

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

An IAS Academy

**MARCH MONTH
CURRENT AFFAIRS
2021**

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MARCH MONTH

STATES

Internal quota for Vanniyars

- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu on February 26 passed a Bill temporarily providing an internal reservation of 10.5% to the community under the category Most Backward Classes (V).
- ✓ It is shortly called **Special Reservation Act of 2021**.
- ✓ It has created two more groups — one covering 25 MBCs and 68 DNCs and another covering the remaining 22 MBCs.
- ✓ The Vanniya kula kshatriya community includes vanniya, vanniya, vannia gounder, gounder, padayachi, palli and agnikula kshatriya.
- ✓ The Bill also provides an internal quota of 7% to Denotified Communities and the Most Backward Classes communities having similarity with Denotified Communities.
- ✓ This is only a temporary arrangement.
- ✓ Changes will be made after the Justice A Kulasekaran Commission make its recommendations.

Inscription

- ✓ Navira Hill Inscription has been found at Javvadu malai Puthur Nadu next to Tirupattur.

Super 40 program

- ✓ The Army has been implementing various special schemes for the betterment of the youth of Kashmir.
- ✓ The “Super 40” program has been in operation for the last few years and special training is being imparted on behalf of the Army to enroll students in higher education institutions including IITs.
- ✓ In 2018, the Army launched the Super 30 program. Through this, NEET entrance test training is provided free of cost to poor students in Kashmir.

AC 3 tier train

- ✓ For the first time, work has begun on the production of AC3 tier economy class train carriages.
- ✓ Kapurthala Railway Factory in Punjab has been awarded the task of manufacturing modern economy class AC boxes.

Nagaland launches its first air cargo

- ✓ Nagaland launched its first app cargo services from Dimapur airport. Also Airport Authority of India is planning to construct a new terminal building including a cargo service terminal at dimapur.

NCSM inaugurates Science Centre

- ✓ The Governor of Tripura has inaugurated the “Udaipur Science Centre” on February 28, 2021 at Udaipur in Tripura.
- ✓ With the establishment of the science centre, the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has also set-up science centres across the north eastern states.

Reserve 75 per cent jobs in Private sector jobs

- ✓ Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020” has now come into force in the State of Haryana.
- ✓ Reservation will be provided in every company, trust and society.

Communicable disease control drive in UP

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh CM has launched the communicable disease control drive and the Dastak Abhiyan in Varanasi. The communicable disease control will run from march 1 - 31.

Odisha CM inaugurates hostels for ST students

- ✓ Odisha CM inaugurated hostels for scheduled tribe and scheduled caste students in the state. He also launched the sanhati program which will enable around 1.5 lakh students to avail primary education in their mother tongue.

First epigraphical reference to Krishnadeva raya's death

- ✓ Officials from Archaeological Survey of India discovered the first epigraphical reference to the death of Krishnadevaraya Nayaka.
- ✓ He was the third ruler from Tuluva dynasty.
- ✓ He was the emperor of Vijayanagara empire during 1509-1529.
- ✓ The inscription was found near Gopalkrishna temple at Honnenahalli of Tumkur district, Karnataka.
- ✓ As per this inscription, Krishnadevaraya died on October 17, 1529.
- ✓ He was one of the greatest emperors of India ruled from the South.

Odisha's first survey of Backward Class

- ✓ The Odisha government will start the first state survey of "social and educational conditions" of people belonging to the backward classes from May 1 to May 20, 2021.
- ✓ The decision by the Odisha government is significant in the light that there is a growing demand of the "Caste-Based Census".
- ✓ A commission headed by former Delhi Chief Justice G Rohini is working towards the sub-categorisation of the OBCs.
- ✓ But this is unscientific and illegal without obtaining such backward class data or the caste census.

Namma Chennai Smart Card

- ✓ Namma Chennai Smart Card is a Ru-Pay powered co-branded, contactless prepaid card.
- ✓ It facilitates various digital payments like tax and utility bill payments Greater Chennai Corporation centres.
- ✓ ICICI Bank has partnered with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) for the launch of this card.

Discovery of Mahavira Tirthankara Statue

- ✓ A 600 year old statue of Mahavira Tirthankar has been found near the Government High School in vayalamur village next to Vandavasi in Thiruvannamalai district.
- ✓ This statue is 2 feet high and 7 feet wide, and it is in a state of meditative padmasana posture.

India's first integrated Machine tool park

- ✓ India's first integrated machine tool park is named as Tumakuru Machine Tool Park. It is built in Karnataka.
- ✓ The park is developed under the scheme of Enhancement of Competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector (ECICGS), jointly by the state government and the Department of Heavy Industries, Government of India.
- ✓ The park is located at Vasantha narasapura which is around 90 km from Bengaluru.

Agriculture census to be conducted in Gujarat

- ✓ Agriculture census to be conducted in Gujarat in 2021 as a part of Pan download -India exercise to collect various data related to the key sector.

Night safaris

- ✓ The state of Madhya Pradesh has introduced the night safaris in the three national parks in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ This move by the state is a major boost for the state which is already known for its robust tourism industry.
- ✓ The three parks include the Bandhavgarh National Park, Kanha National Park and Pench National Park.
- ✓ Usually, safaris are conducted during the day because tourists feel safer in the daylight. But because of day safaris, tourists miss out to witness nocturnal animals in their natural habitat. So, now the state hopes to organise the safaris in a controlled manner.

- **Madhavaram** is all set to get Chennai's largest metro rail train maintenance depot.

Tripura government launches Jagrut Tripura

- ✓ Tripura government has come up with the digital platform Jagrut Tripura to help people get benefits from various schemes of the centre and the state government.

Odisha to set up a new department

- ✓ Odisha Government has set up a new department namely the department of mission Shakti for self help groups in the state.

Uttarakhand CM launches scheme

- ✓ Uttarakhand Chief Minister launched Gharoki paachan, Chelik Naam (daughters name is the home's identity) program and development schemes in Nainital.

Discovery of materials dating back 2300 years

- ✓ Excavation work has resumed at Kodumanal in Chennimalai, Erode district.
- ✓ Fragments of glass dating back to 2300 years and a drain leading to the Noyal River have been discovered.
- ✓ Evidence has been found that those who lived 2300 years ago excelled in business and industry.
- ✓ Paleolithic Tombstones, numerous pottery and human bones have also been found.

Third World Thirukkural Conference

- ✓ The Third World Thirukkural Conference was started in Thanjavur.
- ✓ It is held on behalf of the World Tamil Research Institute, Bharath College of Science, Australia Melbourne Tamil

- ✓ The Deputy Chief Minister announced that, under the “Deshbhakti Budget”, government has proposed to allocate Rupees 45 crores in order to install high masts so as to hoist the national flag at 500 places in Delhi.
- ✓ The government will also allocate rupees 10 crores for the programmes on **Bhagat Singh’s life** during the Deshbhakti celebrations.

Arunachal government invest in education

- ✓ The Arunachal Pradesh government will launch " mission Shiksha", an initiatives to improve the standard of education in the state in the next two years.
- ✓ They also declared 2021 as the " Year of education".

Best Hospital in India for pediatric

- ✓ Kanchi Kamkodi Children's Foundation Hospital has been selected as the best pediatric hospital in India.
- ✓ Stostica, a global quality research firm, and Newsweek Magazine have released a list of the best hospitals in the world.

Xcelerator Bengaluru Initiative

- ✓ The state of Karnataka has launched the “Xcelerator Bengaluru Initiative” in the bid to provide support to the women-owned micro-businesses.

- ✓ The “Xcelerator Bengaluru” is a curated six-month accelerator programme. It seeks to provide its support to the women so as to help in scaling the women-owned micro-businesses.

Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project

- ✓ The “Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project” will be completed and launched in one or two months in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ This irrigation project will bring positive changes for farmers. This was announced by him while he was launching the Lahchura Dam under the Arjun Sahayak Project in Mahoba district.

First Gender budget

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh could be the first state in India to incorporate a concept called 'Gender Budget' in its annual Budget for the Financial Year 2021-22
- ✓ It is aimed to provide better service to women.
- ✓ The gender budget list outs the expenditure for women welfare under various schemes of the state.

Jharkhand Simdega to host hockey events

- ✓ For the first time, Jharkhand simdega hosting two back to back national events.

✓ Hockey India sub junior women's national championship 2021 is being held at Simdega while the junior National women's Championship will take place during April at the same venue.

➤ Chhattisgarh is the largest employer in the country under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Program. Tamil Nadu ranks 15th.

Delhi to become EV capital

✓ Delhi transport minister has claimed that Delhi will become the electric capital of the nation citing the decision to install a charging point at every 3 kilometre.

Air Moderate in Noida

✓ The air quality was recorded in the 'moderate' category in Noida and Faridabad while it was 'poor' in Greater Noida Ghaziabad and Gurgaon.

Vijayakand Gopalar

✓ Inscriptions of the 13th century Telugu Chola king Vijayakand Gopalar have been found by the Center for Historical Studies on the banks of Uttiramerur Lake in Kanchipuram District.

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- ✓ The inscription reads Swasti Sri Kanda Gopala Chaturvedi Mangalam Kanda Gopala Lake

Kerala High Court allows transgender woman

- ✓ Kerala High Court allowed transgender women to seek admission into the National Cadet Corps.
 - ✓ This comes there after Hina Hanifa had moved a petition challenging a section of the NCC act only allow males and females to enroll with the Cadet Corps.
 - ✓ The court also directed The NCC tournament is enrollment criteria and allowed the entry of Transgender in the people in the cadet Corps.
- Tamil Nadu is the state with the highest education loan in the country.

Andhra CM launches Temple Management System

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh chief minister has launched a temple management system at his camp office.
- ✓ It will bring all the temples under endowment department into one system.

Bangalore: Second on retail attractiveness index

- ✓ Bangalore ranked second on the Kearney retail index. It overtook mumbai in 2021 edition of the report.

- ✓ Bangalore was also named the most liveable city in the country.

Mission Gramodaya launched in Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ Under the gramodaya mission, besides providing housing facilities in rural areas, basic and fundamental infrastructure will also be expanded.

SAAMAR Campaign

- ✓ The Jharkhand government has launched the “SAAMAR Campaign” which stands for “Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anaemia Reduction” campaign recently.
- ✓ The campaign was launched to tackle the malnutrition in Jharkhand.
- ✓ The SAAMAR campaign was started with the aim of identifying the anaemic women and malnourished children.
- ✓ The campaign converges several departments to effectively tackle the problem of malnutrition.

MitraClip

- ✓ In a first for Asia, four back-to-back MitraClip procedures were successfully performed in a single day at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai.

Arunachal Pradesh:1st indigenous knowledge system school

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister has inaugurated the state's first formal indigenous language and knowledge system school in East Kameng district.
- ✓ The first-of-its-kind school called 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko' was inaugurated at Rang village near Seppa.

Drinking age to 21 from 25

- ✓ Delhi government reduced the drinking age in Delhi to 21, which was earlier fixed at 25 and prompted a large number of customers to move to NCR towns for liquor.

India's first government-run ambulance network" for animals

- ✓ The state government of the Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up "India's first government-run ambulance network" for animals.
- ✓ This ambulance network is one of its main missions in order to help in reaching out to the distressed animals to provide them proper animal healthcare.
- ✓ The ambulance will also be providing the "Hydraulic Lift Facility" to lift the animals and shift them to the nearest Government Veterinary Facility in the emergency cases.

Bihar first you have own ethanol policy

- ✓ Bihar industry minister has launched with the ethanol production promotion policy, 2021.
- ✓ This makes Bihar the first state in the country to have an internal promotion Policy under the national policy of biofuels, 2018.
- ✓ The state and all policy allows the extraction of Ethanol from surplus qualities of maize as well.

Maratha quota granted

- ✓ Maharashtra has the legislative competence for granting reservation quota to Marathas and its decision is Constitutional as the **102nd amendment** does not denude a state of the power to declare its list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC), Centre told the Supreme Court.

Delhi government: Implementation of ration scheme

- ✓ The Delhi cabinet has decided to implement its doorstep ration delivery scheme without the name after the centre objected to ' mukhyamantri' in the name.
- ✓ The Aam Aadmi party government what schedule to launch the ' mukhyamantri gargar ration Yojana' that promises doorstep delivery of ration 200 households in the Delhi's Seemapuri area.

Maharashtra: First state to vaccinate 5 million doses

- ✓ Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to administer 5 million doses.

Andhra Pradesh CM inaugurates Kurnool airport

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, fancy no greater the Kurnool Airport located at orvakal.
- ✓ To offer a tribute, the airport named after the first ever freedom fighter of the country, Uyyalavada Narasimha Reddy. This will be the sixth civilian airport in the state.

MICE Roadshow Meet in India

- ✓ “MICE Roadshow Meet in India” Brand and Roadmap for Promotion of India as MICE Destination were launched by Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in Khajuraho.
- ✓ ‘Chhatrasal Convention Centre’ was also launched at Khajuraho which has been developed under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- ✓ This event is an effort under Aatmanirbhar Bharat to realize MICE potential of India.
- ✓ It provides an opportunity to focus on Government’s initiatives for developing India as MICE destination.

Hunar Haat

- ✓ 28th Edition of the Hunar Haat of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen is being organised at Kala Academy in Panaji, Goa.

- ✓ The event was started from March 26th and will conclude on April 4, 2021. It is being organised under the theme- “Vocal for Local”.

Operation Tiruvallur

- ✓ Indian Army has undertaken ‘Operation Tiruvallur’.
- ✓ This operation is for the safe disposal of nearly 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance.
- ✓ The aim of the operation is to provide a safe environment for citizens in and around Gummidipoondi area in Tiruvallur.
- ✓ Dakshin Bharat Area under the Southern Command of the Army is undertaking this sensitive operation.

UP Government launch rental housing scheme

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government will start an affordable rental housing scheme for the students, poor people living in cities and the urban migrants.
- ✓ A proposal for the affordable renting housing and complexes scheme was approved by the UP cabinet.

UP: State with maximum international airports

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh will soon be the state with maximum number of international airports in the country.
- ✓ The state will soon have five International Airports.

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- ✓ The Jewar International Airport is coming up in the NCR region, will be ready by 2023.

Residential hockey centre of Excellence

- ✓ Centre of excellence in hockey will be soon setup in Uttar Pradesh capital, lucknow.
- ✓ This would be the first advance excellence Centre for hockey in the state.

'Two mobile medical vans' dedicated to Nation

- ✓ Public Health Department, Maharashtra, and National Health Mission, Govt of India dedicated 'Two are conditioned mobile medical banks' to the nation in Jalna district of Maharashtra.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program

- ✓ Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program was announced by the PM on 31st October 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✓ The aim of the campaign is to enhance interaction and promote mutual understanding between the people of different states/UTs.

Pallava Inscriptions found

- ✓ 1,300 year old Pallava inscriptions have been found in the village of Chinnavattanur on the Javadu hill next to Tirupattur.

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- ✓ Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is celebrating 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas on 7th March, 2021.
- ✓ The theme for the year 2021 is “Seva bhi – Rozgar bhi”.

No postal ballots for NRI

- ✓ The Election Commission of India announced that the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) will not be able to vote by postal ballots for the upcoming elections in five states.
- ✓ It is a facility whereby a voter can cast their remotely.
- ✓ The Voter will send it back to the election officer before counting.

Global-Bio India-2021

- ✓ The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the second edition of Global-Bio India-2021 on March 1, 2021.
- ✓ **Theme**– ‘Transforming Lives’ along with the tagline ‘Biosciences to Bio-economy’.
- ✓ The Global-Bio India event is being organised with the aim of providing India the recognition of an emerging Innovation Hub and the bio-manufacturing hub globally.

- ✓ It will facilitate Biotech innovation ecosystem, Make in India and India's investments for the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative and global networking & collaborations.

IIT KGP researchers develop a Technology

- ✓ Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have developed a soil mapping technology to bring efficiency in the use of fertilizers in farmland.
- ✓ This will facilitate cultivators to use Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK) efficiently for automated soil nutrition management.

Sansad TV

- ✓ Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV has been merged and now it is known as sunset TV.
- ✓ Retired IAS officer Ravi Kapoor has been appointed as its chief executive officer.
- ✓ This TV will telecast live proceedings of both the upper and lower houses.

India to invest in ports by 2035

- ✓ The government of India has identified more than 574 projects at the cost of 82 billion USD for 6 lakh crore for implementation from 2015 to 2035.

- ✓ India aims to operationalise 23 waterways by 2030.

Catch the Rain

- ✓ The National Water Mission's (NWM) campaign called "Catch the Rain" will be launched in states and is set to nudge the stakeholders.
- ✓ The campaign has the tagline "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls". The campaign will help in creating the appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) which are suitable for the climatic conditions and subsoil strata before the monsoon make its fall.

Monthly climate summary

- ✓ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has released the monthly climate summary. As per the IMD Report, India has recorded its second warmest winter during the months of January and February 2021 after the year 1901.
- ✓ In the winter season, easterly winds were dominant which kept the minimum temperatures above normal.
- ✓ Most of the western disturbances passed along the extreme northern regions such as Jammu and Kashmir. Thus, it failed to bring cold weather in the northern plains.
- ✓ The rainfall departure for the southern peninsula during the winter season is 246 per cent more than the normal. The IMD report further states that, South Peninsular India

recorded the fourth wettest winter season in which the rainfall was recorded as 56.1mm both in January and February.

Rail network to be fully electrified by 2023

- ✓ The entire rail network in the country will be fully electrified by 2023 while all rail network will run on renewable energy by 2030.

Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system

- ✓ The Western Railway zone of the Indian Railways has introduced the “Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system”. This system will play a significant role of preventing the train accidents by effective communication.
- ✓ The MTRC system will help in tracking, monitoring and aiding to establish the communication between trains and control room by using the train number and cab number code.
- ✓ MTRC System is a Terrestrial Trunk Radio (TETRA) based Digital technology. It employs the TDMA on the Air Interface and Internet Protocol based Network Architecture.

CSIR Floriculture Mission

- ✓ The scientists of CSIR laboratories in India to develop land available at each laboratory to set up as a model under the “CSIR Floriculture Mission”.
- ✓ In the earlier move, the CSIR Floriculture Mission was given approval for the implementation across the 21 States and Union Territories of India.
- ✓ This mission will converge the floriculture with apiculture to yield benefits. The mission will focus on the commercial crops for honey bee rearing such as Gladiolus, Carnation, Canna, Marigold, Rose etc.
- ✓ This mission is significant because the Indian Farmers have little knowledge regarding the floriculture which have the potential to give 5 times more return than the traditional crops.
- ✓ Currently, India only shares 0.6% of the global floriculture market despite having diverse agro-climatic conditions.

Delimitation Commission gets for one year extension

- ✓ The Delimitation commission, a panel for redrawing the parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir has got one year extension.
- ✓ The panel is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, will get one more year for completing its task in the union territory.

RailTel launches prepaid Wi-Fi connectivity

- ✓ RailTel launch of prepaid Wi-Fi service across more than 4000 train Station at nominal rates.

Front airbags in cars mandatory from April 1

- ✓ Airbags for front-seat passengers in all cars will be mandatory for new vehicles. Government plans to implement this norm for all new models of car which is manufactured from April 1st onwards.

IMPCL to sell products on Gov e-Market portal

- ✓ Indian medicines pharmaceutical corporation Limited sell product on government e market portal. This deal will offer Ayurvedic and Unani medicines of IMPCL to figure on the GeM portal to hundereds of government sector buyers.

TechBharat 2021

- ✓ Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the inaugural session of TechBharat 2021, on March 6, 2021.
- ✓ Laghu Udyog Bharati and IMS Foundation have organized the 2nd edition of the conclave bringing together stakeholders from the HealthTech & Edutech sector on a virtual platform.

Red Rice

- ✓ In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the USA.
- ✓ This rice variety is called 'Bao dhaan' - Integral part of Assamese food.
- ✓ 'Red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam.
- ✓ It is grown without the use of any chemical fertilizer.
- ✓ It is rich in iron.

Jan Aushati Kendra

- ✓ 7500th Jana Aushathi Kendra Branch Launched at Indira Gandhi Regional Medical College Hospital, Shillong, Meghalaya.

Historic Visit of INS to Mongla

- ✓ The Indian Naval Ships are all set to make the first-ever visit to historic port town of Mongla in Bangladesh. The ships will make part of the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebration which will be commemorating 50 years of the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan.
- ✓ The war led to the independence of People's Republic of Bangladesh. This war was started after the Pakistani military launched the "Operation Searchlight" against people of East Pakistan on March 25, 1971.

India's biggest kidney dialysis Hospital

- ✓ India's biggest kidney dialysis hospital was inaugurated at Bala Sahib Gurudwara in Delhi.
- ✓ The hospital is secured to the most technically advanced medical facilities where services will be provided free of cost to the patient.

Women's Aid Center in Police Stations

- ✓ The Union Home Ministry has agreed to provide Rs 200 crore to states and union territories for setting up women's assistance centers in police stations.

Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme

- ✓ The Central Silk Board (CSB) under the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare have signed a MoU for a “convergence model” in order to implement the “Agro-forestry in silk sector” under the “Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme”.
- ✓ The convergence model in the silk sector will be implemented with the aim of incentivizing the farmers so as to implement the “sericulture-based Agroforestry models”.
- ✓ The SMAF Scheme was launched in the year 2016-2017. Since then, the scheme is being implemented by the

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW) in accordance with the recommendation of National Agroforestry Policy 2014.

- ✓ India was the first country that launched this comprehensive policy.
- ✓ The SMAF Scheme is implemented in the states which have liberalized the transit regulation to transport the timber.

Digital Payment Scorecard

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has released the list of “Digital Payment Scorecard”. In the list, the State Bank of India (SBI) has topped for the third consecutive months.

First forest Healing centre

- ✓ India's first forest killing centre of the country was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Kalika, uttarakhand. It involves many activities like forest walking, tree-hugging etc.

e-scooter

- ✓ Ola plans to set up the world's largest e-scooter factory in Bangalore on 500 acres in the next 12 months.

FSI Report on forest fires

- ✓ The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has released a report on forest fires in the country.
- ✓ Forest fires have become an issue of global concern.
- ✓ In many countries, wildfires are burning larger areas, and fire seasons are growing longer due to global warming.

Key findings:

- ✓ At least 5,291 forest fires were recorded in Odisha between February 22 and March 1, 2021 - the highest in the country for the same period.
- ✓ Collection of mahua flowers and kendu leaves, practice of shifting cultivation and grazing in forest areas are some of the reasons for forest fires in Odisha.
- ✓ Telangana recorded the second-highest fires in the country at 1,527 during the same period.
- ✓ It was followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,507) and Andhra Pradesh (1,292).

India's 3rd Scorpene submarine

- ✓ The Navy has inducted two submarines of the same class—the INS Kalvari and INS Khanderi—from Mazagaon Docks Limited (MDL's) where the INS Karanj was also built.
- ✓ A Scorpene submarine is a class of diesel-electric attack submarines designed by France's Naval Group.

National Rail Plan

- ✓ The Indian Railways has prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) in order to establish a future ready Railway system by the year 2030.
- ✓ The National Rail Plan has been prepared with the aim of formulating the strategies on the basis of both operational capacities as well as the commercial policy initiatives.

Digitalization of records of Mahatma Gandhi

- ✓ Union ministry of Culture inaugurated digitalization of records and exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- ✓ It was launched on occasion of the 31st foundation day of the National Archives of India.

Amrit Mahotsav

- ✓ Amrit Mahotsav' will be celebrated to mark India's 75 years of Independence.
- ✓ This could be held at 75 locations across the nation for 75 weeks.
- ✓ This grand festival will begin from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad in Gujarat from March 12.

India : 5th most attractive growth destination

- ✓ India has emerged as the first most attractive growth estimation, according to the Global survey of CEO's.
- ✓ The US is number one market that CEO's looking to in terms of growth over the next 12 months and China as a second spot.

Mera ration mobile app launched

- ✓ Ministry of consumer Affairs, food and Public Distribution launched Mera ration mobile app.
- ✓ This app is for the benefit of the ration card holders who moved to new places in search of livelihood.

India's first dedicated Express cargo terminal

- ✓ Chief commissioner of customs of Bengaluru zone M Srinivas no greater India's first dedicated Express Cargo terminal at Kempegowda International Airport.
- ✓ Cargo terminal box exclusively for export and import of international countries.

Ramban develops mobile app named e-Suvidha

- ✓ In Jammu Kashmir, the district administration, ramban has developed a mobile application named e- suvidha.
- ✓ It shall bring many public delivery services and department on the digital platform.

75TH Independence Day Celebrations

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 75th Independence Day celebrations from the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ✓ They are expected to complete the 386 km stretch from Ahmedabad to Dandi Beach in 25 days. The pilgrimage will end on April 5.
- ✓ On March 18, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi made a pilgrimage to the beach from the Sabarmati Ashram to demand the abolition of the salt tax.
- ✓ The 75th Independence Day celebrations are set to take place until August 15, 2023.

Panel for Air Quality Management

- ✓ The Panel for Air Quality Management set by the Central government in around the National Capital Region has now been dissolved after five months of its constitution.
- ✓ Now the panel stands dissolved because the ordinance which was passed to set up the panel has lapsed.
- ✓ Ordinance had to be introduced in Parliament within six weeks. But it was not introduced within the prescribed time because of which the ordinance lapsed.
- ✓ The panel was headed by a former secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, M.M. Kuttu.
- ✓ This panel was constituted to monitor the Air Quality in NCR and the Adjoining Areas. This ordinance also

dissolved the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).

Mobile Integrated Network Terminal (MINT)

- ✓ The Indian army is all set to procure Made in India “Mobile Integrated Network Terminal (MINT)” systems providing a huge boost to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan of the government.
- ✓ The MINT system will enhance the operational communication capability of the Indian Army in accordance with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.
- ✓ Indian Army is in the process of procuring the MINT systems under the Make II Category of DAP 2020.
- ✓ The ‘Make-II’ category projects which comprises of the prototype development of system, equipment, platform or their upgrades. Such projects are ‘Industry Funded’.

India's first centralised AC Railway terminal

- ✓ The country's first centralised air conditioned Railway terminal in Bangalore Ud be operational soon.
- ✓ It is named after Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya, this is Bengaluru 3rd Railway terminal in Baiyappanahalli area.

Anti dumping duty on Chinese truck

- ✓ India has imposed anti dumping duty on the Chinese antibacterial drug ciprofloxacin hydrochloride to guard the

domestic industry against cheap imports from the neighbouring country.

Green Crematoria Pyres

- ✓ Union Minister Harshvardhan inaugurated 4 Pyres of the 'green crematoria' Nigam Bodh Ghat, Delhi to reduce high toxic emissions from this area.

Biggest oil suppliers of India

- ✓ The United States has become the second biggest oil suppliers of India by overtaking Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ India is the third biggest oil importer and consumer in the world.
- ✓ The oil import of India from the world's top producer, United States had increased to 48 per cent to stand at a record in February 2021.
- ✓ On the other hand, the import of India from Saudi Arabia decreased by 42 per cent from January 2021.
- ✓ As a result, Saudi Arabia, which has consistently been one of top two suppliers of oil to India, fell down to position 4 for the first time since 2006.

INS jalashwa arrives in comoros

- ✓ Indian Navy ship jaleshwar arrived at the port of Anjouan in comoros with 2000 metric tons of rice.

Civil aviation ministry proposes 392 routes

- ✓ Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed about 390 to route under Udan 4.1 bidding process on the occasion of commencement of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ✓ The Udan 4.1 smokers on connecting smaller airport, along with special Helicopter and seaplane routes.

Chenab Bridge

- ✓ The World's highest Bridge called the "Chenab Bridge" has completed a major milestone after the engineers completed the arch bottom of the bridge.
- ✓ The bridge is being called as the Indian Railways' engineering marvels. The arch upper of the Chenab bridge is in making and will be completed soon.
- ✓ The special bridge is being built across river Chenab. The river is having a central span of 467 metre. It is being built at the height of 359 metre from river bed.
- ✓ The bridge is even higher than the Qutub Minar in Delhi which is 72 metres in height and the Eiffel Tower in Paris which is having the height of 324 metres. The maximum design wind speed of the bridge is 266 kmph.
- ✓ It is an Indian railway steel and concrete arch bridge being built in between the Bakkal and Kauri in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. The total length is the bridge is 1315 metre.

Study panel for Sarasvati river

- ✓ The Archaeological Survey of India stated that it has reconstituted an Advisory Committee for Multidisciplinary Study of the River Sarasvati.
- ✓ The river is also known as **Ghaggar-Hakra River**.
- ✓ It has been reconstituted for the next two years (2021-23).
- ✓ The Head of the Committee will be Prahalad Singh Patel, Union Minister for Culture.
- ✓ The committee will use remote sensing imagery for studying environmental changes, history of archaeological culture concentrating more on the protohistoric era of River Sarasvati.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- ✓ The Parliament has cleared the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- ✓ The bill was passed with the objective of amending the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- ✓ It seeks to increase the upper limit of legal abortions to 24 weeks for the special categories of women.
- ✓ This increase in the upper limit of the abortions was done in light with the advancement of the medical technologies which has made it possible to allow removal of foetus even at the advanced stage of pregnancy.

- ✓ Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 proposes for the opinion from one provider to terminate the pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.
- ✓ It has introduced the requirement of opinion from the two providers in order to terminate the pregnancy up to 20-24 weeks.

IQAir

- ✓ The Swiss group “IQAir” which measures the air quality levels on the basis of concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles called PM 2.5 presented its “2020 World Air Quality Report”.
- ✓ The report indicated that; the capital city of India, New Delhi, is the world’s most polluted capital across the world for the third straight year in the year 2020.
- ✓ The Prolonged exposure to PM2.5 results into the deadly diseases like cancer and cardiac problems.
- ✓ It was the 14th most polluted city across the world. India become the world’s third most polluted country.
- ✓ The top polluted countries include Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Parliamentary Friendship Group

- ✓ The Indian Parliament is discussing over a proposal to form a Parliamentary Friendship Group with the friendly nations in a bid to strengthen the bilateral relations.

- ✓ During the meeting, the Lok Sabha speaker highlighted that the “India Friendship Group” has been set up in both the Houses of the Uzbek Parliament. He further noted that, the proposal to set up a Parliamentary Friendship Group for Uzbekistan is under consideration.
- ✓ India and Uzbekistan share a close friendly relation and both the countries are also strategic partners.
- ✓ The relation between both the nation has been steadily strengthening through cooperation in the areas such as trade, culture, politics, science, defence, humanitarian and education over the years.
- ✓ The military cooperation between two countries also strengthening over time. The Indo-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise “**Dustalik-II**” is also a milestone to boost the cooperation.

Ethanol blending petrol to improve

- ✓ Ethanol blending will be increased from the existing 8.5% to 20% by 2025. Initially it was 2030 but now reduced to 2025.

Stop TB Partnership Board

- ✓ The Union Health Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, has been appointed as the chairman of “Stop TB Partnership Board”.

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- ✓ This appointment was made to recognise his outstanding contribution towards the movement of eradicating Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025.
- ✓ He will be serving the global body for a three-year term from July 2021.
- ✓ India has committed to eliminating TB by 2025. India's deadline is five years ahead of global deadline of 2030.
- ✓ The Government has also out forward the National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination for the year 2017-2025.

States leading in drip irrigation

- ✓ According to this, four states, namely Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro irrigation in India.
- ✓ The data also shows that 27 States (including UTs) have less than 30% micro irrigation system out of which 23 have fewer than 15% micro-irrigation.

Women helpline centres in foreign countries

- ✓ The central government will soon establish a women helpline centres in foreign countries which will look after the distressed overseas residents.
- ✓ This is being done to ensure safety and security of indian women across the world.

- ✓ The union minister also informed that the government has associated with nimhans for the mental health outreach of the children and has launched project samvad.
- ✓ This project is called “support, advocacy and mental health interventions for children in vulnerable circumstances and diseases”.

LIC not going to be privatised

- ✓ Government has informed that the Life Insurance Corporation is not going to be privatised and only the initial public offering, IPO will be issued.

Swarnim Vijay Marshal reaches kolkata

- ✓ The golden jubilee celebration of 1971 war across the nation continue with the between flame reaching the Akashvani Bhavan in Kolkata.
- ✓ The celebration of the 'Swarnam Vijay Varsh' what launched from Delhi on 1st March 2021 by lightning up the 'Swarnim Vijay Marshal' from the national war Memorial.

Insurance bill,2021 passed in Rajya Sabha

- ✓ The bill provides, increase of foreign direct investment limit from existing 49% to 74%.

- ✓ It also has a provision for the removal of restriction on ownership and control of insurance companies.

Sahi Disha campaign

- ✓ The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha'.
- ✓ The campaign highlights issues and the hurdles that impact the opportunities of women living in rural India to access livelihoods and jobs.
- ✓ The Disha initiative is a five years collaboration between the IKEA Foundation and the United Nations Development Program.
- ✓ It benefited around 1 million women through counselling and skilling services.
- ✓ The initiative benefitted women living across five states of India
 - Haryana, Delhi NCR, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana.

Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility L58

- ✓ Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility (LCU) L58 was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ It is the eighth and last ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mark IV Class.

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- ✓ It is Indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata.

Poshan Pakhwada 2021

- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the Poshan Pakhwada from March 16 to March 31, 2021.
- ✓ The Department of Women & Child Development or the Social Welfare Department will be the nodal department to look after the Poshan Pakhwada.
- ✓ The key focus areas of the Pakhwada are to address the nutritional challenges using the Food Forestry and to organize the Poshan Panchayats.
- ✓ Under this the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) working under the Ministry of AYUSH, will distribute 4 samplings of the nutritional rich plants to each of the Anganwadi Centres.

Energy Swaraj Yatra

- ✓ The “Energy Swaraj Yatra” bus runs on the solar energy. It comprises of a complete work-cum-residential unit.
- ✓ This bus has been designed with the objective of creating a public movement for the adoption of 100 percent solar energy.

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- ✓ The concept of “Energy Swaraj Yatra” is based on “Gandhian ideologies” to mitigate the climate change and to ensure the energy sustainability.
- ✓ Climate change has become an emergency which requires public efforts in order to mitigate it.

Gram Ujala Scheme

- ✓ India has launched the “Gram Ujala Scheme” to provide the cheapest LED bulbs in the rural areas. The scheme was launched by the Union power and new and renewable energy minister, Raj Kumar Singh.
- ✓ This the scheme also furthers its climate change strategy and strengthen the self-reliance credentials.
- ✓ The scheme does not come with the government’s support or subsidy.
- ✓ It will be financed entirely through the carbon credits which will be claimed under the “United Nations’ Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)”.
- ✓ In the first phase, the scheme was launched from Arrah district in Bihar.

Hurun India Wealth Report 2020

- ✓ It has identified a novel household category in India – the ‘New Middle Class’ – with an average savings of Rs 20-lakh per annum.
- ✓ India is home to 4.12-lakh dollar-millionaire households.

- ✓ India is fourth after US, China, Germany in the globe in the Ultra high net worth individuals' category.
- ✓ Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat account for 46 per cent of the total millionaire households.
- ✓ City-wise, Mumbai is home to most millionaires, followed by Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai.

Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- ✓ It seeks to put seven castes under one nomenclature of “Devendrakula Vellalars” with some exceptions for some of the castes in certain districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The castes include Devendrakulathan, Kadaiyan, Kalladi, Kudumban, Pallan, Pannadi and Vathiriyan.
- ✓ It is to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The Constitution empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in various states and union territories.
- ✓ Further, it permits Parliament to modify this list of notified SCs.

Catch the Rain campaign

- ✓ The campaign is being launched on the occasion of World Water Day on March 22, 2021. The campaign will be implemented under the **theme– ‘Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls’**.
- ✓ On the occasion, the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh will sign a historic Memorandum of Agreement to implement the **“Ken Betwa Link Project”** in the presence of Prime Minister.
- ✓ This will be the first project of **“National Perspective Plan”** for interlinking of the rivers. This interlinking project involves the transfer of water from **Ken River to the Betwa River** by constructing the **“Daudhan Dam”** and a canal to link the two rivers.
- ✓ The campaign will be launched as a **Jan Andolan** in order to undertake water conservation at the grass-root level with people’s participation. As the part of campaign, the Gram Sabhas will also take **“Jal Shapath”** for water conservation.

Ken-Betwa rivers linking project

- ✓ The Congress leader, Jairam Ramesh, has expressed his fear regarding the interlinking the Ken-Betwa rivers linking project.

- ✓ The minister said that the interlinking of the rivers will destroy the Panna Tiger Reserve located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ **Advantages** - River linking will help in curbing the recurring droughts and reducing the excessive dependence on groundwater in the **Bundelkhand region**. It will thus help in reducing the rate of suicides among farmers by ensuring them a stable livelihood. It will produce 75 MW of electricity along with provide drinking water to 13 lakh people in the two states.
- ✓ **Concerns** - Construction of Daudhan dam will submerge 10% of the critical tiger habitat of **Panna Tiger Reserve**. This in turn would affect the tiger conservation efforts. The height of the dam will have effect on the nesting sites of the vultures.

Khaadi Mujib jacket

- ✓ Special feature of the forthcoming receipt of PM Narendra Modi bangladesh will be the attire of the occasion.
- ✓ Mujib jacket made up of Khadi will be the attire of the dignitaries during the visit of PM.

PRANIT

- ✓ The central PSU named Power Grid Corporation of India has established an e-Tendering Portal called PRANIT.

- ✓ This portal will help in maintaining the less paperwork, ease of operation and making the tendering process more transparent.
- ✓ The POWERGRID is the only organization in India which have an e Procurement solution on the SAP Supplier Relationship Management which also comply with all the applicable requirements related to the security and transparency.

National Biopharma Mission

- ✓ Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has initiated cabinet approved National Biopharma Mission with the objective of strengthening emerging biotechnology enterprise across India.
- ✓ Mission is entitled as “Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for Accelerating Discovery Research to Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals – Innovate in India (I3) Empowering biotech entrepreneurs & accelerating inclusive innovation”.
- ✓ The mission further promotes domestic manufacturing by shared national facilities like GLP Analytical facilities, cell line repositories and setting clinical trial network.

Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly

- ✓ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims to launch ‘Poshan Abhiyan’ for the Elderly to provide them ‘nutrition support’.

- ✓ Scheme will be implemented by “Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities”. ‘Senior Citizens Welfare Fund’ will be utilized to fund & implement the mission.
- ✓ Government of India has been implementing several schemes and programmes under an Umbrella Scheme for Senior Citizens called “National Action Plan for Senior Citizens”.

Two hydropower Projects in J&K

- ✓ The annual Permanent Indus Commission meeting was recently held after a gap of over two years.
- ✓ Before the meeting, Pakistan had raised objections to the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower plants which are under construction in Jammu and Kashmir. In response, India has justified its stand.
- ✓ In the meeting, both the sides also discussed other issues under Indus Waters Treaty.
- ✓ Indian side was led by PK Saxena, India’s Indus Commissioner while the delegation from Pakistan was led by Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah.
- ✓ It is being constructed on Marusadar River which is a tributary of Chenab River. The dam is located in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

New Raag to pay tribute to bangabandhu

- ✓ Renowned vocalist Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty has composed a new Raag named 'Moitree' tribute to bangabandhu on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the founding father of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ✓ 3 Compositions will be presented which are written in Sanskrit, Hindi and Bengali languages.

State law against Central law

- ✓ The Supreme Court on prima facie found no harm in State Legislative Assemblies, passing resolutions against Central laws.
- ✓ Recently, Kerala and West Bengal state assemblies had passed resolutions against Central laws such as Citizenship Amendment Act and the new farm laws.
- ✓ The court held that these resolutions are merely "opinions" of the majority members of a Legislative Assembly and do not have the force of law.

Annual export ranking index

- ✓ The Union Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will assist states and union territories to prepare an annual export ranking index of different districts.

- ✓ The index will rank each district on its export competitiveness. A district export action plan that will include identification of goods and services with export potential in the district.

Tulip Garden

- ✓ Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, is scheduled to be opened for general public and tourists.
- ✓ Tulip Garden is a spectrum of colours which features lakhs of tulips. Flowers have blossomed in the lap of Zabarwan Hills along the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar city.
- ✓ Around 15 lakh flowers of more than 64 varieties are in full bloom nowadays in the garden.
- ✓ The garden was previously known as Model Floriculture Center and now it is called as **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden.**

HK Mittal Committee

- ✓ The Government of India has constituted an expert advisory committee to execute and monitor the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).
- ✓ The committee will be chaired by H K Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology.

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- ✓ The total investment of the scheme will be divided over 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

IIT Delhi to built atmospheric observatory

- ✓ IIT Delhi will build and atmospheric observatory on its Sonipat campus.
- ✓ The observatory will help researchers find the sustainable solution to add pollution and extreme weather events associated with climate change.

Food of Harappan civilization

- ✓ People living during the Harappan Civilization around 4000 years ago, have found consuming, multigrain 'laddoos', according to a study.
- ✓ This is revealed and scientific study of the material found during an excavation in Rajasthan.

Tata Power

- ✓ Tata Power company announced that it will offer a retired consumers in mobile the option to switch to 100% green energy.

NATHEALTH summit Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan, addressed the 7th annual summit of NATHEALTH in virtual mode.

- ✓ The summit focused on ‘Indian Health system expansion in post-COVID era’. Government has launched the “National Health Policy” in 2017.
- ✓ The primary vision of policy-framework is to attain highest possible level of health and well-being for all irrespective of all age groups.

Jal Jeevan Mission achieve new milestone

- ✓ Jal Jeevan machine has achieved a new milestone of providing over 4 crore rural households with tap water supply.
- ✓ Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by PM Modi on 15th August 2019.
- ✓ This mission aims to provide tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.
- ✓ Goa has become the first state in the country to provide 100% tap water supply followed by Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

World's first mobile water from air kiosk

- ✓ Maithri Aquatech has set up the ‘World’s First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre’ with the use of its ‘MEGHDOOT solution’ in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Maithri Aquatech is a startup, formed under the initiative ‘Make in India’

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- ✓ MEGHDOOT means ‘Messenger of the Sky’.
- ✓ This initiative is supported by GVMC (Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation) and project SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health).

Fourth batch of 3 raffle

- ✓ The 4th batch of three Russian combat aircraft will reach Jamnagar Aadesh in Gujarat from France.

INTERNATIONAL

Eradicating poverty in China

- ✓ President Xi Jinping declared that China has scored a “complete victory” in its fight against poverty.
- ✓ He said that, the country lifting over 770 million people out of it in the last four decades.
- ✓ With this, China has achieved the U.N. goal of poverty eradication 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline.

First nation to get COVAX vaccines

- ✓ Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative.
- ✓ 6,00,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine have been made by the Serum Institute of India.
- ✓ The vaccines are delivered by UNICEF.

2021 Make or Break Year

- ✓ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has recently released its Initial Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Synthesis Report.
- ✓ The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, stated that the year 2021 is a “make or break” year so as to confront the global climate emergency.
- ✓ The Secretary-General further stated that in order to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius, the global emission should be cut by 45% of the 2010 level by 2030.
- ✓ This report was released by the UNFCC. This report measures the progress of national climate action plans in the backdrop of upcoming 26th session of Conference of its Parties (COP26) in November 2021 in Glasgow.

India and Norway to work on a project

- ✓ India and Norway have agreed to jointly work in the area of Marine spatial planning in the ocean exercise for next 5 years.
- ✓ Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have been identified as pilot sites for the project.

Cabinet approves MOU in between India and France

- ✓ The cabinet approved the MOU between India and France field of Renewable Energy Corporation.
- ✓ Its objective is to establish the basis for the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the field of the new and renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit equality and reciprocity.

India and Fiji – Co-operation in Agriculture

- ✓ The Union Cabinet Chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has approved an agreement between India and Fiji for their cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- ✓ The agriculture ministries of both the nations have agreed to promote the capacity building in all the areas of agriculture besides establishing a direct trade of agriculture products.

10 Nations have full equal rights for women

- ✓ There are only 10 countries in the world that offer full legal protections to women, according to the report women, business and the law 2021.
- ✓ It was recently published by the World Bank.
- ✓ Belgium, France, Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, Sweden, Canada, Iceland, Portugal, and Ireland where the

only one offering full equal rights for men and women, at least from a legal perspective.

UNGA declares 2023 as “International Year of Millets”

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared the year 2023 as “International Year of Millets”. The resolution to declare the year was sponsored by India.

U.S Anti - Dumping Tax

- ✓ The United States Department of Commerce is all set to tax aluminium sheet exporters from the 18 countries including India after the department determine that these countries had benefited from subsidies and dumping.
- ✓ When a country or company exports any product at a price which is lower in the foreign importing market as compared to the price in the domestic market of the exporters is called as Dumping.
- ✓ The dumping process is legal as per the norms of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ **Anti-dumping duty (ADD)**
 - The customs duty which is applied on the imports with the objective of providing a protection against the dumping of goods which are being sold at prices lower than the normal value is called as “Anti-Dumping Duty”.

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- This price is charged by the foreign producers for the comparable sales in their own countries.

India open Energy office in Moscow

- ✓ India opened India energy office in Moscow with a goal to push and already burgeoning energy partnership between the 2 strategic partners.

India, Sweden Can Deepen Ties In Technology, Research Sectors

- ✓ PM Modi said shared values such as democracy, human rights, rule of law, equality, freedom and justice strengthen the relations and mutual cooperation between India and Sweden.
- ✓ India and Sweden can deepen their partnership in several sectors, including smart cities, e-mobility, smart grids and waste management, as also on key priority areas like the important issue of climate change.

ICC opens investigation into war crimes

- ✓ The international Criminal Court Chief prosecutor has opened a formal investigation into alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories.

NSA of Nigera visits New Delhi

- ✓ This was the first strategic and Counter Terrorism dialogue between India and Nigeria at the level of NSA.

Pakistan PM Imran Khan wins trust vote in National Assembly

- ✓ Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan won a trust vote in the National Assembly amid a boycott call by the Opposition parties, strengthening his government's legitimacy after an embarrassing defeat of the finance minister in the hotly-contested Senate elections.

Bangladesh first transgender newsreader

- ✓ A private news channel has appointed Bangladesh's first transgender news reader. 'Tashnuva Anan Shishir' will start presenting news for Boishakhi TV from the international Women's Day.
- ✓ The TV channel has also appointed another transgender 'Nusrat Mau' as one of the main characters for regular drama section of the TV channels entertainment wing.

Swadhinda Puraskar

- ✓ Bangladesh has announced on March 7, 2021 the names of nine individuals and one organization who will be conferred with the Highest Civilian Award of the

Bangladesh called “Independence Award” for the year 2021.

- ✓ This award is also called as the Independence Award, Swadhinata Padak and the Swadhinata Puroskar. It the highest civilian award which is conferred by the government of Bangladesh since 1977.

Maitri Setu

- ✓ The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, will inaugurate the ‘Maitri Setu’ between India and Bangladesh.
- ✓ The ‘Maitri Setu’ is a bridge that has been built in the River Feni.
- ✓ Feni river flows between the Indian boundary in the state of Tripura and Bangladesh.
- ✓ The name ‘Maitri Setu’ has been chose to symbolize the growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between both the countries.
- ✓ The construction of the bridge was done by the “National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd”.
- ✓ It is a 1.9 Km long bridge that connects the Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.

- ✓ After this bridge is operation, the Indian state of Tripura will become the 'Gateway of North East' with having access to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh.

Australia has suspended its defence cooperation

- ✓ The government of Australia has suspended its defence cooperation with Myanmar and has decided to redirect the humanitarian aid which the country was providing to the government of Myanmar.

Gold in a hill

- ✓ A large amount of gold has been found in the soil of a mountain in the Central African country of Congo.
- ✓ Locals have discovered 60 to 90 percent of the gold in the mountain soil in the village of Lukiki in the southern province of DR Congo.

Switzerland bans full face coverings in public place

- ✓ Switzerland has voted in favour of the proposal to ban the full facial coverings such as burqa and niqab in almost all the public places.
- ✓ This controversial proposal was passed following a public referendum which was supported by around 51.21 percent of voters.
- ✓ France became the first European country that banned burqas and niqabs in public places in the year 2011. The

European Court of Human Rights had upvoted this ban in the year 2014.

2030 Digital Compass Plan

- ✓ The European Union has released its plan called “2030 Digital Compass Plan”.
- ✓ This plan was put forward after the Covid-19 pandemic exposed the 27-countries reliance on the key technologies owned by the Chinese and the U.S. companies.
- ✓ The plan was released because, the European Union wants to produce the fifth global output of the cutting-edge semiconductors by the end of this decade.
- ✓ The 2030 plan highlights the importance of semiconductors which are used in the connected cars, internet-linked devices, smartphones, high performance computers and artificial intelligence.
- ✓ The semiconductors are significant because there exists a global shortage which is shutting down car factories across the world.

First large vaccination clinic

- ✓ New Zealand has inaugurated its first large vaccination clinic in a bid of scaling up efforts to protect the people from Covid-19 pandemic.

- ✓ Israel was the first country that introduced a certification system in February 2021. This certification system allows to access certain facilities & events to those who have been vaccinated against Covid-19.
- ✓ The vaccine passport is designed as a “proof of vaccination” that some of the countries has mandated even before Covid-19 pandemic.

Hydrogen from brown coal

- ✓ A Japanese-Australian venture has started producing hydrogen from brown coal. Japan and Australia have collaborated for pilot project which aims to show that liquefied hydrogen can be produced commercially and can be safely exported overseas.
- ✓ The countries have planned to create the first international supply chain for the liquefied hydrogen. In the next they also planned for shipping a cargo on the first liquefied hydrogen carrier of the world.
- ✓ The project will produce the hydrogen by reacting coal with oxygen and steam under high heat and pressure with carbon dioxide & other gases as the by-products.
- ✓ The project is located in the Brown Coal Reserves in the state of Victoria and is run by Kawasaki Heavy industries.
- ✓ This project is significant because it will help Japan to meet its “net zero emission” target by 2050.

First Leaders' Summit

- ✓ Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will participate in the first Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework along with the Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison; Prime Minister of Japan, Yoshihide Suga and President of United States of America, Joseph R. Biden.
- ✓ This forum was initiated in August 2007.
- ✓ QUAD is also known as the Asian NATO. It is an informal strategic forum comprising of India, United States, Japan, and Australia. The forum is maintained by semi-regular summits, military drills and information between member countries.

QUAD Decisions

- ✓ It was decided at the first conference of the Federation that India would produce the corona vaccine required for the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ It was decided at the conference that the United States and Japan would provide funding and Australia would provide assistance for vaccine transport.

Rawalpindi KRL stadium renamed

- ✓ KRL stadium in Rawalpindi has been renamed after former Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar.
- ✓ He is renowned as "The Rawalpindi Express".

India, pakistan Indus Commissioner's meet

- ✓ The Indus Commissioner of India and Pakistan are set to meet in New Delhi.
- ✓ Under the provisions of indus water treaty, signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, the commission shall meet regularly at least once a year, alternative in India and Pakistan.
- ✓ The last meeting of India Pakistan permanent Indus Commission was held in Lahore in 2018.

BRICS Contact Group

- ✓ The BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) held their first meeting under the Chair ship of India.
- ✓ The meeting was held from March 9 to March 11, 2021. The meeting was held under the **Theme –“BRICS @15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus”**.
- ✓ India under its Chair ship for 2021, presented a calendar of events for BRICS CGETI 2021.
- ✓ The summit will hold discussions around three pillars including:
 1. **Political and Security** – The members will hold discussions over global and regional security for which the priority sectors include- counter terrorism cooperation & reform of multilateral system.

- ✓ The new law proposes that, now the authorities are required to perform background checks on anyone who are applying to adopt a child even as a single parent.
- ✓ The new law also prescribes that, if any person is found to apply as a single parent when they are in same-sex relationship, they will be treated as criminal.

China's five-year plan

- ✓ China has formally approved its 14th five-year plan for 2021-2025. The draft outline was passed by the National People's Congress.
- ✓ The new five-year plan highlights a number of key strategic projects that the country will pursue as a priority. The project also includes:
 1. Construction of the first hydropower dam in Tibet on lower reaches of Brahmaputra or Yarlung Zangbo. This section refers to a section of river in Tibet just before entering into India.
 2. Constructing the Sichuan-Tibet railway line near the border with India.
 3. The plan also pushes for attaining a self-sufficiency in emerging industries including the Artificial Intelligence (AI).
 4. The plan also emphasised to open up the access to the key border highways including the G219 national highway which runs along entire length of India-China border in Xinjiang and Tibet region.

- ✓ China has announced to construct the Dams possibly on lower reaches and at Great Bend of river Brahmaputra near border. This is a cause of worry because this location across the border from Arunachal Pradesh in an ecologically sensitive region.

Burqa Ban

- ✓ Sri Lanka will soon Ban burqa or face veil.

India-Finland virtual summit

- ✓ The Information technology companies of India, like Wipro and Tech Mahindra, will be collaborating with the companies of Finland to develop the 5G and 6G technologies to use them in India and other markets.
- ✓ The tech company, Nokia has already started working in the rural areas of India so as to expand the 5G applications.
- ✓ The Quantum computer is being developed after a collaboration between the Indian Institute of Science, Education & Research, Pune, and the Aalto University, Finland.
- ✓ It is being developed to meet the societal challenges.

6th IBSA women's forum meeting held

- ✓ 6th India- Brazil - South Africa women's forum meeting was held.

- ✓ Joint declaration was also issued highlighting the shared IBSA goals and commitment for achieving gender equality in all spheres of life.

SIPRI report on arms imports and exports

- ✓ It is released by Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- ✓ India continues to remain the second largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ The U.S. was the second largest arms supplier to India in 2011 - 15.
- ✓ But in 2016 - 20 India's arms imports from the U.S. were 46% lower than in the previous five-year period, making the U.S. the fourth largest supplier in 2016 - 20.
- ✓ Russia was the largest arms supplier in the World. France and Israel were the second and third largest arms suppliers in 2016 - 20.

International Solar Alliance

- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs of India has informed that Italy has signed a framework agreement with India to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ✓ During the meeting, both the sides also discussed the G20 Presidency of Italy which Italy is currently holding. Both the countries also discussed the vaccine maitri initiative.

- ✓ ISA is a treaty-based intergovernmental alliance comprising of 121 countries. The establishment of the alliance was initiated by India.
- ✓ ISA works with the objective of working for the efficient consumption of the solar energy to reduce the dependency on the fossil fuels.
- ✓ This initiative was first proposed Narendra Modi in November 2015.

Digital Green Certificate

- ✓ The European Commission, has proposed for a Covid-19 certificate called “Digital Green Certificate” covering the details regarding the Covid-19 vaccination, testing and recovery.
- ✓ This decision was taken in order to reopen the European Union (EU) for travel in a safe, sustainable and predictable manner.

Sinatra Doctrine

- ✓ The Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) member countries have accepted the “Sinatra Doctrine” as a counter to the increasing China’s aggressiveness to undermine the unity of the European Union through the divide and rule policy.
- ✓ The Sinatra Doctrine will be based on two pillars:

1. Continuing cooperation with China with respect to address the global challenges like covid-19, climate change & regional conflicts and
 2. Strengthening the strategic sovereignty of European Union by protecting the technological sectors of its economy.
- ✓ Chinese policy to undermine the European unity was fuelled by leveraging the regional platform in order to get the political favours in the exchange for economic benefits.
 - ✓ The 17+1 initiative is also known as the “Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries”. The initiative promotes the business and investment relations between China and 17 countries of CEE.

Largest Floating Solar Farms being in Singapore

- ✓ The largest floating solar farm of the world is being built in Singapore.
- ✓ The country has resorted to set up the energy plants off the coasts and reservoirs across it.
- ✓ Singapore is one of the biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in India.
- ✓ Thus, to cater to the issue of climate change and to cut the greenhouse gas emission, Singapore is building the floating solar farm.

- ✓ This project is being built by Smbcorp Industries.

New 5G Radio Solutions

- ✓ The Finnish company, Nokia has planned to develop a new cloud-based 5G radio solution.
- ✓ It has partnered with Microsoft, Amazon web services and Google for this.
- ✓ This solution will be developed with its radio access network (RNA) technology.

European Union joins India's CDRI

- ✓ The European Union (EU) comprising of 27 members has joined the "Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) initiative" of India. The EU joined this initiative following its endorsement of the charter of the CDRI.
- ✓ CDRI is an international coalition of countries, United Nations (UN) agencies, private sectors, multilateral development banks and academic institutions.
- ✓ The initiative aims to promote the disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- ✓ The CDRI Initiative was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the year 2019. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Summit.

Spain passes law to legalise Euthanasia

- ✓ The Parliament of Spain has passed and voted in favour of law that legalises the euthanasia.
- ✓ Thus, the country has become one among few nations that allow the terminally-ill or gravely-injured patients to end their life.
- ✓ Spain has become the fourth European nation which has decriminalise the assisted. The other four EU Nation include Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg.
- ✓ The Spanish legislation will allow the passive euthanasia in which the medical staff will intentionally end a life to relieve the suffering.
- ✓ This will be done by halting the life serving medical treatment.

Iran richest melathion 95% ULV pesticides

- ✓ India has supplied a second batch of 20,000 litres of Malathion 95% ULV pesticide Iran under government to government Locust control program.

Burglars to be fitted with GPS tag in UK

- ✓ Burglars, peach and robbers released from prison will be made to via GPS track to track the movements in a world first scheme to crackdown on neighbourhood criminals.

India participate in Nawroz celebration

- ✓ India participated in the Navroz festivities at the SCO secretariat in Beijing.
- ✓ SCO is celebrating 2021 as ' year of culture'.
- ✓ Nawroz is the Persian new year and symbol of onset of spring in Northern hemisphere.
- ✓ March 21 was officially recognised in 2010 as International Nawroz day by the UN.

Turkey slammed for quitting treaty protecting women's rights

- ✓ As protests grew nationwide, the international community condemned President Erdogan's decision to leave the world's first treaty on violence against women.
- ✓ Turkey's decision to withdraw from the world's first binding treaty to prevent violence against women sparked both domestic and international outrage after it was announced on Saturday.
- ✓ The 2011 Istanbul Convention, widely regarded as the gold standard in international efforts to protect women and girls from violence, was signed by 45 countries and the European Union.
- ✓ It requires governments to adopt legislation prosecuting domestic violence and similar abuse as well as marital rape and female genital mutilation.

Strongest military force

- ✓ China has the strongest military force in the world while India stands at 4th, according to a study released by defence website Military Direct.
- ✓ The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58.
- ✓ China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index.

Freedom Pineapple

- ✓ The Foreign Minister of Taiwan, Joseph Wu, recently launched a “Freedom Pineapple” campaign on Twitter in order to condemn the politically-driven ban on the import of pineapples from Taiwan by China.
- ✓ The Taiwanese pineapples have also become a political symbol in the region following the ban.

Homeland Security Dialogue

- ✓ Joe Biden administration has decided to re-establish “Homeland Security Dialogue” with India. This dialogue was discontinued by former President of United States Donald Trump.
- ✓ The Homeland Security Dialogue was the initiative of Barack Obama’s administration.

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- ✓ First Homeland Security Dialogue was held in May 2011 between Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Home Minister of India P Chidambaram.
- ✓ The second security dialogue was held in Washington DC in 2013.

Playground for disabled persons

- ✓ A new playground has been set up in the Abu Dhabi Beach area exclusively for the disabled.

Cabinet approves MOC between India and Japan

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of cooperation signed between India and Japan in the field of water resources.

Initiative for fostering peace in Yemen

- ✓ Saudi Arabia launched a wide-ranging initiative to bring peace to Yemen, deliver aid people and in the countries six year war.
- ✓ The initiative enters a comprehensive ceasefire across and under the supervision of United Nations.

US co-sponsors EU-led Resolution

- ✓ United States has co-sponsored a resolution led by European Union (EU) highlighting ongoing human rights concerns in Myanmar including for Rohingya.

- ✓ It has also recalled developments made since February 1 in 46th session of UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
- ✓ UNHCR also urged military to refrain from violence against people of Burma. UNHCR Resolution also renewed mandate of Special Rapporteur and continued its support towards Independent Investigative Mechanism in Myanmar.

World's first ship tunnel

- ✓ An Engineering project billed as an world's first ship tunnel is slated for construction in Norway.
- ✓ The tunnel will run and down the mountains in Norway's Stadhavet Peninsula.

Miscarriage bereavement leave law

- ✓ Parliament of New Zealand passed the ‘Miscarriage bereavement leave law’.
- ✓ This legislation provides mothers and their partners a “right to paid leave” after a miscarriage or stillbirth.
- ✓ New Zealand has become the second country, following India, across the world to pass such legislation.
- ✓ It provides the employees three days leave after a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth. They do not require to tap into sick leave now.

Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park

- ✓ Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh and South Korean Defence Minister, Suh Wook have inaugurated “Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park” in Delhi Cantt.
- ✓ Friendship Park has been built to commemorate contribution of Indian peacekeepers in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953.
- ✓ India-South Korea relations have strengthened in recent years with the convergence of Act East Policy (AEP) of India and New Southern Policy (NSP) of South Korea.

African swine fever

- ✓ The United States has notified that India has been added to the list of countries that have been affected by African swine fever, imposing restrictions on the import of pork and pork products from the country.
- ✓ The United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said India has been to the list of regions “we consider to be affected” with African Swine Fever (ASF).

Bangladesh celebrates 50 years of independence

- ✓ Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of independence on 26 March 2021.

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- ✓ It was 15 years ago on the night of March 25, 1971, Pakistan military launch a violent crackdown on the city of Dhaka, then part of eastern Pakistan.
- ✓ Early on March 26, 1971 the Bengali Nationalist politician Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Independence for Bangladesh.

Biden invites 40 leaders to climate Summit

- ✓ US President Joe Biden has invited 40 leaders for the which will leaders summit on climate scheduled for April 2021.
- ✓ From Southeast Asia he has invited PM Modi Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina.

India, Bangladesh making of film Bangabandhu

- ✓ On the occasion of the hundred birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, India and Bangladesh are together making a title 'Bangabandhu' by the renowned film director Shyam Benegal.

Global Wind Report 2021

- ✓ Global Wind Report 2021 was published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).
- ✓ Though, 2020 was a record year for global wind power industry, but this report warns that there is a need to install new wind power capacity three times faster by next decade

in order to achieve global climate targets & limit global warming to below 2°C above the pre-industrial levels.

- ✓ In the year 2020, 93 GW of new capacity were installed. It is a 53% year-on-year increase.
- ✓ But this is not sufficient to ensure that world will achieve net zero emission target by 2050.
- ✓ GWEC has called the policymakers to take ‘climate emergency’ approach to eliminate red tape and reform administrative structures to speed up and streamline licensing and permits for projects.
- ✓ It has also asked to increase investments in grid, ports and other infrastructure which are required to ramp up installations.

Strategic cooperation pact

- ✓ China and Iran signed what was described as a 25-year “strategic cooperation pact”, during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s on-going six-nation tour to West Asia.

US trade chief readies tariffs against 6 countries

- ✓ U.S. Trade Representative said she was maintaining threat of U.S. tariffs on goods from Austria, Britain, India, Italy, Spain and Turkey in retaliation for their digital services taxes. The taxes target in-country revenues of digital

services platforms, such as Facebook, Google, and Amazon.com.

India, Bangladesh ink five MoUs

- ✓ India and Bangladesh signed 5 MoUs in the fields of trade, IT and setting up of sports facilities on the concluding day of the 2-day long official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ ‘**Mitali Express**’, a new passenger train connecting Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri on the Indian side, was inaugurated.
- ✓ India gifted 109 ambulances to Bangladesh and also 1.2 million doses of the Covishield vaccine.
- ✓ India released a silver coin to commemorate 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- ✓ Both the leaders also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a memorial at **Ashuganj** for the martyrs of Indian armed forces in the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh.

India and South Korea agree on joint production

- ✓ India and South Korea have agreed to go for joint production and export of military hardware, enhance intelligence sharing and boost cooperation in cyber and space domain.

Suez Canal issue

- ✓ Global trade has been impacted after a container ship got stuck in the Suez Canal.
- ✓ Suez Canal is a 193-km waterway that is pivotal in connecting Europe and Asia.
- ✓ Located in Egypt, the artificial sea-level waterway was built between 1859 and 1869 linking the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- ✓ The canal is one of the busiest waterways in the world.
- ✓ On March 23, due to weather obstructions a giant container ship, MV Ever Given, ended up getting stuck in one of the canal's narrow stretches.
- ✓ It was an en route from China to the Netherlands.
- ✓ Some countries have already seen a rise in oil prices after the blockage.
- ✓ Due to political, financial and technical problems the canal had been shut down five times before.
- ✓ Ever Given, which has blocked the Suez Canal for almost a week now, has been freed from the channel's shoreline.

Rooppur Nuclear power plant

- ✓ Recently, India made a deal with Bangladesh where Indian companies will develop the transmission lines of Bangladesh Rooppur Nuclear power plant.
- ✓ It is being constructed at Rooppur (Rupppur) in the Pabna District of Bangladesh, on the bank of Padma River.

- ✓ There are two units of plants which are expected to be completed in 2022 and 2024 respectively. Each will produce 1200MW of electricity.
- ✓ It has significance as it will be the Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant.
- ✓ The Rooppur project is the first initiative under the Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries.
- ✓ It will be for the first time when any Indian company will be involved in any nuclear project out of the country.
- ✓ Since India is not a Nuclear Supplier group (NSG) member, it cannot participate directly in construction of Atomic power reactors.

India and US agree to revamp SEP

- ✓ India and USA agreed to revamp India-US strategic energy partnership.
- ✓ Both the nation will focus on promoting Clean Energy with low carbon Pathways and accelerating green energy Cooperation.

Ninth ministerial conference held

- ✓ External affairs minister attended the ninth ministerial conference of heart of Asia- Istanbul process on Afghanistan at Dushanbe in Tajikistan.

Us suspense all trade engagement with Myanmar

- ✓ The United States has suspended all engagement with Myanmar under a 2013 trade and investment agreement until the return of a democratically elected government.

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects

- ✓ The Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) is a financial assistance scheme of Japan.
- ✓ GGP is provided by Japan for development projects designed to meet the diverse basic human needs of the people in over 100 countries including India.
- ✓ The GGP scheme supports projects implemented by non-profit organizations such as NGOs, medical and educational institutions, which are eligible to receive foreign funds under the concerned law of the Government of India.

World Development Report 2021

- ✓ Recently, the World Bank has published the World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives.
- ✓ The World Development Report focuses on how data can improve the lives of poor people and advance development objectives, to ensure no one is left behind.
- ✓ It highlights the tremendous potential of the changing data landscape to improve the lives of poor people.

36 years to close the gender gap

- ✓ A new report from the world economic forum estimates that attaining Global gender parity will take nearly 136 years.
- ✓ This is up from its previous estimate of almost hundred years due to the impact of covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ WEF measures parity in 4 ways: Economic participation and opportunity, education, health and political empowerment.

POLITICAL

High Court judgments in regional languages

- ✓ Welcoming the fact that some High Courts render important judgments in regional or local languages, the President stressed that similarly, all other High Courts should make efforts to translate and render judgments in local languages.

New Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

- ✓ Tirath Singh Rawat has become the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ He also acted as the first education minister of the Uttarakhand when it was carved out as a separate state.

Supreme Court and Maharashtra Local Body reservation

- ✓ The Supreme Court held that reservation for Other Backward Classes in Maharashtra's local bodies should not exceed the aggregate 50% of the total seats reserved in favour of SCs/STs/OBCs taken together.
- ✓ This direction is being issued in exercise of plenary power under **Article 142** of the Constitution of India to do complete justice.

Chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

- ✓ The Union government appointed Harsh Chauhan as the chairperson of NCST.
- ✓ The chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the NCST are appointed by the President for three years.
- ✓ The chairperson has the rank of Union Cabinet minister and the vicechairperson that of minister of state.
- ✓ NCST was established under Article 338-B of the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act 2003.

Martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh: 23rd march

- ✓ The national paid tribute us to freedom fighters - Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev - on their martyrdom day on 23rd march 2021.

- ✓ This was the third earthquake that struck the north-eastern area of the country, following a 7.4 magnitude earthquake in the same region.

Space Hurricane

- ✓ The scientists have discovered a “space hurricane” for the first time. The hurricane swirled for eight hours over the North Pole in the upper atmosphere of Earth.
- ✓ These hurricanes are usually occurred in the lower atmosphere of the Earth. It was never observed in the upper atmosphere. Earlier, the space hurricane was detected in August 2014.
- ✓ The swirling mass of plasma that rains electrons into the ionosphere instead of water is called as “Space Hurricane”.
- ✓ The study of space hurricane will help the scientists to understand the important space weather effects like disturbances in high frequency radio communication, satellite drag, satellite navigation, errors in over-the-horizon radar location and communication systems.

Earth’s Hidden Layer

- ✓ Scientists have recently detected the signs of a hidden structure inside the core of Planet Earth.

- ✓ This sign has the potential to change the long-standing narrative of what lies at centre of Earth. This layer is being termed as the ‘fifth layer’.
- ✓ As per the long-standing narrative, there exists four layers namely; crust, mantle, outer core and inner core. The scientists have also spotted reportedly some changes in the structure of iron within the inner core.
- ✓ These changes suggests that a new ‘boundary line’ is stretching for about 650 kilometres from centre of the Earth.
- ✓ The scientists and researchers used their new algorithm in order to search and discover the evidence of changes in structure of inner core of the Earth.
- ✓ Though it is difficult to detect the minute changes, the researchers somehow demonstrate that two separate cooling events occurred in the history of the planet.

Sangay volcano

- ✓ The Sangay volcano of Ecuador was erupted and it ejected the clouds of ash up to the height of 8,500 meters into the sky.
- ✓ The Sangay volcano has recorded activity since past few weeks now. the ash from the volcano has also damaged the crops and cattle around the city.

Fire broke in the Shetrunjay Hills Reserve Forest

- ✓ Recently, a fire broke in the Shetrunjay Hills reserve forest area of Gujarat. The forest area is the habitat of Asiatic lions in the Bhavnagar territorial forest division.
- ✓ The hills are located on the banks of river Shetrunji and are considered as a sacred hill by Jains.
- ✓ These hills are similar to other hills where Jain temples have been built in Gwalior, Mount Abu, Bihar and Girnar.
- ✓ The hills are bounded by the Gulf of Khambhat in the south and Bhavnagar town in the north.

Background

- ✓ The Jain's sacred hill of Shatrunjaya comprises of 865 temples on it. These hills were sanctified when Rishabha gave his first sermon atop the hill.
- ✓ Rishabha was the first tirthankara of Jainism. The ancient history related to the hills can also be traced to Pundarika Swami who was a chief Ganadhara and grandson of Rishabha.
- ✓ Swami had attained Nirvana or Moksha on the hill.

Spring Equinox

- ✓ The Spring Equinox is also known as "Vernal Equinox". In the year 2021, it will fall on March 20, 2021.
- ✓ March 20 is the most common date for the Spring Equinox. However, it can occur on any date between 19 to

21 March. March 20 is considered as the first day of the spring as per the astronomical calculation of the seasons.

- ✓ The date is based on the two equinoxes and solstices. The astronomical spring will end on June 21, 2021 which is called as the summer solstice.
- ✓ The Equinoxes have got their name from the Latin word for the equal night. It marks the two points in a year when equator is the closest part of Earth to sun.
- ✓ In the vernal equinox, the northern and southern hemispheres will share the sunlight equally.

Airborne radar surveys

- ✓ India has planned to conduct the airborne radar surveys in order to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers.
- ✓ Under the plan, the pilot study will be conducted in the Lahaul – Spiti basin of the Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ This proposal was initiated by the “National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR)” under the Ministry of Earth Sciences”.
- ✓ After this pilot project is done, similar studies will also be conducted in the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra sub-basins.
- ✓ This development has come in India because India is one of the most vulnerable country for extreme weather events.

- ✓ It has been ranked at the 20th position on Climate Risk Index (CRI).

Volcano Bonds

- ✓ The Danish Red Cross announced that it has launched first of its kind catastrophe bond for the volcano-related disasters in collaboration with the several financial firms.
- ✓ This bond which will enable the disaster relief agency to get the financial aid quickly to those who are suffering because of the eruption of 10 volcanoes namely Chile, Ecuador, Cameroon, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala and Indonesia.
- ✓ This money will be transferred to the Denmark's branch of the Red Cross.

Asteroid 2001 FO32

- ✓ Asteroid 2001 FO32 is the largest asteroid passed by Earth in 2021. It was discovered 20 years ago by Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) program in Socorro, New Mexico in 2001.
- ✓ When it is at its closest to Earth, it is at a distance of 2 million km (Equal to $5\frac{1}{4}$ times the distance from Earth to the Moon).
- ✓ So, it has been designated as a “potentially hazardous asteroid”.

Mount Merapi volcano erupts

- ✓ Indonesia's most volatile volcano was erupting again releasing plumes of ash high into air and sending streams of lava and debris down its slopes.
- ✓ An avalanche of rocks spilled down Mount Merapi's slopes before dawn and clouds of hot ash shot 200 meters into the air as mountain groaned and rumbled.
- ✓ The 2,968-metre-high volcano is on densely populated Java island near ancient city of Yogyakarta.
- ✓ It is the most active of dozens of Indonesian volcanoes and has repeatedly erupted recently.

Icelandic volcanoes first eruption in 900 years

- ✓ Iceland witnessed the awakening of a volcano near Capital Reykjavik, for the first time in 900 years.
- ✓ Dreams of red Lava floor out of a fissure in a valley in Geldingadalur, close to Mount Fagradalsfjall on the Reykjanes peninsula in southwestern iceland.
- ✓ The last eruption lasted for 30 years, from 1210 to 1240.

MEDICINE

- Bangladesh bans homeopathic use of animal painkiller Ketotropin, which is toxic to eagles.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Silver Antimony Telluride

- ✓ Scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, have found a new material, Silver Antimony Telluride (AgSbTe_2).
- ✓ It is a nanomaterial compound synthesised from Silver, Antimony and Tellurium.
- ✓ It can help in tapping waste heat produced by all kinds of domestic and industrial appliances.
- ✓ Typically, not more than 15 to 20% of the waste heat can be utilised.

PSLV-C51

- ✓ The 53rd mission of PSLV (PSLV-C51) launched Amazonia-1 of Brazil as primary satellite and 18 co-passenger payloads.
- ✓ For the first time, a Brazilian satellite was launched by an Indian rocket from Sriharikota.
- ✓ This also marked Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first launch of 2021.
- ✓ A photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been engraved on the top panel of this spacecraft.
- ✓ It is also sending up "Bhagavad Gita" in SD (secured digital) card.

DRDO deploys satellite 'Sindhu Netra'

- ✓ ISRO launched the 'Sindhu Netra' satellite using PSLV C 51 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- ✓ The Sindhu natural satellite has been developed by the young scientists of Defence research and development organisation.
- ✓ This capable of automatically identifying the warships and merchant ships operating in the Indian Ocean region.

Russia launches phase satellite Arktika-M

- ✓ Russia launched this satellite to monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic region.
- ✓ The arctic was warmed more than twice as fast as the Global average over the last three decades and Russia is seeking to develop the energy rich region.

Deep Nostalgia

- ✓ The Deep Nostalgia processor that animates old photos has been well received among social media users. This processor has been introduced by Myheritage.
- ✓ The Deep Nostalgia service, offered by online genealogy company MyHeritage, uses AI licensed from D-ID to create the effect that a still photo is moving.

Nasscom launches a program

- ✓ NASSCOM is launching “AI Game Changers” program to promote artificial intelligence led innovation in the country. Microsoft is the innovation partner for a program.

Indian Scientist design Optical Spectrograph

- ✓ Indian Scientists have designed and developed a low cost Optical Spectrograph.
- ✓ This spectrograph can locate sources of faint like from distant quasars and galaxies.

SpaceX starship SN10 explodes after successful Landing

- ✓ The Starship Prototype of the SpaceX was exploded shortly after it made its successful landing on March 3, 2021 for the first time after a high-altitude flight test.
- ✓ it was being referred “Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly” by the company.
- ✓ SpaceX test flew the Starship rocket Serial Number 10 (SN10) and it has aimed to launch the prototype at the height of 10 kilometres or at around 32,800 feet altitude.

NASA’s Perseverance Mars rover travels 21 feet in first test drive

- ✓ NASA’s newest Mars rover hit the dusty red road, putting 21 feet on the odometer in its first test drive.

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- ✓ The Perseverance rover ventured from its landing position, two weeks after landing on the red planet to seek signs of past life.
- ✓ The roundabout, back and forth drive lasted just 33 minutes.
- ✓ As soon as the system checks on Perseverance are complete, the rover will head for an ancient river delta to collect rocks for return to Earth a decade from now.

Malaria Elimination Certificate - El Salvador

- ✓ El Salvador became the first country in Central America to be awarded a certification of malaria elimination by the World Health Organization

World's first space hotel to open in 2027

- ✓ Space Construction Company orbital assembly Corporation has unveiled new details about its ambitious project of building a hotel above Earth's atmosphere. The company is planning to start building the hotel, voyager station in the low Earth orbit in 2025, to be operational as early as 2027.

Non-fungible token

- ✓ The American rock band called Kings of Leon has released a music album recently. The music album was

launched as a non-fungible token (NFT). Thus, the band has become the first ever to distribute the digitised art.

- ✓ The new album of the band is titled as ‘When You See Yourself’. It will be distributed in three tokens under the series called ‘NFT Yourself’.
- ✓ It is a special type of cryptographic token which represents somethings which are unique. These tokens are not mutually interchangeable. This is opposite to the cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin. It is a type of crypto-asset that represents several numbers of assets such as tickets, artforms, and music.

5-minute battery charge

- ✓ Ultra-fast recharge specialists StoreDot has developed a first-generation lithium-ion battery that can rival the filling time of a standard car at the pump.
- ✓ From flat battery to full charge in just five minutes -- an Israeli start-up has developed technology it says could eliminate the "range anxiety" associated with electric cars.

Earth observation satellite mission

- ✓ The Indian space agency, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with the US space agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has completed the development of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) which has the capability of

producing extremely high-resolution images for joint earth observation satellite mission.

- ✓ It is a joint collaboration for the dual-frequency L-Band and S-Band SAR for the earth observation.
- ✓ NISAR is the first satellite mission which will use two different radar frequencies called L-band and S-band.
- ✓ These radar frequencies will be used to measure the changes in Earth's surface less than a centimetre across.
- ✓ This mission will be launched in the year 2022 from the Sriharikota spaceport of ISRO in Andhra Pradesh.

Air Independent Propulsion

- ✓ The Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) conducted the final development test of Air Independent test of the “Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)”.
- ✓ The test was conducted a day before the INS Karanj attack submarine was inducted into the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) allows the submarine to be submerged for a long period under water.
- ✓ The Indian Navy has planned to retrofit all of its Kalvari class non-nuclear attack with the AIP system in its first upgrade.
- ✓ It is any marine propulsion technology which allows the non-nuclear submarine to operate without providing

- ✓ Russia sent Alan Shepard into space on the Mercury-Redstone 3 flight.

Mars on Earth

- ✓ The scientists are looking for the signs of ancient life on the Red Planet with the help of data gathered by the NASA's rover Perseverance which is exploring the surface of Mars.
- ✓ Scientists find that the data collected on the mission is much closer to home at the Salda lake located in southwest Turkey.
- ✓ The American space agency, NASA, stated that the minerals and rock deposits at Salda lake are the nearest match on earth with the deposits on the Jezero Crater where the spacecraft landed.
- ✓ The Jezero Crater is believed to be once flooded with water.

DRDO conducts Flight test

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the successful flight test of the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology.
- ✓ The flight test was conducted from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ The air launch scenario was also simulated during the flight test using the booster motor.

- Voice Mail has introduced a new feature for making video and voice calls through the computer still Conferencing is not introduced.
- **Scientist Myilsami Annathurai's** NDRF has discovered technologies to make many useful products from banana stalks, including clothing, biscuits and pickles.

DUSTLIK II

- ✓ The India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commenced in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ This is the Second Edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies.
- ✓ 45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and Indian Army are participating in the exercise.
- ✓ The first edition of the joint military exercise had taken place in Tashkent in November 2019.
- ✓ The focus of DUSTLIK II would be aimed at carrying out joint counter-terror operations in a mountainous rural and urban scenario.

Fugaku

- ✓ The Japanese scientific research institute called RIKEN and Fujitsu started developing the “Fugaku” six years ago. It is the world’s most powerful supercomputers.

- ✓ The new technology can scan the retinas of children young as six years and help in identifying the risk of autism.

AEG12

- ✓ The researchers from the US National Institutes of Health have found that, a mosquito protein called AEG12 strongly inhibits the family of viruses which causes dengue, yellow fever, Zika and West Nile.
- ✓ They also noted that the protein also inhibits the coronaviruses.
- ✓ The researchers further found that the mosquito protein, AEG12, works by destabilising the viral envelope and breaking the protective covering of the virus.
- ✓ The researchers used the X-ray crystallography to solve structure of the protein.
- ✓ It was found that the protein rips out the lipids, that is fat-like portions of membrane which hold virus together, at the molecular level.

KRAS released the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile

- ✓ The Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS), which is a joint venture between the Kalyani Group of India and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems of Israel, have released the first batch of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kits. The missile was released for Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

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- ✓ The Kalyani Group has infused the “State-of-the-art technology with the engineering excellence in the company.
- ✓ KRAS also address the Maintenance and Repair Operations (MRO) of the major in-service Air Defence Missile System in the Indian Air Force.
- ✓ The MRSAM was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in association with the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

TraceBioMe project

- ✓ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Goa, has launched the “TraceBioMe Project” in order to map the genetic diversity of organisms.
- ✓ It would also help in mapping the effect of micronutrients apart from tracing the metals deposited on them in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Scientists will identify and characterise the genes and proteins present in the ocean so as to understand the cellular-level operations of organisms in the ocean.
- ✓ The data generated through this project would help in achieving the SDG 14 goals.
- ✓ The SDG 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use the resources of oceans, seas and marine.

Underwater space telescope

- ✓ Russian scientists have launched one of the biggest underwater space telescopes of the world.
- ✓ This underwater space telescope was deployed deep into universe from pristine waters of Lake Baikal.
- ✓ The telescope has been designed to observe the smallest known particles called neutrinos.
- ✓ The telescope has been named as “Baikal-GVD”. It was submerged to the depth of 750-1300 meters across the four kilometres from the shore of Lake Baikal.
- ✓ The Baikal telescope will rival Ice Cube which is a giant neutrino observatory under the Antarctic ice at the US research station located at the South Pole.
- ✓ Lake Baikal has been designated as the World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1996.

Artificial photosynthesis

- ✓ A team of Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research have found a method that mimic the Photosynthesis which is the natural process of reducing the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- ✓ The artificial photosynthesis method was developed in order to capture excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- ✓ This method harnesses the solar energy and converts the captured carbon dioxide into carbon monoxide (CO).

- ✓ The Carbon monoxide in turn can be used as a fuel for the internal combustion engines.
- ✓ In the process, the team of scientists are conducting the same process as in the natural photosynthesis but using the simple nanostructures.
- ✓ The team of Scientists has designed and fabricated the integrated catalytic system which is based on the metal-organic framework (MOF-808).
- ✓ The system comprises of a photosensitizer. The photosensitizer can harness the solar power and the catalytic centre. This in turn reduces the CO₂.

KidCOVE

- ✓ Moderna has started testing its Coronavirus vaccine on infants and children between the ages of 6 months and 12 years.
- ✓ The clinical trial, called the KidCOVE study by Moderna, will enroll approx. 6,750 children in Canada and the United States.

India – US launches Artificial Intelligence Initiatives

- ✓ ‘Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)’ has launched “US India Artificial Intelligence Initiative”.
- ✓ The USIAI will serve as the platform of discussing the challenges, opportunities, development collaboration and barriers for AI research. It will enable the AI innovation.

Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) for Indian Army

- ✓ The defence ministry has signed deal with the state-run Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- ✓ Following the deal, the BDL will supply 4,960 Milan-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) for Indian Army.
- ✓ Milan-2T ATGMs is a Tandem Warhead ATGM having the range of 1,850 metres. The missiles have been produced by BDL under the license from MBDA Missile Systems of France.
- ✓ These missiles can be fired from both the ground and vehicle-based launchers.
- ✓ The missile can also be deployed in the anti-tank role for offensive as well as the defensive tasks.

Third Joint Satellite Mission

- ✓ India and France are working on the “Third Joint Satellite Mission” at the time when the bilateral space collaboration between both the country is entering into multiple domains even in the human spaceflight programme.
- ✓ France is also the largest partner of India in Space. ISRO highlighted that, ISRO and French space agency Centre National d’Études Spatiales (CNES) have worked on the two joint missions namely the ‘**Megha-Tropiques**’ which was launched in the year 2011 and the ‘**SARAL-Altika**’ which was launched in the year 2013.

✓ ISRO-CNES:

- ✚ The officials also highlighted that, the ISRO and CNES have completed the feasibility study in order to realise earth observation satellite mission with the help of thermal infrared imager called “Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High resolution Natural resource Assessment (**TRISHNA**)”.
- ✓ Two agencies have also finalised all the interface control documents to accommodate the ‘**ARGOS**’ instrument of CNES in the **OCEANSAT-3** satellite of ISRO.

Free-space Quantum Communication

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it has successfully demonstrated its free-space Quantum Communication for a distance of 300 metres for the first time in India.
- ✓ It was demonstrated at the Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad in between the two line-of-sight buildings within its campus.
- ✓ This space quantum communication includes the use of indigenously developed NAVIC receiver for the time synchronisation in between the transmitter and receiver modules.
- ✓ The Quantum Key Distribution technology uses the Quantum Communication technology which ensures the

unconditional data security using the principles of the quantum mechanics on the basis of Laws of Physics.

- ✓ This technology cannot be used with the conventional encryption systems.
- ✓ NAVIC is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system which provides the accurate real-time positioning and timing services. The satellite covers India and the region extending up to 1,500 km across it.

North Korea fires two cruise missiles

- ✓ According to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), North Korea has fired two cruise missiles off the West Coast.
- ✓ It marks first missile test of Pyongyang since April 14, 2020.

Bacteria named Syed Ajmal Khan

- ✓ A newly identified type of bacterium was named Syed Ajmal Khan, a professor at Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu, after his name, Methylobacterium Ajmali.

Russia launched satellites

- ✓ Russia successfully launched 38 foreign satellites from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Space X launches Falcon 9

- ✓ SpaceX's Falcon9 rocket launched sixty sterling satellites.
- ✓ SpaceX has announced the launch of 60 satellites to boost telecommunications service.

NASA releases picture of frosty sand dunes

- ✓ NASA shared an image of frosty sand dunes of Mars.
- ✓ The field of sand dunes occupies greater that stretches for 5 km, found in the high latitudes of Mars northern plains.
- ✓ The stripes and other features in the images are due to the sublimated Ice that comes with the 'seasonal thaw'.
- ✓ The picture has been captured by Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

Undersea cables to connect Southeast Asia and America

- ✓ Facebook planned two new undersea cables to connect Singapore, Indonesia and North America in a project with Google and regional telecommunication companies to boost internet connection capacity between the regions.
- ✓ Named Echo and Bifrost, those will be the first two cables to go through a new diverse route crossing the Java Sea.

ECONOMY

State of the Economy Report

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has recently published its State of the Economy Report.
- ✓ The report highlights that, the Indian state refiners' daily gasoline sales in February 2021 have increased from 1.5% from the year 2020.

State Bank of India's report

- ✓ A State Bank of India's report highlights that, the pan-India Prices of fuels will drop if the petrol and diesel are brought under the GST regime to ₹75 and ₹68 a litre, respectively.
- ✓ Reserve bank of India had also asked for a "calibrated and coordinated reduction" in the taxes which the state and central government levy.

RuPay SoftPoS

- ✓ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in association with the SBI Payments have announce to launch the 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants.
- ✓ This technology will be helpful in transforming the NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for retailers.

- ✓ NPCI is a not-for-profit organisation. It was set up by Reserve Bank of India and Indian Banks' Association. It is an umbrella organisation that operates the retail payments and settlement systems across India. It was founded in December 2008.

First Overseas Fund

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) Mutual Funds has launched its first overseas offering.
- ✓ The fund titled SBI International Access — US Equity FOF is an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in a mutual fund scheme/ETFs that invest in US markets, which are domiciled overseas.

Venezuela introduce 1-million-bolivar bill

- ✓ The central bank of Venezuela has announced the introduction of three new banknotes: 200,000, 500,000 and one million bolivars.

Interim Economic Outlook

- ✓ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published its interim Economic Outlook.
- ✓ It has projected that the Indian economy will grow at the rate of 12.6% in Financial Year 2022. This will be the highest among G20 countries.

Fitch Ratings

- ✓ American credit rating agency, Fitch, has published its 'Global Economic Outlook (GEO)'. Fitch has revised GDP growth estimate of India to 12.8% for the fiscal year 2021-2022 from the previous 11%.

World Bank survey

- ✓ Dubai is one of the safest cities in the world, according to a World Bank survey of cities that facilitate trade.

India: Second most attractive emerging markets

- ✓ India occupied the second position amount large emerging market in February 2021.
- ✓ Bearing China and Turkey, India was the only country to record positive GDP growth figures in December 2020 quarter.

Companies need to disclose Crypto Investments

- ✓ Corporate Affairs ministry has made it mandatory for companies to disclose profit or loss in a card on transactions and the amount of characters that hold in their balance sheets.

Finance minister launches mobile app Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister launched Central utility centre and

investor education and protection fund authority, IEPFA mobile app.

Times Network India Economic Conclave 2021

- ✓ Times Network India Economic Conclave 2021 is being organised on March 25- 26, 2021.
- ✓ Theme for this year is '**India's Decade: Reform. Perform. Transform**'.

ENVIRONMENT

HP makes first ever PC's with Plastic Waste in Ocean

- ✓ The Computer maker HP has developed its first ever consumer PC using the plastic waste in ocean.
- ✓ This move was built on the basis of sustainability commitment of the company. The company has manufactured the Pavilion 13, Pavilion 14, and Pavilion 15 Laptops using the ocean-bound plastics.

Researchers discovered Giant Luminous shark

- ✓ Scientist studying Sharks off New Zealand discovered the deep-sea species which glows in the dark.
- ✓ This is the first time that bioluminescence sharks have been documented.

- ✓ Bioluminescence is the production of visible light through a chemical reaction by living organisms which is a widespread phenomenon among the life.

Himalayan serrow

- ✓ A Himalayan mammal is the newest creatures that has been spotted in the state of Assam.
- ✓ The Himalayan serrow looks like somewhere between a goat and an antelope. It was spotted in the Manas Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ The specie has been listed in CITES Appendix I.
- ✓ The Himalayan serrow has now been categorised as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ✓ It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

World's first Platypus sanctuary in Australia

- ✓ Australian conservationists have unveiled plans to build the world's first refused for the Platypus, to promote breeding and Rehabilitation as the mammal faces extension due to climatic change.

Five new shrub frogs species

- ✓ The researchers from India and United States have found the five new species of shrub frogs.

- ✓ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) stated that deployment of CCUS technology on a large scale would permit the countries to decarbonize these sectors.
- ✓ CCUS is a significant carbon emissions reduction technology. This technology can be applied all across the energy sector.

Wildfire ravages Similipal

- ✓ Wild fire raging for over ten days have destroyed nearly a third of the similipal biosphere reserve in Odisha.
- ✓ Simiplipal national park and tiger reserve is also known for its tiger and elephant population.
- ✓ Simpilipal biosphere reserve in 1994 and UNESCO added to the Biosphere Reserves list in 2009.

Fishing Cat survey

- ✓ The first-ever survey of the fishing cats in and around the Chilika lake in Odisha started.
- ✓ Fishing cats are elusive nocturnal mammals.
- ✓ They are generally found in the marshy wetlands of northern and eastern India and on the mangroves of the east coast. Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon
- ✓ In 1981, Chilika Lake became the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

- ✓ The major attraction at the Chilika lake is Irrawaddy dolphins.

Olive Ridley

- ✓ Olive Ridley female turtles have started moving to the Gahirmatha beach in the Kendrapara district in Odisha. They are arriving at the beach to lay eggs which is described as the phenomenon called 'arribada'.
- ✓ It is a beach located in the state of Odisha. It separates the Bhitarkanika Mangroves from Bay of Bengal. This beach is the most important nesting beach for olive ridley sea turtles in the world.
- ✓ It is a part of the Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary. It is the only marine wildlife sanctuary in Odisha.

Metabolism of sharks

- ✓ The warming of worldwide oceans because of climate change may affect the metabolism of sharks.
- ✓ The scientists conducted the work in the new england aquarium and studied "epaulette sharks" which live off the australia and new guinea.
- ✓ In the recently conducted study, the scientists found that warmer conditions had boosted the growing process of Sharks. It means that; these sharks hatched from the eggs earlier and were born exhausted.

- ✓ The scientists also found that the baby sharks were at the risk of being born smaller. They would also be born without energy they require to survive.

Preserved dinosaur eggs

- ✓ During excavations in the eastern Chinese city of Guangzhou, a fossil form of a dinosaur perched inside a nest of preserved eggs was found.
- ✓ It was found in rocks 70 million years old.

India's forest cover increases

- ✓ Environment minister informed that the implementation of national Action Plan on climate change and other measures have led to a reduction in emission intensity by 24 % between 2005 and 2016.
- ✓ India's forest cover is continuously increasing and it has reached 24.5% of the geographical area of the country.

Fossil of shark with wing like fins found

- ✓ Scientist announced the discovery of the nearly complete Fossil of the Shark called *Aquilolamna milarcae* that lived during the Cretaceous period time when Dinosaurs ruled the land.
- ✓ Fossil was an Earth in Mexico state of Nuevo Leon.

Conservation to coexistence campaign launched

- ✓ Part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav a massive outreach campaign titled ' **conservation to coexistence: The people connect**' has been taken off by the central zoo authority in Mumbai.
- ✓ The campaign aims to generate awareness about the conservation of identified 75 wild animal species through continued public engagement for 75, culminating on 15th August 2021.

Candida Auris

- ✓ The Researchers found Candida Auris on remote beaches of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They also held that they can potentially bring next pandemic.
- ✓ Candida Auris, a multidrug-resistant fungus, has become a 'superbug' as it is able to resist main anti-fungal treatments.
- ✓ C. Auris survives on the skin before entering the body through wounds.
- ✓ Once in the bloodstream, it causes severe illness. It can lead to sepsis - a condition that kills up to 11 million people a year globally.
- ✓ C. auris spreads from one patient to another in hospitals.
- ✓ It is targeting people with weakened immune systems. It spreads through contact with contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment.

- ✓ **Hypnea Bullata** grew along the coastline of Daman and Diu.
- ✓ It is the first time red algal species of sea weeds have been discovered along the Indian coasts.
- ✓ A group of marine botanists have traced these native seaweed species along the coasts of Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and in Gujarat and Daman Diu.

NAVY

Desert Flag

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in the multinational exercise called “Desert Flag” in the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ The Air Force of India will take part in the exercise along with the forces of the France and United States.
- ✓ The six Indian Air Force fighter called “**Su-30-MKI fighters**” took their flight off to participate in the exercise in United Arab Emirates. **Two C-17s fighters** of the IAF would also be joining the Indian team for the exercise in order to help in induction and de-induction.
- ✓ This is the first major multinational air combat exercise that India would take part in.
- ✓ This exercise is the fourth exercise in which when IAF will participate in last five years after it participated in the “Pitch Black” wargames of Australia in the year 2018,

“Blue Flag” of Israel in 2017 and the “Red Flag” of America in 2016.

Navy deploys women officers on warships

- ✓ On international Women's Day, the Indian Navy deployed for women officers onboard its warships over three decades. The last time women officers were posted on the warships was in 1998.

Anurag Thakur: Captain in territorial Army

- ✓ Minister of state for finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur was promoted as captain in the territorial army as a regular commissioned officer.
- ✓ He has become the first serving Union Minister to be promoted as a captain in the Indian territorial Army.

INS jalashwa reaches Antsiranana Port

- ✓ INS jalashwa reached the port of antsiranana, madagascar within Indian Naval train team on board.
- ✓ The Indian naval training team will be deployed in Madagascar for capacity building and training of the Malasgasy special forces for two weeks.

Indian Army decommissions two artillery system

- ✓ Indian Army has decommissioned two of the longest serving artillery system from service.

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- ✓ The 130 mm self propelled M-46 Catapult Guns and the one 160 mm Tampella Mortars were decommissioned at Mahajan field fire ranges.

Director General of Military Operations

- ✓ Lieutenant General BS Raju who will take over as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) handed over the charge of the strategic XV Corps of the Army, which guards the Line of Control in Kashmir Valley.

Indian Navy undertake passage exercise

- ✓ Indian Navy undertakes two passage exercises (PASSEX) with Royal Behtarin Naval Force corvette Al Muharraq in the Persian Gulf under operation Sankalp.
- ✓ These are conducted regularly by the Indian Navy with units of friendly foreign navies.

Indo - Uzbekistan training exercise

- ✓ The Second Edition of Indo-Uzbekistan joint field training exercise, **EXERCISE DUSTALIK -II** culminated on 19 March 2021 after 10 days of mutual learning.

Vajra Prahar - Indian and US Special Forces conclude joint training exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2021 in Himachal Pradesh.

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“Pabbi-Antiterror-2021” exercise

- ✓ India, Pakistan, China and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise this year, the eight-member bloc said.
- ✓ The decision to hold the joint exercise “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021” was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise

- ✓ The US Navy said on that it will hold a major naval exercise alongside Belgium, France and Japan in the Mideast amid tensions over Iran’s nuclear programme in the region.
- ✓ The Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise will see ships from the four countries conduct drills in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

INS Jalashwa reaches madagascar's Port

- ✓ Indian Naval ship Jalashwa arrived at Port Ehoala, madagascar to deliver a consignment of 1000 metric tons of rice and 1 lakh hydroxychloroquine tablets.

Indian Navy to participate in La Perouse

- ✓ The Indian Navy will be part of the French Naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ The participating nations are include the other QUAD member countries- australia, japan and USA.
- ✓ This is the first time that the Indian Navy will be the part of the France-led war game La Perouse.

PASSEX

- ✓ The joint naval exercise between India and the United States began on March 28 in the eastern Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Shivalik wars and the long-range surveillance fighter jet P8I on behalf of India and USA are involved in this joint exercise called PASSEX.

Aces Meet 2021-1

- Pakistan hosting multinational air force exercise ‘Aces Meet 2021-1’ at an undisclosed operational air base.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Anindya Dutta comes up with a new book

- ✓ A Banker by profession, anindya Dutta coming up with his latest book, called advantage India: The story of Indian tennis.

➤ The book '**History and Origin of North Chennai**' has been published at the book fair held at the YMCA Grounds, Nandanam, Chennai. This book was written by **Nivetha Louis**.

Frontier Gandhi's autobiography in English

- ✓ The autobiography of freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was first published in Pashto language in 1983.
- ✓ It is now translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada.
- ✓ The book is titled as 'The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle'.
- ✓ This is the “first time” that Khan's autobiography is available in English.
- ✓ Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan.

➤ “**Locking down in the poor. The Pandemic and India's moral centre**” book was written by Harsh Mander.

➤ **My life is full: Work, Family and our Future** book was written by Indira Nui.

Karunanidhi – A life

- ✓ The book **Karunanidhi – A life** was written by A.S. Panneer Selvam.

My Experiments with Silence

- ✓ The book “My Experiments with Silence” is authored by Samir Soni on anxiety and self - discovery.
- ✓ Soni’s book aims to be a personal account of his dialogues with himself during his growing-up years in Delhi, his stint at Wall Street and his time in Bollywood.
- ✓ Soni said his book will be an “ode to anyone who has fought or is fighting their inner demons”.

SPORTS

Vinesh Phogat, has won the gold medal

- ✓ The Indian wrestler, Vinesh Phogat, has won the gold medal in women’s 53-kg category.
- ✓ She won the medal at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Odisha will host the Indian Women’s League

- ✓ The All-India Football Federation has announced that, Odisha will host the Indian Women’s League (IWL).
- ✓ The Indian football has been trying to restart the on-field sporting action now amid the ongoing Covid-19 cases.

Singapore Open Tennis

- ✓ Australian Alexei Popyrin has claimed his maiden ATP Tour title.

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- ✓ Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen extended their unbeaten record in ATP Tour finals in doubles Championship.

7th Fazza World Ranking Tournament - Dubai 2021

- ✓ Rakesh Kumar won the Compound Individual Gold whereas the Mixed team of Harvinder Singh and Pooja won the Gold in Recurve Mixed team.

Sayali stands out in her sub-Junior title win

- ✓ Sayali Wani of Maharashtra outwitted Haryana's Suhana Saini 4-3 to emerge champion at the 82nd Cadet & Sub-Junior National Table Tennis Championships.

Uganda International Badminton 2021

- ✓ Indian shuttlers Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod produced thrilling performances to emerge champions at the 2021 Uganda International in Kampala.

Virat Kohli came one position ahead

- ✓ Virat Kohli has been came up to 6th position in ICC T20 Cricket Batsman List. He was at 7th position previously.

New record in javelin throw

- ✓ India's Neeraj Chopra has set a new national record by throwing a javelin distance of 88.07 meters.

- ✓ The 3rd Indian Grand Prix is being held in Patiala, Punjab.

Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series

- ✓ **Sarita Mor** who won silver in the women's 57kg event.
- ✓ The 25-year-old Sarita, the reigning **Asian champion**, defeated the likes of Kazakhstan's Altynay Satylgan in the quarter-finals and Emma Tissina (also Kazakhstan) in the semi-finals.

Vinesh Phogat clinches gold medal

- ✓ Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat bagged her second gold medal within a week as she defeated Canada's Diana Weicker in the final of the 53kg event at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series in Rome.
- ✓ The Indian had entered the event as world number three but is back to world number one by jumping 14 points.

Third batsman to hit 6 sixes

- ✓ Kieron Pollard became the third batsman in the history of international cricket to hit six 6s in an over.
- ✓ The former South Africa opener Herschelle Gibbs achieved the feat first - in a World Cup 2007 match against the Netherlands.
- ✓ Pollard is the only 2nd batsman after Yuvraj Singh to achieve the feat in T20Is.

PV Sindhu win silver medal

- ✓ PV Sindhu settled for a silver medal in BWF Swiss open super 300 at Basil in the finals of the women single event.

Manish Kaushik gold medal

- ✓ In boxing, manish Kaushik drinks a gold medal at the Boxam International tournament in castellan, Spain.

Best Player of the Month Award

- ✓ Indian spinner Ravichandran Aswin wins ICC Cricketer of the Year award for February Month.

T-20 Ranking

- ✓ India's Shafali Sharma stands second in ICC women's T20 rankings.
- Indian cricketer **Smriti Mandana** has set a new record of 10 consecutive half-centuries in international cricket.
- India opener **Rohit Sharma** has become the second Indian to score 9,000 runs in all Twenty20 Internationals.

Southampton to host the world test Final

- ✓ The final of the ICC World test Championship between India and New Zealand will be played in the bio-secure bubble at the hampshire bowl in Southampton.

Mithali Raj

- ✓ The veteran Indian women's cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman cricketer that has completed 10,000 international runs in all the cricket formats.
- ✓ She also become the second woman cricketer at the international level to complete 10000 runs.

India to host Asian Boxing championship 2021

- ✓ International boxing Association has announced that the Asian Boxing championship 2021 will be hosted by New Delhi India from may 2021. It will be the first boxing tournament in Asia to be held in 2021.

ICC ODI Cricket Rankings

- ✓ India's Poonam Rawat has been ranked 18th in the ICC ODI Cricket Rankings for Women's Cricket.
- ✓ Harmanpreet Kaur got 15th position, also Smriti Mandana got 7th place and Mithali Raj got 9th position.

Haryana wins 11th hockey women national championship

- ✓ Haryana Deepika Jharkhand in a shoot out to clinch the 11th Hockey India sub junior women national championship 2021.

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International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup

- ✓ Yashaswini Deswal wins first gold medal for India in Women's 10 Meter Air Pistol.

Blaze of Glory: Largest cricket museum

- ✓ Blades of Glory, considered as one-of-a kind museum in India dedicated to cricket, has been awarded a 'world record' by the world record Academy in US.

ISSF cup

- ✓ In shooting, india won two gold and silver medal on the third day of ISSF world Cup been held in New Delhi.
- ✓ While the Indian women and men's team won gold medal in 10 metre air pistol events, and mens air rifle event team won silver.
- ✓ India's Divyansh singh panvar and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in 10 metre air rifle mixed team.
- ✓ Chinki Yadav won the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF world cup in New Delhi.
- ✓ Earlier, India's Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event.
- ✓ Sanjeev Rajput and Tejaswini Sawant won **gold** in the 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.
- ✓ Niraj Kumar, Swapnil Kusale and Chain Singh claimed **gold** in the 50m rifle 3 positions men's team event.

ISWA get government recognition

- ✓ The Indian style wrestling Association of India has officially being recognised as the national sports Federation by sports ministry.
- ✓ It was founded in 1958 and has been in existence for about 60 years.

Olympic torch relay

- ✓ The Olympic torch relay has begun in Japan. The postponement Olympics of 2020 starts in 23rd July 2021 from Tokyo, the capital of Japan.
- ✓ The series, in turn, travels through 47 locations specializing in Japan under the title 'The Light of Hope is Our Way'.

AFC women's Asian Cup India 2022

- ✓ The D.Y. Patel Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Allahabad Trance stadia and the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar will host the Asian Football Confederation 2022.
- ✓ This was confirmed by the Asian Football Confederation and the AFC women's Asian Cup India 2022 local organising committee.

First female referee appointed for EFL match

- Rebecca Welch has become the first female Referee to be appointed to an English football league match.

- ✓ The tournament is set to be hosted in New Zealand from March 4, 2022 to April 3, 2022.

200 international cricket matches

- ✓ Virat Kohli has reached the milestone of becoming the third captain to lead the Indian cricket team in 200 international cricket matches.

India moves to seventh position

- ✓ India moved up to the seventh position on the ICC men's cricket world cup super league standings after their seven-run win over England in the third ODI.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Golden Globe Awards

- ✓ The 78th Golden Globe Awards ceremony recently took place in a virtual and the award ceremony was filmed from Los Angeles and New York City.
- ✓ The Netflix film called “Mank” and “The Trial of the Chicago 7” were nominated for the Best Picture (Drama) Nominations.

Dubai Tennis Women’s final

- ✓ Playing her third final of 2021, Garbiñe Muguruza last lifted a WTA trophy at the 2019.

CSMT first get IGBC gold certification

- ✓ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Station Railway is the first railway station in Maharashtra to be awarded gold certification as per Indian green building Council ratings.

All India Performance Award

- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu has received the All India Performance Award for raising awareness among the general public about oil and gas storage.

PM Narendra Modi CERAAweek America award

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the CERAAweek global energy and environment leadership award.
- ✓ Awarded on behalf of the Cambridge Research Institute of America.
- ✓ The target is to blend 20% ethanol with petrol by 2025.
- ✓ The Prime Minister said that India was moving fast towards achieving the Paris Agreement targets before 2030.

QS world subject rankings 2021

- ✓ Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore is ranked one among the top 12 institutions of India in Engineering

and Technology, and within the top 450 universities in the world as per QS subject ranking 2021.

30th Bihari Puraskar for 2020

- ✓ The Bihari Puraskar is one of the three literary awards instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
- ✓ Mohankrishna Bohara will be awarded the 30th Bihari Puraskar Award for his critical work ‘Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya’.
- ✓ The book was published in 2016.
- ✓ The award is named after the famous poet Bihari.

2021 FIAF Award

- ✓ The International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) and worldwide organisation of film archives and museums from across the globe will confer the prestigious 2021 FIAF Award to Amitabh Bachchan at a virtual showcase.
- ✓ Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the film heritage.

SERB award

- ✓ Dr. Sonu Gandhi has been awarded the prestigious SERB women excellence award.

World soil day award 2020

- ✓ Ambassador of India to Thailand Suchitra Durai received the prestigious King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 award

of the Food and Agriculture Organisation on the behalf of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

2020 Ibrahim Prize

- ✓ Mahamadou Issoufou, the incumbent President of Niger, has won the “2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership”.
- ✓ He is the sixth winner of the Ibrahim Prize since it was introduced in 2006.
- ✓ The 69-year-old Issoufou is stepping down as president of Niger in April 2021, after serving two terms in office.
- ✓ He first took office in 2011 and was then re-elected in 2016.

Sakitiya Academy Award

- ✓ Writer Imayam, who has been making a mark in the world of Tamil literature for more than twenty five years, has been awarded the Sakitiya Academy Award for 2020 for his work on invalid money.
- ✓ Writer Imayam's given name is C V Annamalai. He has already won several awards, including the Katha Award and the Bashabharati Award.
- ✓ He has already been awarded the Bachelor of Research Award on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Tamil Breeze Thiru.V.Ka Award on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

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- ✓ The first book, 'KOVERU KALUTHAIGAL', met its 25th edition in 1994.
- ✓ Subramaniam have won the award for her poetry collection called "When God is a Traveller" in English.
- ✓ Veerappa Moily has been named for his epic poetry called "Sri Bahubali Ahimsa Digvijayam" in Kannada language.

BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award

- ✓ BBC revealed the nominees for Indian Sportswoman of the Year award. Women's World Rapid champion Koneru Humpy won the award.

US' International Women of Courage award

- ✓ Ranitha Gnanarajah as an International Women of Courage (IWOC) award winner for her commitment to justice, accountability, and women's rights in Sri Lanka.

Gowshalya Shankar nominated for an award

- ✓ The US Consulate has honoured Gowshalya Shankar with the nomination for the international women of courage award.
- ✓ She is a Tamilnadu based anti-caste activity human Rights Defender.

UTT 82nd Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championships

- ✓ Defending champion Diya Chitale retained the **youth girls title** with a hard-fought.
- ✓ Swastika Ghosh came-from behind to claim her **maiden junior girls crown** at the UTT 82nd Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championships at the Abhay Prashal here on Tuesday.

Federation Cup Athletics

- ✓ The gold for TN came from P Veeramani who won the men's 110m hurdles in 14.57seconds.

Riz Ahmed : First Muslim nominated for Oscar

- ✓ British Pakistani actor Riz Ahmed made history as he is the first Muslim to be nominated for an academy award in the best actor category. The actor has been nominated for Oscar performance in sound of metal.

Michael Holding awarded 'Best Pundit'

- ✓ Former West Indies cricketer Michael Holding, who came out in support of the 'black lives matter' movement, has been named the ' best Pundit' SJA British sports journalism award 2020.

Pritzker Architecture Prize

- ✓ Social housing architects Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal have been named the 2021 winners of the Pritzker Architecture Prize.
 - They are the founders of French studio Lacaton & Vassal.

Miyami film fest

- ✓ Sonal se girls Indo- latvian science-fiction thriller "Manny" has bagged four awards at the Miami International science fiction film festival. It was directed by latvian filmmaker Dace Puce.

Gandhi Peace Prize

- ✓ According to the Ministry of the culture, government of India has conferred the Gandhi Peace Prize on **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** for 2020. The peace prize for the year 2019 was conferred on the late His Majesty **Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman**.
- ✓ Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first President and also became Prime Minister of Bangladesh, later. He is called as **“Father of the Nation”** or **“Mujib”**. He was assassinated on August 15, 1975.

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- ✓ Winner of the Gandhi Peace Prize 2019, Sultan Qaboos, was the longest-reigning **leader of the modern Arab world**. He died in the month of January 2020.
- ✓ The peace prize was given this year for the last two years that is 2019 and 2020.

All England Badminton Championship

- ✓ Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia won the all England Badminton championships men's title. Japan's Nozomi Okuhara won the women's title.

National award for excellence

- ✓ Kerala has received a national award for excellence in the eradication of tuberculosis.

Grandmaster Iniyan win silver in chess

- ✓ The first FIDE world University online chess India's Grandmaster P Iniyan win silver in the open section. Armenian Haik Martirosyan won gold.

International Film Archives Federation Award

- ✓ Amitabh Bachchan is the first Indian to receive the International Film Archives Federation Award.

WWE Hall of Fame

- ✓ The Great Khali has been announced as the latest inductee into the 2021 WWE Hall of Fame.

Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2020

- ✓ Legendary singer Asha Bhosle will be honoured with the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award for the year 2020.

National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction

- ✓ Maggie O'Farrell's "Hamnet," an imagined take on the death of Shakespeare's son from the bubonic plague, has won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction in US.
- ✓ Tom Zoellner's "Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire" won for non-fiction.

EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020

- ✓ Marico chairman Harsh C. Mariwala was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020.
- ✓ Marico is one of the largest and most recognisable FMCG (Fast-moving consumer goods) companies in the country.
- ✓ It owns brands such as Parachute and Saffola.

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Mahendra Giri Wins International Ranger award

- ✓ Mahendra Giri becomes the only Ranger from Asia to win the prestigious International Ranger award for his contribution towards conservation.

Smart City India award 2021

- ✓ Under the e-health project, Dehradun Smart City Smart City limited has been awarded the Smart City India award 2021 by the central Ministry of Urban Development.

- **Actor Ajith Kumar** has won 6 medals including 4 gold at the **46th Tamil Nadu State Sniper Championship** in Chennai on behalf of the Chennai Rifle Club.

APPOINTMENTS

New chairman of CII TN

- ✓ The founder and executive chairman of health care major Sri Kauvery Medical Care, S Chandrakumar, has been elected as the chairman for the Confederation of Indian Industry, (CII) Tamil Nadu state council for the year 2021-22.

Joe Biden appoints to more Indian Americans

- ✓ US president has appointed to more India Americans in the administrative positions. Chiraag Bains has been

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appointed as a special Assistant to the President for Criminal Justice and Pronita Gupta has been named Special Assistant to the President for Labour and Workers.

New Chairman of UN panel of external auditors

- ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India girish Chandra murmu has been appointed as the chairman of the panel of external auditors of the United Nation for 2021.

Selection committee chairman

- ✓ Usha and Gurbachan Singh Randhawa have been appointed as the selection committee chairmen of the national junior and senior athletes.

Chief Justice of India

- ✓ Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde, who is scheduled to retire on April 23, recommended Justice NV Ramana as his successor.
- ✓ Presently, Justice Ramana is the senior-most Supreme Court judge after CJI. Bobde has written to Union Law Ministry clearing the way for Justice Ramana to be appointed as the 48th Chief Justice of India.

Coimbatore DC and commissioner transfers

- ✓ The election commission of India has transferred Coimbatore district collector Rajamani and the City

Dr. V. Jeevanandam

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Green Movement leader Dr. Jeeva alias V.Jeevanandam of Erode passed away on March 2.
- ✓ He was extremely involved in other environmental activities in Tamil Nadu.

Saina Nehwal's Life Story

- ✓ The life of famous badminton player Saina Nehwal has been made into a movie.
- ✓ Bhushan Kumar has produced this film named "Saina" directed by Amol Gupta and Bollywood actress Praneeth Chopra acts Saina's role.

Virat first hundred million Instagram followers

- ✓ Virat Kohli has become the first cricketer in the world to have hundred million followers on a social platform Instagram.
- ✓ He is also the first person in the Asia Pacific region reach the feat.

Mary Kom 4 person of a AIBA's committee

- ✓ 6 time world champion mary Kom has been picked as the chairperson of the international boxing Association Champions and veterans committee.
- ✓ Mary Kom has qualified for the second and final Olympics the Tokyo games to be held in July - August 2021.

Scientific Tamil Scholar Ramasundaram

- ✓ Retired Head of the Department of Scientific Tamil and Tamil Development, Thanjavur Tamil University, President of the All India Science Tamil Association and Scientific Tamil Scholar Ramasundaram has passed away.

French billionaire politician Olivier Dassault

- ✓ French billionaire Olivier Dassault has passed away in a helicopter crash and President Emmanuel Macron paying tribute to the 69-year old conservative politician.
- ✓ Dassault Aviation, builds the Rafale war planes and owns Le Figaro newspaper. The Rafale aircraft, a state-of-the-art fighter jet licensed by India, was manufactured by Dassault on Falcon jets.

ATP rankings

- ✓ Djokovic has now surpassed Roger Federer's record of being the number one player in the history of the ATP rankings for many weeks.
 - ✓ In the new ATP rankings, Djokovic stands number one, Nadal stands number two and Federer stands number six.
- **Carina Olioni**, a Brazilian woman, crosses the volcanic lake Erta Ale in Afar, Ethiopia.

Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series

- ✓ Bajrang Punia beat Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir in the final of the 65kg category to defend his title at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series in Rome.
- ✓ Bajrang was placed second in the rankings before the event and is now on top of the ranking table in the 65kg category with 14 points.

Poet NS lakshmi Narayana Bhatta passes away

- ✓ Reowned kannada poet, eminent academic, and critic prof NS lakshmi Narayana Bhatta passes away.
- ✓ He was also known as NSL in the literary circles and Kannada music world.
- ✓ He was a sahitya Academy winner and he translated 50 of william Shakespeare Sonnets into Kannada.

Udupi Ramachandra Rao

- ✓ The tech giant Google is celebrating the 89th birthday of renowned Indian professor and scientist Udupi Ramachandra Rao on March 10, 2021 through its “Google Doodle”.
- ✓ Udupi Ramachandra Rao was an Indian space scientist. He also worked as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.

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- ✓ Udupi Ramachandra Rao was an Indian space scientist. He also worked as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.
- ✓ He returned to India in 1966 and lead the 1975 launch of India's first satellite called "Aryabhata".
- ✓ he became the first Indian to be inducted into Satellite Hall of Fame. The professor was also inducted in International Astronautics Federation (IAF) in May 2016 and became the first Indian again to achieve this honour.

Ayya vaikunda swamikal birth anniversary

- ✓ VM pays tribute to ayya vaikunda swamikal, a great thinker and social reformer of 19th century, on his birth anniversary.
 - ✓ Ayya vaikunda also known as shiva Narayana aur vaikunda Swami is the first and foremost Purna Avatar of a Eka video -Paran.
- Turban-wearing Sikh **Kurdeep Singh** has taken charge for the first time as a member of Pakistan's upper house advisory council.

SC: Justice Indu Malhotra's tenure ends

- ✓ Justice Indu Malhotra, the first woman judges to be appointed to the Supreme Court Bench directly from the

Bar, completed her tenure. She is known for her lone dissenting opinion in the Sabarimala judgment.

Chief Statistician of India

- ✓ GP Samantha has been appointed Chief Statistician of India and has also received a post as Secretary to the Ministry of Statistics and Project Implementation.

Tamil filmmaker SP Janathan

- ✓ His debut film as director - *Iyarkai* (2003) though failed to deliver the expectations in the box office but went onto win the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Tamil in 2004.
- ✓ Jananathan portrayed the ideas of commonwealth in films to make people understand.

Hayley Arceneaux

- ✓ The first bone cancer survivor to become an astronaut. The first person with a prosthetic body part to visit space. And the youngest American ever to orbit Earth.

Bhavani Devi

- ✓ The 27-years-old Indian Fencer, Bhavani Devi, has created a history and has become the first Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics in Women's individual Sabre.

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- ✓ American actress Laverne Cox had become the first trans woman to appear on the cover of TIME in 2014.

Karthikesh Kasinath

- ✓ Trichy Gun Factory Security Officer Karthikesh Kasinath has been awarded the Best Security Officer Award in the Forces Factories in the country.
- ✓ The award is given to a person who has made innovations in security operations.

Goli Siyamala

- ✓ Goli Siyamala, a swimmer from Hyderabad, is about to swim across the Palk Strait Junction beach, about 30 km from Talaimannar to Dhanushkodi.
- ✓ Shyamala will be the first Indian woman to swim in the waters of the Palk Strait. Notably, she is the director of animated films.

Samia Suluhu: First female President of Tanzania

- ✓ Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn as Tanzania's first female President after the sudden death of John Magufuli.

Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair

- ✓ Veteran Kathakali exponent Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair died recently at the age of 105.

- He was conferred with Padmashri in the year 2017.

Virat Chandra

- ✓ A 7 year old from Hyderabad Virat Chandra has become one of the youngest in the world to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, highest mountain in Africa at 19,341feet.

- ✚ **Dattatreya Hosabale** elected as the 'Sarkaryawah' (General Secretary) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Ramakrishna

- ✓ G V Ramakrishna, who was the first Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) after it became a statutorily empowered market regulator, passed away. He was appointed in 1990.

Makkal Pavalar Marudhu

- ✓ A pioneer of the late Karnataka Tamil movement and a popular poet, was laid to rest in Bangalore.
- ✓ His collections of poems such as

✚ 'Parai mulakkam'(பறை முழக்கம்),

✚ 'ulnattu agathikal (உள்நாட்டு அகதிகள்)',

'thendralin settram (தென்றலின் சீற்றம்)',

✚ 'nalinthor edimulakkam (நலிந்தோர்

இடிமுழக்கம்)',

- ✚ 'vidiyal malargal (விடியல் மலர்கள்)' gave a unique identity to marudhu in Carnatic Tamil literature.
- ✓ His songs, which were full of ideas including the rights of the oppressed, Tamil unity, anti-casteism and the liberation of the proletariat, earned him the nickname 'People's Poet'.

Ustad Bismillah Khan birth anniversary

- ✓ The 150th anniversary of the world famous Shehnai maestro Ustad Bismullah Khan was celebrated on 21 March 2021.
- ✓ She was born in Bihar. He also played the Shehnai at the 1st Republic Day celebration in 1950.

Dr Ram Manohar Lohia's birth anniversary

- ✓ March 23 marks the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and social is leader dr.ram Manohar Lohia.
- ✓ She was an activist in the Indian Independence movements and a socialist political leader.
- ✓ During the last phase of British rule in India, congress radio which was broadcast secretly from various places in Bombay and in 1942.

Dr Vivek Murthy to be Biden's surgeon general

- ✓ US Senate has voted to confirm Indian- American Dr Vivek Murthy to be president Biden's surgeon general.
- ✓ Dr Moorthy served as the surgeon general under the Obama administration from 2014 to 2017.

Transgender women appointment

- ✓ Dr. Rachel Levine, a transgender woman, has been appointed by the US President Biden to the post of Deputy Minister of Health.
- ✓ This is the first time in US history that the appointment has been made under the administration of President Joe Biden.

Kamalesh Chandra Chakrabarty

- ✓ Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Kamalesh Chandra Chakrabarty passed away in Mumbai at the age of 69.
- ✓ Chakrabarty was the deputy governor of the central bank between June 15, 2009 and April 25, 2014 when he left office three months before to his term ended.
- ✓ Before that, he served as the Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab National Bank (2007-2009), and CMD of Indian Bank (2005-2007).

First female officer to be a part of encounter

- ✓ Inspector Priyanka became the first woman personnel of delhi police to be a part of an encounter in Central Delhi.
- ✓ She was the part of the encounter which took place at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi an led to the arrest of the alleged Gangster and his associate.

Lieutenant General Walter Anthony Gustavo “WAG” Pinto

- ✓ Pune Lieutenant General Walter Anthony Gustavo “WAG” Pinto, former General Officer in the Indian Army, breathed his last on the night March 25 at the age of 97.
- ✓ He was popularly known as ‘Victor of Basantar’ for his commanding of the 54th division in the battle as a Major General.
- ✓ For his major General role in the Indo-Pak war of 1971, he was awarded the prestigious Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM).
- ✓ General Pinto had written a book ‘Bash on Regardless’, in which he described the Battle of Basantar.
- ✓ The battle of Basantar was among the longest ground battles fought by the Indian Army under the dynamic and brave leadership of Lt Gen WAG Pinto — “The Victor of Basantar”.

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- ✓ The Battle of Basantar was one of the biggest ground battles ever fought by the Indian Army.”
- ✓ Under his leadership, the soldiers received 196 gallantry awards and 2 Param Vir Chakras (Late 2nd Lt Arun Khetrpal was one of them) and 9 Mahavir Chakras (Late Gen Vaidya of Operation Blue Star fame was one of them).

Puluvar Na. Thiyagarajan

- ✓ Silappathikaram Researcher Puluvar Na. Thiyagarajan passed away.
- ✓ A graduate of Tamil Poetry, he devoted his entire life to the study of historical archeology at Poompuhar.
- ✓ It is noteworthy that he carried out research work at his own expense without any paid work.

MISCELLANEOUS

Plea against river linking project

- ✓ TN CM Edappadi Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for the 262-km Cauvery vellaru - Vaigai – Gundar river interlinking project.
- ✓ Now the Karnataka Government has decided to approach the Supreme Court challenging Tamilnadu’s new scheme.

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- ✓ Tamil Nadu is trying to utilise the surplus 45 Tmc ft of water.
- ✓ But as per Karnataka govt, this project is not in accordance with the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956.
- ✓ According to that Act, the surplus water should also be adjudicated and the tribunal has to decide on it.

WHO Report

- ✓ The World Health Organization estimates that one-fourth of the world's population will be deaf by 2050.

UNESCO Global Education Report

- ✓ UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Survey says that after the corona virus outbreak, funds allocated for education has been reduced in low-income, middle-income countries, including India.

Human Skeletons at Roopkund

- ✓ Roopkund Lake is located in the icy valley of the highest Himalayan region in India. Hundreds of human skeletons are scattered in the lake.
- ✓ Roopkund Lake is located at an elevation of 5029 m above sea level, at the foothills of the Trishul Range.
- ✓ It is one of the highest mountain ranges in India and is located in the state of Uttarakhand.

Australia's oldest Aboriginal rock art

- ✓ A kangaroo painting was identified in Australia with the help of some ancient wasps.
- ✓ The kangaroo painting was created over 17,000 years ago by the Aboriginal community artists.
- ✓ The painting was identified as Australia's oldest intact rock art. The painting is a two-metre-long artwork.
- ✓ This artwork was painted in an early naturalistic style.

Ease of Living Index-2020

- ✓ The ministry of housing and urban affairs released its "Ease of Living Index-2020".
- ✓ It also comprises of the rankings of cities having population of more than a million and a separate ranking for cities having population of less than a million.
- ✓ In the list of Indian cities having population of more than a million, "**Bengaluru**" was emerged as the best city on "ease of living" index parameters. Bengaluru have pushed the city of **Pune** to second position in the index.
- ✓ **Ahmedabad** was ranked third among 111 cities.
- ✓ The index shows that, ease of living was lowest in Dhanbad, Bareilly, and Srinagar.
- ✓ In the list of cities with population of less than a million, **Shimla** has been ranked the highest. It is followed by **Bhubaneswar**.

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- ✓ In this category, the **Muzaffarpur** city in **Bihar** was ranked at the lowest.
- An ancient chariot has been unearthed during excavations in Pompeii, Italy.

‘The Opportunity Index 2021’ report

- ✓ The report seeks to understand how people perceive opportunities and the barriers that stand in the way of achieving them.
- ✓ This year’s report dives deep to understand how women perceive opportunities, and how the gender gap is further slowing down career progress for working women in India amid the pandemic.
- ✓ This Report was made by LinkedIn.
- ✓ More women in India have experienced the impact of gender on career development when compared to the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.

Women’s History Month - 2021

- ✓ Women’s history month is celebrated every year in March (March 1st to March 31st).
- ✓ The main aim of this month is to honour the vital role of women in history and celebrate their diverse achievements and stories.

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- ✓ It is observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987.

Combat free fall

- ✓ Indian Army special forces Training School comment training of Turkmenistan special forces in " combat free fall".
- ✓ In Combat free fall paratroopers fall from a plane from the height of up to 30,000 feet and stealthily glide to the target.

Ek Aur Naren –

- ✓ will have two strands in its story - one dealing with the life of Swami Vivekananda who was born Narendranath Dutta and the other projecting the vision of Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The shooting of a film based on the life and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi featuring Gajendra Chauhan of Mahabharata fame in the lead role.
- ✓ The film director said the film encapsulates the lives of two personalities – Vivekananda who spent his life to spread the message of universal brotherhood and how the Indian culture espoused inclusiveness.
- ✓ The other personality – Modi who, he said, has taken India to a new height and is one of the most popular icons in the field of politics.

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Freedom house demotes India freedom Score

- ✓ Washington based noted think tank Freedom house has demoted India's freedom score from free to partly free.
- ✓ India score decreased from 71 to 67, with 100 being the ranking for the freest country, and its rank fell from 83 to 88 out of 211 countries.

Food Waste Index

- ✓ The United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) published the “Food Waste Index Report, 2021”.
- ✓ As per the UNEP report, estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted across the world 2019.
- ✓ The agency also highlighted that this amount of wasted food can circle the Earth seven times.

Women Will

- ✓ Google has launched a new web platform ‘Women Will’ on March 8, 2021 on the occasion of “International Women’s Day”.
- ✓ This platform will provide its support to 1 million rural women in India in order for them to become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship.
- ✓ The Internet Saathis Programme was launched by Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai in 2015 with the

objective of imparting digital literacy training to women across villages.

UNICEF new analysis on child brides

- ✓ According to the new analysis, 5 countries, including India, make up for about half of the total child brides in the world, informed the UNICEF. 10 million additional child marriages may occur before the end of the **decade**.

NShakthi

- ✓ Nippon Paint has been providing painting training to women under the name NShakthi since 2018 in an effort to eradicate gender discrimination.
- ✓ Nippon Paint plans to recognize 1,000 female painters by the end of 2021.

Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- ✓ The “Bloomberg Billionaires Index” released the ranking for world’s richest person.
- ✓ The index highlights that, Elon Musk who is the chief of Tesla and SpaceX has achieved a new milestone.

- India has declared Sri Lanka as its number one priority partner in the field of defence.

Bamiyan Buddhas

- ✓ Recently, the Bamiyan Buddhas were brought back to life with the help of 3D projection in the event held in the Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan. The event called “A Night with Buddha” was held on the anniversary of annihilation.
- ✓ The statues of Bamiyan Buddha, which find the place among the tallest statues of the world once, were broken into small pieces by Taliban.
- ✓ Taliban started to blowing up the two of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan in the month of March 2001.
- ✓ The statues represented a classic blended of Gandhara art style or the blend of artistic style of Guptas, Sassanian & Hellenistic style.
- ✓ The statues were called by local as male “Salsal” meaning “light shines through the universe” and female “Shamama” meaning “Queen Mother”.

India to register increase in child deaths

- ✓ India is projected to register the greatest increase in the number of deaths among children under five in South Asia in 2020 as well as the highest number of maternal deaths at the covid-19 disrupts the country's health service, as per the UN report.

International Intellectual Property (IP)

- ✓ Annual edition of 'International Intellectual Property (IP)' was released. India was ranked **40 among 53** global economies in the ninth IP index.
- ✓ The Index is released annually by 'US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)'.
- ✓ It evaluates Intellectual Property rights across 53 global economies on the basis of patent, commercialisation of IP assets, copyright policies and ratification of international treaties. India was ranked 40th in 2020.
- ✓ It has scored 38.4 out of 100 on 50 intellectual property-related indicators.
- ✓ Among BRICS countries, India registered the second-highest growth in nine editions with an overall improvement of over 13 per cent.
- ✓ India performance in the index has improved over past few years.

G7 do not recognise Russia crimea takeover

- ✓ The G7 group of leading economic powers would not accept Russia's annexation of the Crimea from Ukraine.

India TB Report 2021

- ✓ India TB Report 2021 was published recently. According to it, India reported a 24% year-on-year fall in registration of tuberculosis cases in 2020.

- ✓ Report also found that, between January and February 2020, registrations of TB increased by 6% on year.
- ✓ Tuberculosis is one of India's most critical health challenges. India has the largest caseload, 2.64 million tuberculosis patients, across the world.
- ✓ It accounts for 30% of the world's TB cases.
- ✓ Government of India has aimed to have TB-free India by 2025, five years ahead of global target date, 2030.

Government Initiatives:

Government of India is undertaking several schemes to tackle the challenge of TB:

- ✓ **Nikshay Ecosystem:** It is a National TB information system which acts as one-stop solution to manage the information of patients and monitor program activity & performance across the country.
- ✓ **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY):** NYP scheme was launched with the aim of providing financial support to TB patients for their nutrition.
- ✓ **TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign:** This campaign was launched in September 2019 with highest level of commitment to eliminate TB.
- ✓ **Saksham Project:** This project was launched by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to provide psychosocial counselling to Drug resistant-TB patients.

HISTORY TO BE REMEMBERED

Pepsu Muzara movement

The date “March 19” evoked several painful memories at Kishangarh village of Mansa district. In the year 1949, in the Kishangarh village, four farmers were killed on the same date during the “Pepsu Muzara movement”.

About Muzara Movement

This movement was started with the objective of taking ownership rights of land after tilling it for years together. This movement started in 1930s under British rule when the Jagridars were seeking the share in crop of farmers across the villages of Punjab under the Patiala Riyasat. The share used to be passed on to the Maharaja of Patiala and then to Britshers. Thus, the farmers were working like slaves of Jagirdars, Maharaja and British. So, the farmers started this movement in which they refused to give the food grains to their masters. After India’s Independence some 784 villages of the Patiala Riyasat were named as PEPSU province. Following this, in the month of October 1948, the Patiala Maharaja had passed orders to give one third land of villages to Jagirdars. However, farmers did not accept this. Later on March 19, 1949 these farmers confronted the security forces of Maharaja at Kishangarh in which four farmers, one cop and one patwari were killed.

Background

Muzara word is used for the “landless farmers” who used to work on someone’s land. The Muzara movement finds its

origin in late 19th century, when “princely state of Patiala” was suffering the oppression by ‘Maharaja of Patiala’. The local landlords called the biswedars enjoyed their rights on land but the tenants felt that those landlords had no legitimate right to land. They found an outlet in movements like the Akali and Praja Mandal movements during 1920s. During 1930s, liberal atmosphere was created through which the congress party attained its hold in several provinces. After that, Punjab became the nerve centre of Muzara movement. By 1948, small armed groups of 30 to 40 people used to protect muzaras against onslaught of landlords. After the Congress ministry was established in 1951, an Agrarian Reforms Enquiry Committee was set up in order to recommend the measures to tackle the issue. In the year 1952, PEPSU Tenancy (Temporary Provision) Act was formulated to protect the tenants. This act provided for peasants to become the owners if they paid compensation twelve times of the land revenue.

PEPSU Province

It stands for “Patiala and East Punjab States Union”. It was a state of India, which united the eight princely states in the year between 1948 and 1956. The capital and principal city of PEPSU was Patiala. Shimla, Kasauli, Kandaghat and Chail were also a part of PEPSU.

Stamp on 100 Years of First Visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha

- ✓ Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Education, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology digitally released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on 100 Years of First Visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha.
- ✓ This Commemorative Postage Stamp celebrates an important event of Indian History which is the first visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha on 23rd March, 1921.
- ✓ It energized the Non-Cooperation movement and strengthened the cause of freedom struggle.

Tomar king Anangpal II

- ✓ The government has recently formed a committee to popularise the legacy of 11th-century Tomar king, Anangpal II.
- ✓ Anangpal II was belonged to the Tomar dynasty. They ruled parts of present-day Delhi and Haryana between the 8th and 12th centuries.
- ✓ Anangpal Tomar II was succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan.
- ✓ Chauhan was defeated by the Ghurid forces in the Battle of Tarain (present-day Haryana).
- ✓ After that war the Delhi Sultanate was established in 1192.

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- ✓ The Tomar dynasty shifted its capital in the 8th century), to Dhillikapuri (Delhi) during the reign of Anangpal II. He gave Delhi its present name.

IMPORTANT DAYS

ZERO discrimination Day - March 1

- ✓ Zero discrimination Day is commemorated on March 1 every year by the United Nations and other international institutions.
- ✓ The day intends to eradicate mental boundaries like sex, gender, race, age, income class, ethnicity and religion.
- ✓ Zero Discrimination Day 2021 aims at ending inequalities, discrimination existing in the world, especially after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The day was first observed in 2014 and the day is particularly noted by organizations like UNAIDS that combat discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

World Civil Defence Day - March 1

- ✓ This day was integrated by the International Civil Defence Organisation in 1990.
- ✓ The Day symbolizes honour and prestige and signifies the importance of civil protection.

- ✓ The theme of the year 2021 is ‘**Civil Defence and the first aider in every home**’.

45th Civil Accounts Day - March 1

- ✓ The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) observes the “Civil Accounts Day” every year on March 01.
- ✓ The year 2021 marks the 45th Civil Accounts Day celebrations.
- ✓ ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ The Audit and Accounts functions were separated by relieving the Comptroller and Auditor General of his responsibility of preparation of Union Government accounts.

World Wildlife day: March 3

- ✓ World Wildlife day is observed annually on March 3 to celebrate and raise Awareness of the world's flora and fauna.
- ✓ The theme for this day is “**forest and livelihoods: Sustaining people and Planet**”.

World hearing day: March 3

- ✓ World hearing day is held on March 3 each year to celebrate awareness on how to prevent deafness and

hearing loss and to promote ear and hearing care across the world.

- ✓ The theme is " **hearing care for all**".

National safety day: March 4

- ✓ National safety Day is observed on March 4 every year to commemorate the foundation of national safety Council.
- ✓ This day will rise and awareness about the safety measures that need to be undertaken to prevent accidents and mishaps.

India commemorate 'Chabahar Day' on March 4

- ✓ India Bull commemorate 'Chabahar Day' on the margins of the maritime India Summit 2021 on March 4.
- ✓ Chabahar port is a key pillar of India's Indo-Pacific to connect Euro Asia with the Indian Ocean region.

International Women's Day – March 8

- ✓ This year's theme is "**Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world**".
- ✓ The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, 1975. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace.

World Kidney Day - March 11

- ✓ World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.
- ✓ World Kidney Day was started in 2006.
- ✓ This year the theme of this day is "**Living Well with Kidney Disease**".

CISF raising day - March 10

- ✓ The day was created for better protection and security of industrial undertakings in the country.
- ✓ CISF Raising Day was created in 1969 with a strength of 2,800 personnel to provide security cover to PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings).
- ✓ Subsequently, the CISF was made into an armed force of India by another Act of the Parliament passed on 15 June 1983.

➤ CISF

- ❖ CISF is one of six paramilitary forces in the country.
- ❖ It is a Central Armed Police Force in India.
- ❖ It functions under the Union Home Ministry.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at New Delhi.

World Glaucoma Week 2021

- ✓ Glaucoma is the second most common cause of blindness worldwide.

- ✓ The goal is to alert everyone to have regular eye (and optic nerve) checks in order to detect glaucoma as early as possible.
- ✓ World Glaucoma Day is observed every year on March 12. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness.
- ✓ But with early treatment, the damage may get limited and sight may be saved.

Pi Day – March 14

- ✓ Pi is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.
- ✓ The value of Pi is 3.14 and the initial of the number is 3.
- ✓ Thus, it is observed in March as it is the third month in the annual calendar.
- ✓ The symbol of Pi was discovered by William Jones in the year 1706. The value of the Pi was first calculated by Mathematician, Archimedes of Syracuse.
- ✓ UNESCO started observing Pi Day as 'International Day of Mathematics' from the year 2019.
- ✓ Pi Approximation Day is observed on July 22 (22/7 in the day/month format).

International Day of action for rivers: March 14

- ✓ International Day for action for rivers is marked on March 14 across the world.

- ✓ It aims to bring people across borders, together to discuss issues pertaining to river management, river pollution, river conservation except at a global level.
- ✓ The theme for 24th International Day of action for rivers watch the "**Rights of Rivers**".

World Consumer Rights Day – March 15

- ✓ The 2021 theme is "**Tackle Plastic Pollution**".
- ✓ The history of World Consumer Rights Day starts with the USA President John F Kennedy.
- ✓ On March 15, 1962, he sent a special message to the US Congress to address the consumer rights issue.
- ✓ He was the first world leader to do so. The first World Consumer Rights Day was observed on 15 March 1983.

National immunization day: 16 March

- ✓ National immunization day is celebrated every year on March 16.
- ✓ Also called National vaccination day, it is observed to convey the importance of vaccination.
- ✓ It was on this day on March 16, 1995, that the first dose of **oral polio vaccine** was given in India.

Global recycling Day : 18 March Global recycling day is observed every year on 18 march to create awareness among

the masses about the Rapid pace at which our natural resources are being used.

- ✓ In 2021, the theme of global recycling day is "**Recycling Heroes**".

Ordnance Factories' Day – March 18

- ✓ The production of India's oldest Ordnance Factory was started in 18th of March, 1802. It is at Cossipore of Kolkata.
- ✓ OFB is the 37th largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world, 2nd largest in Asia, and the largest in India.
- ✓ OFB is referred to as the "Fourth Arm of Defence" and the "Force Behind the Armed Forces" of India.

World Sleep Day – March 19

- ✓ This year's theme will be '**Regular Sleep, Healthy Future**'.

World Sparrow Day – March 20

- ✓ It is an international initiative by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France).
- ✓ The Nature Forever Society was started by Mohammed Dilawar, an Indian conservationist.
- ✓ He started his work helping the house sparrow in Nashik.

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- ✓ The theme for World Sparrow Day 2021 is “**I Love Sparrows.**”
- ✓ In 2010, the first World Sparrow Day was observed.

International Happiness Day – March 20

- ✓ Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the International Day of Happiness.
- ✓ The UN in 2015 launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ Bhutan in 1971 talked about Gross National Happiness.
- ✓ This year, the theme of this day is "**Happiness for all, forever.**"
- ✓ The 2021 International Day of Happiness campaign theme is ‘**Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind**’.

UN French Language Day – March 20

- ✓ The event was established by UN's Department of Public Information in 2010.
- ✓ It is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- ✓ It also aims to promote equal use of all six official languages of the United Nations.
- ✓ These are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.
- ✓ The days are as follows Arabic (18 December), Chinese (20 April), English (23 April), French (20 March), Russian (6 June), Spanish (23 April).

- ✓ In 2020 the Portuguese language was added as UN Portuguese Language Day on 5th May.

World Puppetry Day – March 21

- ✓ The idea came from the puppet theatre artist Javad Zolfaghari from Iran.
- ✓ The Jim Henson Company of the USA has remained a leader in family entertainment for over 60 years and is recognized as an innovator in puppetry.
- ✓ Puppetry is a form of theatre or performance that involves the manipulation of puppets – inanimate objects.

World Oral Health Day – March 21

- ✓ The theme for the next three years, 2021-2023 is “**Be Proud Of Your Mouth**”.
- ✓ It is an initiative of FDI World Dental Federation.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21

- ✓ In 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.
- ✓ On that day, in 1960, police opened fire at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws.

- ✓ This year, the theme for this day is "**Youth standing up against racism**".

World Down Syndrome Day (WSDS) - March 21

- ✓ It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011.
- ✓ The 21st day of March (the 3rd month of the year) was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome.
- ✓ Down syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21.

World Poetry Day – March 21

- ✓ It was declared by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999.
- ✓ It is with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.

International Day of Forests (IDF) - March 21

- ✓ It was observed for the first time in 2013.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is "**Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being**".

- ✓ This year's theme fits into the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a call for the protection and revival of ecosystems around the world.
- ✓ The International Year of Forests is established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011.

World Water Day – March 22

- ✓ The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was in 1993.
- ✓ UN-Water is the convener for World Water Day.
- ✓ The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year around World Water Day.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 was "**Valuing Water**" and "**a conversation about what water means to you**".
- ✓ The theme of each day focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which is in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

World Meteorological Day – March 23

- ✓ The World Meteorological Day has been observed on March 23 each year since 1961.
- ✓ The WMO came into existence on March 23, 1950.
- ✓ The theme for this year is '**The Ocean, our climate and weather**'.
- ✓ It is in conjunction with the launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable (2021-30).

- ✓ The International Meteorological Organization was established at the first International Meteorological Congress in Vienna, Austria, in 1873.
- ✓ The International Meteorological Organization became the World Meteorological Organization on March 23, 1950.

World Tuberculosis Day – March 24

- ✓ 24 March commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert announced that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus.
- ✓ The theme of World TB Day 2021 - '**The Clock is Ticking**'.
- ✓ Tuberculosis is one of the biggest health issues in India.
- ✓ In 2020 the Indian government announced to eliminate TB from the country by 2025 through its National TB Elimination Program.
- ✓ Nikshay Poshan Yojana is a government scheme in India to provide 500 rupees per month for tuberculosis patients to buy food.
- ✓ It is one of eleven official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).

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International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members - March 25

- ✓ The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is marked each year on the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett.
- ✓ He is a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.
- ✓ This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the nongovernmental community and the press.

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade - March 25

- ✓ The International Day is observed to offer opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system.
- ✓ The International Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

The Earth Hour 2021 - March 27

- ✓ Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March month.

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- ✓ This is to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet.
- ✓ The Earth Hour 2021 theme will focus on “**Climate Change to Save Earth.**”
- ✓ The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ✓ It encourages individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- ✓ It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007.

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