

PRACTICE
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**WEEKLY CA
MAY 2021**

MAY 24-31



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Minister of Rural Development, **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched **National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app** and Area officer monitoring App.
2. **E-Committee of Supreme Court** has released manual for its **free e-Courts Services Mobile App in 14 languages**.
 - SC's app is available in **English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu**.
3. After almost 70 years, **Cheetahs** will be reintroduced in India in **November 2021**
 - 10 African cheetahs, including 5 females will be introduced in **Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh** from South Africa
 - **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is releasing Rs 14 crore for the relocation project.

STATES AFFAIRS

4. Haryana CM **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched Haryana govt's integrated program for Covid-19 titled as '**Sanjeevni Pariyojna**'.
5. **Maharashtra govt** has unveiled '**Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance**' scheme to meet the state's oxygen needs.
6. Madhya Pradesh CM **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched a scheme '**Ankur**' under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.
 - Participants who will join the initiative will be given **Pranvayu Award** to ensure public participation in programme.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

7. **China** has successfully launched a new ocean-monitoring satellite titled as '**Haiyang-2D (HY-2D)**' into orbit on Long March-4B rocket, from **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, China**
8. World's largest iceberg '**A-76**' has broken off from Antarctica last week.
- It split off the western side of Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica's Weddell Sea
 - It is **thrice the size of Delhi** with surface area of 4,320 square km, making it the biggest berg currently afloat in the world
 - It was first spotted by **British Antarctic Survey**

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9. **NASA** is planning to search for water, other resources on the moon by its first mobile robot named as **VIPER** in **2023**, as a part of NASA's Artemis program
- **Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER)** will collect data that would help NASA map resources at the lunar South Pole that could one day be harvested for long-term human exploration at the Moon.
 - **VIPER will carry 4 instruments:** TRIDENT hammer drill, MSolo instrument, NIRVSS and NSS.
10. UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** has announced **United Kingdom** will work along with WHO and other nations to develop an advanced international pathogen surveillance network to identify COVID-19 variants and emerging diseases
- **Global Pandemic Radar** is the network that will ensure early detection of new variants and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed.
 - It is expected to **become fully operational before the end of 2021**.
11. **Fiame Naomi Mata'afa (64 years)** has been sworn-in as **first female Prime Minister of Samoa**
12. **India** has been working towards developing a mobile tech platform '**UNITE AWARE**' that helps increase situational awareness and provides terrain-related information to peacekeepers

- It has been developing the platform in partnership with the **UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations** and **Department of Operational Support**

13. **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **Swiss Confederation** has signed MoU to launch **1st WHO BioHub Facility** as part of WHO BioHub System, which was announced in November 2020.

- It will enhance the rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and partners globally.
- It will serve as a center for the safe receipt, sequencing, storage and preparation of biological materials for distribution to other laboratories.

14. **Bashar al-Assad (55 years)** has been re-elected as the **President of Syria** for the fourth consecutive term in a landslide victory by winning 95.1% of the total votes cast.

REPORTS & INDICES

15. FICCI has published its quarterly "Business Confidence Survey". According to it, Business confidence of Indian companies has come down to its lowest in three quarters in May. In last survey, confidence was at decadal high.

- Business Confidence Index (BCI) declined due to decline in optimism levels of participating companies with respect to current conditions.
- BCI stands at 51.5 in latest survey, after hitting 74.2 in previous survey round.
- However, index is still higher than 2020 (42.9) when nationwide lockdown was imposed.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

16. Power Ministry has decided to set up '**National Mission on the use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants**'.

- It will address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble-burning and will reduce carbon footprints.
- It will also support the energy transition in India and its targets to move towards cleaner energy sources.
- It is being envisaged that the Mission will have a Steering Committee and will also contribute to **National Clean Air Programme**.

17. **Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED)** has partnered with **NITI Aayog** to implement **Van Dhan Yojana scheme**

- They will work together to prepare the follow-up-plan for its implementation in each of the 39 Tribal Aspirational Districts
- These districts are from **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura**
- **Special focus** will be given to areas with **tribal more than 50%**

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

18. **B V R Subrahmanyam** has been appointed as the **Commerce Secretary in the Union Commerce Ministry**.

- He will also serve as the **Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Commerce Ministry**.
- He will succeed Commerce Secretary **Anup Wadhawan** on his retirement in June 2021.

19. **Tata Sons** has acquired majority stake of **64%** in popular online grocer **BigBasket** through its subsidiary, **Tata Digital Limited**.

- The acquisition will help the conglomerate take on the likes of Amazon, Walmart's Flipkart, Reliance's JioMart and Softbank-backed Grofers.
- Tata's acquisition of BigBasket could be a part of the conglomerate's bigger plan to launch a 'super app' that will serve as a holistic platform for all its consumer businesses.

FINANCE & BANKING

20. **HyperVerge** has partnered with **SBI** to provide convenient digital banking services to the customers of SBI with one of its flagship products, **Video Banking solution**.
- Under this, **SBI customers** can instantly open savings account using Video Banking process, during COVID, with minimal ID documents
21. **Finance Ministry** has notified rules for **increased FDI in the insurance sector**.
- **Insurance Amendment Bill 2021** has increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector to **74% from 49%**.
 - Parliament passed the Bill 2021 on March 22.
22. **Rajesh Bansal** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** by the RBIH Board
23. **Minister of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has launched **1st phase of MCA21 Version 3.0 (V3.0)** comprising of revamped website, new email services for MCA Officers and 2 new modules, named **e-Book and e-Consultation**
24. **ICICI Bank** has partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to link the UPI network with its digital wallet named as '**Pockets**'
- The facility will do away with the current practice of **linking UPI IDs with savings bank account** in a safe and secure manner

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

25. Private Secretary to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, **V Karthikeyan Pandian** named as a recipient of the prestigious **FIH (International Hockey Federation) President's Award**.
- He was instrumental in successfully organizing the men's Hockey World Cup and other international hockey events in Bhubaneswar
 - Odisha has come up with campaigns '**Odisha by Morning, Hockey by Evening**'
26. **D Nageshwar Reddy** has won **Rudolf V Schindler** Award, which is given by **American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)**
- He is the first Indian to receive this award.
27. Bharat Ratna Professor **C.N.R. Rao** has been conferred with **International Eni Award 2020** for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage.

- He has been working on hydrogen energy, metal oxides, carbon nanotubes, and other materials and two-dimensional systems.
- **International Eni Award 2020:** It is also known as Energy Frontiers award and Nobel Prize in Energy Research.

28. Indian economist and Nobel Laureate **Amartya Kumar Sen (87 years)** has been conferred with '**2021 Princess of Asturias Award**' by Spain in the social sciences category

- He was selected from **41 candidates from 20 nation** for his research on famines and theory of human development, welfare economics.
- **Princess of Asturias Awards:** It is awarded every year and comprises a cash prize of **50,000 Euros** along with **Joan Miro sculpture** representing the award, a diploma, an insignia.

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PERSON IN NEWS

29. Book titled as '**India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present**' has been released.

- It has been authored by Indian diplomat **Shivshankar Menon** (former National Security Adviser of India under Manmohan Singh)

30. **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal** (IPS officer of 1985 batch Maharashtra cadre) has been appointed as the **Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** for two years.

- He is currently serving as the **Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- He succeeded **Rishi Kumar Shukla**, who retired in February 2021

31. **Anvee Bhutani** has been elected as the **President of Oxford University Student Union (OUSU)** in a by-election.

- She won by **655 votes** after 11 stages of counting in a close contest with **Yannis Baur**, social secretary of the OU LGBTQ+ society, who got 649 votes.

32. **French** fashion tycoon **Bernard Arnault** has become the **world's richest person** with an estimated net worth of \$186.3 billion

- His net worth is \$300 million above Amazon's Jeff Bezos now, whose net worth is \$186 billion, and Tesla's Elon Musk's worth is \$147.3 billion.
- He is the chairman and chief executive of LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy).

33. **Andy Jassy** will take over the post of **Amazon's CEO** on **July 5, 2021**.

- The move has been taken after **Jeff Bezos** formally announced to step down as Amazon CEO at the company's annual shareholder meeting.
- Andy Jassy was **Amazon's cloud-computing head**
- Jeff Bezos will serve as executive chairman of Amazon's board

34. Former Narcotics Commissioner of India, **Jagjit Pavadia** has been elected as the **President of International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

- She is a retired officer of Indian Revenue Service (Customs) and is the 1st Indian to be appointed as the Chief of INCB.
- She has served as **Narcotics Commissioner of India, Central Bureau of Narcotics** from 2006-2012.
- She has been a member of INCB since 2015
- Headquarters of INCB: **Vienna, Austria**.

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OBITUARIES

35. India's boxing coach **Om Prakash Bhardwaj (79 years)** passed away due to age-related ailments in New Delhi.
- He was awarded **Dronacharya Award** (India's highest award in the field of sports and athletics) in 1985.
36. Former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India, **Srikumar Banerjee (75 years)** passed away due to a heart attack in Mumbai.
- He retired as **Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission** and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy in 2012.
37. Eminent Indian activist, journalist, Gandhian and freedom fighter **HS Doreswamy (103 years)** passed away due to massive cardiac arrest in Bengaluru
- He was very actively involved in several Indian freedom movement like **Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan movement, Quit India movement, Mysuru Chalo movement.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

38. **World Thyroid Day** is observed every year on **May 25** to promote awareness and understanding of thyroid health and the advances made in treating thyroid diseases.
- The Day was established in **2008** by the **European Thyroid Association** and the **American Thyroid Association.**
39. **World Hunger Day** is observed every year on **28 May** to create awareness about the people living in chronic hunger worldwide and celebrate sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty and make people inspire to be a part of the solution.
- The day was introduced in **2011** by **The Hunger Project**
 - **Hunger Project:** US based organization committed to the sustainable end of world hunger.
 - 2021 campaign title: **#Access Ends Hunger.**
40. **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)** is observed globally on **31 May** every year to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form
- Theme of the 2021 WNTD: **Commit to quit**
 - WNTD was created by the member states of **World Health Organization (WHO)** in **1987**

SPORTS

41. Red Bull's racer **Max Verstappen (Netherlands)** has won the **2021 Monaco Grand Prix**, to lead the world championship for the first time in his career
42. Indian boxer **Pooja Rani** won another gold-medal at **Asian Elite Boxing Championships** after defeating **Mavluda Movlonova (Uzbekistan)** in the **women's 75kg final** by 5-0 in Dubai.
- She has also qualified for the Tokyo Olympics

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