

FUNDAMAKERS CAT PREP
General Knowledge & Current Affairs Module
JUNE 2021



Important Days

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Extra Info</i>
May 30	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	
June 1	World Milk Day	The theme of World Milk Day 2021 will focus on Sustainability in the dairy sector.
June 1	Global Day of Parents	Theme- Appreciate all parents throughout the world
June 3	World Bicycle Day	
June 5	World Environment Day	Theme- Ecosystem Restoration Global Host- Pakistan
June 6	World Pest Day	
June 6	United Nations(UN)'s Russian Language Day	is celebrated on the birth day of Aleksandr Pushkin, a Russian poet who is considered the father of modern Russian language



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June 7	World Food Safety Day	Theme- Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow
June 8	World Oceans Day	Theme- The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods
June 8	World Brain Tumour Day	
June 9	World Accreditation Day	Theme- Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
June 10	International Level Crossing Awareness Day	
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme- Act now: End child labour!
June 13	International Albinism Awareness Day	Theme- Strength Beyond All Odds
June 14	World Blood Donor Day	Theme- Give blood and keep the world beating
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Theme- Access to Justice
June 15	World Wind Day	
June 15	ASEAN Dengue Day	Theme- ASEAN Unite Against Dengue Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic
June 16	International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)	Theme- Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification And Drought	Theme- Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land
June 17	World Crocodile Day	
June 18	Autistic Pride Day	Theme- Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World
June 18	Sustainable Gastronomy Day	
June 19	National Reading Day	The day is celebrated in honour of father of India's Library Movement, the late P.N. Panicker.
June 19	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	
June 19	World Sauntering Day	Theme- The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk
June 13-19	World Allergy Week 2021	will focus on the topic of "Anaphylaxis"
June 20	World Refugee Day	Theme- Together we heal, learn and shine.
June 21	World Music Day	Theme- Music at the intersections
June 21	International Day of Yoga	Theme- Yoga for well-being
June 21	International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice	
June 21	World Humanist Day	

June 22	World Hydrography Day	Theme-One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography
June 23	International Widows Day	Theme- Invisible Women, Invisible Problems
June 23	International Olympic Day	Theme- Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	Theme- Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals]
June 25	Day of the Seafarer	Theme- Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future
June 25	World Vitiligo Day	
June 26	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Theme- Share Drug Facts to Save Lives
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	
June 27	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day	Theme- MSME 2021: Key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery
June 29	National Statistics Day	Theme- End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture It is the birth anniversary of late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
June 29	International Day of the Tropics	Theme- The Digital Divide in the Tropics
June 30	World Asteroid Day	
June 30	International Day of Parliamentarism	

MOU/Agreement Countries:

- Cabinet approved Memorandum of Cooperation (Moc) between India and Japan in the field of sustainable urban development.
- Union Cabinet was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of Maldives on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.
- India and Kuwait have signed an MoU that brings Indian domestic workers in the Gulf nation within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with the protection of the law.

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- India and Bhutan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the environment sector.
- The Prime Minister of Britain Boris Johnson and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have mutually agreed on a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- India and Fiji have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- Denmark signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India.

MOU Industry/States/Others:

- Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Mahindra Telephonics to procure 11 airport surveillance radars for the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- European Union and an energy investment programme founded by Bill Gates plan to raise up to \$1 billion to roll out the low-carbon technologies Europe is betting on to meet its climate change goals,
- SEBI has signed an initial pact with Luxembourg supervisory authority for the financial sector, the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), for mutual cooperation and technical assistance.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gujarat government to set up six petrochemical projects.
- National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPS) and the National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) have signed an agreement to boost cultivation and production of medicinal plants and herbs in India.
- NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan in 112 Aspirational Districts to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to Covid-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.
- The CII-Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) signed an MoU to give a fillip to the Green Building Movement & Sustainable Development in the field of Architectural Design and planning.
- Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers.
 - Malaria No More, a non-governmental organisation, in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is creating an India Interagency Expert Committee on Malaria and Climate (IEC) to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India.
- Ports, shipping and waterways ministry (MoPSW) and the civil aviation ministry have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing seaplane services in the country.
- The United States Department of Energy (DOE), India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) have jointly launched a US-India Hydrogen Task Force. This is under the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).
- Odisha government and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have joined hands to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives and reaching out to thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs).
- In a bid to boost the start-up ecosystem and promoting the transition to a Low Carbon Lifestyle in the Asia

Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with Massive Earth Foundation (MEF) has announced the launch of LowCarbon.Earth.

Appointments and Resignations:

Name	Post	Other Info
K.K. Venugopal	Attorney General of India	
Umesh Sinha	Deputy Election Commissioner	
J B Mohapatra	Chairman of CBDT	
T V Narendran	President of CII	
Anup Chandra Pandey	Election Commissioner of India	
Vikramjit Sen	Chairman of Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)	
Praveen Sinha	Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation	
Adar Poonawalla	Chairman of Magma Fincorp Ltd	
Vijay Deshwal	CEO of Magma Fincorp Ltd	
Abhay Bhutada	MD of Magma Fincorp Ltd	
Vishwavir Ahuja	Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank	
Chandra Shekhar Ghosh	MD & CEO Of Bandhan Bank	
Girish Chandra Chaturvedi	Part-Time Chairman Of ICICI Bank	
RS Dhondkar	Liquidator of Shivajirao Bhosale Bank	
Ajai Puri	Chairman of Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) for 2021-22	
MR Kumar	Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	
Justice Arun Kumar Mishra	Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	
Suresh N. Patel	Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	Will succeed Sanjay Kothari
Paresh B Lal	Grievance Officer of Whatsapp India	
Spoorthi Priya	Grievance Officer of Facebook for India	
Arjan Kumar Sikri	Grievance Redressal Board (GRB) of Internet and Mobile	

	Association of India (IAMAI)	
Jeremy Kessel	Grievance Officer of Twitter for India	
Manesh Mahatme	Head Of Payments of WhatsApp In India	
Shambhu Nath Srivastava	Chairman of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)	succeeds Mukul Sangma
Ananta Barua	Whole-time Member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for 2 years	
Karnam Malleswari	1st Vice Chancellor of Delhi Sports University	
Akshay Kumar	Brand Ambassador of Mylab Discovery Solutions	
Yuvraj Singh	Brand Ambassador of PUMA	
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador for Audi in India	
Jaspri Bumrah	Brand Ambassador of OnePlus	
Dr Pratima Murthy	Director of National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)	
Dr Vinay K Nandicoori	Director of the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)	
Sanjeev Nandan Sahai	Chairman of oil regulator PNGRB	
Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh	Deputy Chief of Naval Staff	
Vivek Ram Chaudhari	Vice Chief of Air Staff	
Ballabha Radha Krishna	Chief of Western Command in Delhi	
RJ Duckworth	Chief of Central Air Command in Prayagraj	
Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar	Director General Naval Operations	
Mawya Sudan, J&K	IAF's 1st Woman Fighter Pilot	
Rear Admiral IB Uthaiyah, VSM	Admiral Superintendent, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam	
Mr. Mukund Gosavi	Brand Ambassador of Corona vaccination program by Maharashtra Govt.	
Meenesh Shah	Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)	
Nagraj Adiga, India	Asia-Oceania Representative 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress	
Ranjitsinh Disale	Advisor to the World Bank	the first Indian teacher to receive the Global Teacher Award
Ranjitsinh Disale	World Bank Education Advisor for the period June 2021 to June 2024	
Hitendra Dave	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HSBC India	
Mukesh Sharma, a faculty at IIT Kanpur	Honorary member of World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Air Pollution and Health – Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG)	

Aashish Chandorkar	'Counsellor' in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation	
Satya Nadella	Chairman of Microsoft	
RS Sodhi	Member of board of International Dairy Federation	
Khyati Naravane	'Certificate of Commitment' by The World Book of Records	
Anand Mohan Bajaj	Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	
Upasana Kamineni	'Ambassador Of Forest Frontline Heroes' At WWF India	
Montek Singh Ahluwalia	Member of a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) formed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)	
Tadang Minu	Member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA)	first woman in the country and the second Indian to be appointed
Mr. Sumant Sinha	SDG Pioneers By United Nations Global Compact	
Karim Khan	Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court	
Husain Al-Musallam, Kuwait	President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA)	
Abdulla Shahid, Maldives	President of 76th session of UN General Assembly	
Antonio Guterres	Secretary General of United Nations Security Council	
Rebecca Grynspan	Secretary General of UNCTAD	
Virendra Nanavati	Member of International Swimming Federation (FINA) Bureau	
Choguel Maiga	Transitional Prime Minister of Mali	
Henri Marie Dondra	Prime Minister of Central African Republic	
Isaac Herzog	Israel's 11th President	first Israeli President who is the son of a former president
Ebrahim Raisi	President of Iran	
Naftali Bennett	Prime Minister of Israel	
Ukhnaa Khurelsukh	President of Mongolia	
Nikol Pashinyan	Prime Minister of Armenia	

Resignations

Swedish PM Stefan Lofven resigned following No Confidence Vote.

- Reserve Bank of India has extended the tenure of Deputy Governor Mahesh Kumar Jain for two years with effect from June 22, 2021.

- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer K Nagaraj Naidu was named chef de cabinet by the incoming UN general assembly president, Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid, for the duration of his one-year tenure to lead the UN Bureaucracy through its return to normalcy as countries strive to bring the pandemic under control.
- European Space Agency hopes to hire and launch the world's first physically disabled astronaut.

Awards and Recognitions:

Award Name	Person/Institution	Extra Knowledge
WHO Director-General Special award	Dr Harsh Vardhan	For accomplishments in the area of tobacco control
Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021	Thomas Vijayan, Kerala	for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree. The photograph is titled ' The World is Going Upside Down '
Best Film National Award in environment conservation category at the 67th National Films Awards 2021	Water Burial	a film based on Monpa dialect of Arunachal Pradesh
Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2021 for their environment sustainable initiatives	Delhi and Hyderabad Airports	
Airport Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour in Airport Service Quality	Cochin International Airport	
Japan Society of Civil Engineers' Award	Delhi Metro	for its "high-quality" infrastructure development projects under phases I-III
Forbes Worlds Best Banks list in India	DBS Bank	
India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021	National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) (Rank- 38)	It has been recognized as the 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th straight year by the Great Places to Work Institute
United Nations' Land for Life Award	Familial Forestry, Rajasthan	It is Rajasthan -based climate activist Shyam Sundar Jyani's environment conservation concept
2021 DUBLIN Literary Award	Mexican author Valeria Luiselli	for her novel Lost Children Archive
Asia Pacific Productivity Champion Award	RS Sodhi	Sodhi is the first person in the last 20 years from India to receive the award
'NSG Counter-IED and Counter-	Prof. Shailesh Ganpule	for developing a "blast-resistant"



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Terrorism Innovator Award 2021		helmet
Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize for 2021	KK Shailaja	She is the former Health Minister of Kerala
PEN Pinter Prize 2021	Tsitsi Dangarembga, Zimbabwe	for her “cultural significance” charting “the development of Zimbabwe from a British colony to an autocratic and troubled-free state”
International Business Book of the Year Award for 2021	Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind	for their recently launched book Transformation in Times of Crisis
Patrick H Hurd Sustainability Award at the 2021 virtual Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)	Sohi Sanjay Patel	for developing an eco-friendly foam alternative
European Inventor Award 2021 in the ‘Non-European Patent Office countries’ category	Sumita Mitra	
Highest civilian award of Mongolia ‘The Order of Polar Star’	RK Sabharwal	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Engineers India Limited (EIL)
Japan’s Fukuoka Grand Prize	P Sainath	
Best Documentary Feature Award at the 21st New York Indian Film Festival	Ahimsa Gandhi: The Power of the Powerless	Director- Ramesh Sharma
Spanish Princess of Asturias Literature Award	Emmanuel Carrere, France	
International Booker Prize	David Diop	For his novel At Night All Blood is Black
NBA Sixth Man of the Year 2021	Jordan Clarkson	

Recognitions

Arthur Muir, 75, became the oldest American to climb the world’s highest peak at 8,848.86-metres (29,031 feet).

Hong Kong’s Tsang Yin-Hung, 45, scaled the peak in less than 26 hours, the shortest time taken by any woman after starting from the base camp.

Abinaya Dinesh, a 15-year-old Indian-origin girl, is among three winners of the annual WWDC21 Swift Student Challenge, a platform for the young brains willing to demonstrate their coding and problem-solving skills.

Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty has topped the list of The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020.

Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, founder of the Tata Group, has topped the EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century.

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiquir Rahim and Scotland all-rounder Kathryn Bryce have been

- International Cricket Council (ICC) announced a special edition intake of 10 cricket icons—including former India cricketer Vinoo Mankad—into the ICC Hall of Fame to celebrate the prestigious history of Test cricket, coinciding with this month’s maiden World Test Championship (WTC) final between India and New Zealand.

Winners of BAFTA TV Awards 2021 are:

1. Leading Actress :Michaela Coel, I May Destroy You
2. Leading Actor:Paul Mescal, Normal People
3. Drama Series:Save Me Too
4. Best Comedy Performance:Charlie Cooper and Aimee Lou Wood
5. Best Comedy Series:Inside No. 9
6. Original Music:Harry Escott, Roadkill
7. Sports:England v West Indies Test Cricket – Sky Sports Cricket

Winners of Pulitzer Prizes for the year 2021 :

Journalism

Public Service:The New York Times

Breaking News Reporting:Staff of the Star Tribune, Minneapolis, Minn.

Investigative Reporting:Matt Rocheleau, Vernal Coleman, Laura Crimaldi, Evan Allen and Brendan McCarthy of The Boston Globe

Explanatory Reporting:Andrew Chung, Lawrence Hurley, Andrea Januta, Jaimi Dowdell and Jackie Botts of Reuters and Ed Yong of The Atlantic

Local Reporting:Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi of the Tampa Bay Times

National Reporting:Staffs of The Marshall Project; AL.com, Birmingham; IndyStar, Indianapolis; and the Invisible Institute, Chicago

International Reporting:Megha Rajagopalan, Alison Killing and Christo Buschek of BuzzFeed News

Feature Writing:Mitchell S. Jackson, freelance contributor, Runner’s World
and Nadja Drost, freelance contributor, The California Sunday Magazine

Commentary:Michael Paul Williams of the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch

Criticism:Wesley Morris of The New York Times

Editorial Writing:Robert Greene of the Los Angeles Times

Editorial Cartooning:No award

Breaking News Photography:Photography Staff of Associated Press

Feature Photography:Emilio Morenatti of Associated Press

Audio Reporting:Lisa Hagen, Chris Haxel, Graham Smith and Robert Little of National Public Radio

Books, Drama, and Music

Fiction: The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich (Harper)

Drama :The Hot Wing King, by Katori Hall

History Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America, by Marcia Chatelain (Liveright/Norton)

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Biography: The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X, by the late Les Payne and Tamara Payne (Liveright/Norton)

Poetry : Postcolonial Love Poem, by Natalie Diaz (Graywolf Press)

General Nonfiction: Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy, by David Zucchino (Atlantic Monthly Press)

Music:Stride, by Tania León (Peermusic Classical)

Special Citations:Darnella Frazier

Fleet Awards Function 2021

- INS Sahyadri was adjudged as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet amongst Capital ships, INS Kamorta as the Most Spirited Ship for displaying indomitable spirit and grit whilst undertaking a plethora of challenging missions and Best Corvette trophy as jointly won by IN Ships Kiltan and Khukri amongst Corvettes and similar classes of ships.

Smart City awards 2020

Central government declared Smart City awards 2020 in which Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the award jointly for their overall development. Whereas Uttar Pradesh emerged on the top among all states, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the Smart City award, 2020.

List of winning Smart Cities under the different categories:

1. Social Aspects

Tirupati: Health Benchmark for Municipal Schools

Bhubaneswar: Socially Smart Bhubaneswar

Tumakuru: Digital Library Solution

2. Governance

Vadodara: GIS

Thane: Digi Thane

Bhubaneswar: ME app

3. Culture

Indore: Conservation of Heritage

Chandigarh: Capitol Complex, Heritage Project

Gwalior: Digital Museum

4. Urban Environment

Bhopal: Clean energy

Chennai: Restoration of water bodies

Tirupati: Renewable Energy Generation

5. Sanitation

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Tirupati: Bioremediation & Bio-Mining
Indore: Municipal Waste Management System
Surat: Conservation through Treated Wastewater

6. Economy

Indore: Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism
Tirupati: Boost Local Identity & Economy through Design Studio
Agra: Micro Skill Development Centre

7. Built Environment

Indore: Chappan Dukan
Surat: Canal Corridor

8. Water

Dehradun: Smart Water Metering Water ATM
Varanasi: Eco-Restoration of Assi River
Surat: Integrated and Sustainable Water Supply System

9. Urban Mobility

Aurangabad: Majhi Smart Buses
Surat: Dynamic Scheduling Buses
Ahmedabad: Man-less parking system and automatic ticket dispensing machines AMDA Park

10. Innovative Idea Award

Indore: Carbon Credit Financing Mechanism
Chandigarh: For Union Territories

11. Covid Innovation Award

Kalyan-Dombivali and Varanasi

12. Other Awards in different categories:

Surat, Indore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vijayawada, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and Vadodara were awarded 4-star rating under Climate-Smart Cities Assessment Framework.

- According to the ministry, Ahmedabad bagged the 'Smart Cities Leadership Award', followed by Varanasi and Ranchi in the second and third spots respectively.

Conference and Summits:

Summit	Place/Host	Extra Knowledge
BRICS Foreign Ministers' Virtual Meeting	India	
Two-day summit on Green Hydrogen initiatives	India	The event will be anchored by India's state-run power major NTPC

9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)	India	
5 th BRICS Working Group Meeting	South Africa	discussed High-Performance Computing(HPC) and Information Communication Technology(ICT)
G7 Health Ministers Summit	Britain	
47 th G7 Leaders' Summit	Carbis Bay, Cornwall, England	
G20 Education Ministers' Meeting	Italy	
G20 Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting	Catania, Italy	
31 st NATO Summit 2021	Brussels, Belgium	
8th International Nitrogen Initiative Conference (INI2020)	Berlin, Germany	
2 nd United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference	Beijing, China	
5th Edition Of VivaTech	Paris	
9th Moscow Conference on International Security	Moscow, Russia	on the topic 'Role of Military Agencies in fighting against COVID-19'

- Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Madras recently hosted Asia's first workshop on International Memory Studies virtually.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay hosted a three-day virtual conference of BRICS Network Universities on electric mobility.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed the inaugural ceremony of Global Yoga Conference 2021 in the presence of Shri Shripad Yesso Nayak, Minister of State for Defence.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated in the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) via video conferencing.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addressed 42nd session The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conference virtually.
- BRICS Nations have unanimously agreed on an innovation co-operation at the 11th BRICS S&T Steering Committee Meeting. Hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), GoI, the meeting was led from the Indian side by Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Advisor & Head International Cooperation.
- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval attended a meeting of the top security officials from the member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tajikistan capital Dushanbe.

International News:

- World Health Organization (WHO) 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.

- China's People Liberation Army (PLA) has integrated elements of the air force and army to create a combined air defence system for its western theatre command that is responsible for operations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Asia Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering, a regional affiliate of FATF, has retained Pakistan on "enhanced follow-up" status for sufficient outstanding requirements.
- On the occasion of World Environment Day 2021, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration has been officially launched, which will run from 2021 to 2030.
 - A Multi-Partner Trust Fund has also been launched for the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Germany is the first country to provide funding of Euro 14 million towards this fund.
- India has been elected to the Economic and Social Council, one of the six main organs of the United Nations, for the 2022-24 term.
- Interpol has launched a new global database named "I-Familia" to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.
- El Salvador has become the first country to make bitcoin legal tender.
- The number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years – with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19, according to a new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF.
- A week-long Indian mango promotion programme began in Bahrain where 16 varieties of the fruit including three Geographical Indications (GI) certified Khirsapati&Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal), Zardalu (Bihar) are being displayed.
- Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates were elected unopposed to the powerful UN Security Council (UNSC) as non-permanent members for the 2022-23 term.
- World leaders in the General Assembly committed to "urgent and transformative action" to end the gender inequalities, restrictive laws and multiple forms of discrimination that perpetuate the global AIDS epidemic, adopting a lengthy Political Declaration 'Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030' that spells out measures to stop the disease in its tracks by 2030.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has lauded the Centre's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), saying that it should serve as a "best practice" for other countries where regional disparities in development status persist for many reasons.
- Israel will become the world's first mask-free country in the Corona period. Here the rule of applying masks in closed places will end from June 15.
- NATO leaders declared that China poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order.
- India has made 'solid progress' towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets concerning industry, infrastructure and innovation, the country's investment in research remains unsatisfactory, the UNESCO Science Report has observed.

- China, Pakistan and India have 350, 165 and 156 nuclear warheads respectively as of January this year and the three countries appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals, a study by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has said.
- Russia and the US together possess over 90 percent of the estimated 13,080 global nuclear weapons.
- Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Bhutan.
- The heads of the global health, Intellectual Property, and trade bodies announced a joint platform to help the countries around the world plug the gaps in accessing the COVID-19 vaccines, technologies, and treatments.
- The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, or FATF, added the European Union member Malta to its so-called grey list, along with Haiti, the Philippines and South Sudan.
- Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises “Sea Breeze Drills” in the Black Sea in a show of Western cooperation with Kiev as it faces off with Russia.

National News:

- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to ensure holistic growth of horticulture.
- The Centre asked private TV news channels to display four new national helpline numbers for the benefit of citizens as a part of the COVID-19 awareness initiative.
 - The channels have been asked to display the National helpline number of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare -1075, child helpline number of the Ministry of Women and Child Development-1098, senior citizens helpline of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment- 14567(in Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and helpline number of National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) for psychological support – 08046110007.
- Centre has allocated around seven thousand crore rupees grant to West Bengal under Jal Jeevan Mission for 2021- 22.
- One Nation, One Standard scheme has been launched with an aim to synergize standards adopted by various Standard Development Organisations in the country. Lucknow-based RDSO, which sets standards for the railway sector, has become the first standards body in the country to join the central government’s ‘One Nation, One Standard’ scheme.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), Government of India announced, that WCD in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) will set up 10 ‘One-Stop Centres’ across nine countries to support Indian women affected by violence in public or private spaces. Ram Mohan Mishra, Secretary, WCD informed that the nine countries to have ‘One-Stop Centres’ are: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recommended the ‘Amnesty Scheme’ for reducing late fees on returns in the 43rd GST Council meeting.
- Country will soon get eight new Flying Training Academies under the liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). These academies will be set up at Belagavi, Jalgaon, Kalaburagi, Khajuraho and Lilabari.

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Seed Minikit Programme by distributing Seed Minikits, higher yielding varieties of seeds to farmers.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the Senior care Ageing Growth Engine, SAGE project to select, support and create a one-stop access of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- The National Green Tribunal has directed the authorities to implement the “Vishwamitri River Action Plan” in Vadodra including the steps for removal of unauthorised structures, demarcation and protection of flood plain zone within three months.
- The Defence Ministry cleared a mega project to domestically build six conventional submarines for the Indian Navy at a cost of around Rs 43,000 crore. The Defence Ministry also approved proposals relating to capital acquisitions of various military weapons and equipment worth around Rs 6,800 crore.
- Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Singh Thakur launched the six modules of short films of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled “Hisaab Ki Kitaab”.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, a food security welfare scheme introduced last year to provide free ration for over 80 crore poor people will be extended till Diwali 2021.
- India launched the Innovation CleanTech Exchange Mission, a global initiative to create a incubators network across member countries to boost clean energy innovation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched through a video conference three E100 ethanol dispensing stations in Pune under a pilot project on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The State government of Kerala launched the Knowledge Economy Mission to bring the ongoing efforts to provide employment to the educated and support ‘knowledge workers’ under a single programme.
- Himachal Pradesh has climbed to the third spot in the Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking with a score of 57.1. Madhya Pradesh is at the first position with a score of 64.1 followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3.
- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan dedicated to the nation GAIL group’s 201 CNG stations across the country.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released an E-booklet titled ‘20 Reforms in 2020’, highlighting the major reforms undertaken by Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2020, in New Delhi.
- Jal Shakti Ministry has allocated Rs 40,700 crore under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) phase -2 towards solid and liquid waste management.
- The Government has approved 708 proposals for construction of 3.61 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U).
- Centre has released the 3rd monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 9,871 crore for the current financial year to 17 States.
- The Union Cabinet has approved an allotment of 5 Megahertz Spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways for public safety and security services at stations and in trains.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the E-100 pilot project in Pune to mark the World Environment Day.
- The Prime Minister also released the ‘Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025’, in line with the theme for World Environment Day this year – promotion of biofuels for a better environment.
- In an effort to introduce a new skill-based curriculum in the academic session of 2021-22, The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) introduced Coding for Classes 6 to 8 and the Data Science curriculum for Classes 8 to 12 in collaboration with Microsoft.
- Centre has decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) till November.

- Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla released new postage stamps to commemorate the 70th anniversary of India-Germany diplomatic relations as he highlighted the multifaceted nature of the India-Germany Strategic Partnership.
- IIT Bombay has set up the 'Koita Centre for Digital Health' (KCDH) with a generous contribution received from its alumni Rekha and Rizwan Koita, under the aegis of the Koita Foundation.
- All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report has been released by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. As per AISHE in the last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), student enrolment has grown by 11.4%. As per AISHE, female enrolment in Higher Education has increased by 18.2% from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

Highlights of AISHE 2019-20:

- Total Enrolment in Higher Education: It stands at 3.85 crores in 2019-20.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): It is defined as the percentage of students belonging to the eligible age group enrolled in Higher Education. It is 27.1% in 2019-20.
- Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education: It stands at 1.01 in 2019-20. It shows improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males.
- Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Higher Education: It is 26 in 2019-20.
- The number of students pursuing PhD: It is 2.03 lakh in 2019-20.
 - 'Project O2 for India' has been initiated to ensure supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, and manufacturing of compressors.
 - Centre has allocated a whopping Rs 10,870 crore to Uttar Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission for 2021-22.
 - Union Minister Piyush Goyal attended UN Trade Forum 2021 and put forward India's renewed thrust to achieve climate goals in the post-COVID-19 world.
 - India's per capita CO2 emission is the lowest among the big economies of the world, and the country's ambitious target of 450 Gigawatts by 2030 is the representation of commitment towards the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan to promote local products manufactured by tribal artisans to ensure the sustainable livelihood of the tribal population across the country.
 - Union Cabinet approved 'Deep Ocean Mission to study biodiversity, impact of climate change, and establish an offshore marine station to explore source of thermal energy.
 - In a major reform initiative, the government approved a long-pending proposal to restructure the nearly 200-year-old Ordnance Factory Board that operates 41 ammunition and defence equipment production facilities into seven separate corporate entities to improve its accountability, efficiency and competitiveness.
 - Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar and Chief Minister of Karnataka B S Yediyurappa jointly inaugurated three Centers of Excellence established in Karnataka under the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the six customized Crash Course programme for COVID-19 frontline workers through video conferencing under the Skill India scheme.

- Yoga Certification Board of India has appointed Indian Council for Cultural Relations as the personnel certification body.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that a nationwide “Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai” awareness campaign launched to create awareness on Corona vaccination in rural and remote areas of the country.
- Union Cabinet, approved the Inland Vessel Bill 2021 that will streamline and regulate inland vessels running in the country.
- Government announced establishment of five Divyangta Khel Kendras in different parts of country.
- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched a nationwide “JaanHaiToJahaanHai” awareness campaign to create awareness on Corona vaccination in rural and remote areas of the country and also to “Crush and Curb” the rumours and apprehensions, being spread by some vested interests regarding the on-going vaccination drive.
- A high-level committee consisting of representatives from the services and the Ministries concerned has been formed for wider consultations on the creation of integrated triservice theatre commands.
- India-Italy-Japan launched their trilateral, the second trilateral involving India and a European power – hoping to create stability and a rules-based international order based on the consent of all, not on the power of the few in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Cabinet approved the merger of state-owned Central Railside Warehouse Company Ltd (CRWC) with its holding enterprise Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).
- Cabinet approved a proposal to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to provide free ration to over 80 crore people, mostly poor, by five more months till November-end.
- Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari performed inaugurations and laid foundation stones of several road projects worth Rs 6155 crore through video conferencing from Manali in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with participants of Toycathon-2021 via video conferencing. Toycathon 2021 was jointly launched by the Ministry of Education, WCD Ministry, MSME Ministry, DPIIT, Textile Ministry, I&B Ministry and AICTE on January 5.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, in a virtual event, released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of LiDAR based survey of forest areas in ten states namely Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- In a virtual program from Kyungam in Leh district, Rajnath Singh inaugurated 63 Border Roads Organization bridges in eight states in the country.
- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced eight relief measures worth Rs 6,28,993 crore to help revival of the economy battered by Covid-19.
- The government has allocated an additional Rs 19,041 crore to provide broadband connectivity in all villages under the BharatNet project.

State News:

Andhra Pradesh

- The Centre has allocated over Rs 3180 crore to Andhra Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the current year.
- Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has released a Special Postal Cover brought out by India Post on the occasion of International Yoga Day at a programme held in Raj Bhavan.

- Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a slew of welfare schemes Sishu Seva Achoni for children who lost their parents to the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and women who lost their husbands to the virus.
- Assam government will present its own versions of the Bharat Ratna and the Padma awards from next year.

Bihar

- In Bihar, the State Government will reserve seats for girls in engineering and medical colleges. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar decided to give 33 per cent reservation to girl students in engineering and medical colleges of the state.
- Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launched two new schemes- the Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojna (MMUY) and the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana (MYUY) — with an aim to provide more employment opportunities to youths and young women in the state.

Chhattisgarh

- Food Processing Industries Minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park at Tilda block of Raipur district in Chhattisgarh.

Delhi

- Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation two Centres of Excellence established by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at Seema Sadak Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) along with a Pune-based organisation, Lighthouse Communities Foundation will set up centres near slum clusters to help youngsters develop skills for better employability.
- With the aim to vaccinate all people above 45 years against COVID-19 in Delhi within the next four weeks, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' campaign.

Goa

- In a big move towards solar energy's adoption in the State of Goa, Chief Minister (CM) Pramod Sawant has launched a solar-based rural electrification drive for rural households.
- Goa has become first rabies-free state in country.

Gujarat

- Centre has allocated three thousand 411 Crore rupees grant to Gujarat under Jal Jeevan Mission to provide safe and potable piped drinking water to all the rural household in the state.
- Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will be setting up India's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City in Gujarat.
- Gujarat government has announced the launch of 'e-Nirman' web portal and a mobile application to facilitate online registration of workers from the unorganized sector to enroll them for various government welfare schemes.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated a command-and-control centre in Gandhinagar to monitor the activities of over 54,000 government-run schools in the state.
- Gujarat government has given in-principle approval to a scheme worth 102 crore rupees to prevent marine salinity entering in the coastal villages of Saurashtra.

- In Gujarat, Chief Minister e-launched Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021 benefiting vanbandhu-farmers in tribal areas.
- In Gujarat, the state government announced the policy for electric vehicles for the next four years. Announcing the policy, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said the state aims to witness 2 lakh electric vehicles on the roads in next 4 years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a Japanese Zen garden and Kaizen academy at the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA).

Haryana

- Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar, launched four important schemes on the occasion of World Environment Day.
 - Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme: Under this scheme, a pension amount of Rs 2500 will be provided in name of Pran Vayu Devta to maintain trees above 75 years.
 - Panchavati Plantation in Haryana: Under this initiative, the plantation will be done in name of Panchvati across the villages in Haryana.
 - Oxy-Van in Karnal: Oxy Forest was launched on Forest Department land in Mughal Canal, Karnal.
 - Oxy-Van in Panchkula : It will be established in Bir Ghaggar on the area of one hundred acres in a bid to create Mother Nature's green lungs, for residents of Panchkula, to get in fresh oxygen. Rs One crore has been sanctioned for this initiative.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated a Makeshift COVID-19 Hospital at Pandoga in Haroli Vidhan Sabha area of Una district virtually from Shimla.
- In Himachal Pradesh, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has decided to set up a grain based ethanol plant in Una district.

Jammu & Kashmir

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir the Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare has approved annual plan worth Rs. 1163.40 crore for the UT for financial year 2021-22 under National Health Mission.
- Weyan Village in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first village in India to vaccinate all its adult population against the novel coronavirus.

Jharkhand

- Jharkhand State Cricket Association, affiliated with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has signed a lease agreement with Bokaro Steel Plant for the construction of an international cricket stadium. JSCA claimed Jharkhand will become the first state in the country to have three world-class stadiums.

Karnataka

- In Karnataka, the Health Department has launched Doctors ride towards village side programme.
- Karnataka HC will resume hearing of five independent MLAs.
- Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru has achieved net energy neutral status in the Financial Year 2020-21 as part of its sustainability goals.
- Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and state COVID Task Force head Dr C N Ashwatha Narayana rolled out Sakshama COVID helpline for specially abled in Bengaluru.

- Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa launched the state Learning Management System to promote digital learning in higher education.

Kerala

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced the formation of a secretary-level committee to develop guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of the “Smart Kitchen Scheme” in the state in order to meet LDF commitments.
- Union Government has allocated Rs 1,804 crore grant to Kerala under Jal Jeevan Mission to make provision of tap water supply to every home.

Ladakh

- Ladakh Lt Governor RK Mathur has launched the YounTab scheme for students in the Union Territory. He distributed tablets to the students of 9 to 12 class as part of the first phase of the YounTab Scheme.
- Union Territory of Ladakh has been declared Open Defecation Free UT in India under the First Phase of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Hemis Festival 2021 was celebrated in Leh Ladakh.

Madhya Pradesh

- Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched ‘Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan’ to make the people of the state aware of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Maharashtra

- Maharashtra government has decided to implement the Maharashtra Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (MAPS) with the objective of providing employment and training to the youth of the state.
- Navi Mumbai International Airport will be named after Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray.
- Maharashtra government has decided to increase the honorarium of ASHA workers by Rs one thousand and give an additional Rs 500 as COVID allowance.

Odisha

- Raja Parba festival celebrated in Odisha. It is a 3-days unique festival in which the onset of monsoon and the earth’s womanhood is celebrated by the state.
- Odisha government launched e-Pathshala and e-Mulyankan facilities keeping in mind disruption of classes during the ongoing pandemic. These online platforms will benefit students, teachers and district education officers (DEOs).
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a special scheme “Aashirbad” to provide financial support to the orphans.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a new scheme ‘Ashirbad’ for education, health and maintenance of Covid orphans.

Punjab

- Punjab government on the occasion of International Menstrual Hygiene Day launched a scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to needy girls and women across the state. An amount of Rs 40.55 crore per annum will be incurred on the scheme called ‘Udaan’.
- Punjab topped the national performance grading index of school education for 2019-20 released by the Education Ministry.

- Punjab government became the first state in India start using Electronic Identity Card (EID) equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology for government officials and employees through Punjab Mandi Board.
- Punjab Sports and Youth Services Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi launched a special Mobile App “Khedo Punjab” for putting the Sports Department and all the Sports persons of State of Punjab on Digital platform.
- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced that a chair will be established after Milkha Singh’s name at the Sports University, Patiala.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan government will soon set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas.

Sikkim

- Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang presented a Rs 9852.85 crore budget for the financial year 2021-22.

Tamilnadu

- The Centre has allocated Rs 3,691 Crore grants to Tamil Nadu under Jal Jeevan Mission to make provision of tap water supply to every home
- Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated Minnagam, a consumer grievance redressal centre in Chennai.
- Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to set up a five-member ‘Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister’ with leading economic experts across the world as its members. The economic advisory council to Tamil Nadu’s CM will comprise of Nobel laureate Esther Duflo and the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India Raghuram Rajan, along with three other members.

Telangana

- As part of “2020 Year of AI” initiative, the Government of Telangana launched the Telangana AI Mission(T-AIM) powered by NASSCOM.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet cleared a proposal for the construction of a bus station on par with international standards in Ayodhya at a cost of Rs 400 crore.
- Samsung has completed the construction of the display manufacturing unit that is shifted from China to Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

Finance and Banking News:

- Canara Bank announced three loan schemes as part of the fight against the pandemic under which it will offer healthcare credit, business and personal loan to individuals.
 - The Canara Chikitsa healthcare credit facility will offer loans from over Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 crore to registered hospitals, nursing homes, medical practitioners, diagnostic centres, pathology labs and all other units engaged in the servicing healthcare infrastructure. The loan to be offered at a concessional rate of interest will have tenor of 10 years with moratorium up to 18 months.

- The Canara Jeevanrekha healthcare business loan will offer loan up to Rs 2 crore at a concessional interest rate for manufacture and supply of healthcare products such as medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders and oxygen concentrators to registered hospitals and nursing homes or other manufacturers and suppliers.
 - Under the third category of loan — Canara Suraksha personal loan scheme — the lender will offer loan from Rs 25,000 – Rs 5 lakh as immediate financial assistance to customers for COVID-19 treatment during admission or post discharge.
- RBI has cancelled the licence of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank, Pune as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
 - Reserve Bank of India said the limits for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) investment during the current fiscal in government securities (G-secs) and State Development Loans (SDLs) will remain unchanged at 6 per cent and 2 per cent respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for 2021-22.
 - Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have announced to provide unsecured loans from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 5 lakh to individuals to meet their and family members' COVID-19 treatment cost.
 - Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.
 - ICICI Bank has tied up with SWIFT to offer instant facility for cross-border inward remittances as per the press release on 2nd June 2021. This facility makes ICICI Bank the first Bank in Asia-Pacific and second globally to provide the service called 'SWIFT gpi Instant'.
 - Federal Bank launched an exclusive NR savings account scheme for the Seafarer segment.
 - NITI Aayog has recommended divesting government stake in Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) as part of the privatisation initiative announced in the Union Budget.
 - RBI imposed penalty aggregating to Rs 6 crore on Bank of India and Punjab National Bank for contravention of norms, including one related to 'Frauds – Classification and Reporting'. A penalty of Rs 4 crore has been imposed on Bank of India and Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank.
 - SEBI barred Franklin Templeton AMC from launching any new debt scheme for two years and fined it Rs 5 crore for violating regulatory norms in the case of winding up of six debt schemes in 2020.
 - Central Bank of India announced co-lending partnerships with NBFC players Indiabulls Housing Finance and IIFL Home Finance.
 - PayNearby has launched a insurance solution 'Poorna Suraksha' for its retail community. This cost-effective, three-in-one solution was created in collaboration with IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life) to protect PayNearby's retailers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Indian Bank has partnered wealth-tech company Fisdom to offer a comprehensive suite of wealth management products and services to the bank's 10 crore customers.
 - State Bank of India (SBI) launched the 'kavach personal loan' scheme for COVID-19 patients.
 - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced changes in the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) rules with regard to cash withdrawal. These changes include an increase in charges for transactions beyond the free monthly permissible limit, a new free ATM transaction limit and an increase in the interchange fee per transaction.
 - HDFC Asset Management Company has launched the New Fund Offer of HDFC Banking and Financial Services Fund, which aims to invest in the banking and financial services sector across segments and market capitalisation.
 - Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth during financial year 2020-21.

- Reserve Bank extended the risk-based internal audit (RBIA) system to select housing finance companies to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system.
- IDFC FIRST Bank has announced the launch of “Ghar Ghar Ration” Program, an Employee-funded program for its low-income customers whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has collaborated with customer engagement platform MoEngage to drive digital banking experiences in the unserved and underserved regions of the country.
- Policybazaar has got approval from regulator IRDAI to undertake insurance broking.
- Federal Bank, to improve its marketing, sales and offer a better customer experience, has partnered with Infosys for Oracle CX adoption, a cloud-based tool to manage the relationship with customers.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed prepaid mobile recharge through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) by adding ‘mobile prepaid recharges as a biller category.
- ICICI Bank announced the launch of ‘ICICI STACK for Corporates’, a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem including promoters, group companies, employees, dealers, vendors and all other stakeholders.
- LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC-CSL) joined hands with IDBI Bank to launch launched contactless prepaid gift card ‘Shagun’ on RuPay platform.
- Reserve Bank of India has released a Consultative Document on Regulation of Microfinance. It has been released for harmonising the regulatory frameworks for various regulated lenders in the microfinance space.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to grant in-principle approval to Centrum Financial Services Limited to set up a Small Finance Bank.
- IndusInd Bank announced the launch of ‘IndusEasy Credit’, a comprehensive digital lending platform that enables customers to meet their financial requirements from the comfort of their homes.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given “in-principle” approval to Centrum Financial Services Ltd (CFSL) to set up a small finance bank (SFB), which will take over the beleaguered Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).
- Google Pay has announced further expansion in the footprint of bank partners offering cards tokenisation on the Google Pay app.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a cumulative fine of ₹15 crore on nine entities, including Franklin Templeton Trustee Services.
- SEBI put in place fresh guidelines for participation of mutual fund schemes in interest rate swap, a derivative product.
- PayPoint India, a technology-enabled distribution network of financial services, intends to add lending vertical to its portfolio of services for which it has signed agreements with 12 financial institutions.
- A housewife now may not face any problem from the Income Tax Department on deposit of cash up to ₹2.5 lakh during demonetisation (2016).
- Companies that have a market capitalisation of more than Rs 1 lakh crore at the time of listing can now sell just five per cent of their shares.
- Finance Ministry has now allowed all housing finance companies with asset size of over ₹100 crore to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.
- Paisabazaar.com and SBM Bank India announced the launch of Step Up Credit Card—a credit-builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score.
- Indian fintech incubator Afthonia Lab has partnered with YES BANK to helps its portfolio startups develop their APIs in a sandbox environment and test their solutions in real-time.

- SBI General Insurance, one of the leading general insurance companies in India, has signed a corporate agency agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for distribution of non-life insurance solutions.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has announced the launch of 'Pay Your Contact' – an innovative feature on KMBL's mobile banking app that uses the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform and allows customers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by entering the beneficiary's mobile number.
- One hundred and 20 crore out of 140 crore bank accounts in the country have been linked to Aadhaar so far enabling people to enter into the formal financial system.
- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched a centralized web-based workflow-based IT platform called "e-PGS" for its group business operations.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan to provide enhanced support to the healthcare sector in the country amid pandemic.
- SBI card, the country's second-largest credit card issuer and Fabindia, a retail platform for a wide range of handcrafted products by the artisans of the country, have joined hands to launch an exclusive co-branded contactless credit card — Fabindia SBI Card.
- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), SBI Life and Canara Bank were among the top investors picking up stakes in Indian Bank under a QIP, according to a regulatory filing.
- Reserve Bank of India has launched the 2020-21 round of its annual survey on computer software and information technology enabled services (ITES) exports, results of which are used for compilation of balance of payments statistics. The RBI has been conducting this annual survey since 2002-03.
- ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India has executed India's very first "paperless bill discounting transaction" in partnership with ICICI Bank.
- Indian Bank launches its flagship Business Mentoring Program 'MSME Prerana' in the state of Maharashtra. It was launched by Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of MSME and Road, Transport and Highway.

<u>Parameters of RBI</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>
Repo Rate	4.25 percent
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35 percent
GDP growth forecast for FY 22	9.5 percent

Business News:

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will bring universities, businesses, startups and government together at its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam to help use digital technology to solve sustainability challenges.
- Byju's announced a partnership with tech giant Google to offer a learning solution for schools.
- Microsoft has launched the first Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council.
- Wipro touched Rs 3 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time, becoming the third Indian IT firm to achieve the milestone after Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys.
- Facebook India has launched a new initiative to provide students from leading law schools in the country a platform for research and mentorship on topics related to technology law and policy. The Facebook India Tech Scholars (FITS) programme has Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co as a knowledge partner.
- NTPC Ltd, India's largest power utility, has become a signatory to the UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

- The Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power, has signed a MoU with the Administration of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh, to make it a clean and green UT.
- BharatPe has acquired multi-brand loyalty platform, PAYBACK India, to help its 6 million offline merchants roll out rewards and loyalty programmes for customers.
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the overall resolution plan of Piramal Group for Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL).
- India's foreign exchange reserves crossed \$600 for the first time. As on June 4, the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$605 billion, almost tying with Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world.
- Ambuja Cement Foundation (ACF), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Ambuja Cements Ltd, which is working towards empowerment of rural communities joins hands with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the implementation of its 'Employability through Skill Initiative Project (ESIP) Phase II.
- Ministry of Finance has notified the reduction or waiver in GST rates to be levied on items used for preventing or treating Covid. The GST Council, in its meeting, had slashed tax rates on critical medication and paraphernalia related to Covid-19 infection.
- Tata Digital Ltd, a wholly-owned arm of Tata Sons, said it will acquire a majority stake in 1MG Technologies Ltd.
- In a major boost to India's exports of Geographical Indications (GI) certified agricultural produce, a consignment of fibre and mineral rich 'Jalgaon Banana' has been shipped to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI), a global technology consulting and digital solutions company has been recognized as the Global Innovation Partner of the Year by Snowflake, the Data Cloud Company.
- Wipro has joined the World Economic Forum's Partnership for New Work Standards initiative to establish a healthy, resilient and equitable future of work.
- Bharti Airtel announced a strategic partnership with the steel-to-software conglomerate Tata group for 5G network solutions.
- Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Goa Shipyard Ltd for construction of two Pollution Control Vessels for Indian Coast Guard.
- Adani Power Limited is set to acquire the 1200 megawatt (MW) Essar Power's Mahan Project situated at Singrauli district in Madhya Pradesh and is likely to spend around Rs 3000 crore for this project.
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and WhatsApp joined hands to launch the Digital Skill Champions Programme that aims to train India's youth on digital skills, in order to make them employment ready.
- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) informed that it will set up a Nano Urea Liquid manufacturing plant in Argentina in partnership with the Cooperative Confederation of Argentina (Cooperar) and Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (INAES).
- Reliance Jio and Google Cloud have entered into a 5G partnership to connect a billion Indians to a faster internet.
- Pharmeasy will acquire a controlling stake in diagnostic chain Thyrocare for Rs 4,546 crore.
- Amazon Web Services (AWS) has acquired a messaging application Wickr to offer secure communications for businesses, government agencies, and individuals, who are moving to hybrid work environments, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- China replaced the UAE as the second largest export destination for India in fiscal 2021.

- Mastercard has announced a strategic equity investment in Instamojo, India's largest full-stack digital solutions provider for MSMEs.
- Dvara e-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd announced its partnership with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance for providing artificial intelligence (AI) powered digital cattle identity solution for cattle insurance.
- Commercial Bank of Kuwait has selected Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.'s 'BaNCS for Treasury' solution to "manage risk better, enhance asset class coverage, and drive future growth".

Economy News:

- According to OECD, World economy will expand by 5.8% this year.
- The country's gross domestic product grew at 1.6 percent in the January to March quarter of the last fiscal year.
- SBI revised downwards India's FY22 economic growth forecast to 7.9%.
- India's economy will rebound in the current financial year to mark a growth of 9.3 per cent according to Moody's Investors.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) cut its growth projection for India for FY22 to 9.9 per cent from 12.6 per cent estimated in March.
- India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 1.6 per cent in the January-March quarter of fiscal year 2020-21, but witnessed a contraction of 7.3 per cent for the entire fiscal year.
- The goods and service tax collections for May clocked Rs 1,02,709 crore.
- World Bank slashed its 2021-22 GDP growth forecast for the Indian economy to 8.3 per cent from 10.1 per cent estimated in April.
- Group of seven (G-7) advanced economies secured a landmark deal on taxing multinational companies as per which the minimum global tax rate would be at least 15 per cent.
- India Projected to Grow at 8.3% in 2021 according to World Bank.
- Credit rating agency ICRA Ratings projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 8.5 per cent in FY2021-22.
- India's retail inflation raced to 6.3% in May.
- Lockdowns imposed by the states in April and May to contain the second wave of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic has likely led to the economy contracting 12 per cent in the June quarter as against 23.9 per cent contraction in the same quarter in 2020.
- India's overall exports including merchandise and services are estimated to be USD 98.29 billion in April-May of this year.
- Foreign exchange reserves of country reached an all-time high of US\$ 605.0 billion on June 4, 2021.
- India's agriculture exports registered increase of 17.34% in 2020-21.
- India's unemployment rate declined to 8.7 per cent in the week ended June 13.
- Moody's Investors Service has slashed India's growth projection to 9.6 per cent for the 2021 calendar year, from its earlier estimate of 13.9 per cent.
- S&P Global Ratings cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 9.5%, from 11% earlier.
- India's Bank Credit-To-GDP Ratio grew 56% In 2020 according to Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- NCAER expects the Indian economy to grow 8.4-10.1 per cent for the current financial year as against a contraction of 7.3 per cent in the last fiscal.
- The Indian economy is likely to grow by 9.6 per cent in the current fiscal year 2021-22, according to credit rating agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

Science & Technology:

- To monitor the coral bleaching issue, scientists working with the Allen Coral Atlas – a research initiative developed by Arizona State University (ASU), the University of Queensland, the National Geographic Society, Planet, and Vulcan – just launched the first global, satellite-based reef surveillance tool.
- “Bellatrix Aerospace” has successfully tested India’s first privately built Hall Thruster, which is a highly efficient electric propulsion system for satellite weighing 50 to 500 kg and it includes Elon Musk’s Starlink and Adrián Steckel’s OneWeb.
- International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved eight Chinese names for features around the area on the Moon where China’s spacecraft Chang’e-5 probe landed last year to collect samples from the lunar surface and return to Earth.
- Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Ropar in Punjab has developed a device – AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.
- A group of 15 oncologists and nurses have launched a helpline 9321350770 to support cancer patients, who face difficulty accessing healthcare owing to the lockdown and travel restrictions. Launched by Karkinos Healthcare Private Limited, the helpline can be accessed by anyone at no cost between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. from Monday to Saturday.
- IIT Guwahati researchers have developed a “Smart Window” material that can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it in response to an applied voltage.
- The B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 variants of Covid-19, first identified in India, have been named as ‘Kappa’ and ‘Delta’ respectively, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched Online Tracking Portal ‘Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care Link) for child in need of care and protection.
- OneWeb, confirmed the launch of 36 new Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites. The launch is part of OneWeb’s ‘five to 50’ programme, which is meant to bring satellite-based broadband Internet to countries like the UK, Alaska, US, Northern Europe, Greenland, Iceland, the Arctic seas, and Canada.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) approved the country’s first Covid-19 self-testing kit for home use. Called CoviSelf, it has been developed by MyLab Discovery Solutions, a Pune-based molecular company.
- A dedicated community support helpline 14443 has been operationalised by the Ministry of Ayush to provide Ayush-based approaches and solutions for the challenges posed by COVID-19.
- The department of atomic energy (DAE) announced that it will be constructing the country’s first research reactor on public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- Government has launched an artificial intelligence based X-Ray Setu which can be operated through WhatsApp. For this project, the government plans to onboard 10,000 doctors in small towns where RT-PCR and CT Scans are not available for COVID detection.
- Indian Navy’s hydrographic survey ship Sandhayak was decommissioned at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam after serving the nation for 40 years.
- Indian Navy is set to receive its first set of multi-role helicopters as America is set to hand over three MH-60 Romeo helicopters to the force in the United States in July.
- China’s nuclear fusion reactor that’s also known as the ‘artificial sun’ has now set a new world record after it successfully ran at the temperature of 216 million degrees Fahrenheit or 120 million degrees Celsius for 100 seconds.

- Indian Navy inducted three indigenously-built advanced light helicopters ALH MK III that would be used for maritime reconnaissance and coastal security.
- SpaceX launched another Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, this one boosting the SiriusXM-8 radio satellite into orbit to relay entertainment programming to receivers in cars, boats, homes and offices.
- Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd has fully commissioned India's first Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based HVDC (high voltage direct current) electricity transmission system.
- 'Namaste Yoga' a mobile application was launched in the curtain raiser event for the 7th International Day of Yoga. The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- Russia is building the first naval ship that will be fully equipped with stealth technology to make it hard to detect.
- European Space Agency will Launch 'EnVision' Mission To Venus In 2030.
- India's first indigenous tumour antigen SPAG9 developed by the National Institute of Immunology (NII) has received the ASPAGNIITM trademark.
- Alphabet's Google is building an undersea cable that would connect the United States, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, to bolster Internet connection capacity between these regions.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has developed a device 'Jivan Vayu' which can be used as a substitute for a CPAP machine.
- UK and Indian scientists have jointly developed a low-cost sensor that can detect fragments of the virus responsible for COVID-19 within wastewater.
- Electronic devices may soon be used to identify the presence of infection in a crowded space using body odour profiles after scientists in the UK have tested a so-called "COVID alarm".
- Centre launched the Trusted Telecom Portal trustedtelecom.gov.in, six months after the Cabinet approved the National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector for the government to declare a list of trusted sources and products for installation in the country's telecom networks.
- Arctic Astronautics is sending the world's first wooden satellite into space by the end of this year. The satellite, WISA Woodsat, is a cube-shaped nanosatellite made up of birch plywood and has sensors developed by the European Space Agency.
- China launched three astronauts as its first crew to its new Tiangong space station, the country's first manned spaceflight in nearly five years. The high-stakes mission, named Shenzhou 12, was launched on the back of the Long March 2F rocket, at Jiuquan in the northwestern Gansu province.
- Facebook has kicked off a new initiative 'Report it, don't share it' to keep children safe on the internet.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has launched TV Channel Selector Portal. This portal will facilitate those subscribers who do not own a mobile phone but want to use a web browser for selection of TV channels.
- Home Ministry has operationalised the national Helpline 155260 and Reporting Platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber fraud.
- Addressing India and the world on the International Yoga Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the mYoga app.
- State-of-the-art CSS has been developed ab-initio at Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune in association with High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, for the indigenously developed LCA Tejas and Trainer Aircraft, HJT-36 Aircraft and HTT-40 Aircraft.
- The Israeli military has successfully tested an airborne high-power laser that can shoot down drones, technology it hopes to deploy on a larger scale in the coming years.

- A multinational project called Committee on Earth Observation Satellites—Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (CEOS COAST) co-led by ISRO and NOAA(National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) from the US, that aims to improve the accuracy of coastal data based on satellite and land-based observations has been recently endorsed by a UN body for its use of innovative technology, and for fostering trust and collaboration among scientists.
- The subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' was successfully test-fired off Odisha coast, informed the DRDO.
- Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system 'Windows 11'. It is being called as the "next generation" of Windows.
- IBM and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced the launch of a hybrid cloud lab.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said it has successfully test-fired enhanced range versions of indigenously-developed Pinaka rockets and 122mm Caliber rockets from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRLp) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- Minister of State for Education, Shri Sanjay Dhotre, launched a Rapid Antigen Test kit for COVID-19. It was developed by IIT Delhi.
- Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawarchand Gehlot launched the website for the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile of the Agni series known as Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island.
- Department of Justice has launched Enforcing Contracts Portal. The portal aims to promote ease of doing business and improve the 'Contract Enforcement Regime' in the country.
- Indian Naval Ship Tabar commenced her prolonged deployment on 13 June and will visit a number of ports in Africa and Europe till end September.

Environment:

- Recently, a new species of Cricket named 'Indimimus jayanti' was found in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh. The new species was named after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on world environment day announced that Raimona reserve forest has been upgraded as the sixth national park of the state.
- Two species of monals were sighted together by local wildlife enthusiasts in upper Siang district of central Arunachal Pradesh.
- National Geographic magazine has recognised the 'Southern Ocean' as the world's fifth ocean.
- A huge diamond weighing more than 1,000 carats, which could be the third-largest mined in history, has been discovered in the southern African country of Botswana.
- The world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant was planted on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.
- A new species of skittering frog named as Euphlyctis Kerala has been identified from the surroundings of the Thattekkad bird sanctuary.
- A subshrub spotted on the roadsides and wastelands in Thiruvananthapuram district has been identified as a new species of the genus Sida, to which the Kurumthotti, used in Ayurveda, also belongs.

Defence News:

- The navies of India and Thailand have commenced the 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT), aimed at keeping the Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved budgetary support of nearly Rs 499 crore for research and innovation in the defence sector for the next five years.
- Indian Naval Ship Trikanth, a mission deployed for Anti-Piracy Operations, is participating in the maiden IN – EUNAVFOR Joint Naval Exercise in the Gulf of Aden.
- Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) participated in a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean to realize “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”.
- Indian Naval Ships Kochi and Teg along with P8I and MiG 29K aircraft are participating in a Passage Exercise with US Navy Carrier Strike Group Ronald Reagan during its transit through Indian Ocean Region.
- Turkish and Azerbaijani militaries have started joint drills called “Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 2021,” in Baku.

Sports News:

<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Other news</i>
Gelfand Challenge Chess Title	D. Gukesh	
Belgrade Open	Novak Djokovic	Beat Alex Molcan
French Open Womens’ Singles	Barbora Krejickova	Beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova
French Open Mens Tennis Title	Novak Djokovic	Beat Stefanos Tsitsipas
Bad Homburg Open Tennis	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	
Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021	Sergio Perez, Red Bull	
2021 French Grand Prix	Max Verstappen	
2021 Styrian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen	
76th U.S. Women’s Open golf championship	Yuka Saso	Beat Japan’s Nasa Hataoka
First ICC World Test Championship	New Zealand	Beat India

Sports:

- BharatPe has inked a three-year long deal to become an official partner with International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched an ambitious initiative Centralised Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS) to provide world class treatment and rehabilitation to elite athletes injured during competition or training.
- Indian Grand Prix 4 will be held on June 21 at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala.
- Indian heavyweight boxer Sanjeet bagged Gold at the Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai. He defeated Olympic silver medalist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan in the men’s 91kg final to hand India its second gold. Pooja Rani had clinched the first gold in the women’s 75kg.
- Earlier, Amit Panghal and Shiva Thapa lost their final matches and settled for Silver medals. Six-time world champion MC Marykom, Panghal, Thapa, Lalbuatsaihi and Anupama grabbed silver medals while eight boxers – Vikas Krishan, Simranjit Kaur, Lovlina Borgohain, Jaishmin, Sakshi Chaudhary, Monika, Saweety, and Varinder Singh — bagged bronze.
- Pooja Rani repeated her gold-medal winning performance at the Asian Elite Boxing Championships as she beat Mavluda Movlonova in the women’s 75kg final in Dubai.

- Vinesh Phogat won the women's 53kg freestyle gold with an 8-0 win over Khrystyna Bereza of Ukraine at the Poland Ranking Series in Warsaw.
- Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra produced a stunning return to the international circuit by striking gold at the Meeting Cidade de Lisboa in Lisbon.
- Abhishek Verma beat American Kris Schaff via shoot-off in a nerve-wracking final to win the compound men's individual title in the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Paris. With this, he became the first Indian man to win two gold medals in the men's compound individual event at Archery World Cup.
- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won a silver medal at the ISSF World Cup in Osijek, Croatia in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Event.
- Deepika Kumari regained the number one position in global rankings following her hat-trick of gold medals at the World Cup Stage 3.
- BCCI has finally accepted Mumbai left-arm spinner Ankeet Chavan's plea that he be allowed to play professional cricket since Board Ombudsman DK Jain has reduced his life ban to seven years.
- Anshula Rao has been handed a four-year ban by the National Anti-Doping Agency for failing a dope test. She became the first woman cricketer to have been punished for doping.
- India's Mirabai Chanu, the 2017 world champion in weightlifting, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games in women's 49 kg category.
- Shafali Verma continues to top the ICC women's T20I batting rankings.
- India's Shafali Verma became the youngest woman, and the fourth overall, to score twin half-centuries in her debut Test match.
- Mithali Raj has returned to the top five of the latest ICC Women's ODI Rankings for batswomen.
- Virender Sehwag launched cricket coaching website "CRICURU" with an aim to redefine the learning experience for budding players.
- Aruna Tanwar has been awarded a wild card entry for the upcoming Tokyo Paralympic Games, which will make her the first Indian to compete in the global multi-para sport event.
- Sajan Prakash has become the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.
- In football, Brazil will host Copa America for the second consecutive time after Colombia and Argentina were stripped of hosting rights for the tournament.
- Sunil Chhetri surpassed Argentina's Lionel Messi and he has become the second-highest active international goal-scorer with 74 strikes.
- Manpreet Singh and Rani Rampal have been named as captains of the Indian men's and women's hockey teams respectively for Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju announced a 'Cheer Up' campaign for the Olympic-bound Indian athletes across the country.
- Ahead of the Tokyo Games, the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent was launched. Mohit Chauhan has composed and sung the song titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai".
- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) roped in mobile gaming platform MPL Sports Foundation as the principal sponsor of the country's contingent for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics and next year's Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

- The FIH, field hockey's world governing body, has announced Oman as the host of the inaugural Hockey5s World Cup.
- BCCI has communicated to its member associations that this year's T20 World Cup will be held in the UAE.
- Badminton Sudirman Cup Finals 2021 and the BWF World Tour Finals, which were originally planned to take place in China this year, have now been moved to Vantaa, Finland and Bali, Indonesia respectively.
- Germany's World Cup-winning midfielder Sami Khedira said he will retire following his club Hertha Berlin's final match of the Bundesliga season against Hoffenheim.
- Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien, whose century against England in a 2011 World Cup match remains the fastest hundred in the tournament's history, has quit one-day internationals.
- New Zealand has named Laurel Hubbard to its women's weightlifting roster for the upcoming Olympics in Tokyo, making her the first openly transgender athlete to compete in the games.
- Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce became the second-fastest woman of all-time behind 100 metres world record holder Florence Griffith-Joyner when she clocked 10.63 seconds at a meet in Kingston.
- Australia's Kaylee McKeown broke the women's 100m backstroke world record. She clocked 57.45sec at the Australian Olympic trials in Adelaide.
- Cristiano Ronaldo has become the joint top-scorer in men's international football. He achieved the feat in Portugal's Euro 2020 game against France at the Puskas Arena in Budapest.

Committee:

Head of Committee	Purpose
Ajit Mishra	on fixation of minimum wages and national floor wages
Dr VK Paul	will lead the panel on vaccination
Giridhar Aramane	Will lead the empowered group to see the nation's requirements related to medical oxygen.
Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel	Noted that Vishwamitri river is one of 351 identified polluted river stretches, identified as such by the Central Pollution Control Board
Dr. K.P. Krishnan	on the feasibility of Variable Capital Companies in the International Financial Services Centres
D Murugesan(By Tamilnadu)	to look into the enrollment ratio of government school students in professional courses like engineering
N K Sodhi(Take Over Panel By SEBI)	to look into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regulator has appointed N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel.
Rajeev Jain(By NHRC)	to enquire into the complaints of post poll violence in West Bengal
Vandana Aggarwal(By International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA))	to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing

- Centre reconstituted the six empowered groups set up for Covid-19 management to make 10 panels, expanding their ambit to look into issues like availability of oxygen, vaccination, emergency response and economic welfare measures.

Rankings:

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
State of India's Environment Report 2021 on Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)	117 th	Top-
FIH World Rankings	Mens' – 4 th Womens' – 9 th	Top- Belgium
Global Skills Report 2021	67 th	Top- Switzerland
Global Home Price Index(By Knight Frank)	55 th	Top- Turkey Bottom- Spain
World Giving Index 2021	14 th	Top- Indonesia
Global Peace Index 2021	135 th	Top- Iceland Bottom- Afghanistan
IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2021	43 rd	Top- Switzerland

- Kerala has retained the top rank in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21, while Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer, according to a report released by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- Damascus remains the world's least liveable city and most of the previous ten least liveable cities remain in the bottom ten this year, including Dhaka and Karachi in the Asia-Pacific region, as per the the 2021 edition of The Economist Intelligence Unit's (The EIU) Global Liveability Ranking.
 - The 2021 edition of The Economist Intelligence Unit's (The EIU) Global Liveability Ranking finds that Auckland is the most liveable city.

List of the 5 most liveable cities in the world:

1. Auckland (New Zealand)
2. Osaka (Japan)
3. Adelaide (Australia)
4. Wellington (New Zealand)
5. Tokyo (Japan)

List of the 5 least liveable cities in the world:

1. Damascus (Syria)
2. Lagos (Nigeria)
3. Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)
4. Dhaka (Bangladesh)

5. Algiers (Algeria).

- India is in 51st position in assets held in Swiss banks last year.
- India received \$64 billion in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020, the fifth largest recipient of inflows in the world, according to a UN report .
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was second in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2020-21. Turkey has been ranked first.
- Turkmenistan's capital city Ashgabat has become the world's most expensive city for foreign workers, according to this year's Mercer Cost of Living Survey. Mumbai remains India's most expensive city at 78th rank.

Loans from Banks/Countries:

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
NABARD	Odisha	Rs 254 crore	for drinking water projects in Odisha
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	USD 2.5 million (approx Rs 18.23 crore)	to upgrade road infrastructure in the north-eastern state Sikkim
World Bank	India	USD 500 million	to help boost India's MSME sector
World Bank	Andhra Pradesh	250 million dollar	For Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) Programme to transform foundational learning in government schools
India	Eswatini (Swaziland)	USD 108.28 million	for construction of their new Parliament building
India	Sri Lanka	USD 100 Million	for Solar Energy Projects
Japan	India	USD 9.3 million	to help in the country's fight against COVID-19 pandemic
USA	India	USD 41 Million	to help India respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and strengthen the country's preparedness for the future health emergencies

- State Bank of India (SBI) has sanctioned a loan of ₹3725 crore for the development of Noida International Airport (NIA) which is being developed by Yamuna International Airport (YIAPL) and will be the second airport in National Capital Region (NCR).
- Mizoram HealthSystems Strengthening Project to improve the management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
- World Bank approved USD 125 million assistance for the second phase of the Rebuild Kerala

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Deadlines/ Important Dates/Years:

- Railway had achieved nine consecutive months of record freight loading from September last year to May this year. The highest ever loading of 1233 million tonnes was achieved in 2020-21.
- HeidelbergCement, the world's second-largest cement maker, said it plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world's first carbon-neutral cement plant by 2030.
- Centre has assured safe potable tap water by next year in every household of North Western States and Union Territories of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- India is taking all steps to ensure that the country becomes free of single-use plastic by 2022.
- Uttar Pradesh has assured to achieve the goal of providing water to every rural household by 2024.
- Emerging and developing countries need as much as \$1 trillion of clean energy financing by 2030 if they are to hit 2050 net-zero emissions targets.
- The government announced the phased implementation of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery with effect from June 16.
- The government extended the validity of motor vehicle documents like driving licence (DL), registration certificate (RC) and permits till September 30, 2021, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Central Government has pushed for speedy provision of "Har Ghar Jal" in Kerala by 2023.
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has extended the validity of Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum from 31st March to 31st December this year.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has recently extended the deadline to link Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar number to June 30, 2021, due to the difficulties posed by the ongoing Covid pandemic.
- India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) will be commissioned next year.
- Union government announced decision to extend the second phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicle (FAME) scheme by two years to March 31, 2024.
- Government has extended the deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar till 30th of September.
- NTPC has set a target to install 60 GW (gigawatts) of renewable energy capacity as part of the plan to reduce by 10% its net energy intensity by 2032.

Rankings (Persons,Cities,Organisations and Others):

- In the latest Times Higher Education Asia university rankings 2021, three Indian universities secured positions in the top 100 list. IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore have secured ranks among the top 100 universities in Asia. Tsinghua University, China has gained the first position in the Asia university rankings 2021.
- Three Indian universities are ranked in the top-200 in QS World University Rankings 2022, with IIT-Bombay securing 177th position, IIT-Delhi at 185th, and IISc-Bengaluru placed on 186th position. The US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been ranked number 1 university in the world.
- Bengaluru has been named as the most liveable city of India, in the Ease of Living Index 2020, released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). Bengaluru is followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar,

and Mumbai, as the top five best cities respectively. Shimla topped the category of cities with ‘population less than million’.

- Bengaluru Ranked As One Of The Top 5 Technology Centers In Asia Pacific. Beijing, Shanghai, Bengaluru, Shenzhen and Singapore currently rank as the top five technology centres in APAC.
- The Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)(Rank- 39th) has been ranked the best in India in the latest edition of QS Executive MBA Rankings. Globally, HEC Paris retains its top rank.
- Six medical colleges from India have found a place in the list of the World’s 100 best medical colleges for the year 2021, in a ranking released by CEO World Magazine. US-based Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine ranked first.

Books:

<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Other Info</i>
Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)	Vikram Sampath	
All You Need is Josh: Inspiring Stories of Courage and Conviction in 21st Century India	Supriya Paul	
‘Stargazing: The Players in My Life	Ravi Shastri	
1232 km: The Long Journey Home	Vinod Kapri	
Skill It, Kill It	Ronnie Screwvala	
Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest – A Diplomat Looks Back	Vijay Gokhale	
Beyond Here and Other Poems	Bishnupada Sethi	
Home in the World	Amartya Sen	
The Nutmeg’s Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis	Amitav Ghosh	
Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me	Suresh Raina	co-authored by Bharat Sundaresan

The 7 Sins of Being A Mother	Tahira Kashyap Khurrana	
Monk in a Merc	Ashok Panagariya	
Habba Khatoon	Kajal Suri	
My Joys and Sorrows – as a Mother of a Special Child	Krishna Saksena	
The Startup Wife	Tahmima Anam	
Anomalies in Law and Justice	R V Raveendran	
Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story	Sundeep Mishra	
Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC	Kaushik Basu	
Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux	Khemlata Vakhlu	
This Mournable Body	Tsitsi Dangarembga	
It's a Wonderful Life	Ruskin Bond	
Will	Will Smith	This is His Autobiography
Growing Up Biden	Valerie Biden Owens	

Obituaries

Name	Profession	Other Info
Indira Hridayesh	Leader of Opposition in the Uttarakhand assembly	
Dr. Tarannum Riyaz	The former Urdu newsreader of All India Radio and recipient of SAARC Literature Award in 2014	
GN Rangarajan	Veteran Tamil filmmaker	
Sivan	Noted Photographer and Filmmaker	
Seher Aly Latif	Casting Director-producer	Known for 'The Lunchbox'
Sanchari Vijay	National Award-winning actor	
Chandrashekhar	Veteran actor	
Parassala B Ponnammal	Carnatic musician	
Buddhadeb Dasgupta	National award winning filmmaker and celebrated poet	
Lakshmi Nandan Bora	Noted Assamese litterateur	
Dr. Siddalingaiah	Noted Kannada Poet	
Mufti Faiz-ul-Waheed	Renowned Islamic scholar	

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M. Kalliannan Gounder	The last surviving former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly	
Raghubir Singh	Mahavir Chakra recipient Brigadier	
Radha Mohan	Noted environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee Professor	
Dr Ashok Panagariya	Prominent neurologist and Padma Shri recipient	
Swami Shivamayanandaji	Vice-President of Ramakrishna Math and Mission	
Guruprasad Mohapatra	Secretary in the Department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)	
Milkha Singh	Legendary India Sprinter	
Dingko Singh	Former Indian boxer	
Surat Singh Mathur	Olympian	
Yuri Ogorodnik	Former Indian Athletics coach	
Nirmal Kaur	Former Indian Volleyball Captain	
Markis Kido	Former Olympic Gold Medallist Shuttler	
Mir Hazar Khan Khoso	Pakistan's former caretaker Prime Minister	
Poul Schluter	Former Prime Minister of Denmark	
Anerood Jugnauth	Former President and Prime Minister of Mauritius	
Kenneth Kaunda	Zambia's first president	
Benigno Aquino III	Former Philippine President	
Eric Carle	Author and illustrator	Author of ' The Very Hungry Caterpillar '
Gottfried Böhm	Pritzker Prize Laureate	
John McAfee	Founder Of McAfee Antivirus Software	