannual inflation was running at 2,665% as of January, according to the central bank.

**47. Ans. (d)**

Sol. Union Minister Anurag Thakur became the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army. The four-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant by then Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dalbir S Suhag TA in July 2016, according to a statement. Thakur was promoted as Captain in the 124 Sikh regiment.

**48. Ans. (c)**

Sol. The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched "Super-75" scholarship schemes for meritorious girls, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021. The basic aim of this scholarship scheme is to facilitate the education and entrepreneurship of women. The super-75 scholarship scheme will support the education of meritorious girls from poor families, so that they can excel in streams like medicine, engineering, ITI (Industrial training institutes), and humanity and contribute to nation-building. Apart from this, Lt Governor Sinha also announced a new scheme named 'Tejaswini'. This scheme has been launched under 'Mission Youth-J&K'. Under Tejaswini, financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs will be provided to the girls between the age group of 18 to 35 years to start their business.

**49.** Ans. (c)

Sol. Merrick Garland, President Joe Biden's nominee for attorney general was confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Garland was appointed US Attorney General in March with a strong bipartisan vote in his favor after spending the past two decades as a federal appellate judge in Washington DC.

**50.** Ans. (b)

Sol. A new passenger train service between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri is set to start on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March marking the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh. According to an official release by the Bangladesh Rail Ministry, the direct train between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri will run through the Chilahati-Haldibari cross-border rail route. However, other details like the schedule of the train, fair and immigration and its name will be decided later through discussion between the officials of the two countries. There are two passenger trains currently running between Bangladesh and India. The Maitree Express runs between Dhaka and Kolkata and Bandhan Express links Khulna with Kolkata.

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St. Raphael's HS School, Indore



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IBP Global Academy, Ujjain



**JERRIN MATHEW**  
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CSC School, Ujjain



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**69<sup>+</sup>**

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IN CLAT 2020**

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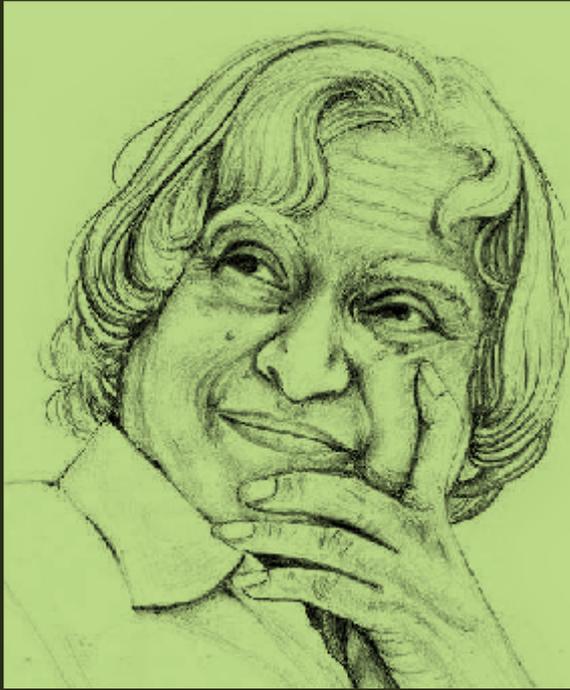
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