

RBI JOINS NGFS

E-COPY

(Week-1 to 4)

May - 2021

RBI Joins

Network for Greening
Financial System



Current Affairs

: DATE :

01/05/2021 To 31/05/2021

Innovation track of the BRICS - 2021

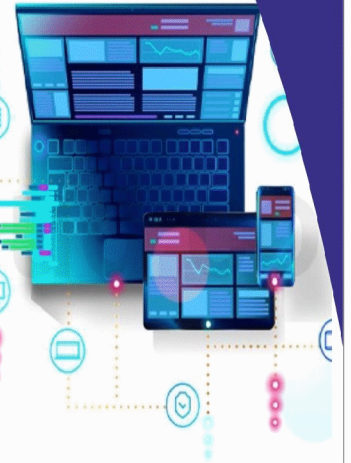


India

Hosted the Seventh Meeting off

BRICS

Astronomy Working Group



Mentoring YUVA Scheme - 2021

Bank

SBI

IBPS

SSC

Railway

GPSC-I/II

GPSC-III

नायब
भाभलतदार

PSI/ASI
Constable

तलाठी

Mentoring
YUVA
SCHEME

देश के साहित्य
और लेखकों को
प्रोत्साहन



(Creating A Way For Govt. Jobs)

Banking Academy

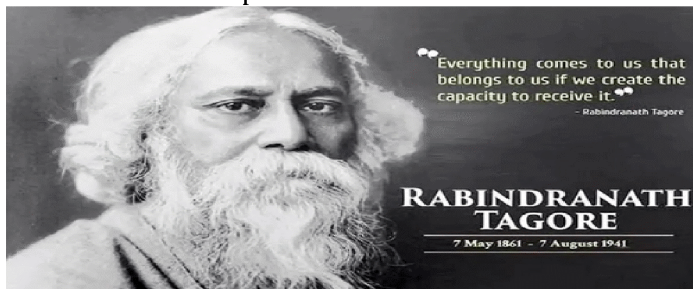
(Preparation for All Types of Competitive Exams)



Important For
All Upcoming Competitive Exams Like

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ The Centre has released the 1st instalment of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to States, in the wake of the 2nd wave of Covid-19 that has claimed thousands of lives since April 2021.
 - ✓ Normally, the 1st instalment is released in June as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.
 - ✓ The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories and 90% for special category States and Union Territories (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
 - ✓ The annual Central contribution is released in 2 equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
 - **Disaster (s) Covered under SDRF:**
 - Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves.
- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released the new framework for implementation of the SVAMITVA Scheme.
 - ✓ SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.
 - ✓ **Launch:** It is a center sector scheme which was launched nationally on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April 2021.
 - ✓ **Aim:** To provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
 - The demarcation of rural inhabited areas would be done using Drone survey and CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) Networks which provides mapping accuracy of 5 cms.
 - This would provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages.
 - It will cover around 6.62 Lakh villages of the entire country during 2021-2025.
- ❖ The Prime Minister paid tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on 160th Jayanti on 7th May, 2021.



In 1913 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his work on Gitanjali.

He was the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize.

- ❖ The NITI Aayog and Mastercard have released a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'.
 - ✓ The report identifies challenges in accelerating Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Puducherry has become the 4th State/UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
 - ✓ Further, the State of Punjab and the UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have also crossed the milestone of covering 75% of rural homes with assured tap water supply.
 - JJM envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. It is under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
 - JJM focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
 - The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States,
 - 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.
 - The total allocation to the scheme is over Rs. 3 lakh crore.
 - ✓ **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban):**
 - **Launch:** In the Budget 2021-22, Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) was announced under the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all statutory towns in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal- 6 (clean water and sanitation).
- ❖ The 13th states have started distributing foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY).
 - ✓ The scheme has been rolled out again for 2 months (May and June 2021) as the country's healthcare infrastructure has reached its capacity and several states have taken steps like complete lockdown, night curfew to contain the spread of the disease.
 - ✓ PMGKAY is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19. Its nodal Ministry is the Ministry of Finance.

- ✓ The **scheme** aimed at providing each person who is covered under the **National Food Security Act 2013** with an additional **5 kg grains** (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.
 - ✓ The **new version of the PMGKAY** lacks one of its important components which was there in 2020 PMGKAY i.e free-of-cost 1 kg pulses per month to each household covered under the NFSA.
 - ❖ The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has provided an **enhanced allocation** of **Rs. 2250 Crore** for the year 2021-22 for '**Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture**' (MIDH).
 - ✓ Horticulture is the branch of plant agriculture dealing with garden crops, generally fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. M.H. Marigowda is considered the Father of Indian Horticulture.
 - ✓ MIDH is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for the **holistic growth of the horticulture** sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.
 - ✓ **Nodal Ministry:** The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** is implementing MIDH with effect from **2014-15**.
 - MIDH is implemented **under** Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana.
 - ❖ The **Prime Minister** released the **8th instalment** of financial benefit under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the **Centre transfers** an amount of **Rs 6,000 per year**, in **3 equal instalments**, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
 - ✓ It was launched in **February 2019**.
 - ✓ It is a **Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India**.
 - ✓ It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
 - The **PM-KISAN Mobile App** developed and designed by the **National Informatics Centre** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has been launched.
 - The farmers can view the status of their application, update or carry out corrections of their Aadhaar cards and also check the history of credits to their bank accounts.
 - ❖ **Cyclone Tauktae** made **landfall in Gujarat**.
 - ✓ The cyclone has left a **trail of destruction** as it swept through the **coastal states** of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.
 - ✓ **Named by:** It is a tropical cyclone, **named by Myanmar**. It means 'gecko', a highly vocal lizard, in the Burmese language.
 - ✓ **Typically, tropical cyclones** in the **North Indian Ocean region** (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) develop during the pre-monsoon (April to June) and post-monsoon (October to December) periods.
 - Tauktae is the **4th** cyclone in consecutive years to have developed in the Arabian Sea, that too in the pre-monsoon period (April to June).
 - After **Cyclone Mekanu in 2018**, which struck Oman, **Cyclone Vayu in 2019** struck Gujarat, followed by **Cyclone Nisarga in 2020** that struck Maharashtra.
- Naming of Tropical Cyclones**

According to WMO (**World Meteorological Organization**) guidelines, countries in every region are supposed to give names for cyclones.

The **North Indian Ocean Region** covers tropical cyclones formed over **Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea**. The **13 members**, which come under the region, are Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Yemen.

 - **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, one of the **6 Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMC)** in the world, is mandated to issue advisories and name tropical cyclones in the **North Indian Ocean Region**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MTA)** inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Microsoft** to support the **digital transformation of schools** such as **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** and **Ashram Schools**, among others under the Ministry.
 - ✓ It is aimed at building an inclusive, **skills-based economy**.
 - ✓ In the **1st phase**, **250 EMRS schools** have been adopted by **Microsoft**, out of which **50 EMRS schools** will be given **intensive training** and **500 master trainers** would be trained in the **1st phase**.
 - ✓ Teachers across states in India will be trained in a phased manner for using productivity technologies like Office 365 and AI applications in teaching.
 - ✓ The **program will also offer opportunities for teachers** to earn professional **e-badges and e-certificates** from the **Microsoft Education Centre**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** will give **transgender persons** a one-time financial assistance of **Rs. 1,500**.
 - ✓ Immediate subsistence assistance to trans persons would be given through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, for which beneficiaries can register with the **National Institute of Social Defence**.

- ❖ The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** will set up **One Stop Centres (OSCs)** across **10 countries** to provide assistance to **Indian women** who are **survivors of gender-based violence**.
 - ✓ The missions where the **OSCs** will come up are **Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada and Singapore**.
 - ✓ It will also set up **300 OSCs in the country** in addition to the nearly **700 existing** ones across all districts.
 - It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for addressing the **problem of violence against women**. It was launched in **April 2015**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Education** has approved the proposal to **provide monetary assistance** to students through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** of the cooking cost component of the **Mid-Day-Meal (MDM)** Scheme, to all eligible children.
 - ✓ **Aim:** It has been visioned as an aid for simpler/faster flow of information and funds to the beneficiaries and to reduce the fraud in the delivery system.
 - ✓ **Implementation:** It is a mission or an initiative by the government of India started on **1st January 2013** as a way to reform the government delivery system.
- ❖ On **28th May**, **India** paid tribute to the freedom fighter, **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar** (Veer Savarkar) on his birth anniversary.
 - ✓ He was an **Indian independence activist, politician, lawyer and writer**.
 - ✓ He is also known as **Swatantryaveer Savarkar**.
 - ✓ Birth: Born on **28th May, 1883 in Bhagur**, a village near Nashik in Maharashtra.
- ❖ cyclone **Yaas** made landfall south of **Balasore in Odisha**.
 - ✓ Earlier, another **cyclonic** storm named '**Cyclone Tauktae**' had affected the **Indian states** of Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, along with two Union Territories: Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.
 - ✓ The cyclone has been named Yaas by Oman. The word Yaas has originated from the Persian language and means 'Jasmin' in English.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Education** has launched **YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors**. Here, YUVA stands for **Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors**.
 - ✓ It has been launched to promote reading, writing, and book culture in the country.
 - ✓ It has been launched as part of the **India@75 Project** (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav). It will encourage young generation writers to write on the Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in **National Movement**.
 - ✓ It will be implemented by the **National Book Trust** under the **Ministry of Education**.
- ❖ The **1st anniversary** of the **National AI Portal (INDIAai)** has been celebrated on **28 May 2021**. A virtual event has been organized on the occasion of the anniversary.
 - ✓ **National AI Portal** was launched by the Minister for Electronics and IT, **Ravi Shankar Prasad**.
 - ✓ On the occasion of the anniversary, a new look of the website homepage has been also unveiled and a report titled '**One year of INDIAai**' is also released.
 - ✓ An event '**AI PeCharcha**' based on the theme of '**Implementing Trustworthy AI Solutions**' was also organized.
- ❖ The **National Health Authority (NHA)** and **Telangana government** have signed an **MoU** for the implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.
 - ✓ **Ayushman Bharat scheme** has been integrated with the '**Aarogyasri**' scheme of the Telangana. This merged scheme is being called **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri**.
 - ✓ Telangana is the **33rd States and Union Territories** to join the **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme**.
 - ✓ The **National Health Authority** and the **State Health Agency** will implement this scheme in the state.
- ❖ **Ayush Ministry** will organize series of **5 webinars** under the theme of "**Be with Yoga, Be at Home**". These webinars will be organized as part of the celebration of **International Yoga Day 2021**.
 - ✓ **Ayush Ministry** will organize a series of **5 webinars** in collaboration with 5 renowned organizations of the country.
- ❖ **Guru Tegh Bahadur 400th Birth anniversary** has been celebrated across the country on **1 May**.
 - ✓ He was the **9th Guru of the 10 Gurus** of the Sikh religion.
 - ✓ He was killed by the **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1675**.
 - ✓ To mark the 400th anniversary, **Sri Akhand Path** inaugurated **Gurdwara Guru Ke Mahal** at the birthplace of **Guru Tegh Bahadur**.
- ❖ **Rs 18,100 crore, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme "National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage"** was approved by **Union Cabinet**.
 - ✓ **Department of Heavy Industry** had given proposal for the implementation of **Rs 18,100 crore PLI Scheme "National Programme on ACC Battery Storage"** to achieve manufacturing capacity of **Fifty (50) Giga Watt Hour (GWh)** of ACC.
 - ✓ All the demand of the ACCs is currently being met through imports in India. **National Programme on ACC** will **reduce import dependence**.



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- ❖ Culture and Tourism Minister **Prahlad Patel** announced that **6 Indian sites** had been added to the **tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites**.
 - ✓ The nomination of these sites was proposed by the **Archaeological Survey of India**.
 - ✓ The 6 sites are as follows:

Temples of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram is one of the most ancient cities of southern India. Kanchipuram is also known as the Golden City of Temples.
Ganga ghats in Varanasi	Varanasi has more than 80 ghats. Manikarnika and Harishchandra are important ghats for cremation.
Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh	It has the largest tiger population. It is rich in biodiversity.
Megalithic site of Hire Benkal	Hire Benkal in Karnataka is one of the important Megalithic sites of India.
Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra	There are 12 forts in Maharashtra related to Maratha.
Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur	It is located in Madhya Pradesh. It is also known as the Grand Canyon of India.

- ✓ As of now, **India has 48 sites** in the **tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites**.
- ✓ According to operation guidelines, it is mandatory to put any monument/site on the Tentative List (TL) before final nomination.
- ❖ **51st edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair** has been inaugurated in **New Delhi**. Chairman of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts **Ravi K. Passi** inaugurated this fair.
 - ✓ **Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair** is India's largest fair in the Home, Fashion, Lifestyle, Textiles, and Furniture sector.
 - ✓ The 5-day virtual fair will help in the **export of handicrafts** and it will also **generate employment** in the **cottage sector**.
 - ✓ More than **1,500 manufacturers and exporters** will participate in this fair. Artisans and Craftsmen from different regions of the country will show their products.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** and the **Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA)**.
 - ✓ The MoU has been signed to enhance cooperation between Institutes. It will also increase opportunities for members of ICAI to provide professional services.
 - ✓ **ICAI and QFCA** will organize roundtables and networking events to explore opportunities for Indian businesses in Qatar.
 - ✓ ICAI and QFCA will also collaborate in the fields of **corporate governance, technical research, and advice, quality assurance, etc.**
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved the creation of a post of **Director at the National Disaster Response Force Academy in Nagpur**.
 - ✓ The **NDRF academy** was established in **2018 at Nagpur**. It imparts training to **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Civil Defence (CD)** volunteers, and other stakeholders.
 - ✓ The post of director at the NDRF academy will help in better command and control over the institution.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ The Prime Ministers of **India** and the **United Kingdom (UK)** held a bilateral virtual summit.
 - ✓ India thanked the UK for the **prompt medical assistance** provided by it in the wake of the **severe 2nd wave of Covid-19 in India**.
 - ✓ Adopted 'Roadmap 2030':
 - It will elevate bilateral ties to a "**Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**".
 - It will provide a framework for **UK-India relations** across **health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence**.
- ❖ **India** received **Covid-19** assistance from **Taiwan** including **oxygen concentrators and cylinders**.
 - ✓ The aid **reflects the growing engagement between India and Taiwan**, especially **against the backdrop of the standoff with China** on the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and **China's aggressive actions** across the region, including repeated violations of **Taiwan's airspace**.
 - ✓ **India**, meanwhile, **has not yet accepted China's offers of aid and assistance** and has preferred to source medical supplies from **China on a commercial basis**.

- ❖ **Foreign Ministers** from the **Group of Seven (G7)** countries (USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan) held a meeting in London, UK.
 - ✓ The **47th G7 Summit** will be held in **June 2021**. The **UK is the host country**.
 - ✓ **Australia, India, South Korea, South Africa** and the **Chair (Brunei Darussalam)** of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**.
 - **Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa** will also join the **G7 Summit in June**.
- ❖ **Indian Prime Minister** participated in the **India-European Union (EU) Leaders' Meeting**.
 - ✓ The meeting was held in a **hybrid format** with the participation of leaders of all the **27 EU Member States** as well as the **President of the European Council and the European Commission**.
 - ✓ This is the **1st time** that the **EU hosted** a meeting with **India** in the **EU+27 format**.
 - ✓ The meeting was the **initiative of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU**.
- ❖ **India** participated in the **3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM)** and shared plans for **research and long-term cooperation** in the **Arctic Region**.
 - ✓ The **1st two meetings—ASM1 and ASM2—**were held in the **USA in 2016** and **Germany in 2018**, respectively.
 - ✓ **3rd Arctic Science Ministerial Conference**: Host Countries: It was jointly organised by **Iceland and Japan**.
 - It was the **1st Ministerial** meeting being held in **Asia (Tokyo in Japan)**.
 - ✓ Theme: '**Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic**'.

Arctic Region

The **Arctic region** comprises the Arctic Ocean and parts of countries such as Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, Russia, USA (Alaska), Finland, Sweden and Iceland.

These countries together form the core of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum. **HQ: Norway**.

- ❖ The **4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue** was held virtually through video conferencing.
 - ✓ Talks for collaboration on various aspects including **investments, International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA), National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), FinTech, sustainable finance and cross border financial services**.
 - ✓ The matters relating to **G20, International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and **tax challenges** arising from the **digitalisation of the economy** were discussed along with **infrastructure financing**.
- ❖ According to the latest edition of the **World Bank's Migration and Development Brief**, despite **Covid-19**, **remittance flows** remained **resilient in 2020**, registering a **smaller decline** than previously projected.
 - ✓ **Remittance Inflow of India**: India being at top, received over **USD 83 billion in remittances in 2020**, a drop of just **0.2 per cent** from the **previous year**, despite a pandemic that devastated the world economy.
 - In 2019, India had received **USD 83.3 billion** in remittances.
 - **China is 2nd** in terms of global remittances in 2020.
 - China received **USD 59.5 billion** in remittances in 2020.
 - ✓ **India and China** are followed by Mexico, the Philippines, Egypt, Pakistan, France and Bangladesh.
 - ✓ **Remittance outflow** was the maximum from the United States (USD 68 billion), followed by UAE, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Germany, and China.

WORLD BANK

The **Bretton Woods Conference** held in 1944, created the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** along with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

The IBRD later became the World Bank.

The **World Bank Group** is a unique global partnership of **5 institutions working for sustainable solutions** that reduce poverty and build shared prosperity in developing countries. It has **189 member countries**.

- **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**: provides loans, credits, and grants.
- **International Development Association (IDA)**: provides low- or no-interest loans to low-income countries.
- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**: provides investment, advice, and asset management to companies and governments.
- **Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**: insures lenders and investors against political risk such as war.
- **International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**: settles investment-disputes between investors and countries.

- ❖ The **Minister of State for Culture** discussed various issues under the **Cultural Exchange Programme** with his **Mongolian** counterpart.
- ❖ Recently, a **report was published** which gave details of who makes **single-use plastic**, **130 million tons** a year at last count, and who makes money from it.
 - ✓ The report was **published by Minderoo**, a nonprofit organization based in Australia along with academics at the University of Oxford and the Stockholm Environment Institute.
- ❖ **India and Oman** renewed the **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** on **military cooperation** as well as on **maritime security**.

- ❖ India virtually hosted the 7th meeting of the **BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG)** under the **Science, Technology, and Innovation track of the BRICS 2021**.
 - ✓ The **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)**, Pune, and **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** coordinated the meeting.

BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**.
 In 2001, the British Economist **Jim O'Neill** coined the term **BRIC** to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
 The grouping was formalised during the 1st meeting of **BRIC Foreign Ministers' in 2006**.
South Africa was invited to join **BRIC in December 2010**, after which the group adopted the acronym **BRICS**.
 India has assumed the **BRICS Presidency from January 2021**.
- ❖ The **International Energy Agency's (IEA)** released its **Net Zero Emissions (NZE) Roadmap** - named '**Net Zero by 2050**'.
 - ✓ It is the **World's 1st comprehensive energy roadmap** which comes ahead of the **United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate change convention in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021**.
 - ✓ '**Net zero emissions**' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.
- ❖ The **United Arab Emirates** announced an offer to host the **28th session of Conference of Parties (COP 28)** to the **UNFCCC in Abu Dhabi in 2023**.
 - ✓ **COP 26 was postponed in 2020** and will take place in **Glasgow, UK in November 2021**.
- ❖ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **Switzerland** have launched a **BioHub facility** that will allow pathogens sharing between laboratories and facilitate "**analysis and preparedness**" against them.
 - ✓ The facility will help in **safe reception, sequencing, storage and preparation of biological materials** for distribution to other laboratories, so as to facilitate global preparedness against these pathogens.
- ❖ The **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** virtually participated in a meeting with **Ministers of Health of the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) Countries**.
- ❖ The ongoing **74th World Health Assembly** declared **30th January** as '**World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day**'.
 - ✓ The **proposal to recognise the day** was floated by the **United Arab Emirates**. It was adopted unanimously by the delegates. The **1st World NTD Day** was celebrated informally in **2020**.
 - ✓ The **World Health Assembly** is the decision-making body of **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- ❖ **India** will launch a mobile tech platform for improving the security of the **United Nations Peacekeeper**. The name of this mobile platform has been given as '**Unite Aware**'.
 - ✓ '**UNITE AWARE**' platform will provide **terrain-related information to United Nations Peacekeepers**.
 - ✓ It has been developed by India in collaboration with the **UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations** and the **Department of Operational Support**.
- ❖ **United Nations** is observing **International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories** from **25 to 31 May**.
 - ✓ **Non-Self-Governing Territory** is a Territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.
 - ✓ It is celebrated to ensure the rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on their natural resources. It makes aware administrative authorities to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples.
- ❖ The **6th UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW)** is being held this year from **17 to 23 May**.
 - ✓ **Streets for Life #Love30** is the theme for **6th UNGRSW**. One objective of the **6th UNGRSW** is to build momentum towards the launch of the **Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 in late 2021**.

WHO: It is a specialized agency of the **United Nations** responsible for international public health. It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
 • It was established on **7 April 1948**.
 • 7 April is celebrated every year as **World Health Day**.
 • Its current President is **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.
- ❖ **1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting** was chaired by **Apurva Chandra**, Secretary, Labour and Employment.
 - ✓ The Meeting was held on **11-12 May 2021** in **Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi**, in virtual format. India has taken over **BRICS Presidency** this year.
 - ✓ In addition to the representatives of member nations i.e **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**, the representatives of **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and **International Social Security Agency (ISSA)** also participated in Meeting.
- ❖ The **world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge** opened in **Portugal**. It has been opened in **Arouca in northern Portugal**.
 - ✓ It is a **516-meter-long bridge** over the **Paiva River**. It is located in **UNESCO-recognised Arouca Geopark**.

OLD is
GOLD

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STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ According to the **System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)** system, **Delhi's air quality** deteriorated from 'moderate' to 'poor' and 'very poor'.
 - ✓ **Delhi's air typically worsens** in October-November and improves by March-April. Current weather conditions are not unfavourable, unlike in winter.
 - ✓ The most crucial reasons for the alarming levels of **air pollution in Delhi** include:
 - **Crop burning in neighbouring states** (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan), Vehicular emissions.
 - Industrial pollution, Large-scale construction activities.
 - In the **World Air Quality report 2020**, Delhi has been listed as the **10th most polluted city** and the top polluted capital city in the world.
 - In **July 2020**, **Greenpeace** (non-governmental organisation) found out that of the **28 global cities** studied, **Delhi** bore the **highest economic cost of air pollution** with an estimated loss of 24,000 lives in the first half of 2020 despite a strict Covid-19 lockdown.

SAFAR is a national initiative introduced by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to measure the air quality of a metropolitan city, by measuring the overall pollution level and the location-specific air quality of the city. The system is indigenously developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune and is operationalized by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
SAFAR is an integral part of **India's 1st Air Quality Early Warning System** operational in Delhi.

- ❖ The **Supreme Court (SC)** declared a **Maharashtra law** which provides reservation benefits to the **Maratha community**, taking the quota limit in the State in excess of 50%, as unconstitutional.
 - ✓ **2018: Maharashtra Assembly** passed a Bill proposing **16% reservation for Maratha community**.
 - ✓ **2018: The Bombay High Court** while upholding the reservation pointed out that instead of 16% it should be reduced to 12% in education and 13% in jobs.
 - ✓ Reservation breaching the **50% limit** will create a society based on "caste rule".
 - The **Maratha reservation** of 12% and 13% (in education and jobs) had increased the overall reservation ceiling to **64% and 65%**, respectively.
 - In the **Indira Sawhney judgment 1992**, **SC** had **categorically said 50%** shall be the rule, only in certain exceptional and extraordinary situations for bringing far-flung and remote areas' population into mainstream said 50% rule can be relaxed.
- ❖ In a major boost to exports of **organic products** from the country, the **1st consignment of millets** grown in the **Himalayas** would be exported to **Denmark**.
 - ✓ **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)** has sourced **ragi** (finger millet), and **jhingora** (barnyard millet) from **farmers in Uttarakhand** for exports.
 - ✓ At present, organic products are exported provided they are produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the requirements of the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**.
 - The **NPOP** has been implemented by **APEDA** since its **inception in 2001** as notified under the **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992**.
 - **NPOP** covers standards for crops and their products, live stocks and poultry products, aquaculture, apiculture etc. The exports from the country are as per the provisions in **NPOP**.
 - The **NPOP certification** has been **recognized by the European Union and Switzerland** which enables India to export unprocessed plant products to these countries without the requirement of additional certification.
 - The **Indian state of Sikkim** achieved the feat of being the **world's first organic state** and was awarded the **UN Future Policy Gold Award 2018**, also known as the Oscar for best policies.
 - **India's organic products** have been exported to **58 countries** including **USA, European Union, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Switzerland, Israel and South Korea**.
 - **Lakshadweep** as **India's first Union Territory** to become **100 per cent organic**.
 - ❖ **Rajasthan Government** has approved a proposal to provide **Rs. 3 crore** each from the **MLA Local Area Development (LAD) Fund** to mobilise resources for **Covid-19 Vaccination** of the people in the age group of 18 to 44 years.
 - ✓ For meeting the expenses, the fund for each legislator has been increased from **Rs. 2.25 crore to Rs. 5 crore** a year.
 - ✓ It is the States' version of a **central government scheme - Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD)**.
 - ✓ The objective of this scheme is to **create local need** based infrastructure, to create assets of public utility and to remove regional imbalances in development.

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD): It is a **Central Sector Scheme**. It was announced in **December 1993** and initially came under the control of the **Ministry of Rural Development**. Later, in October 1994, it was transferred to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**. Each year, **MPs** receive **Rs. 5 crore** in two instalments of **Rs. 2.5 crore** each. Funds under **MPLAD Scheme** are non-lapsable.

- ❖ The **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU)** has designed an '**oxygen park**' within its premises at **Coimbatore** with **Beema Bamboo**.
 - ✓ **Beema or Bheema Bamboo** is a superior clone, selected from *Bambusa balcooa*, a higher biomass yielding bamboo species. This bamboo clone has been developed by the conventional breeding method.
 - ✓ This species is considered to be one of the fastest-growing plants. It grows one-and-a-half feet per day under tropical conditions.
- ❖ Recently, **6 young girls** from the **fishing community from Assam** have developed a **biodegradable and compostable yoga mat** called '**Moorhen Yoga Mat**'.
 - ✓ The intervention was triggered through an initiative by **North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)**.
 - ✓ **NECTAR** is an autonomous society, set up under the **Department of Science & Technology**, with its headquarter at **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
 - The '**Moorhen Yoga mat**' is named after **Kam Sorai** (Purple moorhen, a resident bird of **Deepor Beel Wildlife sanctuary**).
 - It is a hand-woven **100% biodegradable and 100% compostable** mat developed from water hyacinth.
 - The mat could improve the aquatic ecosystem of the wetland (**Deepor Beel**) through **removal of water hyacinth**, help sustainable production of utility products with community engagement and generate livelihood for indigenous communities to become completely '**Atamanirbhar**'.
- ❖ The **West Bengal government** has decided to set up a **Legislative Council** (Vidhan Parishad).
 - ✓ For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the **Governor** is required. The **Legislative Council in the State was abolished in 1969**.
 - **6 States** having a **Legislative Council**: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka.
 - In 2020, **Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly** passed the resolution for abolition of the **Legislative Council**. This resolution is yet to be cleared by the **Parliament of India** to finally abolish the council.
 - In 2019, the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council was abolished through the **J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019**, which reduced the State of J&K to the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
- ❖ The **Telangana government** has selected **16 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs)** for pilot testing the ambitious '**Medicine from the sky**', the 1st-of- its-kind project.
 - ✓ The project involves **delivery of medicines through multiple drones**.
 - ✓ The project is being launched following the approval granted by the **Civil Aviation Ministry**.
 - ✓ The project would be launched in 3 waves starting with a pilot followed by **mapping the route network for operation of drones for delivering vaccine/medicine** in the desired community health centres and PHCs.
 - **Aim:** To assess alternative logistics routes in providing safe, accurate and reliable pick up and delivery of health care items like medicines, Covid-19 vaccines, units of blood and other lifesaving equipment from the distribution centre to specific locations and back.
- ❖ A consignment of **Dahanu Gholvad sapota** has been exported to the **United Kingdom** from Maharashtra's **Palghar district**, providing a major boost to shipments of **Geographical Indication (GI)** certified products from **India**.
 - ✓ **Sapota** (Chikoo) is grown in many states- Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Karnataka** is known to be the highest grower of the fruit, followed by Maharashtra.
- ❖ A census carried out by the **Odisha State Forest Department** revealed that **Odisha's blackbuck population** has doubled in the last 6 years.
 - ✓ The **Blackbuck** (*Antelope cervicapra*), or the Indian Antelope, is a species of antelope native to India and Nepal.
 - ✓ The blackbuck is known in **Odisha as Krushnasara Mruga**.
 - ✓ As per the latest census, the antelopes numbered **7,358, compared to 2,194 in 2011**.
- ❖ On the **Statehood Day of Goa (30th May)**, the **Prime Minister** greeted the people of the state.
 - ✓ In 1961, **Indian Government** launched **Operation Vijay** and annexed **Daman and Diu islands and Goa** with the Indian mainland.
 - **Goa Liberation Day** is observed on **19th December** every year in India.
 - It can be noted that the Portuguese were the **1st Europeans to come to India** (1498) and were also the last to leave this land (1961).
 - On 30th May, 1987, the territory was split and Goa was formed. Daman and Diu remained Union Territory.

Goa's seven major rivers are the Zuari, Mandovi, Terekhol, Chapora, Galgibag, Kumbarjua canal, Talpona and the Sal. Most of Goa's soil cover is made up of laterites.

Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks:

Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary,
Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary,
Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary,

Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary,
Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary
Mollem National Park

- ❖ **Mohali International Hockey Stadium** was renamed after **Balbir Singh Sr.**
 - ✓ Punjab Sports Minister announced renaming on the occasion of the 1st death anniversary of Balbir Singh Sr.
- ❖ In **Uttarakhand**, the **state government** has launched the '**Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana**'. It has been launched for **orphaned children** who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the **government** will take **all responsibility** for the **orphaned children**. The **government** will make arrangements of their **maintenance, education and training for employment** up to the age of 21 years.
 - ✓ The **orphaned children** will also receive a **maintenance allowance of 3000 rupees per month**. They will also get **5 percent horizontal reservation in government jobs of the state**.
- ❖ Anti-Covid "**Sanjeevani Pariyojana**" has been launched by **Haryana government**.
 - ✓ **Sanjeevani Pariyojana** will provide **supervised and quick medical care** for people with mild to moderate symptoms of **Covid-19 in rural areas**.
 - ✓ Under the initiative, an **Integrated Command and Control Centre** will manage **critical resources** such as availability of hospital beds, oxygen supply, ambulance tracking and door-to-door awareness campaign.
- ❖ **Jharkhand** has topped among all **States and Union Territories** in implementing **Smart City Mission schemes**.
 - ✓ Recently, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has released the **ranking of states** on the progress of the implementation of the **Smart City Mission's schemes**.
 - ✓ **Rajasthan** is in the **2nd position** in implementing **smart city projects** across the country.
 - ✓ **Delhi** is in the **11th position** among **States and Union Territories** and **New Delhi Municipal Corporation** is on the **41st spot** in the **ranking of 100 cities**.
- ❖ **Manipur government** has launched a **mobile app** for the delivery of **vegetables** at home.
 - ✓ The '**MOMA market**' mobile app will help in the **delivery of fresh vegetables at the doorstep** in the lockdown districts.
 - ✓ **Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA)** is a unit of the state horticulture and soil conservation department.
 - ✓ **Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs)** and **Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA)** will procure vegetables from the different farms of the state.
- ❖ **Bihar government** has launched an app for **monitoring and tracking home isolated Covid-19 patients**.
 - ✓ The App has been named as '**HIT Covid App**'. Here '**HIT**' stands for **home isolation tracking**.
 - ✓ It has been launched to help **health workers** in regular **monitoring of home isolated Covid-19 patients**.
 - ✓ Health workers will daily feed the **temperature and oxygen level of home isolated Covid-19 patients** in this app. The data of the app will be monitored at the district level.
 - ✓ **The App** has been developed by the **Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation (BELTRON)**.
- ❖ The **Uttarakhand Police** has launched '**Mission Hausla**' for helping **COVID-19 Patients**.
 - ✓ It has been launched to help people in getting **Oxygen, beds, and Plasma** for **COVID-19 patients**.
 - ✓ Every Police station of the state will work as the nodal police station for the mission.
- ❖ **Punjab Government** has approved a long pending demand to form **Malerkotla as a district**. It will be the **23rd district** of Punjab.
 - ✓ The **chief minister of Punjab** also announced **Rs 500 crore financial assistance for medical college**, a women's college, a new bus stand, and a women police station in Malerkotla.
 - ✓ **Malerkotla** is a **Muslim majority town**. It is a historically very important town of Punjab.
 - ✓ Malerkotla city, Amargarh, and Ahmedgarh will come under the Malerkotla district.
- ❖ **Himachal Pradesh** is **constructing forest ponds for rainwater harvesting**.
 - ✓ The **government is constructing big and small ponds** under the **Parvat Dhara scheme** for the rejuvenation of water sources and recharging aquifers.
 - ✓ Under this scheme, **Government** is also performing cleaning and maintenance of existing ponds. It will help in enhancing the water level.
 - ✓ The main focus of the scheme is **soil and water conservation** through the plantation.
- ❖ The name of '**Miyon ka Bara**' railway station in **Rajasthan** has been renamed, **Mahesh Nagar**.
 - ✓ Earlier, the name of the '**Miyon ka Bara**' village had been renamed **Mahesh Nagar in 2018**.
 - ✓ The name of the **Villages, Cities, and Railway station** is approved by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** after the proposal was passed by the state authorities.
 - ✓ **Home Ministry** has approved **52 proposals** of name changes between **2017 to 2020**.
- ❖ **MP Rahul Shewale** inaugurated **India's 1st 'Drive in Vaccination Center'** in **Mumbai**.
 - ✓ It has been established in the parking lot of **Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar**.
 - ✓ **1st 'Drive in Vaccination Center'** facility has been set up at a time when **disabled people** are facing difficulties in reaching the vaccination center. The facility is available for all sections of society.
 - ✓ **1st 'Drive in Vaccination Center'** also provides **transportation facilities to citizens** who do not have their own vehicles.

- ❖ AINRC chief **N Rangasamy** has taken the **oath of Chief Minister of Puducherry**. He became the Chief Minister for the 4th time.
 - ✓ Lt Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** administered the oath of **N Rangasamy**.
- ❖ **Odisha government** has announced **Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana for journalists**.
 - ✓ **Odisha** has declared the journalists as frontline Covid warriors. It will benefit more than 6500 journalists of the state.
 - ✓ Under the **Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana**, a **health insurance** cover of **Rs 2 lakh** will be provided to each Journalist.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, **financial assistance of Rs 15 lakh** will be provided to the **families of journalists who died from COVID-19 while performing duty**.
- ❖ **Researchers** have found fossil bones of **sauropod dinosaurs in Meghalaya**. It is around **100 million years old**.
 - ✓ It is the **1st evidence** of the **sauropod dinosaur's** origin in this region. **Sauropods** have very long necks, long tails, small heads, and four pillar-like legs.
 - ✓ **Meghalaya** is the **5th state** after Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, where bones of sauropod dinosaurs were found in India.
- ❖ The **Madhya Pradesh government** has launched the **Corona Warriors Scheme**.
 - ✓ Under this scheme, **the government** will take responsibility for those **health workers' families** who have died on Corona duty. The affected families will receive financial assistance of **Rs 50 lakhs from the government**.

ECONOMY AWARENESS

- ❖ According to the report **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021**, the **2nd wave of Covid-19** can put **India's economic recovery at "risk"**.
 - ✓ **ADO** is a series of annual economic reports on the **Developing Member Countries (DMCs)** of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
 - ✓ **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** will rebound strongly by **11% in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22** due to continued **economic recovery** boosted by increased public investment, vaccine rollout, and a surge in domestic demand.
 - ✓ **India's economic growth** to moderate to **7% in FY 2022-23**.
 - ✓ The economy is expected to have contracted by 8% in FY 2020-21 in line with the government's second advance estimate.

Asian Development Bank

ADB is a regional development bank established in **1966**. It is headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**.

It has **68 members**. India is a founding member. **49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside**.

• It aims to promote **social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific**.

• **ADB's five largest shareholders** are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

- ❖ The **8th core sectors** grew by **6.8% in March 2021** (the highest in 32 months), after a **3.8% dip in February**, but the spike was largely due to the base effects from March 2020.
 - ✓ During 2020-21 (April-March), output of the 8th sectors contracted by 7% as against a positive growth of 0.4% in 2019-20.
 - ✓ **8th Core Sectors**: These comprise **40.27%** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
 - The 8th core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: **Refinery Products > Electricity > Steel > Coal > Crude Oil > Natural Gas > Cement > Fertilizers**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** joined the **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)**.
 - ✓ The RBI expects to benefit from the membership of **NGFS** by learning from and contributing to global efforts on **climate finance**, which has **assumed significance** in the context of **climate change**.

Network for Greening the Financial System

It is a **global network of central banks and supervisory authorities** advocating a more **sustainable financial system**.

• It **aims** to analyse the consequences of **climate change for the financial system** and to redirect global financial flows in order to **enable low-carbon economic growth**.

• It was created at the **Paris One Planet Summit in December 2017** and its secretariat is hosted by the **Banque de France**.

- A **World Bank report** estimates that losses to **India's Gross Domestic Product by 2050 due to climate change** could be **USD 1,178 billion**.
- A **World Bank report** estimates that losses to **India's Gross Domestic Product by 2050 due to climate change** could be **USD 1,178 billion**.

- Recently, **New Zealand** became the **1st country** to announce a law that will require financial firms to disclose climate-related risks and opportunities.
- ❖ The **central government** withdrew its **orders of reducing the rates** on all **small savings instruments/schemes**.
 - ✓ **Small savings instruments** help individuals achieve their financial goals over a particular period.
 - ✓ The **small savings instrument** basket comprises **12 instruments**.
 - ✓ Collections from all small savings instruments are credited to the **National Small Savings Fund (NSSF)**.
 - **Classification:** Small savings instruments can be classified under three heads:
 - **Postal Deposits:** (comprising savings account, recurring deposits, time deposits of varying maturities and monthly income scheme).
 - **Savings Certificates:** National Small Savings Certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP).
 - **Social Security Schemes:** Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme, Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS).

National Small Savings Fund

National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) in the **Public Account of India** was **established in 1999**.

- **The Fund** is administered by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) under National Small Savings Fund (Custody and Investment) Rules, 2001, framed by the President under Article 283 (1) of the Constitution.

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has retained **State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank** as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** or banks that are **considered as "too big to fail"**.
 - ✓ **Systemically Important Banks (SIBs):** Some banks, due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity, lack of substitutability and interconnectedness, become systemically important.
 - ✓ **SIBs** are perceived as banks that are **"Too Big To Fail (TBTF)"**. This perception of TBTF creates an expectation of government support for these banks at the time of distress.
 - ✓ **G-SIBs:** The **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**, in consultation with the **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** and national authorities, has **identified Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs)** since 2011.
 - **Financial Stability Board (FSB)** is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system. It was established in 2009. **India is a member**.
 - **BCBS** publishes the **methodology** for assessing and identifying G-SIBs.
 - **BCBS** is the primary global standard setter for the prudential regulation of banks. **RBI is its member**.
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 - **G-SIIs:** The FSB, in consultation with the **International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)** and national authorities, began identifying **Global Systemically Important Insurers (G-SIIs)** in 2013.
- ❖ More than **28.68 crore loans** for an amount of **Rs. 14.96 lakh crore** have been sanctioned by **banks, NBFCs and MFIs** since the launch of **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**.
 - ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):**
 - Launch and Aim: It was launched by the **government in 2015** for providing loans up to **Rs. 10 lakh** to the **non-corporate, non-farm small/micro-enterprises**.
 - **MUDRA**, which stands for **Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd.**, is a financial institution set up by the Government.
 - It provides funding to the **non-corporate small business sector** through various last-mile **financial institutions** like Banks, **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** and **Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)**.
 - **MUDRA does not lend directly** to micro-entrepreneurs/individuals.
 - **MUDRA** has created three products i.e. **'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun'** as per the stage of growth and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit.
 - **Shishu:** Covering loans up to **Rs. 50,000**.
 - **Kishore:** Covering loans above **Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh**.
 - **Tarun:** Covering loans above **Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh**.
 - Loans under this scheme are **collateral-free loans**.
 - ✓ **PMMY** helped in generation of **1.12 crore** net additional employment from **2015 to 2018**.

- Out of the **1.12 crore** of estimated increase in **employment**, **women** accounted for **69 lakh (62%)**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced a **series of measures to support** the nation's fight against the **2nd wave of Covid-19 infections**.
 - ✓ The measures form the **1st part of a calibrated and comprehensive strategy** against the **pandemic**.
 - ✓ Earlier in 2020 also the **RBI took measures to help deal with the economic fall out** of the pandemic.
 - ✓ **Term Liquidity Facility for Supporting Healthcare Infrastructure:**
 - Term Liquidity Facility of **Rs. 50,000 crore** with tenure of up to **3 years**, at **repo rate**, to ease access to credit for providers of emergency health services.
 - ✓ **Special Long Term Repo Operations for Small Finance Banks:**
 - RBI would conduct **special 3-year long-term repo operations (SLTRO)** of **Rs. 10,000 crore** at **repo rate** for **small finance banks (SFBs)**.
 - ✓ **Priority Sector Lending:**
 - **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)** are now permitted to regard fresh on-lending to **Microfinance institutions (MFIs)** with asset size up to **Rs. 500 crore**, as priority sector lending.
 - This facility will be available up to **31st, March 2022**.
- ❖ The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has mooted the concept of '**Model Insurance Village (MIV)**' to boost insurance penetration in rural areas.
 - ✓ According to the **Economic Survey for 2020-21**, **India's insurance penetration**, which was at **2.71% in 2001**, has steadily increased to **3.76% in 2019**, but stayed much below the **global average of 7.23%**.
 - ✓ Recently, the **Parliament** has passed the **Insurance Amendment Bill 2021** to increase the **foreign direct investment (FDI)** limit in the **insurance sector** to **74% from 49%**.
 - ✓ **Concept of Model Insurance Village (MIV):**
 - The idea is to **offer comprehensive insurance protection to all the major insurable risks that villagers are exposed to** and make available covers at **affordable or subsidised cost**.
 - In order to make the premium affordable, **financial support** needs to be explored through **NABARD, other institutions, CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds, government support and support from reinsurance companies**.
 - It may be implemented in a **minimum of 500 villages** in different districts of the country in the first year and **increased to 1,000 villages** in the subsequent two years.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** decision to step up purchase of **Government Securities (G-Sec)** under the **Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP)** led to the yield on the benchmark **10-year bond falling below 6%**.
 - ✓ In India, the yield of **10-year G-Sec** is considered the **benchmark and shows the overall interest rate scenario**.
 - ✓ Bond yield is the return an investor realizes on a bond. The mathematical formula for calculating yield is the annual coupon rate divided by the current market price of the bond.
 - **Bond:** Is an instrument to borrow money. A bond could be issued by a country's government or by a company to raise funds.
- ❖ A technical group on **Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs)**, constituted by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, has submitted its report.
 - ✓ **SEBI** set up the technical group in September, 2020 under the chairmanship of **Harsh Bhanwala**, former chairman of NABARD.
 - ✓ Earlier, a **Working Group (WG)** on the SSE, chaired by **Ishaat Hussain**, submitted its report in June 2020.
 - ✓ The idea of the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a platform for listing social enterprise, voluntary and welfare organisations so that they can raise capital was mooted in the **Union Budget 2019-20**.
 - **Social enterprise** can be defined as a non-loss; non-dividend paying company created and designed to address a social problem.
 - ✓ **SSE already exists** in countries such as **Singapore, UK, Canada** among others. These countries allow firms operating in sectors such as health, environment and transportation to raise capital.
- ❖ According to the **S&P Global Ratings**, **India's sovereign rating** will **remain unchanged** at the current level of **BBB-** for the next two years despite the potential adverse impact of surging pandemic on its economy.
 - ✓ **S&P** is one of the **largest credit rating agencies**, assigning letter grades to companies and countries and the debt they issue on a scale of **AAA to D**, indicating their degree of investment risk.
 - **S&P gives a BBB-** or higher rating to countries it considers investment grade, and grades of **BB+ or lower** are deemed to be speculative or "junk" grade.
 - **Moody's considers a Baa3** or higher rating to be of investment grade, and a rating of **Ba1 and below** is speculative.

A **rating agency** is a company that **assesses the financial strength of companies and government entities**, especially their ability to meet principal and interest payments on their debts.

- Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's (S&P) are the big three international credit rating agencies controlling approximately 95% of global ratings business.
- In India, there are **6 credit rating agencies** registered under **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** namely, **CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, SMERA, Fitch India and Brickwork Ratings**.

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank Of India (RBI)** has constituted an **Advisory Group** to assist the **2nd Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**.
 - ✓ The RBI has set up the **RRA 2.0, initially for a period of one year from 1st May, 2021**, with a view to **streamline regulations** and **reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities**.
 - ✓ In **1999**, the **RBI** had set up a **Regulations Review Authority (RRA)** for reviewing the regulations, circulars, reporting systems, based on the feedback from the public, banks, and financial institutions.
 - ✓ **RRA 2.0:**
 - It will focus on **streamlining regulatory instructions, reducing compliance burden** of the **regulated entities** by **simplifying procedures** and **reducing reporting requirements**, wherever possible.
 - It will also obtain feedback from regulated entities.
 - **Regulated entities** include **commercial banks, urban co-operative banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies**.
- ❖ The **Government of India**, in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has decided to issue **Sovereign Gold Bonds** in **6 tranches** from **May 2021 to September 2021**.
 - ✓ Launch: The **Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)** scheme was launched in November 2015 with an **objective** to **reduce the demand for physical gold** and shift a part of the domestic savings - used for the purchase of gold - into financial savings.
- ❖ The **Electoral Bonds** worth **Rs. 695.34 crore** were sold during elections to the Assemblies of **Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, West Bengal, Assam and Kerala**.
 - ✓ The amount sold was the highest-ever for any Assembly elections since the scheme started in 2018.
 - ✓ **Electoral Bond** is a **financial instrument** for making **donations to political parties**.
 - ✓ The **bonds** are issued in multiples of **Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore** without any maximum limit.
 - ✓ **State Bank of India** is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
- ❖ The **Union Government** has integrated the **E-Way Bill (EWB)** system with **FasTag and RFID**.
 - ✓ **E-Way Bill** is usually a unique bill number generated for the specific consignment involving the movement of goods.
 - ✓ Under the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** regime, EWBs are mandatory for inter-state transportation of goods valued over **Rs. 50,000 from April 2018**, with the exemption to precious items such as gold.
 - ✓ The **FASTag** is a reloadable tag that **allows automatic deduction of toll** without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
 - ✓ The tag uses **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
- ❖ The **Supreme Court of India** has upheld the **Central Government 2019** notification that allows lenders to initiate **insolvency proceedings against personal guarantors**.
 - ✓ It will allow the lenders to recover their remaining debt from personal guarantors following the conclusion of the **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**.
 - ✓ The **CIRP** is a recovery mechanism made available to creditors as under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.
- ❖ In the **Financial Year 2020-21**, India sees **growth of 10%** (to \$82 bn) in **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**. **FDI equity investments** rise **19% to \$60 billion**.
 - ✓ In 2019-20, India had received **\$74.39 billion in FDI**, with almost **\$50 billion** coming in the form of equity investments.
 - ✓ **Singapore** emerged as the top investor with almost a **3rd** of all investments, followed by the **US** which accounted for **23% of FDI** and **Mauritius** from where **9% of the foreign capital** flows originated.
 - ✓ The sharpest growth among the top **10 FDI-origin countries** was recorded from **Saudi Arabia**.
 - ✓ **Investments** jumped from **\$90 million** in 2019-20 to **\$2.8 billion in 2020-21**.
 - **Gujarat** was the top **FDI destination in 2020-21**, accounting for **37% of the foreign equity inflows**, followed by **Maharashtra (2nd)** which got 27% of the equity inflows.
 - **Karnataka (3rd)** accounted for another 13% of the equity investments.
 - **Top Sectors:** Computer software and hardware has emerged as the top sector during 2020-21 with about 44% share of the total FDI equity inflow.
 - These are followed by construction (infrastructure) activities (13%) and services sector (8%), respectively.

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- ❖ The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** announced that **Assets Under Management (AUM)** under the **National Pension System (NPS)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, crossed the milestone of **Rs. 6 trillion**.
 - ✓ **AUM** is the total market value of the investments that a person or entity handles on behalf of investors.
- ❖ **Bangladesh** cleared a **USD 200 million currency swap facility for Sri Lanka**, to help **boost its economy**.
 - ✓ The word swap means exchange. A **currency swap** between the 2 countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.
 - ✓ In the present context, a **currency swap** is effectively a loan that Bangladesh will give to Sri Lanka in dollars, with an agreement that the debt will be repaid with interest in Sri Lankan rupees.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released its **Annual Report for 2020-21**.
 - ✓ Gain from **foreign exchange transactions** rose from **Rs 29,993 crore to Rs 50,629 crore in 2020-21**.
 - Foreign Exchange is the trading of one currency for another.
 - ✓ The **rupee strengthened** by **3.5% against** the US dollar (at end-March 2021 over end-March 2020) but underperformed vis-a-vis other **Asian countries during 2020-21**.
 - ✓ **Bank frauds** of **Rs.1 lakh** and more fell by **25% in value to Rs.1.38 trillion in the year 2020-21** with the number of such cases also seeing a decline of 15% during the year.
 - ✓ Total **digital transaction volume in 2020-21** stood at **4,371 crore**, as against **3,412 crore in 2019-20**.
 - ✓ The **RBI is also in the process of extending the geo-tagging framework put in place to capture location of bank branches and ATMs** to cover payment system touch points, enabling accurate capture of their location across the country.
 - RBI predicted **10.5% Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth for the year 2021-22.
- ❖ The **43rd Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting** was held.
 - ✓ This was the **1st meeting** of the **GST Council** in the **financial year 2021-22**. The council's last meeting was held in October 2020.
 - ✓ The **GST Council** decided to exempt the import of many such items.
 - The exemption has been extended to August 2021.
- ❖ The **Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (MCCIA)** collaborated with **NABARD** to launch **India's 1st agro-export facilitation center in Pune**.
 - ✓ It has been launched to **boost agricultural exports** from the region. It will be available to everyone who wants to export their products overseas.
 - ✓ The **main objective** of this center is to increase **India's share of agricultural exports in the world**.
 - ✓ The experts from current agro-exporters and government will help farmers in exporting their products.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved **strategic disinvestment & transfer of management control of IDBI Bank**.
 - ✓ The **Central government** and **LIC** together hold more than **94 percent of the equity in IDBI Bank**. The **government** holds **45.48 percent stake** while **LIC** holds **49.24 percent stake** in IDBI.
- ❖ **SIDBI** has launched 2 new quick credit delivery schemes- **SHWAS and AROG**.
 - ✓ These schemes will help **MSMEs** in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Their names are given below:
 - **SHWAS** (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against the 2nd wave of Covid-19)
 - **AROG** (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during a pandemic)
 - ✓ **SWAS and AROG schemes envisage 100 % funding** up to an amount of **Rs 2 crore to an MSME unit**.
 - ✓ They have been launched to provide funding for production and services related to the supply of oxygen cylinders and essential drugs.
 - **SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against corona virus (SAFE)** scheme was launched by SIDBI last month.
- ❖ **Department of Expenditure** has issued fresh guidelines on the **Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure** for the **financial year 2021-22**.
 - ✓ The **Finance Ministry** has decided to provide **States with an additional amount** of up to **Rs. 15,000 crore**.
 - ✓ The amount will be provided as an **interest-free 50 year loan for spending on capital projects**.
 - ✓ The decision to launch a Scheme for **Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure** was taken last year.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **12th Annual Day** of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** was observed on **20th May**.
 - ✓ **Competition Commission of India** is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the objectives of the **Competition Act, 2002**.
 - ✓ CCI was established by the **Central Government** with effect from **14th October 2003**, but it became fully functional on **20th May, 2009**.
- ❖ **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)** will launch **Nano Urea** in the market.

- ✓ It will be equivalent to **45kg of normal urea**, and it will cost **480 rupees per kg**.
- ✓ It will help in increasing the productivity of the crop by **18-35%** and **reduce the burden of cost for cultivation**.
- ✓ It is **eco-friendly urea** and **reduces the consumption of normal Urea**.
- ❖ The **Indian Broadcasting Foundation** to be renamed as **Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF)**.
 - ✓ The renaming of the **Indian Broadcasting Foundation** has been done to bring broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms under one roof.
 - ✓ **Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation** will form a subsidiary to handle all matters related to digital media.
- ❖ India's rank on **57th EY Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)** has moved up a place to **3rd position**.
 - ✓ **US and China** respectively occupy **1st and 2nd positions** on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index.
 - ✓ **India** was **ranked 4th place** in the previous ranking. **India's good performance** on the index is due to its exceptional performance on the solar photovoltaic front.
 - ✓ Installed solar PV capacity in India has increased to 39 GW. Installed solar PV capacity in India has overtaken the wind capacity for the first time.
- ❖ **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of **YES Asset Management (India) Limited (YES AMC)** and **YES Trustee Limited (YES Trustee)** by **GPL**.
 - ✓ **GPL Finance and Investments Limited (GPL)** will acquire **100% equity shares of YES AMC and YES Trustee**.
 - ✓ GPL will acquire Yes Mutual Fund and become its sole sponsor. It is registered with the **Reserve Bank of India** as a non-deposit taking and non-systemically important Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- ❖ **Google Cloud** and **SpaceX** signed a deal for **providing internet service through Starlink satellite**.
 - ✓ **Google** will provide the **Cloud infrastructure** for this connectivity Project, while **Space X** will install ground terminals in **Google's cloud data centers for connecting Starlink satellites**.
- ❖ **Moody's Investors Service** has slashed **India's GDP growth rate forecast** for FY2022 from **13.7% to 9.3%**.
 - ✓ It has cut India's FY22 growth rate forecast due to the negative impact of the 2nd wave of coronavirus pandemic on the Indian Economy.
- ❖ SBI's **Padma kumar Madhavan Nair** has been appointed as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)**.
 - ✓ **NARCL** is commonly known as **Bad Bank**. Nair is currently serving at the position of **chief general manager (CGM)**, in-charge of stressed assets in SBI.
 - ✓ The announcement for the creation of a **bad bank** was made by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** in the **2021 Union Budget**.
 - ✓ **Asset Reconstruction Company India (Arcil)** is the oldest of different **Asset reconstruction entities in India**.
- ❖ **New Delhi and Mumbai** are in **32nd and 36th positions**, respectively, in the latest **Global Prime Residential Index**.
 - ✓ **Shenzhen** is on the top position in the **Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2021**.
- ❖ **Barclays** cuts down **India's GDP forecast** for FY22 from **11% to 10%**. It has cut down India's GDP growth due to the ongoing lockdown in India.
- ❖ **Facebook** has partnered with the **Indian government** to launch a **vaccine finder tool** on its **mobile app in India**.
 - ✓ It will help people in **finding the location of a nearby vaccination center**. It will also provide information about their working hours of operation.
 - ✓ It will also display walk-in options for **45 years and above people** and also provide a **link to register** on the **Cowin portal**. It will be available in 17 languages.
 - ✓ **Facebook** has also joined hands with many **NGOs** to provide **oxygen concentrators** and other life-saving equipment to COVID patients.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ The **US State Department** has approved the sale of **6 P-8I patrol aircraft** and related equipment to **India**.
 - ✓ The 6 aircraft will come fitted with **encrypted systems**, as India has signed the **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** with the **US**.
 - ✓ The **Defence Acquisition Council** approved the procurement of the aircraft in 2019.
 - It is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and **Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft**.
 - It is a variant of the **P-8A Poseidon aircraft** that Boeing company developed as a replacement for the **US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet**.
 - **Indian Navy** became the **1st international customer** for the **P-8 aircraft in 2009**.
- ❖ **Indian Navy** has launched **Operation Samudra Setu-II** for shipment of **Oxygen-filled containers to India**.
 - ✓ **Operation Samudra Setu** was launched in **May 2020** as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ **Operation Samudra Setu-II:**

- 7 Indian Naval ships viz. **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikanth, Jalashwa and Airavat** have been deployed for shipment of **liquid medical oxygen**-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.
- 2 ships, the **INS Kolkata and INS Talwar**, have entered the **Port of Manama, Bahrain**, to carry back 40 tonnes of liquid oxygen to Mumbai.
- The **INS Jalashwa** is enroute to **Bangkok** while the **INS Airavat** is on its way to **Singapore** on similar missions.
- ❖ **Israel** used its **Iron Dome** air defence system in recent **violent clashes over Jerusalem**.
 - ✓ It is a short-range, **ground-to-air, air defence system** that includes a radar and **Tamir interceptor missiles** that track and neutralise any rockets or missiles aimed at Israeli targets.
 - ✓ It is **used for countering** rockets, artillery & mortars as well as aircraft, helicopters and **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)**.
- ❖ The **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag** got commissioned into the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
 - ✓ It is **third out of five OPV** indigenously designed and built by the **Goa Shipyard Limited**. It is built under the **Make in India** policy.
 - Other four **OPVs** are Indian Coast Guard Ship (**ICGS**) **Saksham, ICGS Sachet, ICGS Sujeet, and ICGS Sarthak**.
- ❖ **'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD** portal was launched by Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** on 27 May.
 - ✓ **SeHAT OPD portal** will provide **tele-medicine services** to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.
- ❖ **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** was conducted by **Indian and Indonesian Navies** in the **southern Arabian Sea**.
 - ✓ **INS Sharda**, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (**OPV**) with a **Chetak helicopter** onboard, represented **Indian Navy**.
 - ✓ **KRI Sultan Hasanudin**, a 90m Corvette, represented **Indonesian Navy**.
- ❖ **Border Roads Organisation** celebrated its **61st Foundation Day** on 7 May.
 - ✓ It is a road construction agency under the **Ministry of Defence**. Its main aim is to provide connectivity to border areas. It is responsible for **constructing and maintaining** the road along **Northern and Western frontiers**.
- ❖ **Armed forces** have launched **Operation CO-JEET** to fight **COVID-19** in India.
 - ✓ Deputy Chief of **Integrated Defence Staff (Medical)** Lieutenant General **Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar** is working to strategize and monitor steps to fight COVID-19.
 - ✓ She is the **3rd woman** to become a **3-star general in the armed forces**. She is a recipient of the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)**.
 - ✓ Under **Operation CO-JEET**, personnel of the **Army**, the **Indian Air Force** and the **Navy** are working to help restore **oxygen supply chains**, set up **COVID beds** and help **civilian administration**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ **India's Health Ministry** said that a new **double mutant variant** of the **coronavirus** had been detected in addition to many other **strains or Variants of Concern (VOCs)** found in **18 states in the country**.
 - ✓ Variants of a virus have **one or more mutations that differentiate it from the other variants** that are in circulation. While most mutations are deleterious for the virus, **some make it easier for the virus to survive**.



- ❖ Many scientists are blaming the **government-backed model, called SUTRA (Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive), and Removed Approach)**, for having a larger role in creating the perception that a **2nd wave of Covid** was **unlikely in India**.
 - ✓ The **2nd wave** of Covid-19 has **claimed thousands of lives** since April 2021.
 - ✓ Scientists from the **IITs of Kanpur and Hyderabad** have applied the **SUTRA Model** to predict the **Covid graph in India**.
 - It **1st** came into public attention when one of its expert members announced in October 2020 that India was "**past its peak**".

- ❖ Recently, **8th Asiatic lions** at **Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park** have **tested positive** for the deadly coronavirus.
 - ✓ It is the **1st known** case of the human infecting the felines and making them sick in India.
 - ✓ Earlier in 2020, **Tiger being infected with Covid-19** was reported in **New York** (Bronx Zoo).
- ❖ **NASA's OSIRIS-Rex** spacecraft departed from asteroid **Bennu**, and started its **2-year long journey back to Earth**.
 - ✓ **OSIRIS-Rex** is NASA's **1st mission** to visit a near-Earth asteroid, survey its surface and collect a sample from it.
 - ✓ **OSIRIS-Rex Mission:**
 - It is the **United States' 1st asteroid** sample return mission, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to earth for scientific study.
 - The **OSIRIS-Rex (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer)** spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu.
 - **The mission** is essentially a **seven-year-long voyage** and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the **Earth (in 2023)**.
- ❖ **China's** spacecraft **Tianwen-1** landed on **Mars** carrying its **1st Mars rover** named **Zhurong**.
 - ✓ It became the **3rd country to land on Mars** after the **US and Soviet Union**.
 - ✓ **China's** previous '**Yinghuo-1'** **Mars mission**, which was supported by a **Russian spacecraft**, had failed after it did not leave the earth's orbit and disintegrated over the **Pacific Ocean in 2012**.
 - The **Tianwen-1 Spacecraft** was lifted off on a **Long March 5 rocket**, from the **Wenchang** launch center in **July 2020**.
- ❖ The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** approved **India's 1st self-use Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)** for Covid-19 named as **CoviSelf**.
 - ✓ It is developed by **MyLab Discovery Solutions**, a **Pune-based molecular company**.
 - ✓ **ICMR** is the **apex body in India** for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, and is one of the **oldest medical research bodies** in the world.
- ❖ The **government** launched the **1st phase** of the latest update to its **digital corporate compliance portal**, **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) 21 Version 3.0**.
 - ✓ It will help in improving **Ease of Doing Business** in India. **India ranked 63rd out of 190 countries** in **Ease Doing Business 2020: World Bank Report**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Ayush** launched its **Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR)** portal and the **3rd version of Ayush Sanjivani App** in a virtual event.
 - ✓ It is conceptualized and developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** as a platform to **support both Ayush practitioners and the public**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has asked all **social media intermediaries** to share their compliance details over the new **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**.
 - ✓ **The government** had issued **guidelines and digital media ethics code** for social media platforms, digital channels, and OTT platforms. The new rule has come into force on 25 May.
 - ✓ According to the new rule, any **social media platform** with more than **50 lakh users** will be considered as a significant **Social Media Intermediary**.
 - ✓ Social media giants **Facebook and Twitter**, instant messaging applications **WhatsApp and Google** haven't complied with the new rules yet.
- ❖ The **Dsepartment of Atomic Energy (DAE)** will construct **India's 1st research reactor** on the **public-private partnership (PPP) model**.
 - ✓ **Department of atomic energy (DAE)** will build this **reactor in association** with the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.**
 - ✓ The research reactor will be designed by **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**. It will produce radioisotopes.
- ❖ **NASA** is planning to land its **1st mobile robot** on the **Moon** in late **2023** under its **Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS)** program.
 - ✓ **The robot** will search for **ice and other resources** on and below the **lunar surface**.
 - ✓ The name of the Robot is **Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER)**. It will go to the **South Pole of the moon**.
 - ✓ **VIPER** is the **1st resource mapping mission** on another **celestial body**.
 - ✓ The duration of **VIPER mission** has been increased from one to **3 lunar days** (100 Earth days).
 - ✓ **VIPER** will carry **4 instruments on board**. Their names are given next.
 - Regolith and Ice Drill for Exploring New Terrains (**TRIDENT**) hammer drill.
 - Mass Spectrometer Observing Lunar Operations (**MSOLO**) instrument.
 - Near Infrared Volatiles Spectrometer System (**NIRVSS**).
 - Neutron Spectrometer System (**NSS**).

- ❖ The **E-Committee** of the **Supreme Court** has released a manual for the "**e-Courts Services Mobile app**" in **14 languages**. The manual has been released in **English** and other regional languages.
 - ✓ The "**e-Courts Services Mobile app**" has been launched by **Supreme Court** for providing e-Courts services to Litigants, Citizens, Lawyers, Police, Government Agencies, and other Institutional Litigants.
- ❖ Rural Development Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched **National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS)** and the **Area officer monitoring App**.
 - ✓ The **NMMS App** will help in **tracking the attendance of workers** at **Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites**. It will make the payment process faster.
 - ✓ The **Area Officer Monitoring App** will store the **go-coordinate tagged photograph** and findings of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, PMAYG, PMGSY schemes. It will help in better implementation of the government programmes.
- ❖ **Iran** has launched its most powerful supercomputer '**Simorgh**'.
 - ✓ It has been developed by **Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT)**.
 - ✓ It will be used for the analysis of **artificial intelligence, traffic and weather data, and image processing**. It will be used for cloud hosting for some local private firms.
- ❖ **China** has become the **1st country** in the world to **ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances**.
 - ✓ **China** has banned synthetic cannabinoid substances to **curb the manufacturing and trafficking of the drug**.
 - ✓ **Synthetic cannabinoids** are man-made substances identical to chemicals found in the cannabis plant.
- ❖ **IIT Ropar** has developed a **portable eco-friendly electric cremation system**.
 - ✓ It is one of its kind of technology that produces **no smoke despite** using wood for cremation. It is based on wick-stove technology.
 - ✓ The **cart-shaped mobile cremation system** has **stainless steel insulation** on both sides of the cart for reducing heat loss and wood consumption.
- ❖ **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has launched the '**Dost for Life**' mobile app for students and parents.
 - ✓ It has been launched for the **psychological counselling** of students of classes 9 to 12 and Parents.
 - ✓ **CBSE** will organize live counselling sessions thrice a week by trained counselors.
- ❖ **SpaceX** will launch **DOGE-1 Satellite** funded with the **cryptocurrency Dogecoin**.
 - ✓ This announcement was recently made by **Canadian company Geometric Energy Corporation**, which will lead the lunar mission.
 - ✓ **DOGE-1** will be launched aboard a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** in the **first quarter of 2022**.
- ❖ **Scientists have discovered** the lightest known type of Uranium, **Uranium-214**.
 - ✓ The discovery of the lightest known Uranium could help us know more about alpha particles that are released from the decay of certain radioactive elements.
 - ✓ **Uranium-214** is an isotope of Uranium. It is much lighter than more common uranium isotopes, including Uranium-235. Uranium-235 is used in nuclear reactors.
 - ✓ The **new Uranium isotope** has been created at Heavy Ion Research Facility in Lanzhou, China, by shining a beam of Argon at Tungsten.

SPORTS

- ❖ **Pooja Rani** has won gold medal in the **75kg Women's category** at **Asian Boxing Championships** in Dubai.
 - ✓ Legendary pugilist **MC Mary Kom, Lalbuatsaihi and Anupama** won silver medals.
- ❖ **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been appointed to **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** council for the **period 2021-25**.
 - ✓ He is currently the **Badminton Association of India (BAI)** president. He is also the Vice President of Badminton Asia.
 - ✓ BWF President **Paul-Erik Hoyer** was re-elected unopposed. BWF Deputy President **Khunying Patama of Thailand** was also re-elected unopposed.
- ❖ The **U-17 Women's World Cup** will be organized in **India** from **October 11 to 30, 2022**. The **FIFA Council** announced the date in the **71st FIFA Congress**.
 - ✓ Earlier, FIFA had cancelled the 2021 Women's Under-17 World Cup due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was supposed to be hosted by India.
 - ✓ **FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup** will be held in **Costa Rica** from 10 to 28 August 2022
 - ✓ The **2022 FIFA World Cup** will be hosted by **Qatar**, in which 32 teams will participate.
- ❖ **Ramesh Powar** has been appointed as **head coach** of the **Indian Women's Cricket Team**.
 - ✓ He has been appointed by the 3-member **Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC)** of BCCI. **Madan Lal, Sulakshana Naik, and RP Singh** are members of the Committee.
 - ✓ **Ramesh Powar** is a **former Indian cricketer**. He will replace **WV Raman**.
- ❖ The **Shotgun World Cup** is being organized from May 7th to 17th in **Lonato, Italy**.
 - ✓ India's **Gurjoat Singh Khangura** started his journey in the **Shotgun World Cup 2021** by shooting 74 out of 75 in the opening three rounds of the men's skeet event.
 - ✓ **Angad Vir Singh Bajwa** is also participating in this world cup. He is on the 53rd spot.

- ✓ A total of **399 athletes from 56 countries** are taking part in this World Cup.
- ✓ It is being organized by the **International Shooting Sport Federation**.
- ❖ **Rafael Nadal, Naomi Osaka and Lewis Hamilton** have won **Laureus World Sports Awards 2021**.
- ✓ Spain's **Rafael Nadal** has won the **Laureus Sportsman of the year award**. Japan's **Naomi Osaka** has won the **Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award**.
- ✓ The names of other winners of the **Laureus World Sports Awards 2021** are given below.
 - Team of the Year Award: **Bayern Munich**.
 - Breakthrough of the Year Award: **Patrick Mahomes**.
 - Comeback of the Year Award: **Max Parrot**.
 - Lifetime Achievement Award: **Billie Jean King**.
- ❖ **Mark Selby** has become **World Champion** for the **4th time in snooker**.
- ✓ **Mark Selby** defeated **Shaun Murphy** by 18-15 victory at Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.
- ❖ **PV Sindhu** and Canada's **Michelle Li** have been selected as athlete ambassadors for '**Believe in Sports**' campaign of the **International Olympic Committee**.
- ❖ Sri Lanka all-rounder **Thisara Perera** has announced retirement from international cricket.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- ❖ A **Bangalore** based startup has received the **National Award 2021** from **Technology Development Board (TDB)** for developing a commercial solution for conversion of **carbon dioxide (CO₂)** to chemicals and fuels.
- ✓ The startup has received funding under the **Nano Mission**.
- ❖ **Thamizh's** debut film '**Seththumaan**' and **Karishma Dube's** short film '**Bittu**' have bagged **top prizes** at the **Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) 2021**.
- ✓ The **19th edition** of the **Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA)** has been organized from May 20-27.
- ✓ Tamil film '**Seththumaan**' won **Grand Jury Award** for Best Feature film and **Karishma Dube's** short film '**Bittu**' won the **Grand Jury Prize for Best Short Film**.
- ✓ Actor **Nivita Chaliki** was recognized for her performance in the short film '**Forever Tonight**'.
- ✓ **The Audience Award for Best Short film** was given to '**The Song We Sang**'.
- ✓ '**Fire In The Mountains**' has won the **Audience Award for the Best Feature film**.
- ❖ **Suresh Mukund** wins the **World Choreography Awards 2020** title. He has won this award in the best **choreography category** for the '**World of Dance Season 3**', a television reality show.
- ✓ He has become the **1st Indian** to win the **World Choreography Awards** title. He is the founder of the dance group **Kings United**.
- ❖ Renowned Professor **C.N.R. Rao** will be awarded the **International Eni Award 2020** for research into **renewable energy**.
- ✓ He has been working on **hydrogen energy**. He has been working on the **Hydrogen storage, photochemical and electrochemical production of hydrogen**, and solar production of hydrogen.
- ✓ The **International Eni Award 2020** will be given on 14 October 2021 in **Rome**.
- ❖ **Shaji N M**, a farmer from **Kerala**, has won the **India Biodiversity Award 2021** in the **individual category** of '**Conservation of domesticated species**'.
- ✓ He has been awarded this prize on the occasion of the **International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2021**.
- ✓ He is also known as the '**Tuber Man**' of Kerala. He is famous for cultivating more than 200 species of the tuber.
- ❖ Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has been conferred the '**International Invincible Gold Medal**' award of **2021**.
- ✓ He has been honoured with this award for his **outstanding service to humanity** through his writings, social and public life.
- ✓ His contribution to the **world peace program and propagation** of traditional knowledge in a **scientific manner** is remarkable.
- ❖ Miss Mexico **Andrea Meza** has won **Miss Universe 2020**.
- ✓ Miss Brazil, **Julia Gama**, was the runner-up. Miss Peru, **Janick Maceta Del Castillo**, achieved the third position.
- ❖ **Moctar Ouane** is reappointed as **Prime Minister** of **Mali**.
- ❖ **IREDA** has been given **Green Urja Award** for being the **Leading Public Institution in Financing Institutions** for **Renewable Energy** by the **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**.
- ✓ **Pradip Kumar Das**, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), **IREDA**, received the award from **Dr. Ajay Mathur**, Director General, **International Solar Alliance**.
- ✓ **Shri Anil Razdan**, Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Energy, was also present in the virtual ceremony.
- ❖ **Anupam Kher** won the best actor award at **New York City International Film Festival**.
- ✓ He has got this award for his short film "**Happy Birthday**". It has been directed by **Prasad Kadam**.

- ✓ This film has also won the **Best Short Film award** at the **New York International Film Festival**.
- ❖ Justice **Gita Mittal**, former **Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court**, has been conferred the **Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021** by the **International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)**.
 - ✓ She has shared this award with **Justice Margarita Luna Ramos of Mexico**.
 - ✓ She has been honoured with this award at **IAWJ's Biennial Conference**.
 - ✓ She has been awarded for her effort in **raising awareness about the right to equality for every human being**.
 - ✓ She was the **1st woman Chief Justice of J&K High Court**. At present, **Gita Mittal** is the **Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)**.

PERSON APPOINTED /RESIGNED

- ❖ The **Central Government** has appointed '**Subodh Kumar Jaiswal**' as a new **Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.
- ❖ Former **Narcotics Commissioner of India**, **Jagjit Pavadia**, has been elected as the **President of the International Narcotics Control Board**.
- ❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam** as **Commerce Secretary**.
 - ✓ He will assume the charge in place of **Anup Wadhawan** from July.
- ❖ **Bashar Al-Assad** has become the **President of Syria** for the **4th time**.
- ❖ **Andy Jassy** will officially become **CEO of Amazon** on **5th July 2021**.
 - ✓ In February 2021, Amazon had announced that **Andy Jassy** would become the new **CEO of Amazon**.
 - ✓ **Andy Jassy** is currently **CEO of Amazon Web Services**.
- ❖ **Martha Koome** has been appointed as **Kenya's 1st female chief justice**. She is appointed by President **Uhuru Kenyatta**.
- ❖ Senior **virologist Shahid Jameel** has resigned as chairman of scientific advisory **group of Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)**.
 - ✓ INSACOG is a forum established by the union government in December last year for surveillance of circulating strains of COVID-19 in India.
 - ✓ Out of the **6 variants** of concern of coronavirus, **India** is dealing with three variants. They are **B.1.1.7** (UK variant), **B.1.351** (South Africa variant), and **P.1** (Brazil variant).
 - ✓ Last year, traces of double mutants - an Indian version called **B.1.617** - appeared for the **1st time** in cases of Maharashtra.
- ❖ **K P Sharma Oli** has sworn in as **Nepal's Prime Minister for the 3rd time**. He is the **43rd Prime Minister of Nepal**.
- ❖ **Jose J. Kattoor** has been appointed as **Executive Director (ED)** of **RBI**.
- ❖ **Justice P C Pant** has been appointed as the acting chairperson of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- ❖ **1st woman officer** for a road project along the border with **China** has been appointed by **BRO**.
 - ✓ **Vaishali S Hiwase** is the name of the officer. She comes from **Wardha in Maharashtra**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ Historian **Vikram Sampath** has written a book titled "**Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)**".
 - ✓ In this book, he has written about the political thinkers of the **20th century**.
 - ✓ He has written about the events of **Veer Savarkar's life** from 1924 to 1966.
- ❖ Bollywood actor **Neena Gupta** will launch her autobiography '**Sach Kahun Toh**'. She wrote this book during the lockdown in 2020.
- ❖ **Avtar Singh Bhasin** has penned a book titled "**Nehru, Tibet and China**". It has been published by **Penguin-India**.
- ❖ **Shivshankar Menon** has written a new book titled as "**India and Asian geopolitics: The Past, Present**".
 - ✓ The **1st part** of book covers the period from decolonization to globalization. The second part of book covers contemporary Asia.
- ❖ Former diplomat **Preet Mohan Singh Malik** has written a book on Sikkim titled as "**Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance**".
- ❖ Journalist **Shakoore Rather** has written his debut book '**Life in the Clock Tower Valley**'. It was released in March 2021.
 - ✓ It was published by **Speaking Tiger**.
- ❖ **Meghan Markle** has made an announcement of her **1st children's book**.
 - ✓ The book is about the relationship between Prince **Harry** and their son, **Archie**.
 - ✓ The book will be titled as **The Bench**.



IBPS-RRB Results - 2020/21

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Result...

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कभी भी जीवनमे आधे रास्ते से पीछे न मुड़िये, क्योंकि जितना समय पीछे आने मे लगेगा,
उतने समयमे आप अपने लक्ष्य तक पहुँच जाओगे

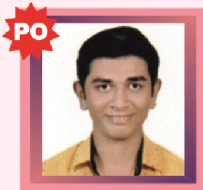
आज हमने हमारे लक्ष्य को पा लिया



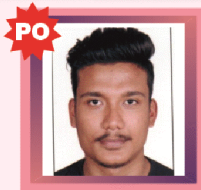
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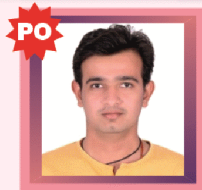
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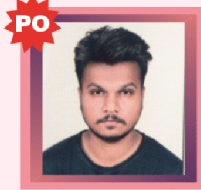
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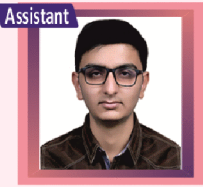
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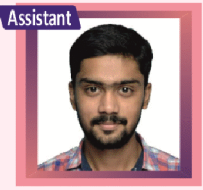
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OBITUARY

- ❖ **Sunderlal Bahuguna**, the **Gandhian** who was the driving force behind the **Chipko movement** died due to Covid-19.
- ❖ Freedom fighter **H S Doreswamy** died at the age of 103.
- ❖ Former **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)** chairman **Srikumar Banerjee** died at the age of 75.
 - ✓ He worked as the director of the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** and also served as the secretary of the **Department of Atomic Energy**.
- ❖ **K Rajanarayanan**, renowned **Tamil writer** and novelist popularly known as **Ki Ra**, passed away.
- ❖ Former **National Security Guard (NSG)** Director-General **JK Dutt** died at the age of 72.
- ❖ Distinguished mathematician **M. S. Narasimhan** died at the age of 88.
- ❖ Times Group chairperson **Indu Jain** passed away.
- ❖ Former CBI officer **K Ragothaman** passed away.
- ❖ Freedom fighter and INA veteran **Lalti Ram** passes away.
- ❖ Padma Shri awardee music composer **Vanraj Bhatia** has passed away.
 - ✓ He scored the music for the TV series '**Yatra**' and '**Bharat Ek Khoj**'. He also scored music for Shyam Benegal classics like '**Ankur**' and '**Bhumika**'.
- ❖ Rashtriya Lok Dal chief and former union minister **Ajit Singh** passed away.
- ❖ **Rashpal Malhotra**, the founder of the **Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID)**, died.
- ❖ Former Attorney General **Soli Sorabjee** died at the age of 91.

Days|Week|Year

- ❖ **1st May 2021:- International Labour Day.**
- ❖ **2nd May 2021:- World Laughter Day.**
- ❖ **3rd May 2021:- World Press Freedom Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** 'Information as a Public Good'.
- ❖ **5th May 2021:- World Hand Hygiene Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Achieving hand hygiene at the point of care.
- ❖ **5th May 2021:- World Asthma Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions.
- ❖ **6th May 2021:- International No Diet Day.**
- ❖ **8th May 2021:- World Thalassaemia Day or International Thalassaemia Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Addressing Health Inequalities across the Global Thalassaemia Community.
- ❖ **8th May 2021:- World Migratory Bird Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a bird!.
- ❖ **8th May 2021:- World Red Cross Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Together we are #unstoppable!.
- ❖ **11th May 2021:- National Technology Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future.
- ❖ **12th May 2021:- International Nurses Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A vision for future healthcare.
- ❖ **15th May 2021:- International Day of Families.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Families and new technologies.
- ❖ **15th May 2021:- International Astronomy Day.**
- ❖ **16th May 2021:- World Agri Tourism Day.**
- ❖ **16th May 2021:- National Dengue Day.**
- ❖ **17th May 2021:- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times.
- ❖ **17th May 2021:- World Hypertension Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control It, Live Longer.
- ❖ **18th May 2021:- International Museum Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.

Notable Museums in India

National Museum, New Delhi (Subordinate Office under the Ministry of Culture).
 National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.
 Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.
 Indian Museum, Kolkata.
 Archaeological Survey of India site Museum, Goa.
 National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi.

- ❖ 18th May 2021:- **World AIDS Vaccine Day.**
- ❖ 20th May 2021:- **World Bee Day.**
- ❖ 20th May 2021:- **World Metrology Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Measurement for Health.
- ❖ 21st May 2021:- **International Tea Day.**
- ❖ 21st May 2021:- **Anti-Terrorism Day.**
- ❖ 22nd May 2021:- **International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) (International Biodiversity day).**
 - ✓ **Theme:** We're part of the solution.
- ❖ 23rd May 2021:- **World Turtle Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Turtles Rock!.
- ❖ 24th May 2021:- **Commonwealth Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Delivering a Common Future.
- ❖ 25th May 2021:- **World Thyroid Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Mother-Baby-Iodine: The Importance of Iodine on the Woman and her Baby.
- ❖ 28th May 2021:- **World Hunger Day.**
- ❖ 29th May 2021:- **International Day of UN Peacekeepers.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security.
- ❖ 31st May 2021:- **World No Tobacco Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:** Quit tobacco to be a winner.

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