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# MANTHAN

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*A General Awareness Weekly*

*3<sup>rd</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021*

# PREFACE

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**Dear Students,**

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the Week. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfill aspirations.

**Happy Reading**

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## National



### Mamata Banerjee sworn-in as Chief Minister of West Bengal for 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive term

- **TMC leader Mamata Banerjee was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal for the third time.** Due to the corona situation, the list of guests invited to the ceremony at the Rajbhawan has been kept as short as possible. **She must be elected to the state assembly within six months to continue as Chief Minister of West Bengal as she was defeated in the recent state assembly elections from Nandigram Assembly constituency.**
- **The Election Commission said that the returning officer is the final authority under law to decide on recounting of votes in Nandigram Assembly constituency, where West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost the election to her former aide and Bharatiya Janata Party rival Suwendu Adhikari.**
- **“The returning officer shall decide the matter and may allow the application in whole or in part or may reject it if it appears to him to be frivolous or unreasonable,” the poll panel said in a statement. The returning officer of an assembly constituency performs statutory functions under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 in quasi-judicial capacity.**
- **When an application for recounting of votes is made the returning officer shall decide the matter and may allow the application in whole or in part or may reject it in its entirety if it appears to him to be frivolous or unreasonable.** As per provisions of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, the decision of a returning officer can **only be challenged through an election petition under section 80 of the Act.**

**Under Article 164(1), the Governor shall appoint the Chief Minister exercising his own discretion, according to established practice and conventions. All other Ministers are to be appointed by the Governor on the Advice of the Chief Minister. In view of the provisions of Article 164(2) the Council of Ministers shall all be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the State.** This provision, in a sense, indicates that members of the Council of Ministers shall all be members of the Legislature, to which the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible. This, however, is subject to an **exception provided by Article 164(4) to meet an extra-ordinary situation, where the Chief Minister considers the inclusion of a particular person, who is not a member of the Legislature, in the Council of Ministers necessary. To take care of such a situation, Article 164(4) provides that if a non-member is appointed a Minister, he would cease to be a Minister unless in a short period of six consecutive months from the date of his appointment he gets elected to the Legislature. In the S.R. Chaudhuri vs State Of Punjab & Ors case, Litigation followed in 2001, the Supreme Court declared the resign-and-reappoint bid as “improper, undemocratic, invalid and unconstitutional”. Tej Parkash Singh of the Congress was appointed a minister in 1995 and was reappointed at the expiry of six months’ period in 1996 without getting elected to state assembly.**

West Bengal is a state in the eastern region of India along the Bay of Bengal. Part of the Bengal region of the Indian subcontinent, it borders Bangladesh in the east, and Nepal and Bhutan in the north. The state capital is Kolkata. Under the East India Company rule and later under the British Raj, Calcutta served as the capital of British-held territories in India until 1911, when its perceived geographical disadvantages, combined with growing nationalism in Bengal, led to a shift of the capital to New Delhi. Mamata Banerjee is serving as the current Chief Minister of West Bengal since 2011, the first woman to hold the office. Jagdeep Dhankhar is serving as the current Governor of West Bengal.

## DMK Chief M.K. Stalin becomes Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

- **DMK Chief M.K. Stalin** has become the **Chief Minister of Tamilnadu** after being elected as the Party's legislative leader at Chennai. The unanimous decision to this effect was taken at the newly elected legislative members meeting of the DMK at the Party's headquarters.
- **The DMK chief was administered the oath by Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit** at the Raj Bhavan in Chennai. **MK Stalin has assumed office for the first time as the Chief Minister. MK Stalin was sworn in as the Tamil Nadu CM** along with 33 members of his cabinet.
- **The DMK swept the 2021 assembly election, winning 133 seats.** Along with allies, including Congress, the alliance has a **total seat strength of 159 in the 234-member Assembly**. The AIADMK won 66 seats and its allies the BJP and the PMK, four and five seats respectively. **M.K. Stalin took over the reigns of his party after the demise of his father and DMK patriarch Karunanidhi in 2018** and steered the Party to victory in 2019 general elections and also in the 16<sup>th</sup> assembly elections.

Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian subcontinent and is bordered by the union territory of Puducherry and the South Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Its capital and largest city is Chennai. Its official language is Tamil, which is one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world. Banwarilal Purohit is the current Governor of Tamil Nadu.

## Five four states election results announced, TMC swept the West Bengal Assembly elections, DMK in Tamil Nadu, BJP in Assam and LDF in Kerala

- Election results 2021 for West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry assemblies were declared on May 2. **The TMC managed a landslide victory in West Bengal, the same as DMK in Tamil Nadu and Left-led LDF in Kerala. The BJP managed to retain power in Assam and cruised to victory in Puducherry.**
- The TMC's winning candidates have an average margin of victory of 31,760 votes; BJP winners have an average margin of 14,010. **The mean margin of victory across all 292 seats for which elections were held, is 26,965.**
- In West Bengal, **The Trinamool Congress, which swept the West Bengal Assembly elections, has won its 213 seats by an average margin that is more than double the BJP's in its 77 seats,** Election Commission data show.
- The Election Commission said that the **BJP's vote share in West Bengal is down by a little over 2 per cent as compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.** In 2019, the BJP won 18 out of 42 Lok Sabha seats in Bengal, securing a vote share of 40.70 per cent.
- **The DMK swept the 2021 assembly election, winning 133 seats.** Along with allies, including Congress, the alliance has a **total seat strength of 159 in the 234-member Assembly**. The AIADMK won 66 seats and its allies the BJP and the PMK, four and five seats respectively.
- **Led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) rewrote history in Kerala** by winning a second term in a state that had not returned an incumbent government in four decades. **Vijayan, CPI(M) leader, became only the third chief minister in Kerala's history to be re-elected and the first to continue in office after completing a full term.** The LDF's win is just the second instance of a ruling front receiving consecutive terms.

- **The LDF won 97 of the state's 140 seats, besting its own 2016 tally of 91 seats.** The opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) won 47 seats, while challenger Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) failed to open its account.
- **The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led NDA has retained power in Assam. The saffron party won 60 of the 126 seats, its allies Asom Gana Parishad nine and United Peoples Party (Liberal) six.** Congress bagged 29 seats, its partner All India United Democratic Front 16 and Bodo Democratic Front four. CPI-M won one seat, and another went to an independent. Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has won Jalukbari seat for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive term by a margin of 1,01,911 votes.
- In the recently-concluded Puducherry Legislative Assembly polls, **AINRC-BJP-AIADMK contested as part of the NDA alliance. In the polls, AINRC won 10 seats and BJP won six seats to form the government.** After several rounds of talks between the alliance parties, BJP MLAs pledged their support to nominate AINRC leader N Rangasamy as the Chief Minister. **He was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry on May 7. Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath of office to Rangaswamy who will lead a coalition government of BJP members in his cabinet.**

**Election Commission of India operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324.** The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country. **Chief Election Commissioner of India is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service and mostly from the Indian Administrative Service.** It is very difficult to remove the authority of the Chief Election Commissioner once appointed by the president, as two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha need to vote against him for disorderly conduct or improper actions. **Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India, serving from 21 March 1950 to 19 December 1958. Sushil Chandra is a 1980 batch Indian Revenue Service officer. He is the current and 24<sup>th</sup> Chief Election Commissioner.**

### **India, UK adopt Roadmap 2030 to elevate bilateral ties to comprehensive Strategic Partnership**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson have adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.**
- The Roadmap will pave the way for a **deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years in the areas of people to people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health.**
- Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Johnson for the **prompt medical assistance provided by the UK in the wake of the severe second wave of Covid19 in India.**
- Prime Minister Johnson appreciated **India's role in extending assistance to the UK and other countries over the last year, including by way of supply of pharmaceuticals and vaccines.**
- **The two Prime Ministers launched an 'Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP)' to unleash the trade potential by setting an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030.**
- **As part of the ETP, India and the UK agreed on a roadmap to negotiate a comprehensive and balanced FTA, including consideration of an Interim Trade Agreement for delivering early gains. The enhanced trade partnership will generate several thousands of direct and indirect jobs in both the countries.**
- **A new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership' was announced at the Virtual Summit that aims to support the transfer of inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries, starting with Africa.**
- Both Prime Ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and G7. **They reiterated commitment to climate action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and agreed to closely engage in the run up to CoP26 hosted by the UK later this year.**

**The Constitution of the United Kingdom or British constitution comprises the written and unwritten arrangements that establish the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a political body. Unlike in most countries, no attempt has been made to codify such arrangements into a single document. Thus, it is known as an uncodified constitution.** This enables the constitution to be easily changed as no provisions are formally entrenched. **However, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom recognises that there are constitutional principles, including parliamentary sovereignty, the rule of law, democracy and upholding international law.**

## Indian Army inaugurates first solar energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA in North Sikkim

- **Indian Army** in its quest for **harnessing renewable energy** for its troops inaugurated the **First Green Solar Energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA** using **Vanadium based battery technology** in **North Sikkim**, at an altitude of 16000 ft.
- A team of eminent faculty from the **Institute led by Prof Prakash Ghosh** and **troops of the Indian Army** **completed the project braving extreme climatic conditions**. The project will immensely benefit troops in the forward areas and will be environment friendly. **The Indian Army launched a solar plant at Jalandhar Cantonment as a part of the ‘Go Green’ initiative**. They have chosen World Earth Day to launch the plant.

**Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army, and its professional head is the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. Two officers have been conferred with the rank of field marshal, a five-star rank, which is a ceremonial position of great honour. General Manoj Mukund Naravane is a Four Star general of the Indian Army and the 28<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Army Staff (COAS).**

## EAM S Jaishankar embarked on 4-day visit to London for G7 Foreign Ministers’ meet

- **The External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar** had embarked on a **four-day visit to London** on May 3, 2021. The visit from May 3 to May 6 was **primarily scheduled for the union minister’s participation in a meeting of the foreign ministers of G7 countries in London** and India was invited for a meeting as a **guest country**.
- The G7 members meeting provided also a **unique opportunity to the External Affairs Minister of India to hold bilateral talks with his counterparts of various countries including the US, Canada, Japan, and South Africa**. During his visit, the **Union Minister also took part in the first India-France-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue to discuss the Indo-Pacific Strategic Landscape**.
- **The External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar** on May 3, 2021, had **met the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in London, before the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting**. The Union Minister thanked Blinken for the support extended by the **United States to India amid the crisis caused by the second wave of the pandemic**. The other issues that were discussed were climate change, Myanmar violence, and the developments in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** is the **current Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India** since 31 May 2019. He is a member of the **Bharatiya Janata Party** and is a **Member of Indian Parliament in the Rajya Sabha since 5 July 2019, representing Gujarat**. He has previously served as the **Foreign Secretary** from January 2015 to January 2018. He joined the **Indian Foreign Service in 1977**.

## Govt issues guidelines for Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

- **Government of India** has issued guidelines for **‘Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)**. Minister of Food Processing Industry **Narendra Singh Tomar** also **launched an online portal for the PLISFPI**.
- As part of the Prime Minister’s announcement of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, the **Government** has **approved a new Central Sector Scheme namely PLISFPI for implementation during 2021-22 to 2026-27** with an **outlay of 10 thousand 900 crore rupees**.
- **The aim is to support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with India’s natural resource endowment and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets**.

One little-noticed scheme is bringing large manufacturing capacity to India. Lost in the news shuffle caused by the pandemic, the **government’s production-linked incentive scheme (PLI), instituted in April 2020 for large-scale electronics manufacturing in India, has gained significant traction over the past year**. It offers a simple and

**direct incentive based on incremental sales, designed to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone and specified electronic component manufacturing units. In November 2020, the PLI scheme was extended to ten more sectors, including food processing, battery storage, automobile components and specialty steel.** The PLI scheme is designed with four objectives: **1) Target specific product areas; 2) Introduce non-tariff measures in order to compete more effectively with cheap imports; 3) Blend domestic and export sales to make manufacturing competitive and sustainable; and 4) Promote manufacturing at home while encouraging investment from within and outside India.** The incentive is 4-6% of incremental sales with a defined base year. The scheme has been carefully constructed to adhere to World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. By its very construct, the PLI scheme does not link the eligibility or quantum of its subsidy to exports and local value addition, thus making it WTO-compliant.

## **Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off first supply of UCO based Biodiesel blended Diesel**

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remotely **flagged off the first supply of UCO, Used Cooking Oil based Biodiesel blended Diesel from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.**
- Centre had **initiated Expressions of Interest for "Procurement of Bio-diesel produced from Used Cooking Oil" on the occasion of World Biofuel Day.** Mr Pradhan complimented the Oil industry on the stellar role played by them in keeping the fuel lines running despite the stiff challenges of the pandemic.
- **Regarding the first supply of UCO-based Biodiesel from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal, the Minister termed it as landmark in India's pursuance of Biofuels.** This initiative will garner substantial economic benefits for the nation by shoring up indigenous Biodiesel supply, reducing import dependence, and generating rural employment.
- The Petroleum Minister informed that this initiative will **provide substantial economic benefits to the country by boosting the indigenous biodiesel supply, generating rural employment, and reducing import dependence.**

**Biodiesel is an alternative fuel that is similar to fossil diesel. Biodiesel can be produced from animal fats, vegetable oil, and waste cooking oil.** A major advantage of Biodiesel is its carbon-neutrality, meaning that the oilseed absorbs the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as is released when the fuel is combusted in a vehicle. **Biodiesel is also completely non-toxic and is biodegradable.** **Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)** aims at blending ethanol with petrol, thereby bringing it under the category of biofuels and saving millions of dollars by cutting fuel imports and decreasing carbon emissions. The target is to achieve 20% blending of ethanol by 2025.

## **Going green: Delhi Airport becomes first globally to have 1,000 TaxiBot movements**

- **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced completing 1,000 movements of sustainable taxing of aircraft with TaxiBot** — a semi-robotic hybrid special purpose vehicle and thus helped the airport in significantly reducing carbon emission and saving fuel.
- Delhi Airport says it is the **only airport in the world" to reach this landmark. Introduced two years ago, the use of TaxiBot's have helped in reducing around about 532 tonnes of carbon emissions** and helped airlines save 2.1 lakh litres of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) that is burnt by aircraft during taxiing.
- **IGI is the only airport in the world which adopted this green taxiing solution in May 2019. The adoption of TaxiBot was one of the DIAL's strategic initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, as part of its objective of becoming a 'net zero carbon emission airport' by 2030.**

## **First in India: Telangana government to launch outpatient clinics for COVID infectees**

- **For the first time in the country, the Telangana government opened COVID-19 outpatient (OP) clinics on a massive scale with an objective to reduce the mortality rate as well as the number of serious cases.** Close to 6,000 COVID-19 outpatient clinics will become operational across the State, including areas under the GHMC.

- **These clinics will be started at all PHCs, Basti Dawakhana, sub-centres and other health facilities.** The State government took the decision to start COVID-19 OP services to avoid the delay in testing and treating. Currently, people suffering from fever are resorting to self-medication and going for tests if their condition does not improve. By the time they undergo tests and get the results, seven to eight days are wasted, which is leading to COVID-19 cases turning serious. **Named after former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi, it is the busiest airport in India in terms of passenger traffic since 2009.** It is also the **busiest airport in the country in terms of cargo traffic, overtaking Mumbai during late 2015.**

**Telangana is a state in India situated on the south-central stretch of the Indian peninsula on the high Deccan Plateau. On 2 June 2014, the area was separated from the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh as the newly formed state with Hyderabad as its capital. It is a land locked state in India. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhara Reddy has been serving as the first and current Chief Minister of Telangana since 2014. N. Chandrababu Naidu is an Indian medical doctor serving as current Governor of Telangana.**

## Navy pitches for six nuclear attack submarines

- **The Indian Navy has informed the government of its requirement to build six nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) to counter challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, the new strategic frontier, which has received recognition by the Quad, European Union and the United Kingdom.**
- **Following the Combined Commanders Conference on March 4 in Kevadia, Gujarat, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh had stated the need for SSNs to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 3 during a discussion about the Indian Navy's operation Samudra Setu II, which is aimed at obtaining much-needed oxygen from India's near allies in West Asia.**
- **Naval warships also assist island territories of Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar with medical assistance. The nuclear-powered attack submarines would provide the Indian Navy with the long legs it needs for deterrence patrols and access denial in the Indo-Pacific without giving away its position.**

## IIT Bombay Is India's #1 Institute; No Indian College In Top 170 List Of Best Colleges In World

- **In the QS university rankings released the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) ranked first in India. It ranked 172 in the world, 20 places lower than it was in 2020. The top 1,000 universities from 80 different countries in this year's QS World University Rankings.** In this year's top 1,000, there are 47 new entrants, and over 5,500 universities were assessed and considered for inclusion.
- **With a global ranking of 185, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore came in second, one spot lower than the previous year.** Whereas the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) ranked third in India, with a global ranking of 193, down from 182 the previous year.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), ranked 275, was also the next Indian institute to make the list, falling from its previous year's ranking of 271.** With a global ranking of 314, the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP) also has fallen from its previous spot. In 2020, it stood at 281.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) ranked 350<sup>th</sup>, also down from 291<sup>st</sup> the previous year.** IITR (Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee) was also the only institute to maintain its ranking of 383 from the previous year. Also, next in line, the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), which had increased its ranking from 491 to 470 this year.

## PM Narendra Modi participated in European Council meeting as special invitee

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the meeting of the European Council as a special invitee.** The India-EU Leaders' Meeting is hosted by Prime Minister of Portugal António Costa. Portugal currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the meeting along with the Heads of State or Government of all the 27 European Union, EU Member States.** The EU27 have met in this format only once before, with the US President in March this year.
- **The India-EU Leaders' Meeting is an unprecedented opportunity for discussion with all the leaders of the European Union Member States.** It is a significant political milestone and will further build on the momentum witnessed in the relationship since the 15<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit in July last year.

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services and capital within the internal market. Passport controls have been abolished for travel within the Schengen Area. A monetary union was established in 1999, coming into full force in 2002, and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. The United Kingdom became the first member state to leave the EU on 31 January 2020. The EU traces its origins to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Economic Community (EEC), established, respectively, by the 1951 Treaty of Paris and 1957 Treaty of Rome. The latest major amendment to the constitutional basis of the EU, the Treaty of Lisbon, came into force in 2009. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen is a German politician and physician who has been the president of the European Commission since 1 December 2019. Charles Michel is a Belgian politician serving as President of the European Council since 2019.



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### G-7 closes ranks on Indo-Pacific, reliable tech and vaccine IPR

- **The G-7 plus three ministerial meeting was instrumental in convincing the United States to grant an IPR waiver for Covid-19 vaccines** in the name of extraordinary situation arising out of the pandemic and preparation for building reliable supply chains and technologies to counter possible virus waves in the future.
- **For India, external affairs minister S Jaishankar-led four-member delegation's participation** at the G-7 was dramatic as two senior delegates apparently tested positive for coronavirus after landing in London for the meeting. The two officers had already recovered from Covid-19 infection and the entire delegation boarded the flight to London with negative RT-PCR report including minister Jaishankar. Even at the airport, the rapid antigen of all the delegates came negative but an RT-PCR of two officers showed positive before the G-7 meeting on May 5.
- **Despite the scare, Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Tony Blinken, South African foreign minister Naledi Pandor and UK home secretary Priti Patel physically while all the other meetings were held virtually with the UK government providing secure communications to the Indian delegation.**
- According to official sources based in London, the **four big ticket items on the G-7 meeting were: Covid-19 and vaccine; Indo-Pacific, Reliable supply chains and reliable technology and Climate Change.**

The Group of Eight (G8) was an inter-governmental political forum from 1997 until 2014. It had formed from incorporating the country of Russia into the Group of Seven, or G7, and returned to its previous name after Russia was disinvited in 2014. The forum originated with a 1975 summit hosted by France that brought together representatives of six governments: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, thus leading to the name Group of Six or G6. The summit came to be known as the Group of Seven, in 1976 with the addition of Canada. Russia was added to the political forum from 1997, which the following year became known as the G8. In March 2014, Russia was suspended indefinitely following the annexation of Crimea, whereupon the political forum name reverted to G7. The Group of Seven (G7) is an intergovernmental organization consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The heads of government of the member states, as well as the representatives of the European Union, meet at the annual G7 Summit.

### Saudi Arabia's King Salman names new economy minister, eldest son Prince Sultan as advisor

- **Saudi Arabia's King Salman appointed a new economy minister and named his eldest living son as a special advisor in a series of royal decrees issued.**
- **The king named Faisal al-Ibrahim as the minister of economy and planning**, a move that promotes him from his post as deputy minister in which he'd served as since early 2018. Al-Ibrahim has previously held jobs with Aramco and in the country's Council of Economic Affairs and Development.

Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab state in Western Asia. Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East. Riyadh is the capital and most populous city of Saudi Arabia. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has been King of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques since 23 January 2015. Mohammad bin Salman is the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, also serving as First Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and Minister of Defense—the world's youngest office holder at the time. Saudi riyal is the currency of Saudi Arabia.

## UK PM announces new £1 billion trade deal with India

- **UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson** announced new UK-India trade and investment worth **£1 billion**, including an investment of **£240 million** by the **Serum Institute of India (SII)** for its vaccine business in Britain, ahead of a virtual summit with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.
- **The virtual summit witnessed the roll-out of a new “Enhanced Trade Partnership”** that is expected to pave the way for a future free trade agreement. More than 6,500 new jobs are expected to be created in the UK by the new bilateral trade and investment announced by Johnson.
- The package contains new Indian investments of more than **£533 million** that is expected to create more than 6,000 jobs in vital sectors such as health and technology. Deals worth **£200 million** will support low carbon growth.

**The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, commonly known as the **United Kingdom (UK or U.K.)**, or **Britain**, is a **sovereign country in north-western Europe**, off the north-western coast of the European mainland. **The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain**, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. **The United Kingdom’s capital is London**. **Boris Johnson** has been **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party** since July 2019. **Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary)** is **Queen of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealth realms**. **Pound sterling** is the official currency of the United Kingdom.

## Chad’s new military rulers name prime minister

- **Chad’s new military rulers** named a civilian politician, **Albert Pahimi Padacke**, as **Prime Minister** of a transitional government after **President Idriss Deby’s battlefield death**. **Padacke served as Prime Minister from 2016 to 2018** and was seen as an ally of Deby, who ruled Chad for 30 years.

**Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa**. **N’Djamena** is the **capital and largest city of Chad**. **Central African CFA franc** is the currency of six independent states in Central Africa: **Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon**.

## Nepal’s Oli government loses majority support after Maoist party withdraws support

- **Nepal’s embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli-led government lost majority support in the House of Representatives after the CPN (Maoist Center) led by Pushpakamal Dahal “Prachanda” officially withdrew support to it**. The decision of the Maoist party to withdraw support to the government comes two days after Oli announced that he will seek a vote of confidence in Parliament on May 10.
- **The Maoist Center has a total of 49 lawmakers in the lower house**. Since the ruling CPN-UML has a total of 121 lawmakers, Prime Minister Oli is short of 15 lawmakers to save his government in the 275-member House.
- Meanwhile, **Prime Minister Oli visited the residence of main Opposition leader Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba at Budhanilkantha**, 10 km North of Kathmandu, to seek his support to save the government.
- **Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 last year after President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP)**.
- Oli’s move to dissolve the House sparked **protests from a large section of the NCP led by his rival ‘Prachanda’, also a co-chair of the ruling party**.
- In February, **the apex court reinstated the dissolved House of Representatives, in a setback to embattled Prime Minister Oli who was preparing for snap polls**.

Nepal is a **landlocked country in South Asia** located in the Himalaya. **Nepalese rupee** is the official currency of the **Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal**. **Constitution of Nepal** is the present governing **Constitution of Nepal**. **Nepal is governed according to the Constitution** which came into effect on **September 20, 2015**, replacing the Interim Constitution of 2007. **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli** is currently serving as the **Prime Minister of Nepal**. He was the **first elected prime minister under the newly adopted Constitution of Nepal**.

## United States among first foreign countries to join European Union defence project

- **The European Union will allow the United States, Norway and Canada to join a project to overcome delays in moving troops across Europe, which NATO sees as vital in the event of a conflict with Russia.**
- **While NATO has spearheaded efforts to reduce conflicting regulations across 27 EU countries for transfers of U.S. troops, the EU has a budget to back the reconstruction of bridges too weak for tanks and has more power over changing bloc-wide rules.**
- **The decision, to be formally taken by EU defence ministers means NATO members Norway, Canada and the United States also become the first foreign countries to collaborate in the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) pact, which aims to deepen defence ties.**
- **The pact was agreed by EU leaders in December 2017 after Britain's decision to leave the Union and Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.**

**Joe Biden is the current and the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. At 78, Biden is the oldest president in US history and only the second Roman Catholic President. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the 47<sup>th</sup> Vice President from 2009 to 2017 under Barack Obama and represented Delaware in the United States Senate from 1973 to 2009. In January 2017, Barack Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction.**

## India, France, Australian foreign minister hold first-ever trilateral in London

- **In a significant development, the much-awaited physical trilateral between Indian, Australian, and French foreign minister took place in London. This is the first-ever trilateral meet of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, and Australian FM Marise Payne who met on the sidelines of the G7 foreign minister meet in London.**
- **G7 foreign ministers meeting is the first in-person meeting of foreign minister of the grouping amid pandemic.** The meet is happening after a period of more than two-and-a-half years, and the last such meet of G7 FMs was in France in 2019. Members of the G7 are--Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **For the G7 FMs meet this year, the UK as the host had invited India, Australia, South Korea, South Africa and the secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The France, India, Australia trilateral was launched in September 2020 at Foreign Secretaries' levels with three joint priorities--maritime security, environment, and multilateralism.**

## Paris is now home to the world's first cinema hotel

- **Paris is now home to a plush 36-room cinema hotel, the first of its kind in the world.** An ode to cinemaholics around the world, Hotel Paradiso in Paris offers its guests cinema-viewing experiences almost everywhere in the hotel, including private screening spaces as well as roof terrace that has open-air cinema. Of course, you get stunning views of the beautiful city as well from the terrace.

## Scottish National Party to 'push' for referendum on independence from UK

- **The Scottish National Party won its fourth straight parliamentary election and insisted it will push on with another referendum on Scotland's independence from the U.K. even though it failed by one seat to secure a majority.**
- **Final results of election showed the SNP winning 64 of the 129 seats in the Edinburgh-based Scottish Parliament.** The result extends the party's dominance of Scottish politics since it first won power in 2007.

**Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. Covering the northern third of the island of Great Britain, mainland Scotland has a 154 km border with England to the southeast and is otherwise surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the north and west, the North Sea to the northeast and the Irish Sea to the south. Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and one of its 32 council areas. Nicola Ferguson Sturgeon is serving as First Minister of Scotland and Leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP). She is the first woman to hold either position.**



## RBI announces on-tap liquidity window of Rs 50,000 crore to ramp up COVID related health care infrastructure and services in country

- With the raging Covid pandemic putting severe stress on the economy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unveiled a host of measures to boost fund flow to the healthcare sector and ease the pain of small borrowers and units. The RBI has opened an on-tap liquidity window of Rs 50,000 crore with tenors of up to three years at the repo rate – four per cent — till March 31, 2022 to boost provision of immediate liquidity for ramping up Covid-related healthcare infrastructure and services in the country.
- Under the scheme, banks can provide fresh lending support to a wide range of entities including vaccine manufacturers, importers and suppliers of vaccines and priority medical devices, hospitals and dispensaries, pathology labs, manufactures and suppliers of oxygen and ventilators, importers of vaccines and Covid-related drugs, logistics firms and also patients for treatment, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the measures.
- Banks can provide fresh lending support to a wide range of entities including vaccine manufacturers; importers, hospitals/dispensaries; pathology labs; etc. These will be classified under a separate ‘COVID Loan Book’.
- The RBI has decided to conduct special three-year long-term repo operations (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crore at repo rate for small finance banks, to be deployed for fresh lending of up to Rs.10 lakh per borrower. This is to provide further support to small business units, micro and small industries, and other unorganised sector entities adversely affected during the current wave of the pandemic.
- SFBs will be permitted to reckon fresh lending to smaller MFIs (with asset size of up to Rs 500 crore) for on-lending to individual borrowers as priority sector lending. This means there will be concessions on interest rates and repayments. This facility will be available up to March 31, 2022.
- Borrowers — individuals and small businesses and MSMEs — having aggregate exposure of up to Rs 25 crore and who have not availed restructuring under any of the earlier restructuring frameworks (including under the Resolution Framework 1.0 dated August 6, 2020), and who were classified as ‘Standard’ as on March 31, 2021 will be eligible to be considered under Resolution Framework 2.0. To further incentivise inclusion of unbanked MSMEs into the banking system, this exemption currently available for exposures up to Rs 25 lakh and for credit disbursed up to the fortnight ending October 1, 2021 is being extended till December 31, 2021.

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1 April 1935 to respond to economic troubles after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his book titled “The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution” and presented to the Hilton Young Commission. The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton–Young Commission. In 1969, the Indira Gandhi-headed government nationalised 14 major commercial banks. Upon Indira Gandhi’s return to power in 1980, a further six banks were nationalised. The first Governor of the RBI was British banker Osborn Smith and C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor of RBI. Shashikant Das is the current Governor of RBI.

## SIDBI launches SHWAS and AROG schemes for COVID preparedness

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), has launched SHWAS (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of COVID19) and AROG (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID-19 pandemic), two new quick credit delivery schemes.
- The schemes are devised under the guidance from the Government of India (GoI) which facilitates funding for production and services related to the supply of oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, oximeters and essential drugs. SIDBI is launching these new initiatives to help MSMEs quickly augment their facilities which help the nation in augmenting capabilities to fight the pandemic.

**Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is the apex regulatory body in India for overall regulation and licensing of microfinance institutions in India. It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India headquartered at Lucknow and having its offices all over the country. Its purpose is to provide refinance facilities and short-term lending to industries, and serves as the principal financial institution in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. SIDBI also coordinates the functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. It was established on 2 April 1990, through an Act of Parliament. It is headquartered in Lucknow. SIDBI operates under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. SIDBI is one of the four All India Financial Institutions regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank of India; other three are India Exim Bank, NABARD and NHB.

## Central Bank of India launches deposit scheme to boost Covid-19 vax drive

- In order to encourage people to get Covid-19 jabs, state-run Central Bank of India has launched a special deposit scheme offering an additional interest rate of 25 basis points above the applicable card rate for those who get vaccinated. The new product -- Immune India Deposit Scheme -- has a maturity of 1,111 days.
- The lender has requested citizens to vaccinate against the virus and avail its attractive offer which is for a limited period. Senior citizens are eligible for extra interest as applicable, it added.

**Central Bank of India** is an Indian government-owned bank. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India and is one of the oldest and largest government owned commercial banks in India. It is based in Mumbai which is the financial capital of India and capital city of state of Maharashtra. The Central Bank of India was established on 21 December 1911 by Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala with Sir Pherozeshah Mehta as Chairman, and claims to have been the first commercial Indian bank completely owned and managed by Indians.

## World's first LNG-fueled fast ferry ready for work

- Spanish ferry operator Baleària reports that its Eleanor Roosevelt, the world's first fast ferry with LNG-fueled engines, will start operating May 1 on its route linking Dénia on Spain's east coast, with Ibiza and Palma in the Balearic Islands.
- **Construction of the Eleanor Roosevelt began at the end of 2018.** It is the seventh Baleària vessel to run on natural gas. It is estimated that annually the reduced carbon dioxide emissions from the Eleanor Roosevelt will be equivalent to removing more than 8,900 conventional passenger cars from the roads or planting nearly 27,000 trees. The actual fuel consumption and engine efficiency will be monitored by on-board measuring equipment and sensors as part of a project co-financed by the European Commission.

## Govt to provide Rs 15,000 crore to states for capital expenditure

- The Centre announced decision to provide an additional amount of upto Rs 15,000 crore to states as interest-free 50-year loan for spending on capital projects. The Department of Expenditure has issued fresh guidelines in this regard for financial year 2021-22, according to an official statement released by the Ministry of Finance.
- Capital expenditure creates employment, especially for the poor and unskilled, has a high multiplier effect, enhances the future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher rate of economic growth. Thus despite adverse financial position of the Central government, it was decided last year to launch a scheme for special assistance to states for capital expenditure.

## With Rs 55,500 crore m-cap, SAIL enters 100 most-valued Indian firms' club

- **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) regained market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 50,000 crore**, after its stock climbed over 80 per cent in the past.
- The state-owned steel major also **entered into the league of top 100 most valued companies in terms of market capitalisation.**

**Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is an Indian state-owned steel making company based in New Delhi, India. It is a public sector undertaking, owned and operated by the Government of India with an annual turnover of INR 66,267 Crore for fiscal year 2018-19. Incorporated on 24 January 1974, SAIL has 68,742 employees (as of 01-Jun-2020). With an annual production of 16.30 million metric tons, SAIL is the 20<sup>th</sup> largest steel producer in the world and the largest in India. Smt Soma Mondal is the current Chairman of SAIL.**

## EPFO hikes death insurance under EDLI scheme to Rs. 7 lakh

- India's retirement fund manager raised the death insurance benefits for subscribers of its **employees' deposit-linked insurance (EDLI) scheme**, at a time the coronavirus pandemic is wreaking havoc across the country.
- In a gazette notification, the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said the minimum death insurance has been increased to Rs. 2.5 lakh and the maximum to Rs. 7 lakh**, from the earlier limits of Rs. 2 lakh and Rs. 6 lakh, respectively. Among the EPFO's 5 crore active subscribers, over 20 lakh are EDLI subscribers.

## Govt gives permissions to Telecoms for conducting trials for use & applications of 5G technology

- Government has given permissions to **Telecom Service Providers for conducting trials for use and applications of 5G technology. The applicant include Bharti Airtel Limited, Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, Vodafone Idea Limited and MTNL.**
- These Telecom Service Providers, TSP have tied up with **original equipment manufacturers and technology providers which are Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and C-DOT.** In addition, Reliance JioInfocomm Limited will also be conducting trials using its own indigenous technology. Communication Ministry said, at present, the duration of the trials, is for a period of six months. **This includes a time period of 2 months for procurement and setting up of the equipment.**
- The permission letters specify that each TSP will have to **conduct trials in rural and semi-urban settings also in addition to urban settings so that the benefit of 5G Technology proliferates across the country.** The objectives of conducting 5G trials include testing 5G spectrum propagation characteristics especially in the Indian context, testing of indigenous technology and to test 5G phones and devices.

## For the first time in its history, WTO names women to half of deputy leader roles

- **World Trade Organization head Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala named two women to the WTO's four deputy leader jobs for the first time in its history. The new director-general — herself the first woman and the first African to lead the WTO — appointed Angela Ellard of the United States and Costa Rica's Anabel Gonzalez, along with Jean-Marie Paugam of France and China's Zhang Xiangchen.**
- The WTO has counted one woman deputy director general previously, but **Okonjo-Iweala stressed that this was "the first time in the history of our organisation that half of the DDGs are women"**. The new DDGs replace **Yonov Frederick Agah of Nigeria, Karl Brauner of Germany, Alan Wolff of the United States and Yi Xiaozhun of China.**
- **The deputies each take charge of four or five fields at the Geneva-based global trade body**, such as legal affairs, market access, development, agriculture and commodities, and intellectual property. Ellard has served at the US Congress as majority and minority chief trade counsel.
- **Gonzalez is a former foreign trade minister who also served as a senior director at the World Bank and as director of the agriculture and commodities division at the WTO. Paugam was France's permanent representative at the WTO and has held senior positions in the French economy and finance ministry. Zhang is a vice minister in China's Ministry of Commerce who was recently Beijing's permanent representative to the WTO.**

## LIC has now become tenth-most-valuable insurance brand globally

- **State-owned insurance behemoth — Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) — has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally**, according to a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021, a London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.
- According to the report, **the total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6 per cent from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021**. However, **LIC's brand value increased by almost 7 per cent to \$8.65 billion**. **There are five Chinese insurance companies in the top 10 most valuable insurance brands globally**, with Ping an Insurance emerging the world's most valuable insurance brand, despite recording a 26 per cent drop in brand value.
- **The US has two companies in the top 10, while France, Germany, and India have one insurance company each in the list**. As far as the strongest insurance brands are concerned, **Italy's Poste Italiane leads the pack, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India**.

**Life Insurance Corporation of India (abbreviated as LIC) is an Indian government owned insurance and investment corporation under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The Life insurance Corporation of India was established on September 1, 1956, when the Parliament of India passed the Life Insurance of India Act that nationalized the insurance industry in India. Over 245 insurance companies and provident societies were merged to create the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India. It is based in Mumbai.**

## RBI sets up advisory group to assist regulatory review authority

- **The Reserve Bank of India said an advisory group has been constituted to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0) which was constituted by the central bank earlier this month to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities.**
- **Headed by SBI Managing Director S Janakiraman, the advisory group will assist the RRA by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns that can be rationalised. The RBI has set up the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0), initially for a period of one year from May 01, 2021, with a view to streamline regulations and reduces the compliance burden of regulated entities.** Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao was appointed as the Regulations Review Authority.

## India's credit rating will be retained at current level for next 2-years: S&P

- **Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings, India's credit rating would be retained at the current level for the next two years.** It said, the country will see a **slightly faster pace of growth in the next couple of years that will support its sovereign rating.**
- There could be upside pressure on the **general government fiscal deficit forecast of 11 per cent as revenue generation would be weaker, but debt stock would remain roughly stable just above 90 per cent of GDP.** **India's rating remains stable on a 'BBB-' rating and they do not expect a change in the rating level over the next two years.**

## Cabinet approves strategic disinvestment in IDBI Bank

- **The Cabinet gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control in IDBI Bank in line with the Budget announcement earlier this year. The central government and LIC together own more than 94 per cent equity of IDBI Bank. LIC, currently the promoter of IDBI Bank with management control, has a 49.21 per cent stake.**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the strategic sale of IDBI Bank.** The extent of respective shareholding to be divested by the central government and LIC shall be decided at the time of structuring of transaction in consultation with the RBI.

**Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) was established in 1964 by an act to provide credit and other financial facilities for the development of the fledgling Indian industry. It is a development finance institution and a subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation. Many national institutes find their roots in IDBI like SIDBI, India Exim Bank, National Stock Exchange of India and National Securities Depository Limited. It is based in Mumbai.**



## Inventions/Discoveries

### 100 million-year-old bones of sauropods discovered in Meghalaya

- **Researchers have identified fossil bone fragments of long-necked dinosaurs called sauropods, dating back to about 100-million-years from an area around West Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya.**
- The yet-to-be-published findings were made during a recent field trip by researchers from the Geological Survey of India's Palaeontology division in North-East. **The GSI researchers noted that this is the first record of sauropods of probable Titanosaurian origin discovered in the region.**
- **Sauropods had very long necks, long tails, small heads relative to the rest of their body, and four thick, pillar-like legs.** They are notable for the enormous sizes attained by some species, and the group includes the largest animals to have ever lived on land. Other states in which remains of sauropods have been found earlier are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

**“Dinosaur bones from Meghalaya were reported by GSI in 2001 but they were too fragmentary and ill-preserved to understand its taxonomic identification.** The present find of bones is during fieldwork in 2019-2020 and 2020-21. The last visit of the team was in February 2021. **The fossils are presumably of Late Cretaceous, about 100 million years ago,**” Arindam Roy, senior geologist, said.

### New species of shrew discovered in Andamans' Narcondam Island

- **Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of insectivorous mammal, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.**
- **The species Crocidura narcondamica is a new addition to the list of mammals found in the country.** Shrews are small and mouse-like mammals, and they live in sub-leaf stratum in the forests. Insects are the primary diet of these animals. **The new species is of medium size (head and body lengths) and has a distinct external morphology with darker grey dense fur with a thick, darker tail compared to other species of the genus.**

### India approved to buy six more P-8I maritime patrol aircraft

- The State Department has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to **the government of India of P-8I patrol aircraft and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$2.42 billion.** **India has requested six P-8I Patrol aircraft, including mission systems,** support equipment and spares; publications; repair and return; transportation; aircraft ferry; training; U.S. government and contractor engineering, software, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.
- **The Indian navy procured eight P-8I aircraft from Boeing in January 2009, via direct commercial sale, and contracted for an additional four aircraft in July 2016. The first P-8I aircraft were delivered to the Indian navy in 2013, providing interoperability and critical capabilities to coalition maritime operations. This proposed sale of an additional six P-8I aircraft will allow the Indian navy to expand its maritime surveillance aircraft capability for the next 30 years.**

## Two damselfly species discovered in Western Ghats

- **Two new species of damselfly** have been discovered in the Satara district — in the northern part of the Western Ghats. It was a dream come true for a group of researchers from Maharashtra and Kerala who have discovered the new species of damselfly, commonly known as torrent darts — large insects belonging to genus Euphaea.
- Named **Euphaea thosegharensis** and **Euphaea pseudodispar**, the newly discovered damselflies are endemic to the Western Ghats. **Euphaea thosegharensis** is similar to **Euphaea cardinalis**, while **Euphaea pseudodispar** is similar to **Euphaea dispar** but can be easily separated by its colouration and morphology.

## Germany cancels Oktoberfest for 2<sup>nd</sup> year over virus fears

- **Bavarian officials canceled Oktoberfest festivities for a second year in a row due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19**, saying there are too many risks in hosting the celebrations — which bring in visitors from around the world — during a global pandemic.
- **Oktoberfest typically attracts about 6 million visitors** from around the world and had been scheduled from September 18 to October 3. The combination of huge tents full of people and the consumption of large quantities of alcohol, as well as the possibility for mutated varieties of the virus to be brought in from abroad, made it particularly hazardous to go ahead with the festival.

## Polish scientists discover world's first 'pregnant' Egyptian mummy

- **Polish scientists have discovered the world's first pregnant Egyptian mummy** while carrying out scans on the 2,000-year-old remains kept at the National Museum in Warsaw.
- Further analysis revealed the whole foetus and scientists working on the **Warsaw Mummy Project believe the woman was between 20 and 30 years old and was 26-30 weeks pregnant.**
- Based on an analysis of the hieroglyphs on the sarcophagus, the mummy was **originally thought to be of a male priest who lived between the first century BC and the first century AD.**
- Scientists now believe it could be **even older than that and are looking into the possible causes of death.** The mummy has not been opened but one scan showed the woman had long curly hair down to her shoulders.

## 8 extremely rare 'millisecond pulsars' discovered inside globular clusters

- **An international team of astronomers has discovered eight rare millisecond pulsars hiding inside dense clusters of stars surrounding the Milky Way.**
- **A pulsar is a neutron star — city-sized stellar objects packed with a mass of at least 1.4 times the mass of our sun**, which emerges from the explosive deaths of their parent stars — that gives off two beams of radio waves at each pole, due to its strong magnetic field, while also rapidly spinning **because of its incredibly large mass. From our perspective, they look like flashing stars, visible only when the beams shine directly at us.**

## 'N protein' of coronavirus plays critical role in viral transmission, IISER Bhopal's research shows

- **The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal** in comprehensive research has shown that **proteins from the coronavirus other than the well-known 'spike protein' can play a critical role in the infectivity of the virus.**
- **The SARS-CoV-2 virus has an RNA genome, surrounded by a sphere-shaped structure.** This structure comprises various types of proteins, with one of them being the 'spike protein' that gives the virus its characteristic spiked look or 'crown'. Since the virus is highly infectious, most studies do not use the live virus, but use a similar protein capsule made up of spike that has been filled with another viral core, **in a process called 'pseudotyping.'**

## Scientists see flaws in govt-backed model's approach to forecast pandemic

- **With close to 4,00,000 cases being added every day, questions are being raised by many scientists on whether a government-backed model, called SUTRA, to forecast the rise and ebb of the COVID-19 pandemic, may have had an outsized role in creating the perception that a catastrophic second wave was unlikely in India.**

- **The SUTRA group had presented its views to Dr. V.K. Paul, who chaired a committee** that got inputs from several modellers and sources. “The worst case predictions from this ensemble were **used by the National Empowered Group on Vaccines and the groups headed by Dr. Paul to take measures.** However, the surge was several times what any of the modellers had predicted,” the official said.

## The First Genetically Modified Mosquitoes have just been released in the USA

- **The biotech firm Oxitec has released its genetically modified mosquitoes in the Florida Keys,** with the goal of suppressing wild, disease-carrying mosquito populations in the region.
- **This is the first time genetically modified mosquitoes have been released in the US. Oxitec previously released its modified Aedes aegypti mosquitoes in Brazil, the Cayman Islands, Panama, and Malaysia, and the company reported that local.**

## Lightest-known form of uranium created

- **Scientists have discovered a new type of uranium that is the lightest ever known.** The discovery could reveal more about a weird alpha particle that gets ejected from certain radioactive elements as they decay.
- **The newfound uranium, called uranium-214, is an isotope, or a variant of the element,** with 30 more neutrons than protons, one fewer neutron than the next-lightest known uranium isotope.
- **Because neutrons have mass, uranium-214 is much lighter than more common uranium isotopes, including uranium-235,** which is used in nuclear reactors and has 51 extra neutrons. This newfound isotope isn't just lighter than others, but it also showed unique behaviors during its decay.
- As such, the new findings will help scientists better understand a radioactive decay process known as alpha decay, in which an atomic nucleus loses a group of two protons and two neutrons — collectively called an alpha particle. Though scientists know that alpha decay results in the ejection of this alpha particle, after a century of study, they still don't know the exact details of how the alpha particle is formed before it gets ejected.

## China emits more greenhouse gases than first world

- A study published revealed that **China's annual emissions of greenhouse gases in 2019 exceeded the emissions of all developed countries combined for the first time.** In a comparison with European Union countries, the US and the other members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the study by US think-tank Rhodium Group estimates that China alone contributed 27 per cent of global emissions of CO2 equivalents that year.
- **CO2 equivalents are a unit of measurement used to standardise the climate impact of different greenhouse gases.** The study said that global emissions reached 52 gigatons of CO2 equivalent in 2019, a 11.4 per cent increase over the past decade.
- **China's 27-per-cent share of global emissions was far larger than that of the US, which took second place with 11 per cent.** According to the calculations, India climbed to third place for the first time with 6.6 per cent of global emissions of CO2 equivalents.
- **The study also indicated that China's emissions have tripled since 1990.** They have increased by 25 per cent over the past decade. **But due to its large population,** China's per capita emissions have remained considerably lower than those in the developed world.
- According to independent scientific analysis of national climate action (the Climate Action Tracker), China's approach is not consistent with containing **global warming to below 2°C in line with the Paris Agreement.**
- The country has committed to **racing towards net zero emissions by 2060, with a peak by 2030** - an ambitious target, given the size of its national emissions and the government's pursuit of continued economic growth.

## IBM Unveils world's first 2 nm chip technology that is said to be 45 percent faster than 7 nm options

- **IBM introduced what it says is the world's first 2-nanometre chipmaking technology.** The technology could be as much as 45 percent faster than the mainstream 7 nm chips in many of laptops and phones and up to 75 percent more power efficient, the company said.

- The technology likely will take several years to come to market. Once a major manufacturer of chips, IBM now outsources its high-volume chip production to Samsung Electronics but maintains **a chip manufacturing research centre in Albany, New York that produces test runs of chips and has joint technology development deals with Samsung and Intel Corp to use IBM's chipmaking technology.**
- **The 2 nm chips will be smaller and faster than leading edge 5 nm chips,** which are just now showing up in premium smartphones like Apple's iPhone 12 models, and the 3 nm chips expected to come after 5 nm.

### Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions

- **The assessment highlights the critical role that cutting methane emissions, including from the fossil fuel industry, plays in slowing the rate of global warming.**
- **Cutting human-caused methane by 45% this decade would keep warming beneath a threshold agreed by world leaders.** There are multiple benefits to acting including: the rapid reduction of warming, which can help prevent dangerous climate tipping points; improved air quality that can save hundreds of thousands of lives; improve food security by preventing crop losses; and create jobs through mitigation efforts while increasing productivity through reduced heat stress. The assessment was **launched by Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) together with the United Nations Environment Programme.**

**The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and six countries — Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States — on 16 February 2012. The CCAC aims to catalyze rapid reductions in short-lived climate pollutants to protect human health, agriculture and the environment. The program is managed out of the United Nations Environmental Programme through a Secretariat in Paris, France.**



# SPORTS



## Sports Personalities in News

### Amit Panghal settles for a bronze medal at Governor's Cup

- Olympic-bound Indian boxer **Amit Panghal (52 kg)** settled for a **bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St Petersburg, Russia**, after going down to world champion and familiar foe Shakhobidin Zoirov in the semifinals.

### Mark Selby becomes World Champion for 4<sup>th</sup> time in Snooker

- In Snooker, **Mark Selby** became the **World Champion for the fourth time**. Selby won the **Championship** defeating **Shaun Murphy** by **18-15** victory at Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. The concluding sessions of the Championship marked a pleasant return of capacity crowd to a major UK sporting event for the first time since March 2020.

### Sindhu, Li named athlete ambassadors for IOC's 'Believe in Sports' campaign

- **World champion P.V. Sindhu** has been **nominated as athlete ambassador alongside Canada's Michelle Li** for the International Olympic Committee's 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation. This means the **two champion shuttlers** will be **working with others nominated for the same cause raising awareness among athletes and their entourage**.

### Lewis Hamilton wins Formula 1's Portugal Grand Prix

- A brilliantly managed race from Mercedes' **Lewis Hamilton** saw **him take his second win of the 2021 season at the Portuguese Grand Prix**, the Briton finishing ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, as Hamilton's polesitting team mate Valtteri Bottas came home third.

### BCCI suspends IPL 2021 after several players test positive for Corona

- **Indian Premier League Governing Council and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has **postponed the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Indian Premier League** in view of surge in covid cases in the country.

### Bangkok ready to host its first-ever World Cup

- **Bangkok** will **host its first World Para Powerlifting World Cup**. It will be the **third World Cup of the season after Bogota and Manchester in March**. The capital and most populous city of Thailand will be home to 54 athletes from nine countries from Africa, Asia and Europe.

### Aryna Sabalenka beat Ashleigh Barty to win her first Madrid Open Women's singles title

- In tennis, **Aryna Sabalenka** stunned world number one **Ashleigh Barty** to win the **Madrid Open for the first time**. In the women's singles final, the world number seven Belarus's Sabalenka beat Australian player.

### Hamilton beats Verstappen to secure 100<sup>th</sup> career pole position at Spanish Grand Prix

- In the Formula One, **Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes** beat **Red Bull's Max Verstappen** to secure **his 100<sup>th</sup> career pole position at the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona**. Hamilton has long held the record after beating Michael Schumacher's 68 career pole positions, while he still aims to beat four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel's record of 15 poles in a season.

## Naomi Osaka named “Sportswoman of the Year” at Laureus World Sports Awards

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- **World No. 2 tennis player Naomi Osaka has been named “Sportswoman of the Year” at the Laureus World Sports Awards for her achievements** on and off the court, while tennis legend Billie Jean King was awarded the “Lifetime Achievement Award” by the Laureus Academy.
- **This is Osaka’s second recognition at the Laureus Sports Awards. She won the “Breakthrough of the Year” award in 2019** after a season that saw her win her first WTA title at the BNP Paribas Open and **begin her ascent to the top of the game with her first US Open title that fall.**
- **Osaka won the US Open in 2020, while Spaniard Nadal equalled Roger Federer’s record of 20 Grand Slam men’s titles by winning last year’s French Open.**
- **Briton Lewis Hamilton claimed the inaugural Athlete Advocate award, which has been brought in to acknowledge the wider impact on society made by athletes. During the 2020 Formula 1 season, Hamilton took a knee on the grid and wore anti-racism slogans as he won a record-equalling seventh drivers’ title, while his Mercedes team also adopted a black livery for the campaign in a stand against discrimination.**
- **Liverpool and Egypt striker Mohamed Salah won the Sporting Inspiration award** for “his unique contribution over many years to those in need and for those less fortunate”. **Nadal’s win was his fourth Laureus award, having previously won the Breakthrough, Comeback and main men’s awards.**
- Laureus award winners:
  - **World Sportswoman of the Year Award: Naomi Osaka**
  - **World Sportsman of the Year Award: Rafael Nadal**
  - **World Team of the Year Award: Bayern Munich**
  - **World Breakthrough of the Year Award: Patrick Mahomes**
  - **World Comeback of the Year Award: Max Parrot**
  - **Sport for Good Award: Kickformore by Kickfair**
  - **Lifetime Achievement Award: Billie Jean King**
  - **Athlete Advocate of the Year Award: Lewis Hamilton**
  - **Sporting Inspiration Award: Mohamed Salah**
  - **Sporting Moment of the Year Award: Chris Nikic**

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# MISCELLANEOUS

## CBSE launches new mobile application for psycho social wellness of students, parents

- **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a new mobile application for psycho social wellness of students and parents. The new app namely CBSE Dost for Life has been designed for students of classes 9 to 12 and it can be used for counselling sessions from 10<sup>th</sup> of this month.**
- **Making a departure from the existing practice of counselling through toll free number across the country, board has designed this facility for the ease, convenience and utility of students and parents with in the safe home environment.**

## Govt relaxed provisions of Income-tax Act

- **In view of COVID-19, the government has relaxed the provisions of Income-tax Act. Now, all hospitals, nursing units, dispensaries and COVID care centres will be able to accept cash over two lakh rupees from the patients. Patient and the payee will have to submit PAN and Aadhaar for such payments. The relaxation has been granted between 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May this year.**

## Army inducts first batch of women in military police

- **The government had approved the induction of women in military police in January 2019, and plans to have 1700 women soldiers by 2036, in batches of 100 recruits per year. The Indian Army inducted its first batch of 83 women soldiers as part of its military police.**

## Himachal Pradesh implements Parvat Dhara Yojna in 10 districts

- **The government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to implement Parvat Dhara Yojna in 10 districts except Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti to rejuvenate and recharge aquifers in an effort to conserve natural water resources. The scheme has a provision of outlay of Rs 20 crore.**

## Madhya Pradesh: Rs, 379 crore transferred under Sambal scheme

- **In Madhya Pradesh, 379 crore rupees have been transferred into the accounts of 16 thousand 844 beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Jan-Kalyan Sambal scheme. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said state government accords high priority to benefit the poor families of unorganised sector workers.**

## Labour and Employment Ministry notifies section 142 of Social Security Code, 2020

- **The Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 which covers the applicability of Aadhaar. The notification will enable the Ministry to collect Aadhaar details for the database of beneficiaries under various social security schemes.**
- **The section under the Social Security Code has been notified only for collection of data of workers including migrant workers. The National DataBase for unorganised workers is at an advanced stage of development by the National Informatics Centre.**
- **The portal is aimed at collection of data for unorganised workers including migrant workers for the purpose of giving benefits of the various schemes of the Government. An inter-state migrant worker can register himself on the portal on the basis of submission of Aadhaar alone.**

## Clean AP scheme launch on July 8

- **The State government will launch CLAP (Clean Andhra Pradesh) Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam programme on July 8, marking the birth anniversary of former chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy.**

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Kami Rita Sherpa creates new record, climbs Mt Everest for the 25<sup>th</sup> time

- **Nepali Sherpa climbed the world's highest peak, Mt Everest, for the 25<sup>th</sup> time breaking his own record for summiting the mountain most number of times. The group successfully reached the summit of Mt Everest helping Kami better his own record of climbing the peak for the 25<sup>th</sup> time.**
- **Kami had climbed Mt Everest for the 24<sup>th</sup> time in 2019. In 2019, he had reached the summit of Mt Everest twice in one month. Kami had climbed Mt Everest for the first time in May 1994. Between 1994 and 2021, he has summited Mt Everest 25 times, K2 and Mt Lhotse once each, Mt Manaslu three times, and Mt Cho Oyu eight times.**

### Former J&K Governor Jagmohan passes away

- **Former Union Minister and Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Jagmohan passed away in New Delhi. A civil servant, Jagmohan also served as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Goa. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha once and represented New Delhi in Lok Sabha thrice.**
- **In the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet, he served as the Union Minister for Communications, Urban Development, Tourism and Culture. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016.**

### The Bench: Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, to release first children's book

- **Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is releasing her first children's book, one rooted in the relationship between Prince Harry and their son, Archie. Random House Children's Books announced that The Bench will be released 8 June.**
- **It is illustrated by award-winning illustrator Christian Robinson and Meghan will narrate the audiobook edition. The book features a diverse group of fathers and sons and moments they share.**

### Pam Gosal becomes first Indian woman to be elected as MSP in Scotland

- **Pam Gosal has created a history by becoming the first Indian Sikh to become a member of Scotland Parliament. Pam has been elected as Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) on ticket on Conservative party from West Scotland.**
- **Pam Gosal was born in Glasgow and spent most of her life in Scotland. She made her political debut as a parliamentary candidate from East Dunburnshire in the 2019 general election for the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.**
- **Pam has accumulated over 30 years of knowledge and experience in the public, private and voluntary sectors, working on economic development, inward investment, business, cultural, legal and regulatory policies in both Scotland and the UK.**

# AWARDS

## Indo-Canadian documentary filmmaker wins lifetime achievement award at Hot Docs

- **Filmmaker Lalita Krishna**, who has been making documentaries for over 20 years, has become the first person from the Indian-Canadian community to win a prestigious lifetime achievement award at Hot Docs, North America's biggest documentary film festival.
- **Toronto-based Krishna**, who grew up in Kolkata and worked in Delhi's advertising sector before moving to Canada, has been named winner of the Don Haig Award.

## Pop singer Pink to receive Icon Award at Billboard Music Awards

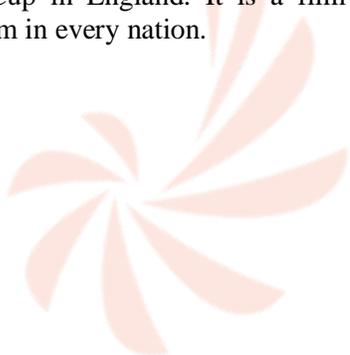
- **Singer Pink** will be honoured with the Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs). The award aims to recognise artistes who have achieved success on the Billboard charts and left an indelible impact on music.
- **Pink joins previous honourees that include Neil Diamond**, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks.

## Odisha government announces literary awards in memory of eminent Odia writer Manoj Das

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced that the state government will present 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das.
- **The award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year.** It will carry a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh. Patnaik said high school students will be presented 'Manoj-Kishore Literary Talent Award' for their creative works in order to develop interest among youths in both Odia and English literature.
- The award will be announced both in English and Odia categories and carry cash reward of Rs 1 lakh. The chief minister also announced that a memorial 'Manmath-Manoj Memorial' in the name of Manoj Das and his historian brother Manmath Nath Das will be set up at their birthplace Sankhari village in Balasore district.

## Film On Odisha Rugby Players Wins Best Film Award At Dadasaheb Phalke Int'l Film Festival

- **'Jungle Cry'**, a movie based on the true story of 12 underprivileged tribal boys from Odisha, has won the 'Best Film' (Jury) Award at 11<sup>th</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2021.
- **The film shows how 12 students from Kalinga Institute Of Social Sciences (KISS) in Bhubaneswar quality for International Junior Rugby Tournament held in the UK in 2007 and win the prestigious U-14 Rugby World Cup in England.** It is a film that promotes education, sports and helps eradicate poverty and creates patriotism in every nation.



# IMPORTANT DAYS

## World Migratory Bird Day 2021

- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated every year on May 8**, which is an awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- It aims to draw attention to the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. The Day is celebrated bi-annually on the second Saturday in May and in October. **The theme for this World Migratory Bird Day is Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a bird!**

## World Laughter Day

- **World Laughter Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of May** to spread awareness about the many healing benefits of laughter. **This year, it is being observed on May 2.** Celebrated since 1998, World Laughter Day is an annual event celebrated to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.

## International Firefighters' Day

- The IFFD was instituted after a proposal was **emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999**. This happened shortly after the death of five firefighters in the bushfires in Australia in 1998. **International Firefighters' Day is observed each year on 4<sup>th</sup> May.**
- **The International Firefighters Day came into existence after a tragic incident that occurred in Linton, Australia. The incident occurred on December 2, 1998** during which five firemen were killed while trying to douse a wildfire.
- After the tragic incident, **a proposal was sent out to all countries on January 4, 1999, to honour the brave firemen and to others who lost their lives while performing their duty. However, the date May 4 was chosen as it is also celebrated as Saint Florian's Day.** According to International Firefighters' Day's website, St Florian was the first known commander of a firefighting squad in the Roman era and he lost his life while doing his duty.

## International Midwives' Day

- **International Day of the Midwives was first celebrated May 7<sup>th</sup> 1991**, and has since been observed in over 50 nations around the world.
- **The idea of having a day to recognize and honor midwives came out of the 1987 International Confederation of Midwives conference in the Netherlands.**

## References:

The Hindu  
The Economics Times  
Indian Express  
Press Information Bureau of India  
The Times of India  
Business Standard  
News on AIR  
Hindustan Times

# QUESTIONS

- Which of the following countries new military rulers named a civilian politician, Albert Pahimi Padacke, as Prime Minister of a transitional government?  
(a) Chad (b) Niger (c) Mali (d) Benin
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar embarked on a four-day visit to \_\_\_\_\_ beginning to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers of G7 countries.  
(a) Paris (b) Milan (c) London (d) Ottawa
- Which of the following banks launched the new product -- Immune India Deposit Scheme recently?  
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India  
(c) Canara Bank (d) Central Bank of India
- Recently, The Centre announced decision to provide an additional amount of upto \_\_\_\_\_ to states as interest-free 50-year loan for spending on capital projects.  
(a) Rs 10,000 crore (b) Rs 15,000 crore (c) Rs 20,000 crore (d) Rs 25,000 crore
- Which of the following launched SHWAS and AROG schemes for COVID preparedness?  
(a) NABARD (b) RBI (c) SIDBI (d) State Bank of India
- Recently, the two new species of damselfly have been discovered in northern part of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Western Ghats (b) Eastern Ghats (c) Annamalai Hills (d) Deccan Plateau
- Which of the following countries has approved the possible Foreign Military Sale of six P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to India for an estimated cost of \$2.42 billion recently?  
(a) USA (b) France (c) Italy (d) Russia
- Recently, Scientists from \_\_\_\_\_ have discovered the world's first pregnant Egyptian mummy while carrying out scans on the 2,000-year-old remains kept at the National Museum in Warsaw.  
(a) German (b) Polish (c) British (d) French
- Recently, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on:  
(a) First Friday in May (b) Second Saturday in May  
(c) Second Friday in May (d) Third Saturday in May
- Olympic-bound Indian boxer \_\_\_\_\_ settled for a bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St Petersburg, Russia, after going down to world champion and familiar foe Shakhobidin Zoirov in the semifinals.  
(a) Amit Panghal (b) Fredrick Johnson (c) Dharendra Hista (d) Akash Tomar
- As part of the Prime Minister's announcement of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Government of India has approved a new Central Sector Scheme namely \_\_\_\_\_ for implementation during 2021-22 to 2026-27.  
(a) PLISFPI (b) DJKLIU (c) MLJIUY (d) MLKIUY
- Which of the following states has decided to implement Parvat Dhara Yojjna in 10 districts?  
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Sikkim (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- The Indian Army in its quest for harnessing renewable energy for its troops inaugurated the First Green Solar Energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA using Vanadium based battery technology in \_\_\_\_\_ at an altitude of 16000 ft.  
(a) North Sikkim (b) North Uttarakhand  
(c) North Himachal Pradesh (d) North Kashmir

14. Recently, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new UK-India trade and investment worth \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) £1 Billion (b) £2.5 Billion (c) £4 Billion (d) £7.3 Billion
15. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said the minimum death insurance has been increased to Rs. 2.5 lakh and the maximum to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Rs. 3 lakh (b) Rs. 4 lakh (c) Rs. 6 lakh (d) Rs. 7 lakh
16. Who became the World Champion for the fourth time in Snooker?  
(a) Mark Selby (b) Trevor Smith (c) Johnson Jump (d) Shaun Murphy
17. Recently, the former Union Minister and Former Governor of \_\_\_\_\_ Jagmohan passed away.  
(a) Delhi (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Sikkim (d) Nagaland
18. Who won Formula 1's Portugal Grand Prix in 2021?  
(a) Max Verstappen (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Cred Wersner (d) Valtteri Bottas
19. Name the Indian who has been nominated as athlete for the International Olympic Committee's 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation.  
(a) P.V. Sindhu (b) Jwala Gutta (c) Sania Mirza (d) Saina Nehwal
20. World Laughter Day is celebrated every year on the \_\_\_\_\_ to spread awareness about the many healing benefits of laughter.  
(a) First Sunday of May (b) First Tuesday of May  
(c) First Friday of May (d) Third Wednesday of May
21. Who has become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after being elected as the Party's legislative leader?  
(a) M.K. Stalin (b) Esapi Palanisami (c) K Alagiri (d) Kamal Hassan
22. The International Firefighters' Day is observed each year on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 30<sup>th</sup> April (b) 1<sup>st</sup> May (c) 4<sup>th</sup> May (d) 6<sup>th</sup> May
23. Recently, Researchers have identified fossil bone fragments of long-necked dinosaurs called sauropods, dating back to about 100-million-years from an area around \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) West Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya (b) East Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh  
(c) Mikir Hills in Assam (d) Satpura Range in Maharashtra
24. Recently, Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of insectivorous mammal, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) West Bengal (b) Andaman and Nicobar  
(c) Lakshadweep (d) Gujarat
25. Recently, With Rs 55,500 crore m-cap, \_\_\_\_\_ enters 100 most-valued Indian firms' club.  
(a) BHEL (b) GAIL (c) SAIL (d) ONGC
26. Who is sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal for the third time?  
(a) Mamata Banerjee (b) Saudagat Roy  
(c) Mahua Mitra (d) Abhishek Bannerjee
27. Recently, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO, Used Cooking Oil based Biodiesel blended Diesel from Indian Oil's \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi  
(b) Digboi Terminal, Assam  
(c) Sarai Rohilla Terminal, Delhi  
(d) Alamkrit Terminal Bhopal

28. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his \_\_\_\_\_ have adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
- (a) British counterpart Boris Johnson (b) American President Joe Biden  
(c) German Chancellor Angela Merkel (d) Canada counterpart Justin Trudeau
29. The Mukhyamantri Jan-Kalyan Sambal scheme is a scheme in:
- (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Jharkhand (d) Odisha
30. Recently, Oktoberfest festival was cancelled for a second year in a row due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19. Oktoberfest festival is celebrated in:
- (a) France (b) Germany (c) Italy (d) Indonesia
31. The Union Cabinet gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control in \_\_\_\_\_ in line with the Budget announcement earlier this year.
- (a) IDBI Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) RBL Bank (d) HDFC Bank
32. Recently, World Trade Organization head Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala named \_\_\_\_\_ women to the WTO's four deputy leader jobs for the first time in its history.
- (a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four
33. Recently, RBI announces on-tap liquidity window of \_\_\_\_\_ to ramp up COVID related health care infrastructure and services in country.
- (a) Rs 10,000 crore (b) Rs 20,000 crore (c) Rs 30,000 crore (d) Rs 50,000 crore
34. Recently, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified \_\_\_\_\_ of the Social Security Code, 2020 which covers the applicability of Aadhaar.
- (a) Section 112 (b) Section 122 (c) Section 142 (d) Section 172
35. Which of the following countries embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli-led government lost majority support in the House of Representatives after the CPN (Maoist Center) led by Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" officially withdrew support to it?
- (a) Bangladesh (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) Myanmar
36. NATO members Norway, Canada and the \_\_\_\_\_ also become the first foreign countries to collaborate in the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) pact, which aims to deepen defence ties.
- (a) France (b) Germany  
(c) United States of America (d) Netherlands
37. Recently, An international team of astronomers has discovered \_\_\_\_\_ rare millisecond pulsars hiding inside dense clusters of stars surrounding the Milky Way.
- (a) Five (b) Seven (c) Eight (d) Ten
38. Recently, the first-ever trilateral meet of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, and \_\_\_\_\_ FM Marise Payne met on the sidelines of the G7 foreign minister meet in London.
- (a) Australian (b) Austrian (c) French (d) German
39. With close to 4, 00,000 cases being added every day, questions are being raised by many scientists on whether a government-backed model, called \_\_\_\_\_ to forecast the rise and ebb of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (a) MANTRA (b) SUTRA (c) SARTHAK (d) MARTAND
40. The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal in comprehensive research has shown that proteins from the coronavirus other than the well-known \_\_\_\_\_ can play a critical role in the infectivity of the virus.
- (a) 'Spike protein' (b) 'Strike protein' (c) 'Silk protein' (d) 'Specific protein'

41. Which of the following Indian airports becomes the first globally to have 1,000 TaxiBot movements?  
 (a) Delhi International Airport Limited (b) Bengaluru International Airport Limited  
 (c) Mumbai International Airport Limited (d) Chennai International Airport Limited
42. Which of the following state governments launched outpatient clinics for COVID infectees?  
 (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Maharashtra (d) Karnataka
43. Which city is now home to a plush 36-room cinema hotel, the first of its kind in the world?  
 (a) London (b) Paris (c) Madrid (d) Munich
44. According to a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021, which of the following has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally?  
 (a) Bajaj Allianz Insurance Corporation (b) Life Insurance Corporation  
 (c) HDFC Ergo Insurance Corporation (d) PNB Metlife Insurance Corporation
45. Which of the following Asian cities will host its first World Para Power lifting World Cup?  
 (a) New Delhi (b) Bangkok (c) Manila (d) Dhaka
46. The biotech firm Oxitec has released its genetically modified mosquitoes. This is the first time genetically modified mosquitoes have been released in:  
 (a) Germany (b) France (c) USA (d) China
47. Recently, Scientists have discovered a new type of uranium that is the lightest ever known. The newfound uranium is called as:  
 (a) Uranium-204 (b) Uranium-214 (c) Uranium-219 (d) Uranium-229
48. International Day of the Midwives is celebrated on:  
 (a) 2<sup>nd</sup> May (b) 4<sup>th</sup> May (c) 7<sup>th</sup> May (d) 9<sup>th</sup> May
49. Which of the following states has announced to present 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das?  
 (a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
50. Name the movie based on the true story of 12 underprivileged tribal boys from Odisha which won the 'Best Film' (Jury) Award at 11<sup>th</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2021?  
 (a) 'Jungle Cry' (b) 'Mango Cry' (c) 'Shout Cry' (d) 'Hit & Cry'
51. Who among the following led four-member delegation's participation at the G-7 for India?  
 (a) S Jaishankar (b) Narendra Modi (c) Amit Shah (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
52. Recently, the Indian Army inducted its first batch of 83 women soldiers as part of its \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Military police (b) Military doctors (c) Military firewoman (d) Military matron
53. Recently, the Indian Navy has apprised the government of its requirement to build \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) to counter the challenge on high seas in a post pandemic world.  
 (a) Three (b) Five (c) Six (d) Nine
54. Who has created a history by becoming the first Indian Sikh to become a member of Scotland Parliament?  
 (a) Pam Gosal (b) Mukesh Dhiman (c) Ashok Jivar (d) Mahesh Goswami
55. Recently, Reserve Bank of India said an advisory group has been constituted to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0). Who will be the head of this advisory group?  
 (a) S Janakiraman (b) Aniket Burman (c) Deepak Mahajan (d) M Rajeshwar Rao

56. Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings, India's credit rating would be retained at the current level for the next two years. India's rating remains stable on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) 'BBB-' rating      (b) 'AAA-' rating      (c) 'CCC-' rating      (d) 'BBB+' rating
57. Who won her first Madrid Open Women's singles title recently?
- (a) Aryna Sabalenka      (b) Alenka Jort      (c) Ashleigh Barty      (d) Gareth Karty
58. According to the study by US think-tank Rhodium Group, which country's annual emissions of greenhouse gases in 2019 exceeded the emissions of all developed countries combined for the first time?
- (a) India      (b) China      (c) USA      (d) Canada
59. Which of the following companies introduced the world's first 2-nanometre chipmaking technology recently?
- (a) Microsoft      (b) IBM      (c) HP      (d) Dell
60. World Migratory Bird Day 2021 is observed globally on \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) 5 May      (b) 6 May      (c) 7 May      (d) 8 May
61. Recently, In the QS university rankings released the \_\_\_\_\_ ranked first in India.
- (a) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay      (b) Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi      (d) Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
62. Who among the following participated in the meeting of the European Council as a special invitee?
- (a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi      (b) President Ramnath Kovind  
(c) Home Minister Amit Shah      (d) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
63. The new app namely CBSE Dost for Life has been designed for students of classes \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) 9 to 12      (b) 11 to 12      (c) 8 to 10      (d) 1 to 5
64. Recently, The \_\_\_\_\_ won its fourth straight parliamentary election and insisted it will push on with another referendum on Scotland's independence from the U.K. even though it failed by one seat to secure a majority.
- (a) Scottish National Party      (b) Scottish Peace Party  
(c) Scottish Independence Party      (d) Scottish First Party
65. Who has become the first person from the Indian-Canadian community to win a prestigious lifetime achievement award at Hot Docs, North America's biggest documentary film festival?
- (a) Amit Mohan      (b) Lalita Krishna      (c) Alok Bahuguna      (d) John Kirten
66. In view of COVID-19, the government has relaxed the provisions of Income-tax Act. Now, all hospitals, nursing units, dispensaries and COVID care centres will be able to accept cash over \_\_\_\_\_ from the patients.
- (a) one lakh rupees      (b) two lakh rupees      (c) three lakh rupees      (d) five lakh rupees
67. Recently, the Global Methane assessment was launched by Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) together with the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) United Nations General Assembly      (b) United Nations Environment Programme  
(c) Amnesty International      (d) Greenpeace Foundation
68. Who among the following secured 100<sup>th</sup> career pole position at Spanish Grand Prix?
- (a) Lewis Hamilton      (b) Max Verstappen      (c) Valteri Bottas      (d) Alex Carlson
69. Who has been named "Sportswoman of the Year" at the Laureus World Sports Awards for her achievements on and off the court?
- (a) Billie Jean King      (b) Naomi Osaka      (c) Martina Hingis      (d) Maria Sharapova
70. Name the Nepali Sherpa who climbed the world's highest peak, Mt Everest, for the 25<sup>th</sup> time breaking his own record for summiting the mountain most number of times.
- (a) Anoya Sherpa      (b) Kami Rita Sherpa      (c) Mithan Sherpa      (d) Ananya Joa Sherpa

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a Chad's new military rulers named a civilian politician, Albert Pahimi Padacke, as prime minister of a transitional government after President Idriss Deby's battlefield death.
2. c External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar embarked on a four-day visit to London beginning to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers of G7 countries.
3. d In order to encourage people to get Covid-19 jabs, state-run Central Bank of India has launched a special deposit scheme offering an additional interest rate of 25 basis points above the applicable card rate for those who get vaccinated.
4. b The Centre announced decision to provide an additional amount of upto Rs 15,000 crore to states as interest-free 50-year loan for spending on capital projects.
5. c Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), has launched SHWAS (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of COVID19) and AROG (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID-19 pandemic), two new quick credit delivery schemes.
6. a Two new species of damselfly have been discovered in the Satara district — in the northern part of the Western Ghats.
7. a The US State Department has approved the possible Foreign Military Sale of six P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to India for an estimated cost of \$2.42 billion.
8. b Polish scientists have discovered the world's first pregnant Egyptian mummy while carrying out scans on the 2,000-year-old remains kept at the National Museum in Warsaw.
9. b The Day is celebrated bi-annually on the second Saturday in May and in October.
10. a Olympic-bound Indian boxer Amit Panghal (52 kg) settled for a bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St Petersburg, Russia, after going down to world champion and familiar foe Shakhobidin Zoirov in the semifinals.
11. a As part of the Prime Minister's announcement of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Government has approved a new Central Sector Scheme namely PLISFPI for implementation during 2021-22 to 2026-27 with an outlay of 10 thousand 900 crore rupees.
12. c The government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to implement Parvat Dhara Yojna in 10 districts except Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti to rejuvenate and recharge aquifers in an effort to conserve natural water resources.
13. a Indian Army in its quest for harnessing renewable energy for its troops inaugurated the First Green Solar Energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA using Vanadium based battery technology in North Sikkim, at an altitude of 16000 ft.
14. a UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new UK-India trade and investment worth £1 billion.
15. d The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said the minimum death insurance has been increased to Rs. 2.5 lakh and the maximum to Rs. 7 lakh.
16. a In Snooker, Mark Selby became the World Champion for the fourth time. Selby won the Championship defeating Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory at Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.
17. b Former Union Minister and Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Jagmohan passed away in New Delhi.

- 18. b** A brilliantly managed race from Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton saw him take his second win of the 2021 season at the Portuguese Grand Prix, the Briton finishing ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, as Hamilton's polesitting team mate Valtteri Bottas came home third.
- 19. a** World champion P.V. Sindhu has been nominated as athlete ambassador alongside Canada's Michelle Li for the International Olympic Committee's 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation.
- 20. a** World Laughter Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of May to spread awareness about the many healing benefits of laughter.
- 21. a** DMK Chief M.K. Stalin has become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after being elected as the Party's legislative leader at Chennai.
- 22. c** International Firefighters' Day is observed each year on 4<sup>th</sup> May.
- 23. a** Researchers have identified fossil bone fragments of long-necked dinosaurs called sauropods, dating back to about 100-million-years from an area around West Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya.
- 24. b** Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of insectivorous mammal, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.
- 25. c** With Rs 55,500 crore m-cap, SAIL enters 100 most-valued Indian firms' club.
- 26. a** TMC leader Mamata Banerjee is sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal for the third time.
- 27. a** Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO, Used Cooking Oil based Biodiesel blended Diesel from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.
- 28. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson have adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
- 29. b** In Madhya Pradesh, 379 crore rupees have been transferred into the accounts of 16 thousand 844 beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Jan-Kalyan Sambal scheme. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said state government accords high priority to benefit the poor families of unorganised sector workers.
- 30. b** The Oktoberfest is the world's largest Volksfest. It is held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany.
- 31. a** The Cabinet gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control in IDBI Bank in line with the Budget announcement earlier this year.
- 32. b** World Trade Organization head Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala named two women to the WTO's four deputy leader jobs for the first time in its history.
- 33. d** RBI announces on-tap liquidity window of Rs 50,000 crore to ramp up COVID related health care infrastructure and services in country.
- 34. c** The Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 which covers the applicability of Aadhaar.
- 35. b** Nepal's embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli-led government lost majority support in the House of Representatives after the CPN (Maoist Center) led by Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" officially withdrew support to it.

- 36. c** NATO members Norway, Canada and the United States also become the first foreign countries to collaborate in the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) pact, which aims to deepen defence ties.
- 37. c** An international team of astronomers has discovered eight rare millisecond pulsars hiding inside dense clusters of stars surrounding the Milky Way.
- 38. a** The first-ever trilateral meet of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, and Australian FM Marise Payne who met on the sidelines of the G7 foreign minister meet in London.
- 39. b** With close to 4, 00,000 cases being added every day, questions are being raised by many scientists on whether a government-backed model, called SUTRA, to forecast the rise and ebb of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 40. a** The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal in comprehensive research has shown that proteins from the coronavirus other than the well-known 'spike protein' can play a critical role in the infectivity of the virus.
- 41. a** Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced completing 1,000 movements of sustainable taxing of aircraft with Taxibot — a semi-robotic hybrid special purpose vehicle and thus helped the airport in significantly reducing carbon emission and saving fuel.
- 42. b** Telangana government launched outpatient clinics for COVID infectees.
- 43. b** Paris is now home to a plush 36-room cinema hotel, the first of its kind in the world.
- 44. b** State-owned insurance behemoth — Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) — has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally, according to a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021, a London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.
- 45. b** Bangkok will host its first World Para Powerlifting World Cup.
- 46. c** This is the first time genetically modified mosquitoes have been released in the US.
- 47. b** The newfound uranium, called uranium-214, is an isotope, or a variant of the element, with 30 more neutrons than protons, one fewer neutron than the next-lightest known uranium isotope.
- 48. c** International Day of the Midwives was first celebrated May 7<sup>th</sup> 1991, and has since been observed in over 50 nations around the world.
- 49. b** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the state government will present 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das.
- 50. a** 'Jungle Cry', a movie based on the true story of 12 underprivileged tribal boys from Odisha, has won the 'Best Film' (Jury) Award at 11<sup>th</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2021.
- 51. a** For India, external affairs minister S Jaishankar-led four-member delegation's participation at the G-7 was dramatic as two senior delegates apparently tested positive for coronavirus after landing in London for the meeting.
- 52. a** The Indian Army inducted its first batch of 83 women soldiers as part of its military police.
- 53. c** The Indian Navy has apprised the government of its requirement to build six nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) to counter the challenge on high seas in a post pandemic world.
- 54. a** Pam Gosal has created a history by becoming the first Indian Sikh to become a member of Scotland Parliament.

- 55. a** Headed by SBI Managing Director S Janakiraman, the advisory group will assist the RRA by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns that can be rationalised.
- 56. a** India's rating remains stable on a 'BBB-' rating.
- 57. a** In tennis, Aryna Sabalenka stunned world number one Ashleigh Barty to win the Madrid Open for the first time.
- 58. b** A study published revealed that China's annual emissions of greenhouse gases in 2019 exceeded the emissions of all developed countries combined for the first time.
- 59. b** IBM introduced what it says is the world's first 2-nanometre chipmaking technology.
- 60. d** World Migratory Bird Day 2021 is observed globally on 8 May.
- 61. a** In the QS University rankings released the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) ranked first in India.
- 62. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the meeting of the European Council as a special invitee.
- 63. a** The new app namely CBSE Dost for Life has been designed for students of classes 9 to 12 and it can be used for counselling sessions from 10<sup>th</sup> of this month.
- 64. a** The Scottish National Party won its fourth straight parliamentary election and insisted it will push on with another referendum on Scotland's independence from the U.K. even though it failed by one seat to secure a majority.
- 65. b** Filmmaker Lalita Krishna, who has been making documentaries for over 20 years, has become the first person from the Indian-Canadian community to win a prestigious lifetime achievement award at Hot Docs, North America's biggest documentary film festival.
- 66. b** Now, all hospitals, nursing units, dispensaries and COVID care centres will be able to accept cash over two lakh rupees from the patients.
- 67. b** The Global Methane assessment was launched by Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) together with the United Nations Environment Programme.
- 68. a** In the Formula One, Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes beat Red Bull's Max Verstappen to secure his 100<sup>th</sup> career pole position at the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona.
- 69. b** World No. 2 tennis player Naomi Osaka has been named "Sportswoman of the Year" at the Laureus World Sports Awards for her achievements on and off the court, while tennis legend Billie Jean King was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Laureus Academy.
- 70. b** Kami Rita Sherpa creates new record, climbs Mt Everest for the 25<sup>th</sup> time.