

Awards and Honours

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Shyamala Ganesh	Order of the Rising Sun	The Japanese Government recently awarded the “Order of Rising Sun” to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh.
Maria Ressa	UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2021	The \$25,000 prize “recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger,” according to UNESCO. The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist.
Singer Pink	Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs)	The award aims to recognize artists who have achieved success on the Billboard charts and left an indelible impact on music. Pink joins previous honourees that include Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks.
Gita Mittal	Arline Pacht Global Vision Award	The Award will be presented at IAWJ’s Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony on May 7, 2021. She shares the honour with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico.
Anupam Kher	Best actor award at New York City International Film Festival	The film has been directed by Prasad Kadam and produced by FNP Media. Besides Anupam, Happy Birthday stars Aahana Kumra. The film also won the Best Short Film award at the festival.
Babar Azam and Alyssa Healy	ICC Men’s Player of the Month and Women’s Player award respectively	These awards recognize and celebrate the best performing male and female cricketers across all formats of international cricket.
Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)	Green Urja Award	IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.
Andrea Meza	69th Miss Universe 2020	Miss Mexico Andrea Meza has been crowned as the 69th Miss

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		Universe 2020. On the other hand, Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4.
Nuklu Phom	Whitley Awards 2021	An environmentalist from Nagaland's remote Longleng district, Nuku Phom has won this year's Whitley Awards 2021, also known as the Green Oscar.
Hockey India	Etienne Glichitch Award	The awards were announced by the game's governing body FIH during the HockeyInvites virtual conference. It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.
SpiceHealth	Gold Stevie Award 2021	SpiceHealth, a healthcare company founded by the promoters of SpiceJet, has won the Gold Award at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for 'Most Valuable Medical Innovation' under Covid19.
Dr Nageshwar Reddy	Rudolf V Schindler award	Padma Bhushan awardee and noted gastroenterologist Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, who is also the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).
VK Pandian	FIH President's Award	V Karthikeyan Pandian, an IAS officer, and private secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was conferred with President's award by International Hockey Federation through the 47th FIH Congress.
Amartya Sen	Spain's Top Award in Social Science	Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar Sen, was conferred with "Princess of Asturias Award" in social sciences category which is Spain's top prize. He was selected out of 41 candidates from 20 countries.

Appointment

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Vaishali Hiwase	Officer commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)	Vaishali is from Wardha, Maharashtra, and has completed a successful demanding tenure in Kargil.
Amitabh Chaudhry	MD & CEO of Axis Bank	His second 3 years term will begin with effect from January 1, 2022, up to December 31, 2024.
T Rabi Sankar	RBI deputy governor	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) executive director T Rabi Sankar has been named as the fourth Deputy Governor of the central bank.
Prafulla Chandra Pant	National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) – Acting Chairperson	A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019.
PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li	Athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC)	India shuttler PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation.
MK Stalin	Tamil Nadu Chief Minister	The swearing-in ceremony of the DMK president MK Stalin as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to take place on May 7, 2021, at 9 am at Raj Bhavan in Chennai.
Vijay Goel	Chairman and managing director - Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited	He joined the company in 1990 as a senior personnel officer (SPO) from NHPC Ltd. He has more than 35 years of varied experience in the field of human resource management.
RM Sundaram	Director of Indian Institute of Rice Research	Prior to this elevation, he was working as Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) at the institute crop Improvement Section.
AINRC chief N Rangasamy	Chief Minister of Puducherry	The All India NR Congress (AINRC) leader N Rangasamy is taking oath as the CM of Puducherry at Raj Nivas today, May 7, 2021, for the fourth time.
Himanta Biswa Sarma	Assam's new chief minister	Himanta Biswa Sarma has been named as the 15th Chief

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		Minister of Assam on May 08, 2021. He will replace incumbent Sarbananda Sonowal. He will take the charge of the office with effect from May 10, 2021.
Padmakumar Nair	CEO Of National Asset Reconstruction Company	Padmakumar M Nair has been appointed as the CEO of the proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. Presently Padmakumar is the Chief General Manager of Stressed Assets Resolution Group at SBI.
Jose J Kattoor	Executive Director – RBI	The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Jose J Kattoor as Executive Director (ED). Prior to being promoted as ED, Mr Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka.
Arun Kumar Singh	Chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).	Arun Kumar Singh is currently director, marketing at BPCL and holding additional charge of Director, Refineries. His selection will have to be ratified by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet led by prime minister Narendra Modi.
Manisha Kapoor	Executive committee of the International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS)	Until April, ASCI served on the executive committee as a member for a two-year term.
Martin Griffiths	UN Humanitarian Chief	Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths has been appointed as the new Chief at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), for a period of five years.
K P Sharma Oli	Nepal Prime Minister	K P Sharma Oli was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered his oath of office.
Ramesh Powar	Head Coach of Indian Women's Cricket team	The three-member Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Sulakshana Naik, Madan Lal and Rudra Pratap Singh interviewed the applicants and unanimously agreed on Powar's candidature.

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		A former international, Powar played 2 Tests and 31 ODIs for India.
Neera Tanden	White House senior adviser	She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.
Gunjan Shah	Footwear Brand Bata – CEO	Shah replaces Sandeep Kataria, who has been elevated as the Global CEO of Bata Brands in November 2020.
Pinarayi Vijayan	Kerala CM	The event will be attended by a limited number of guests due to COVID-19. The LDF, led by the CPI(M), retained power with 99 out of the total 140 seats in Kerala.
Moctar Ouane	Prime Minister of Mali	Moctar Ouane is reappointed as Prime Minister of Mali. He was appointed as Prime Minister of the caretaker government in August 2020 after the removal of Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.
Sreejesh	Member of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes' Committee	The experienced Sreejesh, who has led the Indian team in the past, was one of the four new members appointed by the EB which met two days before the 47th FIH Congress, which will also be held online.
Martha Koome	Kenya's first woman chief justice	Koome, 61, a calm but staunch women's rights crusader, takes over the judiciary ahead of next year's general elections and would likely play a decisive role in adjudicating any eventual election disputes.
Rajesh Bansal	CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub	The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub would develop internal infrastructure to promote fintech research and facilitate engagement with innovators and start-ups.
Himanta Biswa Sarma	Badminton Association of India (BAI) - council	Sarma was elected among 31 contestants to the 20-member BWF Council on May 22, 2021, at the virtual AGM and Council election of BWF, where he got 236 votes in favour. He is also the Vice President of Badminton Asia

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		and the Chief Minister of Assam.
Narinder Batra	President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)	He was elected during the virtual 47th Congress of FIH, where he beat Marc Coudron, Chief of Belgium Hockey Federation, by just two votes. He will hold the office until 2024 because the FIH has reduced the term from four to three years.
David Barnea	Israel's Next Mossad Chief	Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed David Barnea as the new head of the country's spy agency, the Mossad.
Collinet Makosso	Republic of Congo's new Prime Minister	He replaced Clement Mouamba, in-office since 2016. Before this appointment, Makosso was the education minister of the Central African country. He was also minister of youth and civic instruction from 2011 to 2016.
Subodh Kumar Jaiswal	Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	Jaiswal, along with KR Chandra and VS Kaumudi, was short-listed out of 109 officers for the top post by the high-powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
Bashar Al-Assad	Syrian President for 4th Term	The 55-year-old Assad is serving as the 19th President of Syria since 17 July 2000. On the eve of the election, the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Italy said the poll was "neither free nor fair", and Syria's fragmented opposition has called it a "farce".
B.V.R. Subrahmanyam	Commerce Secretary	The appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir as an officer on special duty in the Department of Commerce.

Banking & Finance

Indian Bank signs MoU with BSNL

Indian Bank signed an MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide seamless telecom services to the Indian Bank at competitive market rates. This means the telco might be availing its services to the bank for a lower market rate than usual.

SIDBI launches SHWAS and AROG Loan Schemes for MSMEs

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has launched two loan products for MSMEs to help them with the required financial support in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

These two new quick credit delivery schemes will facilitate funding for production and services related to the supply of oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, oximeters and essential drugs by MSMEs.

Jana Small Finance Bank launches 'I choose my number' feature

Jana Small Finance Bank has announced the launch of the "I choose my number" feature for all its customers across India. This new feature gives the bank's existing and new customers the option to select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number.

PayPal introduces digital Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA)

The Digital Payment service provider PayPal recently introduced Foreign Inward Remittance Advice. It is an automated process to obtain monthly foreign inward remittance advice.

Airtel Payments Bank launches DigiGold

Airtel Payments Bank has launched "DigiGold", a digital platform for customers to make investments in gold. This has been rolled out in partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold.

With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank's saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app. Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends, who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.

IMF proposes \$50 billion global vaccination plan

The International Monetary Fund has proposed a \$50 billion global vaccination plan that would cover at least 40 per cent of the global population by the end of 2021 and at least 60 per cent by the first half of 2022.

The vaccination target requires additional upfront grants to Covax, donating surplus doses and free cross-border flows of raw materials and finished vaccines.

Equitas Small Finance Bank offers online process for NRI account opening

Equitas Small Finance Bank has now become the first Small Finance Bank to offer its NRI customer segment the ease of account opening online.

The company will also be the only one in the Small Finance Bank sector to have Virtual Relationship Managers based on time zones. The online process of account opening for NRIs can be done via smartphone or computer connected to the Internet.

RBI cancels licence of United Co-operative Bank

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd over inadequate capital, regulatory non-compliance, based in Bagnan, West Bengal. Through an order dated May 10, 2021, the central bank has prohibited the co-operative lender from carrying on banking business, with effect from the close of business on May 13, 2021.

CCI approves sale of YES Bank's MF subsidiaries to GPL Finance

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of YES Asset Management (India) Limited (YES AMC) and YES Trustee Limited (YES Trustee) by GPL. GPL Finance and Investments Limited (GPL) will acquire 100% equity shares of YES AMC and YES Trustee.

IDBI Bank launches digital loan processing system

IDBI Bank announced the launch of its fully digitized loan processing system, offering over 50 products to MSME and the agriculture sector. The Loan Processing System (LPS) for MSME and Agri products seamlessly integrate with data fintech, bureau validations, document storage, account management and customer notifications among others.

RBI to transfer Rs. 99,122 crore surplus to Central Government for FY21

The Reserve Bank of India will transfer Rs 99,122 crore surplus to the Central Government for the accounting period of nine months ended March 31, 2021 (July 2020-March 2021). The Contingency Risk Buffer will remain at 5.50%.

This year RBI has changed its Accounting year from July-June to April-March to coincide with the accounting year of Government.

Kotak Mahindra Bank issues India's first FPI licence to GIFT AIF

Kotak Mahindra Bank has issued the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global. This is the first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in the country.

SBI allocates Rs 71 crores to help India combat COVID-19 second wave

The State Bank of India has allocated Rs 71 crores to support various initiatives that will help India battle the deadly second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

The public sector bank has allocated Rs 30 crores to set up healthcare facilities such as 1000-bedded makeshift hospitals, 1000-bedded isolation facilities and 250 bed ICU facilities in some of the worst-hit states.

RBI imposes ₹3 crore penalty on ICICI Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹3 crores on ICICI Bank for non-compliance with its directions in the matter of shifting of securities from one category to another.

The monetary penalty has been imposed on the Bank for contravention of certain directions contained in its Master Circular on 'Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio by Banks.'

ADB outlines 5-point agenda to achieve recovery from pandemic in Asia-Pacific Region

The Asian Development Bank announced on May 5, 2021, that investment in social protection, education, and health along with deeper regional cooperation can help the nations in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

RBI Announces Term Liquidity Facility of Rs. 50,000 Crore For Healthcare

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has announced a Covid-19 healthcare package of Rs 50,000 crore, for lending to entities such as vaccine makers, medical equipment suppliers, hospitals and related sectors, besides the patients in need of funds for treatment.

RBI to conduct first SLTRO for small finance banks

The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that it is to conduct the first Special Long Term Repo Operation (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crores for Small Finance Banks.

The RBI will conduct the SLTRO for each month starting from May 2021. This is to continue till October 2021.

Geojit sign an ink pact with PNB to offer three-in-one account

Geojit Financial Services has entered into an agreement with Punjab National Bank to provide a three-in-one account to the latter's customers.

The new service gives customers who have a savings account with PNB, a PNB Demat account and a Geojit trading account. Saving and Demat accounts can be opened online in PNB with a hassle-free approach.

RBI imposes penalty on City Union Bank, 3 other lenders

The RBI has imposed monetary penalty on City Union Bank, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank and two other lenders for contravention of certain directions issued by the central bank.

A penalty of Rs 1 crore has been imposed on City Union Bank Limited for contravention of/non-compliance with certain provisions contained in the RBI (Lending to MSME Sector) Directions, 2017 and the circulars on the Educational Loan Scheme and Credit Flow to Agriculture – Agricultural Loans – Waiver of Margin/Security Requirements.

RBI imposes Rs 10 crore penalty on HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance found in the auto loan portfolio of the bank. As per the RBI, HDFC Bank has violated the provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Indian Affairs

Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center' unveiled in Mumbai

The Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center' was inaugurated by MP Rahul Shewale in Mumbai. This center has been set up in the parking lot of Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar. This first of its kind 'Drive-in Vaccination Center' facility has been made available to the citizens at a time when people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination center.

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi: Eighth Instalment released

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently released the eighth instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi. The Government of India transfers Rs 6,000 to the account of small and marginal farmers.

These funds are transferred in three instalments. The first instalment of Rs 2,000 is made between April and June. The second Instalment is made between August and November. The third instalment is made between December and March.

India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre set up at Pune

The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) recently launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre.

The Centre will aid in boosting the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra. The centre will act as a one-stop shop to export agricultural food productions.

India to launch mobile tech platform 'UNITE AWARE' for UN peacekeepers

India will launch 'UNITE AWARE', a mobile tech platform for the United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.

It will be launched during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021 (Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month).

Cheetah to be re-introduced in India from Africa in November

Cheetah, the world's fastest land animal which was declared extinct in India in 1952, is expected to be re-introduced into the country in November this year at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Kuno, positioned within the Chambal area, unfolds over a space of over 750 sq km and has a conducive atmosphere for the cheetah.

The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and it was declared extinct in the country in 1952. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) some years again ready a cheetah re-introduction undertaking.

Defence Minister launches SeHAT OPD Portal

Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, has launched ‘Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD Portal.

Service Will be provided by defence services doctors who are on regular duties. Persons aged 75 and above can consult without waiting. Similar portal called “e-sanjivani platform’ have provided facility of telecommunication to about 5 lakh people in recent months.

IBF to be renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation

The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is being renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF), as it expands its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital (OTT) players under one roof. IBDF is in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters pertaining to digital media.

Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt receives UAE’s Golden Visa

The UAE government awarded Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt with its Golden Visa. The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency to people with outstanding talents.

In 2019, UAE implemented a new system for long-term residence visas enabling foreigners to live, work & study there without the need of a national sponsor & with 100% ownership of their business.

AmbiTAG- India’s first indigenous Temperature Data Logger

IIT Ropar has developed “AmbiTAG” which is India’s first indigenous temperature data logger developed for cold chain management.

AmbiTAG is shaped as USB device. It continuously records temperature of its immediate surroundings. It can detect temperatures “from -40 to +80 degrees” in any time zone for 90 days on a single charge unlike other devices available in market that record data only for duration of 30- 60 days. Recorded data can be retrieved by connecting USB with any computer.

Cabinet Affairs

Union Cabinet approves MoU between India-UK on Migration and Mobility Partnership

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi gave its approval to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and the United Kingdom on the Migration and Mobility Partnership.

The MoU will support the innovation ecosystem in both nations by facilitating the free flow of talent. As per the official release, the Ministry of External Affairs will be closely monitoring the effective implementation of the signed MoU through the Joint Working Group Mechanism.

Cabinet approves strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on May 5, 2021 gave its approval for the strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank Ltd. The cabinet was chaired by Narendra Modi.

The extent of disinvestment of shareholding by the government and LIC will be decided in consultation with the RBI during the time of structuring of the transaction.

Cabinet Approves MoUs Signed Between ICoAI, ICSI With Foreign Countries

The Union Cabinet has granted approval to the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) entered into by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India with various countries and organisations.

The MoUs seek to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications and a range of collaborative activities for the exchange of knowledge. The signed MoUs would help in the advancement of the goals on equity, public accountability and innovation among the beneficiaries countries.

Union Cabinet approves free food grain under PMGKAY for 2 months

The Union Cabinet gave its approval on May 5, 2021, for an allocation of additional food grain to the NFSA beneficiaries under the government's Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (Phase III). The additional food grain will be given for the period of 2 months- May and June 2021.

Cabinet approves PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage

The Union Cabinet recently approved the Production Linked Incentive scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage. Around Rs 18,100 crores have been allocated to the scheme.

This has been done as a part of National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage.

Union Cabinet approves MoU between ICAI and QFCA

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Modi on May 13, 2021, gave its approval to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

The signed MoU will benefit the Qatar Financial Centre Authority and Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

Union Cabinet approves Rs. 18,100 crores PLI Scheme for battery storage manufacturing

The Union Cabinet on May 12, 2021, gave its approval to the proposal of the Department of Heavy Industry for Implementation of Production Linked Incentive Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage'.

It will help in achieving the manufacturing capacity of 50 Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of 'niche' ACC with a cost of Rs. 18,100 crores.

Cabinet approves Opening of a new Consulate General of India in Maldives

Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, the Maldives in 2021.

India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity. Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India.

Cabinet approves proposal to open new Consulate General of India in Maldives

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi on May 25, 2021, approved the opening of a new consulate General of India in Addu City of Maldives in 2021.

The decision has been taken in the reflection of the significance that India attaches to its ties with the strategically located island nation. Both the countries share ethnic, cultural, religious, linguistic, and commercial links.

State Related Affairs

Odisha announces Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana

Odisha government has announced Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana for journalists. Odisha has declared the journalists as frontline Covid warriors. It will benefit more than 6500 journalists of the state.

Under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana, a health insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh will be provided to each Journalist. Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs 15 lakh will be provided to the families of journalists who died from COVID-19 while performing duty.

Himachal Pradesh is Building ‘Forest Ponds’ to Harvest Rainwater

Under the Parvat Dhara scheme, the Himachal Pradesh government has initiated rejuvenation of water sources and recharging aquifers through the forest department with an outlay of Rs 20 crore. The work was started in 10 forest divisions that include Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Jogindernagar, Nachan, Parvati, Nurpur, Rajgarh, Nalagarh, Theog and Dalhousie.

Puducherry becomes fourth ‘Har Ghar Jal’ State/ Union Territory

Puducherry has become ‘Har Ghar Jal’ Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home in the UT has tap water connection.

With this, the Union Territory has become the fourth state/ UT to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Union Government’s flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Haryana undertakes Monkey Census as a part of Wildlife Census

The Wildlife Institute of India recently conducted a “Monkey Census” in the state of Haryana. The “Monkey Census” was a part of the “Wildlife Census of Haryana-2021”.

This in turn is a part of the Wildlife Census 2021. The unique feature of the “Monkey Census” is that the Wildlife Institute of India invited the local people to participate in the census.

Delhi Police launched vehicle helpline ‘COVI Van’ for senior citizens

Delhi Police has launched a helpline number for senior citizens who are struggling with their essential needs amid Covid-19. South District Police of the national capital has launched a COVI Van Helpline (012- 26241077) for senior citizens in the neighbourhood amid the coronavirus situation here.

Jharkhand launches ‘Amrit Vahini’ App for online booking of hospital beds

Jharkhand has launched the ‘Amrit Vahini’ App for the online booking of hospital beds. Corona patients in Jharkhand can book hospital beds online through the ‘Amrit Vahini’ App launched by CM Hemant Soren.

‘Amrit Vahini’ App, the state government would be able to provide better facilities for the people infected with the coronavirus.

Maharashtra govt launches “Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance”

Maharashtra government has launched the “Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance” scheme to meet the state’s oxygen needs. Special incentives will be given to oxygen-producing industries under this scheme. At present, the state’s oxygen generation capacity is 1300 MT per day.

Units set up in Vidarbha, Marathwada, Dhule, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg regions will be eligible for incentives up to 150 per cent of their eligible fixed capital investments and units set up in the rest of Maharashtra will be eligible for up to 100 per cent general incentives.

Kerala’s new Smart Kitchen Scheme

Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, announced a secretary level committee will formulate guidelines and recommendations on implementation of “Smart Kitchen Scheme” in state to fulfil commitments of LDF.

Himachal Government launches ‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’ program

Himachal Government has launched the ‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’ program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.

This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation. Yoga Bharti’s instructors would provide their services in the program. During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.

Manipur CM launches ‘MOMA Market’ for vegetable

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has launched a smartphone application “Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) Market” for home delivery of fresh vegetables to ensure that people get fresh vegetables at their doorsteps during the COVID-19 induced curfew. MOMA a unit of the state horticulture and soil conservation department launched the app.

West Bengal government approved setting up of Legislative Council

The West Bengal cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has approved the formation of the Legislative Council.

At present, only Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh have Legislative Council. Previously, West Bengal had a bicameral legislature but it was abolished by the United Front government in 1969.

Uttarakhand Police Launches ‘Mission Hausla’

The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called “Mission Hausla” to help people get oxygen, beds, ventilators, and plasma for Covid-19 patients. Besides these, police will also help the public to get medicines meant for Covid-19 management as part of the mission and rations.

Bihar govt launches ‘HIT Covid App’ to ensure regular monitoring

Bihar government has launched ‘HIT Covid App’ to ensure regular monitoring and tracking of those Covid-19 patients, who are in home isolation across the state. HIT stands for home isolation tracks. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said the app will help the health workers in regular monitoring of home-isolated patients.

Telangana, NHA sign MoU to implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme

The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government of Telangana to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) with immediate effect.

Haryana CM launches ‘Sanjeevani Pariyojana’ for quick medicare access at home

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on May 24, 2021 launched ‘Sanjeevani Pariyojana’, a supervised home care initiative to largely help people with mild to moderate symptoms in rural areas to access quick medical care at home.

International Affairs

UK become the first country to allow Driverless cars on roads

The United Kingdom has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at low speeds. The UK wants to be at the forefront in rolling out autonomous driving technology. The Government of the UK forecasts that around 40% of UK cars will have self-driving capabilities by 2035.

Ethiopia to designate Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) as terrorist group

Ethiopia has designated Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and OLF-Shene as terrorist organisations. This came after several attacks from the organisations in different parts of the country that targeted civilians and public infrastructure over the past couple of years.

US Government approves major solar energy project in California desert

The Government of the United States of America announced on May 3, 2021, that it has given its approval to a major solar energy project in the California desert. The solar energy project will be capable of powering nearly 90,000 homes.

The announcement of approving the project comes as US President Joe Biden promised to enhance the development of the renewable energy projects on the public lands of the country.

The World's Longest Pedestrian Bridge Opens in Portugal

The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge named "Arouca" was opened in Portugal, according to a press release by UNESCO's Arouca World Geopark. The Arouca Bridge offers a half-kilometre (almost 1,700-foot) walk across its span, along a metal walkway suspended from cables. Some 175 meters (574 feet) below, the Paiva River flows through a waterfall.

Canadian firm partners with SpaceX for moon mission funded with Dogecoin cryptocurrency

A Canadian Research and Development Company, Geometric Energy Corporation has announced cooperating with Elon Musk's SpaceX to launch a mission to the moon. The mission will be funded entirely with Dogecoin Cryptocurrency.

The founder of SpaceX has claimed that Dogecoin will take over the world. Canada's Geometric Energy Cooperation informed about the dogecoin-funded mission with the statement but not disclosing the mission's financial value.

It is the first ever commercial payload to be paid with Dogecoin. The satellite weighs 40 kilograms. The satellite is to be launched in 2022.

Hostilities between Israel and Hamas escalated after the air strikes

The Israeli military has bombarded rockets in different areas in Gaza. It is the most intense airstrikes in Gaza since 2014. Hamas had red hundreds of rockets towards Israel. After that, Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Gaza.

1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting

The first BRICS Employment Working Group was held virtually. It was hosted by India. India assumed BRICS Presidency in 2021.

The member countries discussed about promoting social security agreements among BRICS Nations, participation of women in labour force, formalisation of labour markets.

The members that participated in the meeting were BRICS countries and also members from International Labour Organisation and International Social Security Agency.

Google Pay users in US can now transfer money to India, Singapore

Alphabet Inc's Google has launched international money transfer partnerships with remittances firms Wise and Western Union Co for users of its U.S. payments app.

Google Pay users in the United States can now transfer money to app customers in India and Singapore, with plans to expand to the 80 countries available via Wise, and 200 via Western Union by the end of the year.

World's largest museum Louvre gets first female president in 228 years

Art Historian Laurence des Cars becomes the first female president of Musée du Louvre, the world's largest museum in Paris, France in 228 years.

Laurence des Cars on May 28, 2021, was appointed as the first female president of Musée du Louvre by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.

Airline Company GoAir Rebrands itself as 'Go First'

Wadia Group-owned, GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First', with the new motto "You Come First". The decision to rebrand after 15 years is part of the company's attempt to operate the carrier in an ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier) airline model, to tide over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IPL 2021 to resume in the UAE in September-October

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has confirmed that the IPL 2021 Phase 2 will be held in the UAE during the September-October window.

In a Special General Meeting chaired by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed to the State units that the tournament will have to be shifted out of India on account of 'monsoon.'

Iran Develops Its Most Powerful Supercomputer “Simorgh”

Iran has unveiled a new supercomputer named ‘Simorgh’, which is 100 times more powerful than the previous supercomputer of the country to date. The supercomputer has been developed indigenously by Tehran’s Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT). It has been named after a mythical Phoenix-like bird ‘Simurgh’.

China-Russia to begin the biggest Nuclear Power Project

China and Russia began the biggest Nuclear Power Project. The Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Chinese President Xi Jing Ping attended the ceremony that began the construction of the project on May 19, 2021.

FIFA U-17 women’s World Cup to be held in India in October 2022

The U-17 women’s World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30 next year, Fifa Council said on 21st May.

India was earlier scheduled to host the 2020 U-17 World Cup but it was postponed to 2021 before being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The FIFA Council approved key dates for the international match calendars, including the dates of the 2022 U-17 World Cup in India.

Internet Explorer to retire in June 2022

Microsoft recently announced that Internet Explorer 11 desktop browser will be retired on June 15, 2022, for some versions of Windows 10. However, Internet Explorer-based websites and applications will continue to work on new Microsoft Edge (Internet Explorer) mode till 2029.

UN bodies to set up One Health panel to prevent zoonotic diseases

The World Health Organization (WHO) on May 26, 2021, announced that WHO along with three other international bodies has put together a team of experts to launch a new One Health High-Level Expert Panel to formulate a global plan for the prevention of the spread of diseases from animals to humans.

Ana- First named Atlantic storm of 2021

According to National Hurricane Centre, Miami, subtropical storm Ana is drifting northeast across the Atlantic Ocean after causing rain to Bermuda. Thus, first named Atlantic storm will cause no damage to land and will dissipate soon.

Foreign Relation

India, Russia to establish a '2+2 ministerial dialogue'

India and Russia have agreed to establish a '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue' at the Foreign & Defence Minister level between the two countries. Russia is the 4th country and 1st Non-Quad member country with which India has established the '2+2 Ministerial dialogue' mechanism.

India, France, Australia hold first trilateral dialogue

The first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne.

4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue held virtually

The fourth India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was held here virtually through video conferencing. Ajay Seth, Secretary Economic Affairs led the Indian delegation. The delegation from the Swiss side was led by Daniela Stoffel, State Secretary, and State Secretariat for International Finance, Switzerland.

India-Israel signs 3-year program for Cooperation in Agriculture

India and Israel have inked a three-year joint work programme which will continue till 2023. A joint work programme was initiated with the aim of enhancing cooperation in agriculture. Under the new work programme, 13 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were set up to make Indian farmers aware of Israeli farm and water technologies.

Ranking & Indices

LIC Among Top Ten Most-Valuable Insurance Brand Globally

The state-owned insurance behemoth 'Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)' has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally, in Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.

Wipro overtakes HCL Tech to become third most-valued Indian IT firm

Wipro regained its position as the 3rd largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization of ₹ 2.65 trillion by suppressing HCL Technologies' ₹ 2.62 trillion market cap. TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of ₹ 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.

ICC rankings: New Zealand replace England as top-ranked ODI team

New Zealand have replaced reigning world champions England as the No. 1-ranked side in the One-day International rankings.

However, England continue to consolidate their position at the top of the T-20 International table.

New Zealand gained three ranking points after beating Bangladesh 3-0 in their only ODI series last year to move two slots in the ICC Men's ODI team Rankings with an aggregate of 121.

New Delhi ranks 32nd in Global Prime Residential Index by Knight Frank

London-based property consultant Knight Frank has ranked New Delhi and Mumbai in 32nd and 36th positions respectively in the Global Prime Residential Index. While Bengaluru moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked 40; Delhi and Mumbai dipped one place each in the same period.

Three Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter. Shenzhen recorded the strongest performing world region with a growth of 18.9%, while New York was the weakest performing market with negative 5.8% growth.

World Bank report: India was largest recipient of remittances in 2020

India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, as per the report, "Migration and Development Brief " released by the World Bank. India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.

However, the remittance received by India in 2020 was over USD 83 billion, which is a drop of 0.2 per cent from 2019 (USD 83.3 billion). Globally, the remittance flow was USD 540 billion in 2020, which is 1.9% lower as compared to that of 2019, when it was USD 548 billion.

New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern Tops Fortune’s World’s 50 Greatest Leaders 2021

New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern has topped the ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021, released by Fortune Magazine.

The ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021 is the eighth edition of the annual list which celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren’t so familiar, who made a difference amid the “truly unprecedented times” of the Covid-19 pandemic.

From India, **Adar Poonawalla**, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII) is the only Indian among the top 10 names. He is placed in the **10th spot**.

India is the 2nd largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific

India is the second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific and accounts for 35 per cent of the \$3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data.

The data showed that at least 335 private insurtechs are operating in Asia-Pacific, with about 122 of them disclosing \$3.66 billion in aggregate capital raised via private placement deals.

Jharkhand ranks first in implementation of Smart City Mission schemes

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

At the same time, Jharkhand’s Capital Ranchi has risen to 12th position in terms of progress of the ongoing mission plans in 100 cities.

On the other hand, Delhi is at number 11 in the list of States and Union Territories and Bihar at number 27 and New Delhi Municipal Corporation is at number 41 and Bihar Capital Patna at 68th position in the list of cities.

Forbes Highest paid Athletes list 2021 released

Forbes has unveiled its annual list of the 10 highest-paid athletes of the year. UFC star Conor McGregor has topped the Forbes list by earning \$180 million in the past year beating soccer superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to become the highest-paid athlete in the world.

The factors used by Forbes’ for calculation include all prize money, salaries and bonuses earned between May 1, 2020, and May 1, 2021.

Karnataka ranks first in executing Ayushman Bharat

Karnataka has been ranked first in establishing Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Program to provide comprehensive primary health care in rural areas.

Karnataka is leading in implementing the project for 2020-2021. While the Centre had set a target of establishing 2,263 centres, the State has upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31. With a score of 90 out of 95.

Facebook overtakes Amazon as top holding among US hedge funds: Report

Facebook has overtaken Amazon as the stock most commonly owned as a top-10 holding by hedge funds, according to new Goldman Sachs data.

Among 807 hedge funds assessed by analysts, 27% owned Facebook shares, and 57% of those owned it as a top-10 holding, at the end of first quarter. Meanwhile, Amazon saw the largest slip in hedge fund ownership.

Gautam Adani overtakes China's Zhong Shanshan to become 2nd richest Asian

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has overtaken China's Zhong Shanshan to become the second richest Asian in the world. He is now ranked at the 14th spot on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index with a net worth of \$67.6B, as of May 21, 2021.

Gautam Adani is now ranked behind Asia's richest person, RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani who is ranked 13th on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index with a net worth of \$76.3B. The Chinese billionaire Zhong Shanshan has been pushed to the 15th spot with a net worth of \$65.6B.

Asia's richest and second richest persons are now Indians

Billionaire Gautam Adani has edged past Chinese tycoon Zhong Shanshan to become the second-richest Asian, according to the Bloomberg Billionaire Index. China's Zhong was the richest Asian till February when he lost the crown to Mukesh Ambani, India's richest person and chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd.

Business News

Anand Mahindra launches Project ‘Oxygen on Wheels’

The Mahindra Group Chairman, Anand Mahindra has rolled out a project titled ‘Oxygen on Wheels’ to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals and homes, following acute oxygen shortage amid a severe second wave of coronavirus.

The ‘Oxygen on Wheels’ initiative will bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India, especially in Maharashtra.

Serum Institute to invest £240 million to expand its vaccine business in UK

Serum Institute of India (SII) is expanding its vaccine business in the United Kingdom with an investment of £240 million.

The serum has already started phase one trials in the UK of a one-dose nasal vaccine for coronavirus, in partnership with Codagenix INC. This was a part of the £533 million of new Indian investment in the UK in growing sectors such as health and technology.

Rolls-Royce and HAL Sign MoU for Supporting MT30 Marine Engine Business

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Rolls-Royce have signed an MoU to establish packaging, installation, marketing, and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 marine engines in India.

Through this MoU, Rolls-Royce and HAL will expand their long-standing partnership in India and work together in the area of marine applications for the first time.

Google Cloud partnered with SpaceX for providing satellite internet service

Google Cloud and SpaceX signed a deal for providing internet service through Starlink satellite. Google will provide the Cloud infrastructure for this connectivity Project, while Space X will install ground terminals in Google’s cloud data centres for connecting Starlink satellites.

It will help in providing fast internet service to the rural areas. This service will be available to customers before the end of 2021.

IDRBT building National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)

The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) is building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure named National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI).

NADI would provide a roadmap and framework for future digital financial services growth in India.

India-Microsoft MoU on Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools. This includes the introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.

Reliance Jio joins global consortium to build undersea cable network

Telecom operator Reliance Jio is constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India with global partners and submarine cable supplier Subcom to cater to increased data demand.

The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets (Singapore, Thailand & Malaysia) and others with Italy & Africa.

India's Adani Green to buy SoftBank-backed SB Energy in \$3.5 billion deal

Indian renewable energy company, Adani Green Energy Ltd (ADNA.NS) would buy SoftBank Group Corp-backed (9984.T) SB Energy Holdings Limited for an enterprise value of \$3.5 billion.

It would buy the 80% stake held by SoftBank Group Capital Limited and the rest owned by Indian conglomerate Bharti Global Limited in a cash deal. The deal would allow Adani Green to achieve its targeted renewable portfolio of 25 gigawatts (GW) four years ahead of its expected timeline.

Yono by SBI Joins Hands with Shivrai Technologies

Shivrai Technologies partnered with leading digital banking platform, Yono SBI to help smallholder, marginal, and large-holder farmers by way of a free application. This will allow them to focus on their costs incurred, as well as the bookkeeping of total profits that are in line.

PepsiCo Foundation partners with SEEDS to set up COVID care centres

PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, said it has partnered with the not-for-profit organisation, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive and set up COVID care centres. To focus on Maharashtra, Punjab, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana.

Shri Badrinath Dham: Oil and Gas PSUs sign MOU for construction & redevelopment of dham as Spiritual Smart Hill Town

The Oil and Gas PSUs including Indian Oil, ONGC, HPCL, BPCL and GAIL and Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust signed Memorandums of Understanding on May 6, 2021 for the Construction and Redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham as a Spiritual Smart hill Town.

Harley-Davidson launches all-electric motorcycle brand 'LiveWire'

Harley-Davidson Inc. has launched an all-electric motorcycle brand "LiveWire," the latest effort by the company to ramp up bets on the rapidly growing electric vehicle market.

The company would create a separate electric vehicle-focused division, as it aims to attract the next generation of younger and more environmentally conscious riders.

Hero Group launches ed-tech platform ‘Hero Vired’

The Munjal family-led Hero Group has launched a new education technology startup ‘Hero Vired’, which will offer an end-to-end learning ecosystem. Through this new edtech venture, Hero Group aims to enter the ed-tech space. The platform will offer learners overall professional development to make them industry-ready for employment.

Tata Digital buys 64% stake in BigBasket

Tata Digital has acquired a majority stake in online grocery BigBasket, a deal that pits the country’s largest conglomerate against entrenched e-commerce players. The digital unit of the salt-to-software group didn’t disclose the financial details of the deal.

Defence News

Operation Samudra Setu II

The Indian Navy recently launched Operation Samudra Setu II. The operation will aid in fulfilling oxygen requirements of the country.

Under the operation, warships have been deployed to carry liquid oxygen filled cryogenic containers. Two ships INS Talwar and INS Kolkata have been diverted for this operation. INS Talwar will transport 40 million tonnes of oxygen from Manama to Mumbai.

Indian Army Launches First Solar Plant in North Sikkim

The Indian Army recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in Sikkim. It was launched to benefit the troops of the Indian army. The plant uses Vanadium based battery technology. It was built at an altitude of 16,000 feet. The capacity of the plant is 56 KVA. It was completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai.

Indian and Indonesian navies conduct exercise in Arabian sea

The Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the southern Arabian Sea with a focus on further improving their interoperability. The exercise was aimed at improving interoperability and understanding between both the friendly navies.

From the Indian Navy, INS Sharda, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) with a Chetak helicopter participated in the exercise. From the Indonesian Navy, KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a 90m Corvette took part in the exercise.

Indian Navy Designs Oxygen Recycling System to mitigate oxygen shortage

The Indian Navy has designed an Oxygen Recycling System (ORS) to mitigate the existing Oxygen shortages.

Indian Navy's Diving School of the Southern Naval Command has conceptualised and designed the System as they have expertise in this area because the basic concept is used in some of the diving sets used by the school.

NSA Doval commissions Indian Coast Guard's ship Sajag

National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag, which has been constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited. Sajag is the third in a series of five offshore patrol vessels indigenously designed in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' vision.

Science & Technology

Facebook to introduces vaccine finder tool on mobile app in India

Facebook has partnered with the Indian government to roll out a vaccine finder tool on its mobile app in India, which will help people identify places nearby to get inoculated.

The social media giant had, earlier this week, announced a USD 10 million grant for emergency response efforts for the COVID-19 situation in the country.

World's largest aeroplane by Stratolaunch completes test flight

The world's largest aeroplane, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space, soared into clear skies over California's Mojave Desert. The company Stratolaunch designed it to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space.

NASA's Parker Solar Probe: Natural Radio Emission detected in Venus' Atmosphere

In a study published on May 03, 2021, in the journal Geophysical Research, scientists revealed that Venus' upper atmosphere has changed a lot during a solar cycle, the Sun's 11-years cycle.

NASA's Parker Solar Probe, during a brief swing by Venus in July 2020, that reveals the probe flew by the upper atmosphere of Venus and detected a natural radio signal

Mayflower 400, world's first Artificial Intelligence ship

A team of researchers from the marine research organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM built the world's first AI ship, the 'Mayflower 400'.

Mayflower 400, the unmanned 15-m-long trimaran that weighs nine tons is a completely autonomous ship. The ship is set to sail on a transatlantic voyage. Mayflower 400 will track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the water, and study marine pollution.

NASA-Axiom: First Private Astronaut Mission to Space Station

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently signed an agreement with Axiom Space.

Under the agreement, Axiom is to send its astronauts to International Space Station. This is the first private astronaut mission to the space station. The mission has been named as Ax-1.

China launches classified Yaogan satellites into orbit

China recently launched Changsei 2C rocket from the Xichang satellite launch centre. It is a Yaogan satellite. This satellite has joined the previous seven groups in orbit that were launched after 2017. The satellite is to be used for electromagnetic environmental surveys and other related technical tests.

Russian space agency to send actress, director to shoot '1st film in space'

Russian space agency Roscosmos will send an actress and a director to space to make what it's calling the first movie in space.

Actress Yulia Peresild, director Klim Shipenko and their crew will blast off in a Russian rocket from Baikonur cosmodrome in October. NASA and Tom Cruise also plan to make a film aboard the International Space Station.

Tianwen-1: Chinese Rover lands on Mars

The Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen 1 landed on Mars successfully. It was launched in July 2020 on a Long March 5 rocket.

Tianwen 1 has been orbiting Mars for three months now. The lander that carried the Zhurong rover touched down the Martian surface successfully. It landed in the Utopia Planitia region.

China's First Mars Rover 'ZhuRong' Successfully Lands on Mars

China successfully achieved the feat of landing its first Mars Rover 'Zhu Rong' on the red planet, on May 15, 2021, becoming the only second nation to do so. Till date, only the United States has successfully landed its rover on Mars. All other countries that have tried have either crashed or lost contact soon after reaching the surface.

Atlas V rocket launches SBIRS Geo-5 missile warning satellite for US Space Force

The United Launch Alliance launched the Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The Atlas V rocket carried SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite. The full form of SBRIS is the Space-Based Infrared System. It is designed for missile warning, missile battlespace and defence characterization.

China successfully launches new ocean observation satellite Haiyang-2D

China has successfully sent a new ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit as part of its effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system that would provide early warning on marine disasters.

The satellite was launched by a Long March-4B rocket carrying the Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

NASA to send its first mobile robot to search for water on the moon

The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration is planning to search for water and other resources on the moon in 2023. The US agency, as part of its Artemis program, is planning to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in late 2023 in search of ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface.

The Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER will collect data that would help NASA map resources at the lunar South Pole that could one day be harvested for long-term human exploration at the Moon.

NASA Partners ISRO to develop Earth System Observatory

The US space agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is developing a new system called the Earth System Observatory, to mitigate efforts related to climate change and disaster mitigation.

NASA has also partnered with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) which will provide NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR).

SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches 60 more Starlink satellites into orbit

SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on May 26, 2021, launched the Starlink 28 mission comprising another set of 60 Starlink satellites into orbit from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, marking the 13th Starlink launch of the year 2021.

Starlink 28, the 13th Starlink launch of the year 2021 is unique because SpaceX has used its newest boosters to launch the satellites into orbit. Starlink 28 mission marked the fourth successful liftoff of Starlink satellites by SpaceX within a month on one of its 229-foot-tall (70 meters) Falcon 9 rockets.

Book News

Meghan Markle set to release Children's Book 'The Bench'

Meghan Markle will be releasing her new book, titled *The Bench*, on June 8, which was inspired by a poem she wrote to her husband, Prince Harry, on his first Father's Day as a dad to son Archie. The book, with watercolour illustrations by Christian Robinson, began as a poem that Markle says she wrote for Harry on the first Father's Day after Archie was born.

Kalki Koechlin Authors her Debut Book Titled 'Elephant In The Womb'

Bollywood actress Kalki Koechlin is making her debut as an author, with her first book titled "*Elephant In The Womb*". The book, which is yet to be released, is an illustrated non-fiction book on motherhood.

It is illustrated by Valeriya Polyanychko and published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). The book narrates about pregnancy and parenting for mothers, expectant mothers, and "anyone even thinking about motherhood".

A book titled "Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance" released

The book "*Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance*", published by HarperCollins India, released on May 16, which is celebrated as Sikkim Day. Former diplomat Preet Mohan Singh Malik combines insights into the unique history of the erstwhile kingdom of Sikkim with the intriguing story of how it became India's 22nd state in his new book.

A book title "Nehru, Tibet and China" authored by Avtar Singh Bhasin

A book has titled "*Nehru, Tibet and China*" authored by Avtar Singh Bhasin. The book based on years of meticulous archival research, this book in fascinating detail, analyses the events from 1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962 and its aftermath to explore the answers to these burning questions.

A new book to raise funds for child rights amid pandemic

Aditya Gupta, a Delhi-based entrepreneur and mountaineer aim to raise Rs 1 crore for COVID-19 relief from the sale proceeds of his recently released book "*7 Lessons from Everest – Expedition Learnings from Life and Business*". The coffee-table book, with 350 stunning images spread over 250 pages, is written by Aditya Gupta.

A book title "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020" by Salman Rushdie

A book titled "*Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020*" authored by Salman Rushdie. In his new book, Rushdie attempts to perform a defensive castling move.

He suggests his work has been misunderstood and mistreated because the literary culture has turned from brio-filled imaginative writing toward the humbler delights of "autofiction," as exemplified by the work of Elena Ferrante and Karl Ove Knausgaard.

Sports News

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Lewis Hamilton	Portuguese Grand Prix	Verstappen finished second, while Bottas, who started from pole, came in a disappointing third place. Sergio Perez took the flag in fourth, with Lando Norris fifth for McLaren.
Mark Selby	Becomes World Champion for 4th time in Snooker	In Snooker, Mark Selby became the World Champion for the fourth time. Selby won the Championship defeating Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory at Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.
Alexander Zverev	2nd Madrid title	German Alexander Zverev earned his second Mutua Madrid Open title 2021 when he defeated Matteo Berrettini 6-7(8), 6-4, 6-3 to lift his fourth ATP Masters 1000 trophy.
Aryna Sabalenka	Maiden Madrid Open Women's singles title	In tennis, the world number seven, Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia to win the 2021 Madrid Open women's singles title.
Naomi Osaka	2021 Laureus World Sports Awards	This is Osaka's second Laureus Sports Awards. In 2019, she won the "Breakthrough of the Year" award.
Rafael Nadal	10th Italian Open title	Rafael Nadal beat world number one Novak Djokovic to win a 10th Italian Open title. Second seed Nadal won through 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 in 2hr 49min against the defending champion in the 57th career showdown between the pair.
Barcelona	Women's Champions League for 1st time	Barcelona defeated Chelsea 4-0 on Sunday to win the

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		Women's Champions League for the first time.
Tejaswini Shankar	Consecutive High Jump Titles In USA	Representing Kansas State University, India's Tejaswini Shankar won back-to-back men's high jump titles in the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA.
Arjan Bhullar	MMA title	Arjan Bhullar became the first Indian-origin fighter to win a world title in a top-level MMA promotion when he beat Brandon Vera to become the heavyweight world champion at the Singapore-based One Championship.
Max Verstappen	Monaco Grand Prix 2021	Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. finished second, while McLaren, L. Norris came in a disappointing third place.
Atletico Madrid	La Liga title	Atletico finished top of the standings on 86 points while Real, who snatched a late 2-1 win over Villarreal, came second on 84. Valladolid finished 19th and was relegated to Spain's second division.
Casper Ruud	Men's Singles title at Geneva Open tennis	Norway's Casper Ruud has won the ATP Geneva Open final with a 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 victory over Denis Shapovalov. Victory in Geneva means the Norwegian world number 21 is going to be among the top 16 seeds in Paris.
Phil Mickelson	2021 PGA Championship	With this victory, Mickelson became the oldest player to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour. This is his sixth major title.
Chelsea	2020-21 UEFA Champions League Final	Chelsea defeated Manchester City 1-0 in the final, to lift the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League

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		title, on May 29, 2021, played at the Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal. German forward Kai Havertz scored the only goal of the football match.
Mary Kom	Silver Medal at 2021 Asian Boxing Championships	This is the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships who has previously won silver in 2008. Apart from this, she won world championship titles on five occasions including 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017.

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Rohit Sardana	Renowned TV journalist and news anchor
Bikramjeet Kanwarpal	Film and TV Actor
Chandro Tomar	Shooter
Ajit Singh	Former Union Minister and RLD
KR Gouri Amma	Kerala's Oldest Serving MLA
V. Chandrasekar	Three-time National table tennis champion and former International paddler
Ki. Rajanarayanan	Renowned Tamil Writer and Folklorist

Important Days

Day	Date	Theme
International Workers' Day	May 01	
World Tuna Da	May 02	
World Laughter Day	May 02	
World Press Freedom Day	May 03	
World Asthma Day	May 04	Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
Coal Miners' Day	May 04	
International Firefighters' Day	May 04	
International Day of the Midwife	May 05	Invest in Midwives
World Hand Hygiene Day	May 05	Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands
World Athletics Day	May 05	
International No Diet Day	May 06	
World Thalassaemia Day	May 08	Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community
World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	“May 08	Unstoppable
World Migratory Bird Day	May 08	Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!
International Day of Argania	May 10	
International Nurses Day	May 12	A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare
International Day of Families	May 15	Families and New Technologies
International Day of Living Together in Peace	May 16	
International Day of Light	May 16	Trust Science
National Dengue Day	May 16	
6th UN Global Road Safety Week	17-23 May	
World Hypertension Day	May 17	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	May 17	Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times
International Museum Day	May 18	The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine”. It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM)

CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – MAY 2021

World AIDS Vaccine Day	May 18	
World Metrology Day	May 20	Measurement for Health
World Bee Day	May 20	Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	May 21	
International Tea Day	May 21	
International Day for Biological Diversity	May 22	We're part of the solution
World Turtle Day	May 23	Turtles Rock!
International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	May 23	Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!
Indian Commonwealth Day	May 24	Delivering a Common Future.
International Missing Children's Day	May 25	
World Thyroid Day	May 25	
Vesak Day	May 26	
Amnesty International Day	May 28	
World Digestive Health Day	May 29	Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic
International Everest Day	May 29	
International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	May 29	
World No-Tobacco Day	May 31	Commit to quit