

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest



May 2021

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MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST: MAY 2021

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-UK Finalised 1 Billion Pounds Private-Sector Investment Deal

- The Indian Government and **United Kingdom's Government finalized 1 billion pounds** (\$1.39 billion) of private-sector investment.
- The deal was finalized ahead of the **virtual summit between India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson.**

Maiden Trilateral Agreement signed by India, Israel & the UAE

- The **International Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce (IFIICC) organized an event to held ongoing business collaborations** under IFIICC's leadership in various sectors of India, Israel and the UAE.

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- At this event, all the three nations signed their maiden trilateral agreement which lead to boost the partnership among them by the initiative of IFIICC.

UK Launched Plans for 'Global Pandemic Radar'

- The plans were launched to identify emerging Covid-19 variants and track new diseases around the world.
- The implementation group for the plan will be led by World Health Organization (WHO) and will be supported by the Wellcome Trust, which is the global health charity trust.

NATIONAL NEWS

FM Inaugurated India's First 3-D Printed House

- India's first 3D printed house was constructed by **Tvasta Manufacturing solutions**.
- It is a **600 sq. ft, single-story home that has a functional space comprising** of a single bedroom, hall, and kitchen.

CtrlS partnered with Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance

- The **CtrlS Datacenters** has joined hands with Canara HSBC Oriental Bank Of Commerce Life Insurance.
- Under this partnership, **CtrlS Datacenters will be the strategic technology partner for Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance.**

'Oxygen on Wheels' Project

- The project was launched to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals and homes.
- The Mahindra Group aims to support India to tackle the pandemic situation and in this regards it has launched this operation.

Uniterm partnered with Flow Realty

- They have partnered to develop solutions for property developers who are stuck with stressed projects.
- Both the entities will jointly address the issues faced by developers and will help them to revive their stucked projects.

Petroleum Minister inaugurated 1st Supply of UCO Based Biodiesel

- **Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan** flagged off the first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel in a virtual manner.
- It was flagged off under the **EOI (Expression of Interests) Scheme from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal.**

'Checkmate Covid Initiative'

- The **All India Chess Federation (AICF)** launched the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative'.
- The 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' was launched **to help the chess community who are affected by the pandemic.**

'Ivejaj' Tablets for COVID-19 Treatment

- **Bajaj Healthcare Limited** has announced the launch of '**Ivejaj**' (**Ivermectin**) which is an Anti-Parasitic Drug used in control & offers treatment for Covid-19 patients.
- The company has also received **approval from India's drug regulator, DCGI to manufacture and market 'Ivejaj'.**

PepsiCo Foundation partnered with SEEDS

- The **PepsiCo Foundation** has partnered with **Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS).**
- The COVID Care Centres which will set up by **PepsiCo Foundation and SEEDS will be equipped with beds and medical facilities including oxygen cylinders.**

IIT Madras partnered with MPFI

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** researchers partnered with members of the Mobile Payment Forum of India (MPFI).
- They have partnered **to develop voice-based solutions in multiple vernacular languages which will allow larger adoption of digital money transactions in India.**

Google Pay launched International Money Transfer for Its US Users

- Google has started to modify its **Google Pay app for its users in the United States.**
- **Under the new updated version Google Pay app,** the users in the US will be able to transfer funds to the users of Google Pay in India and Singapore.

Digital Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA)-- PayPal

- PayPal has launched an automated process **to obtain monthly foreign inward remittance advice (FIRA).**
- The **digital support to FIRA by PayPal will allow Indian merchants to download** their monthly digital FIRA issued by banks from their PayPal accounts.

IDRBT is Building National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)

- The **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT),** which is an arm of the Reserve Bank of India is in the process of building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure named National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI).
- The NADI would grant a **roadmap for future digital financial services growth in India.**

Seminar on 'Social Infrastructure Financing and use of Digital Technologies'

- The seminar was part of the **Economic and Financial Cooperation Agenda** under India's current **Chairmanship for BRICS**.
- The dignitaries discussed the **importance of digital technologies in the 21st century**. They highlighted the importance of investing in social infrastructure to promote sustainable development.

India's 1st Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre in Pune, Maharashtra

- **India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre** was launched in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre will be the **one-stop-shop destination for the exporters associated with Agri and allied sector**.

World's 1st Private Digital Court

- The World's First Private Digital Court is powered by **Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain technologies**.
- It will resolve disputes under the **private justice system through the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism**.

India, China & SA performed better in Import-Export During Q1 2021

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** released the 'Global Trade Update' for May 2021.
- As per the report, **India, China and South Africa performed 'relatively better' in import-export trade activities during the 1st quarter of 2021**.

Maharashtra to Establish National Institute of Medicinal Plants

- In this regards, the **state government approved to allocate 50 acres of land in the district of Sindhudurg of the state**.
- The land is allocated in the **Aadali village of Dodomarg taluka**. The authority for the institute will be under the Ministry of AYUSH.

Oxygen Recycling System (ORS)—By Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy has designed an **Oxygen Recycling System (ORS) to meet the current shortages of oxygen requirements**.
- The ORS was conceptualised and designed by the **Indian Navy's Diving School of the Southern Naval Command**.

HSBC SmartServe and HSBC IntelliSign

- The 'HSBC SmartServe' and 'HSBC IntelliSign' are **HSBC India's first-of-its-kind digital solutions**.
- These solutions will **grant a quick, secure and seamless onboarding process for corporate clients of the bank**.

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'DIPCOVAN'--A COVID-19 Antibody Detection Kit by DRDO

- It is developed by **Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS)**, which is the lab of DRDO.
- It is developed in association with **Delhi's Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd**, who will be responsible to sell the kit.

MRHFL partnered with IPPB

- The subsidiary of **Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Ltd** named '**Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited (MRHFL)**' has entered into a partnership with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- They have partnered to **boost a strategic partnership for cash management solution**.

India & Israel Entered into 3 year Work Programme in Agri Sector

- The **governments of India and Israel** signed a **three-year joint work programme** to enhance cooperation in the agriculture sector.
- The name of the agreement in this regards is '**5th Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP)**' which will be executed from **2021 to 2023**.

1st Phase of a Data Analytics Driven Version of MCA21 Launched

- The **Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur**, virtually launched the first phase of a data analytics-driven version of MCA21 i.e. '**Ministry of Corporate Affairs 21 Version 3.0 (MCA21 V3.0)**' portal.
- The MCA21 V3.0 is being implemented in **two phases with the second and final phase likely to be launched in October 2021**.

NPCI partnered with PayCore

- The **National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI)** has entered into a partnership with Turkey's global payment solutions company PayCore.
- The NPCI has partnered with **PayCore as one of the certified partners for RuPay SoftPoS which will allow cashless payments in India**.

West Bengal approved Three Welfare Initiatives

- The **government of West Bengal** approved to implementation of three welfare initiatives in the state.
- The initiatives will be implemented by a **committee headed by Chief Secretary, Alapan Bandyopadhyay**.

Cabinet approved to Open New Consulate General of India in Maldives

- The **Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi** approved the opening of a new consulate General of India in Addu City of Maldives in 2021.
- The decision was taken with a view to **attaching India's ties with the strategically located island nation**.

India to Launch 'UNITE AWARE', a Mobile Tech Platform

- The **'UNITE AWARE' mobile tech platform will help** to improve the safety and security of United Nations Peacekeepers in the line of duty.
- It will display terrain-related information, **thus will increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers.**

'Precision Health Platform'

- The name of the platform is **'Precision Health Platform'**. And it is the first of its kind in Asia.
- It is the city-wide surveillance system that will track **COVID-19 at an early stage so that the preparations to tackle it can be made soon.**

PM announced Rs 10 lakh PM-CARES Fund for Kids Orphaned

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced **to undertake welfare measures for the children who lost their parents due to COVID-19.**
- The children who have **lost either or both the parents or legal guardians or adoptive parents due to COVID-19** will be able to receive support under the PM-CARES for Children scheme.

BANKING

RBI Joins NGFS

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network** for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member.
- Through this membership, **RBI expects to have the benefit and contribute to Green Finance in the context of climate change.**

SIDBI Launched Two Loan Products for MSMEs

- With an aim **to grant financial support to MSMEs, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched two new loan products** which will promote, finance and develop MSMEs in India.
- Both the schemes are quick to credit delivery schemes that will grant funds **to supply oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, oximeters and essential drugs to tackle pandemic situation of COVID-19 in India.**

LIC—3rd Strongest & 10th Most Valuable Insurance Brand Globally

- The report was released by Brand Finance, which is the **London-based brand valuation consultancy firm.**
- As per the report, the **most Valuable Global Insurance Brand** with 1st rank is Ping An Insurance, China.

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SBI allocates Rs 71 Crores to Tackle the Second Wave of COVID-19

- The State Bank of India has allocated **Rs 71 crores to tackle the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in India.**
- The funds of Rs 21 crore will be utilised to procure **life-saving healthcare equipment, oxygen supplies, COVID-care centres, ambulances, PPE kits, masks and food relief efforts.**

India's GDP Growth at 10% in FY22-- Barclays

- Barclays Securities, which is a **UK based global brokerage firm has announced its estimation for India's GDP growth.**
- As per Barclays, **India's GDP growth to be at 10% for FY22.**

India's GDP growth at 11.1% in FY22—Goldman Sachs

- Goldman Sachs has reduced **India's GDP forecast for FY22 due to the pandemic situation in the country.**
- As per the latest projection, the **GDP growth rate for the Indian economy to be at 11.1% for FY22.**

RBI Imposed Penalty on ICICI Bank

- The penalty is imposed under **Section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**
- The penalty by RBI on ICICI Bank is **for shifting certain investments from the HTM category to the AFS category in May 2017.**

India's GDP growth at 9.8% in FY22—S&P Global Ratings

- As per **S&P Global Ratings, India's GDP to be at 9.8% for FY22.**
- Earlier it had projected **GDP to be at 11% for India for the fiscal period of April 2021-March 2021.**

Measures for Stakeholders to Tackle Second Wave of Pandemic-RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a set of measures and strategies with an aim **to grant support to the stakeholders in the second wave of the pandemic.**
- The **RBI announced Rs 50,000 crore as an on-tap liquidity window with a maturity of 3 years** and at a repo rate till 31st March 2022. This is granted under the priority sector lending facility.

eNAM Partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank

- The Kotak Mahindra Bank was selected as a **digital payments partner by the National Agriculture Market (eNAM).**
- Under this partnership, the **Kotak Mahindra Bank will support with necessary features and safety for online transactions** for all stakeholders on the eNAM platform.

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Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund

- The **Axis Mutual Fund** launched 'Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund' which is an open-ended mutual fund scheme.
- The subscription date for this new offer from **Axis Mutual Fund** is from **10th to 21st May 2021**. The **application fee is a minimum of Rs 5000**.

NABARD Granted Rs 9162 cr Financial Support to WB in FY21

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** granted **Rs 9162 crore** financial support to West Bengal in FY21.
- The support was **to develop agriculture and allied sectors during the Covid-19 pandemic**.

An Advisory Group to Assist RRA 2.0 Setup by RBI

- The advisory group will assist the **RRA by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns that can be rationalized**.
- The RRA 2.0 is being held by the **central bank with an aim to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities**.

'Eva' Chatbot—HDFC Bank and CSC

- India's private sector bank named **HDFC Bank** collaborated with **Common Services Centers (CSCs)** to **launch a chatbot named 'Eva'**.
- The chatbot will support **Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)** by providing them banking services.

Federal Bank collaborated with UAE's Mashreq Bank

- The **Federal Bank** has entered into a partnership with **Mashreq Bank**, which is one of the leading **financial institutions in the UAE**.
- They have collaborated **to facilitate money transfers from the UAE to India**.

Geojit Collaborated with PNB

- They have collaborated **to provide a three-in-one account facility to the customers of PNB**.
- The three of these accounts are namely **saving account, Demat account, and trading account**.

'I choose my number' Feature by Jana SFB

- This feature will allow the **bank's existing and new customers to select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number**.
- The bank will allow customers **to choose their favourite numbers as the last 10 digits of their bank account, savings or current**.

India's GDP to be at 9.3% for FY22—Moody's Investors Service

- The **Moody's Investors Service** has reduced India's GDP forecast for FY22.

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- As per Moody's, **India's GDP to be at 9.3% for FY22.**
- Earlier it had **projected 13.7% of GDP** for India for the same fiscal year.

India's GDP to Grow at 10.1% in 2022- UN

- In this report, the **UN has projected that India's economy will grow at 10.1% for 2022**, which will thus become the fastest growing economy in the world.
- Also for 2021, the UN has projected that **India's GDP growth forecast to be at 7.5%, which is a 0.2% increase from its earlier projection following a contraction of 6.8% in 2020.**

RBI grants PPI Authorisation to Eroute Technologies

- The authorization is given in regards **to operating as a prepaid payment instruments (PPI) company.**
- The authorization was granted with **perpetual validity to commence issuance and operations of semi-closed pre-paid instruments in India.**

India's GDP to Grow at 10% in FY22- HDFC Bank

- The **HDFC bank has reduced the growth rate projections** for India for FY22.
- As per HDFC Bank, **India's GDP growth to be at 10% for FY22.**
- Earlier it had projected the **growth of 11.5% for the same.**

Digigold-- By Airtel Payments Bank

- The platform Digigold was launched **to allow its customers to perform investments in gold.**
- **To launch this platform, Airtel Payments Bank** has collaborated with SafeGold which is a provider of digital gold.

NABARD Granted Rs 1236 crore to Assam

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has granted Rs 1,236 crores to Assam for FY2020-21.
- The amount was granted from **NABARD's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).**

License of United Co-operative Bank Ltd Cancelled

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that it has canceled the license of the United Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bagnan in West Bengal.
- The license was canceled as the **bank is inadequate of the fund and earning prospects. So it was not able to pay its present depositors in full.**

ADB Informed of Committing a Record USD 3.92 billion Loan to India

- The **Asian Development Bank** announced that it has committed a record USD 3.92 billion loan to India.
- The loan amount of **USD 3.92 billion** was sanctioned for a total of 13 projects in India.

Exide Life Guaranteed Wealth Plus

- This **comprehensive life insurance plan offers best-in-class guaranteed returns to its customers**. The insurance plan will fulfil all their financial needs at various stages of life.
- The Exide Life Guaranteed Wealth Plus insurance plan not only caters **to the diverse financial needs of customers but also offers them a lucrative option to build wealth**.

SEBI proposed Framework for Gold Exchange

- The **Market Regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a framework to set up a gold exchange in which the yellow metal will be in the form of electronic gold receipts.
- The SEBI has released draft norms **for vault managers and they will be registered as a SEBI intermediary**.

EGI launched IPOS (Integrated Partner On-boarding Solution)

- The Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI), which is an **InsurTech start-up has launched IPOS (Integrated Partner Onboarding Solution)**.
- The IPOS is an **industry-first digital end to end partner onboarding solution**. It was launched to offer to digitise support to partner's journey in an efficient manner.

PayPoint India partnered with Digit General Insurance

- They have partnered **to grant health insurance to customers in underserved and rural areas**.
- This partnership will help **customers to secure themselves from any major financial losses due to the surging COVID-19**.

RBI Mandated PPIs Interoperability by March 2022

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated **pre-paid instrument (PPIs) operators** to enable full interoperability to PPI cards and PPI e-wallets for those customers who have fulfilled the KYC norms.
- The Payment companies associated with PPIs are mandated **to enable PPI interoperability by March 2022 by RBI**.

SBI partnered with HyperVerge

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** partnered with HyperVerge with an aim to obtain its technology named 'Video KYC Solution'.
- This technology will allow the bank **to onboard its customers online under COVID-19**.

RBI to Transfer Rs 99,122 cr. Surplus to the Central Gov. for FY21

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **to transfer a surplus of Rs99,122 crore to the central government**.
- The funds are **for the accounting period of nine months which ended on 31st March 2021** i.e. for July 2020 to March 2021.

Monetary Penalty on City Union, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank & Other Two Lenders

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalty on **City Union Bank, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank and Daimler Financial Services India Private Limited.**
- The monetary penalty was in **regards for contravention of certain directions set by the RBI.**

ABSLI Vision Life Income Plus Plan

- The **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI)** which is the life insurance subsidiary of **Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL)** launched the new **ABSLI Vision Life Income Plus Plan.**
- The policy plan offers various plan options **which can be tailor-made to suit customers' unique financial needs at different life stages.**

Amalgamation of District Central Co-op Banks with State Ones

- The Reserve Bank of India released guidelines **for the amalgamation of District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) with State Cooperative Banks (StCBs).**
- The guidelines were **framed because some of the state governments approached RBI** to perform an amalgamation of DCCBs with StCBs as a two-tier short-term Co-operative Credit Structure.

India's GDP Growth to be at 7.7% for FY22-- Barclays

- **Barclay's has predicted that India's GDP** to be at 7.7% for the fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22).
- As per Barclays, the **economic cost could rise by at least a further \$42.6 billion by considering that lockdown restrictions get imposed due to the third wave of COVID-19 in the country.**

ICICI Bank linked UPI ID to its 'Pockets' Digi-Wallet

- ICICI Bank announced the linking of a **UPI (Unified Payments Interface) ID to its digital wallet 'Pockets'.**
- By doing so, ICICI Bank has become **1st one to link e-wallet with the UPI network.**

RBI Annual Report 2021

- The report describes that the **Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks has improved.** In March 2020 it was 66.6% which raised to 75.5% in Dec 2020.
- The **Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020 and in March it was 14.8%.**

Canara bank launched Healthcare Credit, Business, & Personal Loans

- The **Canara Bank has rolled out three loan schemes to grant relief** to its customers amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- The bank has launched **healthcare credit, business, and personal loan schemes to its customers.**

INDEX AND RANKING

Global Prime Residential Index Q1 2021

- The **Prime Residential Index** refers to the most desirable and most expensive property in the city, it is defined as the top 5% of each market by value.
- As per the index, **New Delhi is ranked at 32nd position, Mumbai is ranked at 36th position and Bengaluru is ranked at 40th position.**

2021 Ranking of Global Retail Power Houses

- Reliance Retail Ltd is ranked at **53rd position in the list of Global Powers of Retailing**, which is an improvement from 56th earlier.
- Walmart Inc, the **US giant has retained its top position as the world's top retailer.**

Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2021

- Fortune Magazine has released the **World's 50 Greatest Leaders List 2021.**
- The list is topped by **New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden.**

Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)

- The **57th edition of EY's (Ernst and Young Global Ltd) Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)** was released.
- As per the index, **India has moved higher at the third spot, due to its exceptional performance on the solar photovoltaic (PV) front.**

REPORTS

'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'

- The report highlights challenges faced to **accelerate digital financial inclusion in India.**
- The report also highlights **recommendations and measures to grant digital services to 1.3 billion citizens of India.**

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Niraj Bajaj	Chairman of Bajaj Auto
Rahul Bajaj	Chairman Emeritus for a tenure of five years by Bajaj Auto
Mahesh Balasubramanian	MD of Kotak Mahindra Life insurance Company Limited (KLI)
Vijay Goel	CMD of THDC India Ltd
Justice PC Pant	Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

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TripurariSharan	Chief Secretary of Bihar for a period of two months
T Rabi Sankar	4th Deputy Governor of RBI
P.V. Sindhu and Michelle Li	International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign
M K Stalin	23rd Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
N Rangasamy	Chief Minister of Union Territory of Puducherry
RM Sundaram	Director of the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR)
Biswa Sarma	New Chief Minister of Assam
Ujjwala Singhania	38th National President of FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation)
Sankar Ghosh	National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research
Bill Nelson	14th Administrator of NASA
Jose J Kattoor	Executive Director of RBI
Arun Kumar Singh	CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) by the PESB panel
Padmakumar Nair	CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd
Yoweri Museveni	President of Uganda for the 6th term
Martin Griffiths	UN Humanitarian Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
Raghu Raghuram	CEO of VMware
Sumit Dhawan	President of VMware
Manisha Kapoor	Executive Committee of International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS)
KP Sharma Oli	Prime Minister of Nepal
Ramesh Powar	Head Coach of the Indian Women's Cricket Team by BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)
Gunjan Shah	CEO of Bata India
Satoshi Uchida	Company Head by Suzuki Motorcycle India
Abhay Tewari	MD and CEO of Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd (SUD LIFE)
Neera Tanden	Senior Advisor to US President Joe Biden
Himanta Biswa Sarma	Badminton World Federation (BWF) council for the period 2021-25
Arvind Kumar	MD of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL)
Narinder Batra	President of International Hockey Federation (FIH)
PR Sreejesh	Member of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes' Committee
Anatole Collinet Makosso	Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo
Rajesh Bansal	CEO of Reserve Bank of Innovation Hub (RBIH)
David Barnea	Head of Israel's Spy Agency named Mossad
Subodh Kumar Jaiswal	Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

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Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra	Acting Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court
Nilesh Shah	Head the committee constituted by the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) to suggest a roadmap to promote Investment Funds at IFSC
Fiame Naomi Mata'afa	First Female Prime Minister of Samoa
Guillermo Lasso	Presidency of Ecuador
Andy Jassy	Post of CEO for Amazon from 5th July
Penpa Tsering	President of Tibetan Government-in-exile
Interim President Bah Ndaw and Prime Minister Moctar Ouane	Mali's interim President
B. V. R. Subrahmanyam	Secretary for the Department of Commerce
Bashar Hafez al-Assad	President of Syria for the fourth term
Squadron Leader Aashritha V Olety	First female flight test engineer in the Indian Air Force
Jagjit Pavadia	President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
Colonel Assimi Goita	Interim President of Mali
Laurence Des Cars	First Female President of Musee Du Louvre

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	Awardee
"Order of Rising Sun" by the Japanese Government	Shyamala Ganesh
2021 laureate of UNESCO /Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize	Maria Ressa (Rapple's CEO)
Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards	Pink (Singer)
Arline Pacht Global Vision Award 2021	Justice Gita Mitta
ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021	Babar Azam (Pakistan)
ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2021	Alyssa Healy (Australia)
1 st Indian to win the 15 th Sheikh Zayed Book Award	Dr Tahera Qutbuiddin
Best Actor Award for his performance in a short film named 'Happy Birthday' at New York City International Film Festival	Anupam Kher
'Green Urja Award' by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)	IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency)
2021 World Food Prize for her work in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems	Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted
International Invincible Gold Medal 2021	Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (Union Education Minister)
1 st Women Mountaineers to summit Mount Pumori in Nepal	Baljeet Kaur (Himachal Pradesh) and Gunbala Sharma (Rajasthan)
2020 Millennium Technology Prize for developing revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques namely, Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS)	Prof. Shankar Balasubramanian and Prof. David Klenerman
10 th Annual World Choreography Award 2020	Suresh Mukund

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Prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award	Hockey India
Monaco Grand Prix 2021	Max Verstappen
Gold Award at 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for 'Most Valuable Medical Innovation' under COVID-19	SpiceHealth
Prestigious India Biodiversity Awards 2021 under the category 'Sustainable Use of Biological Resources.'	Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS)
President's award by International Hockey Federation for his contribution to promoting Hockey in Odisha	VK Pandian
International ENI Award 2020 for his research in renewable energy sources and energy storage	Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao
Spain's top Princess of Asturias Award in the social sciences category, the Spanish prize foundation	Amartya Kumar Sen
Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)	Padma Bhushan Dr D Nageshwar Reddy
European Golden Boot	Robert Lewandowski

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 st May 2021	International Workers Day or International Labour Day	--
1 st May 2021	Maharashtra Day	--
2 nd May 2021	World Tuna Day	--
2 nd May 2021	World Laughter Day (First Sunday of May every year)	--
3 rd May 2021	World Press Freedom Day	Theme: Information as a Public Good
4 th May 2021	International Firefighters Day	--
4 th May 2021	Coal Miners' Day	--
4 th May 2021	World Asthma Day	Theme: Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
5 th May 2021	World Hand Hygiene Day	Theme: Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands
5 th May 2021	International Day of the Midwife	Theme: Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives
6 th May 2021	International No Diet Day	--
7 th May 2021	61 st Raising Day of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)	--
7 th May 2021	World Athletics Day	--
8 th May 2021	World Red Cross Day and Red Crescent Day	Theme: 'Unstoppable'
8 th May 2021	World Thalassaemia Day	Theme: 'Addressing Health Inequalities across the Global

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		Thalassemia Community'
8 th May 2021	World Migratory Bird Day	--
8 th & 9 th May 2021	Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for those who lost their lives during 2 nd World War	--
11 th May 2021	National Technology Day	--
12 th May 2021	International Nurses Day	Theme: 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead- A Vision for Future Healthcare'
15 th May 2021	International Day of Families	Theme: Families and New Technologies
16 th May 2021	International Day of Living Together in Peace	--
16 th May 2021	National Dengue Day	--
16 th May 2021	International Day of Light	Theme: Trust Science
17 th May 2021	World Hypertension Day	Theme: Measure your blood pressure accurately, control it, live longer
17 th May 2021	World Telecommunication and Information Society day	Theme: Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times
17 th May to 23 rd May 2021	6 th UN Global Road Safety Week	Theme: Streets for Life
18 th May 2021	International Museum Day	Theme: The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine
18 th May 2021	World AIDS Vaccine Day	--
20 th May 2021	World Bee Day	Theme: Bee Engaged: Build Back Better for Bees
20 th May 2021	World Metrology Day	Theme: Measurement for Health
21 st May 2021	National Anti –Terrorism Day	--
21 st May 2021	International Tea Day	--
21 st May 2021	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	--
22 nd May 2021	International Day for Biological Diversity	Theme: We are part of the solution
23 rd May 2021	World Turtle Day	Theme: Turtles Rock!
23 rd May 2021	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Theme: Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!
25 th May 2021	International Missing Children's Day	--
25 th May 2021	World Thyroid Day	--
25 th May to 31 st May 2021	UN's International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	--
26 th May 2021	Vesak day	--
28 th May 2021	World Hunger Day	--

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28 th May 2021	International Day of Action for Women's Health or International Women's Health Day	--
29 th May 2021	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	Theme: The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security
29 th May 2021	International Everest day	--
29 th May 2021	World Digestive Health Day	Theme: Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic
31 st May 2021	World No-Tobacco Day	Theme: Commit to quit

MOUS SIGNED

Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and UK

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **PM Modi approved the MoU between India and the United Kingdom** on information sharing and Custom Cooperation.
- Under this MoU, **information sharing will be made available to prevent and investigate customs offences.**

TRIFED Signed MoU with 'The LINK Fund'

- The MoU was signed for the project titled '**Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India**' which is meant for tribal community development.
- The project aims **to uplift the tribal community by supporting them to increase value addition in their products.**

JSW Energy signed PPA with SECI

- JSW Energy's subsidiary named **JSW Renew Energy has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA)** with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
- The PPA was signed for **540 megawatts (MW) of wind-based electricity.**

TEMA signed MoU with ICCC

- The **Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) has signed MoU** with the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC).
- The MoU will also lead **to having enhancement in cooperation for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Canada and India.**

Rolls-Royce signed MoU with HAL

- The MoU was signed **to establish packaging, installation, marketing and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 marine engines in India.**

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- With this partnership, **both the entities will work together for a long duration** and will explore the marine application jointly for the first time.

5 Oil & Gas PSUs to Redevelop Badrinath Dham

- India's major Oil and Gas PSUs signed MoU with Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust **to redevelop Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a 'Spiritual Smart Hill Town'**.
- All the 5 Oil and Gas PSUs will contribute **Rs 99.60 crore in the 1st phase for the implementation of the redevelopment project.**

NDDB signed MoU with EESL

- The MoU was signed **to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry.**
- The moto behind the MoU is to transit the technically sound and **financially viable models for electricity, steam and hot water used in the dairy sector.**

NTPC Renewables Energy Signed PPA with GUVNL

- The **wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, named NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd** has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL).
- Under this agreement, **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd will sell power from its 150-megawatt solar power project to GUVNL at a rate of Rs 2.20/unit.**

Tribal Affairs Ministry signed MoU with Microsoft

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed MoU with Microsoft** with an aim to build an inclusive, skills-based economy in India.
- The MoU was signed **to support the digital transformation of schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools, among others which come under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**

Telangana Health Department signed an MoU with NHA

- The MoU was signed **to implement Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the state.**
- The guidelines **to implement the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the state will be made by Aarogyasri Health Care Trust.**

India and Oman Renew MoUs on Military Cooperation and Maritime Issues

- India and Oman have renewed their **MoUs for Military Cooperation and Maritime issues.**
- The MoU for **the military cooperation was signed by the Secretary-General of Oman's defence ministry Dr Mohammed bin Nasser Al Zaabi and Indian Ambassador MunuMahawar.**

Cabinet approved MoU by ICoAI, ICSI with Foreign Nations

- The MoU will **increase mutual recognition of qualifications and a range of collaborative activities** for the exchange of knowledge.
- The MoU will help **to attain equity, public accountability and innovation among the beneficiaries countries.**

VOC Port signed MoU with NTCPWC of IIT Madras

- The **VO Chidambaranar Port Trust (VOC Port Trust), Tuticorin signed MoU** with National Technology Centre for Ports Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC), IIT Madras.
- The MoU was signed for **Operation and Maintenance of Vessel Traffic System & Development of Indigenous Vessel Traffic Software (VTS) at VOC Port Trust.**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

'ParvatDhara Yojana'—Himachal Pradesh

- The main motto of this yojana is **to increase the water level by retaining it in water bodies for long period.**
- The 'ParvatDhara Yojana' will be implemented in **10 districts of the state with an outlay of Rs 20 crore.**

'Auro Scholarship Programme'

- The programme is an initiative of the **Sri Aurobindo Society and was launched for all the students of the state.**
- The 'Auro Scholarship Programme' will grant **micro-scholarship to the students which will motivate them to gain better learning practices and solutions.**

Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana—Madhya Pradesh

- The government of Madhya Pradesh launched the **'Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana' which means Chief Minister's COVID Treatment Programme.**
- The scheme aims **to grant free treatment for COVID-19 to the economically weak section of the state.**

Corona Mukh Pind Abhiyan--- Punjab

- The **government of Punjab launched the unique 'Covid Fateh programme',** as part of the 'Corona Mukh Pind Abhiyaan'.
- The Abhiyan was launched **to limit the spread of coronavirus in the rural areas of the state amid the second wave of the pandemic.**

'HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) COVID App'

- The app will be used **to monitor and track the home isolated COVID-19 patients across the state.**

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- It was developed by **Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (BELTRON)**, Department of Health and Department of Information Technology (DIT).

NGMA's Audio-Visual Guide App

- The app was launched on the occasion of **International Museum Day (18th May 2021)**.
- Through this app, the museum viewers will be able to **listen to anecdotes and stories related to the treasured Indian modern art exhibited at the Gallery.**

NMMS App and Area Officer Monitoring App

- The **National Mobile Monitoring Software, (NMMS app) and Area officer monitoring App** were launched by Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar via video conference.
- Both the apps will be used to **monitor Mahatma Gandhi National. Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).**

'Sanjeevani Pariyojana'-- Haryana

- The Sanjeevani Pariyojana will provide medical care to rural areas along with the creation awareness about the second wave of the pandemic in the state.
- The state government describes **'Sanjeevani Pariyojana'** as major step in bringing much-needed medical care to the people **'who need it most, when they need it most'**.

Vatsalya Yojana--- Uttarakhand

- The government of Uttarakhand launched the **'Vatsalya Yojana'** for the orphaned children who lost their parents due to COVID-19.
- Under this yojana, the state government has announced to make arrangements for taking care, education facility and employment for such children.

Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance-- Maharashtra

- The scheme was launched with the aim to meet the state's oxygen needs to fight the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Under this scheme, special incentives will be given to oxygen-producing industries.

SeHAT-OPD Portal--Launched by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

- The SeHAT-OPD Portal is an online medical consultation service that was launched for armed forces personnel and ex-servicemen.
- This service will ensure whether the armed forces and ex-servicemen get hassle-free health services.

'Smart Kitchen Scheme'-- Kerala

- The CM of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan announced that the 3 member Secretary level committee will work to recommend the guidelines to implement the 'Smart Kitchen scheme' by July 10, 2021, in the state.

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- Under this scheme, women in the state will be granted a loan by the state government to refurbish their kitchens.

SASCM Scheme – Jammu and Kashmir

- The Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, launched a Special Scheme named 'Special Assistance Scheme for Covid Mortalities (SASCM)'.
- The scheme aims to grant financial assistance to families, who lost their only bread earner due to the COVID-19.

ACCR Portal and 3rd Version of Ayush Sanjivani App

- The Minister of State (IC) for Youth Affairs and Sports and Ayush, Kiren Rijiju launched the Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the third version of the Ayush Sanjivani App.
- The 3rd version of the Ayush Sanjivani App will display the study and data of the effectiveness of selected Ayush interventions to treat the COVID-19 patients.

'YUVA- PM Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors'

- The selected authors from the contest will be trained by eminent authors/mentors.
- A consolidated scholarship of Rs.50,000 per month for a period of six months per author will be paid under the Mentorship Scheme.



Operation 'SamudraSetu-II'

- The Indian Navy commenced operation 'SamudraSetu-II' to bring oxygen-filled cryogenic containers to India from abroad nations.
- This operation was launched to help to tackle the medical oxygen crisis being faced by India during the second wave of the pandemic.

'CO-JEET' Operation

- The operation is being executed to strengthen the medical system in India and to help GOI to tackle the second wave of the pandemic, thus to save the lives of people.
- The oxygen supplies are being made available to the patients suffering from coronavirus.

Navies of India & Indonesia Conducted 'PASSEX'

- Indian Navy was represented by INS Sharda, which is an offshore patrol vessel and Chetak Helicopter.
- Indonesian Navy was represented by KRI Sultan Hasanudin, which is a 90m corvette.

Mayflower 400

- The 'Mayflower 400' is the **World's 1st Unmanned Vessel** which is set to navigate across the Atlantic Ocean.
- It is built by ProMare, which is a **marine research organisation in partnership with IBM**.

'Defence National OPD' On E-Sanjeevani Portal

- It was basically launched as '**Ex Defence OPD in a phased manner in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand**'.
- The '**Defence National OPD**' will grant **free online medical consultation** to the people. It will also provide an online prescription of medicines.

BEML Ltd launched MMME Mk-II for the Indian Army

- The **Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML)** launched the **Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II)** for the Indian Army.
- It is developed through **DRDO's lab Research & Development Establishment Engineers (R&DE Engineers) through Technology of Transfer (ToT)**.

Steadfast Defender 21

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organisations (NATO)** has commenced conducting 'Steadfast Defender 21' war games. It will be held in May-June.
- Most of the exercises under **these war games will be held in Germany, Portugal and Romania**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon

- SpaceX's 'DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon' is the **1st ever commercial lunar payload that will be paid entirely in Cryptocurrency Dogecoin**.
- The mission will analyze the application of **cryptocurrency beyond Earth orbit and will thus set the foundation for interplanetary commerce**.

ATMAN AI Tool for COVID-19 Detection

- The DRDO's Centre for **Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR)** developed an AI based tool named ATMAN to detect COVID-19 using chest X-rays.
- This tool will enable **doctors and clinicians to perform rapid diagnose procedure and treat COVID-19 patients**.

United Launch Alliance launched Atlas V Rocket

- The rocket carried **SBRIS (Space-Based Infrared System) Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite**.

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- Its purpose is to provide missile warning, **missile battle space and defence characterization**. Its weight is **4850kilograms**.

Isothermal Forging Technology to Manufacture Parts for Aero Engines

- It is developed by DRDO's lab named **Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL)**.
- The technology will be used to **manufacture parts for aero engines**.

SPORTS

Tennis Madrid Open Tournament 2021

- The **Tennis Madrid Open Tournament 2021** was held at Manzanares Park, Madrid, Spain.
- The tournament is **held on a clay court**.

2021 Italian Open

- The tennis tournament named **Italian Open 2021** took place in Rome, Italy. It is a **clay-court tournament**.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting

- The **Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad** represented India at G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting.
- The meet was chaired by **Oliver Dowden, Secretary of state for digital, culture, media and sports of United Kingdom**.

5th Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) Session

- The 5th session of the **Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)** was held in a **virtual manner**.
- The CCSCH finalized and recommended **quality standards for four spices namely cloves, oregano, basil, and ginger during the session**.

1st Ind-Fra-Aus Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue

- The **1st India-France-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue** was held recently on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
- The Indian delegation was led by **Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his French and Australian counterparts Jean-Yves Le Drian and Marise Payne, respectively**.

India-EU Leaders Meeting

- The dignitaries agreed to resume negotiations for a **balanced and comprehensive free trade deal and investment agreement**.
- They discussed **foreign policy, security, COVID-19, climate, environment, trade, connectivity, and technology**.

4th India -Swiss Financial Dialogue

- The Indian side was represented by **Ajay Seth, Secretary Economic Affairs**.
- Switzerland's side was represented by **Daniela Stoffel, State Secretary and State Secretariat for International Finance**.

BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meet

- The **1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting** was hosted by India in a virtual format from Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.
- BRICS EWG Meeting was chaired by **Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment**.

Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021

- The Summit on **Financing of African Economies 2021** was held in Paris, France and also held in a virtual format via video conference.
- The summit was held to **plan financial resources to retrieve the African Economy which is severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic**.

7th meet of BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG)

- The 7th meeting of the **BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG)** was hosted by India in a virtual manner.
- The meet was hosted from **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, Maharashtra in partnership with Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

33rd Meet of Health Ministers of Commonwealth Countries

- The **33rd meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries** was chaired by Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- He mentioned about COVAX, which is the **vaccine pillar of ACT Accelerator and aims to give vaccines to at least two billion people by the end of 2021**.