



CURRENT AFFAIRS (MAY-JUNE, 2021) :

National

- ⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh to join the twin celebrations of Bangladeshi Founding Father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence in 1971. This is the first trip of the PM Modi to a foreign country since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. India and Bangladesh signed five Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) to further boost bilateral cooperation.
- ⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' (bridge) between India and Bangladesh through a video conference, to strengthen the connectivity between both countries and especially with the north-eastern region of India. The Maitri Setu has been built on the Feni river, which lies between Tripura and Bangladesh. The 1.9 Kilometres long bridge will connect Sabroom of Tripura with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- ⇒ The Indian Navy got its third Scorpene class submarine INS Karanj, the third submarine of the first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines for the Indian Navy. The submarine is built at Mazagaon Dock Ltd, Mumbai (MDL). Before Karanj, INS Kalvari and INS Khanderi were commissioned in the Indian Navy in 2017 and 2019, respectively.
- ⇒ Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched the 'Tribal TB Initiative' in pursuit of TB Mukht Bharat. The government accords top priority to ensuring universal access to free treatment and care for TB across the country. The Union Territories of Lakshadweep and the district of Badgam in Jammu and Kashmir have been declared TB Free on World TB Day (March 24) this year. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced the discovery of the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease. The theme of the World TB Day 2021 is 'The Clock is Ticking'. It is to be noted that 30% of the world's TB patients live in India.
- ⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed the development of a Systematic Aperture Radar (SAR) called 'NISAR' (NASA-ISRO-SAR) which is capable of production of high resolution images. It will be used for the 'Joint Earth Observation Satellite Mission of ISRO and NASA. The Radar penetrates clouds and darkness, enabling NISAR to produce high quality images round the clock in any weather. The Earth Observation Mission is targeted to be launched in early 2022 from ISRO's Sriharikota space port in Andhra Pradesh.

International

- ⇒ Sri Lanka Cabinet has approved the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) proposal for developing the West Container Terminal (WCT) of the Colombo South Port with parties nominated by India and Japan governments. WCT is located near the Chinese container jetty at the Colombo International Terminal. As part of the Belt and Road Initiative, China is developing many infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka. In 2017, Sri Lanka handed over the Hambantota Port to China as a debt swap.
- ⇒ Turkey withdrew from an international accord designed to protect women, as the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued such a surprising decree. The Council of Europe accord, called 'Istanbul Convention', pledged to prevent, prosecute and eliminate domestic violence and promote gender equality.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 'Leaders' Summit on Climate', hosted by the President of the U.S.A. Joe Biden. The theme of the summit was 'Our Collective Sprint to 2030'. The Summit was held in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) that will take place in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland.
- ⇒ The US President Joe Biden has announced that all American troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by September 11 this year, thus bringing to end the country's longest war. US troops, as well as forces deployed by other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Allies and operational partners, will be out of Afghanistan before the 20th anniversary of that heinous attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001.
- ⇒ The Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2021 was celebrated this year on March 27, 2021. The Earth Hour 2021 theme this year was 'Climate Change to Save Earth'. On that day it encouraged individuals, communities, corporates and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) with its headquarters at Gland, Switzerland.
- ⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga came together for the first QUAD Summit. The meeting was held virtually during which the four participants exchanged views on different areas of cooperation like maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, COVID-19, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security, and climate change.



- ⇒ Mohamed Al Khaja became the first-ever Ambassador from the United Arab Emirates to Israel following last year's historic agreement between the countries to normalise ties. The UAE was the first country to agree to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state under the Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by former US President Donald Trump. Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan have subsequently joined the Abraham Accords. Egypt has had official ties with Israel since 1979 and Jordan since 1994.
- ⇒ According to a study released by the defence website Military Direct, China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index. The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in the 2nd place, followed by Russia. India with 61 points comes at the 4th position.
- ⇒ The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the exercise 'Ex Desert Flag-VI', organised at Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE. Ex Desert Flag is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force. The exercise was also attended by the air forces of the United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 15.06. 2021) are :
 - * Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 4.00%.
 - * Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 3.35%
 - * Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 18.00%
 - * CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%
 - * Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 4.25%
 - * MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 4.25%.
 - * Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 7.40% - 8.80%.
 - * MCLR (*The Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate refers to the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it cannot lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI*): 6.55% - 7.05%.

(Difference: Base Rate is governed by the average cost of funds while MCLR is governed by the current cost of funds. MCLR replaced the Base Rate on April 1, 2016. Under the MCLR regime, banks must adjust their interest rates as soon as the repo rate changes. Earlier it was not so.)

* Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 4.90% - 5.50%.

* Savings A/c.: 2.70% - 3.00%.

- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the central banks and supervisors 'Network for Greening the Financial System' (NGFS) as a member. The RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning from and contributing to global efforts on green finance, which has assumed significance in the context of climate change. Green finance is the financing of investments that provide environmental benefits in the broader context of environmentally sustainable development. NGFS has its secretariat in Paris, France.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited due to inadequate capital. On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member panel to carry out a comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem. The panel will be headed by former Executive Director of RBI, Sudarshan Sen.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a new Regulations Review Authority, headed by M Rajeshwar Rao to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures of the central bank for streamlining them and making them more effective.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India has announced the names of the members of the Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) for evaluating applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks. The committee has five members, with former RBI deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath as the Chairperson.
- ⇒ India has been placed at the 49th position among 104 nations in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021. Finland has topped the CGGI Index 2021, followed by Switzerland and Singapore. The Chandler Good Governance Index is released by the Chandler Institute of Governance headquartered in Singapore.



- ⇒ India is placed at the 87th position among 115 countries in the 2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI), published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Sweden has topped the index, followed by Norway and Denmark.
- ⇒ India has been placed at the 142nd position among 180 countries in the latest World Press Freedom Index 2021, released by the Paris based international journalism not-for-profit body 'Reporters Without Borders (RSF)'. Norway has retained its top spot for the fifth year running, followed by Finland and Denmark.
- ⇒ The Henley Passport Index released the list which measures the world's most travel-friendly passports. The index ranks the countries based on how strong their passport is. India stands at number 84 on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places. Japan; Singapore and Germany; and South Korea stand in Top 3 places respectively.
- ⇒ The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), in partnership with Facebook, has released the Inclusive Internet Index 2021. India, together with Thailand has been ranked at 49th spot out of 120 countries surveyed. This index measures the extent to which the internet is available to and affordable by the citizens. Sweden topped the index followed by United States and Spain.
- ⇒ India has slipped 28 places to rank 140 among 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, by the World Economic Forum. In 2020, India ranked 112th among 153 countries. Iceland has topped the index as the most gender-equal country in the world for the 12th time.
- ⇒ India ranked 40th among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). The USA topped the index followed by the UK.
- ⇒ India has been placed at the 139th position out of 149 countries in the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released. The World Happiness Report 2021 has been topped by Finland for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Iceland, Denmark and Switzerland.
- ⇒ According to the Knight Frank's Global House Price Index, India has finished at the last position at 56th rank in the quarter ending December 2020. The index tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries. Turkey continues to lead the annual rankings with prices up by 30%.
- ⇒ The Heritage Foundation, a US Conservative think-tank, recently launched the 'Economic Freedom Index'. Singapore has topped the global ranking for the second consecutive year. In the 2021 Index, India came at the 121st position out of 184 countries.
- ⇒ New Delhi has been adjudged as the world's most polluted 'capital city' for the third straight year in the 2020 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir. Globally, New Delhi is ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world. The topmost polluted city in the world is Xinjiang in China. This is followed by nine Indian cities. The IQAir report measures air quality levels based on the concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles known as PM 2.5, which is measured by ground-based monitoring stations.
- ⇒ The rankings under 'Ease of Living Index' (EoLI), 2020 have been released for cities with the population of more than one million and cities with less than one million population. The EoLI has been prepared on the basis of three pillars – (i) Quality of Life, (ii) Economic Ability and (iii) Sustainability, spanning across 13 categories including education, health, housing & shelter, water, sanitation, etc.
Bangalore emerged as the top performer in the 'Million + category', followed by Pune and Ahmedabad. In the 'Million – category', Shimla topped the list followed by Bhubaneshwar and Silvassa.
- ⇒ With the merger of United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce with it, Punjab National Bank has become the second largest Public Sector Bank (PSB) after SBI.
- ⇒ Lok Sabha passed the Bill National Bank for Infrastructure Financing and Development (NaBFID). The Bill envisages the setting up of new government-owned Development Financial Institution (DFI) to facilitate flow of long term funds for infrastructure projects. The government will initially infuse Rs 20,000 crore in the DFI, which in next few years will raise up to Rs 3 lakh crore. The DFI will start off as 100% government owned, but the Centre will bring down the stake gradually to 26%.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal has inaugurated e-SANTA, an electronic marketplace, to provide a platform for connecting aqua farmers and buyers. e-SANTA aims to raise income, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality levels and traceability of aqua farmers. e-SANTA stands for Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture. Here, the term National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of the Marine Products Export Development Authority.



- ⇒ The iron-rich 'red rice' is grown in the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. The first consignment of red rice was recently flagged off to the USA.
- ⇒ Maruti-Suzuki India, the largest car maker in the country has achieved the milestone of cumulative export of cars.
- ⇒ SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd has informed that it has become the first mutual fund house in India to cross the Rs. 5 lakh crore average assets under management (AAUM) mark.
- ⇒ With a net worth of \$ 197 billion, Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk has become the richest person on the planet, much ahead of the USA company Amazon.com Inc founder Jeff Bezos with a net worth of \$ 177 billion. They are followed by : 3. Bernard Arnault & Family (LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA : France), 4. Bill Gates (Microsoft : USA), 5. Mark Zukerberg (Faceboob : USA), 6. Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway : USA), 7. Larry Ellison (Oracle Corporation : USA), 8. Larry Page (Alphabet & Google co-founder : USA), 9. Sergey Brin (Alphabet & Google co-founder : USA) and 10. Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries : India). India's richest person Mukesh Ambani's net worth is \$ 84.5 billion.
- ⇒ Bengaluru-based digital payments and financial services company, PhonePe has become the first company to cross one billion transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure.
- ⇒ India'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 the Japanese automobile industry in India. The loan is in the form of refinancing against the funding support provided to the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers of Japanese automobiles in India. 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.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) and Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority's (IEPFA) Mobile App. The two tech-enabled initiatives have been launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to leverage digital solutions to achieve the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digitally Empowered India'.
- ⇒ India's foreign-exchange reserves stood at \$580.3 billion as of March 5, which has become the world's fourth-largest reserve. China has the largest reserves, followed by Japan and Switzerland, as on the International Monetary Fund table.
- ⇒ Fruit growers in rural Maharashtra have started an innovative 'movement' to promote fresh fruit cakes as a healthier option, instead of the traditional bakery-made cakes. The aim of this spontaneous movement is to encourage farmers and their families to increase the intake of fruits in their diet and to find a new way of selling their produce in times of the pandemic.
- ⇒ The Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved the incorporation of a joint venture company (JVC) under the name 'Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation'. The 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) will be built on the river Chenab in the Kishtwar district of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- ⇒ The government has constituted an experts' advisory committee headed by H K Mittal, for the overall execution and monitoring of the 'Startup India Seed Fund Scheme'. The committee will evaluate and select incubators for allotment of funds under the scheme, monitor progress and take all necessary measures for efficient utilisation of funds towards the fulfilment of objectives of the scheme.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has given its nod for amendments in the Insurance Act, paving way for 74 per cent foreign direct investment in the sector. Currently, the permissible FDI limit in life and general insurance stands at 49 per cent with ownership and management control by Indians. It was in 2015 when the government hiked the FDI cap in the insurance sector from 26 per cent to 49 per cent.
- ⇒ Axis Bank has launched a range of wearable contactless payment devices under the brand Wear 'N' Pay. These devices come in different forms of wearables like a band, key chain and watch loop and are available starting at Rs 750. The wearables are directly linked to the bank account of an Axis Bank customer and function like a regular debit card. It allows purchases at any merchant store which accepts contactless transactions.
- ⇒ Google has launched a new web platform 'Women Will' on March 8, 2021, on the occasion of International Women's Day. This platform will provide its support to one million rural women in India to become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship.
- ⇒ India Legends defeated Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs to clinch the Road Safety World Series final title, held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.



- ⇒ Alliance Insurance has launched the insurance portal 'SMEInsure' in order to provide financial security to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), small shops and business owners. It is a portal to insure 5 crores Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the insurance category. SMEInsure offers a wide range of SME Insurance Policies to protect one's business from losses and damages due to unexpected events. Approximately 97% of the SMEs in India are not insured.
- ⇒ Markets regulator SEBI has cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfil the 'fit and proper' criteria.

Sports

- ⇒ Kieron Pollard of the West Indies became the third batsman in international cricket and second in T20 International to hit 6 sixes in an over. Yuvaraj Singh was the only other batsman to do so before. Herschelle Gibbs of South Africa was the first to achieve this feat in a World Cup 50-50 match.
- ⇒ Mumbai clinched the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2020-21 by defeating Uttar Pradesh at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.
- ⇒ India won the Test Series against England by 3-1 matches and secured its place in the ICC World Test Championship final to be played against New Zealand at the Lords, England. R Ashwin was adjudged the Player of the Series.
- ⇒ India won the T20 International Series by 3-2 matches against England. Jonny Bairstow was adjudged the Man of the Series.
- ⇒ India won the ODI Series by 2-1 matches against England. Jonny Bairstow was again adjudged the Man of the Series.
- ⇒ To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first One-Day International, the 2021 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanac looked back and listed five ODI cricketers of five decades. They are : Viv Richards (1970s), Kapil Dev (1980s), Sachin Tendulkar (1990s), Muttiah Muralitharan (2000s) and Virat Kohli (2010s). On January 5, 1971, Australia and England played the first time-pass one-day match at Melbourne which was won by Australia. Wisden initially declined to register that insignificant match, but later recognised it to be the first ODI.
- ⇒ Hashmatullah Shahidi became the first batsman from Afghanistan to register a double hundred in Test cricket. He got his first double century in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi.
- ⇒ Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman cricketer that has completed 10,000 international runs in all the cricket formats.

- ⇒ Indian captain Virat Kohli has surpassed the 3000-run mark in Twenty20 Internationals with his last shot in the second T20I against England. He also became the third captain in international cricket to score 12000 runs as a captain and joined the legendary captains Ricky Ponting and Graeme Smith in the elite list.
- ⇒ Arjun Kalyan of Tamil Nadu became India's 68th Chess Grandmaster when he crossed the 2500 ELO mark. Vishwanathan Anand was India's first Grandmaster.
- ⇒ India finished at the top of the medals table at the 2021 ISSF Shooting World Cup, at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. India secured 30 medals which included 15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze. The USA secured the 2nd position.
- ⇒ Girl Gang, a track by New Zealand singer Gin Wigmore, has been announced as the official song of the 2022 ICC Women's World Cup. The tournament is set to be hosted in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3, 2022.
- ⇒ Mumbai City FC defeated ATK Mohun Bagan to win their maiden ISL title at the Fatorda Stadium, Goa. Other Awards : Golden Ball Award (Best Player of ISL 2020-21): ATK Mohun Bagan forward Roy Krishna. Emerging Indian Player of the Year : North-East United midfielder Lalengmawia. Golden Boot Award (Top goal-scorer): FC Goa striker Igor Angulo for 14 goals. Golden Glove Award (Best Goalkeeper): ATK Mohun Bagan custodian Arindam Bhattacharya.
- ⇒ Bhavani Devi became the first-ever Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics.

Awards

- ⇒ The 67th National Film Festival awardees –
 - * Most Film-Friendly State Award – Sikkim
 - * Best Feature Film – Marakkar : Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
 - * Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director – Helen (Marathi - Mathukutty Xavier)
 - * Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration – Tajmal (Marathi)
 - * Best Children's Film – Kastoori (Hindi)
 - * Best Direction – Sanjay Puri Singh Chauhan (Bahattar Hoorain)
 - * Best Actor – Manoj Bajpayee (Bhonsle) and Dhanush (Asuran)
 - * Best Actress – Kangana Ranaut (Manikarnika & Panga)
 - * Best Male Playback Singer – B Praak for 'Teri Mitti'
 - * Best Female Playback Singer – Savani Ravindra for 'Raan Petala'
 - * Best Hindi Film – Chhichhore



- ⇒ Dr. Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 'WILD Innovator Award'.
- ⇒ Rumana Sinha Sehgal, a software engineer turned entrepreneur from Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021 by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace. She was virtually awarded for her contribution to the field of developing innovative and functional green products by recycling varied materials and non-biodegradable materials. She was crowned 'Mrs Universe Successful' in 2018.
- ⇒ Guneet Monga, the filmmaker has been conferred with honour of the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters, the second-highest civilian French honour. Guneet has several critically acclaimed films to her credit. The list includes Masaan, Lunchbox, Haraamkhor, Peddlers; Oscar-winning short film documentary – Period, End of Sentence, etc.
- ⇒ Professor Suman Chakraborty, a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur's department of mechanical engineering has been selected for the 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare.
- ⇒ The legendary actor Rajinikanth has been honoured with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Awards, the highest film honour in India for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema.
- ⇒ HDFC Bank has been adjudged 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021. In its evaluation, the Hong Kong based magazine found HDFC Bank's transformation of its micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) business over the past few years a worthy winner of this award.
- ⇒ Noted Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale has been selected for the Saraswati Samman, 2020 for his book 'Sanatan'. The award carries fifteen lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque. Saraswati Samman, instituted by K K Birla Foundation in 1991, is recognised as the most prestigious and highest literary award in the country.
- ⇒ 'In The Dream House: A Memoir' by Carmen Maria Machado Wins The Rathbones Folio Prize 2021.
- ⇒ Well known Hindi writer, Prof. Sharad Pagare has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman, 2020 for his novel 'Patliputru Ki Samraggi'. The Vyas Samman is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.
- ⇒ The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 has been conferred on (Late) His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman. The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 has been conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The award carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft / handloom item.
- ⇒ The U.S. Consulate honoured Tamil Nadu-based anti-caste activist and human rights defender Gowsalya Shankar with a nomination for the International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award.
- ⇒ Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured with an award by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). The veteran actor is the first Indian cinema personality to be bestowed with the FIAF Award for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world's film heritage.
- ⇒ World rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has won the 'BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year Award'. The Lifetime Achievement award went to veteran athlete Anju Bobby George.

Persons

- ⇒ Duarte Pacheco, the President of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) visited India recently and witnessed the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha. The 179-member IPU supports the cause of promoting democracy across the world and takes up the issues of international importance such as Sustainable International Goals, Climate Change, Gender Equality, etc.
- ⇒ Thomas Bach of Germany has been re-elected President of the International Olympic Committee.
- ⇒ G P Samanta has been appointed Chief Statistician of India.
- ⇒ Nicolas Sarkozy, the former President of France has been found guilty of corruption and handed a three-year prison sentence after a court in Paris convicted him for trying to illegally influence a judge during his time as the French President in office.
- ⇒ Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana was sworn in as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI). He succeeded Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde.
- ⇒ Rekha M Menon, the Accenture India's Chairperson, has been appointed Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), becoming the first woman to take the top role in the software lobby group's 30-year history.
- ⇒ Sushil Chandra has become the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. He replaced Sunil Arora.
- ⇒ Sonu Sood has been made the Brand Ambassador for Punjab's anti-coronavirus vaccination programme.



- ⇒ Bharat Pannu, Indian Army's Lieutenant Colonel, has earned two Guinness World Records for his fastest solo cycling feats. The first record was created when he cycled from Leh to Manali (472 km) on October 10, 2020, in just 35 hours and 25 minutes. Lt Col Pannu created the second record when he cycled the 5,942-km-long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes.
- ⇒ Vivek Murthy, the Indian-American doctor has been appointed Surgeon General under US President Biden's administration. The 43-year-old Dr Murthy would occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time.
- ⇒ Dr Ajay Mathur has assumed office as the Director-General of the Gurugram based International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ⇒ Tirath Singh Rawat of BJP is the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

Died

- ⇒ Renowned Hindustani classical singer from 'Banaras Gharana' of India, Pandit Rajan Mishra, has passed away.
- ⇒ Farid Sabri, the Qawwali singer of the famous Sabri Brothers duo, passed away.
- ⇒ Noted Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader and author Maulana Wahiduddin Khan has passed away due to Covid-19 complications. He has written over 200 books on several aspects of Islam and is best known for having written a commentary on the Quran and its translation in English, Hindi and Urdu. He was the recipient of several notable honours like Padma Vibhushan (2021).
- ⇒ Shankha Ghosh, the noted Bengali poet passed away following COVID-19 complications.
- ⇒ Maidavolu Narasimham, the former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, has passed away. He was famously known as the 'Father of Indian Banking Reforms'.
- ⇒ Olivier Dassault, the French billionaire and Member of the French National Assembly died in a helicopter crash in France.
- ⇒ Veteran Kannada writer Ganjam Venkatasubbiah passed away.
- ⇒ GVG Krishnamurthy, former election commissioner, passed away.
- ⇒ Satish Kaul, the veteran actor who had 300 Punjabi and Hindi films to his credit, passed away
- ⇒ Charles Geschke, best known as the co-founder of the American graphics and publishing software company Adobe Inc, has passed away.
- ⇒ Lou Ottens, the Dutch inventor of audio cassette tapes, passed away.

- ⇒ Ahmed Hussain Lala, the former India International football defender has passed away due to COVID-19. He represented India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, where India finished fourth. Besides, he was also a part of the Indian team that won the gold medal in the 1951 Asian Games.
- ⇒ Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, has passed away at the age of 99 years.
- ⇒ Chandra Naidu, India's first female cricket commentator passed away. She was the daughter of the country's first Test captain CK Naidu.
- ⇒ KC Chakrabarty, a former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor, passed away.
- ⇒ Anil Dharker, a noted journalist and author passed away. He was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival.
- ⇒ Noted Odissi dancer Laxmipriya Mohapatra, the wife of legendary classical dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra, passed away. She started her dancing career at the Annapurna Theatre in Puri in 1947.
- ⇒ Sagar Sarhadi, the noted writer and filmmaker, known for films like 'Kabhi Kabhi', 'Silsila', 'Bazaar', etc passed away.
- ⇒ GV Ramakrishna Former SEBI chairman passed away. He was also the first chairman of the Disinvestment Commission in 1996.
- ⇒ Laxman Pai, the renowned Indian artist and painter has passed away. The Goa-based painter was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour.
- ⇒ Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair, the veteran Kathakali artist has passed away in Kozhikode, Kerala. He was 105 years old.
- ⇒ Shrikant Moghe, the Marathi stage and film actor, has passed away.
- ⇒ NS Lakshminarayana Bhatta, the noted Kannada poet, critic and translator has passed away.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021' was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 25 to 27 April 2021.
- ⇒ The Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the first-ever Online Exhibition on Ramayana, the Epic by Maharishi Valmiki, on the occasion of World Heritage Day 2021. The online exhibition has been titled 'Rama Katha: The Story of Rama Through Indian Miniatures'. It showcases 49 miniature paintings collected from different art schools of India.
- ⇒ 'Water Sports and Adventure Institute' (WSAI) has been established by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand.



- ⇒ The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
- ⇒ The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. K Vijay Raghavan launched a mobile app called 'MANAS' to cater mental well-being of citizens on scalable, secure and digital platforms. MANAS stands for Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.
- ⇒ Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India celebrated the International Women's Day by launching a flight from Delhi to Bareilly under the scheme *Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik* (UDAN). Bareilly Airport, earlier known as Trishul Military Base has become the 8th commercial airport in Uttar Pradesh. With this, UP is having the highest number of airports in India.
- ⇒ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has reconstituted an advisory committee, headed by the Union Minister for culture Prahlad Singh Patel for the multidisciplinary study of the Saraswati River. The mythological river Saraswati is said to have disappeared due to tectonic disturbances.
- ⇒ Russia and China signed a memorandum of understanding for the joint construction of an international lunar space station. The station would be built on the lunar surface and/or on the lunar orbit to carry out scientific research activities.
- ⇒ India and Norway agreed to work jointly in the area of marine spatial planning for the next five years. Lakshadweep and Puducherry have been identified as pilot sites for the project.
- ⇒ The maiden flight trials of the indigenously developed Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) 'Shyena' has been conducted successfully. Shyena is an anti-submarine torpedo developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ⇒ The 'Lost Golden City of Luxor' has been discovered by the archaeologists of Egypt. The 3400-year-old royal city was built by Amenhotep III but abandoned by his son Akhenaten. It now contains stunningly preserved remains.
- ⇒ A Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' has been launched in Bangladesh by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the High Commission of India.
- ⇒ The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan and the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda jointly launched 'Anamaya', the Tribal Health Collaborative. The initiative is supported by Piramal Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- ⇒ The Supreme Court of India has launched its Artificial Intelligence portal 'SUPACE' (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency). Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases.
- ⇒ The construction of the arch of the world's highest railway bridge that soars 359 metres above the bed of the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir has been completed. The 1.3-kilometre-long bridge aims to boost connectivity to the Kashmir Valley as part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project.
- ⇒ The world's first animal vaccine against the novel coronavirus named Carnivac-Cov. has been developed by Russia.
- ⇒ West Central Railways (Headquarter : Jabalpur) has become the first fully electrified railway zone in the country. The zonal railway now boasts a 3012 Route Km electrified network.
- ⇒ The fourth batch of three Rafale fighter jets from France landed at the Jamnagar airbase in India after flying non-stop from Istres Air Base in France.
- ⇒ Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has been appointed Chairman of the international body 'Stop TB Partnership Board'. He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis from India by 2025.
- ⇒ New Zealand's parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to get leave following a miscarriage or stillbirth, becoming only the second country in the world to do so. India is the only other country with similar legislation.
- ⇒ The giant container ship of Panama 'Ever Given', that blocked traffic in the Suez Canal for a week, resumed its journey after being successfully refloated.
- ⇒ The Hyderabad-based startup, Maithri Aquatech has set up the world's first mobile water-from-air kiosk and 'Water Knowledge Centre' in the smart city of Visakhapatnam. The kiosk will provide clean potable water from the air by making use of Maithri Aquatech's Meghdoot solution as a source to generate water with no dependency on groundwater as well as surface water resources.
- ⇒ L&T-built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vajra was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Defence Staff, at Chennai. ICGS Vajra is the sixth vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in the year 2015.



- ⇒ India's First Indo-Korean Friendship Park was jointly inaugurated at Delhi Cantonment by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea Mr Suh Wook. The park will also act as a monument to India's contributions as part of 21 countries that participated in the Korean war 1950-53, under the aegis of the United Nations.
- ⇒ The 11th edition of Indo-US joint Special Forces exercises Vajra Prahar 2021 was conducted at Special Forces training school located at Bakloh, in Himachal Pradesh. The exercise 'Vajra Prahar' is aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- ⇒ Hamnet, written by Maggie O'Farrell, has won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction. Hamnet is an imagined take on the death of Shakespeare's only son Hamnet from the bubonic plague.
- ⇒ The world's first Ship Tunnel is being built in Norway. The 1.7 km tunnel is dubbed as 'Stad Ship Tunnel' and would be built under the mountainous Stadlandet peninsula in the north-western Norway.
- ⇒ The state government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up India's first government-run ambulance network' for animals. This decision was taken in order to further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state.
- ⇒ The governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh signed an agreement with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to implement the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project. The main purpose of this project is to carry water from surplus regions to drought-prone and water-scarce region through the interlinking of rivers. The surplus water will be transferred from the Ken river in Panna district in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa river in Uttar Pradesh.
- ⇒ The India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II was held at Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand. This is the Second Edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies.
- ⇒ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village of Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh. Singorgarh Fort is a hill-fort of Garha Kingdom and was a residence of Rajgond rulers. The fort was attacked in 1564 during the last war of the Garha Kingdom dynasty, under the rule of Rani Durgavati.
- ⇒ To commemorate the 50th year of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Liberation war, Indian Naval Ships arrived in the port town of Mongla for a three-day visit to Bangladesh. This is the first time ever that any Indian Naval Ship visited the port of Mongla in Bangladesh.
- ⇒ The first Forest Healing Centre of the country was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Uttarakhand in a pine-dominated forest. It involves many activities like forest walking, tree-hugging, forest meditation and sky gazing.
- ⇒ The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) celebrated the 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas (7th March) to spread awareness about quality generic medicines, available at low prices. The Janaushadhi week was celebrated across the country from 1st to 7th March, 2021. The theme was 'Seva Bhi – Rozgar Bhi'.
- ⇒ The Cyberabad Police of Hyderabad has launched India's first-ever 'Transgender Community Desk' at the Gachibowli Police Station in Hyderabad, Telangana. This desk is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiative in the country. It is also the world's first-ever help desk for the transgender community.
- ⇒ The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'. The International Year of Millets is aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and its suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions. (2021 is the UN International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development and 2022 is the UN International Year of Basic Sciences for Development).
- ⇒ The Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Television channels that broadcast the proceedings of the upper and lower Houses of Parliament, respectively, have been merged into a single entity. The new channel has been named the 'Sansad Television'. Ravi Kapoor is the CEO of the new channel.
- ⇒ Ghana became the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations backed COVAX initiative with a delivery of 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India.

Books & Authors

- ⇒ Whereabouts – Jhumpa Lahiri.
- ⇒ Living Mountain – by Amitav Ghosh
- ⇒ PM Narendra Modi released four books based on the life of India's first law minister and the architect of the Indian Constitution Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. The four books, written by Kishor Makwana are Dr Ambedkar Jivan Darshan, Dr Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan, Dr Ambedkar Rashtra Darshan, and Dr Ambedkar Aayam Darshan.
- ⇒ I am no Messiah – Sonu Sood
- ⇒ Believe : What Life and Cricket Taught Me – Suresh Raina autobiography (Co-authored by Bharat Sundaresan.)



EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

Jadavpur : 9433267091, 033-24187224. Site : www.excellenttutorial.in

- | | |
|---|--|
| ⇒ Names of the Women – Jeet Thayil. | ⇒ Hunchprose – Ranjit Hoskote |
| ⇒ My Experiments with Silence – Samir Soni. | ⇒ The Soul of A Woman – Isabel Allende |
| ⇒ Sanatan – Sharankumar Limbale | ⇒ Hamnet – Maggie O'Farrell, |
| ⇒ The Frontier Gandhi : My Life and Struggle – The
autobiography of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan | ⇒ In The Dream House: A Memoir – Carmen
Maria Machado |
