

Eazyprep

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPILATION

MAY 2021

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1st May

1) National News

ACC appointed TV Somanathan as Finance Secretary

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of T V Somanathan as the new Finance Secretary.

He will replace Ajay Bhushan Pandey who retired in February 2021.

Somanathan has served as a joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office earlier.

Quick Fact: Somanathan was awarded the Gold Medal for the Best IAS trainee of his cohort.

2) National News

India's first 3D printed house at IIT-M inaugurated

The Union Finance Minister virtually inaugurated the first 3D printed house in India at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).

The single-storey home has been built in just five days over an area of about 600 sq. ft using 'Concrete 3D Printing' technology.

The 3D Printed House would help to meet the deadline of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the 'housing for all' scheme by 2022.

Quick Fact: The Union Finance Minister of India is Nirmala Sitharaman.

3) Finance News

Digital banking Platform 'Merchant Stack' launched by ICICI Bank

The ICICI Bank has announced the launch of a digital and contactless banking platform, especially for retail merchants.

The service, called 'Merchant Stack', is targeted at the 2 crore retail merchants in the country.

Retail merchants can avail the 'Merchant Stack' services on InstaBIZ, the mobile banking application of ICICI Bank for businesses.

Quick Fact: The CEO of ICICI Bank is Sandeep Bakhshi.

4) Person in News

Bajaj Auto Chairman designated to Niraj Bajaj

Bajaj Auto has announced the appointment of Neeraj Bajaj as its new Chairman of the Board with effect from May 1, 2021.

The automaker has also announced Rahul Bajaj as its Chairman Emeritus.

This will be taken up at the ensuing annual general meeting for the approval of the shareholders.

Quick Fact: The former chairman of the Bajaj Group is Rahul Bajaj and has been with the company for over 49 years.

5) Important Days

Ayushman Bharat Diwas observed on April 30

The Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated to achieve twin missions.

They are to promote health and wellness to the poor and also to provide insurance benefits to them.

The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database.

Quick Fact: The Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) is Shripad Yesso Naik.

6) Finance News

RBI joins network for greening financial system

RBI has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member.

Green finance assumed significance in the context of climate change.

The RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning from and contributing to global efforts on green finance.

Quick Fact: The NGFS was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017.

7) Finance News

Top arranger of corporate bond deals in FY21 - HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank has emerged as the top arranger of corporate bond deals in 2020-21 (FY21).

Axis Bank came in second, while ICICI Bank third.

For the last quarter of FY21, i.e January- March 2021, Axis Bank was the top arranger while HDFC was second in the last quarter.

Quick Fact: The MD and CEO of HDFC Bank is Sashidhar Jagdishan(Succeeds Aditya Puri). The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand **your world**.

8) Important Days

International Jazz Day marked on April 30

This day is celebrated to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role in uniting people in all corners of the globe.

The 2021 celebration marks the 10th Anniversary of International Jazz Day.

The day was created on the idea of jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock.

Quick Fact: Director-General of UNESCO: Audrey Azoulay; UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.

3rd May

1) International News

UK becomes the first country to allow Driverless cars on roads

The UK has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at low speeds.

The Government of the UK forecasts that around 40% of UK cars will have self-driving capabilities by 2035.

The speed limit of the ALKS is to be set at 37 miles per hour and it shall drive itself in a single lane.

Quick Fact: Prime minister of the United Kingdom: Boris Johnson; Capital of the United Kingdom: London.

2) Finance News

MoU with BSNL signed by Indian Bank

Indian Bank signed an MoU with BSNL to provide seamless telecom services to the Bank at competitive market rates.

The bank is already using the services of BSNL and MTNL for its Wide Area Network across the country

BSNL and its subsidiary MTNL are connecting 5,000 branches and ATMs of Indian Bank.

Quick Fact: Indian Bank CEO: Padmaja Chunduru. Indian Bank Tagline: Your Own Bank, Banking That's Twice As Good; BSNL Chairman & MD: Pravin Kumar Purwar.

3) Finance News

LIC Ranked Within Top Ten Most-Valuable Insurance Brands Globally

According to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021, LIC is the 3rd strongest and the 10th most valuable insurance brand globally.

This report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.

The brand value of LIC increased by almost 7 per cent to \$8.65 billion in 2021.

Quick Fact: David Haigh is the CEO of Brand Finance.

4) National News

SHWAS and AROG Loan Schemes for MSMEs launched by SIDBI

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has launched these to help MSMEs with financial support during the pandemic.

The two new loan products are:

- SHWAS – SIDBI assistance to the Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of COVID19.
- AROG – SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID19 pandemic.

These are made under the guidance of GoI which provides funding for production and services related to the supply of oxygen and essential drugs.

Quick Fact: CMD of SIDBI: S Ramann; SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

5) India and the World

TRIFED links MoU with 'The LINK Fund' for tribal development

TRIFED has entered into an MoU with The LINK Fund, for a collaborative project titled 'Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India'.

Both the organisations will work jointly towards Tribal Development and Employment Generation.

The LINK Fund is a Geneva, Switzerland based charitable operational foundation and practitioner-led fund.

Quick Fact: Pravir Krishn is the Managing Director of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

6) Person in News

Re-appointed as MD & CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry

Amitabh Chaudhry has been re-appointed as the MD and CEO Axis Bank for three more years by the bank board.

His second 3 years term will begin with effect from January 1, 2022, up to December 31, 2024.

Prior to joining Axis Bank, he was the MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company.

Quick Fact: Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai; Axis Bank Founded: 1993.

7) Important Days

International Workers' Day observed on May 1st

This day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.

On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.

In 1889, the ISC declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, 1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force.

Quick Fact: Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland; President of International Labour Organization: Guy Ryder.

4th May

1) National News

Project 'Oxygen on Wheels' by Anand Mahindra

The Mahindra Group Chairman launched this project to ease the transportation of oxygen to hospitals and households.

This initiative will bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India, especially in Maharashtra.

A direct-to-consumer model is also being followed.

Quick Fact: Mahindra Group CEO is Pawan Kumar Goenka.

2) National News

Operation Samudra Setu-II launched by the Indian Navy

This operation has been launched to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries to India.

Seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for shipment of oxygen-filled containers and medical equipment from various countries.

This mission has been launched to help the nation cope with the Covid-19 pandemic wave.

Quick Fact: Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh; Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.

3) Finance News

New RBI deputy governor - T Rabi Sankar

The RBI executive director T Rabi Sankar has been named as the fourth Deputy Governor of the central bank.

The ACC has approved his appointment.

He is in charge of the payments system, fintech, information technology and risk management at the RBI.

Quick Fact: The former Deputy Governor of the RBI was BP Kanungo who received a one-year extension on his term.

4) Person in News

Japan's Order of the Rising Sun honour to Shyamala Ganesh

The Japanese Government recently awarded the 'Order of Rising Sun' to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh.

She is a Japanese teacher at the Septuagenarian institution and also at the Ohara School of Ikebana in Bengaluru.

She has tutored hundreds of students since its inception 38 years ago. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

Quick Fact: Japan Capital: Tokyo; Japan Currency: Japanese yen; Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.

5) National News

GST revenues in April touch all-time high of ₹1.41 lakh crore

Gross revenues from the GST hit a record high of ₹1.41 lakh crore in April 2021 in India.

This shows that economic activity may not yet be as adversely affected in the ongoing 2nd wave of the pandemic as last year.

This marks the seventh month in a row since October that GST revenues have crossed ₹1 lakh crore.

Quick Fact: Neeraj Prasad is the first Commissioner in the office of GST-Investigation.

6) India and the World

India and Russia establish a '2+2 ministerial dialogue'

India and Russia have decided to establish a '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue' at the Foreign & Defence Minister level.

Russia is the 4th country and 1st Non-Quad member country with which India has established this mechanism.

India has such a mechanism with the US, Japan and Australia.

Quick Fact: Russia President: Vladimir Putin; Russia Capital: Moscow; Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.

7) National News

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

Wipro regained its position as the 3rd largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization of ₹ 2.65 trillion.

They surpassed HCL Technologies' ₹ 2.62 trillion market cap.

TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of ₹ 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.

Quick Fact: Chairman of Wipro Limited: Rishad Premji; Wipro Headquarters: Bengaluru; Wipro MD and CEO: Thierry Delaporte.

8) Person in News

1st woman appointed officer commanding in BRO: Vaishali Hiwase

Vaishali S Hiwase became the first woman officer to be appointed as officer commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

She will be responsible for providing connectivity through an Indo-China border road.

Vaishali is from Wardha, Maharashtra, and has completed a successful demanding tenure in Kargil.

Quick Fact: Director-General of BRO: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary; BRO Headquarters: New Delhi.

9) Important Days

World Press Freedom Day: May 3

The day pays tribute to journalists who risk their lives daily and some who have lost their lives collecting news from across the world.

This year's World Press Freedom Day theme 'Information as a Public Good'.

The theme recognizes the changing communications system that is impacting our health, our human rights, democracies and sustainable development.

Quick Fact: This day marks the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek in 1991.

5th May

1) National News

Facebook to introduce vaccine finder tool on mobile app in India

Facebook partnered with GOI to roll out a vaccine finder tool which will help people identify places nearby to get vaccinated.

They announced a USD 10 million grant for emergency response efforts for the COVID-19 situation in the country.

In this tool, vaccine centre locations and their hours of operation have been provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

Quick Fact: Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg. Facebook Headquarters: California, US.

2) Finance News

₹3 crore penalty on ICICI Bank imposed by the RBI

This penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with its directions in the matter of shifting of securities from one category to another.

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).

RBI observed that in the matter of shifting of securities from one category to another revealed, inter alia, contravention of the aforesaid directions issued by it.

Quick Fact: ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi; ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai na, Khayal aapka.

3) Person in News

NHRC acting chairperson - Justice Pant

NHRC member Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant was appointed as the acting chairperson of the Commission with effect from April 25.

A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019.

The post of a chairperson has been vacant since Justice H.L. Dattu, a former Chief Justice of India, completed his tenure on December 2, 2020.

Quick Fact: National Human Rights Commission Jurisdiction: Government of India; National Human Rights Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.

4) Sports News

Sindhu, Michelle Li - New ambassadors for IOC's 'Believe in Sport' campaign

The BWF announced that Indian shuttler PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the IOC.

Their 'Believe in Sport' campaign aims at preventing competition manipulation.

Sindhu and Li will be working with other athlete ambassadors to raise awareness on competition manipulation amongst athletes.

Quick Fact: International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach;

5) Person in News

Mahesh Balasubramanian appointed as Kotak Mahindra Life's MD

KLI announced it has appointed Mahesh Balasubramanian as managing director of the company.

The company is in receipt of approval from the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India for the appointment of Balasubramanian.

The appointment is for a period of three years. Suresh Agarwal has been elevated to MD & CEO of Kotak General Insurance.

Quick Fact: G Murlidhar was the former MD of Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance.

6) Important Days

World Asthma Day 2021: May 4

World Asthma Day is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May. This year, World Asthma Day was observed on May 4, 2021.

Whilst the primary focus is supporting the person with asthma, support may also extend to family, friends and caregivers.

The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is 'Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions'.

Quick Fact: World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).

7) Important Days

Coal Miners' Day: 4 May

This day is celebrated to recognize the hard work of some of the great unsung heroes of the Industrial Revolution.

The day is celebrated to show appreciation for the coal miners and honour their accomplishments.

They dig deep into the Earth to bring out the riches that help to sustain our life. Coal mining is one of the toughest professions.

Quick Fact: Coal in India has been mined since 1774 and is now the second fastest mined in the world.

8) Important Days

International Firefighters' Day: May 4

The International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) has been observed on May 4 every year since 1999.

The day is celebrated to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.

The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.

Quick Fact: The capital city of Australia is Canberra.

6th May

1) National News

GDP growth forecast for India lowered by Goldman Sachs in FY22 to 11.1%

The GDP growth rate estimate for the Indian economy was cut down to 11.1% in fiscal year FY22.

This was done due to increasing intensities of lockdowns by states to check the spread of coronavirus infections.

The firm has also revised the 2021 Calendar Year growth forecast to 9.7% from the previous estimate of 10.5%.

Quick Fact: The key people of Goldman Sachs are Lloyd Blankfein (Senior Chairman) and David M. Solomon (Chairman and CEO).

2) National News

West Bengal's CM Mamata Banerjee takes oath for the 3rd consecutive time

She was sworn in as WB's CM for the third time in the shadow of Covid and post-poll violence in parts of the state.

The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at the 'Throne Room' at the Raj Bhavan.

Mamata Banerjee won a landslide victory against BJP in the Bengal election to secure a third straight term.

Quick Fact: West Bengal's Governor is Jagdeep Dhankhar.

3) National News

First Solar Plant in North Sikkim launched by the Indian Army

The Indian Army recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in Sikkim.

It was launched to benefit the troops of the Indian army and uses Vanadium based battery technology.

The capacity of the plant is 56 KVA and was completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of Sikkim: PS Golay; Governor of Sikkim: Ganga Prasad.

4) Important Days

World Hand Hygiene Day observed on May 5

The day is organised by the WHO to raise awareness about the value of hand hygiene in beating many serious infections.

The theme for 2021 is 'Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands'.

The day suggests hand washing as one of the most essential actions to avoid a huge range of infections including the COVID-19 virus.

Quick Fact: Director-General of WHO: Tedros Adhanom.

5) Awards

UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2021 to Maria Ressa

Maria Ressa has been named as the 2021 eminent of the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

The \$25,000 prize 'recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger,' according to UNESCO.

The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist.

Quick Fact: Maria Ressa is the news chief of Philippine broadcast giant ABS-CBN.

6) Sports News

World Snooker Champion 2021: Mark Selby

In Snooker, English professional player Mark Selby has become the World Snooker Champion for the fourth time.

He won the title after defeating fellow mate Shaun Murphy at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England.

Prior to this, Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021.

Quick Fact: The Capital city of England is London and the currency of England is Pound Sterling.

7) Important Days

May 5 marks International Day of the Midwife

This day raises awareness about statuses of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns.

The theme for 2021 International Day of the Midwife was 'Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives.'

International Midwives' Day was first celebrated May 5, 1991, and has been observed in more than 50 nations around the world.

Quick Fact: International Confederation of Midwives President: Franka Cadee;
International Confederation of Midwives Headquarters: Hague, Netherlands.

8) Sports News

Breached ICC's anti-corruption code and banned for 6 years: Nuwan Zoysa

An ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal found him guilty of breaching the ICC anti-corruption code.

The ban for Zoysa is backdated to 31 October 2018, when he was provisionally suspended.

Zoysa guilty of 'being party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive or otherwise influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or another aspect(s) of an International Match.'

Quick Fact: Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay; CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney;
Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

7th May

1) India and the World

10 year roadmap for Bilateral Trade Partnership unveiled

PM Narendra Modi and his British counterpart, PM of UK made an ambitious 10-year road map to elevate the India-UK bilateral relationship.

The UK prime minister Boris Johnson announced a new India-UK trade investment worth £1 billion.

India and the UK inked nine pacts and launched Enhanced Trade Partnership, which included negotiation for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Quick Fact: Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron described Indian–British relations as the ‘New Special Relationship’ in 2010.

2) National News

Checkmate Covid Initiative launched by AICF

The All India Chess Federation has launched the ‘Checkmate Covid Initiative’ to help the chess community affected by the pandemic.

The initiative was launched at a virtual event in the presence of FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich and various other dignitaries.

The idea is to help the chess community affected by COVID through financial aid, and also have a team of doctors to provide the right assistance.

Quick Fact: All India Chess Federation President: Sanjay Kapoor; All India Chess Federation Headquarters location: Chennai.

3) National News

‘Drive in Vaccination Center’ unveiled in Mumbai

The Nation’s first ‘Drive in Vaccination Center’ was inaugurated by MP Rahul Shewale in Mumbai.

This center has been set up in the parking lot of Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar.

This facility has been made available to the citizens because people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination center.

Quick Fact: Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari; Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai; Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

4) National News

PepsiCo Foundation and SEEDS partner to set up COVID care centres

The partnership is finalised to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive and set up care centres.

The focus is on Maharashtra, Punjab, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana.

SEEDS will acquire Covid-19 vaccinations for the community at large, set up Covid care centres equipped with beds and medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders.

Quick Fact: The founders of Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) are Dr. Anshu Sharma and Dr. Manu Gupta.

5) International News

Test flight completed by World's largest aeroplane by Stratolaunch

The world's largest aeroplane is designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space over California's Mojave Desert.

The aircraft named 'Roc' features a twin-fuselage design and the longest wingspan ever flown.

The Stratolaunch is intended to carry a 550,000-pound payload and will be able to launch rockets from high altitude.

Quick Fact: Stratolaunch Headquarters: Mojave, California, USA; Stratolaunch CEO & President: Jean Floyd.

6) Important Days

May 6 marks the International No Diet Day

This day is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity.

Recognising that your body is beautiful exactly as it is and worrying less about your weight whilst being active is the message from this day.

The day is dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle at any size and highlighting the potential dangers of dieting and the unlikelihood of success.

Quick Fact: International No Diet Day's symbol is a light blue ribbon.

7) National News

New Director of Indian Institute of Rice Research: RM Sundaram

Raman Meenakshi Sundaram was appointed as Director of the IIRR, an arm of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Prior to this elevation, he was working as Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) at the institute crop Improvement Section.

He is a scientist of global repute working in the area of rice biotechnology, molecular breeding, and genomics and has over 160 research papers.

Quick Fact: Indian Institute of Rice Research formerly Directorate of Rice Research or IIRR is a rice research institute located in Rajendranagar near Hyderabad, Telangana.

8) Awards

Icon Award at Billboard Music Awards bagged by the Singer Pink

Singer Pink will be honoured with the Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs).

The award aims to recognize artists who achieved success on the Billboard charts and have left a lasting impact on music.

Pink joins the league after Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks.

Quick Fact: The original name of Pink is Alecia Beth Moore and she hails from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, U.S.

8th May

1) National news

New CM of Tamil Nadu appointed: DMK chief Stalin

Tamil Nadu governor appointed Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief MK Stalin as the CM of Tamil Nadu.

He is the son of the former five-term Tamil Nadu chief minister, the late M Karunanidhi.

The DMK party alone won 133 seats in the election.

Quick Fact: The Governor of Tamil Nadu is Banwarilal Purohit.

2) Person in News

Vijay Goel takes over as CMD of THDCIL

THDC India Ltd has announced Vijay Goel as their new chairman and managing director.

He joined the company in 1990 as a senior personnel officer (SPO) from NHPC Ltd.

He has more than 35 years of varied experience in the field of human resource management.

Quick Fact: The THDC India Limited (Formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited), is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Thermal Power Corporation.

3) International News

Portugal hosts the World's Longest Pedestrian Bridge

The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge named 'Arouca' was opened in Portugal.

The Arouca Bridge offers a 1,700-foot walk across its span, along a metal walkway suspended from cables.

This bridge took several years to build and was designed by Portuguese studio Itecons and constructed by Conduril.

Quick Fact: Portugal President: Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa; Portugal Capital: Lisbon; Portugal Currency: Euro.

4) National News

Odisha government announces Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana

Under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana, a health insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh will be provided to each Journalist.

A financial assistance of Rs. 15 lakh will be given to the families of the journalists who died from COVID-19 while at work.

Odisha called the journalists as frontline Covid warriors and this scheme will benefit more than 6500 journalists of the state.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik; Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal.

5) India and the World

First trilateral dialogue held in UK

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

The meeting was attended by:

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

This trilateral meet has three joint priorities which are maritime security, environment, and multilateralism.

Quick Fact: Members of the G7 are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

6) National News

Oil and Gas PSUs inks MoU for Shri Badrinath Dham

The top Oil and Gas PSUs of India, including IndianOil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL, have signed an MOU with the Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust.

This has been done for construction and redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a Spiritual Smart hill Town.

The initiative is part of the Government's effort to boost tourism by attracting more tourists.

Quick Fact: Shri Tirath Singh Rawat is the current Chief Minister of Uttarakhand belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

7) Literature

Children's Book 'The Bench' by Meghan Markle

Meghan Markle is all set to release her new book, titled The Bench, on June 8, 2021.

This book is inspired by a poem she wrote to her husband, Prince Harry, on his first Father's Day as a dad to son Archie.

The book contains watercolour illustrations by Christian Robinson.

Quick Fact: Meghan is the Duchess of Sussex and is an American member of the British royal family being a former actress.

8) Awards

Arline Pacht Global Vision Award awarded to Justice Gita Mittal

Former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal, is one of the two recipients of the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021.

The Award will be presented at IAWJ's Biennial Conference on May 7, 2021 and she shares the honour with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico.

Justice Mittal is the first Indian judge who is presented with this award to recognize her contribution to IAWJ.

Quick Fact: President of International Association of Women Judges: Vanessa Ruiz;
IAWJ HQ: Washington DC, USA.

9) Important Days

BRO celebrates 61st raising day on 7th May

The BRO was formed on May 7, 1960 and celebrated their 61st foundation day in 2021.

Their primary goal was to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and northeastern states.

BRO is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.

Quick Fact: The Director-General of Border Roads Organization is Lt. General Rajeev Chaudhary.

10th May

1) National News

New Chief Minister of Puducherry: N Rangaswamy

The AINRC founder, N Rangaswamy has been sworn in as the CM of the Union Territory of Puducherry for the fourth time.

He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lieutenant governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

It is the first time that Rangaswamy will be heading a coalition cabinet, NDA in the UT, which has members from BJP and AINRC.

Quick Fact: All India NR Congress was founded on February 7, 2011 after splitting from the Indian National Congress.

2) Finance News

Advisory group set up by the RBI to assist RRA 2.0

The RBI has initiated an advisory group to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0) established by the central bank.

The RRA was formed to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities.

The Advisory Group will be headed by SBI Managing Director S Janakiraman.

Quick Fact: RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai

3) Miscellaneous

Remembrance and Reconciliation for the Lost ones during the 2nd World War

The UN marks this time every year from May 8 to May 9.

The day pays tribute to all the victims of the Second World War. This year is the 76th Anniversary of World War II.

The day was declared in 2004 by the United Nations.

Quick Fact: Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.

4) Finance News

Lakshmi Vilas Bank excluded from the second schedule of RBI Act

The RBI has excluded Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act after it merged with DBIL last year.

A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act is known as 'Scheduled Commercial Bank'.

LVB is the second private sector bank after Yes Bank which has run into rough weather during this year.

Quick Fact: Lakshmi Vilas Bank Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

5) Finance News

Online Payments to Farmers & Traders by Kotak Mahindra Bank

KMBL announced its selection as a digital payments partner by the eNAM, a pan-India electronic trading portal for farm produce.

They will enable and facilitate online transactions for all stakeholders on the eNAM platform, including FPOs.

Kotak will provide payment, clearing and settlement services on the eNAM platform to facilitate trade between a buyer and seller of Agri produce.

Quick Fact: Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO: Uday Kotak; Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: Let's make money simple.

6) Important Days

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day observed on May 8

The day aims to celebrate the principles of the ICRC Movement to reduce the suffering of people and enable them to lead a dignified life.

Theme 2021 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: 'Unstoppable'

The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828), who was the founder of the ICRC.

Quick Fact: President of the ICRC: Peter Maurer; Headquarters of ICRC: Geneva, Switzerland.

7) Important Days

World Thalassemia Day: May 8

This day is marked to memorialize Thalassemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.

The theme for 2021 World Thalassaemia Day was 'Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community'.

Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder that is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.

Quick Fact: In India, every year over 10,000 children are diagnosed with Thalassaemia.

8) Important Days

May 8 marks World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day 2021 is observed globally on 8 May.

'Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!' was the theme of this year's World Migratory Bird Day.

This day aims to raise awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

Quick Fact: People across the globe take action and organize public events such as bird festivals, education programmes, exhibitions and bird-watching excursions to celebrate WMBD.

11th May

1) National News

Assam's new chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Himanta Biswa Sarma was named as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam replacing the existing CM, Sarbananda Sonowal.

He will take the charge of the office with effect from May 10, 2021.

The BJP party won a second straight term in the 2021 assembly polls in the state.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi.

2) India and the World

Virtual India-EU Leaders' Meeting attended by PM Narendra Modi

PM Narendra Modi participated in the India-EU Leaders' Meeting, held in a hybrid format.

The India-European Union Leaders' Meeting is hosted by Portugal, which currently holds the chair of the grouping.

PM Modi attended the event at the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr Charles Michel.

Quick Fact: European Union Headquarters location: Brussels, Belgium;

3) National News**Covid Management Cell set up for real time response by Indian Army**

The Indian Army has set up this Cell to coordinate real-time responses to address the continuous rise in Covid cases across the country.

It helps in assistance to civil administration in the form of testing, admissions in military hospitals, and transportation of critical medical equipment.

The Army has hired additional doctors, including specialists, super specialists and paramedics, at various hospitals.

Quick Fact: Lt Gen Chandi Prasad Mohanty is the Vice Chief of the Indian Army Staff.

4) International News**Kami Rita from Nepal scaled Everest for 25th time building a record**

Kami Rita scaled Mount Everest for the 25th time, breaking his own record for the most ascents of the world's highest peak.

Rita, 51, first scaled Everest in 1994 and has been making the trip nearly every year since then.

He is one of many Sherpa guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success of hundreds of climbers.

Quick Fact: Nepali name of Mt. Everest: Sagarmatha; Tibetan name: Chomolungma.

5) National News

Global Prime Residential Index by Knight Frank ranks New Delhi on 32

This London-based property consultant had ranked New Delhi and Mumbai on 32 and 36 positions respectively in the index.

Bengaluru moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked 40 and Delhi and Mumbai dipped one place each in the same period.

Three Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter.

Quick Fact: Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India: Shishir Baijal.
Knight Frank Headquarters: London, United Kingdom; Knight Frank Founders: Howard Frank, John Knight, William Rutley.

6) National News

‘Forest Ponds’ to Harvest Rainwater built by Himachal Pradesh

Under the Parvat Dhara scheme, the government aims to renew water sources and recharge aquifers through the forest department with an outlay of Rs 20 crore.

The work was started in 10 forest divisions of the state.

Efforts are also being made to improve the green cover by planting fruit-bearing plants.

Quick Fact: Himachal Pradesh Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya; Himachal Pradesh CM: Jai Ram Thakur.

7) National News

Anti-Covid drug 2-DG by DRDO, receives DCGI’s approval for emergency use

The anti-COVID-19 drug developed called drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) was given emergency approval by the DCGI.

The INMAS, a lab of DRDO, had developed the drug, in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad.

The drug comes in the form of a powder in a sachet & is supposed to be dissolved in water.

Quick Fact: Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy; DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.

8) Literature

Kalki Koechlin's Debut Book - 'Elephant In The Womb'

This Bollywood actress is making her debut as an author, with her first book titled 'Elephant In The Womb'.

The book, in pipeline to be released, is a non-fiction on motherhood and is illustrated by Valeriya Polyanychko.

The book narrates about pregnancy and parenting for mothers, expectant mothers, and 'anyone even thinking about motherhood'.

Quick Fact: Kalki Koechlin's nationality is French.

9) Awards

Best actor at New York City International Film Festival won by Anupam Kher

Anupam Kher won the Best Actor award for his performance in the short film Happy Birthday.

The film has been directed by Prasad Kadam and produced by FNP Media.

The film also won the Best Short Film award at the festival.

Quick Fact: Anupam Kher was presented the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.

10) Sports News

Arzan Nagwaswalla becomes the 1st Parsi on Indian cricket team since 1975

The 23-year-old left-arm seamer from Gujarat, has been picked as a reserve player in the Indian Test squad named for the WTC final.

He hails from a Parsi community in a village near the Maharashtra border.

He is the first Parsi cricketer to break into the national team since 1975 and the only active Parsi cricketer.

Quick Fact: Farokh Engineer played his final Test for India in 1975, while Diana Edulji's last game in the women's team came in July 1993. They were both Parsi.

12th May

1) Technology

3 cost-effective ventilators & oxygen concentrator developed by ISRO

ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator.

This is done at a time when a shortage of this critical medical equipment has resulted in the deaths of many Covid-19 patients across the country.

Based on designs, features and specifications, they have named these as Prana, VaU and Svasta.

Quick Fact: ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan; ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

2) International News

14th NASA Administrator: Former Senator, Bill Nelson

Former Senator Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator accomplishing the Biden-Harris vision for them.

Nelson served in the U.S. Senate for 18 years from Florida and as a payload specialist on space shuttle mission 61-C in 1986.

He has served in public office over four decades, first in the state legislature and U.S. Congress, then as State Treasurer.

Quick Fact: Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States; NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

3) National News

COVID-19 vaccine finder tool unveiled by Fintech major Paytm

Paytm launched 'COVID-19 Vaccine Finder', a platform to help citizens check the availability of vaccination slots on its Mini App store.

This will help citizens to check the availability of vaccination slots for a specific date by individually entering district details along with age group (18+ or 45+).

The automated process reduces the hassle and ordeal of refreshing the platform for new slots repeatedly.

Quick Fact: Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma; Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

4) Finance News

RBI approves Bajaj Finance's proposal for prepaid payment business

Bajaj Finance is all set to join the likes of Paytm and Amazon in the prepaid payment segment with RBI's approval.

This move is a part of Bajaj Finance's broader strategy to expand its digital offerings.

RBI has granted permission to the Company to issue and operate semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments with eternal validity.

Quick Fact: Bajaj Finance CEO: Sanjiv Bajaj; Bajaj Finance Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra.

5) Education

‘Dost for Life’ mobile app launched by CBSE

The new app ‘Dost for Life’ is an exclusive psychological counselling app for students and parents of CBSE-affiliated schools.

This App will simultaneously cater to students and parents from CBSE-affiliated schools in different demographics across the world.

The counselling sessions shall be provided to students of classes 9-12 by 83 volunteer counsellors and school principals.

Quick Fact: CBSE Chairman: Manoj Ahuja.

6) Awards

1st Indian To Win Arab World Nobel Prize: Dr Tahera Qutbuddin

The Arabic Literature professor at the University of Chicago, became the first person of Indian-origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.

The award is considered to be the Nobel Prize of the Arab world.

She won the award for her latest book, ‘Arabic Oration – Art and Function’ published in 2019.

Quick Fact: The first award that she won from 1984 to 1988 was the Egyptian Ministry of Religious Endowments Fellowship.

7) Sports News

ICC Player of the Month for April 2021 won by Pakistan’s Babar Azam

Pakistani skipper Babar Azam has been named the ICC Men’s Player of the Month for April 2021.

He has been awarded for his consistent and stellar performances across all formats in the recent series against South Africa.

This Award recognises and celebrates the best performances across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.

Quick Fact: Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay; CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney.

8) Literature

‘Life in the Clock Tower Valley’ author by Shakoor Rather

‘Life in the Clock Tower Valley’ is the debut book of Press Trust of India (PTI) journalist Shakoor Rather.

The book is published by Speaking Tiger, it talks about Kashmir’s pristine past, its grievous present and always-uncertain future.

It also includes historical and political information about Kashmir as well as environmental issues that are seldom talked about.

Quick Fact: In 2019, Shakoor was a fellow at the UN Climate Conference (COP25) in Madrid Spain for highlighting climate related issues.

9) Important Days

India observes National Technology Day on 11th May

This day marks the successfully tested Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army’s Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan.

This day will be focusing on rebooting the economy through Science and Technology.

It also highlights the achievements of our scientists and engineers in the field of science and technology.

Quick Fact: National Science Day is celebrated all over India on 28th February.

13th May

1) India and the World

UN Projected India's Growth At 10.1% In 2022

The growth of Indian economy is projected at 10.1% in the calendar year 2022 by the UN.

The growth outlook of 2021 was 'highly fragile' as India was the 'new hotbed of the pandemic.'

The mid-year update said that India will register a 7.5% growth rate in 2021, after an estimated contraction of 6.8% in 2020.

Quick Fact: Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations. UN Headquarters is in New York, USA.

2) National News

'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory: Puddcherry

Puducherry achieved the target of 100% piped water connection in rural areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are in the league to provide water supply to every rural home.

Puducherry is the fourth State/UT to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home.

Quick Fact: The Chief Minister of Puducherry is N Rangaswamy.

3) Finance News

'I choose my number' feature launched by Jana Small Finance Bank

JSFB has announced the launch of the 'I choose my number' feature for its customers across India.

This new feature enables the existing and new customers of the bank to select their favourite numbers as their account number.

This feature will help the customers connect closely with the bank as they choose their auspicious and lucky numbers.

Quick Fact: The tagline of Jana Small Finance Bank: 'Paise Ki Kadar'; MD and CEO of Jana Small Finance Bank: Ajay Kanwal.

4) India and the World

Exercises in the Arabian sea by Indian and Indonesian navies

Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the southern Arabian Sea to improve their coordination further.

The exercise was aimed at improving interoperability between both the friendly navies.

PASSEXes are regularly conducted by Indian Navy with units of Friendly Foreign Countries.

Quick Fact: Indonesia President: Joko Widodo; Indonesia Capital: Jakarta; Indonesia Currency: Indonesian Rupiah; Chief of Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Karambir Singh.

5) Awards

Green Urja Award to IREDA

IREDA was recognised as the Leading Public Institution in the Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year by the ICC.

They got the award for their pivotal and developmental role played in Green Energy Financing.

This award recognises the contribution to the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in line with the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

Quick Fact: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd Headquarters location: New Delhi; IREDA Founded: 11 March 1987.

6) International News

World's First Unmanned Vessel To Navigate Across Atlantic: Mayflower 400

'Mayflower 400' being World's First Unmanned Vessel is set to Navigate across the Atlantic.

It has been built by the marine research organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM.

It will begin its transatlantic voyage on May 15, 2021, to track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the water, and study marine pollution.

Quick Fact: IBM Chief Executive Officer(CEO): Arvind Krishna; IBM Headquarters: Armonk, USA.

7) Sports News

BJ Watling to retire after World Test Championship

New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman, BJ Watling announced his retirement from international cricket after the World Test Championship final.

Watling has played 73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20Is for the BlackCaps.

He became the 9th wicketkeeper to hit a double hundred and the first to hit a double against England in 2019.

Quick Fact: Prime minister of New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern; Capital of New Zealand: Wellington; The currency of New Zealand: New Zealand dollar.

8) Important Days

International Nurses Day: May 12

This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

She was also known as Lady with the Lamp and was the founder of modern nursing, also being a British social reformer and statistician.

The theme of 2021 International Nurses Day was 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare'.

Quick Fact: International Council of Nurse's headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
International Council of Nurses President: Annette Kennedy.

14th May

1) National News

Vehicle helpline 'COVI Van' for senior citizens by Delhi Police

The Delhi Police has launched a helpline for senior citizens struggling with essentials and daily needs amidst the pandemic.

The South District Police launched a COVI Van Helpline for senior citizens in the neighbourhood during the coronavirus situation.

The launching of the COVI Van has been circulated in the Greater Kailash -1 area through beat officers and RWA.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.

2) Person in News

Arun Kumar Singh appointed as next CMD of BPCL

PESB, the government's talent agent, has picked Arun Kumar Singh as the CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).

Arun Kumar Singh is the director of marketing at BPCL and holds additional charge of Director, Refineries.

This selection will be processed by the ACC led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Quick Fact: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai; Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Founded: 1952.

3) International News

Opposition escalated between Israel and Hamas after air strikes

The Israeli military has bombarded rockets in different areas of Gaza, this being the most intense airstrike in Gaza since 2014.

Hamas had directed hundreds of rockets towards Israel on May 10, after which, Israel carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Gaza.

Hamas sent rockets towards Israel protesting against the clash between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Quick Fact: Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Israel Currency: Israeli shekel; PM of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu.

4) Finance News

India's GDP Forecast: 9.2% for FY22, as projected by Care Ratings

The domestic rating agency revised the GDP growth forecast of India for the fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) to 9.2%.

This prediction is lower than the 10.2% estimated earlier in April 2021.

The revision was made citing the adverse effect of the second wave of the pandemic in India.

Quick Fact: CARE Ratings: Mumbai, Maharashtra; CARE Ratings MD and CEO: Ajay Mahajan.

5) International News

Classified Yaogan satellites launched by China

China recently launched a Yaogan satellite, Changsei 2C rocket, from the Xichang satellite launch centre.

This satellite joined the previous seven groups in orbit that were launched after 2017.

The satellite will be used for electromagnetic environmental surveys and other related technical tests.

Quick Fact: Yaogan is a series of Chinese reconnaissance satellites launched in the early 21st century.

6) India and the World

Union Cabinet approves MoU between ICAI and QFCA

The MoU signed between the two nations will strengthen the accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar.

The ICAI has a strong membership base in Qatar (Doha) and the Middle East Chapter, being one of the most vibrant chapters of ICAI.

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

Quick Fact: ICAI President: CA Nihar Niranjana Jambusaria; Vice President ICAI: CA Debashis Mitra; Secretary ICAI: CA Mukesh Kumar Jain.

7) Sports News

India retains top spot in ICC Test Team Rankings 2021

India continued to hold its top spot in the ICC Test Team Rankings released by the ICC on May 13, 2021.

India lead the table with 121 rating after having accumulated 2914 points from 24 matches.

New Zealand held on to the second spot on the ICC Test Team Rankings.

Quick Fact: ICC Format: Test Cricket; First Edition: 2019.

15th May

1) Finance News

Ink pact signed by GFS with PNB to offer three-in-one account services

Geojit Financial Services has signed a contract with PNB to provide a three-in-one account to PNB's customers.

This new service will allow customers having a savings account with PNB to simultaneously open a Demat and Geojit trading account.

This will help clients diversify their investments and manage them all through one account.

Quick Fact: Punjab National Bank MD and CEO: S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao; Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.

2) International News

US GPay users can now transfer money to India and Singapore

Google Pay users in the United States can now transfer money to app customers in India and Singapore.

They plan to expand to 80 countries available via Wise, and 200 via Western Union by the end of the year.

The company has partnered with Western Union and Wise, both of which have merged their services into Google Play.

Quick Fact: Google CEO: Sundar Pichai; Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.

3) Finance News

PPI authorisation granted to Eroute Technologies by RBI

The RBI has granted authorisation to Eroute Technologies to operate as a prepaid payment instruments (PPI) company.

The company aims to serve the underserved segments that comprise almost 680 million people.

They wish to work by creating user-friendly payment solutions taking care of the specific needs of various consumer segments in our society.

Quick Fact: Eroute Technologies MD & CEO: Sanjeev Pandey; Eroute Technologies Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

4) Person in News

Executive committee of ICAS joined by Manisha Kapoor

Manisha Kapoor was appointed to join the executive committee of the International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS).

Kapoor will play a leadership role till 2023 superseding ASCI that served as executive committee member for a 2 year term.

She will be one of the four global vice-presidents on the executive committee.

Quick Fact: President of ICAS: Guy Parker; ICAS Headquarters: Brussels Capital, Belgium; Advertising Standards Council of India Headquarters: Mumbai.

5) India and the World

Largest recipient of remittances in 2020: India, says World Bank

India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, says the report, 'Migration and Development Brief' released by the World Bank.

India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.

The payments received by India in 2020 was over USD 83 billion, which is a drop of 0.2% from 2019 (USD 83.3 billion).

Quick Fact: World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States; World Bank President: David Malpass.

6) National News

1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Virtual Meeting

The first BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting was held in 2021 in virtual format.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of India, which has assumed the BRICS Presidency in 2021.

The meeting was chaired by Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment.

Quick Fact: Representatives of BRICS member nations include Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

7) India and the World

Virtual 4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue

The fourth India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was led by the Indian Secretary of Economic Affairs, Ajay Seth.

The delegation from the Swiss side was led by Daniela Stoffel, State Secretary, and State Secretariat for International Finance, Switzerland.

The event covered sharing of experiences by both countries for collaboration on various aspects including investments.

Quick Fact: Switzerland Currency: Swiss franc; Switzerland Capital: Bern; President of Switzerland: Guy Parmelin.

8) Awards

World Food Award 2021: Shakuntala Hark Singh from India

India originated global nutritionist, Dr. Shakuntala Hark Singh Thilstad received the 'World Food Award' of the year 2021.

She developed a complete and nutritionally sensitive approach to seafood and food systems and received an award for her research.

The award is also known as the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture.

Quick Fact: World Food Programme Headquarters: Rome, Italy; World Food Programme Founded: 1961.

17th May

1) National News

Malerkotla Declared as 23rd District by Punjab CM Amarinder Singh

The CM of Punjab declared Malerkotla to be the 23rd district of the state, on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Malerkotla is a Muslim-dominated area and has been carved out of the Sangrur district of the state.

The government had promised that Malerkotla will be declared a district soon in 2017.

Quick Fact: Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh; Punjab Governor: V.P.Singh Badnore.

2) Person in News

Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2021: PM Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand

The PM of New Zealand topped the 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021, released by Fortune Magazine.

This is the eighth edition of the annual list which celebrates leaders, some famous ones and others that aren't too familiar.

The 2021 list focused on those who made a difference amidst the 'truly unprecedented times' of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Quick Fact: Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII) is the only Indian placed in the 10th spot.

3) International News

Re-appointed as Prime Minister of Nepal: KP Sharma Oli

KP Sharma Oli was re-appointed as the PM of the country by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari in Nepal.

Oli was administered his third oath of office as PM by the President on May 14, 2021.

He was first appointed as PM from 2015 to 2016, and then again from 2018 to 2021.

Quick Fact: Nepal Capital: Kathmandu; Currency Nepal: Nepalese Rupee.

4) National News

Digigold launched by Airtel Payments Bank

Airtel Payments Bank launched a digital platform, 'DigiGold', for customers to make investments in gold.

With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank's saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app.

Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends having a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.

Quick Fact: Airtel Payments Bank's MD and CEO: Nubrata Biswas.

5) Finance News

United Co-operative Bank's license canceled by RBI

RBI cancelled the licence of United Co-op Bank based in Bagnan, West Bengal, over inadequate capital and regulatory dissent.

The central bank has prohibited the co-operative lender from carrying on banking business, with effect from May 13, 2021.

RBI said it cancelled the licence as United Co-operative Bank did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

Quick Fact: RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das.

6) Miscellaneous

GoAir Rebrands itself as 'Go First'

Wadia Group-owned GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First', with the new motto - You Come First.

This rebranding is the company's attempt to operate the carrier in an ULCC airline model, to tackle the impact of the pandemic.

Go First will operate narrow-body aircraft across its fleet, comprising Airbus A320 and A320Neo (new engine option) planes under ULCC plans.

Quick Fact: GoAir Founder: Jehangir Wadia.

7) Sports News

Head Coach of Indian Women's Cricket team: Ramesh Powar

The BCCI has announced the appointment of Ramesh Powar as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Women).

The three-member Cricket Advisory Committee unanimously agreed on Powar's candidature.

A former international, Powar played 2 Tests and 31 ODIs for India.

Quick Fact: Secretary of BCCI: Jay Shah; President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly.

8) Important Days

May 15 observed as International Day of Families

This day reflects on the importance that the international community attaches to families.

This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families.

The theme of 2021 is 'Families and New Technologies'.

18th May

1) International News

White House senior adviser: Indian-American Neera Tanden

Indian-American Neera Tanden was appointed as senior adviser to the U.S. President Joe Biden.

She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).

She worked with Congress on particular provisions of former President Barack Obama's 'Affordable Care Act'.

Quick Fact: The founder of CAP is John Podesta and it is headquartered in Washington D.C., US.

2) National News**Several Indian states hit by Cyclone Taukate**

Cyclone Taukate gained maximum intensity on Sunday and became a very severe Cyclonic Storm (wind speed of 118 to 166 km/hr).

The IMD, in their latest cyclone alert, mentioned that this storm would reach close to the Gujarat coast, Maharashtra and Goa.

Light to moderate intensity rainfall is expected to continue over coastal Karnataka and Kerala till Monday.

Quick Fact: India Meteorological Department (IMD) Headquarters: Mausam Bhavan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi; Director General of Meteorology: Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

3) Person in News**Bata India appointed Gunjan Shah as new CEO**

Footwear company Bata India appointed Gunjan Shah as their new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

He will join Bata in his new role from 21 June 2021, for a period of five years.

Shah replaced Sandeep Kataria, who was elevated as the Global CEO of Bata Brands in November 2020.

Quick Fact: Bata has its headquarters located in Lausanne, Switzerland and an Indian branch based in Gurugram, Haryana.

4) International News

‘ZhuRong’, China’s First Mars Rover, Successfully Lands on Mars

China’s first Mars Rover, ‘Zhu Rong’, successfully landed on the red planet, making it the second nation to do so after the United States.

The vehicle used a combination of a protective capsule, a parachute & a rocket platform to make the downward climb.

Once it has deployed, the rover is expected to spend at least 90 days on Mars.

Quick Fact: China National Space Administration Administrator: Zhang Kejian; China National Space Administration Headquarters: Haidian District, Beijing, China.

5) National News

‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’ launched by the Government of Himachal Pradesh

The Government of HP launched this program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.

This program was started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation.

The initiative intends to provide a holistic healthcare approach to not only ensure physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing.

Quick Fact: Himachal Pradesh Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya; Himachal Pradesh CM: Jai Ram Thakur.

6) Miscellaneous

Social justice award named for Abdul-Jabbar created by NBA

The NBA announced the creation of a new award — the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award.

This was introduced to recognise players who are making strides in the fight for social justice.

Each NBA team would nominate one player for consideration and ultimately one winner would receive \$100,000 for the charity of his choice.

Quick Fact: NBA Commissioner: Adam Silver; NBA Headquarters: New York, United States.

7) Awards

Nuklu Phom gets prestigious Whitley Awards 2021

Nagaland conservationist from remote Longleng district, Nuku Phom won the Whitley Awards 2021, also known as the Green Oscar.

Along with five others, Nuku's name was announced in a virtual award ceremony organized by the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN).

Nuku and his team aim to offer alternatives that engage communities in conservation using the Amur falcon as a flagship.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: R. N. Ravi.

8) Awards

Andrea Meza crowned 69th Miss Universe 2020

Miss Mexico Andrea Meza was crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020 while Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino stood in the Top 4.

Brazil's Julia Gama was the first runner-up and Peru's Janick Maceta was the second runner-up.

The pageant was held in Miami, Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood.

Quick Fact: The Miss Universe Organization and its brand are currently owned by the WME/IMG talent agency.

9) Important Days

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day observed on May 17

The WTISD is observed every year to memorialize the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The theme of 2021 was 'Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times'.

The day aims to raise global awareness of the innovations by the Internet and new technologies in societies and economies.

Quick Fact: International Telecommunication Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; International Telecommunication Union Secretary-General: Houlin Zhao.

10) Important Days

National Dengue Day: 16 May

The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures.

This day also focuses on preparing for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.

Dengue is spread through the bite of the female mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and can lead to flu-like illness.

Quick Fact: Health Minister of India: Harsh Vardhan; Minister of state for health: Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

11) Important Days

International Day of Light: May 16

This day marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer - Theodore Maiman.

The day celebrates the role that light plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development.

The message of 2021 International Day of Light was 'Trust Science'.

Quick Fact: UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France; UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.

19th May

1) National News

Black Fungus declared as a notified disease in Haryana

Black Fungus was categorised as a notified disease in Haryana, making it a compulsion to be informed to the government authorities.

The ongoing pandemic in India gave rise to the spread of black fungus, also known as mucormycosis.

This fungal infection was catalysed into a dangerous disease disfiguring scores, and killing a few.

Quick Fact: Haryana Capital: Chandigarh; Haryana Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya; Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.

2) Finance News

National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI) by IDRBT

The Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) is building a futuristic Digital Financial Infrastructure named NADI.

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

NADI will consist of modern network infrastructure including 5G/Edge Cloud with SDNs to connect critical data infrastructure at the back-end.

Quick Fact: IDRBT Headquarters location: Hyderabad; IDRBT Founded: 1996.

3) International News

Satellite internet service by Google Cloud in partnership with SpaceX

Google Cloud and SpaceX signed a deal for providing internet service through Starlink satellite.

Google will impart the Cloud infrastructure, while SpaceX will install ground terminals in Google's cloud data centres.

Starlink is a project under which SpaceX aims to send 12,000 satellites to provide space-based internet.

Quick Fact: SpaceX founder & CEO: Elon Musk; SpaceX Headquarters: California, USA; Google CEO: Sundar Pichai; Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.

4) National News

Portable eco-friendly mobile cremation system by IIT Ropar

IIT Ropar developed an eco-friendly electric cremation system that produces no smoke despite the usage of wood for cremation.

It is based on wick-stove technology and the cart has been developed in alliance with the company Cheema Boilers Limited.

The cart-shaped system has stainless steel insulation on both sides for reducing heat loss and wood consumption.

Quick Fact: IIT Ropar Director: P K Raina.

5) Person in News

Suzuki Motorcycle India's new Company Head: Satoshi Uchida

Suzuki Motorcycle India appointed Satoshi Uchida as new Company Head replacing Koichiro Hirao.

Suzuki Motorcycle India registered highest-ever monthly sales dispatching 77,849 units in April 2021.

Suzuki Motor Corporation is a Japanese multinational corporation based in Minami-Ku.

Quick Fact: Suzuki Motor Corporation Founder: Michio Suzuki; Suzuki Motor Corporation CEO: Osamu Suzuki.

6) India and the World

ONGC-discovered Farzad-B gas field lost by India in Iran

The ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf was lost by India.

The NIOC signed a contract with Petropars Group for the development of Farzad B Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.

The field holds 23 trillion cubic feet of in-place gas reserves, of which about 60% is recoverable.

Quick Fact: Iran Capital: Tehran; Iran Currency: Iranian rial; Iran President: Hassan Rouhani.

7) Awards

‘International Invincible Gold Medal’ received by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

The International Invincible Gold Medal of this year was awarded to Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

He was recognised for his commitment and outstanding service to humanity through writings, social and illustrious public life.

This honour will be given by the worldwide Maharishi Organization & its universities.

Quick Fact: Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank is the Union Education Minister of India.

8) Important Days

World AIDS Vaccine Day observed May 18

The HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is observed annually to promote the urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS.

The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was thus observed on May 18, 1998, to memorialize the anniversary of Clinton's speech.

The concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day was proposed due to the need for a vaccine to curb the spread of HIV.

Quick Fact: The former US President Bill Clinton's commencement speech at the Morgan State University on May 18, 1997 gave rise to this day.

9) Important Days

International Museum Day: May 18

The International Museum Day is observed to raise awareness about the fact that Museums are an important means of cultural exchange.

The theme of International Museum Day 2021 was 'The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine'.

It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Quick Fact: President of International Council Of Museums: Suay Aksoy; International Council Of Museums Headquarters: Paris, France; International Council Of Museums Founder: Chauncey J. Hamlin.

10) Literature

'Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance' released

The book 'Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance', was released on May 16, which is celebrated as Sikkim Day.

Preet Mohan Singh Malik combined insights into the history of Sikkim with the intriguing story of how it became India's 22nd state.

The book aims to clarify and establish the primacy of strategic issues behind India's decision to accept the demand that Sikkim is merged with India.

Quick Fact: Sikkim Capital: Gangtok.

20th May

1) National News

Group of Ministers meet for the 26th time to discuss COVID-19

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, chaired the 26th meeting of the Group of Ministers on COVID-19.

The CoWIN platform will be soon accessible in Hindi and 14 other regional languages, as informed in the 26th GOM meeting.

17 laboratories will be added to the INSACOG (Indian SARS CoV-2 Genomics Consortium) network.

Quick Fact: Rajesh Bhushan: Indian Administrative Service, Health Secretary.

2) National News

Vikarabad area hospital hosts pilot of 'Medicine from the sky'

16 primary healthcare centres selected by the Telangana government around Vikarabad area hospital.

They contributed to pilot testing the ambitious 'Medicine from the sky', the first project involving delivery of medicines through drones.

The area hospital was selected as the central point owing to the presence of cold chain facilities.

Quick Fact: Telangana Capital: Hyderabad; Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan; Telangana Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao.

3) India and the World

Global organisation to build undersea cable network joined by Reliance Jio

Reliance Jio will be constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred in India.

This will be done in partnership with global organisations and submarine cable supplier, Subcom, to serve increased data demand.

The two submarine cable systems that the company plans to deploy will connect India with:

- Asia Pacific markets (Singapore, Thailand & Malaysia), and
- Others with Italy & Africa.

Quick Fact: Reliance Jio President Infocomm: Mathew Oommen; Reliance Jio Founder: Mukesh Ambani; Reliance Jio Headquarters: Mumbai.

4) International News

New President of Tibetan exile Government: Penpa Tsering

Former speaker of Tibet's parliament-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, was elected as the new president of the exile government.

Nearly 64,000 Tibetans living in exile across the world voted in the elections held in two rounds in January and April.

It was the 3rd direct election of leadership after the withdrawal of the Dalai lama from politics.

Quick Fact: Tibet Capital: Lhasa; Tibet Currency: Renminbi.

5) India and the World

Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools by MoU between Microsoft & India

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a MoU on the joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools.

This includes the introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.

Microsoft will make an Artificial Intelligence curriculum available for the tribal students in Hindi and English.

Quick Fact: Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda; Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

6) National News

‘MOMA Market’ for vegetable launched in Manipur

Manipur’s CM launched a smartphone application ‘Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) Market’ for home delivery of fresh vegetables.

This was done to ensure that people get fresh vegetables at their doorstep during the COVID-19 induced curfew.

MOMA, a unit of the state horticulture and soil conservation department, was assigned to work on this and channel farm produce to consumers.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of Manipur: N. Biren Singh; Governor: Najma Heptulla.

7) National News

Nation’s First Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre Launched in Pune

The MCCIA launched India’s first agro-export facilitation centre in collaboration with NABARD, in Pune.

The new centre is a one-stop-centre for the exporters in the agricultural sector, while boosting exports as per global standards.

The Center aims to guide prospective exporters on various relevant aspects of the ‘farm-to-fork’ chain of agro-exports.

Quick Fact: National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD)
Chairman: G R Chintala.

8) International News

Most Powerful Supercomputer 'Simorgh' developed by Iran

Iran unveiled a new supercomputer which is 100 times more powerful than the previous supercomputer of the country to date.

The supercomputer was developed mainly by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT).

The supercomputer was named after a mythical Phoenix-like bird 'Simurgh'.

Quick Fact: Iran Capital: Tehran; Iran Currency: Rial.

9) International News

Reappointed as PM of Mali: Moctar Ouane

Moctar Ouane was reappointed as PM of Mali.

Ouane would form a new government with room for the political class, under the instructions of President Bah N'Daw.

The nation is going through a political crisis due to disputed elections and economic stagnation, corruption, and Covid-19 pandemic.

Quick Fact: Mali: Eighth-largest country in Africa; Mali Capital: Bamako; Mali Currency: West African CFA Franc.

21st May

1) India and the World

India jumps up on EY index to 3rd spot

India moved a step higher on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index due to its performance on solar PV.

India moved one position above (3rd) from the previous index (4th) primarily because of the exceptional performance.

The US retains the top position on RECAI 57, China has remained a buoyant market and maintains the second position.

Quick Fact: EY Headquarters: London, UK; EY Chairman & CEO: Carmine Di Sibio.

2) India and the World

2nd largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific: India

India is the second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data.

India accounts for 35% of the \$3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region.

Insurance technology investors are attracted to India since it is one of the upsurging insurance markets in the world.

Quick Fact: S&P Global Market Industry: Financial Services; S&P Headquarters: Manhattan, New York City; S&P President and CEO: Douglas L Peterson.

3) Technology

'News Showcase' floated by Google in India with top publishers

Google announced the launch of its global licensing programme, News Showcase, in India.

Google has sealed agreements with 30 Indian publishers to offer access to some of their content.

Tech platforms are currently facing huge pressure from the global media fraternity asking for a fair price and advertising share.

Quick Fact: Google CEO: Sundar Pichai; Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States; Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.

4) Finance News

Adani Green to buy SoftBank-backed SB Energy

Indian renewable energy company, Adani Green Energy Ltd (ADNA.NS) to buy SB Energy Holdings Limited for an enterprise value of \$3.5 billion.

It would buy the 80% stake held by SoftBank Group and the rest owned by Indian conglomerate Bharti Global in a cash deal.

This deal aims for Adani Green to achieve its target renewable portfolio of 25 gigawatts (GW) four years ahead of its expected timeline.

Quick Fact: Adani Group Founder: Gautam Adani; Adani Group Headquarters: Ahmedabad.

5) National News

Legislative Council set up approved by West Bengal government

The West Bengal cabinet, led by CM Mamata Banerjee, approved the formation of the Legislative Council.

At present, only Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh have a Legislative Council.

West Bengal previously had a bicameral legislature but it was abolished by the United Front government in 1969.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.

6) Finance News

Sale of YES Bank's MF subsidiaries to GPL Finance approved by CCI

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of YES AMC and YES Trustee by GPL.

GPL Finance and Investments Limited (GPL) will acquire 100% equity shares of YES AMC and YES Trustee.

GPL will acquire Yes Mutual Fund and become its sole sponsor.

Quick Fact: YES bank HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra; YES bank MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar.

7) International News

New ocean observation satellite Haiyang-2D launched by China

China successfully sent a new ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit.

This is a part of its effort to build a dynamic ocean environment monitoring system that would provide early warning on marine disasters.

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

Quick Fact: China National Space Administration Administrator: Zhang Kejian; China National Space Administration Headquarters: Haidian District, Beijing, China.

8) Awards

1 million euro tech Nobel prize to DNA sequencing pioneers from Cambridge

Two British chemists developed a super-fast DNA sequencing technique that paved the way for revolutionary healthcare advances.

They were awarded Finland's version of the Nobel science prizes, Millennium Technology Prize, for their work over 27 years.

Cambridge University professors Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman took home the 1 million euro (\$1.22 million).

Quick Fact: Finland Capital: Helsinki; Finland Currency: Euro.

9) National News

National Gallery of Modern Art launched Audio-Visual Guide App

On the occasion of International Museums Day 2021, the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) has launched the Audio-Visual Guide App.

The app will enable museum viewers to listen to anecdotes and stories related to the Indian modern art exhibited at the Gallery.

It was launched to provide a better way of viewing the museum to visitors.

Quick Fact: Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Culture: Prahalad Singh Patel.

10) Important Days

World Metrology Day: May 20

Various nations internationally collaborate to create awareness about metrology and its advancement in the respective field.

The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 was 'Measurement for Health'.

This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in health, and thus in the wellbeing of each one of us.

Quick Fact: International Organization of Legal Metrology Headquarters: Paris, France.

22nd May

1) National News

Oxygen Recycling System designed by Indian Navy

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

Indian Navy's Diving School of the Southern Naval Command conceptualised and designed the System.

ORS will extend the life of the existing medical oxygen cylinders by two to four times.

Quick Fact: Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.

2) International News

Kenya's first woman chief justice: Martha Koome

Martha Karambu Koome is Kenya's first woman chief justice.

She became the first woman to head any of the three branches of government.

Koome would play a decisive role in adjudicating any eventual election disputes.

Quick Fact: Kenya Capital: Nairobi; Kenya Currency: Kenyan shilling; Kenya President: Uhuru Kenyatta.

3) National News

First state to execute Ayushman Bharat: Karnataka

Karnataka ranked first in establishing Health and Wellness Centres under the Ayushman Bharat Program.

While the Centre had set a target of establishing 2,263 centres, the State has upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31.

The state aims to provide quality health care for all under the Ayushman Bharat – Arogya Karnataka scheme.

Quick Fact: Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru; Karnataka Governor: Vajubhai Vala; Karnataka Chief minister: B. S. Yediyurappa.

4) National News

First in implementation of Smart City Mission schemes: Jharkhand

Jharkhand secured the 1st Position among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects.

The rankings were released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi rose to the 12th position in terms of progress of the ongoing mission plans in 100 cities.

Quick Fact: CM of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren.

5) National News

'Amrit Vahini' App for online booking of hospital beds launched by Jharkhand

Corona patients in Jharkhand can book hospital beds online through the 'Amrit Vahini' App launched by CM Hemant Soren.

The state government would be able to provide better facilities for the people infected with coronavirus.

Through the 'Amrit Vahini' App or website one can get all information online about the availability of hospital beds and even book one for themselves.

Quick Fact: Jharkhand Governor: Shrimati Droupadi Murmu.

6) India and the World

India's UNESCO World Heritage sites Tentative List include 6 new sites

The Union Culture Minister recently announced that six cultural heritage sites were added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list increased to 48.

The following six places have successfully entered the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites:

- Ganga Ghats of Varanasi
- Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu
- Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra Military Architecture
- Hire Benkal Megalithic site
- Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh

Quick Fact: Union Culture Minister India: Prahlad Singh Patel.

7) National News

Kerala Chief Minister for 2nd time: Pinarayi Vijayan

Pinarayi Vijayan was sworn in as Kerala Chief Minister for the second time in the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis in the state.

The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at the Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.

The new LDF government bucked the trends, as Kerala usually alternates between the Left and a Congress government.

Quick Fact: Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

8) Awards

1st Indian to win annual 'World Choreography Award 2020': Suresh Mukund

Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer, Suresh Mukund, won the 10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020'.

He won this award in the 'Tv reality show/competition' category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show, World of Dance.

Mukund was the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew 'The Kings', which won the 2019 season of World of Dance.

Quick Fact: 'Oscars of Dance' takes place every year in Los Angeles.

9) Important Days

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: May 21

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed globally on 21 May every year.

This day aims to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity.

In 2001, UNESCO adopted the 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' due to the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan.

Quick Fact: Director-General of UNESCO: Audrey Azoulay.

10) Important Days

National Anti Terrorism Day observed on 21 May

National Anti Terrorism Day is observed in India to mark the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.

The day aims to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind, and promotes unity among citizens.

After Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by a human bomb, under the V.P. Singh government, the centre decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.

Quick Fact: Rajiv Gandhi was India's youngest Prime Minister.

24th May

1) National News

Odisha became bystander to Zero Shadow Day, a Rare Celestial Phenomenon

Odisha's Bhubaneswar witnessed Zero Shadow Day for about 3 minutes on Saturday, wherein no shadow of any object or being was observed.

The event takes place twice a year when the sun comes exactly overhead over all the regions between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Due to this, the shadow of objects and beings almost vanish during the day and hence, it is known as Zero Shadow day.

Quick Fact: Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik; Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

2) National News

Covid-19 antibody detection kit 'DIPCOVAN' by DRDO

The DIPCOVAN kit can detect both spikes and nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus with a high sensitivity of 97%.

It was approved by the ICMR and developed by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences lab of DRDO.

DIPCOVAN plans for qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting SARS-CoV-2 related antigens.

Quick Fact: Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy; DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.

3) Technology**Internet Explorer to be retired by Microsoft on 15 June 2022**

Microsoft decided to retire its iconic Internet Explorer (IE) browser from 15 June 2022, after more than 25 years of its launch.

Microsoft recommends its users to shift to Microsoft Edge before 2022, for a faster, and modern browsing experience.

Microsoft Edge users will be able to access IE-based websites and applications straight from ME.

Quick Fact: Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

4) Finance News**Full-KYC PPIs limit increased to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 1 lakh by RBI**

RBI increased the maximum amount outstanding in respect of full-KYC PPIs (KYC-compliant PPIs) from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh.

RBI also mandated that all PPIs or mobile wallets such as Paytm, PhonePe and Mobikwik are to be fully KYC-compliant.

RBI also permitted cash withdrawal from Full-KYC PPIs of Non-Bank PPI Issuers.

Quick Fact: Paytm CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma; PhonePe Founder and CEO: Sameer Nigam.

5) National News

‘HIT Covid App’ to ensure regular monitoring by Bihar Govt.

The ‘HIT Covid App’ will ensure regular monitoring and tracking Covid-19 patients, isolated at home, across the state.

HIT stands for home isolation tracks. Bihar’s CM mentioned that this will help health workers to regularly monitor home-isolated patients.

Health workers will visit the patients everyday and record data like temperature and oxygen level in the app.

Quick Fact: CM Bihar: Nitish Kumar; Governor Bihar: Phagu Chauhan.

6) Technology

Ed-tech platform ‘Hero Vired’ launched by Hero Group

Munjal family-led, Hero Group, launched a new ed-tech app, ‘Hero Vired’, that aims to offer an end-to-end learning ecosystem.

Through this new edtech venture, Hero Group entered the ed-tech space.

The platform offers learner’s overall professional development to make them industry-ready for employment.

Quick Fact: CMD of Hero Group: Pankaj M Munjal; Hero Group HQ: New Delhi.

7) Finance News

Digital loan processing system launched by IDBI

IDBI Bank launched its fully digitized loan processing system, offering over 50 products to MSME and the agriculture sector.

This LPS seamlessly integrates mainly with data fintech, bureau validations, document storage, account management and customer notifications.

The features aim to provide a superior tech-enabled banking experience to the bank's MSME & Agri customers.

Quick Fact: IDBI Bank CEO: Rakesh Sharma; IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

8) Technology

AI-powered Online Account Opening in partnership of SBI and HyperVerge

HyperVerge announced its partnership with SBI, with one of its flagship products, the Video Banking solution.

This solution aims to achieve 10x improvement in the number of account openings per day per agent.

The new service will offer a quick and completely paperless experience to customers with minimal ID documents.

Quick Fact: SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.

9) Important Days

International Day for Biological Diversity observed on May 22

The UN celebrates this day to raise awareness about the issue of a significant reduction in biological diversity due to human activities.

Biological Diversity consists of a wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms including genetic differences within each species.

This year 2021 the theme was 'We're part of the solution'.

Quick Fact: UN Headquarters: New York, USA; Secretary-General of the UN: Antonio Guterres.

25th May

1) Finance News

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

KMB issued a foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global.

AIF is an important business vertical at GIFT IFSC and offers a competitive edge for setting up a fund in IFSC at GIFT City.

In partnership with KMB, True Beacon launched its first AIF in GIFT-City with PWC as consultants.

Quick Fact: Kotak Mahindra Bank: India's first NBFC, converted into a bank; Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak.

2) International News

Global G20 Summit hosted by Italy

The Global G20 Health Summit was co-hosted by European Commission along with Italy as part of its G20 presidency.

The summit discussed the agenda to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic along with developing the Rome Declaration of principles.

As per WHO officials, the future of the pandemic is in the hands of G20 leaders.

Quick Fact: Italy Capital: Rome; Italy Currency: Euro; Italy President: Sergio Mattarella.

3) Miscellaneous

Richest and second richest people of Asia are Indians

Billionaire Gautam Adani became the second-richest Asian, according to the Bloomberg Billionaire Index.

China's Zhong was the richest Asian till February, losing the position to Mukesh Ambani, India's richest person and chairman of Reliance Industries.

Ambani's total wealth now stands at \$76.5 billion, making him the 13th richest in the world, followed by Adani at 14th.

Quick Fact: The Bloomberg Billionaires Index comprises a daily ranking of the world's richest people, based on their net worth.

4) Person in News

CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub: Rajesh Bansal

The Board of RBIH appointed Rajesh Bansal as the CEO of the RBIH with effect from May 17, 2021.

The RBIH would develop internal infrastructure to promote fintech research and facilitate engagement with innovators and start-ups.

Bansal served at the RBI in various capacities in the areas of technology, financial inclusion and payment systems.

Quick Fact: Deputy Governors of RBI: BP Kanungo, MK Jain, MD Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.

5) Person in News

Elected to BWF Council: Himanta Biswa Sarma

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected as a Member of the council for 2021-25.

Sarma was elected among 31 contestants to the 20-member BWF Council at the virtual AGM and Council election of BWF.

He is also the Vice President of Badminton Asia and the CM of Assam.

Quick Fact: Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
Badminton World Federation President: Paul-Erik Hoyer Larsen.

6) Person in News

FIH President Narinder Batra re-elected

Narinder Batra was re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the second consecutive term.

This election was held during the virtual 47th Congress of FIH, where he beat the chief of Belgium Hockey Federation, by two votes only.

Batra will hold the office until 2024 because the FIH reduced the term from four to three years.

Quick Fact: International Hockey Federation (FIH) Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; International Hockey Federation CEO: Thierry Weil.

7) Sports**FIFA U-17 women's World Cup to be held in India in October 2022**

As announced by the Fifa Council, the U-17 women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30 next year.

India was scheduled to host the 2020 U-17 World Cup but it had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The FIFA Council approved key dates for the international match calendars, including the dates of the 2022 U-17 World Cup.

Quick Fact: President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino; Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.

8) Awards**2021 Templeton prize for life's work to Naturalist Jane Goodall**

Naturalist Jane Goodall won the Templeton Prize in recognition of her life's work on animal intelligence and humanity.

Goodall built her global reputation on her groundbreaking studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania in the 1960s.

The Templeton Prize is provided to those whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton's philanthropic vision.

Quick Fact: Templeton Prize presented by: John Templeton Foundation; Reward(s): £1.1 million; Currently held by: Francis Collins.

9) Sports

Etienne Glichitch Award to Hockey India

Hockey India won the award in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.

The awards were announced by the game's governing body FIH during the Hockey Invites virtual conference.

It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.

Quick Fact: Regional Affiliation: Asian Hockey Federation (AHF); Headquarters: New Delhi, India; President: Gyanendro Nigombam.

10) Important Days

World Turtle Day observed on 23 May

World Turtle Day is observed on May 23 every year by American Tortoise Rescue, a nonprofit organization.

This day is observed to raise awareness among people to protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world.

The theme of 2021 World Turtle Day was 'Turtles Rock!'.

Quick Fact: Founders of American Tortoise Rescue: Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson; American Tortoise Rescue is located in Malibu, California.

26th May

1) International News

World's largest iceberg breaks off from Antarctica

European Space Agency (ESA) confirmed using satellite images that the world's largest iceberg broke off from Antarctica.

Named as A-67, the iceberg was 4320 square kilometres in size, which is half the size of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The images were captured by Copernicus Sentinel-1 spacecraft.

Quick Fact: ESA Headquarters: Paris, France; ESA Director-General: Josef Aschbacher.

2) International News

'Global Pandemic Radar' plan launched by UK

The UK planned to develop an advanced international pathogen surveillance network to identify Covid-19 variants and emerging diseases.

This Global Pandemic Radar will ensure early detection so vaccines and treatments can be rapidly developed.

PM Boris Johnson announced the plans, ahead of the Global Health Summit hosted by Italy and the European Union (EU).

Quick Fact: UK Prime Minister:- Boris Johnson; UK Capital: London.

3) National News

'Sanjeevani Pariyojana' to treat COVID patients at home by Haryana Government

'Sanjeevani Pariyojana' is an anti-Covid plan to provide quick medical care to people with moderate symptoms of Covid-19.

This Pariyojana was launched for rural areas where awareness regarding the second wave of Covid-19 and related treatment is low.

This was an important step of bringing medical care for people who and when they need it the most.

Quick Fact: Haryana Capital: Chandigarh; Haryana Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya; Haryana CM: Manohar Lal Khattar.

4) National News

'Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance' launched by Government of Maharashtra

The government of Maharashtra launched the 'Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance' scheme to meet the oxygen needs of the state.

Special incentives will be provided to oxygen-producing industries under this scheme.

Maharashtra's healthcare system is expected to be contemplated to increase manufacturing and storage to become an oxygen self-reliant state.

Quick Fact: Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari; Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai; Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

5) National News

Vatsalya Yojana for children orphaned due to Corona by Uttarakhand CM

The CM of Uttarakhand announced Chief Minister Vatsalya Yojana for orphaned children who lost their parents due to Covid-19.

The State Government will make arrangements for the maintenance, education and training for employment of children up to the age of 21 years.

Laws to be made for the paternal property of these orphans in which the property can not be sold until the children are adults.

Quick Fact: CM of Uttarakhand: Tirath Singh Rawat; Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya.

6) International News

IMF proposed a \$50 billion global vaccination plan

The International Monetary Fund proposed a \$50 billion global vaccination plan.

This would cover at least 40% of the global population by the end of 2021 and at least 60% by the first half of 2022.

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

Quick Fact: IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C. U.S; IMF Managing Director and Chairman: Kristalina Georgieva; IMF Chief Economist: Gita Gopinath.

7) Technology

First mobile robot to search for water on the moon to be sent by NASA

NASA is planning to search for ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface.

As part of its Artemis program, NASA plans to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in late 2023.

The VIPER will collect data that would help NASA map resources at the lunar South Pole.

Quick Fact: 14th NASA administrator: Bill Nelson; Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States; NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

8) Person in News

Anvee Bhutani from India Elected as Oxford Student Union President

A Human Sciences student from Magdalen College at Oxford was declared the winner of a Student Union (SU) byelection.

Anvee Bhutani is the Co-Chair Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE) at Oxford SU and President of the Oxford India Society.

She was in the fray for the by-election for the 2021-22 academic years, which attracted a record turnout.

Quick Fact: Former Oxford SU President: Nikita Ma.

9) Important Days

World Thyroid Day observed on 25 May

World Thyroid Day is observed globally on 25 May every year.

The main purpose of this day is to be aware of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases.

This day was established in 2008 as part of a campaign to commemorate patients with Thyroid diseases and physicians who treat them.

27th May

1) National News

New CBI director: IPS Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

IPS officer Subodh Jaiswal was appointed Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Jaiswal, along with two others, was shortlisted out of 109 officers for this post by the high-powered committee led by PM Narendra Modi.

Other members of the committee include CJI NV Ramana and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Quick Fact: CBI Headquarters: New Delhi; CBI Founded: 1 April 1963.

2) India and the World

3-year program for Cooperation in Agriculture signed by India-Israel

India and Israel inked a three-year joint work programme which will continue till 2023.

A joint work programme was initiated with the aim of enhancing cooperation in agriculture.

The new programme will promote the increase in net income and enhance the livelihood of individual farmers.

Quick Fact: Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Israel Currency: Israeli new shekel.

3) International News

New PM of Republic of Congo: Collinet Makosso

The President of the Republic of Congo appointed Anatole Collinet Makosso as the country's new Prime Minister.

He replaced Clement Mouamba, in-office since 2016.

Before this appointment, Makosso was the education minister and the minister of youth and civic instruction of central Africa.

Quick Fact: Congo Capital: Brazzaville; Congo Currency: Congolese franc.

4) International News

Israel's Next Mossad Chief: David Barnea

Israeli PM appointed David Barnea as the new head of the country's spy agency, the Mossad.

Barnea, a former longtime Mossad operative, will succeed Yossi Cohen as head of Israel's intelligence agency from June 1.

Cohen served as Israel's spymaster since taking office in 2016.

Quick Fact: Prime Minister of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu.

5) National News

74th World Health Assembly chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan

Chairman of WHO Executive Board, Dr Harsh Vardhan, chaired the 74th World Health Assembly in virtual mode.

The executive board asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.

Director-General of World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros, also participated in the event.

Quick Fact: Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare: Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

6) Finance News

Foreign direct investment jumps 19% to \$59.64 bn in 2020-21

FDI grew 19% in the nation due to measures by GOI on policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business.

Total FDI, including equity, reinvested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the 'highest ever' of USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21.

In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is the first with a 29% share, followed by the US (23 %) and Mauritius (9 %) during the last fiscal.

Quick Fact: FDI in India is controlled by the RBI.

7) Finance News

India's FY22 GDP growth at 7.7% predicted by Barclays

Barclays pegged India's economic growth for FY22, as measured by GDP, at 7.7%.

This prediction was based on the bear-case scenario if the country is hit by the third wave of Covid going ahead.

The economic cost could rise by at least a further \$42.6 billion, if another round of similar stringent lockdowns is imposed.

Quick Fact: Barclays Group Chairman: Nigel Higgins; Barclays Group CEO: Jes Staley; Barclays Headquarters: London, UK.

8) India and the World

New Consulate General of India in Maldives opening approved by Cabinet

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

India and Maldives have shared ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links since years.

The opening of a Consulate General in Addu City will help enlarge India's diplomatic presence in the Maldives.

Quick Fact: President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih; Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.

9) Miscellaneous

Mohali international hockey stadium renamed after Balbir Singh Senior

Punjab Government announced to rename the Mohali International Hockey Stadium, after triple Olympian and Padma Shri Awardee, Balbir Singh Sr.

The stadium will now be known as Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium.

The government also announced the start of a scholarship scheme in the legend's name for meritorious hockey players of the state.

Quick Fact: Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh; Punjab Governor: V.P.Singh Badnore.

10) Awards

Gold Stevie Award 2021 won by SpiceHealth

SpiceHealth, a healthcare company founded by the promoters of SpiceJet, won the 'Most Valuable Medical Innovation' award under Covid19.

When Covid-19 was at an all-time high in India, SpiceHealth disrupted the RT-PCR testing house by providing checks in cell laboratories.

The Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards are the one business awards program to recognise innovation within the workplace in all 29 nations of the Asia-Pacific area.

Quick Fact: Spice Global Founder: Bhupendra Kumar Modi; Headquarters: Singapore and India; Spice Global CIO: Ozi Amanat.

28th May

1) National News

Cheetah to be reintroduced in India from Africa at the end of 2021

Cheetah, the world's fastest land animal, declared extinct in India in 1952, is expected to be re-introduced in the country in November 2021.

The Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh holds a space of 750 sq km and has a conducive atmosphere for the cheetah.

Officers from India might be despatched to South Africa for sensitisation and coaching in June and July this year.

Quick Fact: CM Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

2) National News

14th Indian unicorn in 2021 after SoftBank funding: Zeta

Banking technology startup, Zeta, raised \$250 million from Japanese investment major SoftBank at a valuation of \$1.45 billion.

Zeta became the 14th Indian startup to cross the valuation of \$1 billion in 2021 by SoftBank's Vision Fund II, the source of investment.

The company's value increased by more than threefold as a result of SoftBank's investment.

Quick Fact: Zeta Founded: April 2015; Zeta Headquarters: Bangalore, India; Zeta Founders: Bhavin Turakhia, Ramki Gaddipati.

3) International News

Lasso from Ecuador sworn in as first right-wing leader in 14 years

Guillermo Lasso, a conservative, accepted the presidency of Ecuador and became the first right-wing leader in 14 years.

Guillermo Alberto is a banker, businessman, writer and politician who recently became the 47th president of Ecuador.

He became the first centre-right president in two decades.

Quick Fact: Ecuador Capital: Quito; Ecuador Currency: US Dollar.

4) India and the World

Mobile tech platform 'UNITE AWARE' for UN peacekeepers by India

India plans to launch a mobile tech platform for the UN Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.

It will be launched during India's UNSC Presidency term in August 2021.

UNITED AWARE will increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers by providing terrain-related information.

Quick Fact: UN Secretary-General for Peace Operations: Jean-Pierre Lacroix; UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations Headquarters: New York, USA.

5) Technology

ISRO and NASA partner to develop Earth System Observatory

NASA is working on a new system called the Earth System Observatory, to mitigate efforts related to climate change and disaster relief.

NASA partnered with ISRO which will provide NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR).

NISAR will carry two radar systems to measure changes in the Earth's surface during one of the observatory's first missions aimed as a pathfinder.

Quick Fact: 14th NASA administrator: Bill Nelson; Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States; NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

6) Finance News

Online process for NRI account opening by Equitas Small Finance Bank

Equitas Small Finance Bank became the first Small Finance Bank to offer its NRI customers the ease of opening an account online.

They will be the only one in the Small Finance Bank sector to have Virtual Relationship Managers based on time zones.

The online process of account opening for NRIs can be done via smartphone or computer connected to the Internet.

Quick Fact: Equitas Small Finance Bank MD & CEO Vasudevan P N; Equitas Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Chennai.

7) Person in news

Andy Jassy to swear as Amazon's CEO on July 5th

Andy Jassy will officially become the CEO of Amazon on July 5th, as announced by the company at a shareholder meeting.

Jassy, who is the current CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS), would replace Jeff Bezos as CEO of the entire company.

Jeff Bezos will become the executive chairperson of Amazon's board.

Quick Fact: Amazon.com Inc Founded: 5 July 1994; Amazon.com Inc Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States.

8) Awards

First Indian to win Rudolf V Schindler award: Dr Nageshwar Reddy

Padma Bhushan awardee and noted gastroenterologist Dr D Nageshwar Reddy won the Rudolf V Schindler Award from ASGE.

The Rudolf V Schindler Award is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after the father of gastroscopy.

Dr Reddy became the first Indian medical practitioner to win this award.

Quick Fact: Dr. Rudolf V Schindler was called 'The Father of Gastroscopy'.

9) Awards

FIH President's Award presented to IAS VK Pandian

IAS V Karthikeyan Pandian, private secretary to Odisha's CM, was conferred with President's award during the 47th FIH Congress.

He was awarded for his contribution in direction of the event and promotion of hockey in Odisha.

Pandian works as Secretary of the State government's 5T Initiative (Technology, Transparency, Teamwork and Time Leading to Transformation).

Quick Fact: Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

10) Literature

Neena Gupta announces autobiography 'Sach Kahun Toh'

Bollywood actor Neena Gupta, to launch her autobiography 'Sach Kahun Toh', published by Penguin Random House India.

The book addresses issues like casting couch, film industry politics, and about what it takes for a young actor to survive without a godfather.

She details the big milestones in her life, her unconventional pregnancy and single parenthood, and successful second innings in Bollywood.

29th May

1) National News

‘Guardian Ministers’ appointed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

The CM of Assam appointed Guardian Ministers to oversee the execution of government policy decisions in all 34 districts of the state.

13 Guardian Ministers were appointed for balanced, speedy and sustainable developments of these districts.

The assigned ministers will be responsible for the performance of all centrally - sponsored schemes and the state’s own priority programmes.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi.

2) National News

SeHAT OPD portal launched by Rajnath Singh

Shri Rajnath Singh launched the ‘Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal via video conferencing.

The main motive of the portal is to provide telemedicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.

A trial version was launched in August 2020 and more than 6,500 medical consultations have already been carried on the beta version.

Quick Fact: Defence Minister India: Rajnath Singh

3) National News

Partnership between TRIFED and NITI AAYOG to implement the Van Dhan Yojana

TRIFED partners with NITI Aayog to implement Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) initiative in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog.

Districts are in the states of AP, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura.

VDVK is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces of the forest-based tribes.

Quick Fact: Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda; NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi; NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi.

4) Person in News

President of Vienna based INCB: Jagjit Pavadia

Jagjit Pavadia, the former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the Customs, was elected president of the INCB.

She is the first Indian to be heading the Vienna-based organization and the second woman to hold this office.

The Board will pay special attention to the supply of and access to controlled drugs during emergency situations.

Quick Fact: International Narcotics Control Board Headquarters: Vienna, Austria; International Narcotics Control Board President: Cornelis P. de Joncheere.

5) Person in News

India's 1st woman flight test engineer: Aashritha V Olety

Aashritha V Olety, Squadron Leader, became the first and only woman in the IAF to qualify for the role of a flight test engineer.

She will be responsible for evaluating aircraft and airborne systems before their induction into the armed forces.

Aashritha V Olety, a native of Karnataka, graduated as part of the 43rd Flight Test Course.

Quick Fact: Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria; Indian Air Force founded: 8 October 1932; Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi.

6) Finance News

To link its 'Pockets' digital wallet to the UPI ICICI Bank collaborates with NPCI

ICICI Bank announced the launch of a unique facility of linking a UPI ID to its digital wallet 'Pockets'.

This marked a departure from the current practice that demands such IDs be linked with a savings bank account.

This initiative enables users to undertake regular small value transactions directly from the 'Pockets' wallet using UPI in a safe and secure manner.

Quick Fact: ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi; ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

7) Miscellaneous

Indian referee to officiate in wrestling in Tokyo Olympics: Ashok Kumar

Ashok Kumar will be the only referee from India to officiate in wrestling matches of the Tokyo Olympic Games.

He was named in the list of officials released by the United World Wrestling (UWW).

He will supervise his second consecutive Olympics. He is also a UWW referees' educator.

Quick Fact: The Motto of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics is 'United by Emotion'.

8) Awards

Conferred with Spain's top award: Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen

Indian economist and Nobel Laureate was awarded the '2021 Princess of Asturias Award' by Spain in the social sciences category.

Princess of Asturias Awards are annual prizes held in Spain, presented to individuals, entities or organizations from around the world.

The award is presented to those who make notable achievements in the sciences, humanities, and public affairs.

Quick Fact: 'Poverty and Famines - an Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation (1981)' is Amartya Sen's best work.

9) Awards

International ENI Award 2020 received by Veteran Indian Chemist C.N.R. Rao

Indian scientist and Bharat Ratna Professor, C.N.R. Rao was felicitated with the International Eni Award 2020.

The International Eni Award is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research, also called the Energy Frontier award.

He was conferred the prize for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and other materials and two-dimensional systems.

Quick Fact: The Eni Awards 2020 will be held at the Quirinal Palace in Rome in October 2021.

10) Important Days

World Hunger Day: May 28

The objective of this day is to raise awareness about more than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide.

The initiative recognizes the dire need to save nearly a quarter of a billion lives from malnourishment and chronic hunger.

World Hunger Day is an initiative by The Hunger Project, first started in the year 2011. This year marks the 11th annual WHD to look at hunger as a whole.

Quick Fact: India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020.

31st May

1) Finance News

64% stake in BigBasket bought by Tata Digital

Tata Digital acquired a majority stake in online grocery BigBasket. This deal pits the country's largest merger against rooted e-commerce players.

Regulatory filings revealed that around 64% stake in Supermarket Grocery Supplies that owns BigBasket, was bought.

Tata Digital infused primary capital of \$200 million in the e-grocer at a post-money valuation of \$2 billion.

Quick Fact: Big Basket Founders: Hari Menon; V.S. Sudhakar; Vipul Parekh; Abhinayss Choudhari; V.S. Ramesh.

2) National News**ACC appoints B.V.R. Subrahmanyam to be Commerce Secretary**

The ACC approved the appointment of B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary J&K as an officer on special duty in the Department of Commerce.

Subrahmanyam is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre and was sent on deputation to Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018.

He served as Chief Secretary when the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories in 2019.

Quick Fact: Ministry of Commerce and Industry: Piyush Goyal (Cabinet Minister); Minister of State: Hardeep Singh Puri; Minister of State: Som Prakash.

3) International News**Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad re-elected for 4th Term**

Bashar al-Assad was re-elected for the fourth 7-year term winning 95.1% of the total votes cast.

The 55-year-old Assad has been serving as the 19th President of Syria since 17 July 2000.

On the eve of the election, Syria's fragmented opposition called the vote cast a 'farce'.

Quick Fact: Syria Capital: Damascus; Currency: Syrian pound.

4) Miscellaneous

IBF renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation

The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, was renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).

They are expanding the purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital (OTT) players under one roof.

IBDF is in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters pertaining to digital media.

Quick Fact: Head of Broadcasting content complaints council: Vikramjit Sen.

5) International News

First female leader in Louvre in 228 years

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

She was appointed as the first female president of Musée du Louvre by the President of France.

Laurence is currently heading the Musée d'Orsay, the Paris landmark museum which is dedicated to 19th-century art.

Quick Fact: France Capital: Paris; France President: Emmanuel Macron; France Prime minister: Jean Castex; France Currency: Euro.

6) International News

First female Army secretary of the US: Christine Wormuth

Christine Wormuth was unanimously nominated by the Senate as the first female secretary of the Army.

Her confirmation sets her up as one of the more powerful officials in a defence establishment long dominated by men.

She is the second woman named to a top Pentagon role by Biden. The deputy secretary of defence is Kathleen Hicks.

Quick Fact: President of the United States: Joe Biden; Capital: Washington, D.C.

7) Person in News

Fastest ascent of Everest by Hong Kong woman

Tsang Yin-hung, a Hong Kong-based mountaineer, created the world's fastest ascent of Everest in under 26 hours.

She scaled the 29,031 feet Everest mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes on May 23.

It was her third attempt of scaling the Himalayan peak.

Quick Fact: Mount Everest Parent Range: Mahalangur Himal, Himalayas.

8) Awards

UN's prestigious medal to 3 Indian peacekeepers

Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav to be honoured with the UN's prestigious medal.

Yuvraj Singh served at the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.

Moolchand Yadav was associated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).

Quick Fact: India is the fifth-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping with 5,500 military and police serving in peace operations.

9) Important Days

International Everest Day observed on May 29

Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary climbed Mt. Everest in 1953 as the first humans to achieve the feat.

Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

This day is celebrated with memorial events, processions, and special events in Kathmandu and the Everest region.

Quick Fact: Nepali name of Mt. Everest: Sagarmatha; Tibetan name: Chomolungma; Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu; Currency: Nepalese rupee.

10) Important Days

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers: May 29

This day is celebrated to pay tribute to all the people who served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations.

The day was designated by the UN General Assembly on December 11, 2002, and first celebrated in 2003.

The theme for this year was 'The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security.'

Quick Fact: Secretary-General for Peacekeeping operations: Jean-Pierre Lacroix.