

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

FOR COMPETITIVE
EXAMS

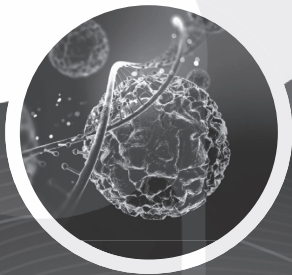


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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

FOR COMPETITIVE
EXAMS





**EDITION
YEAR 2021**



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NATIONAL EVENTS

Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passed away at 98

- ♦ Legendary actor Dilip Kumar, who was popularly known as the tragedy king of Bollywood, passed away on 7th July 2021. Doctors said Dilip Kumar suffered from advanced prostate cancer that had spread to other organs of his body. He suffered a drop in blood pressure and haemoglobin towards the end.

West Bengal presented Budget Financial Year 2021-22

- ♦ West Bengal government presented the budget for Financial Year 2022. It was tabled by chief minister Mamata Banerjee in the state assembly on July 7, 2021.
- ♦ **Key Features of the Budget :**
 - Budget emphasized social-sector expenditure and Covid reliefs.
 - Size of budget for next financial year has been kept at Rs 2,78,727 crore. It has been increased by 28.5% as compared to last year's budget.
 - Outlays for schemes such as Krishak Bandhu, students' credit cards and Lakhmi Bandhu scheme (basic income for women) have been increased.
 - Allocations for food & civil supplies and Covid relief have also been increased.
 - Capital expenditure for FY22 is expected to above ₹ 65,291 crore.
 - Budget has extended motor vehicle tax and additional tax exemption up to December 31, 2021, in because of covid-19.
 - 10% decrease in circle rate for registration of land and property deeds was announced up to October 30.
- ♦ **Revenue receipts & expenditure**
 - Revenue receipts were estimated at ₹ 1,86,661 crore while revenue expenditure was budgeted at ₹ 2,13,436 crore. The fiscal deficit for FY22 is expected to be 4% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) while the revenue deficit at 1.77%.
 - What are Receipts?
 - Money received by the government is called a receipt. It includes-money earned by the government, money received by the government in the form of borrowings or repayment of loans by states.
- ♦ **What is expenditure?**
 - Expenditure is divided into two heads- plan expenditure & non-plan expenditure. Plan expenditures are done in the name of planning. For example, expenditures on electricity generation, irrigation, rural developments, construction projects etc. Non-plan Expenditures are expenditures other than plan expenditures such as pensions, interest payments, statutory transfers to States & Union Territories etc.

PM Modi Launched E-100 Project

- ♦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched E-100 ethanol dispensing stations at 3 locations in Pune on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 6, 2021.
- ♦ It is launched for the production and distribution of ethanol across the country, because ethanol has a better impact on the environments as well as on the lives of farmers.

PM Modi Addressed on Event WED 2021

- ♦ PM Narendra Modi virtually addressed the World Environment Day (WED) 2021 event on June 6, 2021, which was jointly organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ♦ PM Modi also released the 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-25'.
- ♦ PM Modi has reset the target to achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025.

New Governors of different states appointed by the President

- ♦ President Ram Nath Kovind On July 6, 2021, appointed governors in eight states.
- ♦ The President of India is pleased to make the following appointments/Changes :
- ♦ I. Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Mizoram is transferred and appointed as Governor of Goa.
- ♦ II. Shri Satyadev Narayan Arya, Governor of Haryana is transferred and appointed as Governor of Tripura.
- ♦ III. Shri Ramesh Bais, Governor of Tripura is transferred and appointed as Governor of Jharkhand.
- ♦ IV. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot as Governor of Karnataka.
- ♦ V. Shri Bandaru Dattatraya, Governor of Himachal Pradesh is transferred and appointed as Governor of Haryana.
- ♦ VI. Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati as Governor of Mizoram.
- ♦ VII. Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel as Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- ♦ VIII. Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Government launches YUVA PM Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors

- ♦ The Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education has launched a new initiative called 'YUVA-Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors' on 29th May. YUVA stands for Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors.
- ♦ It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors, below 30 years of age to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- ♦ The young winning authors 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.

Pushkar Singh Dhama was sworn in as New Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

- ♦ Pushkar Singh Dhama was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- ♦ He was chosen the next CM of Uttarakhand in the BJP legislature party meeting held in Dehradun on 3 June 2021.
- ♦ Pushkar Singh Dhama will be the youngest Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Also, he will be the third chief minister of Uttarakhand in four months after political upheaval. He will replace Tirath Singh Rawat.
- ♦ 45-year-old Pushkar Singh Dhama is a two-time MLA from the Khatima constituency (first in 2012, next in 2017).
- ♦ Born in Pithoragarh district in 1975, Pushkar Singh Dhama has worked in different positions in the RSS and its affiliate bodies for 33 years. At present, he is also BJP's state vice-president.
- ♦ Dhama had served as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Bhagat Singh Koshiyari when he was the chief minister in 2001-2002.

Sameer Aggarwal -the new CEO of Walmart India

- ♦ Sameer Aggarwal is appointed as the CEO of Walmart India on 26th March, 2020 with effect from 1 April.
- ♦ Sameer Aggarwal received his post-graduation from the London Business School and is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

CM Dr Pramod Sawant announced Goa becomes the first state to go rabies-free

- ♦ Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant announced that Goa has become the first state in the country to be Rabies free. CM informed that not a single case of rabies had been found in the state for the last three years.
- ♦ The team of mission rabies had been very effectively doing its job and had been also conducting vaccination for dogs.
- ♦ As per information, no rabies cases were reported in the state in 2018. The progress came on the heels of Mission Rabies, a statewide drive in place since 2014 which saw almost one lakh dogs given the anti-rabies vaccine yearly, and an awareness campaign that educated 5.2 lakh school children and 23,000 teachers about the virus.
- ♦ This included 50,316 vaccinations administered and 78,437 students reached until August 31st this year alone.

RK Sabharwal honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star by his excellency

- ♦ Engineers India Limited (EIL) Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), RK Sabharwal has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star by his excellency.
- ♦ The President of Mongolia recognizes the outstanding contribution made by him towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia. On behalf of the government of Mongolia, this award was presented by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Mongolia to India, Gonching Ganbold, at a ceremony organised at the Embassy of Mongolia.

- ♦ The 'Order of Polar Star' is the most desirable and prestigious state award bestowed by the President of Mongolia which is highly valuable and distinguished and recognize individuals who have made an invaluable contribution with their outstanding hard work, intelligence and sincerity to the prosperity of Mongolia and its friendship with other nations, as well for outstanding contributions in the fields of arts, culture, science and humanity.

India's first maritime arbitration centre to be set up in Gandhinagar

- ♦ The Gujarat Maritime University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in GIFT City to set up the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).
- ♦ GIMAC will be the first of its kind centre in India to manage arbitration and mediation proceedings for disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector. It will be part of a maritime cluster that is being set up by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.
- ♦ There are over 35 arbitration centres in India. However, none of them exclusively deals with the maritime sector.
- ♦ The arbitration involving Indian players is now heard at the Singapore Arbitration Centre. The idea is to create a world-class arbitration centre focused on maritime and shipping disputes that can help resolve commercial and financial conflicts between entities having operations in India.

Ministry of Defence implements SPARSH System

- ♦ Ministry of Defence has implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension. This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
- ♦ A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension-related information, access services and register complaints about redressal of grievances, if any, relating to their pension matters.
- ♦ SPARSH envisages the establishment of Service Centres to provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason.
- ♦ In addition to several offices of the Defence Accounts Department, which are already functioning as Service Centres for pensioners, the two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – have been co-opted as Service Centres.

Delhi Govt launched Mukhyamantri C-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana

- ♦ Delhi government has launched "Mukhyamantri C-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana" to provide financial assistance to the families who lost a member due to the C-19 pandemic.
- ♦ According to notification by Social Welfare Department, ₹ 50,000 ex-gratia will be provided to every family that has lost a member amid a pandemic.

- ♦ A pension of ₹ 2,500 per month would also be given to those families that lost the sole breadwinner to the C-19 pandemic.
- ♦ Children who lost their both parents or single parent to C-19 will also be provided ₹ 2,500 per month till they achieve 25 years of age.
- ♦ The Delhi government will also provide free education to them.
- ♦ The event was organised by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and attended by its President, Secretary-General, Deputy Chef De Mission, Sports Secretary and DG Sports Authority of India (SAI). Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju was the chief guest at the event.

NTPC won recognition as India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021

Famous Tamil director Viswanathan passed away

- ♦ Veteran Tamil director Meenakshisundaram Ramasamy Viswanathan passed away at 74 years due to kidney failure on 22nd March in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ♦ In 1977, he directed his first movie Pattina Pravesam and was known for his message-driven family dramas.
- ♦ He directed many blockbusters like Samsaram Adhu Minsaram, Thirumathi Oru Vegumathi, Ketti Melam, Vaai Sollil Veerandi, Penmani Aval Kanmani, Rajathandhiram, Dowry Kalyanam, Sakalakaala Sambandhi, among others.

N Venudhar Reddy takes charge as Director General of All India Radio

- ♦ N Venudhar Reddy, an Indian Information Service, IIS Officer of 1988 batch took charge as Director General of All India Radio. Currently Working as Principal DG of News Services Division, All India Radio, he was given additional charge of AIR, upon the approval of the Appointments Committee of the cabinet. All India Radio, officially known since 1957 as Akashvani.
- ♦ Reddy brings with him vast experience in media planning and management, administration and newsgathering. He has also served in various capacities earlier with All India Radio News and Doordarshan News.

9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable to be hosted by India in 2022

- ♦ International Energy Forum (IEF) announced that India has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9). The 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable will be held in 2022. Dates of this conference will be announced later and it will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during 2018.
- ♦ The decision of India to be the host of this Energy Roundtable came after a virtual meeting between IEF Secretary-General Joseph Mc Monigle and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ♦ Chief executive officers of Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum Corp, in addition to senior officers from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, were also present at the meeting.

India's official Olympic theme song 'Lakshya Tera Samne Hai' released

- ♦ Ahead of the Tokyo Games, the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent was launched. Mohit Chauhan has composed and sung the song titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai".
- ♦ The Games will open on July 23 and over 100 Indian athletes have qualified for the event so far.

- ♦ For the first time, NTPC won recognition as India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021. It has been recognised as the 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th straight year by the Great Places to Work Institute. It has been ranked at 38th. It was ranked 47 last year.

- ♦ It also won its first-ever recognition of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021. NTPC, a Maharatna Community and Public Sector Unit work under the Ministry of Power. The PSU has also won the CII HR Excellence Role model award in March 2021. It is the highest award in the field of people management in the country.

- ♦ The 'Great Place to Work' certification is recognised worldwide and is considered the gold standard in identifying and recognising great workplaces with high trust and high performance cultures. It is the most definitive 'Employer of Choice' recognition certification that the organisation aim to achieve.

Vijay Rupani CM of Gujarat launched Agricultural Diversification Scheme

- ♦ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has virtually launched the 'Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021', to make agriculture sustainable and profitable in the tribal areas of the state. The scheme will benefit more than 1.26 lakh vanbandhu- farmers from 14 tribal districts in Gujarat.
- ♦ The state government would distribute fertiliser-seed assistance worth around Rs. 31 crores to tribal farmers, which will also include 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate.
- ♦ Gujarat government has already provided assistance of Rs. 250 crore to 10 lakh tribal farmers under this scheme in the last ten years.

Jamsetji Tata tops inaugural Philanthropists of the Century

- ♦ Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, Indian pioneer industrialist and founder of the Tata Group, has topped the inaugural, EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century list, which ranks the world's 50 most generous individuals in the last century. As per the report, the total donations made by Mumbai-based Jamsetji Tata is estimated at US\$102.4 billion. He is the only Indian among the top 10 list, compiled by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation.
- ♦ The only other Indian on the list of 50 global philanthropists is Azim Premji, former chairman of Wipro. He is ranked at 12th position. Bill Gates & Melinda French Gates ranked second with donations worth \$74.6 billion. They are followed by Henry Welcome (\$56.7 billion), Howard Hughes (\$38.6 billion), and Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion) respectively.

India was fifth largest recipient of FDI in 2020: UN Report

- ♦ As per the World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India was the fifth-largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the world in 2020.
- ♦ The country received USD 64 billion FDI in 2020, which is an increase of 27 per cent, over USD 51 billion inflows in 2019.
- ♦ The United States remained the largest recipient of FDI, although, the FDI inflow to the country decreased by 40 per cent, to \$156 billion, in 2020. China was the second-largest recipient with USD 149 billion FDI.
- ♦ The global FDI flows decreased by 35 per cent in 2020 to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion in 2019.

Rajasthan govt will set Vedic Education and Sanskar Board for Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas

- ♦ The Rajasthan government will soon set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas.
- ♦ The board is likely to be formed in the next four to five months.
- ♦ A committee, formed to define aims, objectives and functioning of the board, has submitted its report to the state government, Minister of State (MoS) for Sanskrit Education Subhash Garg mentioned, adding modules will be presented before the board based on the report.
- ♦ He stated the Vedic board would come into function after approval from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Government of India launched "Project O2 for India" initiative

- ♦ The government of India has launched 'Project O2 for India' to step up production of medical oxygen to meet the potential increase in demand due to further waves of the pandemic. 'Project O2 for India', an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI), aims to help stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet the rise in demand for medical oxygen.
- ♦ Under the project, a 'National Consortium of Oxygen' is enabling the supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.
- ♦ Besides, the consortium is also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

AISHE 2019-20 report released by Union Education Minister

- ♦ All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report has been released by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. As per AISHE in the last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), student enrolment has grown by 11.4%.
- ♦ As per AISHE, female enrolment in Higher Education has increased by 18.2% from 2015-16 to 2019-20. AISHE 2019-20 is the 10 in the series of All India Survey on Higher Education Department of Higher Education releases annually.
- ♦ Total Enrolment in Higher Education: It stands at 3.85 crores in 2019-20.

- ♦ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): It is defined as the percentage of students belonging to the eligible age group enrolled in Higher Education. It is 27.1% in 2019-20.
- ♦ Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education: It stands at 1.01 in 2019-20. It shows improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males.

Six Heritage Sites added to India's UNESCO World Heritage sites Tentative List

- ♦ The Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.
- ♦ The following six places have successfully entered the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.
 - Ganga Ghats of Varanasi,
 - Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu,
 - Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
 - Maharashtra Military Architecture
 - Hire Benkal Megalithic site,
 - Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh

Paramananda Majumder awarded with the Moghai Ojah award

- ♦ Eminent researcher and writer Dr. Paramananda Majumder was presented with the 10th Moghai Ojah Award at a function held at Jorhat Science Centre and Planetarium on 15th March, 2020.
- ♦ He was awarded for his significant role in raising issues of public interest and society's betterment.
- ♦ Majumder compiled the first book on the life and works of folk musician Moghai Ojah.

Anemia Mukt Bharat Index: Himachal in the third spot

- ♦ Himachal Pradesh has climbed to the third spot in the Anemia Mukt Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking with a score of 57.1.
- ♦ Himachal Pradesh was at rank 18 in the year 2018-19, but with consistent efforts of the government and the field functionaries, the state was able to achieve the third spot. Madhya Pradesh is in the first position with a score of 64.1 followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3.
- ♦ The prevalence of soil-transmitted helminths had decreased from 29% to 0.3% in a short span of three years.
- ♦ Anemia remains a major public health issue with high prevalence across the country irrespective of gender, age and geography.

First International Maritime Cluster of India to come up at GIFT City

- ♦ Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will set up the country's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City. The maritime cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity — GIFT City.
- ♦ GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services.

- ♦ This will be a first-of-its-kind commercial maritime services cluster in India, which has been conceptualised to enhance the competitiveness and self-sufficiency of India in the maritime sector and provide a one-stop solution for the entire maritime fraternity.

Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop hosted by IIT Madras

- ♦ Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop. Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS), the first national network in the field in Asia under the aegis of the International Memory Studies Association, Amsterdam.
- ♦ This international workshop on Memory Studies, the first of its kind in Asia, precedes the official launch of the Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS).
- ♦ The launch of the INMS will take place in mid-June 2021 through a virtual event at IIT Madras.

The third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 released

- ♦ The third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 was released by NITI Aayog on June 4, 2021. Since its inaugural launch in 2018, the index has been comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made by States and Union Territories towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Now in its third year, the index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the country and has simultaneously fostered competition among the States and Union Territories.
- ♦ NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Dr Rajiv Kumar launched the report titled, SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action, in the presence of Dr Vinod Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, and Ms Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs), NITI Aayog.
- ♦ Designed and developed by NITI Aayog, the preparation of the index followed extensive consultations with the primary stakeholders— the States and Union Territories; the UN agencies led by United Nations in India; Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), and the key Union Ministries.

Bihar to provide 33% reservation for Girls

- ♦ Female students in Bihar will get 33% reservation in seats of all engineering and medical colleges in the state, chief minister Nitish Kumar on June 3, 2021, announced. He was chairing a meeting via video conferencing where a presentation of proposed draft for the establishment of Bihar Engineering and Medical University.
- ♦ CM Nitish Kumar ordered the officials to implement the 33% reservation of seats for girls in the engineering and medical colleges, at the earliest. The reservation will be for the girls who are domicile of Bihar.
- ♦ The state government is already providing 35% reservation for females in all state government jobs. The reservation for girls in the technical colleges will encourage them to take admissions in these colleges and increase the enrolment ratio of girls, the CM said.

NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals India Index 2021

- ♦ NITI Aayog has released the third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 on 3rd June 2021.
- ♦ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.
- ♦ These are 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”.
- ♦ In the federal set up of India, States and UTs are the key partner and movers in achieving these goals for a better sustainable future for the country.
- ♦ NITI Aayog, as the nodal institution for SDGs, has striven to provide necessary encouragement and support to forge collaborative momentum among them.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Antarctica reports record high temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius: UN Agency

- ♦ The UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on July 1, 2021, confirmed a new record high temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius in Antarctica.
- ♦ With this record temperature, the WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said, “Antarctica has now become one of the fastest-warming regions in the world, registering a rise of almost three degrees Celsius in the last 50 years.”

China is certified malaria-free by the WHO

- ♦ Following a 70-year effort, China has been awarded a malaria-free certification from WHO (World Health Organisation) – a notable feat for a country that reported 30 million cases of the disease annually in the 1940s.
- ♦ China is the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than three decades. Other countries in the region that have achieved this status include Australia (1981), Singapore (1982) and Brunei Darussalam (1987).
- ♦ Globally, 40 countries and territories have been granted a malaria-free certification from WHO – including, most recently, El Salvador (2021), Algeria (2019), Argentina (2019), Paraguay (2018) and Uzbekistan (2018).
 - **Keys to success**
- ♦ China provides a basic public health service package for its residents free of charge. As part of this package, all people in China have access to affordable services for the diagnosis and treatment of malaria, regardless of legal or financial status.
- ♦ Effective multi-sector collaboration was also key to success. In 2010, thirteen ministries in China – including those representing health, education, finance, research and science, development, public security, the army, police, commerce, industry and information technology, customs, media and tourism – joined forces to end malaria nationwide.
- ♦ In recent years, the country further reduced its malaria caseload through strict adherence to the timelines of the “1-3-7” strategy. The “1” signifies the one-day deadline

for health facilities to report a malaria diagnosis; by the end of day 3, health authorities are required to confirm a case and determine the risk of spread; and, within 7 days, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent further spread of the disease.

China starts operating world's second-largest hydropower dam despite environmental damage warnings

- ♦ China began operating the world's second-largest hydropower station on June 28, 2021. The Chinese officials have hailed it as a milestone towards Beijing's carbon neutrality goals, despite the warnings of the environmental damage.
- ♦ Baihetan Hydropower Station has been built with a total installed capacity of 16,000 megawatts.
- ♦ The dam will eventually be able to generate enough electricity each day once to meet the power needs of 5,00,000 people for an entire year.
- ♦ The hydropower dam in China spans a deep, narrow gorge on the upper section of the Yangtze, the longest river in China, on the earthquake-prone border between Sichuan and Yunnan Province.

The world's first wooden satellite to be launched in 2021

- ♦ Artic Astronautics, a Finnish company will send the world's first wooden satellite into space by the end of 2021.
- ♦ The wooden satellite named WISA Woodsat, designed and developed in Finland is a cube-shaped nanosatellite scheduled to be launched on a Rocket Lab's Electron rocket in New Zealand in November 2021.
- ♦ This wooden satellite will help the scientists monitor how does wood reacts in the cold, heat, radiation, and the vacuum of space. If it survives well, then wood could become a possible material for use in space.

G7 Corporate tax deal

- ♦ The advanced economies of the G7 grouping which includes, the UK, the US, France, Germany, Canada, Japan, and Italy, reached a historic deal on taxing the multinational companies.
- ♦ The finance ministers of the world's most advanced economies met in London and agreed to counter the tax avoidance through the measures in order to make firms pay in the nations where they do business.
- ♦ The Ministers also agreed to ratify a global minimum corporate tax rate for countering the possibility of countries undercutting each other to attract investments.
- ♦ The corporate tax deal which was announced on June 5, 2021, with the involvement of G7 nations, is most likely to put forward before a G20 meeting in July 2021. It will be discussed in detail at a meeting of G20 financial ministers and central bank governors.

Philippines included in FATF grey list

- ♦ Philippines has been included in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). FATF has released its grey list of jurisdictions that will be subjected to increased monitoring.
- ♦ In addition to the Philippines, Haiti, Malta, and South Sudan have also been added to the grey list. Now, these

jurisdictions will be required to submit progress reports to the FATF thrice a year.

- ♦ The Philippines was removed from the blacklist of FATF in 2005. It was previously included in FATF's blacklist in 2000.
- ♦ What is the FATF grey list? FATF grey list is the list in which jurisdictions under increased monitoring are placed.
- ♦ If a jurisdiction is placed under increased monitoring, this means that jurisdiction is committed to resolving strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes.
- ♦ Jurisdictions under the FATF grey list actively work with FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regime to fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

China ends two-child policy, allows couples to have three children

- ♦ China has decided to allow each couple to have up to three children, ending its strict two-child policy. The change was approved by Chinese President Xi Jinping in a politburo meeting.
- ♦ This comes after China's population data over the past decade showed the slowest population growth in decades.

UN Report states World Economy to go into recession

- ♦ According to UNCTAD, world economy will go into economic crisis.
- ♦ However, it has exempted India and China, which they have predicted to be less affected.
- ♦ IMF launches Government Policy Tracker
- ♦ "IMF Policy Tracker" is a platform for all governments to fight against COVID-19.
- ♦ All updates will be based on press release of the communication department.

Ashgabat most expensive city for foreign workers in the world

- ♦ Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan in Central Asia, has been named the world's most expensive city for foreign workers. The city topped the list in a 2021 cost-of-living survey by consultancy firm Mercer. Hong Kong was on the second position, followed by Beirut in Lebanon and Tokyo in Japan.
- ♦ The annual report ranks 209 cities based on the cost of expenses like housing, food and transport. Most of the cities in the top 10 are those where economic growth has contributed to an increase in the cost of living. Three are Swiss cities, of which Zurich dropped to fifth, followed by Shanghai and Singapore. London was placed 18th.
- ♦ Ashgabat is known for its magnificent marble buildings and monuments. It is also home to one of Central Asia's most colourful bazaars called Tolkuchka Bazaar.
- ♦ Other tourist attractions include the National Museum, White Marble, Turkmenbashi Cableway, Museum of Fine Arts, Alem Cultural and Entertainment Center, and Turkmen Carpet Museum.
- ♦ Mumbai remains India's most expensive city at 78th rank but has dropped 18 places in this year's ranking "due to a relatively weak Indian rupee in comparison with other cities in the ranking." Other Indian cities on the list are

New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata (181).

World Bank Approved 125 million financial support for Kerala

- ♦ The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$125 million support for the 'Resilient Kerala Program' to help the state in preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks, and pandemics.
- ♦ The \$125 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14 years including a grace period of six years.
- ♦ The heavy monsoons of 2018 were the worst Kerala had seen in nearly a century, triggering devastating floods and landslides. It impacted more than 5 million people, mainly in the Pamba River Basin.

Nikol Pashinyan elected as Armenia Prime Minister

- ♦ Armenia's acting prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, kept power in a parliamentary election that boosted his authority despite being widely blamed for a military defeat last year in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.
- ♦ Nikol's Civil Contract party won 53.92% of the votes cast.
- ♦ An alliance led by his rival, ex-leader Robert Kocharyan, came second with 21%, according to the results based on ballots from 100% of precincts counted.
- ♦ Kocharyan was Armenia's president from 1998 to 2008.

India and Bhutan jointly launched TIWB

- ♦ India and Bhutan have jointly launched the "Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)".
- ♦ TIWB programme aims to strengthen tax administrations among developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors and by sharing general audit practices & dissemination of knowledge products with them.
- ♦ This programme is another milestone in the relationship between India and Bhutan. It will be completed in 24 months' duration.
- ♦ Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) initiative was launched in 2015. Its main aim is to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity.

World Investment Report 2021: India was the fifth-largest recipient of FDI in 2020

- ♦ As per the World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India was the fifth-largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the world in 2020.
- ♦ The country received USD 64 billion FDI in 2020, which is an increase of 27 per cent, over USD 51 billion inflows in 2019. The United States remained the largest recipient of FDI, although, the FDI inflow to the country decreased by 40 per cent, to \$156 billion, in 2020. China was the second-largest recipient with USD 149 billion FDI.
- ♦ The global FDI flows decreased by 35 per cent in 2020 to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion in 2019.

Satya Nadella as the new chairman of Microsoft

- ♦ Microsoft Corp, named Chief Executive Officer, Satya Nadella as its new chairman. He took over as the software giant's CEO in 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer.
- ♦ He is credited with bringing new energy to the company, founded in 1975. The company also appointed former chairman John Thompson as a lead independent director.
- ♦ The top-level executive change comes just over a year after Gates stepped down from the board, saying he would focus on philanthropic works of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the world's biggest charities.

Ebrahim Raisi wins Iran's 2021 Presidential Election

- ♦ Ebrahim Raisi has won the 2021 Iranian presidential election, winning 62 per cent of the vote with about 90 per cent of ballots counted.
- ♦ The 60-year-old Raisi will succeed Hassan Rouhani in August 2021, to begin his four-year term.
- ♦ He is also the Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019.

Guillermo Lasso has sworn in as the President of Ecuador

- ♦ Guillermo Lasso On 24 May 2021 assumed the office of the President of Ecuador.
- ♦ He is the country's first right-wing president in 14 years.
- ♦ Guillermo Lasso, leader of the centre-right CREO party had won Ecuador's Presidential Elections 2021 with over 52 per cent of votes against Andres Arauz.
- ♦ Ecuador is a country straddling the equator on South America's west coast.

2021 NATO Summit Held in Brussels, Belgium

- ♦ The leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) held a face-to-face summit on NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The 2021 Brussels summit of NATO was the 31st formal meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the alliance.
- ♦ The summit of the 30-member NATO group was held as a part of U.S. President Joe Biden's first foreign trip since he took office.
- ♦ All the leaders agreed on the "NATO 2030" agenda, a comprehensive initiative to make sure that the alliance remains ready to face future challenges.
- ♦ The agenda also states that NATO has to strengthen political consultation and the resilience of society, reinforce defence and deterrence, sharpen the technological edge, and develop its next Strategic Concept in time for the summit in 2022.
- ♦ The bloc agreed on a new cyber defence policy, to ensure that the bloc has strong technical capabilities, political consultations, and military planning in place to "keep its systems secure."

Moctar Ouane becomes new PM of Mali

- ♦ Moctar Ouane is reappointed as Prime Minister of Mali.
- ♦ He was appointed as Prime Minister of the caretaker government in August 2020 after the removal of Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.
- ♦ Ouane to form a new government with room for the political class, under the instructions of President Bah N'Daw.

- ♦ In April 2021, Mali's interim government had announced that it would hold a constitutional referendum on October 31 and an election in February 2022.
- ♦ Mali is facing a political crisis due to disputed legislative elections and economic crisis due to economic stagnation, corruption, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Naftali Bennett is Israel's new Prime Minister

- ♦ Naftali Bennett, the former Defence Minister of Israel, and leader of the Yamina party took oath as the Prime Minister of the country.
- ♦ The 49-year-old former tech entrepreneur replaces Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been forced out of office after 12 years (2009 to 2021). Netanyahu is the longest-serving PM of Israel.
- ♦ Bennett to lead a new coalition government, formed with Yair Lapid, head of the centrist Yesh Atid party.
- ♦ The new Coalition government have to run on a rotation basis, which means that Bennett would serve as Israel's prime minister until September 2023, following which Lapid would take charge of the office, for the next two years, until 2025.

Israel has become the World's First Mask-Free Country from June 15

- ♦ Israel has become the world's first mask-free country in the Corona period. Here the rule of applying masks in closed places came to an end from June 15, 2021. This was announced by Israel's Health Minister Yuli Edelstein. The rule of applying masks outside has already been abolished in the country. However, most restrictions related to foreign travel have not yet been lifted. For example, travel to nine countries is still banned.
- ♦ There was a rule of quarantine for travellers coming from these countries. His corona test was also being done.

El Salvador becomes the first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender

- ♦ El Salvador has become the first country in the world to grant legal tender status to bitcoin. The use of bitcoin as legal tender will become law in 90 days.
- ♦ El Salvador's economy heavily relies on remittances and so those who are working abroad can send money back home in bitcoins. The use of bitcoin will be optional.
- ♦ It will bring financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation and economic development to the country.

Italy hosted the Global G 20 Health Summit

- ♦ The Global G20 Health Summit was hosted by Italy as part of its G20 presidency along with co-host European Commission amid the surge and spread of the coronavirus cases.
- ♦ Event also had the presence of big drugmakers of the world. Rich nation leaders and big drugmakers promised to do more to bridge the startling divide in fighting COVID-19, with an increased flow of badly-needed vaccines to poorer regions.
- ♦ The summit adopted the agenda to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. It also decided to develop and endorse a Rome Declaration of principles.

- ♦ In Rome Declaration, the leaders called for voluntary licensing and technology transfers to boost vaccine production. But there was no consensus on a contested push by the United States and other nations for pharmaceutical companies to waive valuable patents.
- ♦ G20 has also contributed to the launch of ACT-Accelerator as it was launched after G20 called for a global mechanism to accelerate the development of tests, treatments.

UNION BUDGET 2021-22

- ♦ The Union Minister of Finance has presented the Budget 2020-21. The Budget, with the central theme of ease of living for all citizens, is based on three prominent themes:
 - ♦ Aspirational India – better standards of living with access to health, education and better jobs for all sections of the society
 - ♦ Economic Development for all – “Sabka Saath , Sabka Vikas , Sabka Vishwas”.
 - ♦ Caring Society – both humane and compassionate; Antyodaya as an article of faith.
- ♦ **Achievements of Indian Economy:**
 1. India is now the fifth largest economy of the world.
 2. 4% average growth clocked during 2014-19 with inflation averaging around 4.5%.
 3. 271 million people raised out of poverty during 2006-16.
 4. India's Foreign Direct Investment elevated to US\$ 284 billion during 2014-19 from US\$ 190 bn during 2009-14.
 5. Central Government debt reduced to 48.7% of GDP (March 2019) from 52.2% (March 2014).
- ♦ **Two cross-cutting developments:**
 1. Proliferation of technologies (Analytics, Machine Learning, robotics, Bioinformatics and Artificial Intelligence).
 2. Highest ever number of people in the productive age group (15-65 years) in India.
 3. GST removed many bottlenecks in the system.
- ♦ **Aim of the union budget:**
 1. To achieve seamless delivery of services through Digital governance.
 2. To improve physical quality of life through National Infrastructure Pipeline.
 3. Risk mitigation through Disaster Resilience.
 4. Social security through Pension and Insurance penetration.
 5. Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development.
 6. The Govt. has announced 16 point agenda for all round development of rural India.
 7. To achieve this, Rs. 2.83 lakh crore to be allocated for the following 16 Action Points:
 8. Rs. 1.60 lakh crore for Agriculture, Irrigation & allied activities.
 9. Rs. 1.23 lakh crore for Rural development & Panchayati Raj.
- ♦ **Major action plans for sustainable development of rural India are:**
 - ♦ Mobilizing Agriculture credit of Rs. 15 lakh crore target set for the year 2020-21.

- ♦ Comprehensive measures for 100 water-stressed districts proposed.
- ♦ Under Blue Economy Fisheries exports worth Rs. 1 lakh Cr is set by 2024-25.
- ♦ 200 lakh tonnes of fish production by 2022-23.
- ♦ 3477 Sagar Mithras and 500 Fish Farmer Producer Organisation.
- ♦ Kisan Rail to be setup by Indian Railways through PPP. This will build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables (milk, meat, fish, etc.) Also Express and Freight trains are proposed to have refrigerated coaches.
- ♦ Krishi Udaan was proposed to be launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Under this both international and national routes to be covered. North-East and tribal districts will be focused to realize Improved value of agri-products.
- ♦ **One-Product One-District :**
- ♦ It will help in better marketing and export in the Horticulture sector.
- ♦ Balanced use of all kinds of fertilizers – traditional organic and innovative fertilizers
- ♦ Measures for organic, natural, and integrated farming:
- ♦ Organic products market to be strengthened through Jaivik Kheti Portal. Zero-Budget Natural Farming to be included.
- ♦ Integrated Farming Systems in rain-fed areas to be expanded.
- ♦ Multi-tier cropping, bee-keeping, solar pumps, solar energy production in noncropping season to be added.
- ♦ **Expansion of PM-KUSUM :**
- ♦ 20 lakh farmers to be provided for setting up stand-alone solar pumps.
- ♦ Another 15 lakh farmers to be helped to solarise their grid-connected pump sets.
- ♦ Scheme to enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their fallow/barren lands and to sell it to the grid.
- ♦ **Village Storage Scheme:**
- ♦ Will be run by the SHGs to provide farmers a good holding capacity and reduce their logistics cost.
- ♦ NABARD to map and geo-tag agri-warehouses, cold storages, reefer van facilities, etc.
- ♦ Viability Gap Funding for setting up such efficient warehouses at the block/taluk level.
- ♦ Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to undertake such warehouse building.
- ♦ Financing on Negotiable Warehousing Receipts (e-NWR) to be integrated with e-NAM.
- ♦ State governments who undertake implementation of model laws (issued by the Central government) to be encouraged.
- ♦ Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016.
- ♦ Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017.
- ♦ Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018.
- ♦ Livestock – Doubling of milk processing capacity to 108 MMT from 53.5 MMT by 2025.

♦ **Wellness, Water and Sanitation:**

- ♦ PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)
- ♦ Viability Gap Funding window proposed for setting up hospitals in the PPP mode.
- ♦ Aspirational Districts with no Ayushman empanelled hospitals to be covered in the first phase.
- ♦ TB Harega Desh Jeetega campaign launched to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025.
- ♦ Under Jal Jeevan Mission Rs. 11,500 Cr allocated for the year 2020-21.
- ♦ Under this augmenting local water sources, recharging existing sources and promoting water

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO to help parliamentary panel to implement satellite TV Classrooms for school students

- ♦ Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for the satellite TV classrooms in the country.
- ♦ The decision will further help in bridging the learning gap due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown.
- ♦ The scientists from ISRO emphasized that the organization is ready to provide satellite rights to the state to start the satellite TV Classrooms but asked if the 'States will be willing to use the technology'.

Sirisha Bandla to become second Indian-born woman to fly to space

- ♦ Indian-origin Sirisha Bandla is set to become the second Indian-born woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla. The Indian-American astronaut will be one of the six crew members aboard Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic flight 'VSS Unity', which is scheduled to blast off to space on July 11, 2021 from New Mexico.
- ♦ Sirisha Bandla was born in Andhra Pradesh and grew up in Houston. Speaking on the mission, Bandla said that she is incredibly honored to be a part of the amazing crew of #Unity22, and to be a part of a company whose mission is to make space available to all. She will be astronaut number 4 on the crew.

European Space Agency to Launch 'EnVision' Mission to Venus in 2030

- ♦ European Space Agency (ESA), is now developing its own probe to study Venus, for holistic view of planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere. The mission dubbed as "EnVision" will probably be launched to the planet in early 2030.
- ♦ EnVision probe of ESA will determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, even while being in the habitable zone to the Sun.
- ♦ ESA will undertake this mission with contributions from NASA.
- ♦ EnVision spacecraft will carry a range of instruments to study the planet's atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition. NASA would provide a radar to image and map the surface.

Scientists detected New Source of Gravitational waves

- ♦ Scientists have detected gravitational waves produced by collision of neutron star and black hole for the first time.
- ♦ Gravitational waves ripples were detected in fabric of space-time.
- ♦ This finding shows that there are neutron star-black hole systems. This system will help in answering several questions regarding cosmos ranging from star formation to expansion rate of universe.

Genome sequencing of COVID-19 by Indian Institute

- ♦ Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, CSIR and Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology have jointly started genome sequencing of COVID-19.
- ♦ This will help determine the whole DNA sequence of the virus and also reveal its family tree.

Biofortified carrot developed aimed at benefitting local farmers

- ♦ Madhuban Gajar, a biofortified carrot variety has been developed by Shri Vallabhbhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, who is a farmer scientist from Gujarat.
- ♦ The carrot contains high percentage of beta-carotene and iron.

NASA sets up the first human base camp on moon

- ♦ Under the Artemis program, NASA aims at landing humans on moon by 2024.
- ♦ The Artemis base camp will be set up at South Pole of the moon.
- ♦ FDA approves Convalescent plasma transmission to treat people from Coronavirus.
- ♦ USFDA approved the Convalescent plasma transmission method for treating patients infected with COVID-19.
- ♦ This process has been used previously for treating H1N1, SARS and MERS.
- ♦ On transfusion of plasma, there has been marked decrease in fever within 3-5 days.

Mars 2020 rover named as Perseverance

- ♦ The rover has a code name as Mars 2020.
- ♦ This name was suggested by Alexander Mather, a class 7th student.

Saturn overtakes Jupiter with most moons

- ♦ Astronomers team lead by Dr Scott Sheppard have spotted 20 moons of Saturn, which has added up to a total of 82 moons.
- ♦ The discovery used Subaru telescope set up in Hawaii.

UV Disinfection Tower set up by DRDO

- ♦ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed UV blaster, which is an UV disinfection tower.
- ♦ This will work fast and is chemical free.
- ♦ The tower will have 6 UV lamps that will work for a 12 x 12 feet room when left on for 10 min and 30 min.

SpaceX to launch first manned flight to International Space Station in 2020

- ♦ SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket will launch the Crew Dragon from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

- ♦ It will carry Russian astronauts, Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley.

Microsoft Launched new Windows operating system 'Windows 11'

- ♦ Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system 'Windows 11'. It is being called as the "next generation" of Windows. The release comes nearly six year after the current latest Windows Operating System 'Windows 10' was launched in July 2015.
- ♦ Windows 11 is special because it focuses on a new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance, including a centre-aligned Taskbar and Start button.
- ♦ One of the unique features of Windows 11 is that it will support Android apps via Amazon's app store. It will work better in touch mode as well.
- ♦ Windows 11 operating system (OS) will be available as a free upgrade for Windows 10 users in late 2021, as long as the user has a compatible PC that meets the requirements of www.toprankers.com Microsoft's new operating system.

Astronomers found iron raining exoplanet

- ♦ An exoplanet, named WASP-76b, has been discovered by astronomers of Spain's Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands, where it rains iron.
- ♦ It was discovered using ESPRESSO satellite.

ARI-526, a hybrid grape variety has been developed by ARI

- ♦ Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) has developed a hybrid grape variety named as ARI-526.
- ♦ This is a high yielding variety with disease resistance.
- ♦ This variety was developed by crossing Vitis labrusca and Vitis vinifera.

Adam Castillejo- second patient who was cured from HIV

- ♦ The Lancet HIV journal has published curing of the second HIV patient from UK.
- ♦ He underwent bone marrow transplant from a donor who had a rare genetic disorder that offered protection against HIV.

Researchers develop 3D map for COVID19

- ♦ University of Texas have developed the first 3D map as a part of virus.
- ♦ It shows the part of a virus which is called as the spike protein that attaches to the human cell and infects it.

SpaceX wins NASA Award

- ♦ SpaceX wins NASA Award for planned lunar space station.
- ♦ SpaceX will launch its biggest rocket, Falcon Heavy to send the spacecraft named as Dragon XL.
- ♦ ATULYA, the microwave sterilizer has been developed by Defense Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune for disintegration of coronavirus.
- ♦ Coro-bot is a robot developed by Pratik Tirodkar that aims at reducing the physical contacts between the COVID-19 infected patients and healthcare workers.
- ♦ NASA renamed its headquarters after Mary W. Jackson.

- ♦ “Unisaviour” is a disinfectant box developed by IIT Roorkee which has the ability to disinfect gloves, PPE kits, personal belongings, etc.
- ♦ Brazil’s Amazonia-1 satellite was launched by ISRO using PSLV launch vehicle.
- ♦ Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission launched by NASA through Atlas V rocket.
- ♦ World’s largest Solar Tree has been developed by CSIR – CMERI at Durgapur, WB.
- ♦ Nokia has partnered with NASA for building cellular networks in moon by 2024 under its Artemis program. The first broadband communications system will be build in 2022 in the lunar space.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Japan to hold first joint air force exercises with Philippines

- ♦ Embassy in Manila On 1 July 2021 announced that the air forces of Japan and the Philippines will hold their first-ever joint exercises.
- ♦ This exercise between the two countries will be conducted from July 5 to 8, 2021.
- ♦ The exercise being considered as significant milestone will be conducted at Clark Air Base, formerly a United States military facility in the northern Philippines.
- ♦ The exercise is being held for air-to-air bilateral training in humanitarian and disaster relief.
- ♦ It will include a Japanese C-130H cargo aircraft and its personnel which together with Philippine airmen will simulate delivery of relief goods in isolated areas.
- ♦ The exercises will include a Japanese C-130H cargo aircraft and its personnel which together with Philippine airmen will simulate delivery of relief goods in isolated areas.
- ♦ It should be known that Japan and the Philippines are both natural disaster-prone countries.
- ♦ Maj. Mizuno Masaki, unit commander of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force, said in a statement, there is so much we can share on disaster relief operations for saving lives.
- ♦ There is grave reality also that US allies Japan and the Philippines have both been at odds with China over the conduct of its vessels and aircraft in the East and South China seas.
- ♦ To be noted that other US allies have already taken greater steps to preserve freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, including navy patrols, amid growing Chinese militarization.
- ♦ Japan came to the aid of the Philippines also in 2013 after the devastation caused by super typhoon Haiyan.
- ♦ The Philippines signed an agreement to forge closer defense ties in January 2015, and the two countries have since conducted 17 joint naval drills.
- ♦ Japan has also transferred defense and technology equipment that could help the Philippines boost patrols in the South China Sea.

Indian Army to procure 1,750 Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles

- ♦ The Indian Army on June 24, 2021 issued the Request for Information (RFI) to finalise the specifications for acquiring

1,750 Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles (FICVs) and 350 light tanks under the Make in India initiative.

- ♦ The Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles will help carry troops to conflict zones and they will also have the capability of destroying enemy tanks.
- ♦ The Indian Army plans to deploy the combat vehicles in posts such as Eastern Ladakh along with desert and amphibious terrain.

Indian Navy-European Union Naval Force held first joint exercise in Gulf of Eden

- ♦ In a first, the Indian Navy participated in a joint naval exercise with the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) in the Gulf of Eden. A total of five warships from four navies participated in the exercise on June 18 and 19, 2021.
- ♦ Indian Naval ship Stealth frigate INS Trikand participated in the two-day exercise as it was already deployed in the region on an anti-piracy operation.
- ♦ According to the statement by the Indian Navy, the other warships in the naval exercise included Spanish Navy Ship ESPS Navarra, Italian Navy Ship ITS Carabinere, and two French Navy Ships FS Surcouf and FS Tonnerre.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approves Rs. 498.8 crores budgetary support for Defence Innovation

- ♦ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on June 13, 2021, gave his approval to the budgetary support of Rs. 498.8 crores to the innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)- Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) for the next 5 years.
- ♦ As per the press release, the approved budgetary support will provide a big boost to the ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’ of PM Modi as iDEX-DIO has the primary objective of self-reliance and indigenisation in defence and aerospace sector of the country.

Operation Samudra Setu launched by Indian Navy

- ♦ Samudra Setu operation was launched to bring back stranded Indian in Maldives.
- ♦ Indian ships involved are Jalashwa and Magar.

Operation Namaste launched to fight against COVID19

- ♦ In Operation Namaste, the Indian government aims at combating the pandemic by establishing 8 quarantine centres so far.

Defence Minister launches draft of Defence Procurement Procedure, 2020

- ♦ This new Procurement Procedure aims at increasing the indigenous manufacturing units.
- ♦ The first ever ordinance factory was established in Kolkata in 1801.

Stockholm international report stating India has 2nd largest importer of arms

- ♦ In the report “Trends in International arms transfers 2019” published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute ranks India 2nd in importing arms.
- ♦ The largest supplier to India is Russia.

RalDer-X: Explosion detection device developed by DRDO

- ♦ RalDer-X detects explosives that are pure in form.
- ♦ The device is also capable of detecting explosives from a distance.

ICGS Varad: First major defence ship of India to clear all acceptance trials

- ♦ ICGS Varad is an offshore patrol vessel commissioned at Chennai port.
- ♦ It was built by L&T at Kattupalli near Chennai.

DRDO successfully test-fires Agni-Prime missile off the coast of Odisha

- ♦ According to the officials of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Agni-Prime is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni Class of Missiles.
- ♦ As per the Government Sources, India on June 28, 2021, successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile of the Agni series known as Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- ♦ Reportedly, India successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile of the Agni Series known as Agni-Prime at 10.55 am on June 28, off the coast of Odisha. The new nuclear-capable missile is fully made up of composite material and it was a textbook launch.
- ♦ Various telemetry and radar stations positioned along the eastern coast tracked and monitored the missile which met all the mission objectives with a high level of accuracy.

Indian Army inducts Short Span Bridging System

- ♦ Army Chief General MM Naravane on July 2, 2021, inducted the first lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System into the Indian Army during a ceremony held at Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt. A total of 100 of these systems will be inducted into the Army over the next two years.
- ♦ Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Chairman DRDO and Secretary Department of Defence R&D was present at the occasion. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Indian Army, DRDO, and the industry on the successful induction of the system.
- ♦ This short span bridge is fully Made in India. Its production has been done by L&T & designed by DRDO. This is another step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat. This bridge will boost the ability of the Army.

Light gun machine procurement deal signed with Israeli firm

- ♦ Rs 880 crore deal has been signed between Defence Ministry of India and Israel Weapons Industries firm to procure Negev light gun machine.
- ♦ These guns will increase the range of the soldiers.

83 Tejas flights to be procured by DAC

- ♦ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 83 Tejas fighter planes along with defence equipments.
- ♦ Tejas aircrafts are manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

Women officers to get permanent commission

- ♦ Now women navy officers will get permanent commission in Navy as per the Supreme Court judgement on 17th March, 2020.

- ♦ The bench was headed by DY Chandrachud.

VAJRA patrol vehicle launched

- ♦ VAJRA is the 6th patrolling vessel for being vigilant in the Exclusive Economic Zone.
- ♦ The vessel will lookout for anti-terrorist and smuggling operations.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awards	Awardee
128th Commonwealth Points of Light Award winner	Jadav Payeng
MS Swaminathan Award	V Praveen Rao
Hemingway Award	Kawai Strong Washburn
IIFTC Tourism Impact Award	Zoya Akhtar
2019 Road Safety Media Fellowship Award	Prachi Salve and Pradeep Dwivedi
Ugandas Highest Civilian Award	Rajesh Chaplot
National Award	DRDO
2019 FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year	Lalremsiami
SERB Women Excellence Award-2020	Dr Shobhna Kapoor; Dr Antara Banerjee; Dr Sonu Gandhi; Dr Ritu Gupta
34th Cannes Open	D Gukesh
'Central Banker of the Year 2020' for the Asia-Pacific region	Shaktikanta Das
1st Mathrubhumi Book of the Year Award	Vinod Kumar Shukla
Lifetime Achievement Award by IOC	Pullela Gopichand
Dan David Prize 2021	Past – Bashford, Katharine Park, Keith Wailoo Present – Anthony Fauci Future – Zelig Eshhar, Carl June, Steven Rosenberg
Miss Diva Universe 2020	Adline Castelino
National e-Governance Award	Rail Madad
Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award 2021	Rafael Nadal
Mystic Kalinga Literary Award	Manoj Das
Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service	Dr Gutta Muniratnam
World Games Athlete of the Year Award	Rani Rampal
Miss Teen International 2020	Jadyn Luberto

Awards	Awardee
Global Child Prodigy Award 2020	Sucheta Satish & Ishwar Sharma
29th Saraswati Samman	Vasdev Mohi
Merck Young Scientist Award 2019	Sakya Singha Sen
Cisco Youth Leadership Award 2019	Priya Prakash
1st Prize at the Republic Day Parade, 2021	Ram Temple tableau of Uttar Pradesh
Plastic Waste Management Award 2020	Assam's Dibrugarh district
Miss Universe for the year 2021	Andrea Meza
Nikkei Asia Prize 2020	Thalappil Pradeep
Pulitzer Prize 2021- Feature photography	Emilio Morenatti
DW Freedom of Speech Award 2021	Tobore Ovuorie
Startup India-Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge awards (For value added products)	Krushak Mitra Agro Services Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
Order of Rising Sun (conferred by Japanese govt.)	Shyamala Ganesh
Young Career Award in Nano Science & Technology	Professor Saurabh Lodha
Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy 2021	Vice Admiral AK Chawla
SKYTRAX Award 2020	Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
1st Indian to win Fed Cup Heart Award 2020	Sania Mirza
NYIPLA "Inventor of the Year award 2021"	Rajiv Joshi
Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2021	Kanya D'Almeida
Medal of the Order of Australia	Shobha Sekhar
NASA Distinguished Service Medal	Renjith Kumar
EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2021	JungJin SEO
Richard Dawkins Award 2020	Javed Akhtar
World Food Prize 2021	Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted
e-Panchayat Puraskar 2021	The Uttar Pradesh government

Awards	Awardee
BET 2020 Humanitarian Award	Popstar Beyonce
Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020	Rajinikanth
Paul Harris Fellow recognition	Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami
Von Karman Award 2020	ISRO
Global Humanitarian Awards 2020- Top Publicist	Sachin Awasthi
Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021	Rumana Sinha Sehgal
Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity	Greta Thunberg
SKOCH Gold Award	Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)
National Award to Teachers 2020	Ms. Sudha Painuli
Indira Gandhi Peace Prize	Sir David Attenborough
Asia Game Changer Award 2020	Chef Vikas Khanna
Dayton Literary Peace Prize's lifetime achievement award 2020	Margaret Atwood
Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education	Narendra Modi
SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award	Sonu Sood
Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing	Kerala Tourism
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine	Harvey J. Alter(America), Charles M. Rice (America) and Michael Houghton (Britain)
Nobel Prize in Physics 2020	Roger Penrose
Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna
Nobel Prize in Literature	Louise Glück
Nobel Peace Prize for 2020	World Food Programme
Wildlife Photographer of the Year award 2021	Thomas Vijayan
Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020	Dr Jajini Varghese

SPORTS

Maana Patel- First Indian Female Swimmer to qualify Tokyo 2020 Olympics

- ♦ Maana Patel has become the first female and only the third swimmer from India to qualify Tokyo Olympics 2021 ticket.

- ♦ Maana Patel joins Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash to have qualified for the Olympics.
- ♦ She is a 21-year-old backstroke swimmer from Ahmedabad who have won gold medals in 50 metre backstroke and 200 metre backstrokes at National Games.
- ♦ She also won gold in 100 metre backstrokes at 60th National School Games (2015) and broke the national record in backstroke.
- ♦ She was selected for Olympic Gold Quest in 2015 making it the first time a swimmer was roped in.
- ♦ In 2018, she secured three gold medals at 72nd Senior National Aquatic Championships.

Mumbai, Pune to host 2022 women's Asian Cup

- ♦ Women's Asian Cup in India will be held in Mumbai and Pune after the Asian Football Confederation dropped Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad as venues to minimize the travelling time for participants and ensure an "optimum environment" for a bio-secure bubble.
- ♦ The Mumbai Football Arena at the Andheri Sports Complex and the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune have been chosen as the new venues.
- ♦ The decision was taken after considering the existing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of efforts to minimize the travelling time for teams and officials between the venues, whilst ensuring the optimum environment to implement the biomedical bubble for the benefit of all stakeholders.

12-year-old Abhimanyu Mishra becomes Youngest Grandmaster

- ♦ Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest ever Grandmaster on June 30, 2021.
- ♦ He achieved this title at just 12 years, four months and 25 days.
- ♦ He leaved behind the record of Russian Grand Master Sergey Karjakin. Sergey had completed his GM title in 2002 at the age of 12 years and seven months.
- ♦ Abhimanyu scored his third and final norm by defeating Leon Mendonca of India in penultimate round of Vezerkepzo GM tournament at Budapest.
- ♦ Abhimanyu was born in New-Jersey and has broken 19-year-old record.
- ♦ He achieved this feat at April Vezerkepzo tournament and May 2021 tournament.

Veteran Athlete Milkha Singh passes away

- ♦ Indian Athlete Milkha Singh passed away at the age of 91 due to Covid-19 related complications on June 18, 2021.
- ♦ Captain Milkha Singh, known as The Flying Sikh, was an Indian track and field sprinter. He was introduced to sport while serving the Indian Army. He is the only athlete who won gold in 400 metres race at Asian Games & Commonwealth Games.
- ♦ During the 1960 Olympic Games, he finished to fourth-place in 400 metres final. Several records were broken in race. He finished to fourth-place in 45.73 seconds which was an Indian national record for almost 40 years.

China to host Asian Youth Games 2021

- ♦ The Asian Youth Games will continue between 20-28 Nov, 2021.

- ♦ It will be held in Shantou city, China.

Amidst COVID-19 pandemic, Wimbledon is cancelled

- ♦ Wimbledon matches supposed to start from 29th June, 2020, has been rescheduled due to the current pandemic situation.

Saurashtra wins Ranji Trophy

- ♦ It was first time in 70 years, Saurashtra wins Ranji Trophy.

ICC women's world cup lifted by Australia

- ♦ Australian women's team lifts the ICC T20 world cup for the fifth time after defeating India.
- ♦ Australia won by 85 runs.

4th in FIH ranking: Indian Hockey team

- ♦ Indian Hockey team of men entered the 4th position in FIH ranking.
- ♦ In the Pro League series, India won a total of 6 matches.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 now shifted to UAE & Oman

- ♦ CC Men's T20 World Cup, originally slated to be held in India, will now be shifted to the UAE. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which holds the hosting rights of this year's event, will inform the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard. The T20 World Cup was postponed last year due to the pandemic.
- ♦ The BCCI will remain the hosts of the event, which will now be held in Dubai International Stadium, the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, the Sharjah Stadium, and the Oman Cricket Academy Ground, from 17 October to 14 November 2021.

New Zealand won first ICC World Test Championship

- ♦ New Zealand defeated India to win the first ICC World Test Championship. New Zealand chased down the target of 139 to win the first-ever World Test Championship final with eight wickets in hand.
- ♦ The last day of the match was played on June 23, 2021. The match saw 6 days play in place of the regular 5 days due to the rain factor. Kyle Jamieson (NZ) has been adjudged as the "Player of the match", while Kane Williamson (NZ) is the "Player of the series".

Novak Djokovic wins French Open Tennis Title 2021

- ♦ Novak Djokovic defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas to lift the French Open title for the second time in his career. Djokovic, with his 19th Grand Slam title, has closed in on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal on the all-time Grand Slam titles list.
- ♦ Both the players have won 20 Grand Slams each. Djokovic has also become the first man in the Open Era to complete the career Grand Slam twice. (He has won the Australian Open nine times, Wimbledon five times, and the US Open three times.)
- ♦ He has become the first man in 52 years, after Rod Laver, to win all the four Grand Slams twice. Overall, he is the third male tennis player to achieve this unique feat. The third being Roy Emerson.

Khelo India Youth Games Highlights

- ♦ Maharashtra wins maximum gold with 28 medals with total of 107 medals.

- ♦ It is followed by Haryana with 23 gold medals and total of 73 medals.
- ♦ The third spot was taken by UP and Delhi with 48 medals each.
- ♦ Kerala won 28 medals, Gujarat won 35 medals, MP won 27 medals, Tamil Nadu won 38 medals, Manipur won 25 medals, and West Bengal won 22.

Irfan Pathan retires from all forms of cricket

- ♦ Irfan has played a total of 120 ODIs, 24 T20 matches, and 29 test matches.
- ♦ He is an all-round player.
- ♦ He was also named as the Emerging Player of the Year for the year 2004 by ICC.

World rapid chess championship won by Koneru Humpy

- ♦ Koneru Humpy has been awarded Padmashri in 2007 and Arjuna Award in 2003.
- ♦ She quit chess in 2016 but later rejoined to win many titles.
- ♦ She won the world rapid chess championship in 2019 against China's Lei Tingjie.

World cup- T20

- ♦ 2020 T20 World Cup is to be held at Australia followed by India in 2021.
- ♦ Namibia and Papua New Guinea are the two new entrants of the game this year.
- ♦ Other participating nations are: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Oman, Netherlands, Ireland, Namibia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Scotland, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and West Indies.

Afghanistan and Bangladesh Test Match

- ♦ The test match was conducted at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram. This was the only test match to be played in this stadium.
- ♦ Afghanistan won the match by 224 runs.

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2

- ♦ Series of matches are to be played between Aug 2019 and Jan 2022.
- ♦ By far 28 matches, have been played and rest cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and weather issues.

Grand Slam 2020- Australian Open

- ♦ **Venue:** Melbourne, Victoria, Australia from 20th Jan to 2nd Feb 2020.
- ♦ **Men's single:** Novak Djokovic, Serbia (winner); Dominic Thiem, Austria (runner's up)
- ♦ **Women's singles:** Sofia Kenin, US (winner); Garbine Muguruza, Spain (runners up)
- ♦ **Men's doubles:** Rajeev Ram, US and Joe Salisbury, UK (winners); Max Purcell and Luke Saville, Australia (runners up).
- ♦ **Women's doubles:** Timea Babos, Hungary and Kristina Mladenovic, France (winner); Taipei Hsieh Su-wei, China and Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic (runners up)
- ♦ **Mix doubles:** Barbora Krejickova, Czech Republic and Nikola Mekti, Croatia (winners); Bethanie Mattek-Sands, US and Jamie Murray, UK (runners up)
- ♦ **Boy's singles:** Harold Mayot, France (winner); Arthur Cazaux, France (runners up)

- ♦ **Girl's singles:** Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva, Andorra (winner); Weronika Baszak, Poland (runners up)
- ♦ **Boy's doubles:** Nicholas David Ionel, Romania and Leandro Riedi, Switzerland (winners); Mikolaj Lorens, Poland and Karlis Ozolins, Latvia (runners up)
- ♦ **Girl's doubles:** Alexandra Eala, Philippines and Priska Madelyn Nugroho, Indonesia (winners); Ziva Falkner, Slovenia and Matilda Mutavdzic, UK (runners up)

Badminton championship postponed till 2021:

- ♦ The world championship for Badminton will be held at Carolina Marin. Stadium in Huelva, Spain.
- ♦ The championship date has been postponed to November, 2021.
- ♦ FIFA U-17 women's World Cup has been postponed till 2021 because of the pandemic.
- ♦ NADA App has been recently launched by National Anti-Doping Agency. The application will bridge the gap between the players and the agency by offering information on dope-test, prohibited substances, and so on.
- ♦ India withdrew from women's world team Squash championship that is schedule during 15-20 Dec 2020 at Kuala Lumpur.
- ♦ Indian Police Officer, Poonam Khatri has claimed World Championship status after her silver medal at the Wushu World Championship last year has been upgraded to a Gold medal.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Authors
A Commentary and Digest on The Air, Act 1981	Dr K.K. Khandelwal
The Bloomsbury Anthology of Great Indian Poems	Abhay K
Karmayoddha Granth	Amit Shah
Paramveer Parwane	Prabhakaran Jain
'Karmayoddha Granth'	Vivek Prakashan
Exam Warriors (Braille Edition)	Narendra Modi
Mind Master (Autobiography)	Viswanathan Anand and Susan Ninan
Hemant Karkare: A Daughter's Memoir	Jui Karkare
The Unquiet River: A biography of the Brahmaputra	Arupjyoti Saikia
Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years	Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan
Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924	Vikram Sampath
Changing India	Manmohan Singh
We are Displaced	Malala Yousafzai
My Life, My Mission	Baba Ramdev

Books	Authors	Books	Authors
Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly	Anupam Kher	Happy for No Reason	Mandira Bedi
Making of New India	Dr. Bibek Debroy	Low	Jeet Thayil
The Third Pillar	Raghuram Rajan	The New World Disorder and the Indian Imperative	Shashi Tharoor
Being Gandhi	Paro Anand	Politics of Opportunism	RPN Singh
Game Changer	Shahid Afridi	Relentless (Autobiography of Yashwant Sinha)	Yashwant Sinha
I Am HIV Positive. So what	Jayanta Kalita	An era of darkness: The British empire in India	Shashi Tharoor
The Ministry of Utmost Happiness	Arundhati Roy	Half the night is gone	Amitabha Bagchi
Indira Gandhi – A Life of Nature	Jairam Ramesh	Chronicles of change champions	Smriti Irani
American Dirt	Jeanine Cummins	Chosen Champion- Air awakens: Vortex chronicles	Elisa Kova
House of Earth and Blood	Sarah J. Maas	We are Displaced	Malala Yousefzai
The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes	Suzanne Collins	The 108 Upanishads: An introduction	Roshen Dalal
Dear Edward	Ann Napolitano	COVID Katha	Harsh Vardhan
My Dark Vanessa	Kate Elizabeth Russell	Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero	Neha Dwivedi and VN Thapar
Long Bright River	Liz Moore	Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of A Modern Royal Family	Royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand
One of Us Is Next	Karen M. McManus	Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City	Fang Fang
You Are Not Alone	Greer Hendricks	Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes	Ruskin Bond
A Good Neighborhood	Therese Anne Fowler	The Ickabog	JK Rowling
Untamed	Glennon Doyle	Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India	Amish Tripathi
The Shadows Between Us	Tricia Levenseller	One Year of Modi 2.0 – Towards A Self-Reliant India	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Followers	Megan Angelo	Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends	V Pattabhi Ram
Weather	Jenny Offill	Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver	Urjit Patel
The City We Became	N. K. Jemisin	‘His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography	Tenzin Geyche Tethong
Wow, No Thank You	Samantha Irby	A Song of India	Ruskin Bond
Minor Feelings	Cathy Park Hong	If It Bleeds	Stephen King
Godshot	Chelsea Bieker	The Endgame	S Hussain Zaidi
The Mirror & the Light	Hilary Mantel	Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India	Viral V.Acharya
Children of the Land	Marcelo Hernandez Castillo		
Here for It	R. Eric Thomas		
Writers & Lovers	Lily King		
The Resisters	Gish Jen		
I Know You Know Who I Am: Stories	Peter Kispert		
A Long Petal of the Sea	Isabel Allende		
The Power Notebooks	Katie Roiphe		
Uncanny Valley	Anna Wiener		
Real Life	Brandon Taylor		
Shuggie Bain	Douglas Stuart		
Apartment	Teddy Wayne		
Made in India: A Memoir by Milind Soman	Roopa Pai		
Happy Birthday, World	Ruskin Bond		

Books	Authors
The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World	S Jaishankar
Vishesh: Code To Win	Nirupama Yadav
Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World	Dalai Lama
One Arranged Murder	Chetan Bhagat
Who painted my lust red?	Sree Iyer
The Big Thoughts of Little Luv	Karan Johar
Let Us Dream	Pope Francis
My Life in Design	Gauri Khan
Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction	Arundhati Roy
A Promised Land	Barack Obama
Kitchens of Gratitude	Vikas Khanna
Voices of Dissent	Romila Thapar
Discovering the Heritage of Assam	Padampani Bora
The Battle of Belonging	Shashi Tharoor
Bye Bye Corona	Anandiben Patel

PERSONALITIES

Personalities' description	Name
He received Mahavir Chakra and served during 1962 and 1971 war against Pakistan and liberation of Bangladesh.	Air Vice Marshall Chandan Singh Rathore
He has entered Limca Book of Records for conquering highest volcanoes. He already holds Guinness Book of World Records, India Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, British Book of records and Champion Book of Records.	Satyarup Siddhanta
Record for longest single spaceflight by woman. She was onboard ISS from March, 2019 and arrived on earth in Feb, 2020.	Christina Koch
New foreign secretary as India's ambassador to US.	Harsh Vardhan Shringla
Appointed as new CMD of NALCO by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by the PM	Sridhar Patra
Appointed as the brand ambassador for National anti-doping Agency	Sunil Shetty

Personalities' description	Name
World's youngest serving PM in Finland following resignation of Antti Rinne.	Sanna Marin
New appointed Chairman of National Stock Exchange. He is a retired IAS officer.	Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
Named as Plogman of India by Kiren Rijiju, Ministry of Youth Affairs. He has been cleaning cities/towns while jogging.	Ripu Daman Bevl
New President of Mauritius. He was the former culture and arts minister.	Prithvirajsing Roopun
Appointed as the new 24th Controller General of Accounts, with effect from 1st Dec, 2019.	Soma Roy Burman
He is the new chair of Micro-finance Panel	H R Khan
13th Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court	Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan
Named the Honorary Trustee of New York City's The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the largest U.S. art museum.	Nita Ambani
Prime Minister of Mauritius for 5th term.	Pravind Jugnauth
8th Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court. He has succeeded Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal who is presently the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.	Justice Muhammad Raffiq
43rd Chief Justice of Patna High Court	Justice Sanjay Karol
Chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India	Aditya Mishra, IPS
Elected as the first Lieutenant Governor of new Union Territory of Ladakh on 31st October, 2019.	Radha Krishna Mathur
First Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.	Girish Chandra Murmu
Elected as new director general of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He is from Argentina.	Rafael Mariano Grossi
Appointed as 47th Chief Justice of India	Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde
Appointed as new power secretary	IAS officer Sanjeev Nandan Sahai

Personalities' description	Name
Chief executive officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	Pankaj Kumar
New NSG Chief	IPS Anup Kumar Singh
Vice-Chairman of World Steel Association (Worldsteel)	Sajjan Jindal
First IAF pilot to complete wingsuit skydive jump	Tarun Chaudhri
Forbes India Rich List for 2020	Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, Reliance Industries Limited

PLACES

Places	Name
Named after PM Vajpayee	Rohtang Pass tunnel
Reemergence of Ebola	Congo
First Special Economic Zone at Sabroom	Tripura
Chain of island that is voted for a referendum of independence from Papua Guinea.	Bougainville
Crickets stadium of Lucknow renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee.	Lucknow
It will host the fourth edition of Asian Para Games in 2022.	Hangzhou
Singphan Elephant Reserve of Nagaland declared as elephant reserve	Nagaland
First Asian data centre of Facebook to be opened at Singapore.	Singapore
World's largest bird sculpture of Jatayu inaugurated	Kollam
Host of Tennis Tournament	Sydney and Brisbane
2nd city of China to attain 99% electric taxis	Shenzhen
Named as World Capital of Architecture for the year 2020 by UNESCO and UIA.	Rio de Janeiro
Discovery of world's oldest known natural pearl that dates back to 5800-5600 BC.	Abu Dhabi Island
107th Indian Science Congress	Bengaluru
27th edition of South Asian Trade and Travel Exchange Expo (SATTE) 2020	New Delhi
India's first war memorial for animals	Meerut

Places	Name
Topped Swachh Survekshan list	Indore
31st International Kite Festival	Ahmedabad
India's first World Heritage City tag by UNESCO	Ahmedabad
A new cross-regional anti-disinformation initiative launches in the Balkans	Balkans
Ranked 1st as World's best tourist place by Lonely Planet.	Petra
Badminton Asia Championship to be held at Philippines capital, Manila	Manila
Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020 was held here. Tasnim Mir and Mansi Singh of India has won the bronze medal each in the girls' singles Badminton event.	Haarlem, Netherlands
Khelo India University Games concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Bhubaneswar, Odisha
5th edition of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and	Luxembourg
Economic Cooperation) Summit 2020	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Inauguration of Pension Adalat and National Pension System Awareness and Grievance Redressal Programme	Jammu
First country to make public transport free of cost.	Luxembourg
Lock Heed Martin AEHF-6 satellite was launched on the Atlas V551 rocket from Cape Canaveral.	Cape Canaveral, Florida
Native Fury: biennial exercise between US Marines and UAE Emirati forces	Abu Dhabi
50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic	Davos, Switzerland
Forum	Davos, Switzerland
Buxa Bird Festival	Alipurduar, West Bengal
Children's Innovation Festival	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Fit India Cyclothon and Goa 2020 National Games	Panaji, Goa
Parshuram Kund Mela begins in Arunachal Pradesh	Parshuram Kund

Places	Name
World's largest meditation centre was inaugurated at Kanha Shanti Vanam	Hyderabad, Telangana
ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2020	Potchefstroom, South Africa
Men-only land of Japan to get UNESCO World Heritage Site	Okinoshima
India's first carbon neutral city	Majuli
The city of Uttar Pradesh in which the Prime Minister inaugurated the first of the four multi-modal terminals on Ganga river as a part of Jal Marg Vikas project	Varanasi
The place in France where a World War - I memorial constructed by the Govt of India was inaugurated by the Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu	Villers Guislain
The place in Andhra Pradesh where setting up of a Central Tribal University has been approved by the Union Cabinet	Reli, Vizianagaram
The places in Madhya Pradesh and Assam where National Institute of Design were inaugurated through video conferencing in New Delhi	Bhopal and Jorhat
The venue of first ever Drone Olympics, a competition for UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) held from 18 to 21 February 2019	Bengaluru
The emirate of UAE which has declared Hindi to be its third official language in its courts to make the justice delivery simple	Abu Dhabi
The venue of Swachhata Shakti Convention 2019 of 16,000 women Swachhata Champions from across the country	Kurukshetra
The place in Haryana where the state-of-art National Cancer Institute was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi	Jhajjar
The European nation which has signed an accord to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation becoming its 30th member	Macedonia

Places	Name
The place in West Bengal where Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court having jurisdiction over four districts namely Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar	Jalpaiguri
The new name of the capital city Astana of Kazakhstan in the honour of outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev	Nursultan
The place in Uttar Pradesh at which the foundation stone of National Institute of Unani Medicine was laid by Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Ghaziabad
First city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals	Dadar, Mumbai

COMPANIES

What's in news?	Companies
Rahul Bajaj steps down as the Executive Chairman of Bajaj Group.	Bajaj Group
Jio launches Jio Wi-Fi calling, i.e. known as VoWiFi.	Jio
The company has been declared as the world's largest IPO at 25.6 million USD.	Saudi Aramco
Google partners with Skill India to tap the job market of India.	Google
The JSW Energy Limited acquires GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited. The acquisition has been approved by CCI (Competition Commission of India)	JSW Energy Limited
Tata Power along with Norway's Clean Energy Invest and International Financial Corporation started operation of 178 MW hydropower project in Georgia.	Tata Power
Amazon announces pickup point at Kolkata's Sealdah railway station.	Amazon India
Reliance is all set to use plastics in construction of roads, as an initiative to recycle the used plastics.	Reliance Industries
Tech Mahindra has set up Google cloud centre of excellence in Hyderabad.	Tech Mahindra

What's in news?	Companies
Microsoft pledges to reduce carbon emission and be carbon negative by 2030.	Microsoft
Adani group buys 75% stake in Krishnapatnam port at an enterprise value of 13,500 crores.	Adani Group
Ashok Leyland signs 2 years deal with Yes Bank for vehicle financing	Ashok Leyland
BHEL commissions India's first lignite based 500 MW thermal plant.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
ONGC gets clearance from Ministry of Environment for setting up onshore exploration project in Assam.	ONGC
NTPC aims at investing 50,000 crores for a 10 GW solar capacity by 2022.	NTPC
Wipro to launch skill training platform for training 10,000 engineering students.	Wipro
Competition Commission of India approves acquisition of a majority stake in GAL by the Tata Group and its 2 overseas partners.	GMR Airports Limited
ITI group enters into the cloud services business, such as Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), Software as a Service (SaaS) and Storage as a Service (STaaS)	ITI Limited
Sikha Sarma appointed as new advisor	Google Pay India
Krishnan Ramachandran appointed as new MD and CEO	Max Bupa Health Insurance
Leo Puri to be the new chairman	JP Morgan South Asia and South East Asia
Aiman Ezzat appointed as new CEO	Capgemini Group
Thierry Delaporte is the new CEO & MD	Wipro
WhatsApp chatbot launched	Reliance Industries Ltd

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Literacy Day: 08 September

- ♦ Established by: UNESCO
- ♦ First observed in: 1966
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond Importance of literacy in the world

2. World Habitat Day: 1st Monday of October (01 October)

- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ First observed: 1986
- ♦ Theme: Housing For All -- A Better Urban Future

3. International Day of Non-Violence: 02 October

- ♦ Established by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ First Observed in: 2007

4. World Teacher's Day: 05 October

- ♦ Established by : UNESCO
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Leading in crisis, re-imagining the future
- ♦ First Observed in: 1994
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Shaping Peace Together

5. World Post Day: 09 October

- ♦ Established by : Universal Postal Union
- ♦ First Observed in: 1969
- ♦ Theme of 2020: We Have Always Delivered

6. International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October

- ♦ Established by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: My voice, our equal future
- ♦ First Observed in: 2012

7. World Sight Day: 12 October (2nd Thursday of October)

- ♦ Established by : International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Hope In Sight.
- ♦ First Observed in: 2000

8. International Day of Disaster Reduction: 13 October

- ♦ Established by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: it's all about governance
- ♦ First Observed in: 2010

9. World Development Information Day: 24 October

- ♦ Established by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ First Observed in: 1972
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Information and Communications Technologies — New Solutions to Development Challenges

10. United Nations Day: 24 October

- ♦ The day marks the coming into effect of the UN Charter (the founding document of UNO) in 1945. The United Nations has declared climate change the defining issue of our time. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has repeatedly called on us all to be leaders in the fight against climate change.
- ♦ Theme of 2020: "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism".

11. World Day for Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October

- ♦ Established by : UNESCO
- ♦ First Observed in: 2005
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Your Window to the World

12. Vigilance Awareness Week: 28 October to 02 November

- ♦ Theme of 2020: Vigilant India, Prosperous India

13. World Science Day for Peace and Development: 10 November

- ♦ Designated by : UNESCO
- ♦ Theme: Science for and with society in dealing with COVID-19
- ♦ First Observed in: 2001

14. World Diabetes Day: 14 November

- ♦ Designated by : International Diabetes Federation
- ♦ First Observed in: 1991 by IDF, adopted by UN in 2006
- ♦ Theme of 2020: “The Nurse and Diabetes.”

15. International Day for Tolerance: 16 November

- ♦ Designated by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ First observed in : 1995
- ♦ The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence awarded every two years. The Prize may be awarded to institutions, organizations or persons, who have contributed in a particularly meritorious and effective manner to tolerance and non-violence.
- ♦ UNESCO awarded the 2020 edition of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence to the nongovernmental Centre Résolution Conflits (Centre for Resolution of Conflicts - CRC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo on 15 October 2020.
- ♦ The international Jury of the Prize recommended the CRC in recognition of its work for the defence of human rights, its “tireless commitment to the rescue of child soldiers from militia groups, and their rehabilitation and reintegration into their home communities. CRC also brings together communities from different tribes to live together in peace by conducting special training for this purpose.”

16. World Philosophy Day: (3rd Thursday of Nov) 16 November

- ♦ Designated by : UNESCO
- ♦ First Observed in: 2002
- ♦ Theme of 2020: The importance of philosophy in times of crisis

17. World Toilet Day: 19 November

- ♦ Designated by : World Toilet Organisation
- ♦ Theme or 2020: Sustainable sanitation and climate change
- ♦ First Observed in: 2001 by World Toilet Organisation and accepted by UN in 2013

18. Universal Childrens' Day: 20 November

- ♦ Designated by : UN General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Time to focus on impact of climate change, COVID-19 on our young ones.
- ♦ Day established in: 1954

19. World Television Day: 21 November

- ♦ Designated by : UN General Assembly
- ♦ Day established in: 1997
- ♦ Them of 2020: TV makes a difference

20. World Fisheries Day: 21 November

- ♦ Designated by : World Fisheries Forum
- ♦ Theme of 2020 in India: Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain
- ♦ First Observed in: 1997

21. International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 November

- ♦ Designated by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect
- ♦ First Observed in: 2000

22. National Milk Day: 26 November

- ♦ Designated by : Indian Dairy Association
- ♦ Occasion: Birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien
- ♦ First Observed in: 2014

23. World AIDS Day: 01 December

- ♦ Designated by: World Health Organisation
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact
- ♦ First Observed in: 1988

24. International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 03 December

- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Building back better: towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with disabilities
- ♦ First Observed in: 1992

25. International Volunteer Day: 05 December

- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Together We Can Through Volunteering
- ♦ First Observed in: 1986

26. World Soil Day: 05 December

- ♦ First launched by: International Union of Soil Sciences (2002)
- ♦ Endorsed by: Food and Agricultural Organisation (Jun 2013)
- ♦ Accepted by: United Nations General Assembly (Dec 2013)
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity

27. International Civil Aviation Day: 07 December

- ♦ Established by : International Civil Aviation Organisation (1994)
- ♦ Adopted by : United Nations General Assembly (1996)
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development

28. United Nations Human Rights Day: 10 December

- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights
- ♦ First Observed in: 1948

29. International Mountains Day: 11 December

- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Mountain biodiversity
- ♦ First Observed in: 2003

30. International Universal Health Coverage Day: 12 December

- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly

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- ♦ Theme of 2020: Health for all: protect everyone
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2017
- 31. International Migrants Day: 18 December**
- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2020: Re-imagining Human Mobility
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2000
- 32. World Wetlands Day: 02 February**
- ♦ Designated by: Ramsar Convention Secretariat
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Wetlands and Water
 - ♦ First Observed in: 1997
- 33. World Cancer Day: 04 February**
- ♦ Designated by: Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
 - ♦ Theme: I am and I Will (for 2019-21)
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2000
- 34. Safer Internet Day: 05 February**
- ♦ Designated by: European Union
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Together for a better Internet
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2004
- 35. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation: 06 February**
- ♦ Designated by: U.N.O.
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2013
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation
- 36. World Pulses Day: 10 February**
- ♦ Designated by: U.N.O.
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2019
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Love Pulses
- 37. International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February**
- ♦ Designated by: U.N.O.
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2016
- 38. World Radio Day: 13 February**
- ♦ Designated by: UNESCO
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: New World, New Radio
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2013
- 39. World Day of Social Justice: 20 February**
- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2008
- 40. International Mother Language Day: 21 February**
- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2008
- 41. Rare Disease Day: 28 February (Last day of February)**
- ♦ Designated by: European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS)
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2008
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Rare is many. Rare is strong. Rare is proud
- 42. Zero Discrimination Day: 01 March**
- ♦ Designated by: UNAIDS
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2014
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Zero Discrimination against Women and Girls
- 43. World Wildlife Day: 03 March**
- ♦ Designated by: United Nations General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2014
- 44. World Hearing Day: 03 March**
- ♦ Designated by: W.H.O.
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Hearing care for ALL!
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2007
- 45. International Women's Day: 08 March**
- ♦ Designated by: U.N.O.
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Choose To Challenge
 - ♦ First Observed by UN in: 1975
- 46. World Kidney Day: 14 March**
- ♦ Designated by: International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF)
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Living Well with Kidney Disease
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2006
- 47. World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March**
- ♦ Designated by: Consumers International
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Tackling Plastic Pollution
 - ♦ First Observed in: 1983
- 48. International Day of Happiness: 20 March**
- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2013
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Happiness For All, Forever
- 49. International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination: 21 March**
- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: "Youth standing up against racism"
 - ♦ First Observed in: 1966
- 50. International Day of Forests: 21 March**
- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2013
- 51. World Poetry Day: 21 March**
- ♦ Designated by: UNESCO
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2000
- 52. World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March**
- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: CONNECT
 - ♦ First Observed in: 2012
- 53. World Water Day: 22 March**
- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
 - ♦ Theme of 2021: Valuing Water
 - ♦ First Observed in: 1993

54. World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March

- ♦ Designated by: WHO
- ♦ Theme of 2021: The Clock is Ticking
- ♦ First Observed in: 1982

55. International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims: 24 March

- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
- ♦ First Observed in: 2011

56. International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade: 25 March

- ♦ Designated by: UN General Assembly
- ♦ First Observed in: 2008
- ♦ Theme of 2021: Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice

57. World Theatre Day: 27 March

- ♦ Designated by: International Theatre Institute, France
- ♦ First Observed in: 1961

58. International Labour Day: 1 May

- ♦ Theme: TBA
- ♦ Celebrated since : 1889

59. World Press Freedom Day: 3rd May

- ♦ Theme of 2021: Information as a Public Good

60. World Hand Hygiene Day: 5 May

- ♦ Theme of 2021: Hygiene at point of care

61. World Thalassaemia Day: 8 May

- ♦ Theme of 2021: Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community

62. International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May

- ♦ Theme of 2021: We're part of the solution
- ♦ It is celebrated to raise awareness on biodiversity and its significance.

63. International Day of UN Peacekeepers: 29 May

- ♦ Theme of 2021: The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security

64. World Environment Day: 6 June

- ♦ Theme of 2021: Ecosystem Restoration
- ♦ Hosting country for 2021: Pakistan

65. World Day Against Child Labour: 12 June

- ♦ Theme of 2021: Act now: end child labour

66. World Food Safety Day: 7 June

- ♦ Theme of 2021: Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow

67. World Hydrography Day: 21 June

- ♦ Theme of 2021: 100 years of international cooperation in hydrography
- ♦ Adopted by: International Hydrographic Organization

68. National Doctor's Day: 1st July

- ♦ Theme of 2021: Save The Saviours

69. World Population Day: 11th July

- ♦ Theme: Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls.
- ♦ Theme of 2021: Rights and Choices are the answer: Whether baby boom or bust, the solution to shifting

fertility rates lies in prioritizing the reproductive health and rights of all people.

70. World Youth Skills Day, 15 July

- ♦ Theme of 2020: Skills for a Resilient Youth

71. World Biofuel Day: 10th August

- ♦ Theme of 2020: Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat

72. International Youth Day: 12th August

- ♦ Theme of 2020: Youth Engagement for Global Action

73. World Water Week: 24-28th August

- ♦ Theme of 2020: Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action

74. National Nutrition Day: 01 September

- ♦ Theme of 2020: addressing the nutritional needs and healthy eating practices.

75. World Ozone Day: 16 September

- ♦ Established by: United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ First observed in: 1987
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection

76. International Day of Peace: 21 September

- ♦ Established by: United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ First observed in: 1982
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Shaping Peace Together

77. World Tourism Day, 27 September

- ♦ Established by: United Nations WTO
- ♦ First observed in: 1970
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Tourism and Rural Development

78. World Health Day: 29 September

- ♦ Established by: WHO
- ♦ First observed in: 1950
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Support nurses and midwives

79. International Day of Older Persons: 01 October

- ♦ Established by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ First Observed in: 1991
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?

80. World Mental Health Day: 10 October

- ♦ Established by : World Health Organisation
- ♦ Theme of 2020: increased investment in mental health.
- ♦ First Observed in: 1992

81. International Day of Rural Women: 15 October

- ♦ Established by : United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19
- ♦ First Observed in: 2008

82. World Food Day: 16 October

- ♦ Established by : Food and Agricultural Organisation
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future
- ♦ First Observed in: 1980

83. International Day for Eradication of Poverty: 17 Oct.

- ♦ Established by : United Nations General Assembly

- ♦ Theme of 2020: Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all
- ♦ First Observed in: 1993

84. World Cities Day: 31 October

- ♦ Established by : UN General Assembly
- ♦ Theme of 2020: Valuing Our Communities and Cities
- ♦ First Observed in: 2014

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device – AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.
2. In view of the growing problem related to children affected by COVID-19, The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development stated the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has devised an online tracking portal “Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)” for children in need of care and protection.
3. Aimed at empowering small and marginal farmers, who constitute 86 per cent of India’s farming community, the Common Services Centres (CSC) has unveiled a unique Agri Services Portal that will act as a one-stop destination and marketplace for them.
4. Union Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Mansukh Mandaviya in the presence of Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant inaugurated the second floating jetty at Old Goa virtually on the occasion of Goa statehood day.
5. The Health Minister has launched the revamped Central Government Health Scheme, CGHS and the Umbrella schemes of Rashtriya ArogyaNidhi, RAN and Health Minister’s Discretionary Grant, HMDG on NHA’s platform, making them cashless, paperless and the citizen centric.
6. GST Council forms 8 member panel under to examine GST exemption on Covid material
7. WHO labelled Two Covid-19 Variants in India as ‘Kappa’ and ‘Delta’
8. The Union Cabinet has approved the draft of Model Tenancy Act (MTA) for adoption and enactment by States and Union Territories to promote rental housing in the country.
9. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Seed Minikit Programme by distributing Seed Minikits, higher yielding varieties of seeds to farmers.
10. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch Senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) project to select, support and create a “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
11. India’s government will bring forward to 2023 from 2025 the possibility of fuel companies selling gasoline containing up to 20% of ethanol (E20), according to brokers and a publication in the country’s official gazette.
12. ‘National AI Portal’ celebrated its first anniversary on May 28, 2021.
13. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying announced integration of eGopala App with UMANG platform so that 3.1 Crore users of Umang platform will get access to App.
14. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presided over a virtual ceremony in which a number of initiatives were launched to provide major fillip to the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative, and help India leap ahead towards a greener.
15. The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ announced that the government has decided to extend the validity period of the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualifying certificate from 7 years to lifetime with retrospective effect from 2011.
16. Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur launched the six modules of short films of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled “Hisaab Ki Kitaab”
17. The IncomeTax Department launched its new e-filing portal www.incometax.gov.in.
18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) till Diwali this year to ensure free ration is provided to those in need.
19. Central government has raised upper ceiling for family pension from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1, 25,000 per month to provide ‘ease of living’ for the family members of the deceased employees and would provide adequate financial security to them.
20. Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will set-up the country’s first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City.
21. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar launched an awareness campaign on single use plastic 2021 on the occasion of World Ocean Day.
22. The government has allotted over Rs 40,700 crore for solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) in more than two lakh villages in the financial year 2021-22 under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBMG)
23. The Central Government, approved the construction of 3.61 lakh new houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U).
24. Defence Minister noted that, motto of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan is to Make in India and Make for World.
25. The Central government increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif crops for the 2021-21 crop season (July-June) by an average 3.7 per cent as compared to the previous year with the maximum hike reserved for pulses and oilseeds to encourage farmers to shift from paddy.
26. The Ministry of Labour and Employment announced that the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) would extend benefits of its health insurance cover to all casual and contractual workers at municipal bodies.
27. Union Health Ministry’s National Telemedicine Service – eSanjeevani has crossed another milestone by completing 6 million (60 lakh) consultations through more than 375 online OPDs. Currently, the National Telemedicine Service is operational in 31 States/Union Territories.

28. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay has launched its new Centre for Digital Health – the first-of-its-kind in India. The 'Koita Centre for Digital Health' (KCDH) was launched with a generous contribution received from its alumni Rekha and Rizwan Koita, under the aegis of the Koita Foundation.
29. Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla released stamp to mark 70th Anniversary of India-Germany Ties
30. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the newly revamped Hardayal Municipal Heritage Public Library in Chandni Chowk, Delhi. He dedicated the library that houses an enormous collection of rare books to the entire nation.
31. 'Namaste Yoga' a mobile application was launched on 11th June in the curtain raiser event for the 7th International Day of Yoga. The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
32. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated two centers of excellence established by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) at Seema Sadak Bhawan in New Delhi. Mr. Singh also flagged off the first-ever solo women motor cycle expedition by Kanchan Ugursandi to Umling La Pass, Ladakh and back.
33. Centre has launched 'Project O2 for India' to step up production of medical oxygen to meet the potential increase in demand due to further waves of the pandemic.
34. Indian Railways has envisaged investment of nearly 55,000 Crore rupees for Modernization of Signalling, Telecommunication and other infrastructure development. Railways have also started Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 2221 Railway Stations so far.
35. PM Narendra Modi invited the world to invest in India while addressing the 5th edition of global tech event Viva Tech via video conferencing. Viva Tech is one of the largest digital and start-up events in Europe.
36. Mega-launch event 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' – Mission Van Dhan, was launched by Shri Arjun Munda, Minister for Tribal Affairs at the new premises of TRIFED Head Office in New Delhi.
37. Minister of State for Education Shri Sanjay Dhotre launched NIOS Diploma course in Yogic Science on the occasion of International Day of Yoga.
38. The Minority Affairs Minister Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched a nationwide "Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai" awareness campaign to create awareness on Corona vaccination in rural and remote areas of the country and also to "Crush and Curb" the rumours and apprehensions, being spread by some vested interests regarding the on-going vaccination drive.
39. The union government is working on a 'green tariff' policy that will help electricity distribution companies (discoms) supply electricity generated from clean energy projects at a cheaper rate as compared to power from conventional fuel sources such as coal.
40. Mali's constitutional court declared Assimi Goita, the colonel who led a military coup while serving as vice president, to be the new interim president.
41. Isaac Herzog elected as President of Israel.
42. The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved China's SinovacCovid vaccine for emergency use.
43. China's 'artificial sun' Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) sets new world record that has sustained a temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius.
44. Heidelberg Cement announced its intention to upgrade its plant on the Swedish island of Gotland to become the world's first carbon-neutral cement plant.
45. India along with the Govt. of United Kingdom launched a new work stream to promote industrial energy efficiency under the Clean Energy Ministerial's (CEM) – Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI) coordinated by UNIDO, at the 12th Chief Energy Ministerial (CEM).
46. India was elected to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six main organs of the United Nations, for the 2022-24 term.
47. Block chain technology company Block stream Mining stated that Square Inc to invest \$5 million to build an open-source, solar-powered bitcoin mining facility at one of Block stream's U.S. sites.
48. The Interpol has launched a new global database named "I-Familia" to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.
49. Former Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh became the country's sixth democratically elected president, further consolidating the power of the ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP) with a landslide victory.
50. Choguel Kokalla Maiga is appointed as the new PM of Mali
51. The first edition of the two day Arab-India Energy Forum which was held in a virtual format concluded. The Forum was held under the co-chairship of India and Morocco.
52. Auckland in New Zealand has been named the world's most liveable city, in an annual ranking that has been shifted by the corona virus pandemic.
53. El Salvador to adopt Bitcoin as a legal tender in the country, becoming the first in the world to formally embrace the volatile cryptocurrency.
54. The US government has agreed to pay about 1.2 billion US Dollars for 1.7 million courses of Merck's experimental COVID-19 treatment, if it is proven to work in an ongoing large trial and authorized by US regulators.
55. The US Senate has approved the historic nomination of Pakistani-American Zahid Quraishi to the District Court in New Jersey, making him the first Muslim federal judge in the country's history.
56. A week-long Indian mango promotion programme began in Bahrain where 16 varieties of the fruit, including the three Geographical Indication (GI) certified 'Khirsapati' and 'Lakshman Bhog' from West Bengal and Zardalu from Bihar are being displayed.
57. The Nigerian Government created its account on Indian microblogging platform Koo, days after the African country banned Twitter. Koo co-founder Aprameya

- Radhakrishna welcomed the government onboard the platform.
58. Naftali Bennett was sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister, ending Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year hold on power.
 59. G7 leaders initiates Build Back Better World (B3W) to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative
 60. Henri Marie Dondra named as prime minister of Central African Republic.
 61. Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates were elected unopposed to the powerful UN Security Council as non-permanent members for the 2022-23 term.
 62. A new free trade agreement with the UK to deliver more Australian jobs and business opportunities for exporters, bringing both countries closer together in a changing strategic environment.
 63. Bangladesh to set up an international institute for vaccine production including for COVID-19.
 64. Ebrahim Raisi sworn in as Iran's 2021 President.
 65. The diamond firm Debswana has announced the discovery in Botswana of a 1,098-carat stone that it described as the third largest of its kind in the world.
 66. Nikol Pashinyan won Armenian General Election as Prime Minister
 67. Turkmenistan's capital city Ashgabat has become the world's most expensive city for foreign workers, according to this year's Mercer Cost of Living Survey. In India New Delhi (117).
 68. China replaced UAE became the 2nd Largest Export Destination of India in FY21, US Tops.
 69. Swedish PM Stefan Lofven step down after losing no confidence vote
 70. The second United Nations (UN) Global Sustainable Transport Conference will take place from October 14 to 16 in Beijing, China.
 71. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for signing and ratification of an agreement on 'Cooperation in the field of Mass Media' between all the member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
 72. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the outreach session of the G7 Summit on 12th and 13th June in virtual format. UK currently holds the presidency of the G7 and has invited India along with South Korea and South Africa as guest countries for the G7 Summit.
 73. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has held a meeting with India's envoys to the Gulf nations namely (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain) to discuss a host of issues, including encouraging speedy resumption of flights to this region and facilitating reuniting families separated by Covid disruption.
 74. From June 08 to June 09, 2021, the first edition of the 2 day Arab-India Energy Forum was held Virtually. It was under the Co-chairship of India and the Kingdom of Morocco.
 75. The International Energy Forum (IEF) informed India that it has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) in 2022.
 76. Under the Ministry of Power, NTPC Limited, organised a two-day workshop on BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit.
 77. NITI Aayog launched the third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2020-21. Kerala retained the top spot in 2021 SDG India Index. In Union Territories Chandigarh tops. Bihar and Jharkhand were the worst-performing states
 78. Cognizant climbed to No.185 on the 2021 Fortune 500 list with a digital focus driving the advancement of the annual ranking of America's largest companies.
 79. The US replaced Mauritius as the second largest source of foreign direct investment into India during 2020-21 with inflows of USD 13.82 billion, according to government data. Singapore remained the top source
 80. In 2021 Performance Grading Index (PGI), Chandigarh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar and Kerala have obtained Grade 1++ (or Level II), which makes them the best performing states. Ladakh has obtained the lowest grade, Grade VII.
 81. Top 100 list of Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 Released. In that, three Indian universities secured positions in the top 100 list. IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore have secured ranks among the top 100 universities in Asia.
 82. Ease of living index 2020, Bengaluru ranks as most liveable city in India released by The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
 83. According to the World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India received \$64 billion in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020.
 84. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2021 : US Tops, India Ranked 6th Position
 - Founder of the Tata Group, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (\$102.4 billion) has topped the Edel Give Hurun Philanthropists of the Century.
 85. The Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021, India Ranks 31, Topped by Finland
 86. DBS has been named by Forbes in their list of World's Best Banks 2021. DBS was ranked #1 out of 30 domestic and international bank in India for the second consecutive year.
 87. Three Indian universities are ranked in the top-200 in QS World University Rankings 2022, with IIT-Bombay securing 177th position, IIT-Delhi at 185th, and IISc-Bengaluru placed on 186th position.
 88. The latest International Hockey Federation world rankings 2021, In Hockey, Indian men's team maintained their fourth position while women's team held ninth position.
 89. Chhattisgarh now ranks second in the whole country in terms of administering the second dose of Covid vaccine to health workers and frontline workers.
 90. In the men's 67 kg category, India's teenage weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga is ranked 12th.
 91. Bryce secured the women's prize after becoming the first Scottish player, male or female, to make it into the top 10 of the ICC rankings.

WHO'S WHO**President:** Ram Nath Kovind**Vice President:** Venkaiah Naidu**Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi**Cabinet Ministers**

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
1.	Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence
2.	Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
3.	Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways
4.	Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
5.	Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
6.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs
7.	Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs
8.	Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development
9.	Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Minister of Textiles
10.	Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
11.	Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
12.	Narayan Tatu Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
13.	Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH
14.	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs
15.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
16.	Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj
17.	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
18.	Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel
19.	Ashwini Vaishnav	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
20.	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
21.	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti
22.	Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
23.	Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
24.	Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
25.	Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
26.	Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
27.	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries
28.	Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
29.	G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
30.	Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
1.	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
2.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
10.	Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
11.	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12.	Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
13.	Pankaj Chaudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
14.	Anupriya Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
15.	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of Law and Justice
16.	Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
17.	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18.	Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19.	Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
20.	V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
21.	Meenakshi Lekhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
22.	Som Prakash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
23.	Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
24.	Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
25.	Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
26.	Annapurna Devi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education

Ministers of State

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
1.	Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
2.	Faggansingh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
3.	Prahalad Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
4.	Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
6.	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
7.	Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
8.	Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
9.	Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
27.	A. Narayanaswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28.	Kaushal Kishore	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
29.	Ajay Bhatt	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
30.	B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
31.	Ajay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
32.	Devusinh Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
33.	Bhagwanth Khuba	Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
34.	Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35.	Pratima Bhoomik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
36.	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
38.	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
38.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
39.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
40.	Bishweswar Tudu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
41.	Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
42.	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
43.	John Barla	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
44.	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Sl. No.	Minister	Portfolio
45.	Nisith Pramanik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Governors and Chief Ministers

Sl. No.	State	Chief Minister/ Lt. Governor	Governor
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy	Biswabhusan Harichandan
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	Brig. (Retd.) B.D. Mishra
3.	Assam	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
4.	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
6.	Delhi	Arvind Kejriwal	Anil Bajal (Lt. Governor)
7.	Goa	Pramod Sawant	PS Sreedharan Pillai
8.	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Devvrat
9.	Haryana	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Jai Ram Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Vacant	Manoj Sinha (Lt. Governor)
12.	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
13.	Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Thawarchand Gehlot
14.	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammad Khan
15.	Ladakh	R. K. Mathur (Lt. Governor)	
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
17.	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
18.	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
19.	Meghalaya	Conrad Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
20.	Mizoram	Zoramthanga	Hari Babu Kambhampati
21.	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
22.	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
23.	Puducherry	V. Narayanasamy	Tamilisai Soundarajan (Add. charge)

Sl. No.	State	Chief Minister/ Lt. Governor	Governor
24.	Punjab	Amarinder Singh	V. P. Singh Badnore
25.	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
26.	Sikkim	Prem Singh Tamang	Ganga Prasad
27.	Tamil Nadu	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
28.	Telangana	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
29.	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadev Narayan Arya
30.	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Adityanath	Anandiben Patel
31.	Uttarakhand	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Pushkar Singh Dhami
32.	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

Important National Officials

Sl. No.	Designation	Name
1.	Chief Justice of India	N. V. Ramana
2.	Attorney General	K K Venugopal
3.	Chairman, National Human Rights Commission of India	H. L. Dattu
4.	Chairman, National Commission for Minorities	Syed Ghayurul Hasan Rizvi
5.	Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes	Vijay Sampla
6.	Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	Harsh Chouhan
7.	Chairman, National Commission for Backward Classes	Bhagwan Lal Sahni
8.	Chairman, National Commission for Women	Rekha Sharma
9.	Chairman, Central Administrative Tribunal	Justice L. Narsimha Reddy
10.	Chairman, Central Vigilance Commission	Sanjay Kothari
11.	Chairman, Central Information Commission	Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
12.	Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission of India	K. N. Vyas
13.	Chairman, Department of Space	K Sivan
14.	Chairman, University Grants Commission	D. P. Singh
15.	Chairman, Central Water Commission	SK Haldar

Sl. No.	Designation	Name
16.	Director, Space Applications Centre	Nilesh M Desai
17.	Chairman, National Forest Commission	B. N. Kirpal
18.	Chairman, Competition Commission of India	Ashok Kumar Gupta
19.	Chairman, 15th Finance Commission of India	N. K. Singh
20.	Governor, Reserve Bank of India	Shaktikanta Das
21.	Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India	Ajay Tyagi, IAS
22.	Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
23.	Chairman, 7th Pay Commission	Ashok Kumar Mathur
24.	Chairman, Small Industries Development Bank of India	Muhammad Mustafa
25.	Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	Dr GR Chintala
26.	Chairman, National Stock Exchange	Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
27.	Chairman, Bombay Stock Exchange	Justice Vikramajit Sen
28.	Chairperson, State Bank of India	Dinesh Kumar Khara
29.	Chairman, National Statistical Commission	Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy
30.	Director General, Archaeological Survey of India	V. Vidyavathi
31.	CMD, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation	Shashi Shanker
32.	Chairman & MD, Gas Authority of India Limited	Manoj Jain
33.	Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Limited	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
34.	Chairman & MD, Oil India Limited	S. C. Mishra
35.	Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education	Manoj Ahuja
36.	Chief Election Commissioner	Sushil Chandra

Important International Officials

Sl. No.	Designation	Name
1.	Secretary-General, United Nations Organisation (UNO)	Antonio Guterres
2.	Deputy Secretary-General, UN	Amina J. Mohammed

Sl. No.	Designation	Name
3.	CEO, World Bank	Mari Pangestu
4.	Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Kristalina Georgieva's
5.	Director General, UNESCO	Audrey Azoulay
6.	Director General, WHO	Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
7.	Director General, International Labour Organisation	Guy Ryder CBE
8.	Executive Director, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	Henrietta Fore
9.	UN High Commissioner for Refugees	Filippo Grandi
10.	Head of United Nations Development Programme	Achim Steiner
11.	Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Isabelle Durant
12.	Secretary-General, Organisation of Economic Cooperation And Development (OECD)	Mathias Cormann
13.	President, International Court of Justice (ICJ)	John E Donoghue
14.	President, Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Masatsugu Asakawa
15.	President, African Development Bank	Akinwumi A. Adesina
16.	President, International Olympic Committee	Thomas Bach
17.	Secretary-General, Commonwealth	Patricia Janet Scotland
18.	Chairman, African Union	Felix Antoine Tshisekedi
19.	Director - General, WTO	Ngozi Okonjo Iweala
20.	High Commissioner, UN High Commission for Human Rights	Michelle Bachelet Jeria
21.	President, European Council	Charles Michel
22.	President, European Commission	Ursula von der Leyen
23.	Director - General, UNIDO	Li Yong
24.	Secretary-General, Gulf Cooperation Council	Kuwaiti Nayef Al-Hajraf
25.	Secretary-General, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation	Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen

Sl. No.	Designation	Name
26.	Secretary-General, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
27.	Secretary-General, Organisation of American States	Luis Almagro Lemes
28.	Director - General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Rafael Mariano Grossi
29.	Secretary-General, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	Jens Stoltenberg
30.	Executive Director, UNFPA	Dr. Natalia Kanem
31.	Secretary-General, ASEAN	Lim Jock Hoi
32.	Secretary-General, SAARC	Esala Weerakoon
33.	President, International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)	Sebastian Coe
34.	Administrator, NASA (USA)	Bill Nelson
35.	Secretary-General, Amnesty International	Agnès Callamard

Heads of State/Government of Countries

Sl. No.	Country	Head of State	Head of Government
1.	Australia	Queen – Elizabeth II	Scott Morrison
2.	Bangladesh	Abdul Hamid	Sheikh Hasina
3.	Bhutan	King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck	Lotay Tshering
4.	Canada	Queen – Elizabeth II	Justin Trudeau
5.	China	Xi Jinping	Li Keqiang
6.	Denmark	Queen – Margrethe II	Mette Frederiksen
7.	Egypt	Abdel Fattah el-Sisi	Mostafa Madbouly
8.	France	Emmanuel Macron	Jean Castex
9.	Germany	Frank-Walter Steinmeier	Angela Merkel
10.	Hungary	János Áder	Viktor Orbán
11.	Italy	Sergio Mattarella	Mario Draghi
12.	Japan	Naruhito	Yoshihide Suga
13.	South Korea	Moon Jae-in	Kim Boo-kyum
14.	The USA	Joe Biden	Joe Biden
15.	United Kingdom	Elizabeth II	Boris Johnson

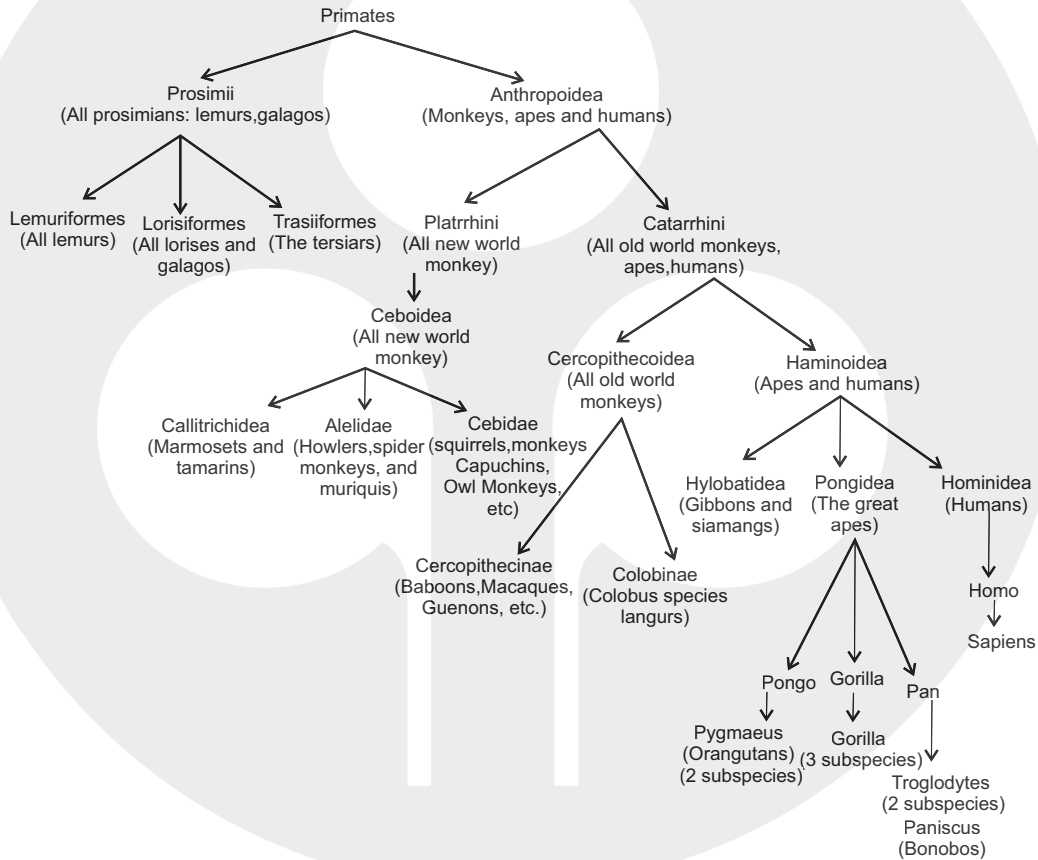
INDIAN HISTORY

Ancient India

THE EARLY MAN

The first human, Homo sapiens, evolved around 2-3 lakh years ago from the early hominid/ great apes. The first modern humans, evolved from their early hominid predecessors between 200,000 and 300,000 years ago. They developed a capacity for language about 50,000 years ago. The first modern humans began moving outside of Africa

starting about 70,000-100,000 years ago. Recently excavated artefacts from **Bori** Maharashtra suggest that the appearance of human in India was around 1.4 million years ago. Humans are the only known species to have successfully populated, adapted to, and significantly altered a wide variety of land regions across the world, resulting in profound historical and environmental impacts.



Old Stone Age (Paleolithic Age) (5,00, 000 - 10,000 BC)

The earliest period of Stone Age was called the Paleolithic Age. It was developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age. The Paleolithic Age of India is divided on the basis of the nature of tools and the change in climate into three phases- Upper, Middle & Lower.

- ♦ Robert Bruce Foote was the first to discover a Paleolithic Stone in India in 1863 AD.
- ♦ The Paleolithic research in India got a boost only with the coming of 'Yale Cambridge Expedition' in 1935 led by Deterra and Patterson.
- ♦ The tools of this phase were usually made of hard rock 'quartzite' and therefore, the people of this age also called 'Quartzite Man'.
- ♦ Early or Lower Paleolithic Age covers greater part of the Ice Age and its characteristic feature is the use of hand-axe, cleaners and choppers.
- ♦ Middle Paleolithic is characterised by flakes. The principal tools are blades, points and scrappers.
- ♦ Upper Palaeolithic Age marks the appearance of Homo sapiens and new flint industries; widespread appearance of a figurines and other artifacts reflecting art and rituals.

This was also characterised by bone tools including needles, fishing tools, harpoons, blades and burin tools.

Upper, Middle & Lower Paleolithic Sites In India

UPPER PALEOLITHIC AGE	
Sites	Location
Sohan Valley	West Punjab (Now in Pakistan)
Narmada Valley	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
Kurnool Caves Gichchur Nellure	Andhra Pradesh
Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
Nevasa	Maharashtra
Sabarmati Valley	Gujarat
Singrauli	Uttar Pradesh
Mayurbhanj	Odisha
Hungsi Valley	Karnataka
Attirampakkam Kortallayar Valley	Tamil Nadu
Pahalgam	Kashmir
Didwana	Rajasthan
Hathnora Bhimbetka Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
MIDDLE PALEOLITHIC AGE	
Nevasa	Maharashtra
Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh

Bagor Karmali Valley Didwana	Rajasthan
Singhbhum	Jharkhand
Narmada Valley	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat

LOWER PALEOLITHIC AGE	
Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh
Bhimbetka Jogdaha	Madhya Pradesh
Bagor Budha Pushkar	Rajasthan
Patne Nandipalle	Maharashtra
Renugunta Kurnool Caves	Andhra Pradesh
Singhbhum	Jharkhand

Mesolithic Age (10000-4000 BC)

- It is also known as Middle Stone Age, the second part of the Stone Age. In India, it spanned from 9,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C. This age is characterised by the appearance of Microliths (small bladed stone tools).
- The people of this age used Microliths. Microliths are very small in size and their lengths range from 1 to 8 cm. Backed blade, core, point, triangle, lunate and trapeze are the main Mesolithic tools.
- The people of this age practiced painting. Their paintings depicted birds, animals, and human beings.

MESOLITHIC SITES IN INDIA

Name of Mesolithic Sites	Location	Characteristics
Bagor	Rajasthan	It had a microlithic industry and its people lived on hunting and pastoralism.
Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	It shows the earliest evidence for the domestication of animals.
Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	It has more than 500 painted rock shelters.
Langhnaj	Gujarat	Provides the earliest evidence of burial of the dead.
Mohrana Pahara	Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh	Provides the earliest evidence of burial.

Neolithic Age (4000-1800 BC)

- It started in India around 7,000 B.C.
- It was the third and last part of the Stone Age.
- This Age was mainly characterised by the development of settled agriculture and the use of tools and weapons made of polished stones.
- The major crops grown were ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, and barley. The people of this age domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats. They resided in pits near a lake side and had hunting and fishing economy.
- The people used microlithic blades in addition to tools made of polished stones as well as bones. They used axes, adzes, chisels, and celts.
- Pottery first appeared in this age and included grey ware, black burnished ware, and mat-impressed ware.
- This Age was significant for its Megalithic Architecture.

NEOLITHIC SITES IN INDIA

Name of Neolithic Site	Location	Time Span	Characteristics
Mehrgarh	Baluchistan, Pakistan	7,000 B.C.	Produced cotton and wheat and lived in mud-brick houses.

Burzahom (the place of birch)	Kashmir	2,700 B.C.	The people lived on a lake side in pits.
Domestic dogs were buried along with their masters in their graves. Used tools and weapons made of polished stone as well as bone.	Madhya Pradesh	It has more than 500 painted rock shelters.	
Gufkral	Kashmir	2,000 B.C.	Practiced both agriculture & domestication of animals. Used tools and weapons made of polished stone as well as bone.
Chirand	Bihar	2,000 B.C.	Used tools and weapons made of bone.
Piklihal, Brahmagiri, Maski, Hallur, Takkalakota, T. Narsipur, Kodekal, Sanganakallu	Karnataka	2,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.	The people in Piklihal were cattle-herders. They domesticated sheep, goats, and cattle. Ash mounds have been found.
Paiyampalli	Tamil Nadu	2,000-1,000 B.C.	
Utnur	Andhra Pradesh	2,000-1,000 B.C.	

Chalcolithic Age (1800-1000 BC)

- ♦ The term Chalcolithic is a combination of two words- Chalco+Lithic, was derived from the Greek words “khalkos” + “lithos” which means “copper” and “stone” or “Copper Age”.
- ♦ The first metal to be used at the end of the Neolithic period

was copper which was used in addition to stone by several cultures.

- ♦ The cultures to use stone and copper implements were known as Chalcolithic which means stone-copper phase.
- ♦ The main occupations of the phase were hunting, fishing, and farming.

Chalcolithic Culture	Sites of Chalcolithic Culture	Characteristics
Ahar Culture	Ahar (Rajasthan), balathal, Gilund etc. The distinctive feature is black and red ware.	It had a microlithic industry and its people lived on hunting and pastoralism.
Kayatha Culture	Located in Chambal and its tributaries, the sturdy red slipped ware with chocolate designs is main feature.	It shows the earliest evidence for the domestication of animals.
Malwa Culture	Narmada & its tributaries in Gujarat. One of the largest Chalcolithic settlements.	It has more than 500 painted rock shelters.
Svalda Culture	Dhulia district of Maharashtra.	Provides the earliest evidence of burial of the dead.
Prabhas & Rangpur Culture	Both of them are derived from the Harappa culture. The polished red ware is the hallmark of this culture.	Provides the earliest evidence of burial.

- ♦ The major crops cultivated were barley and wheat, lentil, bajra, jowar, ragi millets, green pea, green and black gram.
- ♦ People had knowledge of spinning and weaving. Flax, cotton, and silk threads are found from sites in Maharashtra.

CHALCOLITHIC SITES IN INDIA

1. Indus Region

• Mohenjo-Daro	• Harappa	• Ropar
• Hanumangarh	• Chanhudaro	• Jhukar
• Suratgarh	• Amri	• Jhangar

2. Ganges Region

• Kausambi	• Alamgirpur
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3. Brahmaputra Region

This region situated between hill ranges of the eastern and northeastern Himalayan range in Eastern India.

4. Mahanadi Region

It lies in the states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Maharashtra.

5. Chambal Region

• Pseva	• Nagda	• Paramar Kheri
• Tungini	• Metwa	• Takraoda
• Bhilsuri	• Maori	• Ghanta Bilaod
• Betwa	• Bilawati	• Ashta

6. Saurashtra Region

• Rangpur	• Ahar	• Prabhas Patan
• Lakhabawal	• Lothal	• Pithadia
• Rojdi	• Adkot	

7. Narmada Region

• Navdatoli	• Maheshwar	• Bhagatrav
• Telod	• Mehgam	• Hasanpur

8. Tapi Region

• Prakash	• Bahal	
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9. Godavari-Pravara Region

• Jware	• Nasik	• Kopergaon
• Nivasa	• Daimabad	

10. Bhima Region

• Karegaon	• Chandoli	• Umbraj
• Chanegaon	• Anacji	• Hingni
• Nagarhalli		

11. Karnataka Region

• Brahmagiri	• Piklithal	• Maski
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THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

- ♦ Indus Valley Civilisation is one of the four earliest civilisations (Mesopotamian or Sumerian Civilisation, Egyptian Civilisation and Chinese Civilisation) of the world.
- ♦ This Civilisation is belongs to 'Proto-Historic Period' (Bronze Age/Chalcolithic Age).
- ♦ According to Carbon-14 dating, the most accepted period-2500 BC to 1750 BC.

Nomenclature

- ♦ It is called as 'Indus Valley Civilisation' because it was flourished on the bank of Indus River.
- ♦ It is also called 'Harappan Civilisation' because Harappa was first discovered site.
- ♦ John Marshal was the first scholar to use the term 'Indus Civilisation'.
- ♦ It is also named as 'Saraswati-Sindhu civilisation' because majority of the sites of this civilisation founded on the bank of Hakra-Ghaggar River.
- ♦ Some historian called it 'agro-commercial Civilisation' because this civilisation was dominated by the peasants and merchants and thus also called as an agro-commercial civilisation.

Geographical Spread

- ♦ This civilisation was spread over Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Western Uttar Pradesh and Northern Maharashtra.
- ♦ Ropar (Sutlej)/Punjab (Earlier); and Manda (Chenab)/Jammu-Kashmir (Now) were the northernmost site of the civilisation.
- ♦ Bhagatav (Kim)/Gujarat (Earlier); and Daimabad (Pravara)/ Maharashtra (Now) were the southernmost site of the civilisation.
- ♦ Alamgirpur (Hindon)/Uttar Pradesh was the easternmost site of the civilisation.

- ♦ Sutkagendor (Dashk)/Makran Coast (Pakistan-Iran Border) was the westernmost site of the civilisation.

NAMES OF EXCAVATORS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

Archaeological Sites	Excavators
Harappa	Excavated by Daya Ram Sahni in 1921-1923
Mohenjo-Daro (Mound of Dead)	Excavated by RD Banerjee in 1922
Chanhudaro (Sindh, Pakistan)	Excavated by NG Majumdar in 1931
Lothal (Gujarat)	Excavated by SR Rao in 1954
Kalibangan (Black Bangles), Rajasthan	Excavated by BB Lal in 1961
Dholavira	Excavated by JP Joshi in 1967-68
Surkotada (Gujarat)	Excavated by JP Joshi in 1972
Banawali (Haryana)	Excavated by RS Bisht in 1973.

Town Planning

- ♦ Town planning was the most distinctive features of the civilisation. Towns were divided into two parts- Citadel (Occupied by ruling class) and Lower Town (Inhabit by common people).
- ♦ It was based on grid system; burnt bricks were used to construct houses; well-managed drainage system; fortified citadel; highly urbanised; absence of iron implements.
- ♦ Dholavira is the only site of the civilisation where city was divided into three parts.
- ♦ Chanhudaro was the only city without a citadel.

Archaeological findings & evidences of Indus Valley Civilisation

Findings & Evidences	Place of Finding & Evidences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Cemeteries 'H' And 'R' 37 ♦ Evidence Of Coffin Burial ♦ Vanity Case ♦ Bronze Models Of 'Ikkas' And 'Bullock Carts' ♦ Stone Symbols Of Female Sex Organs ♦ Strengthening of Defences In Later Phases ♦ Single Roomed Barracks ♦ Granaries ♦ Granary Outside Citadel ♦ Working Platform ♦ Sandstone Steatite Of A Youth With Muscular Body ♦ Bronze Image Of A Dog Attacking A Deer ♦ Sandstone Girl Dancer ♦ Reserved Slip Ware Of Mesopotamian Type 	Harappa

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Temple Like Structure ♦ Human Skeleton Huddled Together that indicates Violent Death ♦ Pashupati Mahadev Seals ♦ Seal Depicting Mother Goddess With Plant Growing In Womb ♦ Devastation By Flood ♦ Collegiate Building ♦ Assembly Hall ♦ Granaries ♦ Steatite Figure Of A Bearded Priest ♦ Bronze Dancing Girl ♦ Bronze Buffalo And Ram ♦ Cylindrical Seals of Mesopotamian Type three in Number ♦ Evidence Of Horse from a Superficial Level ♦ Fragment Of Woven Cloth ♦ Corbelled Drain 	<p>Mohenjo-Daro</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Copper Bull ♦ Evidence Of Ploughing ♦ Camel Bones 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ City Without A Citadel ♦ Small Pot (Probably An Ink Pot) ♦ Shell Ornament Makers Factory ♦ Metal Workers Factory ♦ Bead Making Factory ♦ Shell Ornament Makers Factory ♦ Bangle Making Centre 	<p>Chanhudaro</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Cities Where Lower Towns Were Fortified ♦ Remains of Bones of Horse ♦ Massive Fortification Wall of Semi-Undressed Stones ♦ A Pot Containing Human Ashes ♦ Evidence of Pot Burial 	<p>Surkotada</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Evidence Of Rice ♦ Fire Altars ♦ Terracotta Models Of Ships / Boats ♦ Houses Having Front Entrances ♦ Bronze Rod Stick with Measure Marks ♦ Dockyard ♦ Medical Beliefs, Surgery of Skull ♦ Painting On Jar Resembling the Story of Panchatantra ♦ Harappan Game Similar To Chess Warehouse ♦ Terracotta Figurine Of A Horse ♦ Bead Making Factory ♦ Shell Ornament Makers Factory ♦ Metal Workers Factory ♦ Persian Gulf Seals ♦ Bead Making Factory ♦ A Merchant House ♦ 12 Bathrooms In The Citadel Area ♦ Impression Of Cloth On Sealing ♦ Reserved Slip Ware Of Mesopotamian Type ♦ Evidence Of Joint Burial ♦ Practice of Trephination ♦ Reserved Slip Ware Of Mesopotamian Type 	<p>Lothal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Copper Two Wheeled Chariot with a Rider ♦ Copper Rhinoceros ♦ Copper Elephant ♦ Copper Buffalo 	<p>Daimabad</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Practice of Trephination ♦ Medical Beliefs, Surgery Of Skull ♦ Terracotta Human Head ♦ Six Types Of Pottery 	<p>Kalibangan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mature Cottage Industry ♦ Cities Where Lower Towns Were Fortified ♦ Fire Altars 	<p>Balathol (Raj)</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Evidence of Rice 	<p>Rangpur</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Teeth of Horse 	<p>Rana Ghundai</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No Division of City 	<p>Kot Diji</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Absence of Mother Goddess Figurines 	<p>Rangpur</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Absence of Seals 	<p>Alamgirpur</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Shell Ornament Makers Factory 	<p>Balakot</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ City Having a Middle Town Apart From the Citadel & Lower Town 	<p>Dholavira</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Instance of Rhinoceros (Depicted On Seal) ♦ No Division of City 	<p>Amri</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Presence of Cotton before the Finding At Mohenjo-Daro 	<p>Mehargarh</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Stone Factories 	<p>Sukkur</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Destruction by Burning 	<p>Rana Ghundai</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Terracotta Replica of Plough 	<p>Banawali</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Clay Plough 	<p>Rakhigarhi</p>		

Economy

The economy of the civilisation was based on the agriculture and trade.

- ♦ Agriculture was carried on the remote and underdeveloped area surrounding Harappa cities from where the ruling class mobilized the agricultural surplus into granaries.
- ♦ Wheat, Barley, mustard were the main crops. Rice has been found at Lothal and Rangpur.
- ♦ Kalibangan is the only site where agricultural field was found.
- ♦ A piece of woven cotton has been found at Mohenjo-Daro. The Greeks called it 'Sindon' (From Sindh).
- ♦ Trade & Commerce: It was highly developed without using metallic money because trade was practice on the barter system. There is evidence of seals but it seems to be of merchandise importance. Seals of the civilisation states

that the civilisation had contact with the Mesopotamian cities of Ur, Umma, Kish, Lagash, Susa and Tel Asmar.

- ♦ Mesopotamian literature provided the evidence of trade relation from 2500 BC with 'Meluha' (Indus Region) and two important trading station called 'Dilmun' (Bahrain) and 'Makan' (Makran).
- ♦ Foreign Trade flowered with Iraq, Central Asia, Persia, Afghanistan. Following are the items that were exported or imported to other countries.

Import Items	Export Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Gold from Kolar (Karnataka), Afghanistan, Persia (Iran) ♦ Silver from Afghanistan, Persia (Iran), South India ♦ Copper from Khetri (Rajasthan), Baluchistan, Arabia. ♦ Tin from Afghanistan, Bihar ♦ Lapis Lazuli and Sapphire from Badakshan (Afghanistan) ♦ Jade from Central Asia ♦ Steatite from Shaher-i-Sokhta (Iran), Kirthar Hills (Pakistan) ♦ Amethyst from Maharashtra ♦ Agate, Chalcedonies and Carnelians from Saurashtra and West India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Agricultural products ♦ Cotton Goods ♦ Terracotta figurines ♦ Pottery ♦ Certain bead (from Chanhudaro) ♦ Conch-shell (from Lothal) ♦ Ivory products ♦ Copper

- ♦ **Weight and Measurement:** This civilisation had also developed their own kind of weighing and measurement system which was the multiple of 16.
- ♦ **Animal Husbandry:** Humped bulls, oxen, buffaloes, goat, ships, pigs, cats, dogs and elephants were domesticated.
- ♦ Bronze and copper vessels are outstanding examples of the Harappan metal craft.
- ♦ Well-developed external and internal trade but the mode of payment was Barter System.
- ♦ Spinning, weaving, boat-making, goldsmiths, pottery making and seal making were occupations practiced in this civilisation.

Society

- ♦ It was an urban society having three distinct groups: as ruled, rich merchants and poor labourers who lived in the lower town. They were experts in use of potter's wheel but poor at works of stone. Including figures of animals like bulls, buffaloes, dogs, monkeys, toy carts and humans a lot of terracotta toys have been found at many sites.
- ♦ They also refined the work of bead making and jewellery excavated includes silver necklaces, pendants and earrings. Copper, bronze, gold and silver are the metals that were used by the Harappans. They were able at making metallurgy

and alloys. The people of this age wore garments of cotton and wool.

- ♦ Equal status to men and women.
- ♦ Economic Inequality, not an Egalitarian Society.

Art and Craft

- ♦ People of Indus Valley Civilisation were aware of almost all the metals except iron. They used stone tools as well bronze tools.
- ♦ They manufactured gold and silver objects. The gold objects include beads, armlets, needles and other ornaments.
- ♦ The common tools were axe, saws, chisels, knives, spearheads and arrowheads. It is important to note that the weapons produced by this civilisation were mostly defensive in nature as there is no evidence of weapons like swords, etc.
- ♦ Copper was brought mainly from Khetri in Rajasthan. Gold might have been obtained from the Himalayan riverbeds and South India, and silver from Mesopotamia.
- ♦ Bead-making also was an important craft. Beads were made of precious and semi-precious stones such as agate and carnelian. Steatite was used for making beads. The evidence of beadmakers' shops has been found at Chanhudaro and Lothal.
- ♦ A large number of terracotta figurines of males and females have been discovered from various sites. The female figurines outnumber those of males and are believed to represent the worship of mother goddess. Besides these, a variety of models of birds, monkeys, dogs, sheep, cattle, humped and humpless bulls are found.
- ♦ Pottery-making was also an important industry. These were chiefly wheel-made and were treated with a red coating and had decorations in black.
- ♦ These are found in various sizes and shapes. The painted designs consist of horizontal lines of varied thickness, leaf patterns, palm and peepal trees. Birds, fishes and animals are also depicted on potteries.
- ♦ People of Indus Valley Civilisation manufactured seals of various kinds. The most famous of the seals is the one with a horned male deity represented on it which has three heads and is sitting in a yogic posture surrounded by four animals. Many scholars identified as the ancient form of the god Pashupati (Lord of beasts).

Script

- ♦ Harappan script was pictographic but yet to be deciphered. The script was written from right to left in the first line and left to right in the second line. This style is called Boustrophedon.

Religious Belief

- ♦ The Chief male deity was the 'Pashupati' i.e. Lord of animal (Proto-Shiva) represented in seals as sitting in yogic posture; He is surrounded by four animals (Elephant, tiger, rhino and buffalo) and two deer appear at his feet. There was also prevalence of Phallic (Lingam) worship.
- ♦ There was prevalence of Mother Goddess (Matrivedi or Shakti) known through figurines and also evidences of the prevalence of Yoni (Female Sex Organ) worship.

- Some of the archaeological remains and relics also reveal that zoolatry i.e. animal worship (especially bull and birds) and tree worship (especially peepal) prevalent in those days.
- Origin of the “Swastik” symbol can be traced to this civilisation.

Burial Practices

- There are more than fifty-five burial sites in the Indus valley were found. The principal sites are Harappa, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Lothal, Rojdi, and Ropar.
- Dead Bodies were buried or cremated in North-South Orientation.
- The burials are interpreted primarily as reflections of social structure and hierarchy.
- The strongest evidence for this interpretation would be burial sites in Harappa, Cemetery R-37 and Cemetery H.
- Three forms of burial have been found at Mohenjo-Daro i.e. complete burials, fractional burial, and post-cremation burials. Complete burial means the burial of the whole body, ceremonially performed in various forms, along with the grave furniture, offerings, etc. Fractional burial represents a collection of some bones after the exposure of the body to wild beasts and birds. Post-cremation burials have been inferred from large wide-mouthed urns containing a number of smaller vessels, bones of animals like lambs, goats, etc. and of birds or fish, and a variety of small objects, such as beads, bangles, figurines, etc. sometimes mixed with charcoal ashes.
- At Kalibangan, there are three types of burial practices are found: (i) extended inhumation in rectangular or oval graves, containing pottery and other grave goods; (ii) pot-burial in a circular pit, containing, besides the central urn, other pots and grave goods like beads, etc.; and (iii) pottery deposit in rectangular or oval graves.
- At Lothal, there are two types of burial practices are found. While one type contained, besides the grave goods, a single skeleton, the other contained two skeletons buried together.

Decline of the Indus Valley Civilisation

- It is suggested by some scholars that natural calamities such as floods and earthquakes might have caused the decline of the civilisation. It is believed that earthquakes might have raised the level of the flood plains of the lower course of Indus River. It blocked the passage of the river water to the sea and resulted in the floods which might have swallowed the city of Mohenjo-Daro. However, this only explains the decline of Mohenjo-Daro and not of the whole civilisation.
- According to some scholars, increased aridity and drying up of the river Ghaggar-Harka on account of the changes in river courses, might have contributed to the decline. This theory states that there was an increase in arid conditions by around 2000 BC. This might have affected agricultural production, and led to the decline.
- Aryan invasion theory is also put forward as a cause for the decline. According to this, the Harappan Civilisation was destroyed by the Aryans who came to India from north-west around 1500 BC. However, on the basis of closer and critical analysis of data, this view is completely negated today.

THE ARYAN AND VEDIC AGE

Advent of the Aryan

After the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization, another glorious civilisation flourished in India. Aryans were responsible for the evolution of Vedic Civilisation. ‘Arya’ literally means the man of ‘noble character’, and the “free-born”. They belonged to the group of people known as Indo-Europeans.

- According to the popular belief, the Aryans are supposed to have migrated from Central Asia into the Indian subcontinent in several stages or waves during 2000 BC-1500 BC.
- Boghazkai Inscription (Asia Minor, Turkey), which mentions four Vedic Gods i.e. Indra, Varuna, Mitra and Nasatyas, proves Central Asian Theory as their homeland.
- Aryan came to India and first settled in the present Frontier Province and the Punjab- then called Sapta Sindhu i.e. region of seven rivers (namely Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej along with the Indus and Saraswati). They lived here for many centuries and gradually pushed into the interior to settle in the valleys of the Ganges and the Yamuna.

Ancient and Modern Names of Indian Rivers

Ancient Names	Modern Names
Kubhu	Kurram
Kubha	Kabul
Vitastata	Jhelum
Askini	Chenab
Purushni	Ravi
Shatudri	Sutlej
Vipasha	Beas
Sadanira	Gandak
Drishadvati	Ghaghara
Gomti	Gomal
Suwastu	Swat
Indus	Indus
Saraswati / Drishtwari	Ghaggar/ Rakshi/Chittag
Sushoma	Sohan
Marudvridha	Maruvarman

Rig Vedic or Early Vedic Period (1500 BC- 1000 BC)

- Rig Veda is the only source of knowledge for this period.

Geographical Spread

- From the names of rivers, mountains (Himvant i.e. Himalayan, Munjavant i.e. Hindu Kush) and ocean in Rig Veda.
- Rig Veda mentions 40 rivers. The Nadisukta hymn of the Rig Veda mentions 21 rivers which included the Ganges in the east and the Kubha (Kabul) in the west.
- Rig Vedic people, who called themselves Aryans, were confined in the area which came to be known as ‘Sapta Sindhu’ i.e. land of seven rivers. Sapta Sindhu comprises

Sindhu and its six tributaries- Vitasta, Asikani, Vipas, Parushni & Sutaudri and Saraswati.

The Dasrajan war (The Battle of ten Kings)

According to Rig Veda, the famous Dasrajan war gives names of ten kings who participated in a war against Sudas who was Bharata king of Tritus family. The ten kings were of the states of Purus, Yadus, Turvasas, Anus and Druhyus along with five others viz. Alinas, Pakhtas, Bhalanas, Sibis and Vishanins. The battle was fought on the bank of Purushni (Ravi) in which Sudas emerged victorious.

Polity

- ♦ The Kula (the family) was the basis of both social and political organisations. Above the Kula were the Grama, the Vis, the Jana and the Rashtra.
- ♦ Regarding the form of government it was patriarchal in nature. Monarchy was normal but non-monarchical polities were also there. There was a few non-monarchical states (ganas) which was headed by Ganapati or Jyestha.
- ♦ The Rashtra was ruled by a King or Rajan and the royal descent was by hereditary based on the law of primogeniture. Probably elective monarchy was also known.
- ♦ Very little is known about ministers of the king. The Purohita or domestic priest was the first ranking official. He was the king's preceptor, friend, philosopher and guide. Other important royal officials were Senani (Army chief) and Gramani (head of village).
- ♦ The army consisted of foot-soldiers and charioteers. Wood, stone, bone and metal were used in weapons. Arrows were tipped with points of metal or poisoned horn. References are made to the moving fort (Purcharishnu) and a machine for assaulting strongholds.
- ♦ The king had religious duties and the upholder of the established order and moral rules.
- ♦ Sabha, Samiti, Vidhata and Gana were the tribal assemblies who discharge the functions of deliberative, military and religious.

Society

- ♦ The Rigvedic society comprised four varnas, namely Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. This classification of society was based on the professions or occupations of the individuals.
- ♦ Teachers and priests were called Brahmanas; rulers and administrators were called Kshatriyas; farmers, merchants and bankers were called Vaishyas; and artisans and labourers were reckoned as Shudras. These vocations were followed by persons according to their ability and liking, and the occupations had not become hereditary as they became later on. Members of the same family took to different professions and belonged to different varnas as well illustrated by a hymn of the Rig Veda. In this hymn a person says: 'I am a singer, my father is a physician, and my mother is a grinder of corn'.
- ♦ The unit of society was family, primarily monogamous and patriarchal.
- ♦ Child marriage was not in vogue.
- ♦ A widow could marry the younger brother of her deceased husband (Niyoga).

- ♦ The father's property was inherited by son.
- ♦ Right to property existed in respect of movable things like cattle, horse, gold and ornaments and also respect of immovable property like land and house.
- ♦ Milk and its products—curd, butter and ghee—formed an important part of the diet. There is also the mention of grain cooked with milk (Kshira-pakamodanam)
- ♦ The meat of fish, bird and animals was eaten.
- ♦ The cow was already deemed Aghanya i.e. not to be killed.
- ♦ Rig Veda prescribes a penalty of death or expulsion from the kingdom to those who killed or injured cows.
- ♦ Alcoholic drinks, Sura and Soma were also consumed.
- ♦ Aryans were primarily agricultural and pastoral people who reckoned their wealth in terms of cows.
- ♦ Amusement included music, dancing, chariot-racing and dicing. One stanza in the Rig Veda known as the gambler's lament says: 'My wife rejects me and her mother hates me'.

Religion

- ♦ In Rigvedic period, the personified powers of Nature were worshiped as God. It was believed that divine powers were capable of conferring both boons and punishments on man. Fire was regarded to be the intermediary between man and God.
- ♦ There were nearly 33 gods. Later day tradition classified them into 3 categories of terrestrial (prithvisthana), aerial or intermediate (antarikshasthana) and celestial (dyusthana) god.

RIG VEDIC GODS & GODDESSES

Name of God	Associated with natural forces
Vayu	Wind God
Dyaus	Father of Heaven
Aditi	Mother of Surya
Maruts	Storm Spirits
Gandharvas	Divine Musicians
Ashvins	Healers of diseases and experts in surgical art
Ribhus	Gnomes
Apsaras	Mistresses of Gods
Rudra	An archer God, whose anger brought disease
Usha	Goddess of Dawn
Aditi	Mother of Gods
Prithvi	Earth Goddess
Aryani	Forest Goddess
Saraswati	The River Deity
Marudvridha	Maruvarman

- ♦ Sometimes gods were visualized as animals but there was no animal worship.
- ♦ The nature of Rigvedic religion was Henotheism i.e. a belief in many gods but each god standing out in turns as the highest.

- ♦ Their religion primarily consisted of the worship of gods with a simple ceremonial known as Yajna or sacrifice. Sacrifices consisted of offerings of milk, ghee, grain, flesh and soma.

Economy

- ♦ The main occupation of the people was cattle rearing and their wealth was measured in number of cattle.
- ♦ They practiced agriculture by clearing the forests.
- ♦ Metals used were copper, iron and bronze.
- ♦ Few people worked as goldsmiths, potters, spinners and carpenters.
- ♦ The tax levied in the Vedic Period was Bali and Bhaga.
- ♦ Gold coins called 'Nishka' were used for transaction.
- ♦ Rivers were used for transportation.

Position of Women During Rig Vedic Age

- ♦ Women are free to join men at the Sabha and Vidhata.
- ♦ Women had respectable position in the society. Social evils like Child marriage and Sati system was evident. The marriageable age for the girls was 16 to 17 years.
- ♦ There were evident of widow remarriage and practice of Niyogi (levirate) in which childless widow would cohabit with her brother-in-law until the birth of a son.
- ♦ There was evident of polygamy and monogamy.

Later Vedic Period (1000 BC- 600 BC)

- ♦ This period is based on the Vedic texts compiled after the Veda.

Geographical Spread

- ♦ During the Later Vedic Period, the Aryan settlements covered virtually the whole of Northern India (i.e. popularly known as Aryavarta).
- ♦ The centre of culture now shifted from Saraswati to Ganges (Madhya Desa).
- ♦ There was mention of more rivers such as Narmada, Sadanira (Modern Gandak), Chambal etc.
- ♦ The expansion of people towards the east is indicated in a legend of Satapatha Brahmana - how Vidgha Mathava migrated from the Saraswati region crossed Sadanira and came to the land Videha (Modern Tirhut).
- ♦ Emergence of Janapadas- Kuru (Combination of Purus and Bharatas), Panchala (Combination of Turvashas and Krivis), Kashi etc. in Doab region.
- ♦ Later Vedic literature mentions Vindhya Mountain (Southern mountain).
- ♦ Reference to the territorial divisions the later Vedas gives three broad divisions of India, viz. Aryavarta (Northern India), Madhya Desa (Central India) and Dakshinapath (Southern India).

Polity

- ♦ This period witnessed the large kingdoms and stately cities.
- ♦ In Taittiriya Brahmana, we notice the theory of the divine origin of kingship.
- ♦ The governmental machinery became more elaborated than before, as a sequel to the growth of the power of king.
- ♦ There are five types of State System during Later Vedic Period such as (1) Rajya (Central kingdom) - Ruled by the Raja; (2) Bhojya (Southern kingdom): Ruled by the Bhoja; (3) Swarajya (Western kingdom) - Ruled by the Svarat;

- (4) Vairajya (Northern kingdom)- Ruled by the Virat; and
- (5) Samrajya (Eastern kingdom)- Ruled by the Samrat.

Ratnis and Officials of Later Vedic Period

Ratnis and Officials	Working area (Description)
Purohita	Chief priest, also sometimes referred to as the Rashttagopa
Senani	Supreme Commander of the army
Vrajapati	Officer Incharge of the Pasture land
Jivagribha	Police officer
Spasas/Dutas	Spies, who also sometimes worked as messengers
Gramani	Head of the village
Kulapati	Head of Family
Madhyamasi	Mediator of Disputes
Bhagadugha	Revenue Collector
Sangrihitri	Treasurer
Mahishi	The Chief Queen
Suta	Charioteer and Court Minister
Govinkartana	Keeper of Games and Forests
Palagala	Messenger
Kshatri	Chamberian
Akshavapa	Accountant
Athapati	Chief Judge
Takshan	Carpenter

Society

- ♦ As the time passed by, Yajnas became elaborate and complicated ceremonial leading to the emergence of learned men known as Brahmanas.
- ♦ And as the Aryans expanded to the east and south, group of people known as Kshatriyas emerged to conquer territories and administer them. Aryans formed a separate class known as Vaishyas, a word derived from Vis meaning 'people'. The non-Aryan formed the fourth class known as Shudras.
- ♦ The institution of Gotra i.e. the clan appeared in the Later Vedic Period.
- ♦ The higher castes could marry with the lower ones, but marriage with Shudras was not permitted. The idea of pollution appeared in society.
- ♦ The earliest reference to the four Ashramas (the stages of life) - Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanprastha and Sanyasa is found in the Jabala Upanishad. The Ashrama system was formed to attain four Purusharthas (Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha).
- ♦ The status of women declined. According to Aitareya Brahmana, a daughter is the source of misery but a son is the protector of family.
- ♦ According to Maitrayani Samhita, there are three evils- liquor, women and dice.
- ♦ Though monogamy (a man having one wife) was the ideal but polygamy (a man having more than one wife) was frequent.

- ♦ Women were prohibited to attend the political assemblies.
- ♦ Yajnavalkya- Gargi dialogue (Vrihadarnyaka Upanishad) indicates that some women had got higher education.
- ♦ There were sixteen Samskaras followed by the Later Vedic people- (1) Garbhadharana (2) Pumsavana (3) Simantonayan (4) Jatakarma (5) Namakaran (6) Nishkramana (7) Annaprashana (8) Chudakarma (9) Karnachheddana (10)Vidhyarmabha(11) Upanayana (12) Vedarambha (13) Samavaratana (14) Vivaha (15) Vanaprastha (16) Antyeshthi.

Types of Marriages

Name of Marriages	Characteristics
Brahma Vivaha	Marriage of a girl with the boy of same Varna with Vedic rites and rituals.
Daiva Vivaha	When father donated his daughter to a priest as a part of Dakshina.
Arsa Vivah	A token bride-price of a Cow and a Bull was given.
Prajapati Vivah	Marriage without dowry.
Gandharva Vivah	It was a kind of love marriage or swyamavara type.
Asura Vivah	Marriage by purchase.
Paisach Vivah	Seduction of a girl while sleeping or mentally unstable due to a drink.
Rakshasa Vivah	Marriage by abduction.

Anuloma and Pratiloma Vivah: The marriage of a man of higher Varna with a girl from lower Varna was called "Anuloma Vivah". It was allowed by the sacred texts. The marriage of a girl of higher Varna with a man of lower Varna was called "Pratiloma Vivah" and it was not allowed in the texts.

Religion

- ♦ The earlier divinities Indra and Agni were relegated into the background while Prajapati (creator of the Universe, later known as Brahma), Vishnu (Patron god of Aryans) and Rudra (God of animals, later identified with Shiva/ Mahesha) rose in prominence. Now, Prajapati became supreme God.
- ♦ Pushana who protected cattle in the Early Vedic Period now became supreme God.
- ♦ Brihadarnyaka Upanishad was the first work to give the details of the doctrine of transmigration (Punarjanma/ Samskara-chakra) and deeds (Karma.)
- ♦ At the end of the Vedic period, there was the emergence of a strong reaction against cults, rituals and priestly domination.

SACRIFICES OF THE LATER VEDIC PERIOD

There were two types of sacrifices performed in the Later Vedic Period-

1. Laghuyajnas (Simple/Private Sacrifices): It was performed by the householder. For Example- Panch Mahayajna, Agnihotri, Darsha Yajna, Purnamasa Yajna etc.

2. Mahayajnas (Grand/Royal Sacrifices): These types of sacrifices undertaken by an aristocratic and wealthy man and king. For Example- Rajasuya Yajna (Royal consecration) which was later replaced by simplified Abhisheka i.e. anointment, Vajapeya Yajna (Drink of strength which lasted for a period of seventeenth days upto full one year), Asvamedha Yajna (Horse sacrifice which lasted three days), Agnishtoma Yajna (Sacrifice of animals dedicated to Agni which lasted one day).

Economy

- ♦ Land became more important than cows. Hence, Agriculture was the main occupation.
- ♦ Trade and Commerce: With the growth of civilisation, the volume of trade and commerce had increased by leaps and bounds. Both inland and overseas trades were developed.
- ♦ Inland trade was carried on with the Kiratas inhabiting the mountains. They exchanged the herbs for clothes, mattresses and skins. The people became familiar with the navigation of the seas. Regular coinage was not started.
- ♦ The coins which were in circulation were "Nishka", "Satamana" and "Krishnala". The unit value of goods was a gold bar called "nishka" weighing three hundred and twenty ratis, which was also the weight of a satamana. A 'Krishnala' weighed one rati, i.e. 1.8 grams.
- ♦ There was a class of merchants called 'Pani' who controlled the trade. References to "ganas" or corporations and the "sreshthis" clearly speak of the formation of guilds or corporations for facilitating trade and commerce. Usuary and money lending was also practiced in this period.

Vedic Literature

- ♦ The term Veda means "Knowledge". Vedic literatures are most important sources of knowledge about Aryans and Vedic period. The literature had grown in the course of many centuries and was handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth which also called shruti.

Vedic Literature	Description
Rigveda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ It compiled around 1500-1000 BC. ♦ The literal meaning of the term 'rig' is 'to praise'. ♦ It is a collection of hymns. ♦ The volumes are called Mandal.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mandal III contains the Gayatri Mantra which was compiled in the praise of sun god Savitri. ♦ Mandal IX contains hymns called Purusha Sukta from where Varna system is discussed. ♦ Rishi who was experts in Rigveda was called hotra or hotri. ♦ It has many things in common with Zend-Avesta, which is the oldest text in Iranian language.
Samaveda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ It is a collection of songs and most of the songs were taken from the hymns of Rigveda. ♦ Udgatri was the experts of Samaveda. ♦ Its compilation laid the foundation of Indian Music.

Yajurveda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a collection of sacrificial formulae. It describes the rituals to be followed at the time of recitation of mantra. The Adhvaryu was the experts of the knowledge of Yajurveda. It contains both prose and poetry. It is divided into two parts- Krishna Yajurveda and Shukla Yajurveda.
Atharvaveda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a collection of charms and spells. It contains magical hymns to get relief from diseases. Indian medicinal science i.e. Ayurveda has its origin from Atharvaveda.
Brahmanas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It contains details about the meanings of Vedic hymns, their applications, and stories of their origins. Aitareya and Kaushitaki Brahmanas were allotted to the Rigveda for detailing. Tandya and Jaiminiya Brahmanas to Samaveda for detailing. Taittiriya and Shatapatha Brahmanas to Yajurveda for detailing. Gopath Brahmanas to the Atharvaveda for detailing.
Aranyakas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It means forest. Written in forests for the hermits and students of the Vedas. It is initiated a changeover from materialistic religion to spiritual religion. Hence, they formed a tradition that culminates in the Upanishads. They are like a bridge between Vedas cum Brahmanas and Upanishads.
Upanishads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last phase of Vedic literature. It deals with metaphysics i.e. Philosophy. It is also called Vedanta. It contains subject about soul, brahmana, rebirth and theory of karma. It emphasizes the path of knowledge. The literal meaning of Upanishads is 'to sit near the feet of'. Important Upanishads – Chandogya Upanishad, Brahadaranyaka Upanishad, Katha Upanishad, Isha Upanishad, Prasna Upanishad, Mundaka Upanishad. The conversation of Yama and Nachiketa is the subject-matter of Katha Upanishads. Satyameva Jayate in the National Emblem is taken from Mundaka Upanishad.
Vedangas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are known as 'limbs of Vedas'. These compiled during Sutra period. Hence these are called Sutra literature. There are six auxiliary discipline: (1) Shiksha- Phonetics of Science of Pronunciation; (2) Kalpa- Rituals and ceremonies; (3) Vyakarana – Grammar; (4) Nirukta – Etymology (Origin of words); (5) Chhanda – Metrics, rules of poetic composition; (6) Jyotisha- Astronomy

Smritis

There are six famous Smritis: (1) Manu Smriti was written during pre-Gupta period and it is oldest Smriti text. Vishwarupa, Megatithi, Gobindraj and Kulluk Bhat were the commentators. (2) Yajñvalkyā Smriti was written during pre-Gupta period. Vishwarupa, Jimutvahan (Daybhaga), Vijñyaneshwar (Mitakshara), Apararka (a King of Shilahar Dynasty) were the commentators. (3) Narad Smriti was written in Gupta period. (4) Parashara Smriti was written in Gupta period. (5) Brihaspati Smriti was written in Gupta period. (6) Katyayana Smriti was written in Gupta period.

Epic (Mahakavya)

- There are mainly two Mahakavya (Epic): Ramayana (Known as Adikavya) and Mahabharata.
- Ramayana: It is considered as the oldest epic in the world. Presently, it consists of 24,000 shlokas i.e. verse (Originally, there was 6,000 shlokas which was gradually increased from 12,000 to now 24,000) in seven Khandas i.e. sections. First and seventh Khandas were the latest additions to the Ramayana.
- Mahabharata: It is considered as the longest epic in the world. Presently, it consists of 1,00,000 shlokas i.e. verse (Originally-8800-Jay Samhita which later increase to 24,000 with addition of Chaturvinshati Sahastri Samhita/Bharata and finally 1,00,000 with addition of Shatasahastri Samhita/Mahabharata) in 18 Parvas i.e. chapter, plus the Harivamsa supplement. Bhagwat Gita is extracted from Bihshma Parva of Mahabharata. Shanti Parva is the largest chapter of the Mahabharata.

Puranas

- It means 'the old'.
- There are 18 famous Puranas.
- The Matsya Purana is the oldest Puranic text.
- The other important Puranas are the Bhagavata, the Vishnu, the Vayu and the Brahmada. They describe generally five subjects- Sarga (creation of the world), Pratisarga (Re-creation after the dissolution of the world), Wamsa (Genealogies of gods and rishis), Manvantara (The reign of Manus- First human) and Wamshanucharita (Genealogies of various royal dynasties).

Upvedas

- It is popularly known as the auxiliary of Vedas because they were traditionally associated with Vedas:
- Ayurveda (Medicine) is associated with Rig Veda.
- Gandharvaveda (Music) is associated with Sama Veda.
- Dhanurveda (Archery) is associated with Yajur Veda.
- Shilpveda/Atharvaveda (Science of craft/ wealth- Vishwakarma) is associated with Artharva Veda.

School of Indian Philosophy

- There are six schools of Indian philosophy known as Shad-Darshan.

Darshan	Founder	Basic Text
Sankhya Darshana	Kapila	Sankhya Sutra
Yoga Darshana	Patanjali	Yoga Sutra

Nyaya Darshana	Akshapada Gautama	Nayaya Sutra
Vaishesika Darshana	Uluka Kanada	Vaishesika Sutra
Mimansa/Purva-Mimansa	Jaimini	Purva Mimansa Sutra
Vedant/Uttara-Mimansa	Badarayana	Brahmasutra/Vedant Sutra

THE PRE-MAURYAN AGE

The Janapadas and Mahajanapadas represent the state system of 600 BC. The processes of emergence of Mahajanapadas were initiated by certain important economic changes and the consequent socio-political developments witnessed during the period.

Sources of the Mahajanapadas

- ♦ Buddhist literature (Anguttara Nikaya, Mahavastu) and Jain literature (Bhagavati Sutta) present a list of 16 Mahajanapadas (i.e. Great states) with minor variation of names.

Mahajanapadas (600 BC – 325 BC)

- ♦ The literal meaning is “great realm”, from maha, “great”, and janapada “foothold of a tribe”, “country”. It is one of the sixteen kingdoms or oligarchic republics of Ancient India.
- ♦ There were two types of states- Monarchical and Non-Monarchical/Republican.
- ♦ Monarchical States- Anga, Magadha, Kashi, Kosala, Vatsa, Chedi, Surasena, Matsya, Avanti and Gandhara.
- ♦ Non-Monarchical/Republican- Vajji, Malla, Kuru, Panchala, Kamboja, Shakya (Kapilvastu), Koliyas (Ramgrama), and Moriyee (Pipplivana).

Mahajanapadas	Geographical Area
Anga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Located in the district of Munger and Bhagalpur of Bihar ♦ Capital- Champa/ Champanagari
Assaka (or Asmaka)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Located between the rivers Narmada and Godavari (Dakshinapatha or Southern India) ♦ Capital- Potana or Potali (corresponds to Paudanya of Mahabharata)
Avanti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Malwa (divided into north and south by the river Vetravati) ♦ Capital City- North Avanti (Ujjayini), South Avanti (Mahishmati)
Chedi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Bundelkhand Area (lay near Yamuna midway between the kingdom of Kuru and Vatsas) ♦ Capital City- Shaktimati/Sotthivati
Gandhara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Western part of Pakistan & Afghanistan ♦ Capital City- Taxila (Near Rawalpindi, Pakistan) and Pushkalavati Rajapur/ Hataka

Kashi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ District of Varanasi, UP ♦ Capital City- Varanasi
Kamboja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hazara district of Pakistan ♦ Capital City- Rajapur/ Hataka
Kosala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Districts of Faizabad, Gonda, Bahraich in UP ♦ Capital City- North Kosala (Srasvati/ Sahet-Mahet), South Kosala (Saket/ Ayodhya)
Kuru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Haryana & Delhi area ♦ Capital City- Indraprastha (Modern name Delhi)
Magadha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Kingdom roughly corresponded to the modern districts of Patna and Gaya in southern Bihar and parts of Bengal in the east ♦ Capital City- Girivraja, Rajagriha/Rajgir (Bimbisara), Pataliputra (Udayin), Vaishali (Shishunaga), Pataliputra (Kalashoka)
Malla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ District of Deoria, Basti, Gorakhpur and Siddharthnagar in UP ♦ Capital City- Kushinara and Pawa
Machcha (or Matsya)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Alwar, Bharatpur and Jaipur in Rajasthan ♦ Capital City- Viratnagar
Panchala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ruhelkhand, Western UP ♦ Capital City- North Panchala (Ahichhatra), South Panchala (Kampilya)
Surasena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Brajmandal ♦ Capital City- Mathura
Vriji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Districts of Muzaffarpur & Vaishali in Bihar ♦ Capital City- Videha, Mithila, Vaishali
Vatsa (or Vamsa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Districts of Allahabad, Mirzapur in UP ♦ Capital City- Kausambi

Administration

The Republican States

- ♦ In a gana sangha, the heads of the families belonged to a clan or chiefs if there were more than one clan.
- ♦ There were some assemblies to govern the territories. The right to govern the territories was given only to a few ruling families.

Monarchies

- ♦ A kingdom means a territory ruled by a king or queen. The land of these kingdoms was more fertile and people settled there at a later period than the gana sanghas.
- ♦ In a kingdom, the king enjoyed the sovereign power and all functions of the government centered round him.
- ♦ The king could compel obedience to laws and use force if necessary. There were customary laws of jatis and the region. Obedience to these two types of laws continued throughout ages.
- ♦ In a kingdom, a family which rules over a long period becomes a dynasty.

- ♦ A king was assisted by advisory councils such as sabha and parishad.
- ♦ Three important kingdoms of this period were Kasi, Kosala, and Magadha.
- ♦ They often fought for the control of the Ganges plains for strengthening defence and economy.

MAGADHA EMPIRE

Rise and Growth of Magadha Empire

- ♦ The Magadha Empire came into existence when the four Mahajanpada- Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avanti were engaged in the struggle for the supremacy from the 6th Century BC to 4th Century BC. Ultimately, Magadha emerged as the most powerful and prosperous kingdom in the North India.
- ♦ Jarasandha and Brihadratha was the founder of Magadha but the growth started under the Haryankas, expansion took place under the Shishunagas and Nandas and reached under its zenith point under the Mauryas.

Sources of Magadha Empire

- ♦ The Buddhist Pali Canon, Jain Agamas and the Hindu Puranas are the most important sources which describes that the period of 6th century to 4th century BC witnesses the struggle for supremacy amongst four Mahajanpadas- Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avanti. The Magadha emerged as the most powerful one and succeeded in founding an empire.

Haryanka Dynasty (544 BC- 412 BC)

Rulers	Contributions & Achievements
Bimbisara (544 BC- 492 BC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ He founded the dynasty. ♦ He was contemporary of Buddha. ♦ Founded capital city i.e. Rajgir (Girivraja) which was surrounded by five hills. ♦ He was the first ruler who started matrimonial alliance to expand his empire. His three wives were from the Royal family of Kosala (Mahakosaladevi, sister of Kosal King Prasenjit), Lichchhavi (Chellana- sister of Lichchhavi Head Chetaka) and Madra (KHEMA-daughter of Madra King). ♦ He sent a royal physician, Jivaka to Ujjain, when Avanti King Pradyota was suffered by jaundice. ♦ He was the first Indian king who had a regular and standing army which was popularly known as Seniya.
Ajatashatru (492 BC- 460 BC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ He killed his father and seized the throne ♦ He built the fort of Rajagriha and a watch-fort (Jaladurga) on the bank of Ganga. ♦ He fought a war against Vajji, ruled by the Lichchhavis, and conquered the republic of Vaishali. ♦ He was a contemporary of both Mahavira and Gautama Buddha.

- ♦ He is the inventor of two weapons used in war called rathamusala (Scythed chariot) and mahshilakantaka (engine for ejecting big stones).
- ♦ He was present in the first Buddhist Council at the Sattapanni (Saptarni) caves Rajagriha.

Udayin (460 BC- 444 BC)	♦ He laid the foundation of Pataliputra at the confluence of the rivers Son and Ganga.
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- ♦ Udayin was succeeded by Anuruddha, Munda and Naga-Dasak respectively who all were weak and parricides.

Shishunaga Dynasty (412 BC- 344 BC)

- ♦ Shishunaga founded the dynasty who was the minister of king Naga-Dasak of Haryanka dynasty)
- ♦ The greatest achievement of the dynasty was the destruction of Avanti.
- ♦ The second Buddhist Council in Vaishali (383 BC) was convened during Kalashoka (Kakvarna) reign.

Nanda Dynasty

- ♦ This dynasty was founded by Mahapadma (known as Sarvakshatrantak which means Uprooter of all the Kshatriyas; Ugrasena which means Owner of huge army) by overthrowing Shishunaga dynasty.
- ♦ Mahapadma was described as “the first empire builder of Indian history”. The Puranas called him Ekraat which means the sole Monarch.
- ♦ The invasion of Alexander took place in north-west India in 326 BC during the reign of Dhanananda. According to Greek writer Curtius, Dhanananda commanded a huge army 20,000 cavalry, 2,00,000 infantry, 2,000 chariots and 3,000 elephants. It was the might of Dhanananda that terrorised Alexander and stopped his march to the Gangatic Valley.
- ♦ This dynasty came to an end about 322-321 BC and was supplemented by another dynasty known as Mauryas, with Chandragupta Maurya as the founder.

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS: JAINISM

Jainism is one of the ancient religions of India that teaches the way to liberation and bliss is to live a life of harmlessness and renunciation. The aim of Jain life is to achieve liberation of the soul.

- ♦ There were 24 Thirthankaras (literally Ford maker, across the stream of existence), the first being Rishabhadeva/ Adinath and last being Mahavira.
- ♦ The Vishnu Purana and the Bhagavat Purana describe Rishabha as an incarnation of Narayana.

Three Principles of Jainism (Tiratnas)

1. Right Faith (Samyak Shradha/ Vishwas): Faith in the teachings and wisdom of Mahavira.
2. Right Knowledge (Samyak Jnan): Acceptance on the theory that states about existence of soul not god.
3. Right Conduct (Samyak Karma/ Acharana): Observance of the five great vows (not to injure life; not to lie; not to steal; not acquire property; and not lead immoral life).

- ♦ According to the Jainism scriptures, the philosophy of Jainism was formalised by the last Tirthankaras, i.e. Vardhaman Mahavira.
- ♦ Later, the philosophy of Jainism was forwarded by their chief disciples known as 'Gandharas'. The role of Gandharas and Acharyas can be understood from the fact that Jain scriptures are all composed by the Gandharas and Acharyas and not by the Tirthankaras.
- ♦ Jainism spread under the patronage of Chandragupta Maurya, Kharaveli of Kalinga and the royal dynasties of South India such as the Gangas, the Kadambas, the Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas.
- ♦ Mount Abu in Rajasthan is known for the Dilwara temples (Vimal Vasahi, Luna Vasahi, Pittalhar, Parshavanatha and Mahavira Swami Temple dedicated to Lord Adinath, Lord Rishabhdeva, Lord Neminath, Lord Mahavira Swami and Lord Parshvanath respectively) dedicated to Jain Tirthankaras. These were built under the patronage of Solanki rulers. These were built in pure white marble and adorned with exquisite sculpture. These temples are well known for their intricate carvings and ornamented pillars.
- ♦ Ranakpur Jain temple, belonging to the fifteenth century is one of the most splendid architecture of Jains. It is dedicated to lord Adinath, first Jain Tirthankar. It is designed as chaumukha with four faces and all the statues facing one another.

Mahavira's Life

- ♦ He was born in 540 BC in a village Kundagrama near Vaishali in Bihar.
- ♦ His father Siddhartha was the head of the Jnathrika Kshatriya clan under Vajji of Vaishali and his mother Trishala was the sister of Chetaka, the king of Vaishali.
- ♦ He was also related to the Bimbisara, the ruler of Magadha, who had married Chellana, the daughter of Chetaka.
- ♦ Yashoda (daughter of Samarvira king) was his wife.
- ♦ He attained Kaivalya (Supreme knowledge) at the age 42 under a sal tree at Jambhikagrama on the bank of river Rijupalika.
- ♦ He delivered his first sermon at Pava to his 11 disciples (Known as 11 Gandharas/ Gandharvas). Later, he founded a Jain Sangha (Jain commune).
- ♦ He passed away at Pavapuri near Bihar Sharif in Bihar at the age of 72 in 468 BC. Sudharma was only one of 11 Gandharas who survived after the death of Mahavira.

Five Vows of Jainism (Panch Mahavratas)

1. Ahimsa (Non-injury)
2. Satya (Non-lying)
3. Asteya (Non-stealing)
4. Aparigraha (Non-possession)
5. Brahmacharya (Chastity)

Note: The first four vows were laid down by Parshwanath. The fifth one was added by Mahavira.

Sect of Jainism

- ♦ There was a serious famine in Magadha (South Bihar) in 298 BC, leading to a great exodus of many Jain monks to the Deccan and South India (Shravanbelgola) along with Bhadrabahu and Chandragupta Maurya. They returned back after 12 years. The leader of the group, which stayed back at Magadha, was Sthulabhadra. When Jains (Bhadrabahu and others) returned from South India, they held that complete nudity be an essential part of the teachings of Mahavira, while monks in Magadha began to put on white clothes.
- ♦ Thus, arose the two sects of Jainism- Shvetambaras (White Clad) and Digambaras (Sky clad or Naked).
- ♦ Shvetambaras (Those who put on white robes) - Sthulabhadra.
- ♦ Digambaras (Those who were stark naked) - Bhadrabahu.

Jain Architecture

- ♦ Gumpas (Caves): Hathigumpha, Baghagumpha etc. Udaigiri and Khandari (Orissa)- Kharvela.

Jain Literature

The Jain literature is divided into two major categories: Agam Literature (Agam Sutras); Non-agam Literature.

- ♦ Agam Literature (Agam Sutras): It consists of many texts, which are the sacred books of the Jain religion. They are written in the Ardhamagadhi Prakrit language. Lord Mahavira's preaching was methodically compiled by his immediate disciples known as Gandharas, and elder monks known as Srut-kevalis into many texts known as Sutras. These Sutras are collectively known as Agams or Agam Sutras, the sacred books of the Jain religion. Hence, the Jain religion does not have one sacred book like the Bible or Koran, but it has many books compiled by several Gandharas and Srut-kevalis.
- ♦ Non-agam Literature: It consists of commentary and explanation of Agam literature, and independent works, compiled by ascetics and scholars. They are written in many languages such as Prakrit, Sanskrit, Apabhramsa, Old Marathi, Rajasthani, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannad, Tamil, German, and English.
- ♦ The sacred literature of the Shvetambara is written in type of Prakrit called Ardhamagadhi Prakrit, and may be classified as follows: 12 Angas; 12 Upangas; 10 Parikarnas; 6 Chhedasutras; 4 Mulasutras; 2 Sutra-Granthas.
- ♦ Other important Jain texts are: Kalpasutra (in Sanskrit) - Bhadrabahu; Bhadrabahu Charita; Parishishta Parvan (an appendix of Trishashthishalaka Purush) - Hemchandra.

Life of a Tirthankara

- ♦ Chyavana Kalyanak: This is the event when the Tirthankara's soul departs from its last life, and is conceived in the mother's womb.