

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

An IAS Academy

**FEBRUARY MONTH
CURRENT AFFAIRS
2021**

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Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!

- ✓ The UP Metro Rail Corporation has taken inspiration from the New York Metro's experiment to sanitise trains with UV lamp rays.

Operation SMILE

- ✓ This operation was started by Chennai District Police on Feb 1 to find the missed childrens and safeguard childrens from abuse.

Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai

- ✓ Punjab State launched this mission as part of the government's campaign to accomplish the goal of 100% potable piped water supply in all rural households by March 2022.

Chennai corporation innovation officer

- ✓ Azhagu Pandian Raja has been appointed as the first innovation officer of the civic body.
 - ✓ It is becoming the first such appointee in the country.
 - ✓ He is the Smart Cities Mission Fellow.
 - ✓ He developed the Madras Waste Exchange and the Greater Chennai Corporation corona monitoring mobile app.
- The 30-kilometre highway which connects Nemilicheri and Minjur was opened by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

Yudh Abbhyas 2021

- ✓ The 16th edition of Indo-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' will begin in Rajasthan from February 8 and it will be concluded in February 21, 2021.
- ✓ Indian Army will be represented by the 11th Battalion of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles which is the part of the South Western Command.

Water birds census

- ✓ West Bengal Forest Department has become first state to conduct water birds census.

Kaliveli Wetlands

- ✓ The Villupuram district administration in Tamil Nadu has issued the first declaration under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The declaration was issued in a bid to declare Kaliveli wetlands as a bird sanctuary.
- ✓ The Kaliveli Wetlands is the second-largest brackish water lake in South India. The first largest is the Pulicat lake.
- ✓ The Kaliveli lake is connected to the Bay of Bengal through the Uppukalli Creek and the Edayanthittu sanctuary.
- ✓ Southern part of the wetland was declared a reserved land in the year 2001.

Lithium deposits in Karnataka

- ✓ The presence of 1600 tonnes of lithium deposits is found in Mandya district of Karnataka.
- ✓ The first Lithium plant of India has been set up at Gujarat in the year 2021.
- ✓ This refinery will make use of Lithium ore to produce the base battery material and make Gujarat a hub for Lithium-ion batteries.

No road tax, registration fee on EV

- ✓ Telangana has exempted road tax and registration fee for a fixed number of electric vehicles of various categories.

School of Public Health – Rajasthan

- ✓ Rajasthan has launched a new School of Public Health.
- ✓ The school was launched to make the policy intervention to build the public health capacity and skills.
- ✓ It will also help in bridging the gaps between education and practices in Rajasthan.
- ✓ The school has been named after the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR).

1st state with 2 Expressway airstrips

- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, a new 3,300-metre-long airstrip has been constructed near Kurebhar on Purvanchal Expressway.

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- ✓ With this new airstrip, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India having two airstrips on expressways.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh also has an airstrip on Lucknow-Agra Expressway.
- ✓ Airstrips on expressways are designed to facilitate emergency landing and takeoff of fighter planes.

Switch Delhi' campaign

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Switch Delhi' campaign
- ✓ The campaign was launched to promote the use of electric vehicles.
- ✓ It will also raise the awareness about how it can help in combating the air pollution in Delhi and making Delhi clean and pollution-free.

First thunderstorm research testbed

- ✓ India's first thunderstorm research testbed will be established in Balasore, Odisha.
- ✓ The Thunderstorm Research Testbed is being established with the objective to minimize the human fatalities and loss of property because of the lightning strikes.

Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela

- ✓ The third phase of Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar mela is set to be held in Guwahati on February 6, 2021.

Infra Projects

- ✓ Prime Minister to launch infra projects in West Bengal.
- ✓ We will also dedicate to the nation 348km dobhi - durgapur natural gas pipeline section which is the part of pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.

Kisan Special Trains

- ✓ The north east frontier railway has dedicated to run Kisan special train from Agartala to Howrah and Sealdah.

e - cabinet

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to make end to end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing the e - cabinet application.

Schools to be named after Subhash Chandra Bose

- ✓ The ministry of education has decided to name a Residential School and hostels funded under samagra Shiksha of the ministry netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools for hostel.

Begger free campaign

- ✓ Rajasthan government has launched campaign named begger free in Jaipur.

Tamil Nadu Increases Punishment For Crimes Against Women, Children

- ✓ With the amendment to the IPC, the minimum punishment for dowry deaths (IPC 304-B) shall be 10 years from the present seven and for disrobing (IPC 354-B) the minimum sentence is enhanced to five years from three now and the maximum punishment, ten years from seven.

Dr J Jayalalithaa University in Villupuram

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu assembly on Friday passed the Dr. Jayalalitha University Bill 2021 to establish new university.
- ✓ Thiruvalluvar University would be bifurcated and a new university would be established at Villupuram.

TN elections 2021:

- ✓ Voter Id's are to be send through postal for new registrars.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Election Officer is Satya Prasad Sahu.

First Young Readers' Boat Library

- ✓ The West Bengal Transport Corporation has launched the First Young Readers' Boat Library. The library has been launched in collaboration with a heritage book store.

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- ✓ On that day, the foundation of the International Women's Trade and Research Centre (IWTRC) will also be laid down.

Three private colleges brought under health department

- ✓ Higher Education Department has issued an order transferring the rajah muthiah Medical College and Hospital, the Rani Meyyammai college of nursing and the Raja muthiah Dental College and Hospital to the health department.

ESI Hospital in TN

- ✓ Government of India has announced that ESI hospitals is to be built in 6 districts of Tamilnadu.
- ✓ The 6 districts are tiruppur, sriperumputhur, vaniyambadi, Nagercoil, Dindigul and Thoothukudi.

Central government has announced Gram Kaushalya yojana in Thoothukudi.

- ✓ This scheme is one among Deenadayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana which help rural people to increase their livelihood.

- First helicopter of Assam inaugurated in Majuli.

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Andhra Pradesh has become the second State to implement the power sector reforms that was put forward by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Uddan Tara

- ✓ Adolescent Health Programme titles Uddan Tara was launched in Dhaulpur, Rajasthan.
- Uttar Pradesh will be the first state to present the paperless budget and the next state will be Madhya Pradesh.
- Human rights violations against police officers across the country in the year 2020 - 2021 is Uttar Pradesh in the first, Delhi second and Tamilnadu in the third place.
- Gujarat High Court has celebrated its Diamond Jubilee since completing 60 years and our Prime Minister launched a postal stamp.

Kalpavanam Urban Forest Park

- ✓ The Kalpavanam urban forest park was inaugurated in Sangapur village of Gajwel mandal in Telangana's Siddipet.
- ✓ A globe has installed in the park with the slogan "Save Forest Save Earth".

➤ Andhra Pradesh State Election launches eWatch app to monitor the rural local bodies' elections.

Smart and next gen bikes

- ✓ Smart bikes and next generation bikes were launched by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami at the Marina beach.
- ✓ It is the part of a Greater Chennai Corporation initiative.
- ✓ The battery-powered bikes can run for 45km once fully charged.
- ✓ It can also be pedalled.

First Geothermal Power Project

- ✓ The first geothermal power project of India will be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh.
- ✓ The project will be completed in four phases.
- ✓ This geothermal project is known as Geothermal Field Development Project.

Integrated public grievance

- ✓ A new “Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance Chief Minister Helpline Management System” (IIPGCMS) will be established to redress the grievances of the public.

- ✓ Citizens will very soon be able to access the Government from the comfort of their homes by calling the Chief Minister Helpline at 1100.

Unique 16-digit Unicode

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode.
- ✓ This Unicode will be used to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state.

Fisheries hub of India

- ✓ The Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh announced that an investment of ₹ 400 crore will be made in Goa to make this state a fisheries hub of India.

RINL

- ✓ RINL the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), a Navratna Company under the Ministry of Steel, currently has a capacity of 7.3 million tonnes per annum and took up plant modernization.
- ✓ Centre's move to privatise Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) which has a steel plant in Visakhapatnam, chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the decision.

India's first Igloo Café

- ✓ This is country's first café built of snow.
- ✓ It is Asia's biggest Igloo Café.
- ✓ It is located at the ski resort in Gulmarg, Kashmir.
- ✓ The resort is situated in the Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas at an altitude of 2,650 metre.

Nutrition Garden

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has inaugurated a golden jubilee nutritional Garden at Chaudhari Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University Palampur.

Tamil Nadu to get its fifth Tiger Reserve

- ✓ Tamil Nadu have a new Tiger Reserve by combining megamalai wildlife sanctuary and Srivilliputhur grizzled squirrel wildlife sanctuary as fifth Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ This will be India's 51st tiger Reserve.

Undersea metro rail

- ✓ The work on the 212-metre-tall Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj memorial in the Arabian Sea commenced in 2016.

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- ✓ The benefits, according to the schemes, shall automatically be transferred to the family using the same code.

Mandarin Duck Returns

- ✓ Mandarin duck was last spotted on the Dibru river in Tinsukia in 1902.
 - ✓ After 118 years this colourful duck has been spotted in Tinsukia, Assam now.
- Goa has become the 6th state in the country to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure.
- The Indian Army has laid the foundation stone of the tallest ‘Iconic National Flag’ at Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The flag will be on a 100 feet-high pole.

MS Swaminathan Committee

- ✓ The Odisha Government has decided to move Union Government to reiterate its demand for implementation of MS Swaminathan Committee recommendations regarding minimum support price (MSP) of all crops.

Keezhadi excavation

- ✓ 7th phase of keezhadi excavation started.

‘Jalabhishekam’ Water Conservation Campaign

- ✓ Rajnath Singh, Indian Defence Minister inaugurated 57,000 water structures under the “Jalabhishekam Water Conservation Campaign”.
 - ✓ These water structures were constructed in Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ The conservation work will help to achieve the goal of water conservation and build a self-reliant Madhya Pradesh.
- **135ft** tall Murugan Statue is to come near Kovilpatti.
- This is tallest Murugan Statue in the Asia.
- Sofia from Palani has made a guinness record by drawing 148ft height 540 arts on the topic “My Earth”.

Youngest Zila Parishad

- ✓ Muskan, 21, is the youngest person to be elected as Zila Parishad Chairperson from Himachal Pradesh.

Kerala to set up Mini Museums

- ✓ Kerala, which is home to India’s biggest art event called Kochi-Muziris Biennale, is now aspiring to become a museum hub in the country.

COVID-19 Warrior Memorial

- ✓ The Health and Family Welfare Department of Odisha has announced recently to established a COVID-19 Warrior Memorial in Bhubaneshwar.

Kochi Water Metro

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, has inaugurated the first route and terminal buildings of Kochi Water Metro.
- ✓ The metro route ranges from Vyttila to Kakkanad.
- ✓ Vyttila is one of the busiest traffic hubs in Kerala while, Kakkanad is the IT hub.

West Bengal's project

- ✓ West Bengal has launched the “Maa Kitchens” project which feeds for five rupees.
- ✓ **Dwarka Sarkar** project is launched to bring government jobs to the doorstep.
- The **Government of Kerala** has ordered that all government offices staffed by women be provided with napkin dispensers and napkin burning machines.

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- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of higher education graduates in the country.
- Ranipettai railway station has resumed operations with freight traffic after about 25 years.

One Nation One Ration Card system reform

- ✓ Punjab has become the 13th State in the country to successfully undertake “One Nation One Ration Card system” reform.

TN Information Commissioner

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government has appointed P. Dhanasekaran and M. Sreedhar as State Information Commissioner.
- ✓ They will hold the office for a term of 3 years or 65 years of age whichever is earlier.

Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry

- ✓ Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- ✓ Soundararajan was sworn in by Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Sanjib Banerjee at the Raj Nivas. She took the oath in Tamil.
- ✓ Soundararajan is the fifth woman to hold the post of Lt Governor of Puducherry, after Chandrawati, Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Rajani Rai and Kiran Bedi.

Government Veterinary College and Research Building

- ✓ Salem Thalaivasal which laid the foundation last year has been constructed with a year.
- ✓ This is the Biggest among the Asia.

UP 1st Transgender public toilet

- ✓ UP's 1st Transgender public toilet has been built in Kamachha area of Varanasi under the smart city project.

Tree City of World

- ✓ The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Arbor Day Foundation have recently recognized Hyderabad as a 2020 Tree City of World.
- ✓ Hyderabad was selected for the recognition following its commitment to grow and maintain the urban forests.

Oil & Gas sector projects in Tamil Nadu

- ✓ PM Modi laid the foundation stone of key oil, gas sector projects in Tamilnadu.
- ✓ He dedicated the Ramanathapuram-Thoothukudi natural gas pipeline and Gasoline Desulphurisation Unit at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Manali.
- ✓ He also laid the foundation stone of the Cauvery Basin Refinery at Nagapattinam.

Uttarakhand passes ordinance

- ✓ Uttarakhand government has passed an ordinance to give land ownership rights to daughters and wives of male landowners by amending the Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act ahead of the budget session of the assembly.

Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram celebrated their statehood day

- ✓ The north-eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram observed their statehood day. Both of the states received their statehood on February 20, 1987.

✓ ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- It also has its international borders with Bhutan to the west and Myanmar to the east.
- The state also has disputed border with China to the north at McMahon Line.
- The length of the border across China's autonomous region called Tibet is 1,129 KMs.
- The state is the largest state by area among the Seven Sister States of Northeast India.
- The state is an ethnically diverse state. It is home to Monpa people, Tani people, Tai people, and Naga people.

✓ **MIZORAM**

- “Mizo-ram” means “land of the Mizos”. This state is located in northeast old-Assam region of India. It is a landlocked southernmost state of India.
- It shares borders with three states among the Seven Sister States of old Assam that is Assam, Tripura and Manipur.
- The state also shares an international border with Bangladesh and Myanmar with its total length of 722-kilometre.
- The state was a part of Assam until year 1972. In the year 1972 it was made a Union Territory. Finally, in the year 1986, the UT was given the statehood in accordance with the 53rd amendment of the Indian Constitution.
- It became the 23rd state of the India on February 20, 1987.

Bangalore third worst air pollution affected City

- ✓ Bangalore emerged as third worst city in India to be affected by air pollution in 2020 according to Greenpeace southeast Asia analysis.

✓ Two companies from Tamil Nadu have been selected for the National Technology Award.

Pictures of the three leaders of the assembly

- ✓ Full portraits of V. Chidambaranar Pa Subramanian Omanthur Ramasamy Rettyar will be unveiled in the Assembly and the number of full-length portraits has risen to 15 from 12.

India's first Digital University

- ✓ A Digital University has been set up in Kerala's Technocity, Mangalapuram.
- ✓ Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University) is established.
- ✓ India's first Digital University will focus on postgraduate programmes and research.

KFC debit cards

- ✓ Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) will soon issue debit cards.
- ✓ KFC is a leading state-owned financial institution.
- ✓ These cards will be branded by public sector banks and cards will be issued in Rupay and platinum formats.
- ✓ It is for the first time in the country that a state government financial institution is issuing debit cards.

✓ Mukesh Ambani is set to build the world's largest zoo in Gujarat which is set to be open in 2023.

Transgender desk

✓ Cyderabad Police in Hyderabad will soon have an exclusive transgender desk to attend the grievances of transgenders in the City.

Hoshangabad to be renamed as Narmadapuram

✓ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Hoshangabad city in the state would be renamed as Narmadapuram and a proposal to that effect would be sent to the Centre.

UP export Kala Namak rice

- ✓ The state of Uttar Pradesh is all set to export a consignment of 20 tonnes of Kala Namak rice to Singapore. This move is a major boost to the farm exports from the state.
- ✓ The packaging of the rice comprises the popular quote of Mahatma Buddha as: “The unique aroma of the rice will remind people about me”.
- ✓ It is one of the finest varieties of aromatic rice that are grown in India.

- ✓ The rice is also referred to as 'Buddha ka Mahaprasad' (an offering to Lord Buddha).

Jewar airport to be developed

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Government plans to develop Jewar airport as Asia's biggest airport.

Karnataka will set up flower processing centre

- ✓ The Horticulture Department of Karnataka will set up a flower processing centre in collaboration with the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB). The centre will be set up in order to convert the unsold flowers into its useful products.

Breastfeeding Bank

- ✓ Breastmilk bank set up at Thoothukudi Government Medical College Hospital with a capacity to store 200 liters of breastmilk safely for 6 months.

Nagaland National Anthem sung

- ✓ Nagaland was declared a separate state on December 1, 1963. If the National Anthem has not been sung in the Assembly since 1960, the National Anthem has now been sung for the first time in 58 years.

Snakepedia mobile app

- ✓ A team of scientists, doctors and photographers in Kerala have launched a mobile application named “Snakepedia”.
- ✓ It will present all relevant information on snakes, to help the public as well as doctors in treating snake bites.
- ✓ The main aim of the app is to help the public identify snakes, avail proper treatment on time for snakebites, bust myths about snakes, and protect snakes as well as snakebite victims.

First undersea tunnel

- ✓ Mumbai will start the first undersea tunnel of India in 2023 which is being constructed as part of Coastal Road project of Mumbai.
- ✓ The tunnel will have the length of 2.07 km out of which 1 kilometre portion will be under the sea.
- ✓ It will pass through Arabian Sea near Girgaon Chowpatty.
- ✓ The tunnel will start from the Priyadarshani Park and will terminate at the Netaji Subhash Road in Marine Drive.

Chandigarh launches carbon watch

- ✓ Chandigarh has become the first in India to launch the carbon watch, mobile application to access the carbon footprint of an individual.

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- ✓ Amount of greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere by a particular human activity.

Festival of flowers organised in Varanasi

- ✓ In Varanasi, today's festival of flowers, vegetables, and horticulture was organised.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has promised nine more important projects to the **Navratnas** as election promises.

Bharat Ratna Dr. MGR Traditional Paddy Conservation Award

- ✓ presented to 3 persons for encouraging farmers to conserve traditional paddy varieties
- ✓ Namakkal - Sakthi Prakash
- ✓ Salem - Velmurugan
- ✓ Sivagangai – Sivaraman

Electronic City

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved 700 Electronic City project near upcoming Noida International Airport.

Kushinagar 3rd International Airport Kushinagar Airport became the third licensed International Airport of Uttar Pradesh.

100% tap water connections to schools

- ✓ Telangana has provided tap water connections to all schools and anganwadis in the State.
- ✓ Nalgonda has the highest share of schools and anganwadis among all districts. Previously, the State had become the only one, along with Goa, to provide functional tap connections to all households.
- ✓ It was taken up under the 100-day special campaign of the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

First paperless budget

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, led Congress government presented its third state budget and the first paperless budget.
- ✓ The state budget is laid down before the house of houses of legislatures in the state in accordance with Article 202 of the Constitution.

Rajaraja Cholan sculpture

- ✓ An inscription of Rajendra Chola I has been found in the Trichy Pichandar temple complex.
- ✓ The Uttamar Temple, also known as Pichandarkovil, is considered to be the oldest inscription in the temple during the reign of Rajathirajan I, son of Rajendra Chola, in 1902 by the Archaeological Survey of India.

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- ✓ This inscription is from the sixteenth reign of Rajendra I.
- ✓ Built in the year 1028 by Rajendra Chola.

Delhi government notifies a scheme

- ✓ Government has notified its flagship scheme for the doorstep delivery of ration.
- ✓ The “Mukhyamantri ghar ghar Ration Yojna” under the targeted Public Distribution system of the national food security act 2013.

Delhi government introduces contactless ticket

- ✓ Delhi government for the first time Since its Inception expanded its ambitious contactless ticketing services to all Delhi transport corporation buses.

Assam declared as distributed area

- ✓ Assam Governor declared the entire state as a distributed area for 6 months. It is declared under the powers conferred in section 3 of armed forces Act 1958. Besides Assam video, this is also in force in Nagaland and parts of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

Universal Health Coverage

- ✓ The chief minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, have announced a Universal Health Coverage for the state while presenting the state budget of state.

- ✓ The government announced the “Rajasthan Model of Public Health” under which the government will also bought “**Right to Health Bill**” which gives emphasis on the rights of patients.
- ✓ Under this model, the state will take Preventive Care measures, Primary Care measures and Curative Care measures in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ✓ The Universal Health care model will also ensure that **primary healthcare services** is provided to each citizen within three kilometres or 30 minutes walking distance.

Uttiramerur new findings

- ✓ Eleventh century archaeologists have unearthed a herostone in the Salavakkam area next to Uttiramerur which is one and a half feet high and one and a half feet wide.
 - ✓ The hero stone is like that of a warrior and his wife. There seems to be a tree between them. There is no information about the existence of a tree in the middle of nowhere.
 - ✓ Examining this there is a kind of tree called sal tree which means today I call it kungili tree.
- Former Salem District Collector **Sampath** receives Government of Tamil Nadu Award 2021 for outstanding performance in eliminating child labor.

- February 24 - State Girl Child Protection Day was observed.
- ✓ **Narmada** from Tiruvallur district has received the state award for the protection of girl children of the state of Tamil Nadu.

Implementing CBSE system

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to implement CBSE system for classes 1 to 7 in all its schools from the 2021-22 academic year.

Himachal Pradesh's e-parivahan Vyavstha

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh launched e-Parivahan Vyavstha of the State Transport Department.
- ✓ It aims to provide faceless services to the people of the state regarding driving licence/registration certificate/permits etc.

Manipur launches PM FME Scheme

- ✓ Manipur CM has launched reserve Prime Minister formalisation of micro food processing Enterprises scheme(PM FME)
- ✓ It aims to provide financial, technical and business support to micro food processing unit, farmer producer organisations and self help group.
- ✓ This scheme will also promote one district one product get more benefit.

Women Commando force inaugurated

- ✓ Uttarakhand CM inaugurated women's commando most and smart cheetah police of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand become the fourth state in the country where a square of women commandos has been added to the police department.

'Namma Cargo' services

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa, launched the 'Namma Cargo' services.
- ✓ The service was launched at the Vidhana Soudha.
- ✓ At this place, the State road transport corporations will transport the parcels so as to generate more revenue, except for the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).
- ✓ It will also be implemented across the selected locations in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Madhya Pradesh approved the "Penal Law (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2021"

- ✓ This bill was approved in order to give life imprisonment to food adulterers in states.

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- ✓ Food Adulteration can be done by addition of another substance to the food item so as to increase the quantity of food item in either the raw form or prepared form.
- ✓ The act was passed by the FSSAI in 2006 for which the regulations were notified in 2011 if the adulteration is done which results into the death or any other serious injury to the person than, there shall be punishment for the adulterers for a term not less than seven years which could also be extended to life imprisonment.

Budget mobile app

- ✓ “Gujarat Budget” mobile application was launched by Gujarat government.



Student Health Card

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir administration has started health check-ups of students and issued ‘Student Health Card’ in all the government schools under the Mid Day Meal Scheme across the Union Territory.

Mahasamruddhi Mahila sashaktikaran scheme

- ✓ In a bit to empower women in rural Maharashtra, the state government has announced the Mahasamruddhi Mahila sashaktikaran scheme.

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- ✓ Under the scheme, self help group will organise exhibitions to displays rural women's work and encourage greater participation across the fields.

Reservation for Vanniyar

- ✓ According to the report of the Judge Janarthanam Commission, 10.5% reservation was given to Vanniyar caste in MBC.

New Centenary Building of Patna High Court

- ✓ Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde called for reducing dependence on courts by encouraging parties to opt for pre-litigation mediation which has a way of solving problems, both civil and criminal, which arise from similar dispute.
 - ✓ He also inaugurated a new Centenary Building of Patna High Court.
- The under-construction airport in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) will be named **Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport**.

Road Constructed Using Plastic Waste

- ✓ In a first-ever initiative in Tripura, the state has started using non-recyclable plastic waste in the construction of roads.

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- ✓ It aims to reduce plastic waste and make the environment plastic-free.

NATIONAL

125th Celebration of “Prabutha Bharatha” was held. This journal was started by Swami Vivekanantha in 1896.

National Mission for Edible Oil (NMEO)

- ✓ The Ministry of Agriculture has proposed this mission.
- ✓ It aims to increase the domestic availability and reduce the import dependency.
- ✓ The mission has been proposed for next five years in the span of 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- ✓ It comprises of the three Sub-Missions. These are with the objective of increasing the production of oilseeds and edible oils from the three sources.
 - Primary Sources - it includes the Annual Crops, Plantation Crops and Edible Tree Borne Oilseeds
 - Secondary Sources - it includes the Rice bran oil and Cotton seed oil.
 - Consumer Awareness to maintain the edible oil consumption constant at 19.00 kg per person per annum.

8th International Silk Fair

- ✓ The Textiles Minister of India, Smriti Irani, inaugurated the 8th India International Silk Fair on the Virtual Portal.

- ✓ India is the 2nd largest producer of Silk after China.
- ✓ Silk is a luxury good in India. Around 97% of the raw mulberry silk is produced in five states namely, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- ✓ India is also the only country across the world that produces all the four major varieties of silk – Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga.

PM AatmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana and the Mission Poshan 2.0

- ✓ As per the announcement, a new centrally sponsored scheme called PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana will be launched.
- ✓ PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana was announced in addition to the National Health Mission (NHM).
- ✓ Mission Poshan 2.0 will be launched with the objective of improving the nutritional content, delivery, outreach, and outcome. This scheme will merge the Poshan Abhiyan and the Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

Pattachitra

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded a girl from Odisha named Bhagyashree in his mann ki baat programme. The girl has mastered the art of creating Pattachitra on various themes using the soft stones.

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- ✓ Pattachitra or Patachitra term generally used for the traditional, cloth-based scroll painting.
- ✓ The art form is based in the states of Odisha and West Bengal.
- ✓ The art form is known for the intricate details and the mythological narratives and folktales inscribed in it.
- ✓ The literal meaning of the word “Pajtta” is “cloth” and “Chitra” means “picture” in Sanskrit.
- ✓ It is highly inspired by Jagannath and Vaishnava sect. Thus, the theme of Odia painting is kept around Lord Jagannath and the Vaishnava sect.
- ✓ The Geographical indication of Patachitra is registered differently in both the states because style and motif of the paintings in both the state are different.
- ✓ Patachitra of Odisha is registered as Orissa Pattachitra while that of West Bengal is registered as Bengal Patachitra.

Mega Investment Textile Park (MITRA)

- ✓ The Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, announced during the Union Budget 2021 presentation that the Government has proposed a “Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme”.
- ✓ MITRA scheme will be launched in addition to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI).

Ayodhya Mosque

- ✓ The mosque in Ayodhya district will be dedicated to Ahmadullah Shah.
- ✓ It will be built on the land in lieu of Babri Masjid.
- ✓ He earned the nickname of 'Awadh's Lighthouse of Rebellion' during the first war of independence against the British in 1857.

Bangladesh army in Republic Day parade

- ✓ For the first time, a marching contingent of Bangladesh tri-services participated in the Republic Day Parade.
- ✓ It is commemorating the India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war
- ✓ That war led to the creation of Bangladesh.

Aquatic quarantine centre

- ✓ Union minister of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying Giriraj Singh laid the foundation stone for the aquatic quarantine centre facility at Padappai.
- ✓ The main objective behind the Centre is to help in augmenting ornamental fish trade.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands is first among Union Territories free from Corona Virus.

63 districts has no blood bank

- ✓ There is no blood bank in 63 districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
- ✓ Health comes under State list of 7th schedule.

NITI Aayog's megacity plan

- ✓ NITI Aayog has proposed to leverage the strategic location and natural features of the Little Andaman island by building a new greenfield coastal city.
- ✓ It will be developed as a free trade zone and will compete with Singapore and Hong Kong.
- ✓ This plan is outlined in the "Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island Vision Document" by NITI Aayog.

Savitribai Phule Birth Anniversary

- ✓ Jan 3 marks the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule.
- ✓ She is known for her contribution in the field of women's education.

Mount Merapi, the most active volcano of Indonesia has once again erupted recently.

- The last major volcanic eruption of Mount Merapi occurred in the year 2010.

**Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management
(CWCM)**

- ✓ The Central government has announced that, it will soon set up a new Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) in Chennai.
- ✓ India has 42 Ramsar sites that have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance. They cover around 4.6% of Indian landmass.

72nd Republic Day parade's unique features

- ✓ India's 72nd R-Day parade have no chief guest after more than five decades.
- ✓ Troops deployed in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands participated along with India's first woman fighter pilot.
- ✓ A tableau of newly formed UT of Ladakh was displayed.
- ✓ The newly acquired multirole Rafale fighters also fly over Rajpath.
- ✓ There was no participation of military veterans and no stunts by motorcycle daredevils.
- ✓ The size of marching contingents has been reduced from regular 144 to 96.

- ✓ For the first time A 122 - member Bangladesh contingent participated in the parade.

Democracy Index 2020

- ✓ The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) recently released its report titled “Democracy in sickness and in health?” and also published the Democracy Index 2020.
- ✓ The Democracy Index report 2020 by the covers the 167 countries.
- ✓ India’s rank has degraded by two places from the previous year ranking. This year India has been ranked at 53rd place.
- ✓ In the Democracy Index, Norway has topped and the 2nd 3rd 4th and the 5th ranks have been secured by Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada respectively in the index.
- ✓ In the index, India has been classified as a ‘flawed democracy’.

Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers’ Conclave

- ✓ The Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers’ Conclave was hosted by India on February 4, 2021. The event took place in the backdrop of Aero India 2021 which is the largest Aero show of Asia.
- ✓ The Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers’ Conclave was organized.

- ✓ **Theme:** “Enhanced Peace, Security, and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean”.

NCPCR statement to fight child labour and begging

- ✓ Recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has identified 50 religious places to carry the interventions in order to ensure zero tolerance towards child labour.

GOBARDHAN

- ✓ This web portal will be used for monitoring the progress of GOBARDHAN activities in India.
- ✓ It is an important component of Swachh Bharat Mission Phase-2.
- ✓ This scheme was launched by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation GOBAR-DHAN scheme stands for Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources – DHAN scheme.
- ✓ This scheme is the part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- ✓ The scheme has its focus on keeping the villages clean, increasing the income of rural households. It also seeks to generate energy from cattle waste.

Aero India 2021

- ✓ Aero India 2021 is being organised at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru by the Department of Defence Production of the Defence Ministry from February 3 to 5, 2021.
- ✓ Its theme is: ‘A Runway to a Billion Opportunities’. The three-day event will focus on India’s indigenous defence sector capabilities.

Swarnim Vijay Varsh

- ✓ As a part of ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ celebration commemorating 50years of the 1971 war triumph against Pakistan, one of the victory flames was received at Air Force Station Adampur.

Udyog Manthan

- ✓ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is organizing Udyog Manthan - a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars for promoting Quality and Productivity in Indian Industry.

Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations

- ✓ Prime Minister inaugurated the Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh on 4th Feb’21.

- ✓ The day marks 100 years of Chauri Chaura Incident.
- ✓ He also released a postal stamp dedicated to that event.

World's Fastest-growing Mature Tech Ecosystem

- ✓ Bengaluru has been designated as the fastest-growing mature technology ecosystem in the world since 2016.
- ✓ This report has been prepared by London & Partners
- ✓ London has secured the second spot on the list.
- ✓ Munich, Berlin, and Paris have been ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th respectively.
- ✓ Mumbai has attained the 6th spot in the report.
- ✓ Bengaluru has also been placed in the 6th position for tech venture capitalist (VC) investments in the world.
- ✓ Shanghai has topped this global list of tech venture capitalist (VC) investments.

Lokpal and Lokayukta act 2013

- ✓ Section 3 under this act, says this is an independent judiciary.
- ✓ Section 48 says that, lokpal should submit its task performed in one year to the president of India.
- ✓ Lokpal was introduced in the year 2019. The first justice appointed was Pinnaki Chandra Ghose.

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One Nation, One Ombudsman

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will integrate the consumer grievances redressal under a single ombudsman as opposed to the three grievance redressal schemes working at present.
- ✓ RBI will adopt the 'One Nation One Ombudsman' approach to make the alternate dispute redress mechanism simple and more responsive to the users.

CoBRA

- ✓ Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA)
- ✓ COBRA is a special operation unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) of India.
- ✓ The induction of the **first women CoBRA Unit** was marked by a ceremony that was held in Kadarapur village. A member of 34 CRPF women personnel contingent have been selected from 6 all-women battalions of CRPF.
- ✓ The operation unit is skilled in the guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare.
- ✓ It established in the year 2009 to counter the Naxalite problem.

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Winners of Republic Day tableaux

- ✓ The Ram Temple tableau of Uttar Pradesh has bagged the first prize among all tableaux.
- ✓ It was on display during the Republic Day 2021.
 - Its theme was ‘Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh’.
- ✓ The Tripura tableau won the second prize for the Republic Day parade.
- ✓ Uttarakhand’s tableau was adjudged third among the states and union territories.
 - Its theme was ‘Dev Bhoomi — The Land of the Gods’.
- ✓ The tableau of Central Public Works Department (CPWD) bagged a special prize for paying tribute to the fallen heroes of the armed forces.
 - Its theme was ‘Amar Jawan’

RBI announces

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India estimates GDP growth to be 10.5 per cent in 2021-22, said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das during the MPC meet announcements on Friday.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to gradually restore the cash reserve ratio (CRR) in two phases.
- ✓ CRR, which is the slice of deposits that banks maintain with the RBI, will go up from 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent

effective from March 27, 2021, and to 4.0 per cent effective from May 22, 2021.

Chamoli Tragedy

- ✓ An avalanche and flash floods triggered in
- ✓ Alaknanda river in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand following a glacial breach.
- ✓ Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) is investigating the matter.
- ✓ SASE works under the nodal head Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ The glacial breach also breached a lake in the Raini
- ✓ village in Chamoli district.
- ✓ The raini village is situated on the boundary of
- ✓ Nanda Devi biosphere reserve.
- ✓ The breach has resulted into increase in water levels in the Dhauliganga river and the Rishiganga, one of the tributaries of Dhauliganga river.
- ✓ The avalanche has destroyed the Rishi Ganga hydel plant on the Rishiganga river.

Remote voting: EC to begin mock trials

- ✓ Election Commission of India is planning to adopt remote voting for citizens of India to cast their vote from the place they live in.

- ✓ The World sustainable development summit will be organised under the theme- 'Redefining Our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All'.

ISRO released images of the glacier burst in Uttarakhand

- ✓ The satellite images show that flash floods were reported in Rishi Ganga and Dhaul Ganga river catchment areas.
- ✓ The flash floods were caused due to major snow avalanche closer to the Raini village of Chamoli district.
- ✓ These images were captured by the ISRO's advanced earth imaging and mapping satellite CARTOSAT-3.

India's first CNG Tractor

- ✓ India is going to launch its first-ever diesel tractor that has been converted to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).
 - ✓ CNG is a clean fuel. The carbon content in the CNG is the lowest among all the fuels.
- India stands first in road accidents. In a year almost 1.5 lakhs people die in road accidents.

Washermenpet-Wimco Nagar metro line

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the phase-1 extension of Chennai Metro Rail along with other projects in Tamilnadu.

- ✓ The stretch has eight stations including six elevated stations and two underground stations.

7.7-magnitude earthquake strikes

- ✓ A 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck in the South Pacific and sparking tsunami warning for New Zealand, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and other nations in the region.

SPICEJET

- ✓ Spiecejet will be the first and only airline to connect Ajmer with Mumbai and Ahmedabad with Amritsar reiterating the airline's commitment to enhance connectivity between metro and non-metro cities.
- ✓ The new flights also include four new seasonal flights connecting Jaisalmer with Delhi and Ahmedabad.

MCA21 Version 3.0

- ✓ Ministry of Corporate Affairs will launch the data analytics-driven MCA21 Version 3.0 by October 2021.
- ✓ MCA21 Version 3.0 system is the Mission Mode e-Governance project of India.
- ✓ This project will comprise of the additional modules for e-Adjudication, eConsultation, and Compliance Management.

26 more Green Zone sites

- ✓ The Central government has recently given the approval for 26 more green zone site for drones.
- ✓ The approval was given in the light of facilitating the operations by NoPermission-No-Take-off (NPNT) compliant drones.
- ✓ The approval was given by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ The ministry has also given its nod for six green zone sites earlier.
- ✓ New Green Zone sites
 - Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of 8
 - 6 sites were approved in Jharkhand
 - 4 in Chhattisgarh o 2 in Telangana
 - One in each of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Gujarat; Odisha and Mizoram.

J&K – UK space agency joined hands

- ✓ The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and a United Kingdom based space agency have joined hands to work on a collaborative project on the impact-based flood forecasting.

Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project

- ✓ The Prime Minister dedicated LPG import terminal to nation.
- ✓ It is 348 km Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section.
- ✓ It is part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.
- ✓ Totally, the pipeline length of 2540 km is under construction from the states of Uttar Pradesh to Odisha.
- ✓ Now this project has put West Bengal in to the project map.
- ✓ It aims to provide piped cooking gas to the households of Varanasi within next two years and to millions of others in neighbour states after one more year.

Dismantling of INS Viraat

- ✓ The Supreme Court put on hold the further dismantling of INS Viraat.
- ✓ Envitech Marine Consultants Pvt Ltd has been looking to acquire the warship and convert INS Viraat into a maritime museum.
- ✓ It was acquired from the UK in 1986.
- ✓ Before that, INS Viraat had served as HMS Hermes in the Royal Navy.
- ✓ The carrier was decommissioned in 2017.
- ✓ Subsequently it was sold to Shree Ram group for scrapping.

Family Pension Ceiling enhanced

- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office and Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, stated that the upper ceiling for family pension has been increased from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1,25,000 per month.

Digital Agriculture

- ✓ The National e-governance plan in agriculture (NeGPA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme was initially launched in the year 2010-11 in 7 States. Recently, this scheme was extended up to March 31, 2021.

Vigyan Jyoti programme

- ✓ The second phase of Vigyan Jyoti programme was started on February 11, 2021. It was started on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- ✓ It is a new initiative that seeks to encourage girls to take interest in science and build career in this field. The programme was launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) in December 2019.

FDI norms changes

- ✓ Changes made in the FDI norms last year, which made it mandatory for firms of a country sharing land border with India to seek government nod for all investments.

Seaweed Cultivation Mission

- ✓ TIFAC (Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council) launched a Seaweed Cultivation Mission.
- ✓ It aims to encourage the commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing.
- ✓ The Seaweed Cultivation is also called as the kelp farming.
- ✓ It is the practice of cultivating and harvesting the seaweed.

India's first dolphin research centre

- ✓ Patna will soon get India's first dolphin research centre.
- ✓ Bihar accounts for 50% of the world's river dolphin population, a highly endangered species under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Foundation stones for several key projects

- ✓ Inauguration of 9 km long Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I extension at Tamil Nadu. It will link North Chennai with Airport and Central Railway Station.
- ✓ Inauguration of fourth Railway line of 22.1 km in between the Chennai Beach and Attipattu.
- ✓ Inauguration of Railway Electrification of single line section of 228 km route in between Villupuram,

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Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai.

- ✓ Foundation stone of the extension, renovation and modernization of the Grand Anicut Canal System that will be completed.
- ✓ Foundation stone of the Discovery Campus of IIT Madras to be built at Thaiyur near Chennai.
- ✓ Inauguration of the Ro-Ro Vessels at Willingdon Islands, Cochin.
- ✓ Inauguration of the International Cruise Terminal 'Sagarika' at Cochin Port.
- ✓ Inauguration of the Marine Engineering Training Institute, Vigyana Sagar, at Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
- ✓ Foundation stone for the Reconstruction of South Coal Berth at Cochin Port.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi dedicates to nation **Bharat Petroleum's petrochemical complex** in Kerala.

Sniffer Dogas participate in Navy's exercise

- ✓ 2 explosive sniffing dogs, named Minki and Mukti, were slithered down from a naval helicopter onto the offshore oil platform Neelam as a part of a simulated bomb threat during Exercise Prasthan and Sea Vigil held.

Pahela Phagun celebration

- ✓ The first day of the spring called Pahela Phagun was celebrated in the Dhaka.

The 10th National Conference of the Inland Tourism Organizers of India was recently held in Tent City, Gujarat.

Wildlife corridor

- ✓ Delhi- dehradun Expressway will be the country's first Highway with a 12km elevated corridor for Wildlife Protection.

Largest hockey stadium

- ✓ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone of India's biggest International Hockey Stadium at Rourkela in Sundargarh district. The new hockey stadium will be renamed after freedom fighter 'Birsa Munda'.

Mahabahu-Brahmaputra initiative

- ✓ The Prime Minister virtually launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative in Assam.
- ✓ The Launch of the Mahabahu-Brahmaputra initiative is going to be marked with the inauguration of the Ro-Pax vessel operations.

- ✓ The prime minister further said that the Circular Economy can be a key step to solve many of the challenges with respect to the consumption pattern.
- ✓ The India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon was launched by the NITI Aayog Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- ✓ This hackathon was launched in association with the commonwealth scientific and industrial research organisation (CSIRO) of Australia.
- **Circular economy**
 - It is an economic system which aims to eliminate the waste and continual use of resources. This system employs the reuse, repair, sharing, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling in order to create closed-loop system.
 - It helps in minimising the use of resource inputs. It also minimises the creation of pollution, waste and carbon emissions.

Go Electric campaign

- ✓ The Union Minister of Road, Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, had launched the ‘Go Electric Campaign’.
- ✓ This campaign was launched in order to spread awareness with respect to the benefits of Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure.

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- ✓ The campaign would also raise awareness regarding e-mobility and electric cooking across India.
- ✓ Go Electric campaign is the future of India. It will help in promoting the environmental-friendly, cost-effective and indigenous electric products in the country.
- ✓ This campaign was also launched as a step forward towards a greener and cleaner future.
- ✓ This campaign also aims to create awareness at the PAN - India level.

Autism Awareness

- ✓ 12-year-old Jiya Rai, daughter of an Indian Navy sailor, set the record for the youngest person with autism to swim over 14 km in high seas by completing 36 km in 8 hours in the Arabian Sea.

She successfully swam across the Arabian Sea from Bandra-Worli Sea Link to Gateway of India in Mumbai created history covering a distance of 36 km in hours and 40 minutes.

India's first AC Railway terminal

- ✓ Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway terminal in Bangalore which will be India's first centralised AC Railway terminal.

Indradhanush 3.0

- ✓ The Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0.
- ✓ The first round will start from February 22, 2021 while the second phase will start from March 22, 2021.
- ✓ It will run across 250 districts or urban areas across the 29 States or Union Territories.
- ✓ **Intensified Mission Indradhanush**
 - The IMI 3.0 initiative was launched to provide immunization to the pregnant women and children free of cost in India.
 - It will help in achieve full immunization coverage for children and pregnant women rapidly.
 - This mission also aims to reach the unreached population. It will reach to them with all the available vaccines under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
 - This mission was launched in 2017 to reach child aged under two years and pregnant women who were left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme. Under this mission, greater focus was given on urban areas which was left under the Mission Indradhanush.

✓ **Mission Indradhanush**

- This Mission was launched in December 2014 with the aim of fully immunizing unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children under UIP.
- The scheme targets children aged under 2 years and pregnant women for immunization.

India and Ethiopia have signed two agreements

- ✓ India and Ethiopia have signed two agreements on February 20, 2021. These agreements are related to visa facilitation and leather technology.
- ✓ India is amongst top development, trade and investment partner in Ethiopia. India is also the third most important trading partner for Ethiopia.
- ✓ India's exports to 11% of all the imports in Ethiopia which mainly comprises primary and semi-finished iron and steel products.

Atal Paryavaran Bhavan

- ✓ The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, inaugurated the Atal Paryavaran Bhavan at Lakshadweep.

Indian Sign Language dictionary

- ✓ The ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment released the 3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary.
- ✓ The new edition will comprise of 10,000 terms of daily.
- ✓ It will also include the academic, legal, medical technical, administrative and agricultural terms in it.
- ✓ The 2nd edition of the Indian Sign language was released in the year 2019 with 6,000 terms.
- ✓ Its first edition was released in the year 2018 with 3,000 terms.

INS Pralaya

- ✓ Indian Naval ship Pralaya arrived at Abu Dhabi in UAE. The vessel will participate in the NAVTEX 2021 and IDEX 2021.
- ✓ This participation highlights the strong bilateral relationship shared by India and the UAE.

Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

- ✓ The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on February 18, 2021 announced the names of the 25 cities selected for the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge under the Smart Cities Mission.

- ✓ The shortlisted cities would carry out projects for making early childhood-friendly neighbourhoods.

➤ Goa Shipyard to build Indian Navy's Damage Control Simulator in Port Blair. A state-of-the-art Damage Control Simulator (DCS) for the Indian Navy will be set up in Port Blair.

Indo – China Border dispute

- ✓ The 10th round of Corps Commander Level Meeting between India and China on February 21, 2021. It was held on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control in Moldo.
- ✓ In the meeting, both the sides appraised the smooth completion of disengagement of troops at the Pangong Lake area.

6th Soil Health Card Day

- ✓ Every year, India observes the Soil Health Card Day on 19 February.
- ✓ It aims to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme.
- ✓ Prime Minister launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

NCBC Chairman on sub-categorization on OBCs

- ✓ The chairman of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), Bhagwan Lal Sahni, said that the NCBC is in favour of four subcategories of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- ✓ **Justice Rohini Commission**
 - It was constituted on October 2, 2017. This commission has been appointed in order to study and report about the sub-categorisation of OBCs.
- ✓ While the two other categories will be for the least benefited and those who have not been benefited from present reservation structure of the OBCs.

Role in State's quota decisions

- ✓ The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it has no role in the choices made by the Tamil Nadu government with regard to the provision of reservation for specific castes or communities in State government jobs and admissions.
- ✓ The Centre was responding to a petition challenging the constitutionality of the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Sc and ST (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act – 1993.
- ✓ It provides 69% reservation in the State.

Centre's stand

- ✓ Inclusion or exclusion of any caste/community in the State List of SEBCs is the subject matter of the State government, and the Government of India has no role in the matter.
- ✓ It referred to the Constitution (One hundred and second Amendment) Act of 2018, which details the difference in the procedure for inclusion or exclusion of castes and communities in the State List for SEBCs and the Central List.
- ✓ The power to identify and specify SEBCs lies with Parliament only with reference to the Central List.
- ✓ Under the newly-inserted Article 342A of the Constitution (One hundred and second Amendment) Act of 2018, the President notifies the SEBCs in a State after consultation with the Governor.

First woman to be hanged

- ✓ For the first in the history of independent India, a woman, convicted for killing seven members of her family.
- ✓ She was tried and awarded death by all the courts.
- ✓ She will be hanged at Mathura jail.
- ✓ Mathura jail is the only one India which has the provisions for hanging a woman convict.
- ✓ The first female hanging house was built in Mathura jail almost 150 years ago.

- ✓ A woman from Lucknow called Ramshri was sentenced to death earlier on April 6, 1998. But her death sentence was commuted into life imprisonment.

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)

- ✓ The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare has launched the operational guidelines to Integrate the Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) with National Programme for Prevention & Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS).
- ✓ It is an abnormal condition where fat accumulate in liver in the absence of secondary causes of fatty liver including the viral hepatitis, alcohol use or medications.

The Narendra Modi Stadium, the world's largest cricket ground in Ahmedabad, has been renamed.

National Urban Digital Mission

- ✓ The National Urban Digital Mission was launched by the Union Housing & Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri and Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- ✓ Initiatives like Smart-Code, India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), Smart Cities 2.0 website, and Geospatial

Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched at this virtual event.

- ✓ "India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)" initiative has been developed by the Smart Cities Mission in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

President's Rule in Puducherry

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to impose President's Rule in Puducherry. This proposal was approved days after the Congress-led government in the union territory lost power after a vote of confidence.
- ✓ This decision was taken because no party had claimed to form a government in Puducherry after the chief minister resigned.
- ✓ Following the resignation, Lieutenant General recommended President's Rule in Puducherry which was approved by the Union Cabinet.
- ✓ The President's rule is imposed in accordance with the Article 356 of the Constitution. It is imposed when a state government is unable to function as per the Constitutional provisions. Following this, the executive authority is exercised by the centrally appointed governor.

Mahanadi-Godavari Link

- ✓ The task force on Interlinking of Rivers has approved the Mahanadi-Godavari Link.

- ✓ The linking project was approved by ensuring the utilisation of allocated Godavari waters by the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The draft detailed project report was prepared on Godavari-Cauvery link the National Water Development Authority (NWDA).
- ✓ **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** - It is a Registered Society working under the Ministry of Irrigation which is now called as Ministry of Water Resources. The agency was set up in 1982.

CSCs to be integrated with E-Daakhil portal

- ✓ The Ministry of consumer affairs had decided to integrate the Common Service Centres (CSCs) with the E-Daakhil portal to facilitate the consumers for e-filing.
- ✓ The e-Daakhil Consumer grievance redressal portal was launched on September 7, 2020 by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission.
- ✓ This online grievance redressal portal is now operational in 15 States and Union Territories.

The India toy fair 2021 inaugurated

- ✓ Prime Minister inaugurated the India toy fair 2021. The four day event to bring together all stakeholders including

buyers, sellers, students, teachers and designers on a virtual platform.

Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021

- ✓ The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, has inaugurated the Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 at Noida Haat.
- ✓ The SHGs has always played a vital role to increase the family income. It has also improved the quality of life for them.
- ✓ It is an initiative that was started by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).



National Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo

- ✓ The NITI Aayog and Invest India have associated with the National Bamboo Mission to conduct the National Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo in India.
- ✓ The National Conference on Opportunities will be organised with the aim to discuss on the bamboo ecosystem in order to promote holistic growth of the sector across the entire value chain system.

C-Vigil App

- ✓ The Chief Election Commissioner has introduced the C-Vigil app to clear complaints of irregularities in the conduct of elections.

26th edition of 'Hunar Haat'

- ✓ The Defence Minister has inaugurated the 26th edition of 'Hunar Haat' in New Delhi.
- ✓ The theme of the event is "Vocal for Local".

Skill center for fire safety training

- ✓ It was inaugurated at Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ This is the first of its kind in India.
- ✓ This facility has been created by Delhi based DRDO laboratory 'Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)'.

8 toy manufacturing clusters

- ✓ The government has approved eight toy manufacturing clusters.
- ✓ It aims to boost India's traditional toys industry.
- ✓ These clusters will manufacture toys made of wood, Lacquer, palm leaves, bamboo and fabric. 8 clusters will be formed in these states
 - Madhya Pradesh: 3

- Rajasthan: 2
 - Karnataka: 1
 - Uttar Pradesh: 1
 - Tamil Nadu: 1.
- ✓ Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh already have 2 toy clusters.

INTERNATIONAL

Climate Adaptation Summit 2021

- ✓ It was hosted by the Netherlands government. The United Kingdom will chair the summit.
- ✓ By the year 2030, India will target 450 gigawatt of renewable energy capacity.
- ✓ The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference is also known as **COP26**.
- ✓ It will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November, 2021.

The Inequality Virus

- ✓ The Oxfam has recently published this report.
- ✓ It was released on the opening day of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
- ✓ It finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the existing inequalities in India and across the world.
- ✓ India has been ranked at sixth in the world following the US, China, Germany, Russia and France. However, the

- ✓ It was the first launch of the Zoljanah hybrid satellite carrier for sub-orbital testing.

Japan to join “Five Eyes”

- ✓ The Japanese government is set to join the “Five Eyes” intelligence – sharing alliance.
- ✓ Five Eyes is a network of five nations – Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the US who collaborated to better respond to increasing threats by North Korea and China.

UN Report on Ageing Dams

- ✓ This analysis also included dam ageing case studies from India, France, the U.S., Canada, Japan, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.
- ✓ 64 large dams will be more than 150-years-old in the year 2050.
- ✓ If the Mullai periyar dam in Kerala fails, around 3.5 million people will be at risk.
- ✓ It was built over 100 years ago.

Captain Tom Moore

- ✓ UK's record-breaking fundraiser 'hero', dies aged 100.

- ✓ Britain's captain Tom Moore the World War 2 veteran who lifted Nation's spirit by raising millions of pounds for health service workers battling the Coronavirus.
- ✓ Moore struck a chord with locked-down Britain by walking around his garden with the help of a frame to raise 38.9 million pounds (\$53 million) for the National Health Service.

Indo-French Year of the Environment

- ✓ Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has launched the Indo-French year of Environment along with his French counterpart.
- ✓ It will be based on 5 major themes over the period 2021-2022
 - Climate change,
 - Environmental protection,
 - Sustainable urban development,
 - Biodiversity conservation, and
 - The development of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

International Conference on Gender Equality The second edition will explore ways to strengthen the economic potential

of women and transgenders to equip them as sustainable entrepreneurs.

- ✓ The focal theme of the event will be ‘Gender in Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment’.
- ✓ It is being organized in collaboration with the UN Women (part of UN).

India and Kingdom of Bahrain

- ✓ The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group between India and Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of Renewable Energy held virtually.
- ✓ In the month of July, 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Bahrain. The MoU was signed in order to promote the bilateral cooperation in Renewable Energy.

Union International for Cancer Control

- ✓ Report said that within 2025, two by third of developing countries will be affected by cancer.
- ✓ UICC chairman is Anil Digra.

World's tallest swing ride

- ✓ The World's tallest swing ride bollywood size flyer has opened at Bollywood parks Dubai.

Public platform to track polluters

- ✓ The Environment Ministry of China recently announced to set up a new Public Information Platform that will allow the public to track emissions from the polluting enterprises. The platform will come into effect on March 1, 2021.

Worst year on record

- ✓ UN World Tourism Organization recently confirmed the Year 2020 as the 'worst year on record'.
- ✓ The global tourism suffered massively due to international travel bans implemented to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.
- ✓ It also noted that the COVID-19 crisis has put almost 100-120 million direct tourism jobs at risk.

Rare Mineral Found in Antarctica

- ✓ A rare maritime mineral, Jarosite, has been found in the Antarctica ice.
- ✓ It was discovered after drilling deep into Antarctic ice.
- ✓ This supports the theory of presence of jarosite on MARS in a similar manner.
- ✓ It was first discovered on Mars in 2004 by a rover named “opportunity”.
- ✓ The minerals are able to form in thick deposits on mars

- ✓ Because the planet is a lot dustier than Antarctica.

UAE's new Citizenship Policy

- ✓ The government has planned to offer citizenship to a select group of foreigners.
- ✓ It became the first Gulf Arab nation that formalized the process of giving expatriates in the bigger stake of the economy.
- ✓ UAE earlier used to give citizenship to some foreigners in special cases.
- ✓ They were given citizenship for providing service to the state.

Nepal government's hydropower project

- ✓ Nepal has granted the contract for the construction of the lower Arun Hydro Project to Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam - SJVN of India.
- ✓ This contract given under the BOOT model - Build, Own, Operate, and Transfer.
- ✓ It will be situated in the Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha districts of Province 1.

Oxford Hindi word of 2020

- ✓ 'Aatmanirbharta' has been named as the Hindi word of the year 2020 by Oxford Languages.

- ✓ It is implying the meaning of self-reliance.
- ✓ Previous Hindi words of the year are Aadhaar (2017), Nari Shakti (2018) and Samvidhaan (2019).
- ✓ The Oxford Hindi word of the year is chosen to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past year.

U.K. to join Asia-Pacific free trade pact

- ✓ U.K. government will join the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- ✓ It is one of the world's largest free-trade Partnership.
- ✓ It made up of 11 developed and emerging economies in the Pacific.
- ✓ U.K. left the European Union (EU) on January 31 last year.

India and Afghanistan have inked the deal

- ✓ India and Afghanistan have inked the deal to build a dam, called Sahtoot dam, in order to supply water to the Kabul City.
- ✓ Shahtoot dam is the second major dam which will be built by India in Afghanistan. India has also built the Friendship Dam or Salma dam which was inaugurated in June 2016.

UN Human Rights Meeting

- ✓ The 46th High Level Meeting of the UN Human Rights Council was held via video from Geneva.

United States to re-join UNHRC

- ✓ The Joe Biden administration in United States is all set to re-join the UN Human Rights Council. The United States had withdrawn from the council in the year 2018 under Presidency of the Donald Trump.

Earthquake hit Tajikistan

- ✓ An earthquake of magnitude 6.3 hit Tajikistan on February 12, 2020.
- ✓ The tremors were felt in Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The seismology department at first gave the epicentre as Amritsar because of software error later confirmed epicentre as Tajikistan.

UNICEF Report

- ✓ In Oman, half of all deaths in children under 5 are attributable to undernutrition; undernutrition puts children at greater risk of dying from common infections, increases the frequency and severity of such infections, and delays recovery.

China bans BBC World News from broadcasting in the country

- ✓ China banned BBC World News from broadcasting in the country.

- ✓ The announcement comes one week after British media regulator Ofcom withdrew broadcasting license for state-owned China Global Television Network (CGTN) in the United Kingdom.

Mario Draghi sworn in as new Prime Minister of Italy

- ✓ The former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi (73) has been sworn in as Italy's prime minister at the head of a unity government called on to confront the coronavirus crisis and economic slump.

US-Mexico Border Wall Project

- ✓ The US President has revoked the emergency order that was issued by former President Donald Trump
- ✓ It was issued to construct the US-Mexico border wall.
- ✓ In 2019, the Trump administration had signed the executive order.
- ✓ That order has declared the national emergency so as to build US-Mexico border wall.
- ✓ The emergency was announced after repeated clash with the lawmakers regarding the funding for the project.

A distillery that operated five thousand years ago has been discovered in **Egypt**.

New START nuclear disarmament treaty

- ✓ The United States has extended the “New START” nuclear disarmament treaty with Russia for a period of five years.
- ✓ The new strategic arms reduction treaty was formally signed on April 8, 2010.
- ✓ After ratification, it entered into force on 5 February 2011.
- ✓ The New START treaty was set to expire on February 5, 2021.
- ✓ But both the parties have further extended it for five more years, till February 2026.

Tagore’s 1921 visit to Houston:

- ✓ The centenary celebration of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's visit here in February 1921 was held amidst freezing temperatures at the Tagore Grove memorial in Ray Miller Park.

World Solar Bank

- ✓ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) have planned to launch the World Solar Bank (WSB) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow that is scheduled for November 2021.

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- ✓ The development of the World Solar Bank will support India's attempt to secure its leadership in the climate arena.
- ✓ The development of the bank is significant because the green finance will be one of the priority themes at the climate meet called COP-26.
- ✓ COP-26 will be organised in the backdrop of US re-joining the Paris climate accord.
- ✓ The headquarter of the World Solar Bank is expected to be set up in India. It will be first multilateral development bank (MDB) that will be set up in India.

Comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius.
- ✓ It is a kind of a free trade agreement between India and Mauritius.
- ✓ It aims to liberalising the norms to boost a two-way commerce.

G-7 meeting and Munich Security Conference

- ✓ Joe Biden is all set to make the first big appearance on a global stage as president.

- ✓ He has also offered Group of Seven (G7) allies and other foreign leaders a part into his plans of dramatically reshaping the US foreign policy.
- ✓ Biden will be giving virtual appearances at a G-7 meeting and Munich Security Conference.
- ✓ **Group of Seven (G7)** - It is an intergovernmental organization comprising of France, Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom and United States.

Bangladesh Supreme Court launches “Amar Vasha”

- ✓ The Bangladesh SC launched the Artificial Intelligence based translation software “Amar Vasha”.
- ✓ The software translate orders and judgement of the Supreme court from English to Bangla.

Facebook blocks Australians

- ✓ Facebook has barred users from sharing or reading news from Australian publishers on its platform.
- ✓ FB announced the decision in response to proposed legislation in Australia that would force tech platforms to pay news publishers for content.

Ebola Outbreak

- ✓ Guinea's health agency announced that the country was in the midst of an Ebola "epidemic situation".

- ✓ It will also take strong actions against the polygamy and forced marriage.

SAARC Virtual Meet

- ✓ India will host the virtual health secretary-level meeting with the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- ✓ During the meeting the members will discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.
- ✓ Pakistan has also been invited to attend the meeting.
- ✓ India had proposed to contribute USD10 million for the fund.
- ✓ SAARC was founded on December 8, 1985. It is headquartered at Kathmandu, Nepal.

First case of H5N8

- ✓ Russian scientist has detected the first case of transmission of the H5N8 strain of avian flu to humans that had altered the WHO.

Saudi Arabia opens up armed forces for Women

- ✓ Women will now be recruited as soldiers, lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, and staff sergeants.
- ✓ The government has also added some additional criteria for female applicants.
- ✓ This move aims to increase the rights of women in the country.

- ✓ Rights of the women in Saudi Arabia have been limited when compared to the rights of women in many of its neighbouring countries.

ISS supply ship named

- ✓ An International Space Station supply ship named after the black NASA mathematician SS Katherine Johnson was launched into Orbit. Northrop Grumman launch date of 4tonne shipment for NASA.

Bangladesh bans all known Vulture – toxic drugs

- ✓ Bangladesh has become the first country that has banned the painkiller ketoprofen. This painkiller is used widely to treat the cattle. But this painkiller is toxic to vultures.
- ✓ The Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) report states that ketoprofen is now widely used as a main anti-inflammatory drug by vets in Bangladesh.
- ✓ But, Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) such as diclofenac and ketoprofen are a major threat to vultures of South Asia.
- ✓ These drugs led to the catastrophic 99.9 per cent declines of white-rumped vultures in this region.
- ✓ Indian government had banned the use of diclofenac for veterinary purpose in the year 2006. However, this step is not that effective since there are other toxic drugs are in use.

India's top trading partner in the year 2020

- ✓ China has again become India's top trading partner in the year 2020. The reason was that India was still dependent on the import of heavy machines, telecom equipment and home appliances from China.

Pakistan Himalayan pink salt as GI

- ✓ Pakistan has decided to register Himalayan pink salt as Geography cal indications to prevent its unauthorised use by other countries. The salt is extracted from the salt range in Punjab which extends along the south of the Potohar Plateau.

First ever Minister for Loneliness

- ✓ Japan has appointed the first ever Minister for Loneliness amid the increasing suicide rates in Japan.
- ✓ Suicide rates in Japan has increased for the first time in 11 years in the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- ✓ Japan has appointed the loneliness minister on the line of United Kingdom which became the first country in world to create a similar position in the country in 2018.
- ✓ Tetsushi Sakamoto, who is in charge of combating Japan's falling birth rate and revitalising regional economies, was also appointed as the Loneliness minister.

Cross-border firing along the Line of Control (loc)

- ✓ The militaries of India and Pakistan announced that both sides have agreed to stop cross-border firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The joint statement was releasing by the Director Generals of Military Operations of both the countries.
- ✓ Both sides have decided that border flag meetings will be utilised in order to resolve any misunderstanding between the countries.
- ✓ Both India and Pakistan have been in contact on a hotline level since the year 1987.

Israel launches green pass

- ✓ Screen has launched a coronavirus green pass system which allows people who have been vaccinated to access public facilities.

11th World PetroCoal Congress 2021

- ✓ 11th World PetroCoal Congress-International Conference and Expo 2021 was organized by the Energy and Environment Foundation.
- ✓ Theme of the event was “Petroleum-Coal-Gas: Towards a Win-Win Strategy for Producer and Consumer”.
- ✓ India and Maldives signs agreements for developing the naval harbour at **Sifvaru - Uthuru Thilafalhu.**

World Future Fuel Summit 2021

- ✓ The World Future Fuel Summit and Expo 2021 was organized by the Energy and Environment Foundation.
- ✓ It is an annual summit to bring together global business leaders, future leaders (students), government, specialist exhibitors from globally.
- ✓ It showcases state-to-art technologies in clean future energy for globally.

Pakistan to remain in Grey List

- ✓ The Global anti-terrorism watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to maintain Pakistan into Grey List till June 2021 on February 25, 2021.
- ✓ This decision by the FATF was taken in the light of country's failure to fully comply with the 27-point action plan of to combat the terrorism.
- ✓ FATF said that, Pakistan needs to work on implementing following three remaining items out of 27 items:
 - It needs to demonstrate the Terror funding investigations and prosecutions targeting the persons & entities acting on behalf of the designated persons or entities.

- It needs to demonstrate that Terror funding prosecutions results in to Proportionate, effective and dissuasive sanctions.
 - It needs to demonstrate the effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions against all the UN security council resolution 1267 and 1373 designated terrorists.
- ✓ The FATF had also kept the Pakistan into grey list in October, 2020 and decided that FATF will continue to make it difficult for Pakistan to get aid from World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, and European Union.

Us carries out air strike in Syria

- ✓ The US military carried out an air strike targeting Iran backed militias inferior.
- ✓ It was the first military action ordered by the built-in administrator in response to rocket attacks against us and coalition personnel in Iraq.

G20 Central Bank Governors' meet

- ✓ The Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, attended the G20 Central Bank Governors' meeting.
- ✓ This was the first ever G20 Central Bank Governors' meeting that was held under the Italian Presidency.

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- ✓ During the meeting, the finance minister highlighted regarding the India's policy response with respect to COVID-19 pandemic and the world's largest inoculation drive with their G-20 counterparts.
- ✓ The G20 Finance Ministers and the Central Bank Governors also held discussion regarding the implications of climate change on global growth and financial stability.

70th anniversary celebrations of Sri Lanka Air Force

- ✓ The Indian Air Force aerobatic display teams, the fixed wing "Suryakirans" and rotary wing 'Sarang', along with Light Combat Aircraft Tejas arrived at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on an invitation from the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF).
- ✓ The Suryakirans, Sarang and LCA Tejas will participate in an Air Show at Galle Face, Colombo, scheduled from 03–05 Mar 21 as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of SLAF.

IAF gifts 1971 war helicopter to Bangladesh

- ✓ Commemorating 50 years of defeating Pakistan in the 1971 war, Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief RKS Bhadauria gifted a legacy Alouette III helicopter to Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) and got a legacy F-86 Sabre aircraft as a return gift from Dhaka.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tejas Mark 2

- ✓ Tejas Mark 2 rocket is to be introduced in 2022 by Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd.
- ✓ This has more speed than Tejas Mark 1a which was made indigenously.

Shaheen-III Missile of Pakistan

- ✓ It is a **nuclear-capable surface ballistic missile** which can strike targets up to **2,750 km**. The launch of the missile was **aimed at revalidating various design and technical parameters** of the weapon system.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired this Missile off the Odisha coast.

- ✓ Akash-NG is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile Défense system.
- ✓ The missile can intercept the aerial threats.
- ✓ It has the capability of targeting the aircraft up to 50-60 km away at altitudes of 18,000 meters.
- ✓ It is in operation with the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.

- ✓ Recently the Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the exports of Akash Missile defence system.

Blushift Aerospace

- ✓ Marine-based rocket startup blueshift Aerospace launched the world's first commercial booster powered by biofuel.
- ✓ The company's rocket engine called the Modular Adaptable Rocket Engine for Vehicle Launch (MARVEL) uses a proprietary solid biofuel which is ecofriendly.

NEWSPACE INDIA is the new public sector under Indian Space Department started.

SpaceX of Elon Musk

- ✓ The SpaceX of Elon Musk has recently announced to launch its first all civilian mission to the space.
- ✓ The SpaceX is planning for the launch of Inspiration4 on Falcon 9.
- ✓ It is also known as Dragon 1 or Cargo Dragon. It is a reusable cargo spacecraft developed by SpaceX.
- ✓ The Dragon 1 spacecraft was launched into orbit by the Falcon 9 launch vehicle so as to resupply the International Space Station (ISS).

2021 Space Projects for Mars

- i) **NASA – Perserverence** – first helicopter send to other planet.
- ii) **China** - Tianwen-1 – to check the water availability in Mars
- iii) **UAE – Hope** – To analyse about the atmosphere and layers.
- iv) **NASA** – safeguard the planets – This will help to safeguard the earth from collision of the small planets if happens.

World Space Record

- ✓ SpaceX recently broke a world space record by launching 143 satellites.
- ✓ It beat India’s record of deploying 104 satellites in February 2017.
- ✓ The launch vehicle for the SpaceX flight was the Falcon 9. The mission was designated as Transporter-1.
- ✓ The launch marks the first dedicated mission for SpaceX’s SmallSat Rideshare Program.
- ✓ With the launched satellites, SpaceX aims at providing near-global broadband internet coverage all over the world by 2021.

First ever Climate advisor

- ✓ **NASA** has appointed its first-ever senior Climate Advisor Gavi Schmidt.

NASA picks SpaceX

- ✓ NASA has picked SpaceX to launch a telescope into orbit for a two-year astrophysics mission starting 2024.

Tejas Mark-1A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

- ✓ The purchase of 83 indigenously designed and developed Tejas Mark-1A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) worth Rs 48,000 crore.
- ✓ It is inked between the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ✓ The first jets will start rolling out in three years. They will be an advanced version of the Tejas Mark-1 that made its maiden flight exactly two decades ago.

NASA Re-discovers ‘Lost Galaxy’

- ✓ Hubble Space Telescope of NASA captured the images of the NGC 4535.
- ✓ It is also known as the “Lost Galaxy”.
- ✓ This Galaxy was discovered in 1785 by William Herschel.
- ✓ William Herschel found the planet Uranus.
- ✓ The galaxy is located about 50 million light-years from Earth.
- ✓ It is one of the largest of some 2,000 galaxies in the Virgo Cluster.

Stardust 1.0

- ✓ The launch vehicle Stardust 1.0 was launched from a former military base in US called Loring Commerce Centre.
- ✓ 1st commercial space launch that is powered by biofuel.

Ghaznavi

- ✓ Pakistan successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile called Ghaznavi.

PSLV C51

- ✓ PSLV-C51, which is the 53rd mission of PSLV, will launch Amazonia-1 of Brazil as primary satellite and 20 Co-passenger satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. The launch is tentatively scheduled on February 28, 2021 subject to weather conditions.
- ✓ PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 is the first dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under Department of Space. NSIL is undertaking this mission under a commercial arrangement with Spaceflight Inc. USA.
- ✓ Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE). This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by

providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

Russia to launch 40 satellites

- ✓ The space industry of Russia announced that the country is going to launch 40 satellites into orbit from 18 different countries of the world in March 2021.
- ✓ The satellites will be launched using the Soyuz-2 carrier rocket.

Denmark to construct World's First Energy Island

- ✓ The Denmark has recently given its approval for the plan to construct the first energy field island of the world. The energy island will be constructed in the North Sea.
- ✓ The energy island will be used to produce and store enough green energy to meet the electricity demands of around 3 million European households.
- ✓ It will also be used to supply green hydrogen to use in heavy transport, shipping, aviation and industry.
- ✓ Denmark has taken the decision to construct the energy island as a significant part of country's target to cut down the greenhouse gas emissions up to 70% by 2030 as compared to the levels in 1990.

HOPE – UAE’s Mars Mission

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has put a probe called Hope in the orbit around the MARS.
- ✓ By doing so, UAE has become the fifth country to launch the spacecraft into the orbit of MARS after United States, Soviet Union, Europe and India.
- ✓ UAE had launched the Hope orbiter July 19, 2020.
- ✓ The space mission will carry the study on daily and seasonal weather cycles and weather events such as dust storm in the lower atmosphere.
- ✓ It will study how weather varies in different regions on the MARS. The spacecraft also seeks to study why the planet is losing the hydrogen and oxygen into space.

Tianwen-1 has successfully entered the orbit

- ✓ A Chinese spacecraft named Tianwen-1 has successfully entered the orbit around Mars on February 10, 2021.
- ✓ The probe entered the MARS Orbit after making the journey of 6 and a half month from the Earth.
- ✓ This mission is China’s first independent mission on the red planet.

Babur Missile

- ✓ Pakistan on Thursday conducted a successful training launch of a surface-to-surface cruise missile which can strike targets up to 450 kilometres.
- ✓ This is the country's third successful missile test in three weeks.
- ✓ **Ghaznavi missile** - ballistic missile is capable of delivering nuclear and conventional warheads up to a range of 290 kilometres.
- ✓ **Shaheen-III** - Pakistan test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 2,750 kilometres.

NGC 6397

- ✓ The astronomers have discovered a concentration of smaller black holes in the cluster NGC 6397.
- ✓ Small black holes were discovered instead of one massive black hole at the heart of the cluster.
- ✓ The Globular clusters are a dense stellar system that host the closely packed stars.
- ✓ Such systems are typically very old. For instance, the cluster NGC 6397 is as old as the universe.
- ✓ NGC 6397 cluster is located around 7,800 light-years away. The cluster is also known as **Caldwell 86**.

High altitude pseudo satellite

- ✓ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is developing a futuristic high altitude pseudo satellite with a start-up company.
- ✓ It is a first of its kind in the world.
- ✓ These satellites will be solar energised and
- ✓ It will be flying unmanned around 70,000 ft for 2-3 months and taking information.
- ✓ No country in the world has developed it yet.

BL Lacertae

- ✓ Indian Astronomers have detected one of the strongest optical flares in one of the oldest astronomical objects that is supermassive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae.
- ✓ It is a highly variable and extragalactic active galactic nucleus. It was first observed and discovered by Cuno Hoffmeister in the year 1929. It was earlier given a designation of a variable star in the Milky Way galaxy.

Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A)

- ✓ During the visit, the prime minister will hand over the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Army in Chennai.

- ✓ The MK-1A tank is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by CVRDE, DRDO in collaboration with 15 academic institutions, eight labs and certain MSMEs.
- ✓ This cannon was manufactured at a heavy vehicle factory in Avadi, Chennai
- ✓ This artillery has a sophisticated camera with exclusive technology of Thermal Imaging capability to accurately detect and attack targets even at night.

Indigenous mapping solution

- ✓ ISRO has joined hands with 'MapmyIndia' to develop a web mapping service like 'Google Maps'.
- ✓ MapmyIndia is an Indian technology company that builds digital map data and navigation solutions provider.

Ramanujan Machine

- ✓ A new artificially intelligent “mathematician” which is called as the “Ramanujan Machine” have the potential to reveal the hidden relationships between numbers.
- ✓ Ramanujan machine comprises of the algorithms that seek out the mathematical conclusions. These mathematical conclusions are likely to be true but have not been proved.

Cargo ship into International Space Station (ISS)

- ✓ Russia has launched a new progress cargo ship into orbit in February 14, 2021. The cargo ship was launched in

order to deliver the cargo to the seven crew members in the International Space Station (ISS).

- ✓ The space agency of Russia, Roscosmos, launched the Progress MS-16 cargo ship. It is also called Progress 77.
- ✓ The cargo ship was launched using the Soyuz rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- ✓ The progress 77 was launched and is carrying approximately 2,460 kg of cargo and supplies.

UAE's mission first photo released

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates spacecraft has released a photo of the northern side of Mars and Olympus Manser, the planet's largest volcano.

India to start Trails of Astra missile

- ✓ India start testing the Astra mark 2 Missile, which could be capable of taking down enemy aircraft from the range of 150 km.

Microsoft to launch AI on Space Station

- ✓ Microsoft and Hewlett Packard enterprise have partner to deliver its computing, and Azure cloud Computing capabilities on the International Space Station.

ECOPact

- ✓ ACC Ready Mix Concrete has recently introduced its new low carbon range of concrete called ECOPact.
- ✓ It is a “Green Concrete” that has been introduced for a high-performing, sustainable and circular construction.
- ✓ ECOPact was launched in Mumbai and Hyderabad in the first phase.
- ✓ **3 types:**
 - ECOPact PRIME- It offers CO2 reduction up to 50-70 percent.
 - ECOPact MAX- It offers CO2 reduction greater than 70 percent.
 - ECOPact ZERO- It is a combination of concrete technology excellence and climate action. Thus, it offers the elimination of carbon footprint of concrete. Thus, reduces the overall carbon footprint of any structures.

Sandes App

- ✓ The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched an app called Sandes. This instant messaging platform is similar to WhatsApp. It can be used for any type of communications by anyone.

The UAE, United States, China launched the spacecraft to Mars last July.

- Two years once the Earth and Mars comes closer so based on that July was selected by all countries.
- The fuel expenses would be less and travelling distance will also be less is the reason.

Walking car concept robot

- ✓ The Hyundai Motor Group have designed a walking car concept robot. It is being called as TIGER which stands for transforming intelligent ground excursion robot.
- ✓ The robot comprises of the wheels having capability to adapt to navigate in the challenging terrain.
- ✓ The ultimate mobility vehicle (UMV) uses its ability to walk when it gets stuck or when required to travel in the difficult terrain not only on Earth but on other planets as well.

INS Karanj

- ✓ Indian Navy got its third Scorpene Submarine under project 75.
- ✓ It will be commissioned as INS Karanj.
- ✓ Total 6 submarines of the Indian Navy are being constructed under Project 75.

- ✓ The other two submarines that are delivered are - Khanderi and Kalvari.

Rover Perseverance of NASA

- ✓ The science rover Perseverance of NASA landed on the Red Planet (MARS) on February 18, 2021.
- ✓ This rover is the most advanced astrobiology laboratory that has been ever sent another planet.
- ✓ It will firstly search the traces of ancient microbial life on the Planet.
- ✓ It entered the MARS with a speed of 12,000 miles per hour or 19,000 km per hour.
- ✓ The most challenging part of the robotic vehicle was its self-guided descent and landing during a complex series of maneuver. It was called as **‘seven minutes of terror’** by NASA.
- ✓ It will also look after its surface geological processes and history. The rover will also do the assessment of past habitability and possibility of past life on it. The design of the rover is influenced from the Curiosity rover.

Arrow-4

- ✓ Israel has announced in February 18, 2021 that it is developing a new ballistic missile shield named “Arrow-4” in collaboration with the United States.

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- ✓ This missile is being developed as another layer in the defensive system by keeping an eye towards Iran.
- ✓ The Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 interceptors of Israel are already operational under the multi-layered system.
- ✓ This system can destroy the incoming missiles in the atmosphere and in space.

Sahara Platform

- ✓ Sahara, an advisory platform for emotional and psychological assistance to the heirs of deceased Border Security Force soldiers, has been launched.

Digilocker

- ✓ Digilocker platform was launched for MEA's password seva program by Union Minister v Muraleedharan.
- ✓ It would enable citizens to submit the documents required for passport services in a paperless mode and they would not be required to carry the original documents.
- ✓ Digilocker is a flagship initiative of the ministry of Electronics and it under the digital India Corporation.

BRICS 2021

- ✓ External affairs minister launched BRICS 2021 website.
- ✓ The website will provide a comprehensive snapshot of the strong BRICS engagement and the exhaustive calendar of events during BRICS under the chairmanship of India.

Helina and Dhruvastra successfully tested

- ✓ India successfully test fired the army and Airforce versions of anti tank guided missiles from desert Rangers.
- ✓ The missiles have been indigenously developed by DRDO.
- ✓ These missile systems were carried out from the advanced light helicopter platform.

PiMo – eBike

- ✓ The Pi Beam launched the electric two-wheeler called ‘PiMO’.
- ✓ IIT Madras has incubated this start-up team.
- ✓ The electric two-wheeler can charge faster than a smartphone.
- ✓ The affordable bike has a range of 50 km.

Clone of black-footed ferret

- ✓ The US scientists have successfully cloned an endangered black-footed ferret using frozen cells from a long-dead wild animal.
- ✓ It is named as Elizabeth Ann.
- ✓ It is created from the cells of Willa, a black-footed ferret that has lived more than 30 years ago.
- ✓ This is the first time that the any native endangered species has been cloned in the United States.

Camptothecin, the anti-cancer drug

- ✓ Researchers at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) have identified a sustainable and high-yielding alternative source for Camptothecin, the anti-cancer drug, which can be produced at a large scale.
- ✓ Topotecan and Irinotecan are two widely used anti-cancer drugs, which are produced by using Camptothecin as the lead molecule.
- ✓ The research led by Dr Smita Srivastava, was recently published in the reputed peer-reviewed International Journal of Scientific Reports (a Nature Research Publication).
- ✓ Camptothecin, the third most in-demand alkaloid, is commercially extracted in India from the endangered plant, Nothapodytes nimmoniana.
- ✓ This strain has been found to show sustainable production even beyond 100 generations.

Arka Shubha variety

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) has developed a new marigold variety called Arka Shubha.
- ✓ It is known to have the highest carotene content of 2.8%.
- ✓ Thus, these marigolds hold value even if spoiled due to the extraction of crude carotene.
- ✓ Crude carotene is often in high demand in the pharmaceutical sector.

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- ✓ This marigold variety can also be used in poultry sector as feed for getting quality yolk.

History behind Mars Satellites

- In 1975, the United States successfully sent two spacecraft, Viking 1 and Viking 2 to Mars.
- In 1996 – United States sent Path Finder.
- In 2003 – USA sent Spirit, Opportunity
- In 2007 – USA sent Phoenix
- In 2011 – USA again sent Curiosity
- In 2013 – India sent Mangalyan
- In 2018 – USA again sent Inside Lander
- In 2021 – UAE sent Hope, China sent Tiawen – 1
- India is getting ready to launch Mangalyan 2 in future.

Chandrayaan – 3

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chief K Sivan has said that the Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft will be launched in 2022 to explore the moon.

Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully launched the two indigenously designed and developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) on February 22, 2021.

- ✓ VL-SRSAM was indigenously developed and designed by DRDO.
- ✓ Missiles have been launched for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ They will neutralize the various aerial threats including the sea-skimming targets.
- ✓ The missiles feature the mid-course inertial guidance along with the terminal active radar homing.
- ✓ It will replace the older Barak-1 surface to air missile system. It will be used as short-range air defence system in the Indian navy and Indian Air Force.

Microbes from Earth survives on Mars

- ✓ A study was published in the journal Frontiers in Microbiology that some microbes that are found on Earth might temporarily survive on the Mars.
- ✓ It was tested by launching them into stratosphere which represents some the key conditions of the Red Planet.
- ✓ New way to expose bacteria and fungi on Mars-like conditions has been tested by using a scientific balloon to carry the experimental equipment up to stratosphere.
- ✓ During the trip it was found that, some microbes particularly the spores from black mold fungus, were able to survive even when they were exposed to high ultraviolet radiation.

ECONOMY

Budget 2021 The first budget of the decade was also India's first paperless budget, with the finance minister replacing the Swadeshi 'bahi khata' with a Made in India tablet.

Bitcoin – Crypto Currency

- ✓ Government of India decided to ban the usage of Crypto Currencies by introducing the law to bring the Digital Currency in usage.
- ✓ The Digital Currency is going to be implemented by RBI.

Green Tax

- ✓ The Ministry of road transport has decided to impose the additional taxes. It will be on old vehicles that are no more fit on road.
- ✓ Green tax is also called as the pollution tax or environmental tax.
- ✓ The decision was taken to curb pollution.
- ✓ Under the Green tax norms, the Hybrid vehicles, electric vehicles and those vehicles that runs on cleaner alternative fuels like CNG, ethanol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will be exempted from the green tax.
- ✓ Also, the transport vehicles older than eight years will be charged with the green tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate.

- ✓ They will be charged at the rate of 10 to 25% of road tax.
- ✓ While, the Public transport vehicles like city buses will be paying lower Green Tax.
- ✓ Maruti is India's top carmaker and has the largest portfolio of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles among all the domestic automakers.

World's largest current account surplus

- ✓ China overtook Germany to become the country with the world's largest current account surplus in the year 2020.
- ✓ The current account surplus of China has doubled more than in 2020.
- ✓ Japan ranked third with a current account surplus.
- ✓ The United States remained the country with the world's largest current account deficit.

13% rise in foreign direct investment

- ✓ India witnessed a 13% rise in foreign direct investment (FDI) to \$57 billion in 2020 compared to the previous year.
- ✓ India and China were the only two countries which saw FDI rising in 2020.

World Economic Outlook 2021

- ✓ International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the "World Economic Outlook, 2021" report.

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- ✓ As per this report, India's economy will expand by 11.5 percent in 2021.
- ✓ Previously it was predicted 8.8 percent growth.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to purchase government securities (G-Secs)

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have announced that it will purchase four government securities (G-Secs) that amounts to ₹20,000 crore.
- ✓ The central bank will purchase it under the open market operations (OMOs).

Financial Literacy Week (FLW)

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) for the year 2021. The literacy week started from February 8 and it will conclude on February 12, 2021.
- ✓ This year, the Financial Literacy week will focus on 'Developing the credit discipline and encouraging availing of the credit from the formal financial institutions as it is required'.

Savings account scheme for children

- ✓ Federal Bank has announced the launch of "FedFirst".

- ✓ It is a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years of age.
- ✓ The account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits. It will give them the freedom to save, spend and earn.

World's 3rd largest energy consumer by 2030

- ✓ International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report recently titled India Energy Outlook 2021.
- ✓ As per this report, India will overtake the European Union as the world's third largest energy consumer behind China and the US by 2030.
- ✓ This report also says that India is to make up a quarter of global demand growth during 2019-2040.

Indian economy to grow at 11.5%

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday projected an 11.5% growth rate for India's economy in 2021, in its World Economic Outlook report for January. The body estimated that India's economy contracted by 8% in 2020.

Credit default swaps (CDS)

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India revealed the credit default swaps (CDS) and has allowed the retail users to do the

transactions in permitted credit derivatives in order to hedge their underlying credit risk.

Takeover of DHFL

- ✓ RBI approved the takeover of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) by Piramal Group.
- ✓ Now, the Piramal Group will require to take permission of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to take over the DHFL.
- ✓ DHFL is a deposit-taking housing finance company.
- ✓ It is the second housing finance company of India.
- ✓ Now this company stands bankrupt.

RBI puts Rs 1,000 withdrawal cap

- ✓ The Reserve Bank said it has barred Karnataka-based Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd from granting fresh loans or accepting deposits and customers cannot withdraw more than Rs 1,000 from their savings account for a period of six months.

State Bank of Sikkim

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulation.
- ✓ It is a state-owned banking institution.

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- ✓ The headquarter of the bank is at Gangtok, Sikkim.
- ✓ The bank is an autonomous body working under the Government of Sikkim.
- ✓ It was made a part of India following a referendum in the year 1973.
- ✓ Thus, this state enjoys a special status under article 371F. Following which, Banking Regulation Act 1949 and Companies Act does not extend to Sikkim.
- ✓ It still follows the old laws as per the Article 371F of the Constitution. Further, the central direct taxes are also not extended to Sikkim.
- ✓ The people are also not subject to Income Tax. This, the RBI had limited agreement to manage the public debt of the bank.

Private sector banks to participate in business

- ✓ The finance ministry has allowed all the private sector banks to participate in business related to government such as small savings schemes and collection of taxes pension payments.
- ✓ Private banks remain at the forefront of imbibing and implementing the latest technology and innovation in banking. Now they have become the equal partners in the development of Indian economy.

- ✓ Now, bar has also been lifted on RBI to authorize the private sector banks along with the public sector banks for Government business and Government agency business.

MEDICINE

AIDS Medicine

- ✓ IIT Madras Biotechnology Department scientists have made a breakthrough by discovering a new drug to cure AIDS.
- ✓ Researchers led by Professor Sandeep Senadhipathi have discovered this.
- ✓ They have found a drug that can detect the weak area and examine the molecular structure.

Coronil received the Certificate

- ✓ The Divya Coronil medicine by Patanjali has received the certification from AYUSH Ministry in accordance with the WHO certification norms.
- ✓ Coronil has now been certified as a drug which can be used as supporting measure to fight Covid-19 and as an immunity-booster.

- ✓ The drug has received the Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CoPP) from the Ayush section of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.
- ✓ Patanjali has also released a booklet with nine peer-reviewed papers that certifies the efficacy of Coronil.

ENVIRONMENT

Birds of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve

- ✓ Zoological Survey of India released this publication.
- ✓ It states that the Indian Sunderbans is home to 428 species of birds.
- ✓ Birds, like Masked Finfoot and Buffy fish owl, are recorded only here.
- ✓ Indian Sunderbans is part of the world's largest mangrove forest. It comprises of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve
- ✓ It is a World Heritage Site and Ramsar Site.
- ✓ It is home to Royal Bengal Tigers.

16th Global Climate Risk Index 2021

- ✓ Mozambique and Zimbabwe are the two most affected countries by climate change in 2019.
- ✓ In this index, India has been ranked at seventh position among the countries.
- ✓ As per the report, monsoon continued for a month longer than normal in India in the year 2019.

UN Global Climate Survey

- ✓ United Nations has released its biggest ever opinion poll on climate change.
- ✓ It is called “UN Global Climate Survey”.
- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducted the “Peoples’ Climate Vote” for 1.2 million people from 50 countries to prepare this report.

Bio-waste

- ✓ To manage the humongous quantity of banana bio-waste, the National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Trichy has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with IIIT-DM, Kancheepuram and Industry Gencrest, Mumbai.
- ✓ Utilize the sap, central stem and scutcher for producing a variety of products.

11th edition of the Tamirabarani Waterbird Count

- ✓ It was conducted in waterbodies of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Tenkasi districts.
- ✓ It showed a marginal increase in the numbers compared to the tenth edition of the count in 2020 when 24,411 birds from 74 species were spotted.
- ✓ This year, 26,868 birds belonging to 73 species, including thousands of migratory birds from Siberia and Mongolia, were recorded.

Fossils of ‘Dickinsonia’

- ✓ Researchers have discovered three fossils of the earliest known living animal, the 550-million-year-old ‘Dickinsonia’.
- ✓ It was discovered on the roof of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters near Bhopal.
- ✓ One fossil is 17 inches long, the other two are much smaller.

Oldest DNA from the teeth of Siberian Mammoths

- ✓ The DNA was extracted from the molars of mammoths.
- ✓ These mammoths were found in the north-eastern Siberia some 1.2 million years ago.
- ✓ The mammoths were among the large mammals who dominated Ice Age landscapes.
- ✓ The oldest of the three mammoths was discovered near Krestovka river.
- ✓ This mammoth was 1.2 million years old.
- ✓ Another mammoth was discovered near the Adycha river and is 1 to 1.2 million years old.
- ✓ While, the third mammoth was recovered from Chukochya river. It is around 7,00,000 years old.

Nesting of Olive Ridley

- ✓ The mass nesting of the Olive Ridley turtles has begun in Puducherry coastline.
- ✓ Puducherry coastline is among the migratory route to Odisha which are used by these turtles.
- ✓ The coastline is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ✓ These turtles commonly known as Pacific ridely sea turtle.
- ✓ Its IUCN status is vulnerable.
- ✓ It is also listed in Appendix I of CITES.

World's Smallest Reptile

- ✓ The world's smallest species of reptiles have been found in Madagascar.
- ✓ It is a species of a chameleon and called Brookesia nana. It is the smallest species among the 11,500 known species of reptiles.
- ✓ The length of the chameleon is 22 mm that is 0.86 inches in all.

Hydrogen fuel bus

- ✓ India's largest energy conglomerate in NTPC(National Thermal Power Corporation) Limited is planning to start a premium hydrogen fuel bus service on Delhi to Jaipur

route. It is going to be the first FCEV bus service in India to be used for Intercity commute.

Mass migration of the blue earthworms The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has prepared a report on two-way mass migration of the blue earthworms in the state of Meghalaya.

- ✓ The blue earthworms, measuring up to 1.6 feet in length, migrate up and down to 300 metres in the East Khasi Hills of the state.
- ✓ Uphill migration of the earthworms starts in April-May.
- ✓ Further, it helps in shifting the locals to ecologically sustainable organic farming.

Rare birds found at Mangalore University

- ✓ The rare birds namely the Yellow-Billed Babbler, Green Sandpiper and Grey-Necked Bunting Were spotted in the Mangalore University.
- ✓ The team of birdwatchers spotted 108 species of birds in Mangalore University while they were running the campus bird count (CBC).
- ✓ The campus bird count is the part of the Great Backyard Bird Count which is organised by the Bird Count of India.

For the first time in the world, a picture of yellow Penguin has been captured. A yellow Penguin has been spotted off the coast of southern Georgia near Antarctica.

- ✓ Further, India's air, water and land have become more polluted in between the year 2009 and 2018. **Tarapur** in Maharashtra was the most polluted cluster.

Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award for his commitment to expanding India's leadership in sustainable development to meet the country's, and the world's, future energy needs.

NAVAL EXERCISE

Exercise TROPEX 21

- ✓ The biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21) which is the largest wargame of the Indian Navy was started in January 2021.
- ✓ The exercise is observing the participation of all operational units of Indian Navy such as submarines, ships and aircraft.
- ✓ The units of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard are also participating in the biennial exercise.
- ✓ The exercise is being held in the Indian Ocean Region and its adjunct waters.

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- ✓ The exercise is being looked by the Naval Headquarters along with the participation of all three Commands of Indian Navy besides the Tri-Services Command.

AMAN exercise

- ✓ Pakistan Navy organised the Exercise Aman off the coast of Karachi.
- ✓ A total of 46 countries including US, China, Russia, UK, Turkey, Iran, Indonesia is participating.
- ✓ The exercise seeks to develop and practice Response Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for maritime infrastructure, assets.

Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021

- ✓ India has joined the “Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021” which is a two-day naval exercise. The exercise is being held in the northern part of the Indian Ocean.

PASSEX military exercise

- ✓ The Indian and the Indonesian navies held the PASSEX military exercise in the Arabian sea.
- ✓ INS Talwar represented the Indian naval ship.
- ✓ The Indonesian Navy was represented by the multirole corvette KRI Bung Tomo.

Phillip Island Trophy-Doubles

- ✓ India's Ankita Raina and her Russia Partner Kamilla Rakhimova won the championship.
 - ✓ Ankita Raina has won her first title in WTA only.
 - ✓ She will be the second Indian woman player to be in top-100 after Sania Mirza.
- Rajiv Ram from United States and Barbora Krejckikova of Czech Republic win the **mixed doubles title** at the Australian Open.
- Tamil Nadu beat Punjab in **Vijay Hazare Trophy** cricket match.

Adriatic Pearl Tournament

- ✓ Alfiya Pathan (+81kg), Vinka (60kg) and T Sanamacha Chanu (75kg) are the other Indian women boxers who secured gold medals in their respective categories earlier in this tournament.
- ✓ Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) fetched two more gold medals as Indian women boxers ended with five overall for a top finish in the 30th Adriatic Pearl tournament in Budva, Montenegro.

Fourth Grand Slam title

- ✓ Naomi Osaka won her fourth Grand Slam title in the Australian Open final. Also won the US Open in 2018 and

Australian Open in 2019 and this is her second victory in Australian Open.

Novak Djokovic wins 9th Australian Open title

- ✓ Tennis Novak Djokovic one has ninth Australian Open title in the final at Melbourne Park. The victory takes 6 Grand Slam single Tally to 18 just to behind Rodger Federer and Rafael Nadal. In men's double Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek won the title.

Youngest solo female

- ✓ 21 year old swimming teacher Jasmine Harrison from North Yorkshire in the UK has become the youngest woman to Rose solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

Second Khelo India University Games

- ✓ Karnataka will be hosting the second Khelo India University Games (KIUG) in the year 2021.
- ✓ It is a national level multi-sport largest University game in India.
- ✓ The event observes the participation of athletes from universities across the country who compete with each other in different sport disciplines.
- ✓ First edition of the event was organised in the Bhubaneswar in February.

Indian women Boxers climb 5 gold medals

✓ Indian women Boxers ended with five gold medals overall in the 30th Adriatic Peal tournament in Budva, Montenegro. Indian women with emerged as the top team with 10 medals.

➤ G. Satyam became the champion at the **52nd National Senior Table Tennis Championships** in Haryana.

➤ Australia's open tennis champion, Japan's Naomi Osaka returns to second place in women's tennis rankings.

Recognition of Gymnastics Federation of India restored

✓ The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has restored the recognition of Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) as the National Sports Federation (NSF) with immediate effect.

✓ GFI will also be required to make a categorical affirmation regarding the provisions of Sports Code in its constitution within 6 months in order to bring it in line with the Sports Code.

✓ Gymnastics Federation of India is also required to provide at least two months' advance notice to the Government in its constitution. It also required to submit a copy of proposed changes along with the notice.

- The Indian men's team wins bronze medal in World Cup shooting competition.

Adelaide International Championship

- ✓ French Open champion Iga Swiatek has won champion by defeating Belinda Bencic in the women's Adelaide International singles final.
 - ✓ Alexa Guarachi and Desirae Krawczyk have won their third WTA doubles title at the Adelaide International Championship.
- **Ishant Sharma** becomes the second Indian Fast Bowler after Kapil Dev (131 Tests) to play 100 Tests.
 - The Indian men's team wins bronze medal in World Cup shooting competition.

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AWARDS AND HONOURS

2020 S.P.Adithanar Award

- ✓ This award is been presented for “Thinamani”.
- ✓ S.P. Adithanar weekly journal – Kalki weekly journal.

Youngest Bal Puraskar winner

- ✓ The youngest awardee this year was Kumari Prasiddhi Singh.
- ✓ She is a 7-year-old social volunteer from Chengalpattu district.
- ✓ She is the founder of Prasiddhi Forest.
- ✓ She has been in the India Book of Records for being the youngest fruit forest creator in the country.
- ✓ She created eight fruit forests in government schools and public places and planted over 9,000 trees.

Player of the Month

- ✓ ICC has invented this new award “Player of the Month” Award.
- ✓ Indian player Rishab Pant has awarded this along with England Captain Joe Root and Ireland Batsman Paul Stirling.
- **Women Player**
 - ✓ Pakistan Player Diana Baig

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- ✓ South Africa Player Vin Sipning Ismail
- ✓ South Africa Player Marizanne Kapp

Jindal Steel conferred with Mahatma Award 2020

- ✓ Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power limited Naveen Jindal has been conferred with the Mahatma Award 2020.
- ✓ The Mahatma Award was founded and constituted by Amit Sachdeva, more famously “The CSR Man of India”.

Dabholkar Memorial Award

- ✓ The Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award for 2020 has been conferred upon Dravidar Kazhagam President K. Veeramani.
- ✓ The award was instituted in the memory of the Maharashtra – based rationalist Dabholkar.

SASTRA SATSANGH

- ✓ Announces its coveted SANGITA VACHASPATI Award to three outstanding artists for their exceptional contributions towards the propagation of Bharateeya Arts & Culture.
- ✓ The 3 Awards are from the fields of Carnatic Music, Namaskankeerthanam, Discourse and other traditional arts.

was “**Durga**” directed by the Malayalam director **Shashidharan**.

- ✓ The Tiger Award worth **Euro 40,000 cash prize**, is shared between the director and producer of the winning film.

Sijou bags awards

- ✓ A Bodo film, “Sijou” has bagged four awards at the Golden Sparrow International Film Festival 2021 in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It is written and directed by Vishal P. Chaliha and produced by national award – winning filmmakers Preeyam Kherkatary Chaliha and Omprakash Kherkatary.

Oscar Shortlist

- ✓ Indian Short film Bittu has been shortlisted in top 10 films under Live Action Short film category for the 93rd Oscar Awards.
- ✓ Indian filmmakers Shreya and Karishma dev Dube are producer and directors of this film.

Miss India 2020

- ✓ Manasa Varanasi won the Miss India 2020 and she belongs to Telangana State.

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Skoch CM of the Year

- ✓ CM Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred this award.
- ✓ This award selection was based on a study of project – level outcomes in various states.

WCCB receives an award by UNEP

- ✓ The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award – 2020 by United Nations Environment Programme.

Prabha Varma

- ✓ Prabha Varma has bagged Mahakavi Kunchan Nambiar award 2021 for his outstanding contributions to Malayalam language and literature.

PM-Kisan

- Andhra Pradesh Anantapur district has been selected for the Prime Minister's Farmers PM-Kisan National Award.
- Government Stanley Hospital in Chennai ranks first in angiogram and angioplastic Surgery in Chennai for the fourth year in Tamil Nadu.

Ayodhya district receives skoch Gold Award

- ✓ Ayodhya district administration has been facilitated with skoch Gold Award for the measures taken to attend the covid-19.

Deepika Padukone bags Dadasaheb Phalke award

- ✓ Deepi videoka Padukone and Akshay Kumar bagged Dadasaheb Phalke award for best actor. They won the award for their movies Chhapaak and Laxmi respectively.
- Kaushik Paruva from India has received the highest award of the Cambodian government.

United State International Anti-Corruption Champions Award

- ✓ An Indian social activist, Anjali Bhardwaj, who works on issues of transparency and accountability has been selected for the “United State International Anti-Corruption Champions Award” along with the other 11 anti-corruption champions. These names were announced by Joe Biden administration.
- ✓ She is the founder of ‘Satark Nagrik Sangathan’.
- ✓ She has also served as an active member in the “Right to Information Movement” in India.
- ✓ She is a convener of National Campaign for People’s Right to Information. This campaign resulted into

establishment of an anti-corruption ombudsman and Whistleblowers' Protection Act.

Strandja Memorial

- ✓ Boxer Deepak Kumar won the silver medal in the men's flyweight at the 72nd Strandja Memorial tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

World HRD Congress Awards

- ✓ Union Bank of India was awarded in various category at the 29th Global HRD Congress awards.
 - Best Service Provider in Human Resources.
 - Best institution for “Excellence in Learning & Development”.
- ✓ Its Chief General Manager Kalyan Kumar was named as “Chief Human Resources Officer of the Year”.

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S.NO	AWARDS	2019	2020
1.	Bharati award	Seenu Viswanathan	Sugi Sivam
2.	M.S.Subbulakshmi award	S. Eswari	Vani Jeyaram
3.	Balasaraswathi award	Alamel Valli	Chandra Dandayuthapani
4.	Puratchi Thalaivi Dr J Jayalalithaa special Kalaimamani Award	Actor - Saroja Devi Singer - P Susheela Bharathanatiyam – Ambika Kameswar	Actor- Sowcar Janaki Singer – Jamuna Rani Bharathanatiyam – Parvathi Ravi Kandasala

APPOINTMENTS

Cheif Secretary of TN

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government appointed senior IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan as 47th Chief Secretary of TN.
- ✓ He succeeded K. Shanmugam.
- ✓ K. Shanmugam is appointed as advisor for Government.

Acting Chief of staff

- ✓ **Bhavya Lal** is appointed as the NASA's acting chief of staff and she is India-American origin.

CBI's ACTING DIRECTOR

- ✓ Praveen Sinha appointed as acting director of Central Bureau of Investigation succeeding Rishi Kumar Shukla.
- ✓ The appointment of the director is done by higher power committee led by Prime Minister comprising the chief justice of India and the leader of opposition the Lok Sabha.

Amazon new CEO

- ✓ Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos will step down as CEO and transition to a new position at the company as executive chair of the Amazon board in Q3 2021.
- ✓ Andy Jassy, who currently serves as CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS), will replace Bezos as Amazon CEO.

- The Ministry of Labour and employment has appointed S N Subrahmanyam as the chairman of the national safety Council for the period of three years.

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- Tamil Nadu governor Banwari Lal Purohit has appointed Selvam as Vice chancellor of Trichy Bharathidasan University for three years.

Boxing Federation of India

- ✓ Ajay Singh re-elected as president of Boxing Federation of India.
- ✓ He will have a new secretary general by his side in Assam's Hemanta Kumar Kalita.

Deputy Chairman of ICC

- ✓ Khwaja had also acted as Acting ICC chairman last year when Shashank Manohar stepped down from the role.
- ✓ Now, ICC has elected Imran Khwaja as its Deputy Chairman.

- Athlete Hima Das has been appointed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police by the Assam government.

- ✓ Hima Das is called as “Dhing Express”.

- Dr. LP Thangavelu from Coimbatore has been elected as the President of the Indian Laparoscopic Surgery and Aperture Surgeons Association.

UN Secretary General

- ✓ Arora Akanksha, an Indian-origin employee at the UN has announced her candidacy to be its next Secretary-General.
- ✓ She will replace Antonio Guterres in December 2021.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has appointed Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary. She is an Indian-origin investment and development banker.

World Trade Organization head

- ✓ The Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo Iweala has been appointed as the head the World Trade Organization.
- ✓ She has become the first woman to take this position. She has also become the first African to hold this charge amid rising protectionism.

New ICC chief prosecutor

- ✓ British human rights lawyer Karim Khan was elected as the new prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ✓ The United Nations has 193 member states but only 123 are in the ICC.
- ✓ ICC is the only permanent body investigating crimes against humanity.

PERSONALITIES

Cricketer Washington Sundar has been named as the Election Icon for Chennai district for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls.

UP man unfurls National Flag

- ✓ Mountaineer Nitish Singh from Gorakhpur unfurled the national flag at Mount Kilimanjaro peak, the highest mountain in the African continent.
- ✓ He also raised a flag for the transgender community for supporting him in his journey.

Vir Chakra for Galwan Valley martyr Palani

- ✓ Havildar K Palani from Ramanathapuram district has been honoured with vir chakra (posthumously) for sacrificing his life as part of the ‘Operation Snow Leopard’ to defend the nation in the India – China standoff at Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh.

Bronze statue for Palani is kept at the Ahmedabad Army Training Centre.

Youngest female pilot

- ✓ Ayesha Aziz, a 25-year-old from Kashmir is the youngest female pilot in the country.

- ✓ In the year 2011, Ayesha Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15.
- ✓ She underwent training to fly a MIG-29 jet at Russia's Sokol airbase.

Famous writer Lakshmi Rajaratnam has passed away

- ✓ Lakshmi Rajaratnam, the most famous writer who wrote various novels, historical short stories, TV series, plays, etc., has passed away.
- ✓ Lakshmi Rajaratnam, who is famous for her spiritual discourses, is the recipient of the titles of Senthamizh Selvi and Sorchuvai Nayaki.
- ✓ He was honored by the Kanchi Sankara Monastery in 1991 for writing and in 1993 for his spiritual discourse.
- ✓ Notable among his novels are 'Ithayakkoyil', 'Agaligai Kathirunthal', 'Pattudai Talaivi', 'Aval Varuvala?'

Hashimoto: President of Olympic Committee

- ✓ Tokyo 2020 executive board has appointed seven-time Olympian Hashimoto Seiko as president of Tokyo 2020 organising committee.

Makhtar Diop, the world Bank's most recent vice president for infrastructure, has been chosen to head to the international Finance Corporation.

Swati Mohan

- ✓ She is an Indian-American scientist who led charge to land Nasa rover on Mars.
- ✓ She has been associated with the Perseverance Mars mission since its inception and has been working on the project for over seven years. She has also worked on Nasa's Cassini mission to the Saturn.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Hamid Ansari Autobiography

- ✓ Former Vice President Hamid Ansari has come up with his new autobiography called **“By Many a Happy Accident”**.
- ✓ It is on Ansari's life as a diplomat, and then Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman for two terms.

Dalai Lama launched new book

- ✓ The Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama have recently launched his new book **“The Little Book of Encouragement”**.
- Priyanka Chopra Jonas has come up with her autobiography, title **“Unfinished: A Memoir”**.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Corruption perception index (CPI)

- ✓ It is released by Transparency International.
- ✓ India's rank has slipped six places to 86th among 180 countries in 2020.
- ✓ India was ranked at 80th position out of 180 countries in 2019.
- ✓ China ranks 78th and Pakistan ranked 124th on this list.
- ✓ New Zealand and Denmark rank at the first position.
- ✓ Somalia and South Sudan rank the lowest.

2. Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index

- ✓ It was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ✓ The index measures the readiness in adopting the personalised healthcare of 11 health systems in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ✓ Singapore was the best performer in this list.
- ✓ Taiwan bagged the second position.
- ✓ India was ranked at 10th position.
- ✓ Indonesia was ranked last at 11th Rank.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Indian Coast Guard Day – February 01

- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard is an armed force of India.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard was raised on February 1, 1977.
- ✓ But it was formally established on 18 August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act -1978 as an independent armed force.

2. World Wetlands Day - February 02

- ✓ This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971.
- ✓ In the year 2021, the day marked the **50th anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention** on Wetlands.
- ✓ The theme for World Wetlands Day this year is '**Wetlands and Water**'.

3. International Day of Human Fraternity - February 04

- ✓ UN General Assembly on 21 December 2020 adopted a resolution to observe this day.
- ✓ This year's theme is '**A Pathway to the Future**'.

4. World Cancer Day - February 04

- ✓ It is a global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).
- ✓ The theme for the World Cancer Day 2021 is '**I Am and I Will.**'

- ✓ World Cancer Day originated in 2000 at the first World Summit Against Cancer, Paris.
- ✓ It was to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration-2008.

5. International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation - February 06

- ✓ This day spread awareness about Female Genital Mutilation.
- ✓ Against this practice WHO issued a joint statement together with the UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 1997.
- ✓ The theme for this year is "**No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation.**"

6. International Epilepsy Day – February 08

- ✓ The second Monday of February is observed as International Epilepsy Day.
- ✓ Epilepsy is a neurological condition which can cause seizures.

7. International Safer Internet Day (SID) – February 09

- ✓ It was first initiated in 2004. It is as part of the EU's 'Better Internet for Kids' policy.

11. World Unani Day – February 11

- ✓ It aims to spread awareness about health care delivery through Unani system of medicine.
- ✓ This day is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan.
- ✓ He was an eminent Indian Unani physician and a noted freedom fighter.
- ✓ First Unani Day was celebrated in 2017 at Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad.

12. Financial Literacy Week - February 08 – 12

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016.
- ✓ It will focus on ‘Developing the credit discipline and encouraging availing of the credit from the formal financial institutions as it is required’.
- ✓ Theme of this year is “**Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions**”.

13. National Productivity Day - February 12

- ✓ The day is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC) to promote productivity culture in India.
- ✓ National Productivity Week was also observed during February 12-18

14. World Radio Day - February 13

- ✓ In 2011, UNESCO's General Conference, at its 36th session, proclaimed February 13 as World Radio Day.
- ✓ It coincides with the anniversary of the United Nations Radio.
- ✓ The UN's international broadcasting service was established on February 13, 1946.
- ✓ This is 10th anniversary.
- ✓ This year will be celebrated through three sub-themes.
 - Evolution, Innovation, Connection

15. World Pangolin day - February 13

- ✓ World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of February.
- ✓ Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found in India.
- ✓ Protection Status:
 - Indian Pangolin: Endangered
 - Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered.
- ✓ Both these species are listed under Schedule I, Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

16. Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary/National Women's Day of India 2021

- ✓ National Women's Day is celebrated on Sarojini Naidu's birthday.
- ✓ She was famous for her nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila' because of her poems.
- ✓ This year is the 142nd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- ✓ She became the first woman governor of the United Provinces, the present Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ She was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1925 held at Kanpur.

17. International Childhood Cancer Day - February 15

- ✓ The campaign is planned under the theme of **#throughourhands**.
- ✓ The CCI campaign is fully aligned with the #CureAll strategy.
- ✓ It was the landmark strategy by the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC).
- ✓ That was Launched in 2018.

18. World Day of Social Justice - February 20

- ✓ The day is dedicated to advantages and issues which can be tackled by Social Justice.
- ✓ This year, the day was celebrated under Theme: **“A call for social justice in the Digital Economy”**.

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) started gave its approval to observe this day on November 26, 2007.

19. International Mother Language Day – February 21

- ✓ It aims to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
- ✓ The theme of the Day this year is “**Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society**”.
- ✓ It was proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 1999.

20. World Scout Day – February 22

- ✓ The World Scout Day celebrations commemorate the birth anniversary of Robert Baden-Powell.
- ✓ He was born in 1857. He is the founder of Scouting in 1908.

21. World Thinking Day – February 22

- ✓ It is originally known as Thinking Day. It is celebrated by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide.
- ✓ The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world.

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY

Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!

- ✓ He received a Nobel Prize for this discovery in the year 1930.
- ✓ The theme for National Science Day 2021 is '**Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work**'.
- ✓ The first National Science Day was celebrated on 28 February 1987.

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