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Current Affairs: 30-02.05.2021

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates India's first 3D printed house at IIT-M



The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated the **first 3D printed house in India** at **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)**, on April 27, 2021. The concept of this 3D printed house was conceived by former IIT-M alumni. The single-storey home has been built in just **five days** over an area of about 600 sq. ft using **'Concrete 3D Printing' technology**. The house is by IIT-Madras based start-up **'TVASTA Manufacturing Solutions'**, within the campus, in association with **Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Centre for Innovation in Shelter**. The 3D Printed House would help to meet the deadline of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'housing for all' scheme by 2022.

Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan Replaces Ajay Bhushan Pandey as Finance Secretary



The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **T V Somanathan** as the **new Finance Secretary**. Somanathan, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, was currently serving as the Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. He will replace **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** who superannuated in February 2021.

Japanese Sportswear Brand ASICS Ropes in Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja as Brand Ambassador in India

The leading all-rounder of the Indian cricket team, **Ravindra Jadeja**, has been appointed by the **Japanese Sportswear** brand **ASICS**, as its **brand ambassador** in India. Jadeja plays for Chennai Super Kings at the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) season 2021-22.

International Jazz Day: 30 April



The **International Jazz Day** is celebrated on **30 April** every year to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe. This Day was declared by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and**

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Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2011. The 2021 celebration marks **10th Anniversary of International Jazz Day.** The day was created on the idea of jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock.

American Astronaut-Pilot Michael Collins, Who Flew Apollo 11 Command Module in 1969, Passes Away



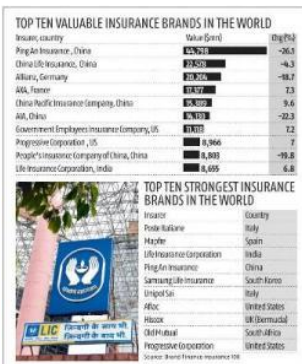
The American astronaut, Michael Collins, who was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, has passed away, after losing his battle to cancer. He was 90. During the three-man Apollo 11 crew mission in 1969, Collins kept the command module flying while the other two members, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon. Collins spent seven years of his career as an astronaut with NASA.

The US-Army led multinational, joint exercise 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' has kicked off in Albania



The US-Army led multinational, joint exercise 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' has kicked off, in Albania on April 26, 2021 and will be conducted in more than 30 training areas in 12 countries during April, May and June, including Western Balkan countries. The annual US-led military exercises will be comprising of 28,000 forces from 26 nations, including the United States, NATO countries and their allies. The aim of such large-scale drills is designed to build readiness and interoperability between US and NATO and partner militaries.

LIC Among Top Ten Most-Valuable Insurance Brand Globally: Brand Finance Report



The state-owned insurance behemoth 'Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)' has emerged as the **third strongest** and the **tenth most valuable** insurance brand globally, in **Brand Finance Insurance 100** report for 2021. The brand value of LIC increased by almost 7 percent to \$8.65 billion in 2021. The annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm **Brand Finance**, to identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally. Chinese firm 'Ping An Insurance' emerged as the world's most valuable insurance brand, despite recording a 26 percent drop in brand value in 2021 over previous year. In the strongest insurance brands category, Italy's Poste Italiane was at top position, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India.

However, the total brand value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6 percent from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021.

Veteran TV Journalist Rohit Sardana Passes Away Following Covid-19 Infection



Renowned TV journalist and news anchor, **Rohit Sardana**, has passed away, due to heart attack, following the deadly COVID-19 infection. The young journalist was just **41-year-old**. Sardana was associated with Zee News since 2004, before moving to AajTak in 2017. With Zee News, he hosted *Taal Thok Ke*, a programme which discusses contemporary issues in India, while with AajTak, he was hosting the debate show "Dangal." Sardana was awarded the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Puraskar by the Indian government in 2018.

Former Attorney General, Soli Sorabjee Passes Away at 91



Former Attorney General of India, **Soli Sorabjee**, has passed away, battling Covid-19. He was 91. Sorabjee served as the Solicitor General of India from 1977 to 1980 and became the Attorney General of India for the first time from **1989 to 1990 and then from 1998 to 2004**. The senior lawyer was honored with India's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, in 2002.

International Workers' Day: 01 May



The **International Workers' Day** is observed annually on **May 1** to honour the contributions of the labourers or working class people. This day is also known as Workers' Day, **Labour Day** as well as May Day in some of the countries. India celebrated the first Labour day in the year 1923 and the day is referred nationally as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas or Kamgar Din.

Indian Navy launches Operation Samudra Setu-II for Speedy Shipment of Oxygen-filled Containers to India From Other Nations

The Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries to India, amid its worsening COVID-19 pandemic. As a part of operation 'Samudra Setu II', seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for **shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment** from various countries.

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These warships are **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat**. In 2020, the Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu, as part of the Vande Bharat Mission, to repatriate approximately 4,000 stranded and distressed Indian citizens from the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Iran.

Vaishali Hiwase becomes BRO's first woman Commanding Officer to handle road project near China border



in Maharashtra.

Vaishali S Hiwase has become the **first woman officer of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** to take over as **Officer Commanding of a Road Construction Company (RCC)** that is responsible to provide connectivity in a high-altitude area along the Indo-China Border Road. Vaishali hails from Wardha,

Anand Mahindra launches Project 'Oxygen on Wheels'



The Mahindra Group Chairman **Anand Mahindra** has rolled out a project titled '**Oxygen on Wheels**' on 01 May 2021 to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals and homes, following acute oxygen shortage amid a severe second wave of coronavirus. The '**Oxygen on Wheels**' initiative will bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India, especially in Maharashtra. Under the initiative, Mahindra has lined up around 70 Bolero pickup trucks to connect oxygen producers with hospitals and homes, to deliver oxygen cylinders. The project is being implemented through Mahindra Logistics. Apart from this, an operations control centre has been established and the storage location is replenished from the local refilling plant. A direct-to-consumer model is also being conceived.

Film and TV Actor Bikramjeet Kanwarpal Passes Away of Covid-19 Complications at 52



Actor Bikramjeet Kanwarpal, who has been a popular character in many films, TV shows and web series, has passed away due to Covid-19 complications. He was 52. The actor was latest seen in Anil Kapoor's series 24 and web-series Special OPS. He was a retired Army officer. Some of his well-known films include Creature 3D, Horror Story, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, Bypass Road and Shortcut Romeo.