

---

# **MANTHAN**

---

**A General Awareness Weekly**

**5<sup>th</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2021**

# PREFACE

---

**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**

**Team CL**



Career  
Launcher

## National



### West Bengal Assembly passes resolution to set up Legislative Council

- The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal was able to pass a resolution in the state assembly in favour of creating a legislative council in the state under Article 169 of the Constitution.
- The West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution to set up Legislative Council with a two-thirds majority. The resolution was passed with 196 votes in favour and 69 against it. The West Bengal Legislative Assembly has a strength of 294 members but only 265 were present during the voting.
- Creating a legislative council was one of the key poll promises made by Mamata Banerjee. In the run-up to the assembly polls, she had said TMC leaders who have not been given tickets would be sent to the legislative council. Senior TMC leader and state minister Partha Chatterjee tabled the resolution in the Assembly.
- As per law, West Bengal can have a maximum of 94 members in the legislative council (one-third of total assembly seats), in case the resolution gets support of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- West Bengal too had the Legislative Council (in fact, it was the first state to have the upper house in 1937). However, in 1969, the then coalition government of Left parties abolished the legislative council as it was considered to be a “symbol of elitism”.
- The Andhra Pradesh Assembly recently passed a resolution to abolish the state’s Legislative Council (LC). The bill is yet to be introduced in Parliament. Until 2019, Jammu and Kashmir too had a legislative council but it was dissolved once the erstwhile state was downgraded into a Union Territory.

The State Legislative Council, or Vidhan Parishad, or Saasana Mandali is the upper house in those 6 states of India that have a bicameral state legislature; the lower house being the State Legislative Assembly. Its establishment is defined in Article 169 of the Constitution of India. According to the Article 169 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament of India can create or abolish the State Legislative Council of a state if that state’s legislature passes a resolution for that with a special majority. The tenure of the MLCs are six years. One-third of the members of State Legislative Council retire after every two years. This arrangement parallels that for the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India. At present six states -- Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka -- have a Legislative Council.

### Asia’s longest high-speed testing track comes up at Indore

- In a proud moment for the country, Asia’s longest high-speed track — NATRAX — was inaugurated at Pithampur near Indore in Madhya Pradesh by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- NATRAX, one of the state-of-the-art automotive testing and certification centre under NATRiP, a flagship project of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, planned under the Automotive Mission Plan launched by the Centre.
- It is located near the vibrant industrial township of Pithampur (District Dhar), which is 50 km from the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh i.e. Indore, situated on NH-3 By-Pass Road (Indore– Mumbai). The center has been developed in approx 3,000 acres of land.

Asia is Earth's largest and most populous continent, located primarily in the Eastern and Northern Hemispheres. It shares the continental landmass of Eurasia with the continent of Europe and the continental landmass of Afro-Eurasia with both Europe and Africa. The most commonly accepted boundaries place Asia to the east of the Suez Canal separating it from Africa; and to the east of the Turkish Straits, the Ural Mountains and Ural River, and to the south of the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian and Black Seas, separating it from Europe.

## Uttar Pradesh sets up new afforestation record by planting 25 crore saplings

- In Uttar Pradesh, a new record of afforestation is being set up by planting 25 crore saplings during the week-long Van Mahotsav culminating. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath planted the sapling which is marked as the completion of 100 crore sapling under the plantation drive during his tenure.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath planted the sapling at newly constructed Purvanchal expressway in Sultanpur district. Governor Anandiben Patel carried out tree plantation in Jhansi. Ministers in charge and nodal officers are also carrying out tree plantations in their respective districts and monitoring the plantation campaign.
- To achieve the target of planting 25 crore saplings under the campaign each district has been given its target and saplings have been provided to farmers youths students and different organisations. Many competitions and rewards have been announced by government to encourage people's participation in this program and strict adherence to the covid protocols is being followed.

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India as well as the most populous country subdivision in the world. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1950, giving the acronym UP. The state is divided into 18 divisions and 75 districts with the capital being Lucknow. On 9 November 2000, a new state, Uttarakhand, was carved out from the state's Himalayan hill region. The two major rivers of the state, the Ganges and Yamuna, join at Allahabad and flow further east as Ganges. The state contributes 80 seats to the lower house of the Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha and 31 seats to the upper house of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

## Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as 11<sup>th</sup> CM of Uttarakhand

- Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He took oath as Chief Minister in Raj Bhavan at Dehradun. Former CMs Tirath Singh Rawat and Trivendra Singh Rawat, and BJP general secretary in-charge Dushyant Kumar Gautam were also present at the ceremony.
- Born on 16 September 1975 in Pithoragarh District, Mr. Dhami is a two-time BJP MLA who represents the Khatima Constituency in the hill state's Kumaon region. He worked with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the BJP's ideological mentor Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Uttarakhand is often referred to as the Devbhumi, due to many Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state. On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27<sup>th</sup> state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh. Trivendra Singh Rawat served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand till March 10, 2021. Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami is serving as the current Chief Minister of Uttarakhand since March 10, 2021. Baby Rani Maurya is serving as the current governor of Uttarakhand since 26 August 2018. The winter capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun, the largest city of the state, which is a rail head. Gairsain, a town in Chamoli district is the summer capital of Uttarakhand. The High Court of the state is located in Nainital.

## Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of grade 3, by 2026-27. The mission planned as per the new National Education Policy (NEP) has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

- It will focus on providing access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling, teacher capacity building; development of high quality and diversified student and teacher resources and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes. The success of NIPUN Bharat will primarily depend on teachers, so, there will be a special emphasis on capacity building of teachers. A special package for foundational literacy and Numeracy under NISHTHA is being developed by NCERT and around 25 lakh teachers teaching at pre-primary to primary grade will be trained this year on FLN.
- “NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years. Teachers need to focus on every child for developing basic language, literacy and numeracy skills which will help them develop into better readers and writers. Thus, NIPUN Bharat envisages making the experience of learning at the foundational stage Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive, Enjoyable, and Engaging,” Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said.

Following outcomes have been envisaged from implementation of the goals and objectives of NIPUN Bharat Mission: 1. Foundational skills enable to keep children in class thereby reducing the dropouts and improve transition rate from primary to upper primary and secondary stages. 2. Activity based learning and conducive learning environment will improve quality of education. 3. Innovative pedagogies such as toy-based and experiential learning will be used in classroom transaction thereby making learning a joyful and engaging activity. 4. Intensive capacity building of teachers will make them empowered and provide greater autonomy for choosing the pedagogy. 5. Holistic development of the child by focusing on different domains of development like physical and motor development, socio-emotional development, literacy and numeracy development, cognitive development, life skills etc. which are interrelated and interdependent, which will be reflected in a Holistic Progress Card. 6. Children to achieve steeper learning trajectory which may have positive impacts on later life outcomes and employment. 7. Since almost every child attends early grades, therefore, focus at that stage will also benefit the socio-economic disadvantaged group thus ensuring access to equitable and inclusive quality education. Thus, NIPUN Bharat is envisaged to support and encourage students, along with their schools, teachers, parents, and communities, in every way possible, to help realise the true potential of our children and propel the country to new heights. The current Union Minister for Education is Dharmendra Pradhan since 7 July 2021.

### Ex-Allahabad HC judge appointed chairman of IFUNA

- A former judge of the Allahabad High Court has been appointed chairman of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-profit organisation to promote objectives of the United Nations and its specialised agencies.
- Justice (Retd.) Shambhu Nath Srivastava, a former judge of Allahabad High Court and former chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh, has been appointed the chairman of IFUNA. He succeeds Mukul Sangma, a former Chief Minister of Meghalaya.
- The IFUNA, affiliated to the World Federation of United Nations Associations, (WFUNA) Geneva, enjoys special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, brings people and issues together to promote collective action for a sustainable world.
- Established more than six decades ago to promote the objectives of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, the IFUNA is a non-governmental, voluntary, non-profit organisation working for international peace and understanding.

### Thawarchand Gehlot appointed as Karnataka Governor, Sreedharan Pillai as Goa Governor

- The government transferred or appointed governors of eight states. One of the major changes included the appointment of Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot as the Governor of Karnataka.
- Hari Babu Kambhampati, the former Lok Sabha member from Vishakhapatnam, who is also a member of BJP's national executive, has been appointed as the Governor of Mizoram. BJP leader from Gujarat, Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel, has become the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

- Former Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly, **BJP's Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, will take over as the **Governor of Himachal Pradesh**. The previous governors of these states have been moved to other Raj Bhavans.
- **PS Sreedharan Pillai** has been transferred from Mizoram to Goa. **Satyadev Narayan Arya** will move from Haryana to Tripura. Tripura's current Governor **Ramesh Bais** will move to the Raj Bhavan in Jharkhand. Senior RSS leader **Bandaru Dattatraya**, who was serving as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, is transferred and appointed as Governor of Haryana.
- Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister **Thawarchand Gehlot** was sworn in as **19<sup>th</sup> Governor of Karnataka**. **Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Abhay Srinivas Oka** administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Governor.
- **Mr Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel** took oath as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. MP High Court Chief Justice **Mohammad Rafiq** administered the oath to Mr. Patel at a function in the Raj Bhawan at Bhopal.

**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.**

### Jammu and Kashmir administration accords sanction to uploading of Geo tagged photographs through 'PROOF' mobile app

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory Administration accorded sanction to uploading of Geo tagged photographs through 'PROOF' (Photographic Record of On-site Facility) mobile application while preferring bills in the concerned Treasuries against the budget allotted through BEAMS application.
- The order further states that **no bills shall be entertained in the treasuries from 1<sup>st</sup> of August onwards unless photographs are uploaded through the aforesaid application.** The 'PROOF' application will be available for downloading on the BEAMS Portal.

Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory and consists of the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947 and between India and China since 1962. The region of Jammu and Kashmir is separated by the Line of Control from the Pakistani-administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north, respectively. Provisions for the formation of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir were contained within the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, which was passed by both houses of the Parliament of India in August 2019. The act re-constituted the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, 'Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Ladakh', with effect from 31 October 2019. **Manoj Sinha** is the current Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. **Girish Chandra Murmu** was the first Lieutenant Governor.

### MoS for Education Sanjay Dhotre chaired 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Education Ministers meeting

- Minister of State for Education **Sanjay Dhotre** chaired the Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Education Ministers in virtual mode. This meeting is held as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit being hosted by India this year. Education Ministers from the five BRICS member states attended the meeting along with senior officials.

- Earlier, the **International Governing Board, IGB of the BRICS Network Universities met, to take a look at the progress made by member states under this initiative** so far and discuss ways to take it further. The IGB stressed upon the need to promote development of mechanisms to enhance academic and research collaborations among BRICS member states.

**BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as “BRIC” (China, Brazil, Russia and India), before the induction of South Africa in 2010. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.**

## **CII organises 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Indo Pacific Business Summit in partnership with External Affairs Ministry**

- **The first edition of the Indo Pacific Business Summit was organised by CII in partnership with External Affairs Ministry.** The event saw participation from Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries across the Indo Pacific.
- Addressing the event, Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry, Riva Ganguly Das spoke about **promoting trade facilitation in the Indo-Pacific through improved cross border linkages and trade infrastructure.** She underlined the **importance of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific in facilitating trade and connectivity in the region.**
- Secretary (East) also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by India including building cross border linkages and infrastructure, promoting digital connectivity, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

**The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India founded in 1895.** CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. It is a **membership-based organization.** For 2021-22, **Mr.T. V. Narendran, CEO & Managing Director of Tata Steel Limited is the President, CII, Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman & Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Limited is the President-Designate.**

## **Government creates Ministry of Co-operation for strengthening of cooperatives**

- **The Union Government has created a separate Ministry of Co-operation for realizing the vision of ‘Sahkar se Samridhhi’.** This Ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for **strengthening the cooperative movement** in the country.
- It will help **deepen co-operatives as a true people based movement reaching upto the grassroots.** The new Ministry will work to **streamline processes for Ease of Doing Business for co-operatives and enable development of Multi-State Co-operatives.**
- The Central Government has signaled its **deep commitment to community-based developmental partnership.** The creation of a separate Ministry for Co-operation also fulfils the budget announcement made by the Finance Minister. **Home Minister Amit Shah has been given charge of the Ministry of Co-operation,** and he will also look after the Ministries of Culture, Tourism and North East, ensuring that Culture and Tourism in North East gets a boost.
- **Agriculture and cooperation are in the state list, which means state governments can govern them.** A majority of the **cooperative societies are governed by laws in their respective states,** with a Cooperation Commissioner and the Registrar of Societies as their governing office. **In 2002, the Centre passed a MultiState Cooperative Societies Act that allowed for registration of societies with operations in more than one state.**

**By definition, cooperatives are organisations formed at the grassroots level by people to harness the power of collective bargaining towards a common goal.** In agriculture, cooperative dairies, sugar mills, spinning mills etc are formed with the pooled resources of farmers who wish to process their produce. **The country has 1,94,195 cooperative dairy societies and 330 cooperative sugar mill operations.** In 2019-20, dairy cooperatives had procured 4.80 crore litres of milk from 1.7 crore members and had sold 3.7 crore litres of liquid milk per day. (Annual Report, National Dairy Development Board, 2019-20). **Cooperative sugar mills account for 35% of the sugar produced in the country.**

## Delhi government formulates policy for street children in view of pandemic

- **The Delhi government has framed a policy for the welfare of street children in view of the pandemic situation** which stresses on the role of various stakeholders in **promoting Covid-appropriate behaviour and generating awareness about the infection.**
- Prepared by the Delhi government's Women and Child Development Department (WCD), **the policy encourages a direct participation of civil society organisations and highlights their role in identifying hotspot areas and distributing masks among them.**
- It also suggests that **district administration could consider training the children rescued from streets (on attaining the age of 18 years) as Civil Defense Volunteer**, since it will provide them respectable employment, and they, owing to their own experience, can also assist many other children who come from a similar background. The policy also **proposes the composition of District Child Protection Convergence Committee (DCPCC) over and above the District Task Force (DTF) for rescuing children.**

Delhi bordered by Haryana on three sides and by Uttar Pradesh to the east. According to the 2011 census, Delhi city proper's population was over 11 million, the second-highest in India after Mumbai. Anil Bajjal is the current & 21<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is the current and 7<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Delhi. The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature, and it came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991.

## Union Minister Giriraj Singh launches Online Course Mobile App Matsya Setu

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Giriraj Singh, launched the Online Course Mobile App Matsya Setu.** The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.
- **The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.** The app has species-wise or subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the **basic concepts and practical demonstrations on breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish and pearl farming.**
- The App developed in association with the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad aims at disseminating the latest Freshwater Aquaculture Technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

## DPIIT initiates project on Open Network for Digital Commerce

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).** It aims at **promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology**, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- **ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.** An advisory council has been constituted to advise the Government on measures needed to design and accelerate adoption of ONDC. **The members of the Advisory council include RS Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority, Nandan Nilekani, non-executive Chairman of Infosys and Arvind Gupta, Co-founder and Head, Digital India Foundation.**

## Government school in Bengaluru becomes first in India to launch satellites

- **The Malleshwaram Government Boys High School in Bengaluru will achieve a unique feat if things go as planned. It will become the country's first government school to develop a satellite,** Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwathnarayan said.
- **Ashwathnarayan added that students from nearby schools will also be involved in the development of 75 ready-to-launch satellites.** He informed that the programme is slated to be held as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations next year. The school in Malleshwaram is located in Stone Building Collge at the 18<sup>th</sup> cross.

**Karnataka** is a state in the south western region of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The capital and largest city is Bengaluru. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa is serving as the 19<sup>th</sup> and current Chief Minister of Karnataka. Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is currently serving as the Governor of Karnataka. Coffee production in India is dominated in the hill tracts of South Indian states, with Karnataka accounting for 71%, followed by Kerala with 21% and Tamil Nadu (5% of overall production with 8,200 tonnes).

## India, UK hold inaugural meeting of India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue virtually

- India and the United Kingdom held the inaugural meeting of the India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue virtually. The Dialogue was established at the 10<sup>th</sup> Economic and Financial Dialogue to deepen bilateral ties in the financial sector.
- The Dialogue was led by senior officials from the Indian side by the Ministry of Finance and from UK Treasury, with participation from Indian and UK independent regulatory agencies, including the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, International Financial Services Centre Authority, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, the Bank of England, and the Financial Conduct Authority.

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.

## PM Narendra Modi chairs 1<sup>st</sup> revamped Cabinet meeting after reshuffle; Over Rs 23,000 crore package announced for emergency response to COVID-19

- In the first Cabinet meeting after reshuffle, the Union government allocated Rs 23,000 crores package for emergency response to Covid-19. "Rs 23,123-crore package to be given to deal with Covid-19. It will be used jointly by the Central and state governments," said the newly-appointed Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the first media briefing of the new cabinet.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said a new package of more than Rs 23,000 crore rupees has been approved to further strengthen the fight against COVID. Mr Modi said that under this, necessary arrangements like pediatric care units to ICU beds, oxygen storage, ambulances and medicines will be made in all the districts of the country. The Union Cabinet approved a new scheme 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II' amounting to Rs 23,123 crore for financial year 2021-22.

## DDMA approves Graded Response Action Plan

- The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) approved the Graded Response Action Plan, (GRAP). Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, the plan descriptively elaborates upon when the lockdown will be imposed and when it will be lifted. According to GRAP, there will be four levels of 'alerts', Level 1 - Yellow 'Alert', Level 2 - Amber 'Alert', Level 3 - Orange 'Alert' and Level 4 - Red 'Alert'.
- The Level-1 of the plan will be applicable only when the positivity rate is more than 0.5 per cent for two consecutive days, at least 1500 new cases have been registered in the past one week and patients admitted to 500 oxygen beds.
- The Level-2 will be applicable when the positivity rate is more than one per cent, at least 3500 new cases have been registered and patients admitted to 700 oxygen beds in one week. The Level-3 will be applicable only when the positivity rate is more than two per cent, at least 9000 new cases have been registered and patients admitted to 1,000 oxygen beds. The Level-4 will be applicable when the positivity rate is more than five per cent, at least 16,000 new cases have been registered and patients admitted to 3000 oxygen beds in one week.

## All BRICS countries agree to STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India

- All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BRICS Science and Technology Steering Committee.
- India had proposed the plan to facilitate sharing of experiences of each other's innovation ecosystem and networking of innovators and entrepreneurs. The details of the Action Plan will be worked out by BRICS Science, Technology Innovation Entrepreneurship partnership Working Group.
- The Department of Science and Technology, India, hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BRICS Science and Technology Steering Committee. Scientific Ministries and agencies of all BRICS countries participated in the meeting. BRICS officials discussed in detail about the thematic areas for this year's call for proposals at the meeting and unanimously agreed for collaboration in 10 thematic areas.
- These are Transient Astronomical Events and Deep Survey Science, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Technologies for Diagnosis and Treatment, Simulation and Big Data Analytics for Advanced Precision Medicine and Public Healthcare, HPC and Big Data for Sustainable Development: Solving Large Scale Ecological, Climate and Pollution Problems, Innovation and Entrepreneurship on Photonic, Nanophotonics, and Metamaterials for Addressing Bio-medicine, Agriculture, Food Industry and Energy Harvesting Issues, Materials Science and Nanotechnology for Addressing Environmental, Climate Change, Agricultural, Food, and Energy Issues, Renewable Energy including Smart Grid Integration, Ocean and Polar Science and Technology Water Treatment Technology Research in Aeronautics and Aerospace.

## PM Narendra Modi's all-party meets on Kashmir

- It was the death anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the Bharatiya Jan Sangh founder who remains an emotively inspiring figure for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It was on this day that Prime Minister Narendra Modi held his Kashmir meeting.
- Syama Prasad Mookerjee died in a Jammu and Kashmir prison in 1953 agitating against its special status granted earlier under Article 370 and Presidential Orders under 35A. The Modi government fulfilled that demand on August 5, 2019.
- The central government had moved swiftly in August 2020 before stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status to put several leaders under house arrest in the Valley. Three former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were among those leaders. The Centre had apprehension that they might create trouble in fulfilling a long-standing poll promise of the BJP.
- On the government's part, Union Home Minister Amit Shah vented out his frustration by labelling them as 'Gupkar Gang' after the leaders formed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) to demand undoing what was done on August 5, 2019.

On August 4, 2019, the first Gupkar declaration was signed after an all-party meeting at the Gupkar Road residence of NC supremo Farooq Abdullah. The signatories were reportedly members of the NC, PDP, CPI(M), Congress, J&K Peoples Conference and Awami National Conference. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is an electoral alliance between the several regional political parties in Jammu and Kashmir reportedly aimed at restoring special status along with Article 35A of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Farooq Abdullah is the president of the alliance. On 19 January 2021, the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference announced that it was pulling out of the Gupkar alliance, citing differences with the member parties.



### Malawi welcomes World's First 3D Printed School made by 14Trees

- **Danish robot 3D construction printer company COBOD International A/S**, has played a part in building the world's first 3D printed school in Malawi, Africa. The project was carried out by 14Trees a JV company between LafargeHolcim and CDC.
- According to estimates from UNICEF, Africa has a huge deficit of schools. **In Malawi alone, where the 3D printed school was built, there is a shortage of 36,000 classrooms**, which would take 70 years to build using conventional methods and speed.
- **3D-printed school is also planned for Madagascar**, with construction to take place sometime this year. **Having completed the world's first 3D-printed school in Malawi**, 14Trees now hopes to carry out similar projects in Kenya and Zimbabwe. Another 3D-printed school is scheduled to be built in Madagascar in the coming months.

**Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa** that was **formerly known as Nyasaland**. It is bordered by Zambia to the west, Tanzania to the north and northeast, and Mozambique to the east, south and southwest. **Lilongwe is the capital. The kwacha is the currency** of Malawi. **Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera** has been serving as **President of Malawi** since June 2020.

### Tajikistan becomes first country in world to make COVID-19 vaccines mandatory

- **Tajikistan's government ordered mandatory vaccination against COVID-19 for citizens over 18 years**, making it the **first country in the world**.
- **The task force recommended that those who come to Tajikistan** from abroad should be tested for coronavirus and self-isolate for ten days, regardless of the results of the test. **The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,713,729 and 605,493**, respectively, according to the CSSE. In terms of infections, **India follows in the second place with 30,502,362 cases**.

**Tajikistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia** and an estimated population of 9,537,645 people. **Its capital and largest city is Dushanbe**. The **somoni is the currency of Tajikistan**. It is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north and China to the east. **Emomali Rahmon** is the **current President** of Tajikistan since 16 November 1994.

### Haitian president appoints new Prime Minister

- **The president of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, appointed Ariel Henry** as the **new Prime Minister** to form a consensus government that integrates different political life sectors country. **He replaces Claude Joseph, who served as head of government on an interim basis** since last April and who also held the post of chancellor.
- **Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, is plagued by poverty, insecurity and natural disaster**. Kidnappings for ransom have surged in recent months in Port-au-Prince and other provinces, reflecting the growing influence of armed gangs in the Caribbean nation.

**Haiti is a country located on the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles archipelago** of the **Caribbean Sea**, to the east of Cuba and Jamaica and south of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. **Port-au-Prince is the capital** and most populous city of Haiti. The **gourde is the currency of Haiti**.

## World's biggest sandcastle constructed in Denmark

- **The world's tallest sandcastle** has been **completed in Denmark**, towering more than 20 metres high and comprising nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand.
- **Standing 21.16 metres in height (69.4 feet)**, the castle is **more than 3 metres taller than one built in Germany** in 2019, which previously held the title, according to Guinness World Records.

**Denmark (Danish)** is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. The Kingdom of Denmark is constitutionally a unitary state comprising Denmark proper and the two autonomous territories in the North Atlantic Ocean: the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Copenhagen is the capital city of Denmark. The krone is the official currency of Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands. Mette Frederiksen is the current Prime Minister of Denmark.

## New Prime Minister appointed in Algeria

- **Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune** appointed **Aïmen Benabderrahmane**, former Minister of Finance, as new Prime Minister.
- The president indicated that he asked the **new head of government to continue consultations with political parties and the civil society to appoint the members of cabinet** as soon as possible.

**Algeria** is a country in the Maghreb region of North Africa. It is the **largest country by total area** in Africa. The capital and largest city is Algiers. The **dinar** is the monetary currency of Algeria. **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** is currently serving as the **President** of Algeria since December 2019.

## Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse killed in attack on his home in Port-au-Prince

- **Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse** has been **killed in an attack on his home in the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince**. The country's interim Prime Minister **Claude Joseph** informed this.
- **Jovenel Moïse** had been in **power since February 2017, after his predecessor, Michel Martelly stepped down**. Moïse's time in office was rocky as he faced accusations of corruption and was challenged by waves of often violent anti-government protests.

## First unit of Rampal Maitree Power project to be commissioned in Dec 2021

- **In Bangladesh, the first unit of the Maitree Power Project at Rampal** will be **commissioned in December this year, coinciding with the country's Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Liberation**. The second unit is expected to be commissioned matching with the implementation of the associated transmission system.

**Bangladesh** is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with **India and Myanmar (Burma)**. **Nepal, Bhutan and China** are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. **Dhaka** is its capital and largest city, followed by **Chittagong**, which has the country's largest port. **Bangladeshi taka** is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. **Mohammad Abdul Hamid** is the **16<sup>th</sup> and current President of Bangladesh**, in office since April 2013. **Sheikh Hasina** is the **current Prime Minister** of the Bangladesh.

## Canada names Mary Simon first indigenous governor general

- **Canada named Mary Simon** as its **first indigenous governor general, Queen Elizabeth II's official representative** in the Commonwealth country, as the nation faces a reckoning with its colonial history. **Canada's governor general is appointed by the queen on the recommendation of the prime minister**.

**Canada** is a country located in the northern part of North America. **Canada** is the **world's second-largest country by total area**. **Elizabeth II** is the **Head of the Commonwealth** and **queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon**. Its capital is **Ottawa**, and its three largest metropolitan areas are **Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver**. **Canadian dollar** is the **currency of Canada**. **Justin Pierre James Trudeau** is serving as the **23<sup>rd</sup> and current Prime Minister of Canada** since 2015.



## Cabinet approves proposal of allowing APMCs to use Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund announced as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Package

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said efforts will be made to provide more resources to the APMCs. Assuring that APMCs will not be done away with after farm laws, Tomar said, “Rs 1 lakh crore allocated under Atmanirbhar Bharat to Farmers Infrastructure Fund can be used by APMCs.”
- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of allowing the Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) to use the one lakh rupees Agriculture Infrastructure Fund which has been announced as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package.
- It is a central sector scheme, it aims to provide medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.
- The funds will be provided for setting up of cold stores and chains, warehousing, grading and packaging units, e-marketing points linked to e-trading platforms, besides PPP projects for crop aggregation sponsored by central/state/local bodies.

Eligible Beneficiaries under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund are Farmers, FPOs, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects. **Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to eligible beneficiaries.** Moratorium for repayment may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years. Loans will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years. A credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from the scheme under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore.

## Poonam Gupta, former World Bank economist, joins NCAER as first woman director-general

- Poonam Gupta, a former lead economist at the World Bank, officially joined as the Director-General of the think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- The first woman to hold the post, Gupta will succeed the current head, Shekhar Shah, who has led the organisation since 2011. Established in 1956, the New Delhi-based NCAER is India's oldest independent and non-profit economic policy research institute.

## Delhi: DMRC launches India's first UPI-based cashless parking at Kashmere Gate metro station

- The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based parking facility to reduce the time for entry and payment.
- The facility was launched at Kashmere Gate metro station. As part of the Multi-Model Integration (MMI) initiative, dedicated Intermediate Public Transport (IPT) lanes for autos, taxis and r-Rickshaws were also inaugurated at the station. NPCI to partner with DMRC to introduce the country's first 100 per cent digital parking plaza along with the NETC FASTag contactless car parking solution at their Kashmere Gate Metro Station.

**FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India, operated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). It employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it or directly toll owner. It is affixed on the windscreen of the vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas without stopping for transactions. The tag can be purchased from official Tag issuers or participating Banks and if it is linked to a prepaid account, then recharging or top-up can be as per requirement. As per NHAI, FASTag has unlimited validity.**

### **Paytm launches small-ticket instant loans Postpaid Mini to help users manage monthly expenses**

- **Paytm announced the launch of Postpaid Mini, a need-based and consumption-based credit for users to help them manage their household finances.** This product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service targeted at users who don't have a credit score.
- **“The idea behind launching this product is to give an opportunity to a wider section of people to experience credit with smaller ticket size loans and learn fiscal discipline.”** Postpaid Mini will offer loans ranging from Rs 250 to Rs 1000 to users to pay their monthly expenses, including mobile & DTH recharges, gas cylinder booking, electricity & water bills, amongst others.

**Paytm (“pay through mobile”) is an Indian multinational technology company that specialises in digital wallet, e-commerce, payment system and financial technology company, based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. Paytm was founded in August 2010 with an initial investment of \$2 million by its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma in Noida, a region adjacent to India’s capital New Delhi. It started off as a prepaid mobile and DTH recharge platform, and later added data card, postpaid mobile and landline bill payments in 2013.**

### **RIL to invest Rs 75,000 cr in clean energy, build 4 giga factories: Ambani**

- **Five years after disrupting the telecom space with the launch of Jio, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) announced yet another game-changing move — a mega entry into green energy. The company is planning to get into solar power generation and manufacturing, hydrogen production, e-fuels, and energy storage under its “New Energy and New Materials” division.** It will also set up a platform for renewable energy project finance to source long-term global capital for investment in these sectors.
- **The three-pronged plan will cumulatively involve an investment of Rs 75,000 crore over three years, Mukesh Ambani, chairman, RIL, announced during its annual general meeting (AGM). Under the plan, RIL will set up a Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex, spanning 5,000 acres, in Jamnagar, Gujarat, at Rs 60,000 crore while another Rs 15,000 crore will be invested in value chains, partnerships, and future technologies, including upstream and downstream industries.**

**During the budget speech in February 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launch of the Hydrogen Energy Mission to produce hydrogen from renewable sources. In the same month, state-owned Indian Oil Corporation signed an agreement with Greenstat Norway for setting up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H). It will promote R&D projects for the production of green and blue hydrogen between Norwegian and Indian R&D institutions/universities. Recently, India and the US have set up a task force under the aegis of the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) to mobilise finance and speed up green energy development. India is already on track to reach its goal of 175 GW of installed renewable capacity by 2022. Now, with the kind of initiatives the government and different companies are taking, it is likely that the renewable energy target to 450 GW by 2030 will also be achievable. Applications of green hydrogen: Green Chemicals like ammonia and methanol can directly be utilized in existing applications like fertilizers, mobility, power, chemicals, shipping etc. Green Hydrogen blending up to 10% may be adopted in CGD networks to gain widespread acceptance.**

### **Department of Public Enterprises reallocated to Finance Ministry**

- **The government reallocated the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), the nodal agency for all public sector enterprises, to the finance ministry from the ministry of heavy industries.**
- **DPE is responsible for evaluation and monitoring performance of central public sector enterprises or CPSEs besides reviewing their capital expenditure. This will now be the sixth department in the finance**

ministry besides economic affairs, revenue, expenditure, financial services and Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

## Razorpay- Mastercard launch MandateHQ payment interface

- Payments solution provider Razorpay has partnered with Mastercard to launch ‘MandateHQ’ – a payment interface that will help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for its customers.
- Razorpay, which is backed by Sequoia Capital, GIC, and others, aims to integrate MandateHQ with more than 50 banks in the next 12 months. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued a framework for processing e-mandates on recurring online transactions.
- It has made AFA (Additional Factor of Authentication) mandatory for all recurring transactions below Rs 5,000 on debit cards, credit cards, UPI, and other Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), and all stakeholders are required to ensure full compliance with the framework by September 30, 2021.

Razorpay is a platform that enables businesses to accept, process, and disburse payments with its product suite. It gives access to all payment modes including credit card, debit card, net banking, UPI and popular wallets including JioMoney, Mobikwik, Airtel Money, FreeCharge, Ola Money, and PayZapp. The company was founded in 2014 and is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

## Surat gets Amazon’s first Digital Kendra in India

- Chief Minister Vijay Rupani virtually inaugurated the first Digital Kendra of e-commerce giant Amazon in Surat city that aims to be a physical resource centre for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) providing third party services in e-commerce.
- The move is part of Amazon India’s commitment to digitise 10 million Indian micro, small and medium enterprises by 2025. The 1,400 sq ft centre has been set up at Krushi Bazar (APMC Market) and is located in an important MSME cluster. The centre was inaugurated by state Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, who has expressed confidence that the initiative would prove beneficial for around 41,000 MSMEs operating in Surat city.

## LIC to have CEO, MD; post of executive chairman scrapped

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which is gearing up to launch a mega initial public offering (IPO), will now have a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer instead of an Executive Chairman on the pattern of public sector banking industry.
- The changes have been made by the Department of Financial Services under the Finance Ministry by amending Life Insurance Corporation of India (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Rules. Besides, some other rules under LIC Act, 1956, have been amended.
- “Chief Executive and Managing Director means the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director appointed by the Central Government under section 4 of the Act (LIC Act 1956),”. While public sector banks are run by MD and CEO appointed by the government, the board of directors will be headed by a non-executive Chairman selected by the government.

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.

## KVIC secures trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE, Mexico

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently secured trademark registrations in three countries namely Bhutan, UAE and Mexico which is a big stride towards protecting the identity of brand Khadi globally. Apart from these countries, KVIC’s trademark applications are pending in 40 countries across the world that include the USA, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Japan, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Brazil and others.

- So far KVIC was having Trademark registrations for the word mark KHADI in 6 countries namely Germany, UK, Australia, Russia, China and EU where trademark registrations were granted in certain classes. However, with recent trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, the number of such countries has gone up to nine.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body formed in April 1957 (During 2<sup>nd</sup> Five Year plan) by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India, which seeks to – “plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary”. Its head office is in Mumbai. Khadi was launched in 1920 as a political weapon in the Swadeshi movement of Mahatma Gandhi.

### Federal Bank gets RBI nod to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as MD & CEO for 3 years

- Private sector Federal Bank has received approval from the RBI to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as its MD and CEO for three years. Srinivasan took charge as MD and CEO of the lender on September 23, 2010.
- Federal Bank Limited is a major Indian commercial bank in the Private Sector, headquartered in Aluva, Kochi. The bank has more than 1,200 branches spread across different states in India. It also has its Representative Offices abroad at Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Dubai.

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.

### RBI unveiled a scheme allowing retail investors to directly participate in the G-securities market

- The Reserve Bank of India unveiled a scheme allowing retail investors to directly participate in the government securities market. They can open and maintain a ‘Retail Direct Gilt Account’ (RDG Account) with the RBI through a portal, which will also provide access to primary issuance of G-Secs and the secondary market as well.
- In February, the RBI had proposed retail access to this risk-free fixed income segment. Greater participation will support the government’s expanding borrowings plan, estimated at around Rs 12 lakh crore annually. It may also pose competition to bank fixed deposits and post office savings.
- Since G-Secs are highly volatile, investment experts say investors who really understand these instruments or are willing to hold till maturity should look at them. Many argue that although these are safe-asset class, it is better to invest through mutual fund schemes that invest in G-Secs. For investors who are willing to hold till maturity and are not bothered by volatility, one of the advantages of going direct is that they will save on the expense ratio charged by mutual funds.
- G-Sec attracts tax on both interest income and capital gains if the papers are traded in the market before maturity. Interest income attracts tax at the marginal tax rate, and capital gains at 10%. G-Secs don’t attract capital gains tax if the papers are held till maturity.

G-Secs are debt instruments, issued by the government. They are considered the safest form of investment; the government will not default as it has the option to raise funds through taxes and other means if it faces challenges in repayment. Retail investors have been allowed to buy and sell treasury bills, government bonds, sovereign gold bonds as well as State Development Loans. Currently, retail investors are allowed to submit non-competitive bids in auctions of government bonds.



## Inventions/Discoveries

### Indian-American Sirisha Bandla set to fly into space aboard Virgin Galactic

- Aeronautical engineer **Sirisha Bandla** became the **third Indian-origin woman to fly into space** when she joined British billionaire **Richard Branson** on Virgin Galactic's first fully crewed suborbital test flight from New Mexico.
- Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity, as the spaceplane is called, took off for the 1.5-hour mission above New Mexico following a 90-minute delay due to bad weather. Ms Bandla joined Branson and five others on board Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo Unity to make a journey to the edge of space from New Mexico. The primary objective for Unity 22 was to serve as a test flight for future commercial passenger flights by Virgin Galactic.
- Ms Bandla, who was born in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh and brought up in Houston, was astronaut No 004 and her flight role was Researcher Experience. The other crew members were two pilots and three other crewmates, including billionaire Branson, who turns 71 in a week.
- She became the **third Indian-origin woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams. Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma is the only Indian citizen to travel in space.** The former Indian Air Force pilot flew aboard Soyuz T-11 on April 3, 1984, part of the Soviet Interkosmos programme.
- Ms Bandla moved to the US when she was 4-year-old and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Purdue University in 2011. She finished her Master of Business Administration degree from George Washington University in 2015. **Sirisha Bandla is the Vice President of Government Affairs and Research Operations at Virgin Galactic, the company that has made the spacecraft.**
- The 70-year-old founder of Virgin Galactic traveled to space as a mission specialist in the six-member team of the "Unity 22" mission. He was accompanied by pilots Dave Mackay and Michael Masucci and three Galactic employees, chief astronaut instructor Beth Moses, lead operations engineer Colin Bennett and Sirisha Bandla.

Unity 22 will focus on testing the cabin and customer experience. Currently, two additional test flights remain before the Virgin Galactic plans to commence commercial service in 2022. Uniqueness of VSS Unity Spaceship: Virgin Galactic's suborbital spacecraft are air-launched from beneath a carrier aircraft 'White Knight Two'. The space vehicle can climb to an altitude of around 90 kilometres, enough to give passengers a few minutes of weightlessness and a view of Earth's curvature from the edge of space.

### Indian naval ship Tabar conducts military exercise with Italian Navy

- Indian Naval Ship Tabar participated in military exercises with a frontline frigate of the Italian Navy after it entered the Port of Naples as part of an ongoing deployment to the Mediterranean.
- Coincidentally, Indian Army chief Manoj Mukund Naravane is on a four-day visit to the UK and Italy to deepen bilateral ties with the two European countries.

## Hyderabad-based Grene Robotics develops India's 1<sup>st</sup> indigenous drone defence dome – 'Indrajaal'

- Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal".
- The drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km against the aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions, and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.
- "For the first time in India and many times, globally rogue forces have adopted cutting-edge technologies such as UAVs, Smart Swarms, etc. The ANTI-UAV systems will not only provide protection to defence bases but it will be beneficial for linear infrastructures like international borders against advanced weaponry.
- Considered as the 3<sup>rd</sup> revolution of warfare, the design principles of Indrajaal are based on delivering autonomy to the armed forces. The synergic combination of 9-10 modern technologies helmed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and robotics.

## China sends world's first meteorological satellite into dawn-dusk orbit

- China has successfully launched the Fengyun-3E satellite making it the world's first meteorological satellite that has been sent into the dawn-dusk orbit for civil service.
- The Fengyun-3E satellite was sent into preset orbit via a Long March-4C carrier rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China's Gansu Province.

## Rajasthan to develop corridor connecting 3 tiger reserves

- After the declaration of Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary as the fourth Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, the state government has been planning on developing a tiger corridor connecting three Tiger Reserves passing through districts including Sawai Madhopur, Kota, and Bundi.
- Rajasthan Government had earlier in April 2021 had sent the proposal to develop Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary for Tigers which will connect Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the Northeast to the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the Southern side of Rajasthan.

## Nitin Gadkari to promote Khadi Prakritik, India's first paint made from Cow Dung

- Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari would be the brand ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint and would promote it across the country so as to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of the cow dung paint.
- It is India's first and only paint made from cow dung. "Khadi Prakritik Paint has immense potential of creating sustainable development for the benefit of the poorest of the poor and the target should be setting up a parkritik paint unit in each and every village". The new plant has been set up in the campus of Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur.

## In Mizoram, a new snake species gets named after local warrior Vanhnuailiana

- Researchers from Mizoram University named it *Stoliczka vanhnuailianai*, in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous Mizo warrior. He was one of the most powerful chiefs of the Lushai Hills (now Mizoram) during the mid-1800s and led many successful campaigns against rival chiefs in the area.
- The snake is about 50 cm in length, non-venomous, and has a dark brown shade above with a few dorsal scale rows bright yellow in colour. Though the head scales are uniformly dark brown it has bright pinkish sutures.

## WWF-UNEP report: 35% of tiger ranges outside protected areas

- A new report by WWF and UNEP has found that 35 per cent of India's tiger ranges currently lie outside protected areas. The report, A Future for All – A need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence, examined increasing human-wildlife conflict, and has found that marine and terrestrial protected areas only cover 9.67 per cent globally.

- With most of these protected areas disconnected from each other, **many species depend on human-dominated spaces for their survival, and shared landscapes.** Protected areas play an increasingly important role for the survival of key species such as large predators and herbivores, says the report. **Apart from India's tigers, 40 per cent of the African lion range and 70 per cent of the African and Asian elephant ranges fall outside protected areas, finds the report.**

The World Wide Fund for Nature is an **international non-governmental organization founded in 1961** that works in the field of wilderness preservation and the reduction of human impact on the environment. It was **formerly named the World Wildlife Fund, which remains its official name in Canada and the United States.**

### Gurgaon is India's first district to administer Sputnik V at govt health centres

- **Gurgaon became the first district in the country to administer the Sputnik V vaccine at government health centres.** The vaccine, which was launched at the Polyclinic in Sector 31, has been provided by Doctors For You. "The organisation has provided **5,000 doses of the vaccine so far, and 15,000 more will be made available in the next few days**".
- **Sputnik V, the vaccine against Covid-19 developed by Russia, has been cleared for emergency use by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).** It is now the third coronavirus vaccine to get emergency use approval, after Covishield (Serum Institute of India) and Covaxin (Bharat Biotech). **The Sputnik V vaccine has been developed by Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow.** It uses **two different viruses that cause the common cold (adenovirus) in humans.** **The adenoviruses are weakened so they cannot replicate in humans and cannot cause disease.**
- **They are also modified so that the vaccine delivers a code for making the coronavirus spike protein.** This aims to ensure that when the real virus tries to infect the body, it can mount an immune response in the form of antibodies. Sputnik uses a different vector for each of the two shots in a course of vaccination. This provides immunity with a longer duration than vaccines using the same delivery mechanism for both shots.

### Amazon forests are no longer acting as a carbon sink

- **The Amazon forests in South America, which are the largest tropical forests in the world, have started emitting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) instead of absorbing carbon emissions.**
- In a study published in the journal Nature, **scientists who conducted this research over a period of nine years in the eastern Amazon forests have said that a significant amount of deforestation in eastern and southeastern Brazil has turned the forest into a source of CO<sub>2</sub> that has the ability to warm the planet.**
- **Not only the Amazon rainforests, some forests in Southeast Asia have also turned into carbon sources in the last few years as a result of formation of plantations and fires.** The Amazon basin is huge with an area covering over 6 million square kilometres, it is nearly twice the size of India. **The Amazon rainforests cover about 80 per cent of the basin and as per NASA's Earth observatory, they are home to nearly a fifth of the world's land species** and is also home to about 30 million people including hundreds of indigenous groups and several isolated tribes.
- Other than this, **the basin produces about 20 per cent of the world's flow of freshwater into the oceans. Over the last few years, the forest has been under threat due to deforestation and burning. In 2019, fires in the Amazon were visible from space. Forest fires, according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), have doubled since 2013.** One reason that they happen is when farmers burn their land to clear it for the next crop. An editorial published in the journal Science Advances in 2019 noted that "the precious Amazon is teetering on the edge of functional destruction and, with it, so are we".
- **Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, which comprises about two-thirds of the area of the rainforest, started in the 1970s and 1980s** when large-scale forest conversion for cattle ranching and soy cultivation began. NASA's Earth Observatory notes that state policies that encourage economic development, such as railway and road expansion projects have led to "unintentional deforestation" in the Amazon and Central America.
- **Over the years as fossil-fuel emissions across the world have increased, the Amazon forests have absorbed CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, helping to moderate the global climate. But researchers are not saying that because of significant levels of deforestation (over the course of 40 years) there has been a long-term decrease**

in rainfall and increase in temperatures during the dry season. Because of these reasons the eastern Amazon forests are no longer carbon sinks, whereas the more intact and wetter forests in the central and western parts are neither carbon sinks nor are they emitters.

- **Another reason for the eastern region not being able to absorb as much CO<sub>2</sub> as it did previously is the conversion of forests into agricultural land, which has caused a 17 per cent decrease in the forest cover**, an area that is almost the size of continental US. In the southeast region, which forms about 20 per cent of the Amazon basin and has **experienced about 30 per cent of the deforestation in the last four decades**, scientists have **recorded a 25 per cent reduction in precipitation and a temperature increase of at least 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit or 1.5 degrees Celsius during the dry months of August, September and October.**
- **This means that if the ability of tropical forests to act as carbon sinks is to be maintained, fossil fuel emissions need to be reduced and temperature increases need to be limited as well.**

The **Amazon rainforest**, alternatively, the **Amazon jungle** or **Amazonia**, is a moist broadleaf tropical rainforest in the Amazon biome that covers most of the Amazon basin of South America. This basin encompasses 7,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> (2,700,000 sq mi), of which 5,500,000 km<sup>2</sup> (2,100,000 sq mi) are covered by the rainforest. This region includes territory belonging to nine nations and 3,344 formally acknowledged indigenous territories. The majority of the forest is contained within Brazil, with 60% of the rainforest, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela. **Plants and trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen back into the air in their process of photosynthesis. This is why the Amazon, which covers 2.1 million square miles, is often referred to as the “lungs of the planet”: The forest produces 20% of the oxygen in our planet’s atmosphere.**

## **The UAE’s Hope spacecraft captured images of glowing atmospheric lights in the Red Planet’s night sky, known as discrete auroras**

- **The UAE’s Hope spacecraft, which is orbiting Mars** since February this year, has **captured images of glowing atmospheric lights in the Red Planet’s night sky, known as discrete auroras.** The UAE Space Agency said on its website that the data gathered by the orbiter **“include far and extreme ultraviolet auroral emissions which have never been imaged before at Mars.”**
- **Auroras are caused when charged particles ejected from the Sun’s surface — called the solar wind — enter the Earth’s atmosphere.** These particles are harmful, and our planet is protected by the geomagnetic field, which preserves life by shielding us from the solar wind.
- However, at the north and south poles, **some of these solar wind particles are able to continuously stream down, and interact with different gases in the atmosphere to cause a display of light in the night sky. This display, known as an aurora, is seen from the Earth’s high latitude regions (called the auroral oval), and is active all year round.**
- **In the northern part of our globe, the polar lights are called aurora borealis or Northern Lights, and are seen from the US (Alaska), Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. In the south, they are called aurora australis or southern lights, and are visible from high latitudes in Antarctica, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia.**
- **Unlike Earth, which has a strong magnetic field, the Martian magnetic field has largely died out. This is because the molten iron at the interior of the planet— which produces magnetism— has cooled.** However, the Martian crust, which hardened billions of years ago when the magnetic field still existed, retains some magnetism. So, **in contrast with Earth, which acts like one single bar magnet, magnetism on Mars is unevenly distributed, with fields strewn across the planet and differing in direction and strength.**
- **The primary objective of the mission is to study Martian weather dynamics.** By correlating the lower atmosphere and upper atmosphere conditions, **the probe will look into how weather changes the escape of hydrogen and oxygen into space.** By measuring how much hydrogen and oxygen is spilling into space, scientists will be able to look into why Mars lost so much of its early atmosphere and liquid water. It is expected to create the first complete portrait of the planet’s atmosphere. With the information gathered during the mission, scientists will have a better understanding of the climate dynamics of different layers of Mars’ atmosphere.



## Sports Personalities in News

### In a first, India to have two flag bearers at Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony

- The legendary six-time world champion boxer MC Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh will be India's flag bearers for the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics on July 23, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced.
- In a first, India is having two flag-bearers – one male and one female – at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure “gender parity”. World Championships silver medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the country's flag-bearer for the closing ceremony on August 8.
- Sajan Prakash became the first-ever Indian swimmer to qualify for the Olympic Games by breaching the “A” standard time, clocking 1:56:38 seconds in the men's 200m butterfly event at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome, Italy.
- Race walker KT Irfan was the first Indian athlete to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics securing a berth in early 2019. Abhinav Bindra is currently India's only individual Olympic gold medalist. His gold in the 10-meter air rifle event at the 2008 Summer Olympics was also India's first Olympic gold medal since 1980. He is the first Indian to have held concurrently the world and Olympic titles for the men's 10-meter air rifle event, having earned those honors at the 2008 Summer Olympics and the 2006 ISSF World Shooting Championships.
- The 2020 Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and also known as Tokyo 2020, is an upcoming international multi-sport event scheduled to be held from 23 July to 8 August 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. Originally scheduled to take place from 24 July to 9 August 2020, the event was postponed in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be held largely behind closed doors with no spectators permitted under the state of emergency. This is the first time that the Olympic Games have been postponed and rescheduled, rather than cancelled.
- The Summer Paralympics will be held between 24 August and 5 September 2021 after the Olympics. Tokyo was selected as the host city during the 125<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 7 September 2013. The 2020 Games will mark the second time that Japan has hosted the Summer Olympic Games, the first being also in Tokyo in 1964, making this the first city in Asia to host the Summer Games twice.
- The official mascot of the 2020 Summer Olympics is Miraitowa, a figure with blue-checked patterns inspired by the Games' official emblem and Someity is the official mascot of the 2020 Summer Paralympics. The motto of the Tokyo Olympics is United by Emotion.
- The 2020 Games will see the introduction of new competitions including 3x3 basketball, freestyle BMX, and madison cycling, as well as further mixed events. Under new IOC policies, which allow the host organizing committee to add new sports to the Olympic program to augment the permanent core events, these Games will see karate, sport climbing, surfing, and skateboarding make their Olympic debuts, as well as the return of baseball and softball for the first time since 2008.

- The Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting in Lima, Peru, **elected Paris as host city of the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad 2024 and Los Angeles as the host city of the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad 2028.** “Congratulations to Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028!”
- **Thomas Bach is a German lawyer and former Olympic fencer.** Bach is the **ninth and current President of the International Olympic Committee** and a former member of the German Olympic Sports Confederation Executive Board. **IOC is a non-governmental sports organisation based in Lausanne, Switzerland. Founded by Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas in 1894,** it is the authority responsible for organising the modern Summer and Winter Olympic Games. **The first Summer Olympics was held in Athens, Greece, in 1896; the first Winter Olympics was in Chamonix, France, in 1924.**

### India’s first stadium for physically challenged in Lucknow soon

- **Uttar Pradesh will soon get the country’s first stadium for differently abled people.** Constructed at the Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University in Lucknow, the facility will be **inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** soon. The government is also planning to set up a medical college in Lucknow for the specially abled.

### F1: Verstappen takes a huge stride with Austrian GP win

- **Formula One leader Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix for Red Bull** to power 32 points clear of Lewis Hamilton.
- **Mercedes’ seven times world champion Hamilton finished a distant fourth,** with teammate Valtteri Bottas second and McLaren’s Lando Norris third, as Red Bull chalked up their fifth win in a row.

### World’s Third Largest Cricket Stadium to come up in Jaipur

- The stage is all set for the **construction of world’s third largest cricket stadium in the Pink City as the Jaipur Development Authority** has allotted land to **Rajasthan Cricket Association.**
- The new stadium will have the **capacity to accommodate 75,000 people** and shall be constructed in two phases. Under the first phase, it shall be constructed with a capacity of 45,000 people while in the second phase; its capacity will be expanded to 30,000 people.

### Nihal Sarin wins Serbia Open, claims second consecutive title

- **Young Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin emerged champion in the Masters’ section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade.** This is the second consecutive tournament victory for sixteen-year old Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open.

### Delhi’s Subodh Bhati becomes first Indian to slam double ton in T20 cricket

- **Delhi’s Subodh Bhati created history by becoming the first-ever Indian batsman to score a double ton in T20 cricket** during a club-level encounter.
- The 30-year-old **Subodh went berserk and slammed a scintillating 205, off 79 balls,** opening the innings for his side Delhi XI during their face-off versus Simba.

### Joint Secretary General of NRAI, Pawan Singh selected as first ever Indian juror for upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games

- **Pawan Singh, the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI),** has been selected as the **first ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games.**
- A resident of Pune in Maharashtra, **Mr. Singh is the founder-director of the Gun for Glory Shooting Academy in Balewadi.** A total of 26 jury members will officiate at the Olympics, of which six will be from Japan and the rest from other countries.
- Singh was the competition **manager of the recent International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup in New Delhi** and his work was appreciated by the ISSF.

## Matteo Berrettini becomes first Italian to reach Wimbledon singles final

- **Matteo Berrettini became the first Italian to reach a Wimbledon singles final.** World number nine Berrettini will face either Novak Djokovic or Denis Shapovalov where he will attempt to become Italy's first men's Grand Slam champion since Adriano Panatta at the 1976 French Open.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> seed came up with a near-perfect performance to outclass Roger Federer-slayer and 14<sup>th</sup> seed Hubert Hurkacz of Poland 6-3, 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-4 in the men's singles semi-final at the Center Court. While Berrettini will face either World No. 1 Novak Djokovic or 10<sup>th</sup> seed Denis Shapovalov in the Wimbledon men's singles final, Roberto Mancini's Italian side will face hosts England in the Euro 2020 final.

## Wimbledon men's singles final: Djokovic wins record 20<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam, equals Federer and Nadal

- **World no.1 Novak Djokovic won his third Grand Slam title of 2021 as he beat Matteo Berrettini 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in the final to clinch the Wimbledon men's singles title.** Djokovic has been in spectacular form this year as he has claimed all the Grand Slam titles of 2021 so far. He was made to work hard in the first set by Berrettini but after that Djokovic overwhelmed the Italian to win his sixth Wimbledon championship.
- **Djokovic has now won 20 Grand Slam titles, equal with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the all-time championship winners' list.** He is on course for a Career Grand Slam and needs to win the US Open to become the first man since Rod Laver (1969) to do so. Djokovic is only behind Pete Sampras (7) and Roger Federer (8) in the list of players with the most Wimbledon championships in Open era.

## Australian top seed Ashleigh Barty wins Women's singles title at Wimbledon tennis

- **In Wimbledon Tennis, Australian top seed Ashleigh Barty has won the Women's singles title defeating eighth seed Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic.**
- **Elise Mertens of Belgium and Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan have clinched women's doubles title defeating Russian pair Veronika Kudermetova and Elena Vesnina.**

## Indian-origin Samir Banerjee lifts Wimbledon boys singles title

- **American tennis player of Indian-origin Samir Banerjee lifted the Wimbledon boys singles title with a straight set win over compatriot Victor Lilov.**
- **Yuki Bhambri was the last Indian to win a junior singles title when he triumphed at the Australian Open in 2009 while Sumit Nagal won the Wimbledon boys doubles in 2015 with Vietnam's Ly Hoang Nam.**
- **Ramanathan Krishnan was the first Indian to win a junior major when he won the 1954 Junior Wimbledon championship.**

## Argentina beat Brazil 1-0 to win Copa America, 1<sup>st</sup> major title in 28 yrs

- **Argentina won their first major title in 28 years and Lionel Messi finally won his first medal in a blue-and-white shirt when an Angel Di Maria goal gave them a 1-0 win over Brazil and a record-equalling 15<sup>th</sup> Copa America.**
- **Di Maria, starting for just the second time in the Copa,** justified his selection by scoring the opener midway through the first half. Renan Lodi failed to cut out a long ball forward from Rodrigo De Paul and Di Maria lobbed the stranded Ederson with aplomb.
- **The victory was Argentina's 15<sup>th</sup> Copa America triumph and means they draw level with Uruguay as the all-time leading winners.**

-----

## Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation being implemented in Andhra Pradesh

- The Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders for implementation of 10 per cent EWS reservation in all government recruitments henceforth. The order is in accordance with The Constitution (103<sup>rd</sup>) Amendment Act 2019 that provides for the creation of the special EWS quota to be implemented by the state.
- The ruling YSR Congress Party government had started implementing EWS reservation in educational institutions soon after forming the government in June 2019. The AP Government has simplified the norms stipulated by the Central Government for the implementation of 10 percent reservation to the EWS in employment and education, without any sub-categorisation. People who are not covered under the existing reservations for BCs, SCs, STs and whose gross annual family income is below Rs 8 lakh per annum, are eligible for EWS reservation in both employment and educational opportunities.
- The AP government feels that there are many poor people in the upper sections of society who are not covered under any scheme and do not receive any benefits because they are in the general category. The 10 per cent reservation for EWS is to cover such families. The previous Telugu Desam Party government had implemented the EWS reservation but sub-categorised it by allotting five per cent reservation to Kapu community and remaining five per cent to other unreserved sections. The Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government feels that this has created confusion among the people and litigations against the Kapu quota has deprived others of availing EWS quota.
- The AP government has removed most of the specifications prescribed by the Centre to be eligible for EWS quota. It has decided to do away with the clause that considers family assets to calculate total annual income. The 10 per cent EWS quota would be over and above the 5 per cent quota for the Kapu community. The AP government has also earmarked one-third of the appointments in government posts under EWS category for women.

**The One Hundred and Third Amendment of the Constitution of India**, officially known as the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019, introduces 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society for admission to Central Government-run educational institutions and private educational institutions (except for minority educational institutions), and for employment in Central Government jobs. The Amendment does not make such reservations mandatory in State Government-run educational institutions or State Government jobs. However, some states have chosen to implement the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections. Currently, the quota can be availed by persons with an annual gross household income of up to Rs.8 lakh. Families that own over 5 acres of agricultural land, a house over 1,000 square feet, a plot of over 100-yards in a notified municipal area or over a 200-yards plot in a non-notified municipal area cannot avail the reservation. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced that Gujarat would implement the 10% reservation policy beginning 14 January 2019, becoming the first state to implement the law.

## CBSE decides to divide Academic session 2021-22 into two terms

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to divide Academic session 2021-22 into two terms with approximately 50 per cent syllabus in each term.
- The Board in a statement said that the syllabus for the Academic Session 2021-22 will be divided by following a systematic approach by looking into the interconnectivity of concepts and topics by the Subject Experts.
- The CBSE said that the Board will conduct examinations at the end of each term on the basis of the bifurcated syllabus. This is done to increase the probability of having Board-conducted Standard 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Examinations at the end of the academic session. At the end of the first term, the Board will organize Term- I Examination in a flexible schedule to be conducted between November-December 2021.
- At the end of the second term, the Board would organize Term-II or Year- end Examination based on the rationalized syllabus of Term-II only which will be approximately 50 per cent of the entire syllabus. This examination would be held around March-April 2022 at the examination centres fixed by the Board.

## 52<sup>nd</sup> IFFI to be held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November in Goa; Poster for the Festival released

- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar released the regulations and poster for the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India.** The festival will be held in Goa from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November this year.
- **The International Film Festival of India, IFFI is reckoned as one of Asia's oldest and India's biggest international film festivals.** The 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of this film festival will be held in a hybrid format considering the success of the 51<sup>st</sup> edition held in January 2021.
- **The festival is being organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration with the State Government of Goa and the Indian Film Industry.** IFFI is recognized by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations. Every year, the festival celebrates some of the finest cinematic works and showcases a bouquet of the best films from India and around the world.

## Manipur enters India's railway map as first passenger train reaches the state

- **A passenger train – Rajdhani Express from Assam's Silchar railway station - reached the Vaingaichunpao railway station in Manipur for a trial run putting the state on the Indian Railways map.** The train covered the distance of 11 km between the two northeastern stations, with railway officials onboard.
- **The train halted briefly at Manipur's Jiribam railway station,** where railway officials were greeted by local citizens before the national flag was hoisted accompanied by the national anthem, East Mojo reported.

## Nation remembers Swami Vivekanand on his death anniversary

- **The Nation remembers Swami Vivekananda, one of the finest spiritual leaders and intellects India has ever produced on his death anniversary.** Swami Vivekananda died on July 4, 1902, when he was just 39 at Belur Math in West Bengal.
- **Hailed as a Dhyana Sidha, a meditation expert, by his guru Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda was born Narendranath Dutta in an affluent family in Kolkata on January 12, 1863.**
- He is perhaps best known for his speech which began with the words "Sisters and brothers of America ...," in which he introduced Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.
- **In India, Vivekananda is regarded as a patriotic saint, and his birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day (January 12).**

## CBSE, NPCI to launch financial literacy curriculum for Class VI students

- **The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a financial literacy curriculum for students of Class VI.**
- **The Financial Literacy Textbook is launched as a part of a new elective 'financial literacy' subject that will enable students to have an understanding of basic financial concepts at a preliminary stage of their education.** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 called for inclusion of multidisciplinary education in schools itself.
- Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said that the workbook would **help children studying at the upper primary level to understand financial topics including knowledge of the economy and digital payments in a simplified manner.**
- The content of the **financial literacy textbook is developed by NPCI and edited by CBSE.** The book can be accessed on CBSE website. A statement said that work was in progress to develop course content for students of Class VII and VIII.

# PERSONS IN NEWS

## Pratima Bhoumik becomes first politician from Tripura to join Union Cabinet

- **Fifty-two-year-old Pratima Bhoumik scripted history by becoming the first politician from Tripura to be made a central minister.** She has been appointed as the new Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Earlier, Santosh Mohan Deb and Triguna Sen were elected as members of Parliament from Tripura and inducted into the central Cabinet. However, they were not from the state. While Deb hailed from Silchar in Assam, Sen was from West Bengal.

## Legendary Actor Dilip Kumar passes away in Mumbai

- **Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passed away after a prolonged illness in Mumbai. Popularly known as the 'Tragedy King' of Bollywood, Dilip Kumar was known as a method actor who was never limited to genres.**
- **Dilip Kumar made his Hindi film debut in 1944 with the movie 'Jwar Bhata'.** In a career spanning over six decades, Dilip Kumar gave multiple hits such as 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Naya Daur', 'Baabul', 'Deedar', 'Madhumati', 'Devdas', 'Ganga Jamuna', 'Ram Aur Shyam', 'Karma' and others. Dilip Kumar's portrayal in various doomed movies earned him the title of 'tragedy king'.
- **He was awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan award in 1991 for his outstanding contribution to Indian Cinema. Dilip Kumar was bestowed with Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.**
- **The Government of Andhra Pradesh honoured Kumar with NTR National Award in 1997.** The Government of Pakistan conferred Kumar with Nishan-e-Imtiaz, the highest civilian award in Pakistan, in 1998.

## Joe Biden nominates Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as his envoy to India

- **US President Joe Biden nominated Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as his ambassador to India.** If confirmed by the Senate, Garcetti, would replace Kenneth Juster, who served as India's Ambassador to the US during the Trump administration. As Mayor, Garcetti oversees the busiest container port in the Western Hemisphere, the largest municipal utility in the country, and one of the busiest airports in the world.

## Indian-American health policy expert Meena Seshamani appointed to key Medicare position

- **Indian-American health policy expert Dr. Meena Seshamani, who served on the leadership of the Biden-Harris transition Health and Human Services (HHS) agency review team, has been appointed as the Director of the US Centre for Medicare.** Sheshamani, will lead the Centre's efforts in serving the people 65 or older, people with disabilities and people with End-Stage Renal Disease that rely on Medicare coverage.

## Former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh passes away

- **Former Himachal Pradesh chief minister and senior Congress leader Virbhadra Singh died after a prolonged illness. The nine-time MLA and five-time MP, Singh served as Himachal Pradesh's chief minister for six times.** The veteran Congress leader remained chief minister of the state for six times- from April 8, 1983 to March 5, 1990, December 3, 1993 to March 23, 1998 and from March 6, 2003 to December 29, 2007 and for the sixth time from December 25, 2012 to December 26, 2017.

## Indian Army names firing range in Gulmarg after Vidya Balan

- **Basking in the success of her recently released Sherni and making the nation proud by becoming the only actor from 395 new invitees to join the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the governing body behind the Oscars, Vidya Balan has now achieved yet another feat as a military firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir, is named after the actress.** Honouring the varied accomplishments of Vidya, the Indian Army has named a military firing range in Gulmarg as the Vidya Balan Firing Range.

## Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone's Fighter to be India's first aerial action franchise

- **Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone's Fighter will be Indian cinema's first action franchise. The Siddharth Anand film was announced on Hrithik's 47<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

# AWARDS

## The Order of Polar Star: EIL CMD honoured with highest civilian award of Mongolia

- **RK Sabharwal, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Engineers India Limited (EIL), has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia ‘The Order of Polar Star’.**
- **Sabharwal was bestowed with the honour by His Excellency, the President of Mongolia, Ukhnaa Khurelsukh** for an outstanding contribution towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia.
- **‘The Order of Polar Star’ was presented, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Mongolia to India, Mr. Gonching Ganbold,** at a ceremony which was organized at the Embassy of Mongolia, India.

## Kaushik Basu awarded prestigious Humboldt Research Award

- **Indian economist Kaushik Basu has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics.** The award was conferred on him by **Professor Dr Hans-Bernd Schafer of Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany.** A former chief economist of the World Bank, **Basu is currently a professor of Economics at Cornell University.** He also served as the Government of India’s chief economic advisor from 2009 to 2012. Basu is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India.
- **The prestigious award is sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and awarded to as many as 100 recipients each year.** The Humboldt Research Award honours scientists and economists from across the world for their work. **The award entails prize money of 60,000 euros** and an offer to carry out research projects at a scientific institution in Germany for up to 12 months.

## Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi won Commonwealth Points of Light award

- **Hyderabad’s hunger activist Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi, who has been feeding thousands of people every day as part of his food drive ‘Hunger Has No Religion’ was awarded a top UK award recently.** In order to honour Maqsusi’s efforts, he was conferred with the Commonwealth Points of Light award for his drive that helps to feed 1,500 people on a daily basis. The award is for those ‘outstanding individuals who are making a change in their community.

## Zaila Avant-garde Wins 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee

- **Zaila Avant-garde, an African-American, from New Orleans in Louisiana, has won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee.** The 14-year-old Avant-garde, who is also an accomplished basketball player, is **the first African-American contestant to win the prestigious competition in its 93 years history.** The 8<sup>th</sup>-grader Avant-garde correctly spelt “Murraya”, a genus of tropical Asiatic and Australian trees having pinnate leaves and flowers, to win a USD 50,000 prize.
- **Zaila is also the first Black contestant to win since Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica in 1998.** 12-year-old Indian-origin Chaitra Thummala, from San Francisco and 13-year-old Indian-origin Bhavana Madini, from New York, won second and third place respectively.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## International Plastic Bag Free Day 2021

- **The International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed on July 3 annually.** The day is observed to raise awareness about the grave issues of plastic pollution and the serious threat that it poses to the natural environment ranging from land to marine life.
- **As plastic bags take around 100-500 years to decomposes, it creates land pollution as it is dumped in landfills** and proves hazardous to the marine animal if gets washed into oceans. So, it becomes imperative to raise an alarm against the ill effects of single-use plastic bags.

## World UFO Day

- **World UFO Day is an awareness day for people to gather together** and watch the skies for identified flying objects. **The day is celebrated by some on June 24, and others on July 2.**

## National Fish Farmers Day

- **The National Fish Farmers day is observed every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the Country.** This annual event is **celebrated to commemorate Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. Alikunhi for their contribution in achieving the successful induced breeding of major carps on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1957** at Angul in Odisha for the first time in the country.
- This pioneering work of induced breeding over the years has **transformed the growth of aquaculture sector from traditional to intensive aquaculture practices and led to success of modern aquaculture industry.** The day was also celebrated as **NFDB Foundation Day.**

## World Population Day 11 July

- **World Population Day is an annual event, observed on July 11 every year, which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues.** The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.
- This year amid the Coronavirus pandemic and vaccination drive, **the theme for World Population Day is the “impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fertility”.** On this special day, the world comes together with the goal of highlighting the difficulties created by overpopulation.
- It also **raises awareness about how overpopulation may harm the ecosystem and the progress or growth of humanity.** Currently, India has the world’s second-largest population after China.

### 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

- Who has been recently sworn in as the 11<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?  
(a) Satpal Maharaj (b) Harak Singh Rawat  
(c) Pushkar Singh Dhama (d) Sateesh Mahana
- The Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy - \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) NIPUN Bharat (b) NIPUN India (c) NIKUN Bharat (d) PRAYASH India
- Recently, World's First 3D Printed School made by 14 Trees had come up in:  
(a) Malawi (b) Mali (c) Fiji (d) Angola
- Recently, Asia's longest high-speed track 'NATRAX' was inaugurated in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Haryana (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Jharkhand
- Which of the following countries government ordered mandatory vaccination against COVID-19 for citizens over 18 years, making it the first country in the world?  
(a) Tajikistan (b) Kyrgyzstan (c) Pakistan (d) Afghanistan
- Name a former lead economist at the World Bank, who officially joined as the Director-General of the think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).  
(a) Abhilasha Tandel (b) Deepika Bharadwaj  
(c) Mrinalini Sengupta (d) Aditi Srivastava
- Which of the following states will soon get the country's first stadium for differently abled people?  
(a) Odisha (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
- Name the India-origin woman who travelled to the edge of the space aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic, which is scheduled to fly off on July 11 from New Mexico.  
(a) Swastika Bannerjee (b) Laxmi Subramanian (c) Sirisha Bandla (d) Prakirti Joglekar
- Who recently won the Austrian Grand Prix Formula One?  
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Max Verstappen (c) Valtteri Bottas (d) Charles Lecrec
- Recently, the Nation remembers Swami Vivekananda, one of the finest spiritual leaders and intellects India has ever produced on his death anniversary. He died on:  
(a) 27<sup>th</sup> June (b) 30<sup>th</sup> June (c) 2<sup>nd</sup> July (d) 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Name the former judge of Allahabad High Court and former chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh, who has been appointed as the chairman of IFUNA recently.  
(a) Justice (Retd.) Atul Prabhat Niranjani  
(b) Justice (Retd.) Shambhu Nath Srivastava  
(c) Justice (Retd.) Mahendra Nath Shukla  
(d) Justice (Retd.) Ajeet Kumar Luthra
- The 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India will be held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Gujarat (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Jharkhand (d) Goa
- Recently, The President of Haiti appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as the new prime minister to form a consensus government that integrates different political life sectors country.  
(a) Ariel Henry (b) Abraham Tipsey (c) Jovenel Moise (d) Michael Kirte

14. Which of the following has recently partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a financial literacy curriculum for students of Class VI?  
 (a) UP Board of Secondary Education (b) Indian Certificate of Secondary Education  
 (c) Central Board of Secondary Education (d) Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination
15. Recently, Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) "Indrajaal" (b) "Mangaljaal" (c) "Rakshajaal" (d) "Mayajaal"
16. Name the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Engineers India Limited (EIL) who has been recently honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star'?  
 (a) RK Sabharwal (b) ND Goyenka (c) SK Gaur (d) ML Sinha
17. Which of the following countries has successfully launched the Fengyun-3E satellite making it the world's first meteorological satellite that has been sent into the dawn-dusk orbit for civil service?  
 (a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) China (d) Vietnam
18. In India, the construction of world's third largest cricket stadium is being started in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Jaipur (b) Dehradun (c) Ranchi (d) Nagpur
19. In a first, India is having two flag-bearers – one male and one female – at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure "gender parity". Name the two flag-bearers?  
 (a) P V Sindhu and Devendra Jhajhariya (b) Saina Nehwal and Deepak Poonia  
 (c) Sania Mirza and Vishwanathan Anand (d) M C Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh
20. The International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed on:  
 (a) 1<sup>st</sup> July (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> July (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> July (d) 5<sup>th</sup> July
21. Recently, Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot has been appointed as the new Governor of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Karnataka (d) Odisha
22. Which of the following Union Territories Administration accorded sanction to uploading of Geo tagged photographs through 'PROOF' (Photographic Record of On-site Facility) mobile application?  
 (a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Ladakh (c) Puducherry (d) Lakshadweep
23. Recently, The Union Government has created a separate \_\_\_\_\_ for realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhi'.  
 (a) Ministry of Corporation (b) Ministry of Sahkarita  
 (c) Ministry of Co-operation (d) Ministry of Sanskarikta
24. Recently, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh, launched the Online Course Mobile App \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Matsya Setu (b) Fisheries Setu (c) Aqua Setu (d) Meen Setu
25. Which of the following countries recently named Mary Simon as its first indigenous governor general?  
 (a) Canada (b) Australia (c) New Zealand (d) Chile
26. Recently, Aimen Benabderrahmane has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of:  
 (a) Siberia (b) Trinidad and Tobago (c) Algeria (d) Mali
27. Which of the following metro corporations launched India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based parking facility to reduce the time for entry and payment?  
 (a) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (b) Hyderabad Metro Rail  
 (c) Chennai Metro Rail (d) Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited

28. World UFO Day is an awareness day for people to gather together and watch the skies for identified flying objects. UFO day is generally celebrated on:  
 (a) 13<sup>th</sup> June (b) 15<sup>th</sup> June (c) 18<sup>th</sup> June (d) 2<sup>nd</sup> July
29. Recently, the Centre nodded for creation of the Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary in:  
 (a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
30. The Government of Pakistan conferred Dilip Kumar with Nishan-e-Imtiaz, the highest civilian award in Pakistan in year \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 1985 (b) 1991 (c) 1994 (d) 1998
31. Who has been given charge of the Ministry of Co-operation and will be India's first Co-operation Minister?  
 (a) Shri Rajnath Singh (b) Shri Amit Shah (c) Shri Nitin Gadkari (d) Shri Masukh Mandaviya
32. The 13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit is being hosted by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) China (b) Brazil (c) South Africa (d) India
33. Recently, An advisory council has been constituted to advise the Government on measures needed to design and accelerate adoption of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Who is not among the members of the Advisory council?  
 (a) RS Sharma (b) Azim Premji (c) Nandan Nilekani (d) Arvind Gupta
34. Recently, the government reallocated the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), the nodal agency for all public sector enterprises, to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Corporate Affairs Ministry (b) Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry  
 (c) Finance Ministry (d) Ministry of Heavy Industries
35. Which of the following countries President Jovenel Moïse has been killed in an attack on his home in the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince?  
 (a) Chile (b) Haiti (c) Panama (d) Cuba
36. The first unit of the Maitree Power Project at Rampal will be commissioned in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Bhutan (b) Mauritius (c) Bangladesh (d) Pakistan
37. Recently, the Central Board of Secondary Education CBSE has decided to divide Academic session 2021-22 into \_\_\_\_\_ terms.  
 (a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six
38. India's first and only paint made from cow dung is  
 (a) Khadi Prakriti Rang (b) Khadi Natural Paint (c) Khadi Prakritik Paint (d) Natural Colour
39. Recently, the former Himachal Pradesh chief minister and senior Congress leader Virbhadra Singh died after a prolonged illness. Virbhadra Singh had been chief minister of the state for \_\_\_\_\_ times.  
 (a) Three (b) Four (c) Six (d) Eight
40. Who among the following Bollywood actress has achieved a feat as a military firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir, is named after the actress?  
 (a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Vidya Balan (c) Kangana Ranaut (d) Hanshika Motwani
41. Recently, Mr Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel took oath as the Governor of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Jharkhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Uttar Pradesh
42. Recently, Amazon India launched its first Digital Kendra in \_\_\_\_\_ under its initiative to digitise micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).  
 (a) Himachal Pradesh's Mandi (b) Gujarat's Surat  
 (c) Rajasthan's Alwar (d) Haryana's Faridabad

43. Which of the following state assemblies had passed a resolution to set up Legislative Council with a two-thirds majority?  
 (a) Jharkhand (b) West Bengal (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
44. Recently, the world's tallest sandcastle has been completed in \_\_\_\_\_ towering more than 20 metres high and comprising nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand.  
 (a) Sweden (b) Denmark (c) Norway (d) Finland
45. Which of the following companies recently announced the launch of Postpaid Mini, a need-based and consumption-based credit for users to help them manage their household finances?  
 (a) Paytm (b) Flipkart (c) Amazon (d) NPCI
46. Recently, Researchers from Mizoram University named a new snake species as *Stoliczka vanhnuailianai*, in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous \_\_\_\_\_ warrior.  
 (a) Naga (b) Mizo (c) Garo (d) Assamese
47. Recently, Payments solution provider \_\_\_\_\_ has partnered with Mastercard to launch 'MandateHQ' – a payment interface that will help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for its customers?  
 (a) Paytm (b) Flipkart (c) Razorpay (d) Amazon
48. Name the young Indian Grandmaster who recently emerged champion in the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade.  
 (a) Aniruddha Mishra (b) Deepak Kulshreshtha (c) Ankit Bharadwaj (d) Nihal Sarin
49. Which among the following announced Indian cinema's first action franchise?  
 (a) War (b) 505 (c) Fighter (d) Yodha
50. Recently, The Humboldt Research Award for Economics for 2021 was conferred on economist \_\_\_\_\_ by Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School in Germany's Hamburg.  
 (a) Dr Amartya Sen (b) Dr Kaushik Basu (c) Dr Virat Mandal (d) Dr Raghuram Rajan
51. National Fish Farmers day is observed on:  
 (a) 5<sup>th</sup> July (b) 7<sup>th</sup> July (c) 9<sup>th</sup> July (d) 10<sup>th</sup> July
52. Who is the first ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games?  
 (a) Pawan Singh (b) Saket Sharma (c) Atul Prabhakar (d) Jeevan Jha
53. Who among the following scripted history by becoming the first politician from Tripura to be made a central minister?  
 (a) Asiti Sarkar (b) Meenakshi Deb Burman  
 (c) Ashlesha Bannerjee (d) Pratima Bhoumik
54. Who among the following created history by becoming the first-ever Indian batsman to score a double ton in T20 cricket during a club-level encounter recently?  
 (a) Subodh Bhati (b) Alankrit Tiwari (c) Mrigank Jha (d) Vipul Raheja
55. Recently, A new report by WWF and UNEP has found that \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of India's tiger ranges currently lie outside protected areas.  
 (a) 10 (b) 20 (c) 35 (d) 50
56. Recently, Malleshwaram Government Boys High School in \_\_\_\_\_ will become the country's first government school to develop a satellite.  
 (a) Bengaluru (b) Kochi (c) Chennai (d) Mysuru

57. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of allowing the Agriculture Produce Market Committees, APMCs to use the \_\_\_\_\_ rupees Agriculture Infrastructure Fund which has been announced as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package.  
 (a) One lakh (b) Three lakh (c) Five lakh (d) Ten lakh
58. Which of the following will now have a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer instead of an Executive Chairman on the pattern of public sector banking industry?  
 (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (b) PNB MetLife  
 (c) ICICI Lombard (d) HDFC Ergo
59. Recently, India and the \_\_\_\_\_ held the inaugural meeting of the India \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Markets Dialogue virtually.  
 (a) USA (b) UK (c) Canada (d) Australia
60. Recently, US President Joe Biden nominated \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Eric Garcetti as his ambassador to India.  
 (a) Washington D.C. (b) New York (c) California (d) Los Angeles
61. Name the former Union Minister who was recently sworn in as 19<sup>th</sup> Governor of Karnataka.  
 (a) Ravi Shankar Prasad (b) Prakash Javadekar (c) Thawarchand Gehlot (d) Santosh Gangwar
62. Recently, Delhi Disaster Management Authority, DDMA approved the Graded Response Action Plan, (GRAP). How many levels will be there according to GRAP?  
 (a) Two (b) Four (c) Seven (d) Ten
63. Recently, All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BRICS Science and Technology Steering Committee.  
 (a) India (b) Brazil (c) Russia (d) China
64. Recently, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently secured trademark registrations in three countries. At present KVIC is having a Trademark registration with total \_\_\_\_\_ countries.  
 (a) 3 (b) 6 (c) 9 (d) 13
65. Recently, Indian-American health policy expert \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as the Director of the US Centre for Medicare.  
 (a) Dr. Meena Seshamani (b) Dr. Alka Sahai  
 (c) Dr. Meenakshi Lamba (d) Dr. Deepika Luthra
66. Who has recently received approval from the RBI to re-appoint Federal Bank MD and CEO for three years?  
 (a) Prabhat Chhatterjee (b) Partha Chattopadhyay (c) Shyam Srinivasan (d) Mangalesh Mangalani
67. Which is the first district in the country to administer the Sputnik V vaccine at government health centres?  
 (a) Meerut (b) Varanasi (c) Gurugram (d) Faridabad
68. Name the aeronautical engineer who has become the third Indian-origin woman to head to space when she flies as part of Virgin Galactic's first fully crewed flight test?  
 (a) Sushma Bhatia (b) Mahalaxmi Natrajan (c) Sirisha Bandla (d) Lily Dubey
69. Who won the Women's singles title at Wimbledon tennis?  
 (a) Karolina Pliskova (b) Elise Mertens (c) Ashleigh Barty (d) Hsieh Su-wei
70. Name the American tennis player of Indian-origin who lifted the Wimbledon boys singles title.  
 (a) Samir Banerjee (b) Nirman Kohli (c) Shubhankar Gupta (d) Fredrick Victor

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
2. a Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will virtually launch National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy - NIPUN Bharat.
3. a Danish robot 3D construction printer company COBOD International A/S, has played a part in building the world's first 3D printed school in Malawi, Africa.
4. b Asia's longest high-speed track — NATRAX — was inaugurated at Pithampur near Indore in Madhya Pradesh by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar.
5. a Tajikistan's government ordered mandatory vaccination against COVID-19 for citizens over 18 years, making it the first country in the world.
6. \* Poonam Gupta, a former lead economist at the World Bank, officially joined as the Director-General of the think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
7. b UP will soon get the country's first stadium for differently abled people. Constructed at the Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University in Lucknow, the facility will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath soon.
8. c India-origin woman Sirisha Bandla travelled to the edge of the space aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic, which is scheduled to fly off on July 11 from New Mexico.
9. b Formula One leader Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix for Red Bull to power 32 points clear of Lewis Hamilton.
10. d The Nation remembers Swami Vivekananda, one of the finest spiritual leaders and intellects India has ever produced on his death anniversary. Swami Vivekananda died on July 4, 1902, when he was just 39 at Belur Math in West Bengal.
11. b Justice (Retd.) Shambhu Nath Srivastava, a former judge of Allahabad High Court and former chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh, has been appointed the chairman of IFUNA.
12. d Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar released the regulations and poster for the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India. The festival will be held in Goa from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November this year.
13. a The President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, appointed Ariel Henry as the new prime minister to form a consensus government that integrates different political life sectors country.
14. c The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a financial literacy curriculum for students of Class VI.
15. a Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal".
16. a RK Sabharwal, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Engineers India Limited (EIL), has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star'.
17. c China has successfully launched the Fengyun-3E satellite making it the world's first meteorological satellite that has been sent into the dawn-dusk orbit for civil service.

- 18. a** The stage is all set for the construction of world's third largest cricket stadium in the Pink City as the Jaipur Development Authority has allotted land to Rajasthan Cricket Association.
- 19. d** Celebrated boxer M C Mary Kom and men's hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh will be the country's flag bearers at the opening ceremony of Tokyo Olympics.
- 20. c** The International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed on July 3 annually.
- 21. c** The government transferred or appointed governors of eight states. One of the major changes included the appointment of Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot as the Governor of Karnataka.
- 22. a** In Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory Administration accorded sanction to uploading of Geo tagged photographs through 'PROOF' (Photographic Record of On-site Facility) mobile application while preferring bills in the concerned Treasuries against the budget allotted through BEAMS application.
- 23. c** The Union Government has created a separate Ministry of Co-operation for realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi'.
- 24. a** Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh, launched the Online Course Mobile App Matsya Setu. The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.
- 25. a** Canada named Mary Simon as its first indigenous governor general, Queen Elizabeth II's official representative in the Commonwealth country, as the nation faces a reckoning with its colonial history.
- 26. c** Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune appointed Aimen Benabderrahmane, former Minister of Finance, as new Prime Minister.
- 27. a** The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based parking facility to reduce the time for entry and payment.
- 28. d** World UFO Day is an awareness day for people to gather together and watch the skies for identified flying objects. The day is celebrated by some on June 24, and others on July 2.
- 29. b** After the Centre's nod for creation of the Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary, the Rajasthan government is hoping to develop a tiger corridor connecting three tiger reserves passing through districts including Sawai Madhopur, Kota and Bundi.
- 30. d** The Government of Andhra Pradesh honoured Kumar with NTR National Award in 1997. The Government of Pakistan conferred Kumar with Nishan-e-Imtiaz, the highest civilian award in Pakistan, in 1998.
- 31. b** Home Minister Amit Shah has been given charge of the Ministry of Co-operation, and he will also look after the Ministries of Culture, Tourism and North East, ensuring that Culture and Tourism in North East gets a boost.
- 32. d** The 13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit being hosted by India this year.
- 33. b** The members of the Advisory council include RS Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority, Nandan Nilekani, non-executive Chairman of Infosys and Arvind Gupta, Co-founder and Head, Digital India Foundation.
- 34. c** The government reallocated the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), the nodal agency for all public sector enterprises, to the finance ministry from the ministry of heavy industries.
- 35. b** Haiti's President Jovenel Moise has been killed in an attack on his home in the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince.

- 36. c** In Bangladesh, the first unit of the Maitree Power Project at Rampal will be commissioned in December this year, coinciding with the country's Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Liberation.
- 37. a** The Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE has decided to divide Academic session 2021-22 into two terms with approximately 50 per cent syllabus in each term.
- 38. c** Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari would be the brand ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint and would promote it across the country so as to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of the cow dung paint.
- 39. c** Former Himachal Pradesh chief minister and senior Congress leader Virbhadra Singh died after a prolonged illness. The veteran Congress leader remained chief minister of the state for six times- from April 8, 1983 to March 5, 1990, December 3, 1993 to March 23, 1998 and from March 6, 2003 to December 29, 2007 and for the sixth time from December 25, 2012 to December 26, 2017.
- 40. b** Basking in the success of her recently released Sherni and making the nation proud by becoming the only actor from 395 new invitees to join the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the governing body behind the Oscars, Vidya Balan has now achieved yet another feat as a military firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir, is named after the actress.
- 41. b** Mr Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel took oath as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. MP High Court Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq administered the oath to Mr. Patel at a function in the Raj Bhawan at Bhopal.
- 42. b** Amazon India launched its first Digital Kendra in Gujarat's Surat under its initiative to digitise micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- 43. b** The West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution to set up Legislative Council with a two-thirds majority.
- 44. b** The world's tallest sandcastle has been completed in Denmark, towering more than 20 metres high and comprising nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand.
- 45. a** Paytm announced the launch of Postpaid Mini, a need-based and consumption-based credit for users to help them manage their household finances.
- 46. b** Researchers from Mizoram University named it Stoliczka vanhnuailianai, in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous Mizo warrior.
- 47. c** Payments solution provider Razorpay has partnered with Mastercard to launch 'MandateHQ' – a payment interface that will help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for its customers.
- 48. d** Young Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin emerged champion in the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade.
- 49. c** Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone's Fighter will be Indian cinema's first action franchise.
- 50. b** The Humboldt Research Award for Economics for 2021 was conferred on economist Dr Kaushik Basu by Dr Hans-Bernd Schafer of Bucerius Law School in Germany's Hamburg.
- 51. d** This annual event is celebrated to commemorate Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. Alikunhi for their contribution in achieving the successful induced breeding of major carps on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1957 at Angul in Odisha for the first time in the country.
- 52. a** Pawan Singh, the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has been selected as the first ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games.

- 53. d** Fifty-two-year-old Pratima Bhoumik scripted history by becoming the first politician from Tripura to be made a central minister.
- 54. a** Delhi's Subodh Bhati created history by becoming the first-ever Indian batsman to score a double ton in T20 cricket during a club-level encounter.
- 55. c** A new report by WWF and UNEP has found that 35 per cent of India's tiger ranges currently lie outside protected areas.
- 56. a** The Malleshwaram Government Boys High School in Bengaluru will achieve a unique feat if things go as planned. It will become the country's first government school to develop a satellite, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwathnarayan said.
- 57. a** The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of allowing the Agriculture Produce Market Committees, APMCs to use the one lakh rupees Agriculture Infrastructure Fund which has been announced as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package.
- 58. a** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which is gearing up to launch a mega initial public offering (IPO), will now have a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer instead of an Executive Chairman on the pattern of public sector banking industry.
- 59. b** India and the United Kingdom held the inaugural meeting of the India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue virtually.
- 60. d** US President Joe Biden nominated Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as his ambassador to India.
- 61. c** Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot was sworn in as 19<sup>th</sup> Governor of Karnataka.
- 62. b** According to GRAP, there will be four levels of 'alerts', Level 1 - Yellow 'Alert', Level 2 - Amber 'Alert', Level 3 - Orange 'Alert' and Level 4 - Red 'Alert'.
- 63. a** All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BRICS Science and Technology Steering Committee.
- 64. c** So far KVIC was having Trademark registrations for the word mark KHADI in 6 countries namely Germany, UK, Australia, Russia, China and EU where trademark registrations were granted in certain classes. However, with recent trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, the number of such countries has gone up to nine.
- 65. a** Indian-American health policy expert Dr. Meena Seshamani, who served on the leadership of the Biden-Harris transition Health and Human Services (HHS) agency review team, has been appointed as the Director of the US Centre for Medicare.
- 66. c** Private sector Federal Bank has received approval from the RBI to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as its MD and CEO for three years.
- 67. c** Gurugram became the first district in the country to administer the Sputnik V vaccine at government health centres.
- 68. c** Sirisha Bandla, a 34-year-old aeronautical engineer, is set to become the third Indian-origin woman to head to space when she flies as part of Virgin Galactic's first fully crewed flight test.
- 69. c** In Wimbledon Tennis, Australian top seed Ashleigh Barty has won the Women's singles title defeating eighth seed Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic.
- 70. a** American tennis player of Indian-origin Samir Banerjee lifted the Wimbledon boys singles title with a straight set win over compatriot Victor Lilov.

## PM Modi 2.0 Reshuffle Cabinet Full Ministers List

- **The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi expanded its council of ministers, the first such exercise in the third year on his second term.** While the cabinet reshuffle was on the cards for a long time, the move comes at a time when the Modi government faces criticism over the alleged mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Narendra Modi government underwent **a major overhaul with induction of 43 new faces and 12 ministers resigning from their posts.** The ministers who were **dropped include senior leaders like IT and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.**
- On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **brought in Sarbananda Sonowal, Narayan Rane and Jyotiraditya Scindia as Cabinet ministers.**
- **As many as 15 Cabinet ministers, including some new faces, were sworn-in at the swearing in ceremony held in the Darbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhawan.** Besides these, 28 leaders took oath as ministers of states. **With this, the overall strength of the Union Cabinet has risen to 78, including the Prime Minister.**
- **Seven ministers of states have been promoted and have been given Cabinet rank.** These include **Anurag Thakur, Kiren Rijju, G Kishan Reddy, RK Singh, Mansukh Mandaviya, Hardeep Singh Puri and Parshottam Rupala.**
- This is the first reshuffle in the Council of Ministers by Prime Minister Modi since he assumed charge for a second term in May 2019. With this reset, Modi has brought in young faces and has also given representation to various social groups and regions in the reshuffle. **The youngest minister sworn-in --Nisith Pramanik--is 35 years of age.**
- After revamp, the **Union Council of Ministers now has seven more women members taking their overall strength to 11.** The seven women who took oath as ministers of state were **Karandlaje, Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Lekhi, Annpurna Devi, Pratima Bhoumik, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar and Apna Dal's Anupriya Singh Patel.**
- **Nirmala Sitharaman, Smriti Irani (both Cabinet ministers), Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti and Renuka Singh Saruta are already part of the Union Cabinet.**
- **The Union Council of Ministers exercises executive authority in the Republic of India.** It consists of **Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of state and Ministers of State (Independent Charge).** The council is led by the **Prime Minister of India.**
- A smaller executive body called the **Union Cabinet is the supreme decision-making body in India.** Only the **Prime Minister and ministers of the rank of cabinet minister are members of the Union Cabinet in accordance with Article 75.**
- Pursuant to **Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is responsible collectively to the lower house of the Indian parliament, called the Lok Sabha (House of the People).** When a bill introduced by a minister in the Lok Sabha is not approved by it, the entire council of ministers is responsible and not the minister. The council of ministers upon losing the confidence of Lok Sabha shall resign to facilitate the formation of a new government.
- A minister shall take any decision without being considered by the council of ministers per **Article 78(c).** All union cabinet members shall submit in writing to the President to propose a proclamation of emergency by the president in accordance with **Article 352.**
- According to the Constitution of India, **the total number of ministers in the council of ministers must not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Lok Sabha.** Ministers must be members of parliament. Any minister who is not a member of either of the houses of the parliament for six consecutive months is automatically stripped off his or her ministerial post.
- Pursuant to **Article 75, a minister who works at the pleasure of President, is appointed by The President on the advice of The Prime Minister.** If the person chosen as the Prime Minister or Council of minister is neither a member of the Lok Sabha nor the Rajya Sabha at the time of selection, they must become a member of either of the houses within six months.

## How the new Narendra Modi Cabinet looks like:

S.No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	PARTY	PORTFOLIO(S)
1	Narendra Modi	Prime Minister	BJP	1) Prime Minister 2) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions 3) Department of Atomic Energy 4) Department of Space 5) All important policy issues 6) All other unallocated portfolios
2	Amit Shah	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Home Affairs 2) Ministry of Cooperation
3	Rajnath Singh	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Defence
4	Nirmala Sitharaman	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Finance 2) Minister of Corporate Affairs
5	Nitin Gadkari	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Road Transport and Highways
6	S Jaishankar	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of External Affairs
7	Narendra Singh Tomar	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
8	Arjun Munda	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Tribal Affairs
9	Smriti Zubin Irani	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Ministry of Women and Child Development
10	Piyush Goyal	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Commerce and Industry; 2) Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution 3) Minister of Textiles
11	Dharmendra Pradhan	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Education 2) Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
12	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Minority Affairs
13	Pralhad Joshi	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Parliamentary Affairs 2) Minister of Coal 3) Minister of Mines
14	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Heavy Industries
15	Giriraj Singh	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Rural Development 2) Minister of Panchayati Raj
16	Mansukh Mandaviya	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Health and Family Welfare 2) Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
17	Jyotiraditya Scindia	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Civil Aviation

18	Parshottam Rupala	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
19	Anurag Thakur	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) I&B 2) Sports and Youth Development
20	Narayan Tatu Rane	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
21	Sarbananda Sonowal	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways 2) Minister of AYUSH
22	Virendra Kumar	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
23	Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Cabinet Minister	Janata Dal (United)	Minister of Steel
24	Ashwini Vaishnav	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Railways 2) Minister of Communications 3) Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
25	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Cabinet Minister	Jok Janshakti Party	Minister of Food Processing Industries
26	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Jal Shakti
27	Raj Kumar Singh	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Power 2) Minister of New and Renewable Energy
28	Hardeep Singh Puri	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas 2) Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
29	Bhupendra Yadav	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change 2) Minister of Labour and Employment
30	G Kishan Reddy	Cabinet Minister	BJP	1) Minister of Culture 2) Minister of Tourism 3) Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
31	Kiren Rijiju	Cabinet Minister	BJP	Minister of Law and Justice
32	Rao Inderjit Singh	MoS (Independent Charge)	BJP	1) MoS (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 2) MoS (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Planning 3) MoS Ministry of Corporate Affairs
33	Jitendra Singh	MoS (Independent Charge)	BJP	1) MoS (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science & Technology 2) MoS (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Sciences 3) MoS in Prime Minister's Office 4) MoS Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions 5) MoS Department of Atomic Energy 6) MoS Department of Space

34	Shripad Yesso Naik	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways 2) MoS Ministry of Tourism
35	Faggansingh Kulaste	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Steel 2) MoS Ministry of Rural Development
36	Prahlad Singh Patel	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Jal Shakti 2) MoS Ministry of Food Processing Industries
37	Ashwini Kumar Choubey	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution 2) MoS Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
38	Arjun Ram Meghwal	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs 2) MoS Ministry of Culture
39	Gen (Retd.) VK Singh	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Road Transport and Highways 2) MoS Ministry of Civil Aviation
40	Krishan Pal	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Power 2) MoS Ministry of Heavy Industries
41	Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Railways 2) MoS Ministry of Coal 3) MoS Ministry of Mines
42	Ramdas Athawale	MoS	Republican Party of India	MoS Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
43	Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution 2) MoS Ministry of Rural Development
44	Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
45	Nityanand Rai	MoS	BJP	MoS for Home Affairs
46	Pankaj Chaowdhary	MoS	BJP	MoS for Finance
47	Anupriya Singh Patel	MoS	Apna Dal	MoS Ministry of Commerce and Industry
48	Prof SP Singh Baghel	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Law and Justice
49	Rajeev Chandrasekhar	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2) MoS Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
50	Shobha Karandlaje	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

51	Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
52	Darshana Vikram Jardosh	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Textiles 2) MoS Ministry of Railways
53	V. Muraleedharan	MoS	BJP	1) MoS External Affairs 2) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
54	Meenakashi Lekhi	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of External Affairs 2) MoS Ministry of Culture
55	Som Parkash	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Commerce and Industry
56	Renuka Singh Saruta	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Tribal Affairs
57	Rameswar Teli	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas 2) MoS Ministry of Labour and Employment
58	Kailash Choudhary	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
59	Annapurna Devi	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Education
60	A. Narayanaswamy	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
61	Kaushal Kishore	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
62	Ajay Bhatt	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Defence 2) MoS Ministry of Tourism
63	BL Verma	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region 2) MoS Ministry of Cooperation
64	Ajay Kumar Mishra	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Home Affairs
65	Devusinh Chauhan	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Communications
66	Bhagwanth Khuba	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of New and Renewable Energy 2) MoS Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
67	Kapil Moreshwar Patil	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Panchayati Raj
68	Pratima Bhoumik	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
69	Subhas Sarkar	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Education
70	Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Finance

71	Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of External Affairs 2) MoS Ministry of Education
72	Bharati Pravin Pawar	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
73	Bishweswar Tudu	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Tribal Affairs 2) MoS Ministry of Jal Shakti
74	Shantanu Thakur	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
75	Munjapara Mahendrabhai	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Women and Child Development 2) MoS Ministry of AYUSH
76	John Barla	MoS	BJP	MoS Ministry of Minority Affairs
77	L Murugan	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying 2) MoS Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
78	Nisith Pramanik	MoS	BJP	1) MoS Ministry of Home Affairs 2) MoS Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

