

# Weekly Current Affairs

4-10 April, 2021

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. Arvind Kejriwal invited to represent India at World Cities Cultural Forum**

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will be representing Delhi and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF).
- He has been invited by Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, to participate in the forum that comprises 40 world cities, including London, Tokyo, and New York, that recognise the impact and importance of culture and creativity and seek to inculcate these values in public policy and city planning.
- The annual summit, attended by deputy mayors for culture and heads of culture from the member cities, is at the heart of the forum's activity.
- WCCF was established in London in 2012 with eight cities.
- It has 43 participating member cities.
- Participating member cities include London, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Lisbon, San Francisco, Shanghai, etc.
- Delhi is invited this year but it is not a part of member cities.

### **2. To prevent misuse, Government announced 'National Register' for driving licenses**

- The Ministry of Road Transport recently announced that the National Register for Driving Licenses is to be created. This is being done to remove duplication of driving licenses in the country.
- Most of the states are already on the SARATHI portal of the National Informatics Centre. These states have been instructed to migrate to the newly created national register.
- Around 1.5 lakh deaths occur in India annually due to road crashes. Most of these accidents are due to the driver's fault. The register will include a separate section to show the names of the people whose driving licenses were revoked. Also, the register will red-flag them. This will help to minimise rash driving in the country.

### **3. IISc tops ARWU ranking 2020, Calcutta University best Indian varsity**

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore) has secured the top position among the best higher education institutes in India, while Calcutta University became the best varsity in the country.
- The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has secured the top position among the higher education institutes in India.
- Calcutta University secured the third position among the higher education institutes in India.
- As per the recently published Shanghai Ranking, the other top higher educational institutions in the country are- Indian Institute of Technology

(IIT-Madras) (rank 2-4), University of Delhi (rank 2-4), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Delhi) (rank 5-7), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Kharagpur) (rank 5-7), Jawaharlal Nehru University (rank 5-7), Aligarh Muslim University (rank 8-9), Vellore Institute of Technology (rank 8-9), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (rank 10-15), Anna University (rank 10-15), Bharathiar University (rank 10-15), Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (rank 10-15), Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (rank 10-15), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) (rank 10-15).

#### **4. Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan approved National Policy for rare diseases**

- Union health and family welfare minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has approved the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021.
- The policy aims to bring down the high cost of treatment for rare diseases and was brought about after "multiple consultations with different stakeholders and experts in the area.
- Around 40 percent of the population covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana will benefit from the policy and financial assistance will not be limited to just the BPL families.

#### **5. MoU between India and Japan for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), Dept of Space, Government of India and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange on 4 November, 2020 and 11 November, 2020 at respective institutes and exchanged by post.

### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

#### **1. US Climate Envoy Kerry to visit India next week on his maiden tour of Asia**

- US Climate Envoy John Kerry will be in India next week, as a part of his tour of Asia, and hold discussions on climate issues ahead of the climate summit to be hosted online by US President Joe Biden on April 22.
- This will be Kerry's first trip to Asia since assuming office earlier this year.
- He will be travelling to the UAE, India and Bangladesh between April 1 and 9.
- The summit is aimed at setting the agenda for the COP26 Summit in Glasgow in June.

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering are the other two leaders from South Asia to be invited for the two-day mega-conference on climate change.
- By the time of the summit, the US will announce a 2030 emissions target as its new nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement.

## **2. Russia registered world's 1st Covid vaccine Carnivac-Cov for animals**

- The world's first animal vaccine against the novel coronavirus has been registered in Russia.
- The immunity lasts for six months after the vaccination, but the dose's developers are continuing to analyse this.
- The use of this vaccine, as per Russian scientists, can prevent the development of virus mutations.

## **3. UNESCO “World in 2030” Survey Report highlights youth concerns over climate change and biodiversity loss**

- On 31 March, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) publishes its new “The World in 2030” Survey report, which presents the results of an interactive survey and consultation collecting responses from more than 15,000 people worldwide in 2020.
- The report provides global insights into the most pressing challenges for peaceful societies over the next decade, including the specific worries people have and the solutions needed to overcome them. This was part of a new consultation process with a view to contributing to the organization’s medium-term strategy.
- The report shows that climate change and loss of biodiversity was by far the most selected challenge, chosen by 67% of respondents. People who identified this challenge were most worried about increasing natural disasters and extreme weather, biodiversity loss, risk of conflict or violence, impacts on oceans and critically that there was less and less hope to be able to solve the problem. To address this challenge, respondents favored investment in green solutions, education on sustainability, promoting international cooperation, and building trust in science.

## **4. West Bengal is the highest contributor to small savings schemes**

- West Bengal is the highest contributor to the government’s small savings schemes with a share of over 15% in deposits at post offices and banks.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the primary challenger to the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal.
- With the West Bengal assembly elections underway, the state’s contribution to small savings schemes could have been one of the trigger points for the government to roll back interest rate cuts in less than 12 hours of announcing them.



- West Bengal was followed by Uttar Pradesh with a contribution of 15.09%. The state of Uttar Pradesh has collected Rs 69,660 crores.
- Maharashtra was ranked third. The state of Maharashtra contributed 10.57%, which is Rs. 63,026 crores.
- Gujarat was ranked fourth. Gujarat contributed 8.16% that is Rs. 48,645 crores.
- Tamil Nadu ranked fifth contributing 4.8%, which is Rs 28,598.

## **NEW APPOINTMENT AND PERSON IN NEWS**

### **1. Google's Waymo CEO John Krafcik stepped down**

- The executive who steered the transformation of Google's self-driving car project into a separate company worth billions of dollars is stepping down after more than five years on the job.
- Two of Krafcik's top lieutenants will replace him as Co-CEOs. Dmitri Dolgov, who has been working on self-driving cars since Waymo began within Google in 2009, will focus on the technology for the autonomous vehicles. Tekedra Mawakana, a lawyer who had been Waymo's chief operating officer, will handle the business side of the operation.
- Krafcik will remain an adviser to Waymo, a company that established itself as the clear leader in autonomous driving since Google hired him in 2015. Not long after that, Google's self-driving division morphed into Waymo, a company owned by Alphabet, which is also Google's parent.

### **2. Mallika Srinivasan 1st pvt sector specialist to be appointed as Chief of PESB**

- Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited has been appointed as the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
- This is for the first time that a private sector specialist has been appointed as the head of the PESB, responsible for appointment of top management posts in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

### **3. Schistura Hiranyakeshi in Sindhudurg became Fifth Biological Heritage Site of Maharashtra**

- The Maharashtra government had declared an area at Amboli in Western ghats in Sindhudurg district as a biodiversity heritage site, following the discovery of a rare freshwater fish species.
- The new freshwater fish species called 'Schistura Hiranyakeshi' was discovered in a pond at the Mahadev Temple at Amboli in Sawantwadi tehsil of Sindhudurg district by Tejas Thackeray (son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray), along with his team.

- The 2.11 hector area has been declared as ‘Shistura Hiranyakeshi Biological Heritage Site’, under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, making it the fifth area in Maharashtra.

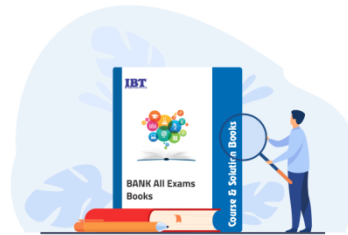
#### 4. Justice N.V. Ramana appointed as next Chief Justice of India

- Senior-most Supreme Court Judge Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana was on 6<sup>th</sup> April appointed as the next Chief Justice of India.
- According to a notification issued by the government, Justice Ramana would take over as the 48<sup>th</sup> CJI on April 24 after incumbent CJI S. A. Bobde demits office a day before.
- Justice Ramana would retire on August 26, 2022.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- Justice Bobde had recently recommended Justice Ramana as his successor in keeping with convention and norms of seniority.

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#### 5. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos topped Forbes billionaire list for 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row

- Forbes has released its annual list of billionaires with Amazon founder Jeff Bezos leading the fray for the fourth consecutive year. Bezos worth increased to \$177 billion, up \$64 billion from a year ago as a result of spike in Amazon shares. Tesla chief executive Elon Musk was the biggest gainer as he rocketed to second spot with a \$151 billion fortune, a whopping \$126.4 billion gain a year ago, when he ranked No. 31 and was worth \$24.6 billion.
- This year’s billionaires are worth a combined \$13.1 trillion, up from \$8 trillion last year, Forbes said. This year’s list has 493 newcomers, including Whitney Wolfe Herd, chief executive of dating app Bumble, which went public this year.

## **6.Chintan Vaishnav appointed as Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission**

- Noted socio-technologist Dr. Chintan Vaishnav has been appointed the mission director of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the government's flagship initiative under NITI Aayog.
- Vaishnav will take over from Ramanathan Ramanan later this month. Ramanan has been leading AIM as its first mission director since June 2017. Vaishnav is currently at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US. He holds a Ph.D. in technology, management, and policy from MIT.

## **7.MoU between India and Japan for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), Dept of Space, Government of India and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange on 4 November, 2020 and 11 November, 2020 at respective institutes and exchanged by post.

## **8.CJI S.A. Bobde launches top court's AI-driven research portal**

- The Supreme Court unveiled its Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal SUPACE, designed to make research easier for judges, thereby easing their workload.
- A pet project of Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde, the Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE) is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
- Through SUPACE, the apex court judges will be able to fetch facts on any given case accurately, do all discoveries of facts.
- The system has been designed not to decide but to do all discoveries of facts to let the Judge decide.

## **BANKING**

### **1.NPCI transfers automatic bill payments business to new subsidiary**

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has transferred all its Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) transaction mandates to a new subsidiary called the NPCI Bharat Bill Pay Limited (NBBL), effectively hiving off its automated bill payment business. BBPS is an interoperable bill payments platform used by banks, fintech companies and biller merchants to automate bill collection and request solutions.

- The decision to set up a separate subsidiary for bill payment business aims to scale growth of the interoperable bill platform by giving it increased autonomy in operations and onboarding of new billers.
- BBPS is an interoperable bill payments platform set up in 2013, for use by banks, fintech companies and biller merchants to automate bill collection and request solutions.

## **2.PhonePe became first player to cross billion-transaction mark on UPI**

- Digital payments major, PhonePe has crossed a billion transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure in March, making it the first player in the country to reach this milestone.
- A spokesperson at the Bengaluru-based company told Mint that PhonePe has overall clocked close to 1.3 billion transactions on its platform, across payment offerings of wallet, cards as well as UPI, last month.

## **3.6-digit HSN code mandatory in invoices for biz with over Rs.5 crore turnover**

- Businesses with a turnover of more than Rs.5 crore had furnish 6-digit HSN or tariff code on the invoices issued for supplies of taxable goods and services from April 1.
- Those with a turnover of up to Rs.5 crore in the preceding financial year would be required to mandatorily furnish a 4-digit HSN code on B2B invoices. Earlier, the requirement was 4-digits and 2-digits respectively.

## **4.RBI Deputy Governor BP Kanungo retired after completing 1-year extension**

- Against expectations of getting a second extension, the senior-most deputy governor B.P. Kanungo retired from the Reserve Bank on the completion of his one-year extension.
- Kanungo joined the RBI in 1982 and was in charge of currency management, external investments, operations, payment, and settlement system, among others, during the four-year term as the deputy governor, which began in April 2017.
- The government had appointed him as a deputy governor in March 2017 when Urjit Patel was the governor and he took charge on April 3, 2017, for a three-year term ending April 2, 2020, but was given a one-year extension.
- There was an expectation that he might a second extension after the government had cancelled interviews for the post of the deputy governor, scheduled for March 10.

## **5.Only 1.6% of loans to street vendors under PM SVANidhi so far have come from private banks**



- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recently announced that over twenty lakh street vendors have been provided loans under the PM SVANidhi scheme till March 30, 2021. Of this, eighteen lakh loans were provided by the Public Sector Banks. On the other hand, the private sector banks have provided only 32,534 loans. Bottom line, the private sector banks have provided only 1.6% of loans under the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- Among the public sector banks, the State Bank of India topped the list and has provided 5.8 lakh loans under the scheme. The SBI was followed by the Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda. Among the private banks, Jammu and Kashmir Limited was the largest contributor. It had disbursed 9,595 loans under the scheme.

### **6.RBI Monetary Policy: Repo rate unchanged at 4%**

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 percent while maintaining an 'accommodative stance' as long as necessary to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The decision was taken unanimously and added that the reverse repo rate too was kept unchanged at 3.35 percent.
- The RBI also maintains retail inflation at 4 percent with a margin of 2 percent on either side for another five-year period ending March 2026.
- The economic growth for the financial year 2021-22 (FY-22), Das said that the MPC kept the GDP estimate for FY-22 unchanged at 10.5 percent. The first quarter (Q1 FY-22) GDP growth outlook is estimated at 26.2 percent, 8.3 percent in the second quarter (Q2 FY-22), 5.4 percent in the third quarter (Q3 FY-22) and 6.2 percent in the fourth quarter (Q4 FY-22).

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

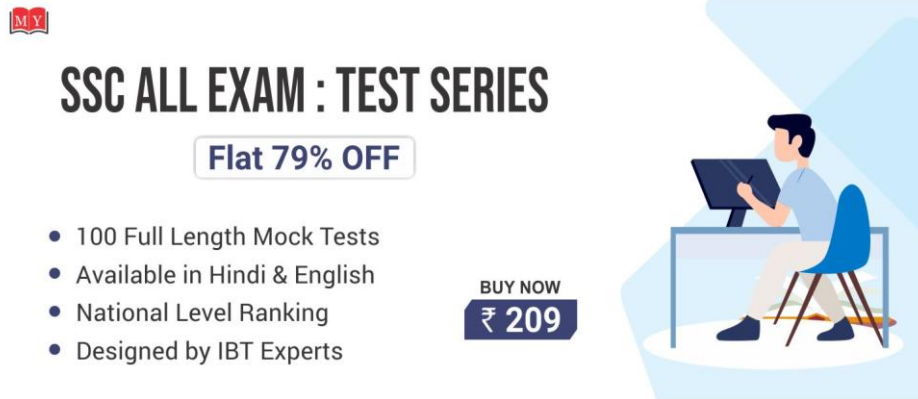
### **1.Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat launched Joint logistics facility in Mumbai**

- As part of measures to boost tri-service integration and resource optimisation, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat operationalised the third joint logistics node (JLN) in Mumbai.
- These JLN's will provide integrated logistics cover to the armed forces for their small arms ammunition, rations, fuel, general stores, civil hired transport, aviation clothing, spares and also engineering support in an effort to synergise their operational efforts.
- The initiative would accrue advantages in terms of saving of manpower, economise utilisation of resources, besides financial savings.
- The government sanction letter for the establishment of the JLN's in Mumbai, Guwahati and Port Blair was signed on October 12, 2020.

Subsequently, the JLN in Guwahati and Tri-Services, Andaman and Nicobar Command, Port Blair, were operationalised on January 01, 2021.

## 2. Indian Railways logs highest-ever route electrification

- The Railways has logged the highest-ever electrification of sections covering 6,015 Route Kilometre (RKM) in a single year during 2020-21.
- With the COVID-19 pandemic keeping trains off tracks, the Railways has used the opportunity to speed up its electrification process.
- It has surpassed the previous highest of 5,276 RKM achieved in 2018-19.



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## 3. “Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India” and ‘Be a Friend of Tribes India’ Contest launched by TRIFED in Association with Mygov.in

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India had launched two interesting competitions, 'Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India' and 'Be a Friend of Tribes India' Contest in association with Mygov.in, the citizen-government engagement platform.
- These competitions have been launched with the sole objective of promoting tribal craft, culture and lifestyle. Through these innovative contests, awareness about tribal heritage, arts, crafts can be enhanced among the general public. With more knowledge and awareness about tribal heritage, it is hoped that citizens will also contribute to overall tribal empowerment by purchasing more tribal products.

## 4. India asked state refiners to review oil import contracts with Saudi Arabia

- Amid tensions with Saudi Arabia over oil production cuts, India has asked its State refiners to review contracts they enter into for buying crude oil from the Middle East nation and negotiate more favourable terms.
- When oil prices started to rise in early 2021, India wanted Saudi Arabia to relax output controls but the Kingdom ignored its calls. This has led to the Indian government pressing for diversification of the supply base.

- Saudi Arabia and other OPEC(Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) producers have been the mainstay suppliers of crude oil for India. But their terms have often been loaded against the buyers.
- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 13 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member countries.

### **5.MoS for Education Sanjay Dhotre attended consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries**

- Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre had attended a consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries. The meeting was organised on the theme, E9 initiative: Scaling up digital learning to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4.
- The consultation is the first of a three-phased process to co-create an initiative on digital learning and skills, targeting marginalised children and youth, especially girls.
- The initiative aims to accelerate recovery and advance the Sustainable Development Goal 4 agenda by driving rapid change in education systems in three of the 2020 Global Education Meeting priorities, support to teachers, investment in skills and narrowing of the digital divide.

### **6.The world's biggest solar company Longi Green Technology enters the hydrogen market**

- Longi Green Energy Technology Co., the world's largest solar energy company, has entered the hydrogen market.
- Longi Green is a Chinese company that manufactures solar panels, wafers and solar cells. Today several such solar companies are entering the hydrogen market. This is mainly because hydrogen is a carbon-free fuel that can be produced by electrolysis of water and then stored and transported and used in every possible machinery such as cars to electrical generators to steel mills.

### **7.CRPF Valour Day 2021: 09 April**

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed on 9 April every year, as a tribute to the brave men of the force.
- It was first under the name Crown Representative's Police and came into existence on 27 July, 1939. It became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December, 1949.
- Its mission is to enable the government to maintain Rule of Law, Public Order and Internal Security effectively and efficiently and to preserve National Integrity and Promote Social Harmony and Development by upholding supremacy of the constitution. 2021 marks the 56<sup>th</sup> CRPF Valour Day.

## **8.MoU between India and Japan for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), Dept of Space, Government of India and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange on 4 November, 2020 and 11 November, 2020 at respective institutes and exchanged by post.

## **9.Indian Navy's INS Sarvekshak undertakes hydrographic surveys in Mauritius**

- INS Sarvekshak, a hydrographic survey ship, is on a deployment to Mauritius for undertaking joint hydrographic surveys along with their Mauritian counterparts. During the deployment, training of Mauritian personnel on advanced hydrographic equipment and practices will also be undertaken. The ship visited Port Louis, Mauritius and commenced the hydrographic survey of 'Deep sea area off Port Louis'.

## **10.Researchers at Tufts University developed robots from stem cells of frogs**

- Researchers at Tufts University have developed robots from stem cells of frogs. These robots are named Xenobots and they can self-heal after damage, record memories and work together in groups.
- These biological robots can record information about their surroundings and move using cilia -- minute hairlike particles present on their surface.

## **BOOKS AND AWARDS**

### **1.New Book 'Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life' by Nitin Gokhale released**

- A new book titled 'Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life' authored by Nitin Gokhale was released on March 31, 2021.
- The book is a tribute to Manohar Parrikar, India's former defence minister and four-time chief minister of Goa, the first IIT-ian to become a chief minister.
- The book is published by Bloomsbury. It is an attempt to capture Parrikar's persona — the man, the politician and the patriot.
- Through this book, the author presents the journey of the contribution of Parrikar to nation-building and his service to the Goan society, from being an IIT student to a social worker and to India's defence minister.



- Gokhale is a renowned author, media trainer and founder of a specialised defence related website BharatShakti.in. and StratNewsGlobal.com.

## **2.Kerala-based Aniyam Midhun wins Gold at South Asian Wushu Championship**

- Aniyam Midhun of Kerala has won the gold medal in the 70-kg category at the South Asian Wushu Championship 2021, held in Nepal on March 30 and 31, 2021.
- The 28-year-old youth is the first Wushu player from southern India in the ten-member Indian team.
- Midhun belongs to Nattika village in Thrissur district of Kerala.

## **SPORTS**

### **1.Real Sociedad beat Athletic to claim Copa Del Rey and Basque glory**

- Real Sociedad's reign as Copa Del Rey holders will be the briefest in history but it will last forever. Mikel Oyarzabal, the 23-year-old captain of the club he joined at 14, scored the only goal of the 2020 final, postponed a year and played just two weeks before the 2021 final. But if that trophy is set to be handed to someone else in this same stadium soon, nothing will ever take this night from them. There were tears at the end of an occasion that will always be theirs.
- Not because this final was a particularly good game. In fact, it was mostly dreadful, Oyarzabal's goal coming from the penalty spot and one of just two shots on target all night, but because of what it meant. And what it meant was everything. At the end, there was release, an explosion of joy for la Real. For Athletic there will be another chance against Barcelona in a fortnight but that did not make it easier to take.

### **2.Virat Kohli joins hands with Digit Insurance to spread insurance awareness**

- India's National Men's Cricket Team Captain, Virat Kohli, chooses to become the face of Digit Insurance, a general insurance company that became the first unicorn of 2021 with a valuation of \$1.9B.
- The Fairfax backed insurance company, Digit Insurance, headquartered in Bengaluru and was started with a mission of making insurance simple. Digit Insurance claims to have earned over 1.5 crore customers and \$1.45% market share as of Dec 2020 in its 3 years of operation. It has also been rated 5-star on Facebook by its customers. Digit was able to get the Indian Men's Cricket Team Captain to invest in the company before he planned to become the face for the brand.

### **3.India finished Dubai Para-Badminton with 20 medals**

- In Badminton, defending world champion Pramod Bhagat clinch two gold medals as India finished their campaign in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheikh Hamdan bin Al Maktoum Dubai Para-Badminton International 2021 in Dubai with 20 medals. Krishna Nagar and Prem Kumar Ale were also brilliant on the day, winning the other two gold medals for India in combined SH6 and the mixed doubles WH1-WH2 categories.
- India topped the tally with 20 medals (4 gold, 6 silver, and 10 bronze medals), ahead of France who finished with eight medals (4 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze), and Malaysia with seven medals (3 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze).



#### **4. Tashkent to host 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships**

- The 2023 men's boxing World Championships will be held in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent, the International Boxing Association (AIBA).
- AIBA President Umar Kremlev confirmed Tashkent as the host city during a visit to Uzbekistan.
- The city of Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan.

#### **5. Vivo rope in Indian skipper Virat Kohli as brand ambassador**

- Chinese smartphone major Vivo has appointed Indian cricketer Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador.
- With the association, Vivo aims to reach the millennials and technologically driven consumers and a 360-degree marketing approach will characterise the company's association with Kohli.
- Apart from this, associating with a sports figure will help the company reach a wider audience, ahead of the IPL 2021.

#### **6. The Great Khali formally inducted in WWE Hall of Fame 2021**

- India's one-time World Heavyweight Champion, "The Great Khali", has been inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame as part of the 2021 class.

- The 7'1" tall Khali is the first Indian world champion in WWE. He made his professional wrestling debut in 2000.
- Standing 7-foot-1 and tipping the scales at 347 pounds, Khali made his titanic presence felt from the moment he first entered the WWE Universe in 2006, standing toe-to-toe with the legendary Undertaker and bulldozing over The Deadman, a rare sight between the ropes.
- The Great Khali went on to battle many of WWE's most legendary Superstars, including John Cena, Batista, Shawn Michaels and fellow 2021 Inductee Kane, whom he defeated to pick up his first win on The Grandest Stage of Them All, WrestleMania.

### **7.Four sailors from India qualify for Tokyo Olympics**

- Four sailors created history from India by qualifying for this year's Tokyo Olympics. Vishnu Saravanan and the pair of Ganapathy Chengappa and Varun Thakkar made the cut during the ongoing Asian Qualifiers in Oman.
- This was after Nethra Kumanan, a day before in another Asian Olympic qualifier, became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify in the laser radial event in the Mussanah Open Championship.
- However, bad news has hit the weightlifting arena where 2019 Commonwealth Championship gold medallist in the 64-kg category, Rakhi Halder, failed an out-of-competition dope test just ahead of the Olympic qualifying event next week.
- She now stands provisionally suspended.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1.Japanese Nobel laureate Isamu Akasaki, inventor of first efficient blue LED, passed away at 92**

- Isamu Akasaki, Japanese inventor of the world's first efficient blue light-emitting diodes (LED) died at age 92.
- Akasaki, a professor at Meijo University, was recognized for the invention "which has contributed to bright and energy-saving white light sources, widely known as LED lamps," said the news agency.
- He was a co-winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in physics for his invention.

### **2.Veteran actress Shashikala passed away at the age of 88**

- Veteran actress Shashikala Om Prakash Saigal (née Jawalkar) passed away at her residence on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Better known by her first name Shashikala, the actress was 88 years old. However, the reason for her demise is unknown. The family is yet to release an official statement.
- Born in Solapur, Maharashtra, Shashikala Jawalkar started acting on stage at the age of five in her hometown. After her father went bankrupt, she

moved to Bombay (now Mumbai) with her family and started to look for work in the movies.

- She made her first big-screen appearance in the 1945 movie "Zeenat", directed by legendary actor Noor Jehan's husband Syed Shaukat Hussain Rizvi. Shashikala starred in over a hundred films in her career spanning around six decades. She went on to play small parts in various films for almost a decade and then got an opportunity to feature in V Shantaram's "Teen Batti Char Raasta" (1953) and "Daku", the 1955 film starring Shammi Kapoor.

### **3.Malayalam Actor and Screenwriter P Balachandran passed away**

- P Balachandran, a veteran screenwriter and actor in the Malayalam entertainment industry, has passed away. He was 69. Balachandran was undergoing treatment for meningitis for the past eight months. He is survived by his wife Sreelatha, former chairperson of Vaikom municipality, and children Sreekanth and Parvathy.
- Balachandran was a teacher with the School of Letter attached to the Mahatma Gandhi University. An alumnus of the School of Drama, he made a mark with his theatre works, before he started the scenarist career with the 1991 Mohanlal movie Uncle Bun.
- Balachandran won two major awards, the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and Kerala Professional Nataka Award for his play 'Paavam Usman' in 1989.

### **4.Ex-Union Minister Digvijaysinh Zala passed away at 88 after brief illness**

- Former Union Environment Minister and MLA from Gujarat's Wankaner Digvijaysinh Zala passed away at the age of 88.
- He was MLA from Wankaner in Gujarat from 1962 to 1967 and as a member of the Swatantra Party from 1967-71.
- He became the first Environment Minister of India under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from 1982 to 1984
- He was the head of the erstwhile princely state of Wankaner in Saurashtra
- He also represented India in the United Nations on more than one occasion.

### **5.Renowned educationist Fatima Zakaria passed away in Aurangabad**

- Padmashree awardee Fatima Rafiq Zakaria, renowned journalist, academician and chairman of Maulana Azad Educational Trust and president of Maulana Azad Education Society, passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> April here at Kamalnayan Bajaj Hospital due old age illness.
- She was 85 years old and is survived by two sons -- Arshad and Fareed (who has recently been conferred the Padma Bhushan Award in



Journalism). Both graduated from Harvard and have won great laurels in their respective fields in the United States of America.

- Besides being affiliated to the Maulana Azad Educational Trust and Maulana Azad Education Society, Ms. Zakaria was also executive vice-chairman of the Board of Governors of the Trust's Institute of Hotel Management which is run in collaboration with the Taj Group of Hotels.

## **6. World's first-ever Woman Commentator Chandra Nayudu passed away at 88**

- Chandra Nayudu, the first woman cricket commentator of India, has passed away. She was 88 years old.
- She was the daughter of India's first Test captain Col. C.K. Nayudu.
- She was a professor in English at the Government Girls College in Indore. But despite being an English teacher, Chandra had equal command over India's national language.
- Chandra was a very good Hindi commentator and first commented in the MCC vs Bombay game in the 1976-77 season.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action 2021: 04 April**

- Every year, April 4 is observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The day was approved by the General Assembly on 8 December in the year 2005. This day aims to seek assistance for mine action work raise awareness about landmines and advance toward their eradication. The mine action community around the world, led by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), starts rolling out activities a week in advance.
- With the assistance of the UN and other relevant organizations, the service calls for continued efforts to foster the development of national mine-action capacities in places where mines and explosive tail ends of war add up to a grim threat to the lives of the civilian population. The work of the UNMAS for the last 20 years has been motivated by the needs of affected individuals and adapted to the threat of hazards faced by humanitarians. 2021 Theme – "Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress"

### **2. International Day of Conscience 2021: 5 April**

- April 5 is celebrated all around the world as International Day of Conscience. Declared by the United Nations, this day is observed in order to self-reflect on our life and try and do the right things all the time. The purpose behind this was simple. People's conscience helps to act upon

certain situations in the best way possible. It also empowers to do better in society.

- The Federation of World Peace and Love launched a global campaign to declare the International Day of Conscience at the United Nations on February 5, 2019. It was endorsed by 185 nations and was translated into 41 languages. Then, the UN General Assembly adopted the draft resolution submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain called 'Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience' on July 25, 2019. This declared April 5 as the International Day of Conscience.
- International Day of Conscience is aimed at promoting peace and love throughout the world. It addresses all ages and all groups. It has an open-minded global strategy with a particular purpose to let the culture of peace root in people's hearts and minds.

### **3. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2021: 6 April**

- The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is an annual celebration of the power of sport to drive social change, community development and to foster peace and understanding.
- On 6 April 2020, the IDSDP will be a moment when the IOC and the whole Olympic Movement join the global effort to encourage everyone to be active and stay healthy at a time when the world is fighting an unprecedented health crisis, and when populations are being asked to stay at home to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- Sport and physical activity are essential to staying fit and healthy, especially in this time of uncertainty and social distancing. Physical activity improves mental health, helps beat negative thoughts, lowers stress and depression, and strengthens the immune system.

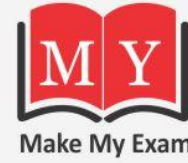
### **4. World Health Day 2021: 7 April**

- April 7 of each year marks the celebration of World Health Day. From its inception at the First Health Assembly in 1948 and since taking effect in 1950, the celebration has aimed to create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the World Health Organization.
- Each year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) selects a theme highlighting a particular priority area of public health. The theme for this year's global health awareness day is 'Building a fairer, healthier world'.

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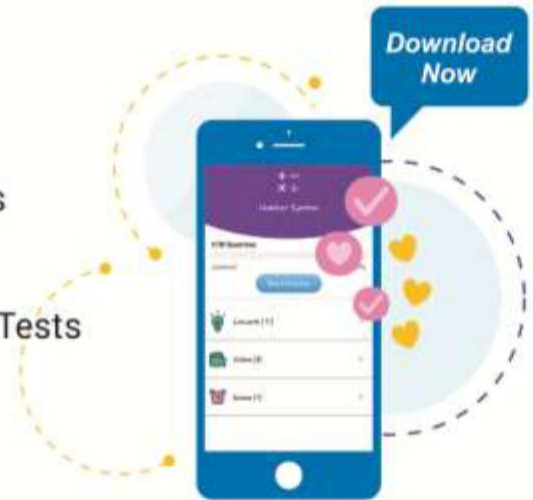
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