

**CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS**

**Cabinet Approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry**

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the Central Sector Scheme called “**Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)**” with an outlay of **10900 crore**.
- Scheme will be implemented over a **six year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27**.
- The **Project Management Agency (PMA)** shall implement the scheme.
- PMA will be responsible for appraisal of **applications/ proposals**, verification of eligibility for support, scrutiny of claims eligible for disbursement of incentive.
- The PLI scheme will support creation of **global food manufacturing champions and support Indian brands of food products** in the international markets.

**Government announced Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for Q1 of FY 2021-22 (April-June)**

- The rate of interest on **Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter (April-June) of 2021-22** will remain unchanged as the **last quarter (January-March) of 2020-2021**.
- Earlier on March 31, 2021, the Government had announced a cut in interest rates on various small savings schemes sharply by **40-110 basis points**.
- However, the orders issued were withdrawn by the government on **April 01, 2021**.
- This marks the fourth consecutive quarter that the government has maintained the rates on such schemes that are effective **from April 1 and remain in effect till June 30, 2021**.

**Rate on Interest on Small Saving Schemes:**

- Savings deposit rate has been revised **from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent annually**
- Public Provident Fund rate has been **cut down to 6.4 per cent from 7.1 per cent annually**.
- The interest rate on National Savings Certificates has been reduced to **9 per cent from existing 6.8 percent** and **Kisan Vikas Patra** will give a yield of 6.2 percent and mature in 138 months.
- The girl child savings scheme **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** account will offer **9 percent** interest rate instead of **earlier 7.6 per cent**.
- Senior citizen savings schemes rate has been lowered from **4 per cent to 6.5 per cent quarterly**.

### Deadline for Linking PAN-Aadhaar Extended to June, 30 2021

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has extended the last date for the mandatory linking of the **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** with **Aadhaar number** till **June, 30 2021**.
- Earlier this deadline was March, 31 2021.
- The extension has been done keeping in mind the difficulties arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### AYUSH Ministry asks applications for Prime Minister's Yoga Awards

- **The Ministry of AYUSH** has invited applications for the **Prime Minister's Yoga Awards (PMYA)**.
- The nomination process for this year has begun from the **30th of March** and the last date for the submission of the entries is the **30th of April**.
- Due to the COVID-19, pandemic the applications for the award were not invited in 2020.
- However like previous years, the **AYUSH Ministry** will be felicitating the achievers and unsung heroes and institutions of the **domain of Yoga**, from different parts of the country and across the world with the **Prime Minister's Yoga Awards**.
- The award will be hosted on the **MyGov platform**, and consists of **two National categories** for the entities of Indian origin and two International categories for the entities of Indian or foreign origin.
- **The Ministry of AYUSH** said that the winners will be felicitated with a trophy, certificate, and a **cash award of 25 lakh rupees**, which will be announced on the **International Day of Yoga on the 21st of June 2021**.
- In-case of joint winners, the awards would be divided among the winners.

### Govt unveils All-India Survey of Migrant Workers

- Government launched the **All-India Survey of Migrant Workers and All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey**.
- The Labour and Employment Ministry said, the objective of the **All-India Survey of Migrant Workers** is to study the kind of **employment-related migration** undertaken by workers.
- The survey will provide the details of working and living conditions **faced by Migrant Workers and impact of COVID 19 on their world of work**.
- The All-India Quarterly Establishment-based **Employment Survey will provide the employment estimates** for establishments employing ten or more workers as well as those employing nine or less workers.
- The survey will provide crucial data on the changes in employment situation across the selected sectors on a quarterly basis.
- The Ministry said these surveys will plug-in the data gap on various aspects of **labour and employment** and will aid evidence-based policy making processes.

### Light weight Bullet Proof Jacket developed by DRDO lab

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has congratulated DRDO and DMSRDE Kanpur for developing a LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket.
- Mr Singh said, India needs more such innovative product design and development to realize the dream of **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**.
- **DMSRDE Kanpur, a DRDO laboratory** has developed a **LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket** weighing **9 kg meeting the qualitative requirements of Indian Army**.
- The **Front Hard Armour Panel jacket** was tested successfully at **TBRL Chandigarh** and met relevant BIS standards.

### Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates new cruise service connecting Hazira port in Surat and Diu Island

- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Independent charge) Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a **new cruise service connecting Hazira port in Surat and Diu Island**.
- He flagged off this service virtually via video conference.
- A cruise ship will leave Hazira **every Monday and Wednesday** and reach Diu -next day in the morning.
- Return journey will take place on the same day in the evening from Diu and end at Hazira- **next day in the morning**.
- One side journey will **take 13 to 14 hours time**.
- A **300 passenger capacity** cruise ship will have 16 cabins.
- It will make **two round trips** during the week.
- It will take passengers to high-sea on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Cruise ship has latest facilities including a gaming lounge, VIP lounge, entertainment on deck etc.
- Around four months ago, a ropax ferry service connecting Hazira (Surat) and Ghogha in Bhavnagar district was launched.
- It has so far carried **one lakh passengers** in addition to thousands of vehicles.

### India participate in second Sherpas meeting of G7, guest countries

- The **second meeting** of the **Sherpas of G7 and guest countries** was held.
- **India's G7 Sherpa Suresh Prabhu** attended the meeting.
- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson **Arindam Bagchi** said the priority issues under the UK's **G7 Presidency agenda** were discussed, including preparations for the **COP26 Summit** and global health cooperation.
- Mr Bagchi also said that India has been invited as a guest country of the G7 by the UK this year, along with **Australia, South Korea and South Africa**.

### Center needs TV channels to generate greater awareness on message of 'Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi'

- **The Information and Broadcasting Ministry** has urged **private TV channels** to generate greater awareness on the message of **Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi** by disseminating messages for **COVID-appropriate behavior and vaccination** of eligible persons.
- The Ministry issued an advisory to all private television channels in view of the rising COVID-19 cases in the country.
- It has reiterated the **leadership role played by the TV channels** in spreading message in the public interest.
- The advisory also cited **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** meeting to review the emerging situation, where it was decided to focus on a **five-fold strategy of Testing, Tracing, Treatment, COVID appropriate behavior and Vaccination**.

### PM Modi hails completion of Arch closure of Chenab Bridge

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has lauded the completion of Arch closure of the **Chenab Bridge**.
- It is the **world's highest Railway Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Mr Modi mentioned that capability and trust of the countrymen is setting an example before the world.
- He added that this feat of construction does not only showcase the **growing prowess of India** in the field of modern engineering and technology but also is an example of changing work culture marked by the ethos of '**Sankalp Se Siddhi**'.

### TRIFED unveils "Sankalp se Siddhi"- Village and Digital Connect Drive

- **TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has now launched "**Sankalp se Siddhi**" – **Village and Digital Connect Drive**.
- It is a **100 day drive** which was started from 1st of this month.
- The drive will entail **150 teams visiting ten villages each of which 10 in each region from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies, visiting ten villages each**.
- The main aim of this drive is to activate the **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** in these villages.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs in a statement said that 100 villages in each region and 1500 villages in the country will be covered in the next 100 days.
- The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for clustering as **TRIFOOD**, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries- SFURTI units as larger enterprises.

### Center announces Birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar on April 14 as public holiday from 2021

- The government has declared **Ambedkar Jayanti**, the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar which falls on **14 April every year, as a public holiday** with effect from 2021, under **Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881**.
- On 14 April 2021, India will celebrate the **130th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar**.

### Uttar Pradesh govt inaugurates unique gift scheme to promote covid vaccination

- **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a **unique gift scheme to promote covid vaccination** in the state.
- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has asked officials to make all preparations to deal with the growing number of Corona infections.
- **World Health Day on 7th April**, the state government will conduct a **lucky draw** for those who have taken the vaccine.
- Additional chief secretary health **Amit Mohan Prasad** said that in those districts where **more than 25,000 beneficiaries** have taken both doses of vaccine they will be eligible for this gift scheme.
- 4 gifts will be given to the beneficiaries after the lucky draw.
- Where **more than 25,000 or more than 50,000 beneficiaries** have taken both the doses of vaccines, the number of gifts will be increased to 6 and 8.

### Foot marchers of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' reach Dhaman, Gujarat

- **Mahatma Gandhi** during his historic **Dandi March of 1930**, left for Daman from Wanj in the morning of 3rd April.
- The foot marchers of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** have reached Dhaman on the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Dandi Padyatris** are getting a warm welcome at every turn passing by.
- Women children and local residents are welcoming the **Padyatris by eradicating** the wall of caste and religion.
- **In Dhaman, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang** joined the Padyatris and traveled on foot to Navsari.
- During the Dandi March of 1930, Mahatma Gandhi left for Dhaman in the morning of 3rd April.
- **Dandi Padyatris of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav** are proceeding on the same route.
- There is a lot of enthusiasm in the atmosphere.
- There are paths decorated with **flowers, children and girls dressed as Gandhi and Bharat Mata** are also involved in the yatra.
- Women are showering flowers to welcome the padyatris.
- **Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang** joined padyatris in Dhaman and walked up to **Navsari** on the historic path of Mahatma Gandhi.

### **Maharashtra: Shistura Hiranyakeshi in Sindhudurg Became Fifth Biological Heritage Site**

- The **Maharashtra** government has declared an area at **Amboli in Western ghats** in **Sindhudurg district** as a biodiversity heritage site, following the discovery of a rare freshwater fish species.
- The new freshwater fish species called '**Schistura Hiranyakeshi**' was discovered in a pond at the **Mahadev Temple** at Amboli in Sawantwadi tehsil of Sindhudurg district by **Tejas Thackeray** (son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray), long with his team.
- The 2.11 hector area has been declared as '**Shistura Hiranyakeshi Biological Heritage Site**', under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, making it the fifth area in Maharashtra.

### **Rajasthan Marked first state to launch "Health Insurance for All" its residents**

- The state government of Rajasthan has launched a cashless medical insurance scheme titled "**Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**", aimed at providing medical relief to all residents of the state.
- Under this scheme, each family in the state can claim up to Rs. 5 lakh every year for medical expenses.
- With this, **Rajasthan has become the first state in the country**, where **each family will get health insurance of Rs 5 lakh each year**.

### **Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana:**

- In a major development in the healthcare sector, Rajasthan government has started the registration process for its flagship '**Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**', which entails each family of the country's north-western state claim medical expenses up to **Rs five lakh every year**.
- **Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** had announced Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana in the state budget 2021-22.

### **Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Ariz Aftab unveiled two SVEEP Trams in Kolkata**

- The **Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Ariz Aftab** launched **two SVEEP Trams** in Kolkata to **increase voters' awareness** and to encourage more and more eligible electors to exercise their democratic rights.
- The trams will run in **Kolkata North and Kolkata South** constituencies which will be going for polls in the last two phases of ongoing assembly elections.
- **Mr Aftab said EVM and VVPAT** demonstrations will be done inside and no tickets will be required to board the trams.
- Ramp and wheelchair facilities for **PWD voters** are also available.

### India's biggest floating solar power plant project developed at Ramagundam in Telangana

- **India's biggest floating solar power plant** with a capacity of **100 MW** will be set up at **Ramagundam in Telangana**.
- The project, expected to be opened in May, is being set up at Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir.
- The solar project is **commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)**.
- The project, which is estimated to cost around 423 crore rupees, will have **5 lakh photovoltaic panels**.
- The solar panels will cover **450-acre areas** of the reservoir and can be expanded in the future.
- NTPC's efforts to set up floating solar power projects are aimed at reducing its carbon footprints and accelerate its green energy production to 30 percent of its capacity.
- The **world's largest solar power plant with 600 MW capacities** is being set up on **Omkareshwar Dam on Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh**.
- **The project costing 3,000 crore rupees** is expected to start power generation only by 2022-23.

### India committed to regional cooperation under BIMSTEC framework: S Jaishankar

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** has said that India remains committed to further building the momentum of **regional cooperation** under the **BIMSTEC framework** and make the organization stronger, vibrant, more effective and result-oriented.
- Delivering a statement at the **17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting** being held virtually, **Dr Jaishankar** expressed confidence that BIMSTEC would scale new heights in the times to come with the collective efforts and spirit of cooperation.
- He said, **BIMSTEC** enjoys the unique strength of connecting **South and South-East Asia** and it has steadily gained prominence in the **Indian foreign policy**.
- Dr Jaishankar said, participation of BIMSTEC leaders at Indian Government's swearing-in ceremony in **May 2019** was a testament to it.
- He said, BIMSTEC over the years has emerged as a promising sub-regional grouping with growing strategic and economic interests of the Member States, as well as of the international community in the Bay of Bengal region.
- The Minister said, our collective resolve to impart a **fresh dynamism to BIMSTEC** has rejuvenated the organization.
- He expressed happiness that the region is witnessing **rapid economic growth with growing political and economic cooperation** among the Member States.

### CWC counsel political parties not to utilize service of children for election campaign

- In the **Union Territory of Puducherry** the **Child Welfare Committee (CWC)** here advised political parties not to utilize the service of **Children in Electioneering**.
- **Child Welfare Committee chairperson Ashokan** in a release said that the commission received complaints that children are being used by political parties for their election campaign and as per the directions of the **National Child Welfare Commission**; the election department was directed to **monitor the campaigning of political parties** and to initiate action if children are used for campaign.
- He said a **5 year old boy** was badly injured in his hand when he took a cracker which was not busted when the political parties lit it and it busted in his hands.
- A report on the incident was sought from the **Karaikal Collector** for further action, he said.

### V Prez Venkaiah Naidu mentioned that Medium of instruction up to primary school level must be the mother tongue or local language

- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** has said that the medium of instruction up to the primary school level must be **the mother tongue or the local language**.
- He said, many studies have catalogued the advantages of studying in mother tongue during early schooling.
- **Attending the 600 birth anniversary of the renowned Odia sage-poet Adikabi Sarala Das** in Cuttack in Orissa, the Vice President also called upon administration and judiciary to use local language to effectively communicate with the people.
- Referring to Adikabi Sarala Das as the father of modern Odia language, the Vice-President said that the poet was a pioneer in democratizing literature through the use of colloquial language as early as in the **15 century**.

### Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan bags Kalinga Ratna award

- **Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan** has been conferred the '**Kalinga Ratna**' award for the year 2021.
- The award instituted by **Sarala Sahitya Sansad** was presented to Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan by M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India, during the **600th Birth Anniversary of Adikabi Sarala Das and 40th Annual Celebrations of Sarala Sahitya Sansad** during the programme held at Sarala Bhawan in Cuttack, 02.04.21.
- The **Kalinga Ratna award** carried a **silver statue of Goddess Saraswati** and a **copper plaque**.
- **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu** described Sarala Das as Adi Kavi and a genius in the field of Odia literature.
- The Vice President said '**Sarala Mahabharat**' written by Sarala Das in the 15th century, the **first complete Mahabharat** in a regional language, is a classic example of popularity and adoption of literature in the spoken dialect.

## Center approves Rs 780 crore project for upgradation of Kargil Zanskar road

- **Union Government** has approved a **780 Crore rupees project** for upgradation of Kargil Zanskar road.
- The **2 lane Kargil Zanskar NH 301 road** is sanctioned under EPC mode.
- **Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari** approved the upgradation of the 780 Crore project.
- **Zanskar- Kargil** road was declared National Highway in 2017 by the Centre.
- This road from Zanskar valley, also connects Suru valley, Sankoo valley of Kargil Ladakh with the Highway.
- The road will be a key for economic development of the remote region of Ladakh.
- MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyail said, Modi government is fulfilling the major assurances given to Ladakh.
- After becoming Union Territory the pace of progress has been multiplied by initiation of various projects like **Zojjila Tunnel Construction**, Improved Air Connectivity and increase in the total road length by sanctioning **various projects under CRF, PMGSY and other schemes.**

## Vice president make an appearance in Bhubaneswar on two-day visit to Odisha

- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** arrived at capital Bhubaneswar on a two days visit to Odisha.
- He was received at the airport by the **Governor of Odisha Prof Ganeshi Lal**, Chief **Minister Naveen Patnaik** and other top level officials.
- The Vice president is scheduled to attend a book release function at the Raj Bhawan in capital Bhubaneswar a short while from now before proceeding to the **twin city of Cuttack to inaugurate the 600th birth anniversary of Adikavi Sarala Das.**
- He will also attend as chief guest at the convocation of **Utkal University in Bhubaneswar.**

## Kargil: Training & Awareness Programme organised for Self Help Groups under National Rural Livelihood Mission

- In Kargil Ladakh, **Rural Development Department Kargil organised one-day Training and Awareness Programme for Self Help Groups under National Rural Livelihood Mission at Sankoo block.**
- The training was imparted by **Mrs Razia Banoo from Agriculture Department and Dr Rigzin Dolkar from KVK Kargil (SUKAST)** on Onion Cultivation and other agricultural activities and SHG Formation and Agriculture as a means to boost these SHGs to earn and increase their livelihood.

## First half of FY22 – Government pegs market borrowing at Rs 7.24 lakh crore

- On March 31, 2021, The government announced it will borrow Rs 7.24 lakh crore in the first half of 2021-22 fiscal to meet resources to perk up the economy hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

- According to the Budget 2021-22, the government's gross borrowing was estimated at Rs 12.05 lakh crore in the financial year beginning April 1.
- In the first half of 2021-22, borrowing Rs 7.24 lakh crore, which is 60.06 per cent of the gross issuances
- The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills.

### Note :

- Economic Affairs Secretary : **Tarun Bajaj**

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### **EAM S Jaishankar make discussion with Tajikistan Defence Minister Colonel General Sherali Mirzo**

- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** held discussions with **Tajikistan Defence Minister Colonel General Sherali Mirzo**.
- The talks were held on the sidelines of the **Heart of Asia Ministerial conference in Dushanbe**.
- Dr Jaishankar said the discussions were focused on further strengthening defence and security cooperation between **India and Tajikistan**.

#### **Vikram Misri, India's Ambassador to China interacts with representatives of Indian industry in Shanghai**

- **India's Ambassador to China Vikram Misri** interacted with representatives of Indian industry **in Shanghai**.
- He will also launch **India@75 celebrations** in Shanghai.
- The event was attended by more than **30 representatives representing 8 sectors such as textiles, pharma, electronics, manufacturing, chemicals, IT, banking etc.**
- Ambassador Misri discussed the issues related to business risk in the **fluid current geopolitical scenario**.
- He also discussed the general issues faced by the businesses such as flights and visas for their **Indian employees who want to come back to China**.
- Amid a geopolitical tussle including tensions in technology and trade, with the western countries led by the **US, Chinese companies and businesses** are facing sanctions on various counts.
- China has also announced tit for tat sanctions, affecting the whole business environment.
- Amid the border tensions in Ladakh, India had tightened regulatory requirements last year for investments from China and **banned more than 200 Chinese apps** which were considered "**prejudicial to sovereignty, security of state and public order**".

- Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, global trade flows have been slowed, although there has still been strong demand for medical equipment and supplies which has largely contributed to **China becoming India's top trade partner in 2020.**

### 2000 Bangladeshi students to receive Muktijoddha Scholarships

- The **India Bangladesh** ties are historic and multi-dimensional.
- India is keen to support the national effort of Bangladesh for the betterment of their own people.
- In order to further the people to people ties between the two countries, India provides scholarships for the descendants of the **Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh.**
- The government of India has announced **scholarships to 2000 descendants of the Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh** under its new **Muktijoddha Scholarship scheme.**
- The scheme was launched in 2017 during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India.
- **Under this scheme, 1000 students** each from the **Higher Secondary and Undergraduate categories** have started **receiving the amount** of scholarship for this year directly in their account.
- The **new scheme was aimed to benefit 10,000 students** from Bangladesh over a period of five years.
- The **scholarship carries an amount of 20,000 Taka** for students of Higher Secondary and 50,000 Taka to Undergraduate category students, who are direct descendants of Muktijoddhas or Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh.

### ABOUT THE SCHEME:

- The '**Muktijoddha scholarship scheme**' was started in the year 2006 for the descendents of Muktijoddhas.
- Originally, Scholarships were awarded to Higher Secondary and Undergraduate level students.
- Undergraduate students were awarded **Tk 24,000 per year** for four years and **higher secondary students were awarded Tk 10,000 per year** for two years.

### BIMSTEC concludes Connectivity master plan for Bay of Bengal region

- The virtual meeting of the Foreign Ministers of **Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** grouping finalised a major Connectivity master plan for the Bay of Bengal region.
- The **seven-member regional grouping** namely **India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar** will take up the Master plan for transport connectivity for adoption in the next summit of the organization to be hosted by Sri Lanka in a few months from now.
- **The meeting also endorsed three MoUs/agreements** relating to convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters, cooperation between diplomatic and

training academies and establishment of **BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility in Colombo**.

- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** expressed India's commitment to take the BIMSTEC to new heights.
- The connectivity master plan is the outcome of more than a decade of consultations among the member states.
- The study conducted by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2007 and 2014**, identified **166 connectivity projects** at an estimated cost of **USD 50 billion** out of which **65 projects** were identified as priority projects.

### **Spicy, Juicy, Lip-smacking Good Indian Food at 7 day long India Food Week in Beijing**

- **Any Indian Food Festival is every foodie's heaven!** It's not just about eating but to have an experience.
- Beijingers got another opportunity to experience the soul of India, this time through its food as they flocked to the **7 day-long Indian Food Week** organized at a five-star hotel in Beijing which concluded.
- Indians, Chinese and foreigners of other nationalities alike savored diverse delicacies, anecdotal **Indian masala tea, Indian chaat, panipuris and chowmein along with delectable desserts like kulfi.**
- There was something for everyone.
- There was a special counter for Salads which offered a **variety of salads.**
- Live counters were a special attraction which allowed the foodies to adjust the taste as per their choice.
- Beautifully decorated food stalls presented dishes from different Indian states giving a glimpse of **mini-India** to the visitors.
- Indian in plenty, they not only enjoyed the food but also got a glimpse of India's culture and its diversity through a range of tastes on their plates.
- They said, there is no better way to experience the soul of India than trying out its **variety of food on offer.**

### **Russia Become World's First Covid-19 Vaccine For Animals – 'Carnivac-Cov'**

- **Russia** has become the **first country** in the world to register the coronavirus vaccine for animals.
- The vaccine, called '**Carnivac-Cov**', would be able to **protect vulnerable species and thwart viral mutations.**
- Carnivac-Cov is the world's first & the only anti-**#COVID\_19 vaccine for animals.**

### **Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov came to New Delhi for two-day visit to India**

- **Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov** will begin a **two-day visit to India.**

- The visit will present an opportunity to discuss aspects of bilateral ties and review preparations for the pending **India-Russia annual summit** later this year.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi** had said that the visit will be a unique opportunity to discuss **important aspects of our bilateral ties**, also to review preparations for the next India Russia annual summit and also perhaps discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- **Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova** said the Russian Foreign Minister, during his visit, will hold talks with **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar**.
- After India, Mr Lavrov will visit Pakistan from April 6-7.

### Three Rafale fighter jets – Fourth batch land in India from France

- The fourth batch of three **IAF Rafales** landed in India on March 31, 2021, after a direct ferry from **Istres Air Base in France**.
- These Rafales were refuelled **mid-air by UAE Air Force tankers**.
- **Five extra Rafale jets** are scheduled to be ferried to India by the end of April 2021.
- With this new arrival of the three jets, the total Rafale fleet with **Indian Air Force** has increased to 14.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

#### Government announces Rs 14,500-crore capital infusion in 4 Public Sector Banks

- **On March 31, 2021**, The government announced capital infusion **totalling Rs 14,500 crore in four public sector banks (PSBs) through zero-coupon bonds**.
- The **four public sector banks (PSBs) namely Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank in 2020-21, by issuing non-interest bearing bonds** to these banks.
- The government will charge Rs 4,800 crore in Central Bank of India, Rs 4,100 crore in Indian Overseas Bank, Rs 3,000 crore in Bank of India and Rs 2,600 crore in UCO Bank.
- These **securities will be issued in six different maturities** and will be issued at par for the amount as per the application made by the eligible banks.
- Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 announced a capital infusion of Rs 20,000 public sector banks for the current financial year 2021-2022.

#### Note :

- **Previously in December, the government infused Rs 5,500 crore in Punjab and Sind Bank.**

#### About Central Bank of India :

- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- Founded: **21 December 1911**

- Founders: **Sorabji Pochkhanawala, Pheroza Shah Mehta**

### About Indian Overseas Bank :

- CEO: **Partha Pratim Sengupta (24 Jul 2020)**
- Headquarters: **Chennai**
- Founder: **Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar**
- Founded: **10 February 1937, Chennai**

### About Bank of India :

- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- Founder: **Ramnarain Ruia**
- Founded: **7 September 1906, Mumbai**

### About UCO Bank :

- Headquarters: **Kolkata**
- CEO: **Atul Kumar Goel**
- Founder: **Ghanshyam Das Birla**
- Founded: **6 January 1943**

### Government extends Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to June 30, 2021

- **On March 31, 2021, The government extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till June 30 2021, or till such time that an amount of 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the Scheme.**
- Also it expanded its scope to **cover enterprises in hospitality, travel and tourism, leisure and sporting sectors.**

### About Modified Rules :

- The limit of credit has been **enhanced 40 percent of outstanding loans as on Feb 29, 2020 as against 20 per cent earlier.**
- The collateral free loan guarantee scheme, announced as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, would now also cover borrowers with **total credit outstanding up to Rs 500 crore, with overdues for 60 days or less on February 29 as compared to 30 days overdue earlier.**
- The tenor of loans granted under ECLGS 3.0 will be 6 years including a moratorium period of 2 years. The tenor of loans under the previous version, ECLGS 2.0, was five years with a 12-month moratorium
- This modification provides an incentive to MLIs (member lending institutions) to enable availability of additional funding facilities to the eligible beneficiaries.
- The revised operational guidelines would be **issued by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).**

### About ECLGS :

- ECLGS was launched as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May.
- It is for to mitigate the distress caused by coronavirus-induced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

### Union Bank Of India launches “Uni-Carbon Card”

- On March 26, 2021, Union Bank of India launched “UNI – CARBON CARD”, an HPCL co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI.
- It is a unique HPCL co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI.
- It will play a role in creating an opportunity to create value for the customers.
- The card has been designed in joint association with Union Bank of India and HPCL and Rupay.
- The Union Bank HPCL Co-branded credit card is first of its kind with HPCL, a major player in fuel retail.

### About Union Bank of India :

- MD & CEO : Rajkiran Rai G
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 11 November 1919

### India tempts total FDI inflow of USD 72.12 billion during April 2020 to January, 2021

- India has attracted a total FDI inflow of USD 72.12 billion during April 2020 to January, 2021.
- It is the highest ever for the first ten months of a financial year and 15 per cent higher compared to the first ten months of 2019-20.
- Measures taken by the government on FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows.
- FDI equity inflow grew by 28 per cent in the first ten months of 2020-21 compared to the year ago period.
- Singapore is the top investor country with 30.28 per cent of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by the US and UAE for the first ten months of 2020-21.
- Japan has been leading the list of investor countries with 29.09 per cent of the total FDI Equity inflows during January this year followed by Singapore and the US. Computer Software and Hardware has emerged as the top sector during the first ten months of 2020-21.

### IMF reforms its growth projection for India to 12.5 per cent for FY 2021-22

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded its growth projection for India to 12.5 per cent for the Financial Year 2021-22.

- In its **latest World Economic Outlook report**, the IMF has pegged **India's GDP** to grow **1 per cent higher than its previous report published in January this year**.
- The **Washington based International Financial Institution** has projected a contraction of 8 per cent in the growth in the last fiscal while it has forecasted a growth of **9 per cent** in the next financial year **beginning in 2022**.
- The IMF has also said that inflation will taper down to **9 per cent in the current financial year**.

### **RBI keeps repo rate unchanged and GDP growth for FY 2021-22 forecast to be 10.5 per cent**

- **Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das** noted that the monetary policy committee voted unanimously to leave the repo rate and reverse repo rate unchanged at **4 and 3.35 per cent, respectively**.
- Announcing the **bi-monthly monetary policy** after the **three-day-long meeting of the monetary policy committee**, the Governor said the committee also unanimously decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to sustain growth and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

<b>Policy Repo Rate</b>	<b>4.00%</b>
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	<b>3.35%</b>
<b>Marginal Standing Facility Rate</b>	<b>4.25%</b>
<b>Bank Rate</b>	<b>4.25%</b>

### **RBI twin the deposit limit of payments banks to Rs.2 lakh**

- “With a view to furthering financial inclusion and to expand the ability of payments banks to cater to the growing needs of their customers, the current limit on maximum end of day balance of **1 lakh per individual customer** is being **increased to Rs.2 lakh**,” RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das reported.

### **RBI decided to enhance aggregate limit of WMA for States, UTs**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to enhance the aggregate limit of **ways and means advance (WMA) limit for all States and Union Territories to Rs.47,010 crore**, which is an increase of **46 per cent** from the current limit of **32,225 crore**.

### **About Ways and Means Advances:**

- Under Section 17(5) of RBI Act, 1934, the RBI provides Ways and Means Advances (WMA) to the States banking with it to help them to tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.

### RBI put forward mandatory interoperability of full KYC prepaid instruments

- The **RBI** had issued guidelines in **October 2018** for the adoption of interoperability voluntarily for **full-KYC PPIs**.
- Further, as a confidence-boosting measure and to bring uniformity across **PPI issuers**, it is now proposed to **allow cash withdrawals** for **full KYC PPIs of non-bank PPI issuers**.

#### Prepaid payment instrument PPI:

- **Open system:** PPIs under this system can only be issued by banking institutions that have been **approved by the RBI**.
- These instruments can be used to facilitate **purchases, remittances; cash withdrawals**, etc. examples of PPIs issued under this system are **debit cards and credit cards**.

#### KYC:

- **KYC means Know Your Customer** and sometimes **Know Your Client**.
- KYC or KYC check is the mandatory **process of identifying and verifying the client's identity** when opening an account and periodically over time.
- In other words, banks must make sure that their clients are genuinely who they claim to be.

#### KYC verification:

- **Know Your Customer (KYC)** refers to the process of verifying the identity of your customers, **either before or during the time** that they start doing business with you.
- The term **"KYC"** also references the **regulated bank customer identity verification practices** to assess and monitor customer risk.

### RBI planned to dispense Rs.50,000-cr refinance to all-India financial institutions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will provide refinance aggregating **50,000 crore** to **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)**.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development will get **25,000 crore**, National Housing Bank **Rs.10,000 crore**, and Small Industries Development Bank of India **Rs.15,000 crore**.

#### Financial institution provides refinance facilities:

- "It has been decided to provide special refinance facilities for a **total amount of Rs 50,000 crore** to **NABARD, SIDBI and NHB** to enable them to meet sectoral credit needs" RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in his media statement.

#### Refinance facility of RBI:

- **RBI** also offers refinance facility to help out the exporters.
- It allows **scheduled commercial banks (except Regional Rural Banks)** to refinance up to **1% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)** of each bank.
- Repo rate under LAF (Liquidity Adjustment Facility) is applicable for this facility.

### **RBI raise G-SAP for orderly G-Sec market**

- In Q1, RBI to conduct **G-SAP aggregating Rs.1-lakh crore.**
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to put in place a secondary market **Government Security Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) 1.0** for orderly evolution of the **yield curve amid comfortable liquidity.**

### **G SAP:**

- The **GreenSock Animation Platform (GSAP)** is a popular set of **JavaScript tools** for building animations **on the web.**
- Anything you see in your web browser can be animated with GSAP.
- You simply write short snippets of JavaScript code that define how elements should **animate and what the timing should be.**

### **G-sec market:**

- The **g-sec market is dominated by institutional investors** such as banks, mutual funds, and insurance companies.
- These **entities trade** in lot sizes of **Rs 5 crore or more.**
- Retail investors can directly open their gilt accounts with RBI, and trade in government securities.

### **CRISIL reported India's GDP rate at -7% for FY21 and 11% for FY22**

- Rating Agency **CRISIL** has projected **India's GDP** growth rate as under:
- For **FY21= -7%**
- For **FY22= +11%**
- CRISIL is a subsidiary of **American company S&P Global.**

### **UNESCAP reports India's Economic Growth Rate at 7% in 2021-22**

- The **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** has estimated the **GDP growth rate of India at 7% in 2021-22**, in its latest report titled **Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021.**
- For the previous fiscal 2020-21, **UNESCAP estimated a contraction of 7.7%** for India on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.

### **NPCI transfers Bharat Bill Payments business to its new subordinate company NBBL**

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has transferred all its **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** transaction business to **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI.
- All licensed bill processors on the **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU)**, i.e. the banks and payment aggregators, have been directed to start accounting their billing transactions under **NBBL from April 1 2021**.
- The decision to set up a separate subsidiary for bill payment business aims to scale growth of the interoperable bill platform by giving it increased autonomy in operations and on boarding of new billers.
- **BBPS** is an interoperable **bill payments platform set up in 2013**, for use by banks, fintech companies and biller merchants to automate bill collection and request solutions.

### **Facebook and Google jointly plans to launch 2 new undersea internet cables from US West Coast to Singapore and Indonesia**

- **Technology giant** Facebook and Google have planned to lay two huge **subsea cables**, called **Echo and Bifrost**, to provide vital new connections between the **Asia-Pacific region and North America**.
- The **Echo and Bifrost trans-Pacific cables will link the U.S. West Coast to Singapore and Indonesia**, and increase the data capacity between the regions by 70% and improve internet reliability.
- **Facebook** will be investing in both cables, but Google will invest only in Echo.
- **Google and Facebook** have partnered with leading regional and global partners to implement the project, including **Indonesian firms Telin and XL Axiata, and Singapore-based Keppel**.
- The Echo project is to be completed by late 2023, while **Bifrost** is set to be finished by late 2024.

### **BSE StAR MF proceedings 9.38 crore transactions in FY 2020-21**

- In spite of a tumultuous fiscal, **BSE StAR MF** processed over 9.38 crore transactions amounting to **3,33,095 cr** in the financial year 2020-21.
- It is **63% more as compared to 5.75 cr in FY 2019-20**.
- Last month it has schooled new high by recording **1 crore monthly transactions**, the highest ever on the platform.
- It is India's largest and leading **Mutual Funds Distributor platform**.
- The platform also recorded the highest number of **new SIPS registrations 5.45 lakh** in a single month in March 2021 as compared to previous best of 4.97 lakh in Feb '21.
- In the past quarter, Jan to March 2021, **BSE StAR MF** added 15.45 lakh new SIPs.

### **RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo retires against expectations of second extension**

- Against expectations of getting a second extension, the **senior-most deputy governor BP Kanungo** retired from the **Reserve Bank on completion of his one-year extension.**
- **Kanungo joined the RBI in 1982** and was in charge of **currency management, external investments, operations, payment, and settlement system, among others, during the four-year term as the deputy governor, which began in April 2017.**
- The government had appointed him as a deputy governor in March 2017 when Urjit Patel was the governor and he took charge on April 3, 2017, for a three-year term ending April 2, 2020, but was given a one-year extension.
- There was an expectation that he might get a second extension after the government had cancelled interviews for the post of the deputy governor, scheduled for March 10.

### **World Bank, AIIB sanctioned loan for USD 300 million canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab**

- **The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have approved a loan for USD 300 million (about Rs 2,190 crore) canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab.**
- The project is aimed at ensuring quality drinking water and minimizes water losses for Amritsar and Ludhiana, according to a Punjab government statement.
- The entire project will be co-financed by **IBRD (World Bank) - USD 105 million, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank - USD 105 million and the Punjab government - USD 90 million**, according to an official spokesperson.
- In the Amritsar project, the source of surface water supply is **Upper Bari Doab Canal and a 440 MLD (million litres per day) water treatment plant** will be constructed in village Vallah, Amritsar for treating the surface water, the spokesperson added.

### **Dutch development bank FMO infuse \$137 mn in India's Green Growth Equity Fund**

- **Dutch development bank FMO will invest \$137 million (about Rs.1,000 crore) in India's Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF),** managed by EverSource Capital, while the fund aims to raise a total of **\$940 million.**
- GGEF is raising the capital to invest in the country's green infrastructure sectors such as renewable energy, transport, resource efficiency and energy services.
- The fund will also invest in value chain, water, waste and transport sectors that promote low carbon and climate-resilient initiatives.
- The fund-raising was approved by **South Korea-based Green Climate Fund's (GCF) board, the world's largest dedicated climate fund, EverSource Capital and FMO.**

### Central Govt. suggests upto 25 % tax concession on purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate

- Centre has proposed up to 25 percent tax concession on the purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate.
- The Road, Transport and Highways Ministry has published the draft rules regarding concession in motor vehicle tax against scrapped vehicles.
- Under the draft rules, people will get 25 percent concession on the purchase of personal vehicles with vehicle scrappage certificate while on the purchase of commercial vehicles, the tax relief will be 15 percent.
- In case of personal vehicles, the tax concessions will be available upto eight years while for commercial vehicles; it will be upto 15 years.
- The period will be reckoned from the date of first registration.
- The government has invited suggestions from various stakeholders on the draft rules within a period of 30 days.
- The rules are proposed to come into force from 1st of October this year.

### Digital payments surge: UPI transactions cross Rs 5 lakh crore in March

- Homegrown digital payments innovation United Payments Interface (UPI) has processed Rs 5.04 lakh crore in transaction value an all time high during March 2021, showed data shared by regulator National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- This is a 18 per cent rise from Rs 4.25 lakh crore in February.
- In terms of volume, UPI has seen transactions on its platform more than double to 2.73 billion when compared to 1.25 billion in March 2020.
- Also, UPI transactions have jumped by 20 per cent from 2.29 billion in February.
- For the financial year 2020-21, total transaction value on its network stood at Rs 34.19 lakh crore.
- When it comes to UPI payments, PhonePe, and Google Pay, have the lion's share.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING NEWS

### RBI increases deadline to process recurring online transactions with AFA to 30th September 2021

- The Reserve Bank of India, RBI, extended the deadline to process recurring online transactions with additional factor of authentication, AFA, to 30th September of this year from the last date fixed.
- The RBI said, to prevent any inconvenience to the customers, it has decided to extend the timeline for the stakeholders to migrate to the framework by six months.
- The framework regarding it mandated the use of AFA during registration and first transaction, with relaxation for subsequent transactions up to a limit of Rs 5,000.

- **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** and payment gateways had sought additional time to comply with the RBI directive on automatic recurring payment.
- On **4th December last year**, the RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that the processing of recurring transactions, domestic or cross-border, using cards or prepaid payment instruments or unified payments interface not compliant with AFA would not be continued beyond **31 st March, 2021**.

### **World Banks approves USD 32 million project to upgrade health services in Mizoram**

- The **World Bank Board of Executive Directors** has approved a **USD 32 million project** to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, a World Bank statement said.
- The project titled "**Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project**" will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Mizoram Health department and its subsidiaries, the statement said.
- It will improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by the state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive **quality assurance programme** which would enable quality certification of health facilities, it said.

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION NEWS**

#### **ONGC announces Subhash Kumar takes additional charge as CMD**

- **Subhash Kumar** has assumed the additional charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** on April 01, 2021. He is serving as Director (Finance) at ONGC.
- **Kumar succeeds** incumbent CMD, **Shashi Shanker**, who superannuated on March 31, 2021.

#### **Mukhmeet S. Bhatia appointed as Director General of ESIC**

- **Senior IAS officer** Mukhmeet S. Bhatia took over the charge of **Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** on April 04, 2021.
- Bhatia is a 1990 IAS Officer of Jharkhand cadre.
- Earlier, he has worked as the **Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**
- ESIC is a Statutory and an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

#### **Lt Gen Manjinder Singh appointed as Chief of Staff, Western Command**

- **Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh**, **Yudh Seva Medal**, **Vishist Seva Medal** took over as the **Chief of Staff, Headquarters Western Command**.

- After taking over the charge, he laid a wreath at **'Veer Smriti'** and paid homage to the martyrs of Western Command.
- General Manjinder Singh is an alumnus of **Sainik School Kapurthala, National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy.**
- The General was commissioned into **19 MADRAS Regiment** on 20 December 1986.
- In an illustrious career spanning over a period of more than 34 years, the General has tenanted important Command appointments in varied sensitive operational sectors and High Altitude terrains.
- He has commanded his Battalion in an intense counter-insurgency environment in J&K, an **Infantry Brigade** at the line of Control and an **Infantry Division** as part of **Strike Corps.**
- For his exemplary leadership and devotion to duty towards the Nation, the General has been decorated with **Yudh Seva Medal in 2015 and Vishist Seva Medal in 2019.**

### Former RBI governor Urjit Patel appointed as additional director of Britannia

- **Former Reserve Bank of India governor Dr. Urjit Patel** has been appointed as **Additional Director of Britannia Industries** with **effect from 31st March, 2021 for tenure of 5 years.**
- The company has announced that its board of directors has approved the appointment.
- "This is to inform you that the Board of Directors of the company at their meeting held 31 March, 2021, approved the appointment of **Dr Urjit Patel**, as an additional director of the company in the category of non-executive and independent director with effect from 31 March, 2021 for a term of 5 years i.e., upto 30th March, 2026, subject to approval of the shareholders of the company," Britannia said in a statement to the stock exchange filing.

### Jeh Wadia steps down as MD of Bombay Dyeing

- **Jeh Wadia** has stepped down as the **managing director of Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company, the flagship firm of Wadia Group confirmed.**
- In a regulatory filing, the company said that **Jeh, son of industrialist Nusli Wadia**, would not be renewing his contract as the managing director that expired on March 31, 2021.
- The development also comes just a week after he stepped down from the leadership role at GoAir.
- "In the interim, the day-to-day management of the company will be looked after by **Mr Suresh Khurana, CEO (PSF) along with Mr Hitesh Vora, CFO under the supervision of Dr Minnie Bodhanwala, a Director,**" Bombay Dyeing said in a BSE filing after the conclusion of the meeting of its Board of Directors.

## PEL appointed Khushru Jijina to its board

- **Piramal Enterprises Ltd (PEL)** has appointed **Khushru Jijina** to its board as Executive Director, Financial Services.
- “**Khushru Jijina, Managing Director, Piramal Capital**, will join the **Board of Piramal Enterprises Limited as Executive Director, Financial Services**,” it said in a statement.
- **Ajay Piramal, Chairman, Piramal Group** said that as Executive Director on the Board for **Financial Services, Jijina** will lead the wholesale business.
- “He will also be closely involved across the financial services platforms in helping drive the transformation into a more **diversified, sustainable, technology** driven business in addition to helping develop and train the next generation of leaders to take on greater responsibilities, and to take the business to greater heights,” he said.

## TAFE chief Mallika Srinivasan entitled as head of PESB

- **Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd**, has been named chairperson of the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)**, according to an order issued by the Personnel Ministry.
- It is gathered that this is for the first time a private sector specialist has been appointed the head of the PESB, which is responsible for making appointments to top posts in **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.
- **Mallika Srinivasan** will hold office for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until she turns 65, whichever is earlier, said the Ministry note.
- Mallika Srinivasan is recognised for entrepreneurship and her contribution to the agriculture sector.
- She has built TAFE into the third largest tractor manufacturer in the world and No 2 in India by volumes, with annual sales of over 150,000 units.

## Subhash Kumar concludes additional charge as ONGC CMD

- **ONGC's Finance Director Subhash Kumar** has assumed additional charge of the post of **Chairman and Managing Director** following superannuation of **Shashi Shanker** on March 31.

## Digit Insurance appointed Virat Kohli as Brand Ambassador

- Bengaluru-based non-life insurance company '**Digit Insurance**' has roped in veteran cricketer **Virat Kohli** as its brand ambassador.
- In January 2021, **insurance tech start-up Digit Insurance** became India's first unicorn of 2021 with a valuation of \$1.9 billion.

## Justice N V Ramana appointed as 48th Chief Justice of India

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed **Justice N V Ramana** as the **48th Chief Justice of India**, accepting the recommendation made by the **outgoing CJI SA Bobde**.
- Justice Ramana will have a **term till August 26th next year**.
- Before his elevation to the Supreme Court on February 17th, 2014, Justice Ramana was the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
- He was born in an agricultural family in Andhra Pradesh.

## Pham Minh Chinh, became Vietnam's next Prime Minister

- **Vietnam's National Assembly confirmed Pham Minh Chinh**, a career security official, as the **Southeast Asian country's next Prime Minister** at an official ceremony.
- The move completes the five-yearly renewal of Vietnam's top four positions, as it looks to maintain economic growth, keep the Coronavirus pandemic at bay, and balance relations with Beijing and Washington.
- China has been asserting its authority in the South China Sea, while the U.S. Treasury Department labeled Vietnam a 'currency manipulator' in December due to its trade surplus with the United States and heavy foreign exchange market intervention to hold down the value of its dong currency.

## Ola Electric appointed auto veteran Yongsung Kim as head of global sales and distribution, overseeing India and international markets

- **Ola Electric**, India's leading mobility company, announced the appointment of **Yongsung Kim** as **head of global sales and distribution, overseeing India and international markets**.
- Yongsung, 35-year veteran with Hyundai Motor and Kia, brings global automotive sales experience from around the world, including North America, Europe, UK, Middle East, Africa, ASEAN, Asia Pacific and of course India where he spent several years, first with Hyundai Motor and then with Kia, to build their market-leading presence in India.

## Ajai Seth became new Economic Affairs Secretary

- **Tarun Bajaj** to take full time charge of Revenue.
- The government **appointed Ajai Seth as new Economic Affairs Secretary**.
- He will replace **Tarun Bajaj** who will be new Revenue Secretary.
- Senior bureaucrat Tarun Bajaj was appointed revenue secretary as part of a **top-level bureaucratic** reshuffle by the Centre.
- Bajaj, a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Haryana cadre, is currently secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as secretary, Department of Revenue, a Personnel Ministry order said.

### KPSC appointed Shivashankarappa S Sahukar as New chairman

- **Shivashankarappa S Sahukar, Member, Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC)**, has been appointed as the chairman of KPSC, with immediate effect.
- He will replace former **IAS officer Shadakshari Swamy**, who retired.
- “**Governor Vajubhai Vala** appointed **Shivashankarappa S Sahukar** as chairman of KPSC with immediate effect and until further orders under **Article 316 (1) of the Constitution of India**,” a notification issued by the State Government.
- Shivashankarappa joined KPSC as a member on September 3, 2019.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOURS

#### Suman Chakraborty nominated for 2021 GD Birla Award for Scientific Research

- **Professor Suman Chakraborty** has been selected for the **30th GD Birla Award** for Scientific Research.
- Chakraborty, a faculty member at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur**, has been chosen for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare.

#### About G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research:

- **D. Birla Award** for Scientific Research was instituted in 1991 by the **K. K. Birla Foundation** in honour of the **Indian philanthropist Ghanshyam Das Birla**.
- The award is given every year to an outstanding scientific research, in all branches of science including medical science, basic and applied.
- The research must be done mostly during the past 5 years, by an Indian scientist, below the age of 50, living and working in India.
- The **award carries a cash prize of Rs. 1.5 lakhs (0.15 million)**.
- The award is given every year and is available for all branches of science including medical science, basic and applied.

#### CM K Chandrasekhar Rao congratulates winners of panchayat awards

- **Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao** felicitated village, mandal, and zilla parishad members, who bagged the **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) awards**.
- Among those felicitated at **Pragathi Bhavan** included Parlapally (Karimnagar district) **Sarpanch M Bharathi**, Haridas Nagar (Rajanna-Sircilla) **Sarpanch T Amrutha**, Malyala (Siddipet) **Sarpanch D Vajravaa**, Mittapelli (Siddipet) **Sarpanch Vanga Laxmi**, Ruyyadi (Adilabad) **Sarpanch P Pothareddy**, Chakrapur (Mahbubnagar) **Sarpanch K Sailaja**, Sundilla (Peddapalli) **Sarpanch Dasari Laxmi**, and **Mohinikunta** (Rajanna Sircilla) **Sarpanch Kalvakuntla Vanaja.Korutla** (Jagtial district) **MPP Thota Narayana**, Dharmaram (Peddapalli) **MPP Mutyala Karuna**, Sangareddy Zilla Parishad Chairperson **P Manjushree**, Sangareddy ZP **CEO Ch Yellaiah** and **Peddapally DPO Geetha** were also felicitated.

### Super Star Rajinikanth to be honoured with 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- The legendary actor **Super Star Rajinikanth** has been selected to be honored with the **51st Dadasaheb Phalke Awards**, the highest film honour in India.
- The iconic actor **Rajinikanth** will receive the **Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2019** for his stupendous contribution to **Indian cinema**.
- Rajinikanth will receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on **May 3, 2021**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** wished the superstar **hearty congratulations** in his tweet and said that he was one of the superstars who can boast of being popular across generations.
- Rajinikanth has said that he was immensely humbled and honoured to receive the award.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU's AND AGREEMENTS

#### Spices Board India under Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed MoU with UNDP India's Accelerator Lab

- **Spices Board India under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and UNDP India's Accelerator Lab** signed a **MoU** with the aim to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade.
- **Blockchain** is a decentralized process of **recording transactions** on an open and shared electronic ledger.
- This allows for ease and transparency in data management across a **complex network, including, farmers, brokers, distributors, processors, retailers, regulators, and consumers, thus simplifying the supply chain.**
- It will allow farmers just as all other members of the supply chain to access the information which further makes the entire supply chain more efficient and equitable.
- **UNDP and Spices Board India** are working towards integrating the **Blockchain Traceability** Interface with the e-Spice Bazaar portal developed by Spices Board India for connecting spices farmers with markets.
- Design of the **Blockchain interface** is expected to be completed by next month.

#### ATL to acquire WKTL for Rs 3,370 crore

- **On March 27, 2021 Adani Transmission Limited (ATL)** signed a definitive agreement with **Essel InfraProjects Limited (EIL)** to acquire **Warora-Kurnool Transmission Limited (WKTL)** for an enterprise value of **Rs 3,370 crore**.
- The cumulative network of ATL will reach **17,200 circuit kilometre of which 12,350 ckt kms network** is already operational and 4,850 ckt kms (including this asset) is in various stages of execution.
- ATL has already **received the approval from Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** for substitution of original awardee in the contract.

## About ATL :

- MD & CEO : **Anil Sardana**
- Headquarters : **Ahmedabad , Gujarat**
- ATL is **India's Largest Private sector Power Transmission and retail distribution company.**

## About EIL :

- Essel Infraprojects Ltd, is the infrastructure and utilities arm of the Dr Subhash Chandra led Essel Group.
- For over 90 years Essel group has been contributing to India's socio economic and cultural growth across diversified business sectors like media, entertainment, packaging, education, services and infrastructure.

## About WKTL :

- Founded : **2015**
- Parent Organization : **Essel Infra Projects Limited**

## NCML inks pact with Agriculture Skill Council

- **NCML signs MoU with Agriculture Skill Council of India for skill development in agriculture sector.**
- "This will **give impetus to agriculture** growth through **skill** enhancement of workforce and **make Agriculture** a sought after occupation amongst the youth", says **Satender Singh Arya CEO, ASCI.**

## Maruti Suzuki partners Karnataka Bank

- **The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki** India said it has **partnered with Karnataka Bank to offer vehicle financing options for potential car buyers.**
- The company said it has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Mangaluru-headquartered private sector lender.**
- Customers can avail the benefits across 858 branches of Karnataka Bank at metro, urban, semi-urban and rural locations.
- Under the collaboration, customers can avail loans up to 85 per cent of the on-road price of all new cars from **Maruti Suzuki ARENA and NEXA showrooms.**
- Customers can opt for tenure of up to **84 months for their loans**, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement.

## NCML inks pact with Agriculture Skill Council

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### SBI inks \$1-billion loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation

- Country's largest lender, State Bank of India, has raised **\$1 billion from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to extend loans to the supply chain of Japanese automobile industry in India.
- The virtual signing ceremony event was held in the presence of Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI along with senior executives of SBI, Hayashi Nobumitsu, Deputy Governor (JBIC) and Ayukawa Kenichi, CEO & MD of Maruti Suzuki.
- The loan is in the form of **refinance against the funding support provided to the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers of Japanese automobiles in India.**

- This collaboration (between SBI and JBIC) will help the bank in extending loan facility to the entire supply chain at a time when people are preferring personal mode of transport.
- Now the total loan facility between SBI and JBIC has become \$2 billion.
- Earlier in October 2020, SBI inked a similar agreement for \$1 billion with JBIC.

### About JBIC :

- JBIC is a policy-based financial institution, wholly owned by the Japanese government, with the objective of contributing to the sound development of Japan, the international economy and society.

### About SBI :

- Chairperson: **Dinesh Kumar Khara**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- Founded: **1 July 1955**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

### Fourth batch of three Rafale fighter jets land in India from France

- The **fourth batch of three Rafale fighter jets landed in India** after flying **non-stop from Istres Air Base France**.
- The Rafale fighter jets were provided mid-air refuelling by air force tankers of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- **Five extra Rafale jets will be ferried to India by the end of April**.
- With the arrival of the three jets, the size of the Rafale fleet has increased to 14.
- The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 of the aircraft at a cost of Rs 59,000 crore.
- The first Rafale squadron is based in Ambala air force station.
- A second batch of three Rafale jets arrived in India on November 3, while a third batch of another three jets joined the IAF on January 27.

### About France :

- Capital: **Paris**
- President: **Emmanuel Macron**
- Ambassador of France to India : **Emmanuel Lenain**

### Shantir Ogroshena -2021' – Indian Army to participate in Multinational Military Exercise in Bangladesh

- **Indian Army will participate in Multinational Military Exercise namely SHANTIR OGROSHENA -2021.**

- It will be held in Bangladesh from April 04 to 12, 2021.

### Purpose :

- To commemorate the birth centenary of Bangladesh Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mark glorious 50 years of liberation.
- Indian Army contingent comprising of 30 personnel including Junior Commissioned Officers, Officers, and Jawans of a battalion from the Dogra regiment will be participating in the exercise
- The USA, UK, Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore will also attend the exercise as Military observers.

### Note :

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bangladesh on March 26 and 27 during which he attended the golden jubilee celebration of independence of that country.

### About Indian Army :

- The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Founded : 1 April
- Headquarters : New Delhi

### India and US carry out military drill Vajra Prahar 2021 in Himachal Pradesh

- Special forces of India and the US carried out a joint military exercise at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh in March 2021.
- It was the 11th edition of the exercise 'Vajra Prahar' which is aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.

### Aim :

- Enhancing interoperability between the two sides and sharing the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- It is a bilateral military exercises and defence exchanges are an important facet of deepening bilateral defence cooperation between friendly countries.
- India and the US carried out a two-day naval exercise in the eastern Indian Ocean Region on March 28 and 29.
- The Indian Navy deployed its warship Shivalik and long-range maritime patrol aircraft P8I in the 'PASSEX' exercise
- Meanwhile the US Navy was represented by USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group.

### Note :

- **Earlier, In February, the Indian and US Armies carried out 'Exercise Yudh Abhyas' at Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, to focus on counter terrorism operations under the mandate of the United Nations.**

### About Indian Navy :

- **Founded: 26 January 1950**
- **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS): Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar**
- **Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS): Vice Admiral M. S. Pawar**
- **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Karambir Singh**
- **Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind**

### About US :

- **Capital: Washington, D.C.**
- **President: Joe Biden**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

### Reliance Infra sells Reliance centre at Santacruz to Yes Bank for Rs 1,200 cr

- **On April 01, 2021, Anil Ambani Group's Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) sold its headquarters (HQ) in Mumbai's Santacruz to YES Bank for Rs 1,200 crore.**
- YES Bank, currently operates from One Indiabulls Centre in central Mumbai, will convert the building into its corporate head office.
- Yes Bank took over the possession of the Santacruz building, which till last year served as the company's headquarter, and two other smaller properties owned by the company after it failed to repay dues of **Rs 2,892 crore.**
- The state-run **Power Grid Corporation of India for an enterprise value of Rs 900 crore.**
- In January, Reliance Infrastructure completed the sale of its entire **74% holding in a power transmission** joint venture with Power Grid Corporation of India, namely Parbati Koldam Transmission Company, for an enterprise value of Rs 900 crore.
- It also completed the sale of its Delhi-Agra road project to Cube Highways and Infrastructure III Pte for an enterprise value over Rs 3,600 crore.

### About Yes Bank :

- **CEO: Prashant Kumar**
- **Founder: Rana Kapoor**
- **Founded: 2004**
- **Headquarters: Mumbai**

### About reliance infrastructure limited :

- **CEO: Punit Garg**
- **Headquarters: Navi Mumbai**

- Founded: **1 October 1929**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### **Bharat Dynamics Limited Starts flags off Akash Missile for Delivery to Indian Army**

- **On April 01, 2021 (BDL) Started flags off Akash Missile for Delivery to Indian Army.**
- It was **flagged off by Lt Gen A P Singh, AVSM, Director General and Senior Colonel Commandant, Army Air Defence**
- BDL manufactures Akash Missiles both for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- The Akash Weapon System, **designed and developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) with 96% indigenous content**
- It is **manufactured by BDL at its Hyderabad Unit.**

#### **About Akash Missile :**

- It has the **capability to engage aerial threats up to the maximum range of 25 km and up to an altitude of 20 km.**
- It has a **speed range of 1.8 to 2.5 Mach.**
- The Missile has been successfully test fired on several occasions and is one of the best missiles in this category.

#### **About BDL :**

- Headquarters: **Hyderabad, Telangana**
- Founded: **1970, Hyderabad**
- Chairman & MD : **Commodore Siddharth Mishra**

#### **About Indian Army :**

- Commander-in-Chief: **President Ram Nath Kovind**
- Founded: **1 April 1895, India**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**

### **DRDO develops bullet-proof jacket for Indian Army**

- **On April 01, 2021, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed a lightweight bullet-proof jacket for Indian Army.**
- It weighs around **nine kilogrammes and meets** the qualitative requirements of the Indian Army
- The jacket has been developed by the **Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE).**
- The front hard armour panel bullet proof jacket was tested at Terminal Ballistics Research Lab in Chandigarh and it met relevant standards of the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards).

- This jacket reduces the weight of medium sized bullet proof jackets from 10.4 kilograms to nine kilograms.

### About DMSRDE:

- Director: **Dr N Eswara Prasad**
- Established: **1929**
- Located at : **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India**
- It is one of the laboratories of the government-run Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

### About DRDO:

- Founded: **1958**
- Headquarters: **DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi**
- Chairman : **Satheesh Reddy**

### Ministry of Jal Shakti deploys sensor-based IoT devices to monitor rural drinking water supply systems

- To monitor the rural drinking water supply systems in villages, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has decided to take the digital route to use sensor-based IoT devices
- It is to effectively monitor the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in more than six lakh villages.
- For this Purpose National Jal Jeevan Mission in collaboration with Tata Community Initiatives Trust (TCIT) and Tata Trusts.
- It is recently completed pilot projects in several remote villages of five States i.e. Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh.

### Key feature of these pilots:

- To ensure regular tap water to every home, real-time measurement and monitoring is critical for rural drinking water supply schemes.
- Enormous gains in terms of operational efficiencies, cost reduction, grievance redressal, etc,

### About Jal Jeevan Mission :

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Union Government's flagship programme, which is implemented in partnership with States/ UTs.

### Purpose :

- To provide tap water connection to every rural household by 2024 envisions creating a Digital Wall and Remote Command & Control Centre for monitoring and managing supply.

### **Solar Physicists of ARIES Develop a New Novel Technique for Tracking the Solar Eruptions**

- Solar Physicists of ARIES have developed a New Novel Technique called CMEs Identification in Inner Solar Corona (CIISCO) to detect and track the accelerating solar eruption in the lower corona.
- This algorithm is based on the use of parabolic Hough transform to automatically detect the presence of parabolic profiles in the height-time plots of the solar eruption.
- It will be used in India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1, launched in 2022.
- Aditya-L1 being built in collaboration between the ISRO & Various Research Institutes.
- Aditya-L1, will be observing this region of the solar corona. After the launch of Aditya-L1, implementation of CIISCO on the Aditya-L1 data will provide new insight into the CME properties in this less explored region.
- The research led by Mr. Ritesh Patel, Dr. Vaibhav Pant and Prof. Dipankar Banerjee from ARIES, Nainital, an autonomous institute under DST, Government of India, along with their collaborators from Royal Observatory of Belgium have led to the development of an algorithm.
- This research has been published in the Solar Physics journal.

#### **About ARIES :**

- Located at : **Nainital**
- Director : **Dr. Dipankar Banerjee**

### **DPIIT upgrades of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum made online**

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has **revamped its Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) portal.**
- This has been done with a view to **enhancing ease of doing business and transparency**
- The upgraded portal offers a single IEM for one company to capture details of all its locations and sectors.
- This Single form will **facilitate the filling of investment intentions (IEM-Part A) and reporting of commencement of production (IEM-Part B) in a seamless manner**
- The G2B portal can be accessed at <http://services.dipp.gov.in> for the purpose of submitting applications and obtaining the IEM certificate.

#### **About DPIIT :**

- DPIIT operates the **G2B Portal for receiving the application of Industrial Entrepreneurs to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.**
- Comes under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

- Secretary : **Guruprasad Mohapatra**
- Founded : **1995**

### **CBIC notifies ICEGATE as a common portal for bills of entry, registration**

- **On march 29, 2021, The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notified ICEGATE or Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway as the common customs electronic portal**
- It is for all customs related documentation and duty payments.
- The changes form part of the move to making the customs processing of bills of entry and declarations more electronic, paperless and seamless, so as to facilitate trade.

### **About CBIC :**

- Chairperson: **Ajit Kumar**
- Elected officer responsible: **Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India**
- Founded: **1 January 1964**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- CBIC has also amended the bill of entry forms for goods arriving via land, sea or air prescribing the use of the common portal for submitting bills of entry.

### **Women-led startup develops product for reliable low-cost internet in rural areas**

- **Astrome**, Bangalore based a women-led startup, has developed an **innovative wireless product that gives fibre-like bandwidth at fraction of cost of fibre to help telecom operators deliver reliable low-cost internet services to suburban and rural areas.**
- It is a **wireless backhaul product that can deliver low-cost, high data capacity, and wide reach.**
- The wireless product, called **GigaMesh**, could enable telecom operators to deploy quality, high-speed rural telecom infrastructure at five times lower cost.

### **About Astrome :**

- Co-Founder & CEO : **Neha Satak**
- Astrome is the deep tech startup incubated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and supported by DST-ABI women startup programme of the department of science and technology (DST)
- Astrome received the ITU SME Award for the Most Promising Innovative Solution in Connectivity, a major recognition for this product from the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU).**
- They also got selected by a prestigious 5G accelerator programme called EvoNexus (sponsored by Qualcomm) which will help them launch their product in the global market.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS : BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- A book titled **Cinema Through Rasa: A Tryst with Masterpieces in the Light of Rasa Siddhanta** authored by **Prachand praveer**
- The book was **translated by the author Geeta Mirji Narayan**
- It was **written by Vishnu Khare Bharat Gupt**
- The book was **published by D.K.Printworld**

**About the book :**

- Cinema Through Rasa **discusses the important works of world cinema in the light of Rasa Siddhanta of the Indian classical aesthetics.**
- Rasa Siddhanta was first mentioned in Bharata Muni's Natya Shastra – the ancient treatise on dramaturgy.
- This book catalogues the major cinematic works in the light of Abhinavabharati, a tenth-century commentary on the Natya Shastra by the great Kashmiri Saivite philosopher Abhinavagupta.

**New Book 'Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life' Authored by Nitin Gokhale**

- On March 31, 2021, A new book named '**Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life**' authored by Nitin Gokhale.
- The book was published by **Bloomsbury**.

**About the book :**

- The book is a tribute to **Parrikar, India's former defence minister** and four-time chief minister of Goa, the first IIT-ian to become a chief minister
- The book highlights the journey of the contribution of Parrikar to nation-building and his service to the Goan society, from being an IIT student to a social worker and to India's defence minister.

**About Nitin Gokhale :**

- Gokhale is a renowned author, founder of a specialised defence related website **BharatShakti.in.** and **[StratNewsGlobal.com](http://StratNewsGlobal.com)** and media trainer.

**Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Releases Book 'Suparipalana**

- Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled '**Suparipalana**',
- The book has been written by retired civil servant **Dr Shailendra Kumar Joshi.**
- It was published by Shri Maruthi.
- Suparipalana is the Telugu translation of "**Echo T Calling: Towards People-Centric Governance**", written by former **Telangana Chief Secretary, Shri S K Joshi.**

- Shri Annavarapu Brahmaiah has translated this book into Telugu.

### About the book :

The book Covers, about administration, public policy, and Governance in India and also includes various topics such as “**laughter is the best medicine**” to “**the relevance of swadeshi in the modern perspective**”.

### Venkaiah Naidu Released Book Agriculture in India authored by Mohan Kanda

On March 31, 2021, Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu released noted bureaucrat and former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Mohan Kanda's book, 'Agriculture in India: Contemporary challenges in the context of **doubling farmers' income**

- The book is **Published by BSP Books Private Limited.**
- It was **held at CESS Auditorium, Begumpet**

### Salient features of the book :

- Focused on **centre-staging farmers'** environment and the sub-sectors which determine their life.
- It also goes beyond 'what needs to be done' to 'how can it be done'
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi declared** on 28 February 2016 farmers' **income will be doubled by 2022 to mark 75 years of India's independence.**
- This is a major shift in our approach, a clear focus on farmer and farmer welfare, rather than simply production and productivity.
- The purpose of recent farm legislations included the following aspects:
  1. Increase productivity / production and reduce losses.
  2. Increase market access of agricultural produce through marketing reforms, post-harvest infrastructure and value addition.
  3. Reduce input cost of farmers through optimisation of resources used as inputs.
  4. Undertake governance and structural reforms.
  5. Expand risk mitigation measures to protect farmers against losses due to yield and price risks.
  6. Increase investment in and for agriculture.
  7. Link development activities in sectors such as water resources, soil health, food processing, rural development, power, information technology, environment, fertilisers, and other sectors to agricultural development.

### About Mohan Kanda :

- He is an **Indian Administrative Service officer of the 1968 batch.**
- He **retired as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh** in 2005.
- He was also Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and served as **Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)**

- He worked as a **Secretary in the Union Ministry of Agriculture.**
- He is a member of the steering committee on Agriculture and Allied Sectors for the formulation of the 12th Five Year Plan (2012–17) for the Planning commission.
- He was made head of a committee that would look into the problems faced by the Coastal Andhra riots in declaring a crop holiday.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS : ENVIRONMENT

#### In Maharashtra New Plant Species Discovered Named After Sharad Pawar

- A new species of flowering plants, recently discovered in south Maharashtra's **Kolhapur**
- It belongs to the **genus 'Argyreia'.**
- It has been **named after National Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar.**
- The species has been named '**Argyreia sharadchandraji**' in recognition of Mr Pawar's contribution as Union agriculture minister.

#### Researchers :

- Dr Pramod R Lawand
- Dr Vinod B Shimpale.
- Their research paper **Argyreia sharadchandraji (Convolvulaceae)**, a new species from the Western Ghats, India was recently published in the Journal of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy.

#### About 'Argyreia' Species :

- Totally **40 sub- species of the Argyreia genus** are found in India.
- **Out 40, 17 are endemic to India,** and now we have discovered an 18th one in the Allamprabhu Sacred Grove in Ramling hills,

#### About Maharashtra :

- Chief minister: **Uddhav Thackeray**
- Capital: **Mumbai**
- Governor: **Bhagat Singh Koshyari**

#### New species of butterfly discovered **Nacaduba sinhala ramaswamii sadasivan**

- The discovery of the **species six line blue butterfly Nacaduba sinhala ramaswamii Sadasivan, 2021 in the Agasthyamalais in the Western Ghats.**
- It is the **first time that a butterfly species was discovered by an all-Indian research team from the Western Ghats.**
- It has now found a place in the **Journal of Threatened Taxa.**
- The new taxon of Lycaenid butterflies belonging to the **genus Nacaduba**

#### About Researchers Team :

- Team comprises **Kalesh Sadasivan and Baiju K. representing the Travancore Nature History Society, Rahul Khot of the Bombay Natural History Society, and Ramasamy Naicker from Theni.**

### About the Butterfly :

- Line Blues are small butterflies belonging to the subfamily **Lycaenidae**
- Their distribution ranges from **India and Sri Lanka to the whole of southeastern Asia, Australia and Samoa.**

### CURRENT AFFAIRS : RANKING & INDEX

#### Forbes' Annual Billionaire list Jeff Bezos tops & Mukesh Ambani ranks 10th

- On April 06, 2021, The 35th edition Forbes World's Billionaires list was released.
- It comprised a record-breaking 2,755 billionaires.
- Forbes' 35th annual list of the world's billionaires is topped by Amazon CEO and Founder Jeff Bezos for the fourth year in a row.
- Mukesh Ambani ranked at 10th position with a total net worth of USD 84.5 billion.
- India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world after the United States and China, as per a new list by the prestigious Forbes magazine.

#### Top five billionaires in the list:

Rank	Name	Company	Net Worth in USD (\$)
1	Jeff Bezos	Amazon	177 Billion
2	Elon Musk	Tesla, SpaceX	151 Billion
3	Bernard Arnault	LVMH	150 Billion
4	Bill Gates	Microsoft	124 Billion
5	Mark Zuckerberg	Facebook	97 Billion

#### WEF's gender gap index 2021 : India ranks 140 among 156 nations

- India has slipped 28 places to rank 140th among 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- In 2020, India ranked 112th among 153 countries.
- In the 2021 Global Gender Gap Report, India emerged as the third-worst performing country in South Asia.
- India has closed 62.5 percent of its gender gap till date.
- For the 12th time, Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world.
- Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report.

#### The top 10 most gender-equal countries :

- Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Rwanda, Sweden, Ireland and Switzerland.
- In regions, **South Asia is the second-lowest performer** on the index, with 62.3 percent of its overall gender gap closed.

## Global Gender Gap Report :

- The Global Gender Gap Report was **first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum.**
- The Global Gender Gap Report **2021 is the 15th edition of the annual publication by WEF.**
- It is an index **designed to measure gender equality.**
- To compare countries' gender gaps across **four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership**

## About World Economic Forum :

- Headquarters: **Cologne, Switzerland**
- Founder: **Klaus Schwab**
- Founded: **January 1971**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : SPORTS

### 9 cities in Australia, New Zealand to host 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

- The **2023 Women's World Cup of football will be spread across nine cities in Australia and New Zealand.**
- The opening match will be **held at Eden Park in Auckland, with Sydney's Stadium Australia hosting the final.**
- The **two semi-final matches will be split between Australia and New Zealand.**
- It will be the **first-of-a-kind World Cup, co-hosted by members of different confederations.**
- **Australia** joined the **Asian confederation** after qualifying for the 2006 men's World Cup, leaving **New Zealand as the largest member of the Oceania confederation.**
- This **World Cup will also be the first to feature 32 teams, up from the 24 that participated in the 2019 women's tournament in France.**

## Hosting Cities :

1. Adelaide
2. Brisbane
3. Melbourne
4. Perth
5. Sydney
6. Auckland
7. Dunedin
8. Hamilton
9. Wellington
10. New Zealand

## About FIFA :

- President : **Gianni Infantino**
- Headquarters: **Zürich, Switzerland**
- Founded: **21 May 1904, Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris, France**
- FIFA Started to award world player awards in **1991 and 2009**.

## India's latest discus throw sensation – Kamalpreet Kaur

- An **Indian Women discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur** booked for the **Tokyo Olympic Games** after she sent the **discus to 65.06 metres in her first and only legal throw at the 24th Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships held in Patiala**.
- Kamalpreet **set a new national record and breached the Olympic qualification mark of 63.50m in the process**.
- She **broke the previous record of 64.76 set by Krishna Poonia in 2012**.

## About Kamalpreet Kaur :

- Kamalpreet comes from **Badal village in the Sri Muktsar Sahib district of Punjab**.
- Kamalpreet started taking the sport seriously in 2014 and her initial **training began at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in her village**.
- she became the **under-18 and under-20 national champion in 2016**.
- In **2017, she finished sixth at the 29th World University Games**.
- At Asian Athletics Championships in Doha in 2019, she finished fifth.

## Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent host 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships

- On March 02, 2021, the 2023 men's boxing World Championships will be held in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent.
- International Boxing Association (AIBA) President Umar Kremlev confirmed Tashkent as the host city during a visit to Uzbekistan.

## Note :

- The city of **Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan**.
- For first time Uzbekistan host 22nd edition of 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships

## About Uzbekistan :

- Capital: **Tashkent**
- President: **Shavkat Mirziyoyev**
- Currency: **Uzbekistani so'm**

## About AIBA :

- Headquarters location: **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- President: **Umar Kremlyov**
- Founded: **1946**

## 2021 Miami Open Tennis Tournament : Hubert Hurkacz of Poland and Ashleigh Barty of Australia wins

- The **2021 Miami Open Tennis Tournament** **Hubert Hurkacz of Poland** defeated Italian teenager Jannik Sinner in straight sets.
- The **36th edition of the Miami Open** was starting from **March 23 to April 4, 2021**
- It was **held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.**
- This is the **first ATP Masters title of his career.**
- In addition to that **this is the second title of the season.**

## List of winners :

Winners Title	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Single	Hubert Hurkacz (Poland)	Jannik Sinner (Italy)
Men's Double	Nikola Mektic/ Mate Pavic	Dan Evans/Neal Skupski
Women's Single	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Bianca Andreescu (Canada)
Women's Double	Shuko Aoyama/ Ena Shibahara	Hayley Carter /Luisa Stefani

## South Asian Wushu Championship Kerala-based Aniyam Midhun Wins Gold

- On March 30 & 31, 2021, **Aniyam Midhun of Kerala won the gold medal** in the 70-kg category at the **South Asian Wushu Championship 2021.**
- It was held in **Nepal.**
- He is the **first Wushu player** from southern India to reach the Indian team.

## About Aniyam Midhun :

- Midhun belongs to Nattika village in Thrissur district of Kerala.
- Midhun is a **black belt in karate** and he is also a national champion in wushu as well as kickboxing. In fact, the 28-year-old was introduced to wushu when he was in **fifth standard and hasn't looked back since.**
- He is currently training with **veteran coach Kuldeep Handu who is an Arjuna Award winner** and the Indian wushu head coach.
- He is also a **state-level boxer** and when he is not competing in competitions, he trains close to 70 students back home in Thrissur.

## In ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League standings India move to 7th position

- India has been moved up to seventh position on the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Men's Cricket World Cup Super League standings after their seven-run win over England in the third ODI.
- Despite the loss, England remained the top-ranked team in the standings with 40 points.
- India has scored 29 points.
- The Super League started on July 30, 2020 with England's three-match series against Ireland.
- It includes the 12 full members of the ICC along with the Netherlands.
- Teams that finish within the top eight will gain automatic qualification for the 2023 World Cup which is scheduled to be held in India

### About ICC :

- Chairperson: **Greg Barclay**
- Deputy Chairman: **Imran Khwaja**
- CEO: **Manu Sawhney**
- Headquarters: **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**
- Founded: **15 June 1909**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

### Rajasthan Diwas 2021 : Observed On 30th March

- **Rajasthan Diwas** is observed on **March 30<sup>th</sup>** every year to commemorate the formation of the state.
- Rajasthan Diwas 2021 is being celebrated as the 72nd foundation day of the state.

### History :

- The state was formed on **March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1949** when Rajputana was merged into the **Dominion of India**.
- **Jaipur** being the largest city was declared as the capital of the state.

### About Rajasthan :

- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- Capital: **Jaipur**
- Chief minister: **Ashok Gehlot**
- Rajasthan is known as the '**Land of Kings**' or '**Land of Kingdom**' as it is the **largest state by area**.
- Located in the northwest part of the country, it is home to a rich cultural diversity.

- **Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur, known for its birdlife is a world heritage site situated in Rajasthan.**
- **The state has two national tiger reserves- Ranthambore National Park at Sawai Madhopur and Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar.**

### **Odisha Foundation Day – Observed on Apr 01**

- **Odisha Day, also Utkala Dibasa, is celebrated on 1 April in the Indian state of Odisha in memory of the formation of the state as a separate state out of Bihar and Orissa Province with addition of Koraput and Ganjam from the Madras Presidency on 1 April 1936.**
- **In 2021, Odisha is celebrating its 86th statehood day.**
- **Odisha Day is also called Orissa Foundation Day and Vishuva Milan.**
- **On 1 April 1912, the Bihar and Orissa Province were formed.**
- **On 1 April 1936, Bihar and Orissa were split into separate provinces.**
- **The new province of Orissa came into existence on a linguistic basis during the British rule in India, with Sir John Austen Hubback as the first governor.**
- **Under the British rule, Odisha was part of the Bengal presidency, which consisted of the present-day Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha.**

### **International Children’s Book Day: Observed on Apr 02**

- **International Children’s Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually on 2nd April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children’s books.**
- **Theme 2021: “The Music of Words.”**
- **Each year a different National Section of IBBY has the opportunity to be the international sponsor of ICBD and decide upon a theme.**
- **IBBY United States is the sponsor for International Children’s Book Day 2021.**

### **World Autism Awareness Day: Observed on Apr 02**

- **The World Autism Awareness Day is observed internationally on 2 April every year, to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the world.**
- **Theme 2021: “Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World”.**
- **It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2007.**
- **World Autism Day is one of only seven official health-specific UN Days.**

### **International Day for Awareness on Mine and Assistance in Mine Action: Observed on Apr 04**

- **The United Nations’ International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is celebrated on April 4 each year.**

- 2021 Theme – **“Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress”**
- The day was declared by the UNGA on 8 December 2005, to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.

### **National Maritime Day – Observed on Apr 05**

- On this **day** in 1919, the **Indian** shipping started when SS Loyalty, the first ship of **The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd, sailed to London (UK)** from Mumbai.
- **India** celebrates **National Maritime Day** every year on April 5. In 1959, **India** became an associate of International **Maritime** Organization which is for **maritime** protection and to prevent pollution from ships.
- The World **Maritime Theme** for **2021** is devoted to seafarers, highlighting their central role which is very important for the way forward for the shipping sector.

### **United Nations International Day of Conscience: Observed on Apr 05**

- The **United Nations General Assembly** has designated **5 April** to be observed as an International Day of Conscience every year.
- **2021 Theme: “Let Conscience Light up our World”.**
- The resolution was adopted on 31 July 2019 by the UN General Assembly.
- The year 2021 marks the second edition of the celebrations.
- This day aims to remind people to **self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things.**

### **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) – Observed on Apr 06**

- **The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace** is an annual celebration of the power of sport to drive social change, community development and to foster peace and understanding.
- Creating a historical link to the **first modern Olympic Games in 1896, 6 April** was declared the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2013**, and has been celebrated each year since 2014.
- International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed on April 6.
- The day as the name suggests is marked to celebrate the **positive contribution of sports** towards sustainable development and advancement of human rights.

### **World Health Day – Observed on Apr 07**

- **The World Health Day** is a **global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April**, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization, as well as other related organizations.
- The **theme** for World Health Day 2021 is **‘Building a fairer, healthier world’.**

- Stating that our world is unequal, WHO said that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how some people can have better access to health services and live healthier lives than others.
- In 1948, the WHO held the **First World Health Assembly**.
- **World Health Day** which is aimed to create awareness around health issues which are of priority for the **World Health Organization**.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

#### Ex Union Minister and Gujarat MLA Digvijaysinh Zala passes away

- **Former Union Environment Minister and Gujarat MLA Digvijaysinh Zala** passed away.
- He was 88.

#### About Digvijaysinh Zala :

- The Environment ministry under Prime minister Indira Gandhi, he became **the first Environment Minister of the country from 1982 to 1984**.
- Zala was **an MLA from Wankaner for the years 1962-67** as an independent candidate and as a member of the Swatantra Party from 1967-71.
- He joined the Congress and became a **Member of Parliament from Surendranagar for two terms from 1979 to 1989**.

#### About Gujarat :

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- **Chief minister: Vijay Rupani**

#### Veteran actress Shashikala passes away

- Veteran actress Shashikala Om Prakash Saigal (née Jawalkar) passed away.
- She was 88.

#### About Shashikala :

- Born in Solapur, Maharashtra.
- She made her **first big-screen appearance in the 1945 movie "Zeenat"**, directed by legendary actor Noor Jehan's husband Syed Shaukat Hussain Rizvi.
- She then appeared in supporting roles in classics like "Gumrah" (1963), "Waqt" (1965), "Anupama" (1966) and "Phool Aur Patthar" (1966) and returned to playing a **vamp in the Shammi Kapoor-Sadhana-starrer "Chhote Sarkar" (1974)**.
- Shashikala also worked in television and was part of popular shows like Sonpari and Jeena Isi ka Naam Hai.

#### Achievements :

- Shashikala was conferred with the **Prestigious Padma Shri**, the **country's fourth-highest civilian** award in the year 2007 for her contribution to the Indian cinema.
- In 2009, she received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the V Shantaram Awards.
- Shashikala received eight nominations for the **Filmfare Best Supporting Actress Award** and won the award twice for 1962 film `Aarti` and 1963 `Gumrah`.

### Japanese Nobel laureate Isamu Akasaki, inventor of blue LED Passed away

- On April 02, 2021, **Japanese physicist Isamu Akasaki passed away**.
- He was 92.

#### About Isamu Akasaki :

- Akasaki, born in 1929 in Kagoshima in southern Japan.

#### Achievements :

- He is a **co-winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in physics** for inventing the world's first efficient **blue light-emitting diodes**.
- In 2014, he shared the **Nobel Prize with Japanese physicist Hiroshi Amano**, professor at the university, and Japanese-born American Shuji Nakamura, professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Akasaki was honored in 1997 by the **Japanese government with the Medal with Purple Ribbon**, an honor bestowed on those who have made contributions to **academic and artistic developments**.

### Samajwadi Party founder member Bhagwati Singh passes away

- **On April 04, 2021, Founder member of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and former UP minister Bhagwati Singh Passed away**.
- He was 89.
- The last rites of Singh will not be done as he had pledged to donate his body to the **King George Medical University**.

#### About Bhagwati Singh :

- He was a **member of the Parliament of India representing Uttar Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha**, the upper house of the Indian Parliament from 2004 to 2010.

### Beloved children's author Beverly Cleary passes away

- The **renowned American writer , Beverly Cleary**, children's and young adult fiction has **passed away**.
- She was 104.

## About Beverly Cleary :

- Cleary was born April 12, 1916 in **McMinnville, Oregon, and grew up in Portland and Yamhill**, titling her autobiography, "A Girl from Yamhill."
- Cleary **published more than 40 books, with more than 85 million copies**
- They were translated into 29 languages.
- Her books have been sold worldwide since **her first book was published in 1950.**
- Cleary was one of **America's most successful authors.**
- **Ramona Quimby and Beezus Quimby, Henry Huggins and his dog Ribsby, and Ralph S. Mouse** all have Some of her best known characters.
- Cleary won the National Book Award in 1981 for "Ramona and Her Mother," and "Dear Mr. Henshaw" won the John Newbery Medal in 1984.

## Former President of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka Passes away

- **On March 28th 2021, Madagascar's former President Didier Ratsiraka** was Passed away.
- He was 84.

## About Didier Ratsiraka :

- Didier Ratsiraka, a **naval officer nicknamed the "Red Admiral"** for his socialist policies
- He was appointed as the **Minister of foreign affairs in 1972**
- Ratsiraka was the **president of the Indian Ocean Island from 1975 to 1993 and 1997-2002.**
- He had **visited India in 1980 on a bilateral state visit and in 1983 to participate in the NAM Summit.**

## Lieutenant General Walter Anthony Gustavo 'Wag' Pinto Passes away

- **On March 25th, 2021, Lieutenant General Walter Anthony Gustavo 'Wag' Pinto**, former General Officer in the Indian Army, **passed away.**
- He was 97.

## About Walter Anthony Gustavo 'Wag' Pinto :

- Gen Pinto was born on July 1, 1924, in **Poona, Bombay Presidency.**
- Gen Pinto last served as the **8th General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command.**
- As Major General, **he had led the 54th Infantry Division on the western front in the Indo-Pak War of 1971,**
- He was **awarded the prestigious Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM).**
- He had penned a **book 'Bash on Regardless'**, in which he described the Battle of Basantar.



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