
Monthly One-Liner GK Digest

April 2021



BANK
EXAMS
Today

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Virtual Election Visitors Programme 2021

- The programme was conducted for **Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and organisations from 26 nations and 3 International Organisation.**
- The inaugural programme was addressed by **Chief Election Commissioner, Sunil Arora.**

India Contributed USD 500,000 to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism

- This has led to taking India's contribution to the UN office to combat terrorism to over **USD 1 million.**
- With this contribution, until now **India has contributed USD 1.05 million.**

Singapore- 1st Nation to Ratify 'RCEP'

- Singapore announced that it has ratified the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement**.
- For making RCEP in force, at least **6 ASEAN and 3 Non-ASEAN member states** are supposed to come into effect.

Italy Launched its First Mega Food Project in India

- The project will be promoted by the **Italian Embassy in New Delhi and the ICE Office**.
- The main moto of mega food park is **to develop interaction between the agriculture sector and the industry sector** which will link agricultural production and markets.

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative: Aus. Announced grant of Rs 8.12cr

- Through this **partnership between India and Australia**, new proposals will be framed to attain shared maritime objectives.
- The grant will also **enable stakeholders from both nations to share their expertise and proposals**.

NATIONAL NEWS

Anandam: The Center for Happiness

- The centre was inaugurated **to solve mental stress issues of the people, to spread positivity and bring holistic well-being**.
- While addressing the **inauguration ceremony**, **Union Minister said that incorporating happiness** in the academic curriculum is a very positive step towards empowering the nation.

Ujjivan SFB partnered with nStore Technologies Private Ltd

- They have partnered **to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India**.
- This partnership will **prove beneficial to Kirana, general stores, medical shops, fruits and vegetable shops etc**.

Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project

- The World Bank has approved the project for **USD 32 million**.
- The project will help **to strengthen the management capacity and quality of health services in the state**.

TRIFED Launched Two Contests

- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED)** in association with MyGov.in has launched two interesting competitions.
- The main objective behind these **competitions is to promote tribal craft, culture and lifestyle**.

Health Minister approved 'National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021'

- The policy focuses on reducing the **cost of treatment for rare diseases, by increasing focus** on indigenous research and local production of medicines.
- The policy promotes **to have domestic research on medicines to cure rare diseases.**

West Central Railway Zone becomes Fully Electrified

- This **full electrification of the railways in this particular zone** will allow trains to run at a faster speed.
- This will also lead **to a reduction in time required for travel and in also saving fuel.**

Rajasthan—First State to Provide Free Health Insurance to All

- In this regards, the **state government has commenced the registration process** for Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme.
- Under this scheme, **each family of the state will get an annual health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh.**

Flipkart partnered with Mahindra Logistics Limited (MLL)

- The partnership is made for **fast-track deployment of electric vehicles across its logistics fleet in the country.**
- Both the entities will **develop a conducive environment for EV deployment and operations in India.**

India- Seychelles High-level Programme

- While addressing the programme, **PM Modi highlighted that Seychelles is central to India's vision of 'SAGAR'** (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- He mentioned that **India is grateful and honoured for being a partner with Seychelles's development in security capabilities.**

ADB sanctioned Loan to Improve Connectivity in CKIC in TN

- The CKIC will also lead **to an increase in the number of manufacturing industries** and will also create job opportunities.
- The loan amount will be used **to upgrade about 590 km of state highways, resizing bridges or culverts in the areas of CKIC.**

U GRO Capital Partnered with SBM Bank India

- The card can be availed by **U GRO Capital borrowers against having a fixed deposit holding** with SBM Bank India.
- The **GRO Smart Business credit card is based on the Tap-To-Pay feature** which will allow the user to withdraw cash from ATM in a contactless manner.

India Finalized an Air Bubble Agreement with Sri Lanka

- The announcement for the **same was made by the Civil Aviation Ministry of India.**
- India has signed this as the **6th such arrangement in the SAARC nations** and 28th in total.

'Mentor Connect' Programme—Amazon India

- The 'Mentor Connect' programme will help to **accelerate the growth of startups and emerging brand owners** which are enrolled under Amazon's Launchpad initiative.
- The start-ups and brand owners will get guidance from venture capital firms, industry experts and **Amazon leaders through knowledge sharing sessions, networking events and 1:1 mentorship sessions.**

Flipkart partnered with Adani Group

- India's e-commerce platform Flipkart partnered with **infrastructure firm Adani Group to set up a data centre in Chennai and a large fulfilment centre in Kalyan, near Mumbai.**
- For this purpose, Flipkart will be **jointly working with Adani Logistics Ltd, which is the subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ).**

Online Dispute Handbook (ODR)—NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog has launched the first-of-its-kind **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) handbook in India.**
- The handbook was launched in **partnership with Agami and Omidyar Network India.**

'eSanta' Platform for Marine Products

- The platform is launched for **marine products which will empower aqua farmers** to sell their products through this portal.
- The portal will allow farmers **to sell their products on the spot and also to conduct forward sales.**

BPCL partnered with Accenture

- The IRIS platform will be based on the features like **real-time data, automated alert and tracking mechanism.**
- The IRIS will integrate **real-time data from across BPCL's countrywide network** which will provide a consolidated view of BPCL's sales and distribution network.

EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport4 All Challenge

- The **Union Minister of State (IC) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** launched two challenges namely (a) EatSmart Cities Challenge (b) Transport4 All Challenge.
- The aim behind these challenges is **to develop healthy eating habits and to have digital solutions for safe public transport in smart cities.**

Gender Samvaad Event

- The event was organised **to create a common platform to share experiences emerging from DAY-NRLM and IWWAGE.**
- The event aimed **to create awareness of gender-related interventions and to promote best practices to understand gender interventions globally.**

Online Exhibition on Ramayana

- The **Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (IC), Prahlad Singh Patel** inaugurated the first-ever Online Exhibition on Ramayana.
- The online exhibition showcases collections of 49 miniature paintings of the **National Museum, New Delhi from different art schools of India, dating from the 17th through the 19th century.**

India Elected to 3 Bodies of UN Economic and Social Council

- India is elected by acclamation to three bodies of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).**
- **The 3 bodies of UN ECOSOC:** (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) (b) Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). (c) Executive Board of the World Food Programme.

Indian Bank partnered with Chennai Angels

- They will support the startups in **expanding their commercial production.**
- Under this program, **credit support of upto Rs 50 crore** will be provided by Indian Bank.

'Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)'

- The initiative will help to create a virtuous cycle **to enhance supply chain resilience to gain strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the regions.**
- The **SCRI will develop a resilient supply chain with its major focus on free, transparent trading activities** and investment safe environment in the Indo-Pacific region.

FSS partnered with NIPL

- The **FSS (Financial Software and Systems) has partnered with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** to expand UPI (Unified Payment Interface) in international markets.
- The FSS is a leading provider of **integrated payment products and the largest payments processor in India.**

TIME 100 Most Influential Companies 2021

- The **TIME Magazine's 'TIME 100 Most Influential Companies 2021'** list was released recently.
- Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL) **Jio Platform** and E-learning firm named **Byju's** has made an entry in the list.

BANKING

Gov. to Infuse Rs 14,500 crore in 4 PSBs

- The amount will be infused by **issuing non-interest bearing bonds to them despite reservations raised by the RBI over the use of this instrument.**
- **Rs 4800 crore will be infused in Central Bank of India**, Rs 4100 crore in Indian Overseas Bank, Rs 3,000 crore in Bank of India and Rs 2,600 crore in UCO Bank.

SBI Inked \$1 bn. Loan Agreement with JBIC

- The loan agreement was signed to **extend loans to the supply chain of the Japanese automobile industry in India.**
- The loan amount is in the **form of refinancing against the funding support which will be provided to the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers of Japanese automobiles in India.**

Axis Bank to Sell its UK Subsidiary to OpenPayd Holdings

- **India's private sector bank Axis bank announced to sell its UK subsidiary named Axis Bank UK Limited to OpenPayd Holdings.**
- As per Axis Bank, Axis Bank UK Limited contributed Rs 206 crore total income in FY20 and a net worth of **Rs 765 crore as of March 2020 which is almost 1% of the bank's net worth.**

WB, AIIB approved Loan for Canal Based Drinking Water Project in Punjab

- The **World Bank (WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** approved the loan amount for canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab.
- The loan amount of **USD 300 million** was approved for the same.

RBI's Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy

- The RBI's MPC has decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 4% and the reverse repo rate stands at 3.35%.**
- The MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) rate is kept **unchanged at 4.25% and the bank rate is also kept unchanged at 4.25%.**

India's GDP to Grow to 12.5% for FY22-- IMF

- As per the report, **India's GDP will grow to 12.5% for FY2021-22.**
- Initially, **IMF had projected India's growth at 11.5% for FY22.**

RBI Doubled Deposit Limit for Payment Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India announced to **raise the limit of maximum balance at the end of the day for payment banks.**
- The maximum balance limit **for the end of the day is increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakhs.**

Rewards 123 Savings Account

- The account will prove beneficial **to the digital customers as it offers various perks on digital transactions.**
- To opt for this account, **customers have to pay an annual fee of Rs 299.**

PNB@Ease Initiative

- The service of 'PNB@Ease' will be loaded at 5 kiosks i.e. **ATM, Bunch Note Acceptor, Account opening Kiosk, Card Issuance Kiosk and Internet-enabled kiosk.**
- The initiative is available from **opening a savings account to availing loans without visiting a branch** or help from the bank employees.

NHB Launched Special Refinance Facility

- The **National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched Rs 10,000 crore 'Special Refinance Facility-2021' (SRF-2021).**
- The facility was launched to provide short term refinance support to **housing finance companies (HFCs) and other eligible Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs).**

RBI Setup Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) for 1 Year

- The RRA 2.0 will be tasked with **making regulatory and supervisory instructions more effective** by removing redundancies and duplications.
- It will also work **to get feedback from regulated entities on simplification of procedures and enhancement of ease of compliance.**

RBL Bank partnered with Mastercard

- The RBL Bank and Mastercard have entered into a partnership **to launch first its kind payment solution through the Pay by bank app.**
- Through Pay by Bank app payment solution, customers will be able **to perform contactless transactions in a secure manner.**

RBI Frames Committee to Review Regulations on ARCs

- The committee is framed **to review the legal and regulatory working of ARCs** and will recommend measures to improve the efficiency of ARCs.
- The improved ARCs will also **define their role in resolving stressed assets including under Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC).**

ADB partnered with Habitat for Humanity

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) partnered with Habitat for Humanity International** to grant support to a microfinance institution (MFIs).
- The support to MFIs will enable them to grant housing loans **to low-income families residing in rural and semi-urban areas of India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia.**

India's GDP for FY22 to be 10-10.5% --- ICRA

- The rating agency has reduced **India's GDP by 0.5% for FY22.**
- As per ICRA, **India's economy to grow in the range of 10-10.5% for FY22.**

Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd partnered with HDFC Ltd

- The **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBH)** has entered into a **strategic co-lending partnership** with HDFC Ltd.
- They have entered into a **partnership to grant housing loans to homebuyers at competitive rates.**

India's GDP for FY22 to be 10.2% --- Care Ratings

- The Care Ratings has revised the **GDP forecast for India for FY22.**
- As per Care Ratings, **India's GDP will be at 10.2% for FY22.**

'ConQR'—World's 1st QR on Card Programme

- The 'ConQR' is a Mastercard QR on card solution which is launched **to offer simplicity to perform digital transactions.**
- It is based on **Mastercard patented technology** which allows cardholders or SMEs to perform cashless payments using their cards.

Indian Economy to Grow at 11% for FY22—S&P Ratings

- Earlier it had estimated a **contraction of 8% for the same.**
- The rating agency has kept the **sovereign rating on India at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook.**

RBI bans American Express and Diners Club

- The **Reserve Bank has restricted American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Ltd** from onboarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from 1st May 2021.
- They are restricted **because of violating data storage norms.**

IRDAI Allowed Insurers to Invest in Debt Instruments

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has allowed insurers to invest in debt securities which are issued by Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).
- This move will lead **to improving the overall yield of the portfolios held by the firms and will provide more long-term funding to the realty sector.**

India's GDP growth to be at 10.2% for 2021—Oxford Economies

- Oxford Economics has revised the **GDP growth forecast for India for 2021.**
- As per the firm, **India's GDP growth to be at 10.2% for 2021.**

RBI Fixed Bank's MD and CEOs Tenure at 15 years

- As per the rules, **MD, CEO or WTD who is also a promoter or shareholder** cannot serve the post for more than 12 years.
- The RBI has also announced that **the upper age limit for MD, CEO or WTD is retained at 70 years.**

India's GDP to Grow at 11% for FY22 -- ADB

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** released **Asian Development Outlook 2021** which forecasted the GDP growth for India.
- As per ADB, **India's GDP will grow at 11% for FY22.**

'Merchant Stack'—ICICI Bank

- Due to 'Merchant Stack,' the users will be able **to fulfil their banking needs in a seamless manner in this pandemic situation.**
- The users can avail of this **'Merchant Stack' service on InstaBIZ which is the Bank's mobile banking application for businesses.**

INDEX AND RANKING

Inclusive Internet Index 2021

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit in partnership with Facebook** has released the Inclusive Internet Index 2021.
- **India has scored 77th position in internet availability, 20th position in affordability and 49th position in relevance and 29th position in readiness.**

Henley Passport Index: Q2 2021 Global Ranking

- As per the index, **India is ranked at 84th position in the list,** as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places.
- The index is topped by **Japan with a visa-free score of 193.**

World Press Freedom Index 2021

- The **World Press Freedom Index 2021** was published by the international journalism not-for-profit body, Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- India is ranked at **142nd position in the index.**

WEF Global Energy Transition Index 2021

- The 2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI) was released by **World Economic Forum (WEF).**
- As per the index, **India is ranked at 87th position** among 115 countries with a score of 53.

3rd Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021

- The ranking includes **1,240 universities from 98 countries and regions.**
- As per the ranking, **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is the only Indian university** to achieve a top 100 in the overall ranking. It is ranked at the 81st position.

Chandler Good Government Index

- The **Chandler Institute of Governance** released the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI).
- As per the index, **India is ranked at 49th position among 104 nations.**

REPORTS

WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2021

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the **Global Gender Gap Report 2021.** This is the 15th edition of the report.
- As per the report, **India is ranked at 140th position among 156 countries, with a score of 0.625.**

ACI Worldwide's Report on 'Prime-Time for Real Time'

- As per the report, **India has topped with 25.5 billion transactions in the list of countries** with the most real-time digital payment transactions in 2020.
- India is followed by **China and South Korea at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.**

National Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report

- The report also mentioned that these states require **prioritisation of adaptation interventions.**
- The report cited reasons for each state being vulnerable to climate change. **For Assam, lack of forest area per 100 rural population was marked as the reason.** Even though the state has 42% of forest cover.

'Trends in World Military Expenditure 2020' Report

- As per the report, **India is the third biggest military spender in the world in 2020.**
- As per the report, **India has spent 3.7% of its global share** i.e. total expenditure of India on the military for 2020 was USD 72.9 billion.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Subhash Kumar	Chairman and MD of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
Mukhmeet S Bhatia	DG of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
R K Chhibber	Chairman and MD of Jammu and Kashmir Bank

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Urjit Patel	Additional Director of Britannia Industries
Mallika Srinivasan	Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)
Dr R K Elangovan, P L N Murthy and D K Shami	Heads of the committee set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to review the standards under occupational safety, health and working conditions code, 2020
Eduard Heger	Prime Minister of Slovakia
Adil Zainulbhai	Chairman of Capacity Building Commission
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador of Digit Insurance
Amit Chadha	MD and CEO of L&T Technology Services
Tarun Bajaj	Revenue Secretary under Finance Ministry
Ajay Seth	Economic Affairs Secretary
Jatindra Nath Swain	Secretary for Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Ali Raza Rizvi	Secretary for the Department of Public Enterprises
Gyanesh Kumar	Secretary in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Anjali Bhawra	Secretary in the Department of empowerment of persons with disabilities
Shabir Khandwawala	BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit Chief
Vjosa Osmani Sadriu	President of Kosovo
Nguyen Xuan Phuc	President of Vietnam
Pham Minh Chinh	Prime Minister of Vietnam
Dr Chintan Vaishnav	Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog
Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou	Prime Minister of Niger
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador of Vivo Communication Technology Co. Ltd (Vivo)
S Ramann	CMD of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
Poonam Gupta	DG of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
Sonu Sood	Brand Ambassador for Punjab's Anti-Coronavirus Vaccination Programme
Siddharth Logjam	DG of NADA (National Anti-Doping Agency)
Sushil Chandra	Chief Election Commissioner of India
Prithvi Shaw	Brand Ambassador of SportzXchange
Guillermo Lasso	President of Ecuador
Claude Joseph	Prime Minister of Haiti
Suresh Raina	Brand Ambassador for 'Elista'
Puneet Das	President for Tata Consumer Products (TCP) for India and South Asia region
Jeremy Choy	Chief Financial Officer of Chinese home appliances giant Midea Group Co.
Murali M Natrajan	MD and CEO of DCB Bank
Miguel Diaz Canel	President of Cuba

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Kim Boo Kyum	Prime Minister of South Korea
Washington Sundar and Devdutt Padikkal	Brand Ambassadors of Puma India
CAG G C Murmu	External Auditor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for a tenure of three years
Atanu Chakraborty	Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank by RBI for the tenure of three years
Rekha Menon	1st woman Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)
Arun Raste	MD and CEO of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) by SEBI
Ajay Seth	Director of the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Justice Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court by President Ram Nath Kovind
Ravindra Jadeja	Brand Ambassador of ASICS, Japanese Sports Brand
Vaishali Hiwase	First Woman commanding officer in BRO (Border Roads Organisation)
Amit Banerjee	CMD of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)
Amar Merani	Head of Real Estate strategy for IIFL Asset Management Company
TV Somanathan	Finance Secretary
Amitabh Chaudhry	MD and CEO of Axis Bank
Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor	Judge of Chhattisgarh High Court

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awards	Awardee
Saraswati Samman 2020	Dr Sharankumar Limbale
National Book Critics Circle Prize	Maggie O'Farrell's 'Hamnet'
51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award	Rajinikanth
Kalinga Ratna Samman 2021	Biswabhusan Harichandan (Governor of Andhra Pradesh)
South Asian Wushu Championship	Aniyan Midhun
30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research	Prof. Suman Chakraborty
2020 Association for Computing Machinery A.M. Turing Award	Alfred V. Aho and Jeffrey David Ullman
Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters, the second-highest civilian French honour	Guneet Monga (Filmmaker)
Abu Dhabi's Top Civilian Award	Yusuff Ali M. A
National Award for Innovation Training Practices 2019-2020	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
Sir Richard Hadlee Medal	Kane Williamson (New Zealand cricket player)
Best Foreign Language Feature Award at Moscow International Film Festival 2021	'Puglya' (Name of Marathi Film)

78th Venice International Film Festival	Roberto Benigni
UN's National Innovative and Sustainable Supply Chain Award	Aditya Birla Group's Birla Cellulose Limited
'Wild Innovator Award' by Wild Elements Foundation	Dr Krithi K Karanth

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 st April 2021	Utkal Divas or Odisha Day	--
2 nd April 2021	World Autism Awareness Day	--
2 nd April 2021	International Children's Book Day	Theme: The Music of Words
4 th April 2021	UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Theme: Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress
5 th April 2021	International Day of Conscience	--
5 th April 2021	National Maritime Day	--
6 th April 2021	International day Sports for Development and Peace	--
7 th April 2021	World Health Day	Theme: 'Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone!'
7 th April 2021	International day of reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda	--
9 th April 2021	CRPF Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas)	--
10 th April 2021	World Homeopathy Day	--
11 th April 2021	National Safe Motherhood Day	--
11 th April 2021	World Parkinson's Day	--
12 th April 2021	International Day of Human Space Flight	--
13 th April 2021	International Turban Day	--
14 th April 2021	Ambedkar Jayanti	--
14 th April 2021	World Chagas Disease Day	--
14 th April 2021	National Fire Service Day	Theme: Maintenance of fire safety equipment is key to mitigate fire hazards
15 th April 2021	World Art Day	--
15 th April 2021	Himachal Day	--
16 th April 2021	World Voice Day	Theme: One World Many Voices
17 th April 2021	World Haemophilia Day	Theme: Adapting to Change
18 th April 2021	World Heritage Day	Theme: Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures
19 th April 2021	World Liver Day	--

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20 th April 2021	UN Chinese Language Day	--
21 st April 2021	World Creativity and Innovation Day	--
21 st April 2021	National Civil Services Day	--
22 nd April 2021	International Mother Earth Day	Theme: Restore Our Earth
22 nd April 2021	International Girls in ICT Day	--
23 rd April 2021	World Book and Copyright Day (International Day of Book or World Book Day)	--
23 rd April 2021	UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day	--
24 th April 2021	National Panchayati Raj Day	--
24 th April 2021	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	--
24 th April 2021	World Veterinary Day	Theme: Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 vaccine
24 th April 2021	World Day for Laboratories Animals or World Lab Animal Day	--
24 th April 2021	International Delegates Day	--
24 th April to 30 th April 2021	World Immunization Week	Theme: Vaccines bring us closer
25 th April 2021	World Malaria Day	Theme: Reaching the zero malaria target
26 th April 2021	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	--
26 th April 2021	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme: Intellectual property and small businesses: Taking big ideas to market
28 th April 2021	Worker's Memorial Day or International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers	Theme: Health and Safety is fundamental workers right
28 th April 2021	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Theme: Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises: Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems
29 th April 2021	International Dance Day	Theme: Purpose of dance
30 th April 2021	International Jazz Day	--
30 th April 2021	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	--

MOUS SIGNED

India & Japan Signed Pacts for Healthcare Sector under GGP Scheme

- Under these agreements, Japan will support India's health care projects which are funded under the **Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) scheme**.
- The GGP scheme is designed **to support development projects framed to meet human needs in developing countries**.

AYUSH Ministry Signed MoU with Dept. of Animal Husbandry

- The MoU was signed **to develop a regulatory mechanism to make usage of Ayurveda in the veterinary sector** in order to provide the benefit of animal health, livestock owners' community and society.
- The partnership will also **focus on developing capacity building in the sector through training and herbal veterinary education programmes**.

India and Japan signed MoU

- India and Japan signed MoU **to achieve cooperation in the academic and research sector**.
- The MoU was signed between the **National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), Dept of Space, GOI and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan**.

AIM signed SoI with Danish Embassy

- The SoI was signed to jointly **work to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among aspiring entrepreneurs**.
- As per the SoI, **Innovation Center Denmark in India will partner with AIM to support AIM's ongoing and future initiatives**.

'Poshan Gyan'—A National Digital Repository on Health & Nutrition

- The portal enables **to search communication materials in 14 thematic areas of health and nutrition sector**.
- It includes data related **to antenatal care, complementary feeding, diet diversity, anaemia prevention etc**.

India signed MoU with France

- The **Indian space agency, ISRO and space agency of France named CNES** have signed MoU to cooperate in a human space mission, Gaganyaan.
- Under this agreement, the **Indian flight physicians will be given training sessions at French facilities**.

Tourism Ministry signed MoU with Cleartrip, Ease My Trip

- The entities will encourage units to register on **NIDHI (National Integrated Database of Hospital Industry) and on SAATHI**.
- The units are supposed to register themselves on NIDHI and SAATHI **to promote safe and sustainable tourism in the pandemic situation**.

India and Germany Signed Agreement

- The partnership between **both nations is in line with the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban** which will focus on sustainable solid waste management.
- The partnership will also help to achieve **PM Modi's vision to phase out single-use plastic by 2022.**

Union Cabinet approved MoU between India-Bangladesh

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of **MoU between India and Bangladesh to cooperate in the trade sector.**
- The agreement **focuses on countervailing, anti-dumping and safeguarding rules** in bilateral trade between both nations.

MoUs Approved by Union Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **MoU between the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil, (CADE).**
- As per the **18th Section of the Competition Act, 2002**, CCI has the right to sign MoU with the agencies of foreign countries for the purpose of discharging its duties or performing its functions under the Act.

MoHUA signed MoU with IIT Kharagpur

- The IIT Kharagpur will act as an incubation hub centre **to perform technological innovations and develop products.**
- The Accelerator Centre will be similar **to the 'ASHA-India' Initiative of the central government.**

IIT Guwahati Signed MoU with NFR

- The MoU was signed **to work on research projects to improve the maintenance and operations of train running in the region and other fields.**
- They will also develop technology **to improve the maintenance and operations of rolling stock, yards, train operations and green technologies.**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

AIM-PRIME

- The AIM-PRIME is an initiative **to support and promote science based deep tech start-ups and ventures in India.**
- The **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** is the supporting agency for AIM-PRIME.

'MyNEP2020' Platform

- **Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched the 'MyNEP2020' platform of NCTE (National Council for Teacher Education) Web Portal.
- The platform is in operation from **1st April 2021 and will remain open till 15th April 2021.**

Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)

- The latest version of IHIP will serve as the **data entry management platform for India's disease surveillance program.**
- The IHIP will track **33 diseases while the earlier version** used to track 18 diseases.

'Sankalp Se Siddhi'—A Village and Digital Connect Drive

- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** has launched 'Sankalp se Siddhi' - Village and Digital Connect Drive.
- The objective of this drive is **to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in the villages.**

SUPACE—Supreme Court's AI Portal

- The AI portal is named as '**Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE)**'.
- The **AI based portal is a 1st of its kind in the world that will collect relevant facts and laws** related to the case.

Atal Innovation Mission Collaborated with CIPS

- Both the entities have collaborated **to promote innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem** in the country particularly in the sector of public systems.
- **To achieve the motto of the partnership they will make use of their knowledge, experience and the connectivity of CIPS.**

'Anamaya'

- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative that is supported by **Piramal Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).**
- It is launched **to boost the nutritional and health status of the tribal communities of India** by converging efforts of various Government agencies and organisations.

SARTHAQ Initiative

- The SARTHAQ signifies '**Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education.**
- The initiative will help **to attain the goals and objectives framed under National Education Policy 2020.**

Madhukranti Portal and NAFED's Honey Corners

- The **Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** launched Madhukranti Portal and NAFED's Honey Corners.
- The Honey Corners of **NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation)** are **special spaces formed for the sale of honey.**

MANAS App

- The MANAS app is endorsed as a **National Program** by the **Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council**.
- The app is a **scalable, comprehensive, and national digital well-being platform** to promote the mental well-being of people.

Aahaar Kranti Mission

- The **Union Minister, Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan** launched the 'Aahaar Kranti' Mission.
- The mission will focus **to create awareness about the importance of a nutritious balanced diet** and the importance of accessibility to the local fruits and vegetables for good health.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Launched SISFS

- The SISFS will grant **seed funding, support the transformative ideas, inspire innovation and implement the ideas**.
- The funds of Rs 945 crore has been allocated **for the scheme and will benefit around 3,600 startups particularly in tier-2 and 3 cities**.

Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme—Andhra Pradesh

- The **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh** released the first instalment of Rs 671.45 crore of **Jagananna Vidya Deevena for 2021-22**.
- Under this, **CM reimbursed the academic fees of around 10.88 lakh students** into the bank accounts of their mothers.

#FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge-- MEITY

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)** has announced the #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge.
- The #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge is launched **to boost the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in GOI**.

IGBC Mission on Net Zero

- The '**IGBC Mission on Net Zero**' is launched to eradicate carbon emission from India.
- It aims **to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2050**.

DEFENCE

Indian Army to Participate in 'Shantir Ogroshena 2021'

- The exercise is scheduled to be **held from 4th April 2021 to 12th April 2021 in Bangladesh**.
- The military forces from the **United Kingdom, the US, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Singapore** will also be participating in the exercise being the Military observers.

DRDO and DMSRDE (Kanpur) Developed Light Weight Bullet Proof Jacket

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE)** have developed a lightweight bullet-proof jacket.
- The bulletproof jacket weighs **nine kilogrammes** and fulfills the **qualitative standards of the Indian Army**.

DRDO Developed Advanced Chaff Technology

- The advanced chaff technology is developed **to protect and safeguard India's naval ships against missile attacks from enemies**.
- The technology is developed by **DRDO's laboratory called Defence Laboratory Jodhpur**.

India and Kyrgyzstan began Special Forces Exercise

- The **8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise** named '**Khanjar**' was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek.
- It will be a two-week-long exercise that will **focus on high-altitude warfare, mountain warfare and counter-extremism exercises**.

Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System--DRDO

- The system will be used by **soldiers who are posted at extreme high-altitude areas and by COVID-19 patients**.
- The system is developed by **DRDO's lab which is named Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL) in Bengaluru**.

Varuna 2021

- The 19th '**Varuna-2021**' Naval Exercise which is held **between the Indian and French Navy commenced**.
- It is held **to develop cooperation, synergy and interoperability between India and France Naval organisations**.

Single Crystal Blades Technology for Helicopters-- DRDO

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters.
- It has also supplied 60 of these blades **to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under an indigenous helicopter development programme for engine application**.

DRDO Conducted Trail of Python 5 AAM

- The **test-firing operations were held at Goa with a series of missile trails** in order to evaluate the performance under extreme operational scenarios.
- The Python 5 AAM is built by the **Israeli weapon manufacturer Rafael Advanced Defence Systems**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT Kanpur developed Watch for Visually Impaired People

- It is a **haptic watch with a tactile interface that help visually impaired people** to read the time easily.
- It has tactile hour indicators of **different shapes which allow recognizing time easily**.

SICCI partnered with IIT Kanpur

- The **Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI)** partnered with the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT Kanpur.
- Under this partnership, **they held a launchpad competition named 'SICCI-SIIC INNOVATION LAUNCHPAD'**.

Google & Microsoft Granted Funds to India to Tackle Pandemic

- Google and Microsoft announced **to grant funds to India in order to tackle the rising pandemic situation in the country**.
- Google has announced **to provide 18 million USD (Rs 135 crores) to India**. Microsoft will be helping India through relief efforts to purchase oxygen concentration devices.

SPORTS

Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE)

- It was inaugurated at the **Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy at Nehru Park, Dal Lake, Srinagar**.
- Currently, the centre will **focus on rowing only and is granted with the funds of Rs 145.16 lakh** and an annual recurring grant of Rs 96.17 lakh.

MeitY Launched 3 Initiatives of NIXI

- The Secretary of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ajay Prakash Sawhney** launched the three initiatives of the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI).
- These initiatives will support IPv6 awareness and its adoption in the country. The initiatives are supported by **NIXI, Department of Telecommunication and MeitY**.

Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2021

- The **Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2021** was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- At the event, **India won 14 medals and was ranked at third position in medal rankings**.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

6th Annual Meet of Board of Governors of NDB

- The meeting was attended by the **dignitaries from Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa.**
- The **dignitaries acknowledged and congratulated the role played by New Development Bank** in last year to implement the Emergency Assistance Fund.

World Immunisation and Logistics Summit 2021

- India was represented by **Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan in a virtual manner.**
- **Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan participated in the panel discussion of 'Focus on Asia: Vaccine production and distribution across Asia'.**

17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

- The **Union External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar** participated in the 17th BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Ministerial Meeting.
- The meeting was held virtually from **Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka held the chairmanship of the meet.**

Consultation Meet of Education Ministers of E9 Countries

- The meeting is the part of the first of the **three phases to create initiatives on digital learning skills, targeting marginalized children, youth, specifically girls.**
- The dignitaries will also **review the progress activity and the challenges being faced for digital learning and skills.**

2021 BRICS FMs and Governors Meeting

- The meeting was chaired by **Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman and Governor of RBI, Shaktikanta Das.**
- During the meet, the FM and RBI Governor presented the agenda **for cooperation in the finance domain.**

India-Netherland Virtual Summit 2021

- The meeting was held **to discuss trade, economy, water management, agriculture sector, science and technology, healthcare and space.**
- They discussed the **issues of climate change, terrorism and Pandemic COVID-19** along with the ways to tackle them.

30th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change

- The **30th BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change** was hosted by India.
- The meeting was chaired by **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar.**

Scientific Convention on 'Homoeopathy - Roadmap for Integrative Medicine'

- The convention observed the **Minister of State for Defence, Shripad Yesso Naik as chief guest.**

- The convention also observed the **participation of Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.**

6th Raisina Dialogue

- The Raisina Dialogue is **India's flagship conference programme on geopolitics and geoeconomics.**
- It is organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation.**

IAF Commanders Conference

- The dignitaries discussed the strategies and policies **to improve the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force.**
- They also discussed **multiple welfares and human resource measures** to improve the administrative efficiency of the IAF.

5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines

- The forum was organised by **Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Vaccines in association** with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI).
- The forum was organised **to enhance the process of Tuberculosis (TB) Vaccination in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.**

Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021

- An annual report on **Asian Economy** was also released at the conference.
- The BFA Annual Conference 2021 was held **to promote economic integration and to enhance cooperation among Asian nations.**

Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021

- The summit was held **to strengthen the cooperation among the nations to tackle the climate change issues.**
- The leaders from **40 nations** participated in the summit.

23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting

- India was represented by **Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Riva Ganguly Das.**
- The meeting was held **to discuss ASEAN-India cooperation and to review the whole spectrum of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and developmental cooperation.**