

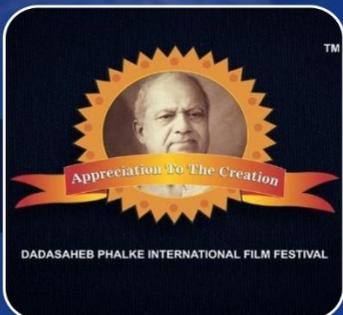


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THE HINDU REVIEW FEBRUARY 2021

Current
Affairs

Monthly
Capsule



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The Most Important Current Affairs February 2021

Union Budget 2021-22 is Being Presented by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** is presenting the **Union Budget 2021** for the 3rd time in a row. The Union Budget is the yearly financial report estimating the income and expenditure presented to outline future policies to be adopted by the government for sustainable growth and development. The **Economic Survey 2020-21** was released on 29th January 2021 by the Chief Economic Advisor of India, **Krishnamurthy Subramanian**. According to the survey, India's economy could **contract 7.7 per cent** in the financial year that ends on March 31.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman concluded her Budget speech at 12.50 pm. In February 2020, FM Nirmala Sitharaman spoke for a record **162 minutes – two hours and 42 minutes –** in **Lok Sabha**. FM Sitharaman only had two pages of her Budget speech unread, when she appeared uneasy and her Budget speech was cut short.

Here are the key highlights from the Union Budget 2021-22:

- Total COVID-19 support measures amount to **13 per cent of GDP** and total COVID-19 support measures by government and RBI amounts to **Rs 27.1 lakh crore**. The '**Aatmanirbhar**' Packages accelerated India's rate of reform.
- India has two **COVID-19 vaccines** available and we expect two more vaccines soon. India currently also has one of the lowest death rate and active cases in the world. India's economic contraction is due to a global pandemic. The government is fully prepared to support and facilitate economic reset.
- Three times has a Budget followed contraction in the economy. Vision for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Part-A of the Budget speech. '**Aatmanirbharta**' consists of doubling farm income and strong infrastructure. It consists of good governance and women empowerment. Proposals for the FY22 Budget rests on 6 pillars.

- First of six pillars Aatmanirbhar Yojana in addition to the **National Health Mission** introduce the Aatmanirbhar Health Yojana with an outlay of **Rs 64,180 crore** over six years. This will strengthen the **National Centre for Disease Control**. Besides this, the government will also set up **15 Health Emergency Centres**.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** with an outlay of **Rs 2.87 lakh crore** to cover houses and to be implemented over **five years**. Budget 2021 will also launch **Mission Poshan 2.0**. Besides this, the launch of urban '**Swachh Bharat Mission**' 2.0 with an outlay of **Rs 1.42 lakh crore** has been made.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced voluntary vehicle scrapping policy. Vehicles to undergo fitness test – which is **20 years** for passenger vehicles and **15 years** for commercial vehicles. Further details of the **scrappage policy** to be announced shortly.
- Fitness testing for both **PVs and CVs** a positive move to create not only employment opportunities but a move that will ensure a cleaner environment as part of the **Health Infrastructure pillar**. This will also boost demand for **more cleaner vehicles**.
- The government has set an ambitious target of **building infrastructure in the country**. But funding these infrastructure projects would have posed a steep challenge because of the revenue constraints and the stress on the loan books of banks. FM Sitharaman is likely to announce a dedicated **development financial institution to facilitate the financing** of greenfield infrastructure projects.

NRA-CET Ready

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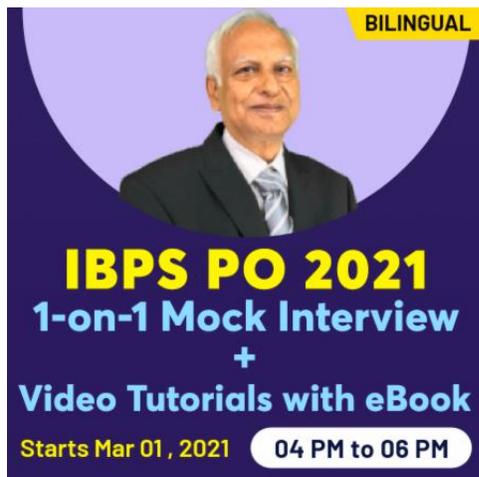
Bilingual (with eBooks)

12+12 Months Validity

- **Rs 35,000 crore** to be allocated for further funds for COVID-19 vaccines. we will provide more for **COVID-19 vaccines if required**. The private sector may be kept out of vaccination efforts it appears, a disappointment for them. At a blended cost of **Rs255/dose** (in the first phase), that will cover 2 doses of the vaccine for **68.6 crore people in FY22**.
- Government has committed **Rs 1.97 lakh crore** for **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)** covering 13 sectors. Further, **7 textile parks** will be launched for over **three years**.
- **National Infrastructure Pipeline** has been expanded to **7,400 projects**. Further, projects worth **Rs 1.1 lakh crore** have been completed under the National Infra Pipeline. The government will also introduce a bill to set up **DFI providing Rs 20,000 crore** to launch the **National Asset Monetisation Pipeline** to fund new infra projects.
- The FM has announced that a Bill will be introduced to set up a DFI or developmental financial institution to fund long-term infra projects with a capital of **Rs 20,000 crore**. **Rs 5 lakh crore** will be lent by DFI in three years time.
- An asset monetisation dashboard will be created to provide clarity to investors. For 2021-22; capital expenditure is seen at **Rs 5.54 lakh crore** which is up by **34.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY)**.
- NHAH has sponsored one InVit to attract investors. Thus 5 operational roads with **Rs 5,000 crore** value being transferred to NHAH InVit. NHAH operational roll roads are to be monetised.
- Meanwhile, Railways will monetise dedicated **freight corridors** after commissioning. The next lot of airports will also be monetised for operations and management. AAI airports in tier-2,3 cities and other railway assets are to be monetised.
- Amendment in **InvIT and REIT** structures for debt investors will ease fundraising and will provide the momentum to the commercial real estate asset class.
- More than **13,000 km of roads** awarded under **Bharat Mala project**. Around **3,800 km** have been constructed in Bharatmala so far and **8,500 km** to be awarded by **March 2022**. Will complete additional **11,000 km** of NH corridor by March 2022. More economic corridors are being planned – **3,500 km** of NH works are ongoing in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Power transmission assets of Rs 7,000 crore** is to be transferred to **Power Grid InvIT**. The Centre will also provide **Rs 2 lakh crore** to states and autonomous bodies for Capex. We will nudge states for more capital expenditure. FY22 Capex has targetted at **Rs 5.54 lakh crore v/s FY21's Rs 4.39 lakh crore**. The alternatives will be worked out so that consumers could choose from more than one power distribution companies. It's a positive for **Tata Power**.
- Bloomberg reports that fiscal deficit will be **9.8 per cent** of the GDP for FY21 and **6.8 per cent** for FY22.
- The government will allot **Rs 1.03 lakh crore** for National Highway Projects in Tamil Nadu; **Rs 65,000 crore** for National Highway Projects in Kerala; **Rs 25,000 crore** for National Highway Projects in West Bengal.
- The Eastern Freight Corridor is to be taken up this year via **PPP mode**. Further, three future dedicated freight corridors – **East Coast, East-west, North-south are in works**. These will have an automatic system on high-density rail routes to avoid collisions. Complete, **100% electrification of broad-gauge rail routes** will be done by **December 2023**.
- Proposed to update the definition of small companies to be raised up to **rs crore** from **Rs 50 lakh net worth**.
- **Rs 2,217 crore** for **42 urban centres** with a million-plus population, to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution.
- Supplementary Nutrition Programme and **POSHAN Abhiyaan** to be merged, Mission **POSHAN 2.0** to be launched, To strengthen nutritional content, delivery and outcome, Intensified strategy for improving nutritional outcomes in aspirational districts.
- In Budget 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced **Rs 1.1 lakh crore** for Indian Railways.
- A record **Rs 1,10,055 crore** has been provided for Indian Railways. Out of the total, **Rs 1,07,100 crore** will be provided for capital expenditure in 2021-22, says FM Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The government plans to sell part of its holding in **Life Insurance Corporation of India** through an **initial public offering** in the coming year. An amendment to the existing Act to facilitate the public offer, says FM Nirmala Sitharaman.

- The government plans to further strengthen the **NCLT framework** and continue with the e-court system for **faster resolution of bad debts**. A separate framework for MSMEs will also be made by the government.
- Strategic disinvestment of companies including **BPCL, Air India, Pawan Hans, IDBI Bank, Container Corporation of India** to be completed in 2021-22, Sitharaman has announced. The government will ask **Niti Aayog** to start working on identifying the next list of companies for strategic sale.
- FM announces further infusion of **Rs 20,000 crore** for public sector banks.
- **FDI** in insurance sector proposed to be hiked to **74% from 49% now**.
- **Rs 1,000 crore** to solar energy corporation and **Rs 1,500** to renewable energy development agency.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announces a new gas pipeline project for **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Centre to provide **Rs 18,000 crore** for **public buses**, announces FM.
- FM Sitharaman proposes an increase in agriculture credit target to **Rs 16.5 lakh crore**. "The MSP regime has undergone a change to assure price that is at least **1.5 times** the cost of production across all commodities. The total amount paid to paddy farmers surged to **Rs 1.72 lakh crore in 2020-21**."
- The government has announced the extension of benefits of the **Ujjawala scheme** to an additional **1 crore people**. The scheme, which provides **LPG connections** with financial assistance from the central government and currently benefits **12 crore households**, will be extended further to provide **clean cheap cooking fuel**.
- The government has announced an **independent gas transport system operator** for booking and coordination to ensure for unbiased allocation of natural gas transportation capacity. The government aims to address concerns of bias in the allocation of gas transportation capacity by players such as Gail involved in both the supply and transportation of natural gas.
- FM says the definition of small companies to be revised by raising the capital base to **Rs 2 cr** from the current limit of **Rs 50 lakh**.
- FM puts disinvestment receipts at **Rs 1.75 lakh cr** for the fiscal year beginning **April 1, 2021**. Two PSBs and one general insurance company to be divested, legislations amendments to be introduced in this session.
- The government has allocated close to **Rs 3.60 lakh crore** in the Budget towards launching a "**revamped**", reforms-based, result-linked power distribution sector scheme.
- **National Education Policy** got a good reception, FM said. "**Over 15,000 schools** to be qualitatively strengthened under the National Education Policy.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earmarks **Rs 1,500 crore** for promoting a digital mode of payment.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an allocation of **Rs 300 crore** to the state of **Goa** for **celebrating the 60th anniversary of the liberation from Portuguese rule**.
- **Social security benefits** to be extended to gig and platform workers. Minimum wages will apply to all categories of workers and will be covered under **ESIC**. This will impact around 15 million gig workers in India, in addition to online platform providers across sectors such as **transportation (Uber and Ola), food delivery (Swiggy and Zomato), and the contract workers in IT and software firms**.
- FM announces a special scheme for the **welfare of women and children in Assam and West Bengal**. **Rs 1,000 crore** for **Bengal, Assam tea workers**.
- Fiscal deficit estimated at **9.5% of GDP for 2020-21**. Fiscal deficit for 2021-22 at **6.8%** of GDP.
- Forthcoming Census could be **India's first digital Census**, says Sitharaman allocating **Rs 3,768 crore** for **FY-21**.
- Allocation to rural infra development increased to **Rs 40,000 cr** in next fiscal from **Rs 30,000 crore** in FY21.
- FM announces development of **5 major fishing hubs**.
- **1,000 more mandis** will be integrated with the electronic national market.
- **Central University** to be set up in **Leh, Ladakh**.
- **Operation green scheme** to cover **22 more perishable commodities**.

- **Social security** benefits will be extended to gig and platform workers. Minimum wages will apply to all categories of workers. Women will be allowed to work in all categories and also in night shifts with adequate protection. To further extend efforts towards unorganised labour force, I propose to launch a portal to collect relevant information on gig workers, building/construction workers among others. **It'll help formulate health, housing, skill, insurance credit & food schemes for migrant workers.**
- **Non-resident individuals with entrepreneurial potential** are now enabled to **set up One Person Companies (OPC)** with no paid-up capital and turnover restrictions, reducing registration timeline from **182 days to 120 days**. Earlier only **Indian resident citizens** were permitted to set up OPCs. This would be attractive to the Indian Diaspora.
- In the **75th year of Independence of our country**, we shall reduce the compliance burden **on senior citizens**. For senior citizens who only have a pension and interest income, I propose exemption of filing of income tax returns: FM
- In serious tax evasion cases, only where there is evidence of concealment of income of **Rs 50 lakh or more in a year**, can reassessment be opened for **10 years**. For others, assessment reopening **only for 3 years**.
- NRIs to be spared from double taxation. New rules to be notified. Tax audit limit increased from **Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore**.
- Govt proposes setting up of a conciliatory mechanism for quick resolution of contractual disputes.
- Govt proposes to introduce the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill**.
- Govt proposes **national language translation initiative**.
- Govt proposes deep ocean mission with an outlay of more than **Rs 4,000 cr** over five years.
- The government has given relief measures for senior citizens by removing the need to file income tax returns for those **aged over 75 years**. It has also announced a halving of the time frame for reopening of income-tax assessment cases from **6 years to 3 years**. For reopening of serious tax evasion cases **up to 10 years**, the government has put in a monetary limit of cases involving over **Rs 50 lakh in a year**. This is expected to reduce instances of tax harassment of income taxpayers.
- Late deposit of employee's contribution to PF by employers will not be allowed as a **deduction to the employer**.
- Tax holiday for start-ups increased by one more year - till **March 31, 2022**.
- NRIs allowed operating **One Person Companies or OPCs in India**.
- Tax exemption for **aircraft** leasing company may finally see India getting its first player in this aviation segment. Till now, the Indian aviation industry is dominated by lessors from **Ireland and Hong Kong**.
- Customs duty on copper scrap cut to **2.5 per cent**. Customs duty on some auto parts to be raised to **15 per cent**.
- No deduction to employers for late deposit of employee contribution to **Provident Fund**.
- To extend eligibility for startups to claim tax holiday by **1 year**.
- Nifty Metal index drops by nearly **2 per cent** from its top as custom duties on **steel and copper are reduced**.
- Easing Compliance requirements of Small Companies - Threshold increased to Share Capital up to **Rs.2 crore** and Turnover up to **Rs.20 crore** will be Small Companies.
- **National Language Translation Mission** will be set up to boost regional languages and translation for our regional speakers. This will phenomenally help in increasing the utilisation of internet services and augment the vision of **digital India!**



- 100 new Sainik #schools will be set up in partnership with the NGOs, private schools and States.
- Exemption duty on steel scrap up to **March 2022**; customs duty on naphtha cut to **2.5 pc**: FM
- Rationalising customs duties on **gold and silver** says FM in Budget for 2021-22
- Customs duty on cotton increased to **10%**, **silk to 15%**
- Customs duty on solar lanterns cut to **5%**.
- The Finance minister surprised taxpayers by not announcing any change in income tax slab rates. Some relief in filing ITR for senior citizens above 75. **No Covid tax, surcharges on income tax.**

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021 announced

The prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards 2021** were announced, to honour the best in Indian cinema, television, music, and OTT. Late actor **Sushant Singh Rajput** was posthumously awarded '**Critics Best Actor**' for his performance in **Dil Bechara**.

The winner of the Award for 2021 are as follows:

1. Best Actor (Female): **Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak**
2. Best Actor (Male): **Akshay Kumar, Laxmii**
3. Critic's Best Actress: **Kiara Advani, Guilty**
4. Critic's Best Actor: **Late Sushant Singh Rajput, Dil Bechara**
5. Best Film: **Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior**
6. Best International Feature Film: **Parasite Most Versatile Actor - Kay Kay Menon**
7. Best Director: **Anurag Basu, Ludo**
8. Best Actor in a Supporting Role: **Vikrant Massey, Chhapaak**
9. Best Actress in Supporting Role: **Radhika Madan, Angrezi Medium**
10. Best Actor in Comic Role: **Kunal Kemmu, Lootcase**
11. Best Actor (Web Series): **Bobby Deol, Aashram**
12. Best Actress (Web Series): **Sushmita Sen, Aarya**
13. Best Web Series: **Scam (1992)**
14. Album of the Year: **Titliyaan**
15. Best Television Series: **Kundali Bhagya**
16. Photographer of the Year: **Daboo Ratnani**
17. Style Diva of the Year: **Divya Khosla Kumar**

18. Best Actress in Television Series: **Surbhi Chandna**
19. Best Actor in Television Series: **Dheeraj Dhoopar**
20. Performer of the Year: **Nora Fatehi**
21. Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry: **Dharmendra**
22. Outstanding Contribution to Literature in Indian Cinema: **Chetan Bhagat**

About the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival:

The **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival** is a unique platform to honour and encourage the most creative Artists, Creators, filmmakers, and to infuse life into their career. DFIFF hosts the Most Prestigious Award Function to honour and appreciate the Entertainment & Film Industry and commemorate those deserving storyteller, creative writers, passionate filmmakers, and maverick artists who are part of great Indian cinema.

Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka wins Australian Open 2021

In tennis, Japan's **Naomi Osaka** won her **fourth Grand Slam title** on February 20, 2021, after she beat **American Jennifer Brady** in the women's singles game of the Australian Open final 2021. The four Grand Slam title for Osaka comes two Australian Open titles (2021 and 2019) and two US Open title (2018 and 2020). In Men's singles final, **Novak Djokovic** claimed his ninth Australian Open crown and the 18th Major Grand Slam overall, as he defeated Daniil Medvedev.

Winners of Australian Open 2021:

- Men's Singles: **Novak Djokovic** (Serbia) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
- Women's Singles: **Naomi Osaka** (Japan) defeated Jennifer Brady (US)
- Men's Doubles: **Ivan Dodig** of Croatia and **Filip Polášek** (Slovakia) defeated Rajeev Ram (US) and Joe Salisbury (UK)
- Women's Doubles: **Elise Mertens** (Belgium) and **Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus) defeated Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
- Mixed Doubles: **Barbora Krejčíková** (Czech Republic) and **Rajeev Ram** of the US defeated the Australian pair of Samantha Stosur and Matthew Ebden.

Spacecraft Named in Honor of Black Woman 'hidden Figures' Mathematician

A space supply ship, **Cygnus NG-15 cargo** dubbed as '**S.S. Katherine Johnson** has been named in honour of Katherine Johnson, a **Black NASA mathematician**, who played a critical role in the success of the first U.S. crewed spaceflight, **Mercury-Atlas 6 Mission**. The S.S. Katherine Johnson arrived on February 22, 2021, and will be at the **International Space Station until May 2021**.

Cygnus NG-15 cargo:

- A Northrop **Grumman-built Cygnus cargo ship**, a space supply ship, was launched by NASA on February 20, 2021, from Virginia to carry vital supplies for astronauts on the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- The launch coincided with the **59th anniversary of America's first orbit** around the Earth. On 20 February 1962, astronaut John Glenn, became the first American to orbit Earth.
- The space supply ship carried more than **8,200 lbs. (3,719 kilograms)** of cargo including scientific equipment, fresh food and supplies, new hardware and spacewalk equipment for the seven astronauts onboard the International Space Station.

About Katherine Johnson:

Mrs Johnson was a pioneering mathematician known for her hand-written calculations. She helped astronaut John Glenn, to become the first American to orbit Earth, after personally verifying his Mercury missions' orbital trajectory calculations. Her contributions were also featured in the Oscar-nominated film Hidden Figures.

Indian-American Bhavya Lal appointed Acting Chief of Staff of NASA

Indian-American **Bhavya Lal** was appointed by NASA as the **Acting Chief of Staff** of the US space agency. She served as a member of the **Biden Presidential Transition Agency Review Team for the agency** and oversaw the agency's transition under the administration of President Joe Biden. Lal brings extensive experience in engineering and space technology, serving as a member of the research staff at the **Institute for Defence Analyses Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI)** from 2005 to 2020.

About the Bhavya Lal:

- Bhavya Lal led the analysis of space technology, strategy, and policy for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Space Council, as well as federal space-oriented organisations, including **NASA, the Department of Defence**, and the intelligence community.
- Lal is an active member of the space technology and policy community, having chaired, co-chaired, or served on five high-impact **National Academy of Science committees**.
- She served two consecutive terms on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Federal Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing and was an External Council member of NASA's Innovative Advanced Concepts Program and the Technology, Innovation and Engineering Advisory Committee of the **NASA Advisory Council**.

UN World Tourism Organization confirms 2020 as 'worst year on record'

In accordance with the latest **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO) "World Tourism Barometer"**, the year 2020 was the **"worst year on record"** as global tourism suffered adversely due to international travel bans implemented to contain the **COVID-19 outbreak**. International arrivals dropped by 74% & worldwide destinations welcomed 1 billion fewer international arrivals than in 2019.

This collapse in travel represents an estimated loss of **\$1.3 trillion** in export revenues, more than 11 times less during the **2009 crisis**. On the regional front, Asia and the Pacific aced sharpest year-on-year contraction of **84% (-84%)**. It was followed by the Middle East (-75%) and Europe (-70%).

'Atmanirbharta' named Oxford Hindi word of 2020

Oxford Languages, the world's leading dictionary publisher, has named '**Aatmanirbharta**' as the **Hindi word of the year 2020**. The Oxford Hindi word of the year is a word or expression that is chosen to reflect the

ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year, and have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance. 'Aatmanirbharta' means **self-reliance**. The word was chosen as it "validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic".

RBI releases Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes for 2019-20

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the **Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes** for the year 2019-20. There was an increase of around **65 per cent** in the receipt of complaints out of which almost **92 per cent** have been disposed of. RBI has three **Ombudsman-Banking, Non-Banking Finance Company (i.e. NBFC) and digital transactions**. A common man can approach this Ombudsman for their grievances.

As per the RBI's report, all three received in total **3,30,543 complaints** in 19-20 as compared to **2,00,362 in 18-19**. Banking Ombudsman received major complaints regarding ATM & Debit Cards, Mobile & Electronic Banking while NBFC's Ombudsmen received most complaints about non-observance of regulatory guidelines, lack of transparency in contract/ loan agreement and levy of charges without notice.

Important Points:

- The Banking Ombudsman received major complaints regarding **ATM & Debit Cards, Mobile & Electronic Banking**.
- NBFC's Ombudsman received most complaints about non-observance of regulatory guidelines, lack of transparency in contract/ loan agreement and levy of charges without notice.
- Digital Transactions Ombudsmen received most complaints about fund transfer. RBI has taken various measures for creating awareness among various stakeholders to minimise the grievances.
- As announced in the Monetary Policy Statement last week, the three Ombudsman Schemes are being merged and integrated into a single scheme which will be rolled out starting from June this year.

Steve Smith claims Allan Border Medal for third time in his career

Former Australian captain **Steve Smith** won the **third Allan Border Medal** of his career at the Australian Cricket Awards for the period 2020-21. The Allan Border Medal recognises the most outstanding male Australian cricketer of the past season as voted by his peers, the media and umpires.

Apart from this, **Beth Mooney** bagged Belinda Clarke Award, the top honour for a female player at the Australian Cricket Awards. This is the maiden Belinda Clarke Award for Mooney.

List of 2021 Australian Cricket Awards:

- Belinda Clark Award: Beth Mooney.
- Allan Border Medal: Steve Smith.
- Men's Test Player of the Year: Pat Cummins.
- Women's One Day International Player of the Year: Rachel Haynes.
- Male One Day International Player of the Year: Steve Smith.
- Female International Twenty20 Player of the Year: Beth Mooney.
- Male International Twenty20 Player of the Year: Ashton Agar.
- Female Domestic Player of the Year: Elyse Villani.
- Male Domestic Player of the Year: Shaun Marsh.
- Betty Wilson Young Cricketer of the Year: Hannah Darlington.
- Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year: Will Sutherland.
- Community Impact Award: Joshua Lalor.
- Hall of Fame inductions: Johnny Mullagh, Merv Hughes, Lisa Sthalekar.

World Unani Day: 11 February

World Unani Day has observed every year on **11th February**. The main objective of World Unani Day is to spread awareness about health care delivery through the Unani system of medicine through its preventive and curative philosophy. This day is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of great Unani scholar and social reformer **Hakim Ajmal Khan**. The first Unani Day was celebrated in **2017** at **Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad**.

What is the Unani system of medicine?

- The Unani system of medicine has a long and impressive record in India. It was introduced in India by the Arabs and Persians sometime around the eleventh century.
- It has the largest number of Unani educational, research and health care institutions.
- The Unani system of medicine originated in Greece. Its foundation was laid by Hippocrates.
- The system owes its present form to the Arabs who not only saved much of the Greek literature by rendering it into Arabic but also enriched the medicine of their day with their own contributions.

About Hakim Ajmal Khan:

Hakim Ajmal Khan was an eminent Indian Unani physician who was a versatile genius, a great scholar, a social reformer, a noted freedom fighter, an Unani medical educationist and founder of scientific research in Unani System of Medicine. He was one of the founders of the **Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi**.

Samarpan Diwas: Deen Dayal Upadhyay Death Anniversary

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** pays floral tribute to former **Bharatiya Jana Sangh** leader **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya** on his **53rd death anniversary** as part of 'Samarpan Diwas', in New Delhi on Feb. 11, 2021. Deendayal Upadhyaya was an Indian politician and thinker of right-wing Hindutva ideology espoused by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and leader of the political party Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party.

RBI constitutes 8-member expert panel for strengthening Urban Co-operative Banks

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted an eight-member expert committee on Primary (**Urban**) **Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to examine issues and suggest a road map for strengthening the sector. The committee will be chaired by the former RBI Deputy Governor **N. S. Vishwanathan**.

Role of the Committee

- Assess the regulatory measures taken by the RBI and other authorities in respect of UCBs and their impact over the last five years to identify key constraints and enablers in fulfilment of their socio-economic objective.

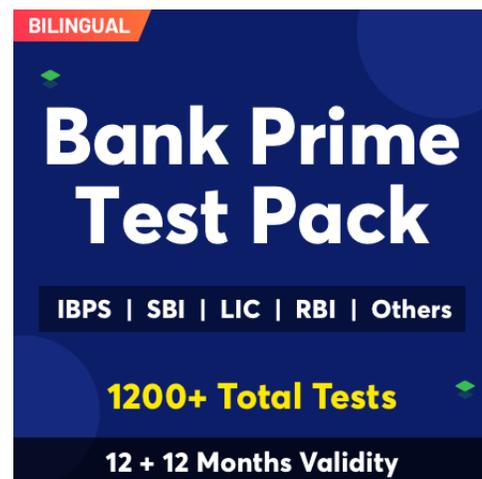
- Review the current regulatory approach and recommend suitable measures to strengthen the sector.
- Suggest effective measures for faster rehabilitation and resolution of UCBs and assess the potential for consolidation in the sector

Other members

- **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala:** Former Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD),
- **Mukund Chitale:** Chartered Accountant
- **NC Muniyappa and RN Joshi:** retired Indian Administrative Service officers
- **MS Sriram:** IIM Bengaluru Professor
- **Jyotindra Mehta:** President of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies
- **Neeraj Nigam:** Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Regulation, RBI

Four Women Scientists wins SERB Women Excellence Award 2021

The **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, a statutory body of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** has announced the SERB Women Excellence Award for the year 2021, on the occasion of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**. Four young women fellows of **National Science Academies** have been awarded **SERB Women Excellence Award 2021**.



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1200+ Total Tests

12 + 12 Months Validity

The winners include:

- **Dr Shobhna Kapoor** - Assistant Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, working in the area of Chemical Biology with expertise in 'Host-Pathogen Interactions and Membrane Biology, Chemical Biology and Biophysics'
- **Dr Antara Banerjee** - Scientist B National Institute For Research In Reproductive Health, Mumbai, Maharashtra from the Health Sciences area with expertise in Signal Transduction, Biology of Reproduction and Endocrinology,
- **Dr Sonu Gandhi** - Scientist D from National Institute Of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad from Bionanotechnology area focusing on Nanosensors, Design and Fabrication of Label-free Biosensors
- **Dr Ritu Gupta** - Assistant Professor at Indian Institute Of Technology Jodhpur, Rajasthan working on Nanotechnology with expertise in Materials Science, Nanodevices and Sensors, Health & Energy

About SERB Women Excellence Award 2021

- It is a one-time award being presented by **SERB** to women scientists since **2013** to support basic research in the frontier areas of science and engineering.
- The women scientists should be below **40 years of age**.
- She must have received recognition from any one or more of the **National Academies** such as **Young Scientist Medal, Young Associateship, etc.**
- The award provides a grant of **Rs. 15 lakhs** for a period of three years to the awardees to pursue their research ideas.

**Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
launches Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan**

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched the **Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan** under **Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban**. The **Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan** has been launched in 10 cities, which are **Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur**. The motive of the **Jal Jeevan Mission Urban** is to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all 4,378 statutory towns in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal - 6.

Objective:

To ascertain the equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies with respect to quantity and quality of water through a challenging process.

Outlay:

The Government has proposed a total outlay of **Rs 2.87 lakh crore** for JJM (U) in fiscal 2021-22, which includes **Rs. 10,000 crore** for continuing financial support to **AMRUT Mission**.

**Bhim Army's Chandra Shekhar Azad named in
TIME's list**

Bhim Army Chief **Chandra Shekhar Aazad** and five Indian-origin personalities have been featured in the **2021 TIME100 Next**. **TIME100 Next 2021** is the **second edition** of the annual list of **Time magazine's 100 'emerging leaders who are shaping the future.'**

About Bhim Army:

Bhim Army is a **Dalit rights organisation** based in **Uttar Pradesh** to help Dalits escape poverty through education. It was founded by **Satish Kumar, Vijay Ratan Singh and Chandrashekhara Azad** in 2015.

The five Indian-origin persons in Time100 Next list are:

- Twitter lawyer: **Vijaya Gadde**
- UK's Finance Minister: **Rishi Sunak**
- Instacart founder and CEO: **Apoorva Mehta**
- Get Us PPE executive director and doctor: **Shikha Gupta**
- Founder of nonprofit Upsolve's: **Rohan Pavuluri**

**India-Australia circular Economy Hackathon (I-
ACE)**

The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi** addressed the valedictory function of the **India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)** via videoconferencing. A circular economy implies reusing waste back into the production cycle to make new products instead of wasting such materials with embedded resources.

The I-ACE was jointly organized by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Government of India and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia. More than 200 participants in 39 teams from India and 33 teams from Australia took part.

Four key themes for the hackathon

- Innovation in packaging reducing packaging waste
- Innovation in food supply chains avoiding waste
- Creating opportunities for plastic waste reduction
- Recycling critical energy metals and e-waste

Objective:

- To enable the students and startups/MSMEs of both nations in fostering innovative solutions for the development of a circular economy across the food system value chain with the aim of increasing the long-term health and resilience of our planet, through innovative technology solutions.
- I-ACE aims to accelerate the development of young and promising students and startups/MSMEs working towards the creation of a sustainable future.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- According to RBI, the licence of **Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank** has been cancelled as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank. With the cancellation of licence the process of paying the depositors as per the **DICGC Act, 1961** will be set in motion.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has decided to restrict its customers from withdrawing money from **non-EMV automated teller machines (ATMs)** with effect from **01 February 2021**, in an attempt to check frauds, related to money transactions. This restriction will apply to both, financial and non-financial transactions. To overcome this, PNB will introduce **OTP based systems for withdrawing cash**.
- **Federal Bank** has announced the launch of "FedFirst", a special **savings account scheme** for children below **18 years of age**. The account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits, thereby giving them the freedom to **save, spend and earn**.

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that it will purchase four government securities (G-Secs) that amount to **₹20,000 crores**. The central bank will purchase it on February 10, 2021, under the **open market operations (OMOs)**. This move was announced in aftermath of the yields that were moving up to touch the intra-day high of **6.1634 per cent recently**. The RBI was concerned about the higher government borrowing.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched the **Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** from February 8-12, 2021, to propagate financial education. RBI conducts Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since **2016** to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme every year across the country, through a focused campaign. The theme for 2021 FLW is "**Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions**".
- The **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** will provide **USD 400 million** to the **Maldives** through **Line of Credit (LoC)** to fund the **Greater Male Connectivity Project**. The agreement under the LoC will be effective from **January 28, 2021**. The **6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)** will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in the Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands - **Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi**.
- Private general insurer **ICICI Lombard** has launched the '**Corporate India Risk Index**'. This is intended to be a unified, standardised corporate risk index that spans industries and companies. This will help companies understand the level of risk that their business is facing and also assist in developing a successful risk aversion plan. It has worked with consulting firm Frost and Sullivan to develop the risk measurement tool.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has permitted resident individuals to make remittances under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** to **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** in the country. The decision of the RBI is aimed at deepening the financial markets in the IFSCs and providing an opportunity for resident individuals to diversify their portfolios. The RBI has reviewed the extant guidelines on LRS and decided to permit resident individuals to make remittances under LRS to IFSCs set up in India under the **Special Economic Zone Act, 2005**.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has brought the **State Bank of Sikkim** under its regulation. Till now, RBI had the right and obligation to function as a banker to all the state government except for the **state government of Sikkim**. Now the bank will be regulated by the RBI on a par with other banks, however, the bank's ownership structure will not change.
- The **RBI** has roped in Punjabi singer-rapper **Viruss** in its public awareness campaign. The campaign also includes **Viruss' popular 2017 Indie hit 'Bam Bhole'** that was recreated for **Akshay Kumar-Kiara Advani starrer Laxmii**. As cyber frauds continue to increase, the Reserve Bank of India has undertaken an unusual measure to spread awareness.
- **State Bank of India** has tied up with **JPMorgan** to use the US bank's blockchain technology to speed up overseas transactions. The tie-up is expected to reduce SBI customers' transaction costs and time taken for payments. SBI has joined **Liink**, a new blockchain-based interbank data network developed by JPMorgan. By integrating the technology, the bank expects to reduce transaction costs and improve cross-border payments for its customers.
- In the last bi-monthly monetary policy meet for the current, the **Reserve Bank of India** projected India's GDP growth rate at **10.5 per cent** for the fiscal year **2021-22**. The growth outlook has improved significantly, and the vaccination drive will further boost the economic rebound.
- The **S&P Global Ratings** has projected that India will be one of the fastest-growing emerging market economies in the fiscal year 2021-22, with a GDP growth rate of **10 per cent**. The continuous good performance by the agriculture sector, flattening of COVID-19 infection curve, pickup in government spending and the recently released budget are some of the factors for the positive growth prospect of the country.
- **HSBC** has raised its growth forecasts for India in the coming fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22), from **9 per cent** to **11.2 per cent**, following a pick up in business activity and a steady fall in COVID cases. The 2020-21 GDP forecast of India by HSBC remains **-6.3 per cent**, as projected earlier.
- The US-based rating agency **Moody's** has revised its growth projection for India, and now expects the economy to **contract 7 per cent** in fiscal **2020-21 (FY21)**. This is lower than its previous estimate of **10.6 per cent contraction**. For the next financial year, FY22, beginning April 1, Moody's has projected the economy to grow to **13.7 per cent**, as compared to **10.8 per cent** estimated earlier.

Economy Current Affairs

- The **State Bank of India's (SBI) Economic Research Department** has revised GDP estimates of India for FY21 to **contract 7.0%**. Earlier this was estimated GDP at **-7.4%**. The SBI Research Report has retained its GDP forecast for FY22 at **11 per cent**.
- **India's growth** would bounce back to **10.4%** in the upcoming fiscal according to **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)**. FY22 would broadly be covering the lost ground of FY21. Regarding this reduced allocation to the **rural employment guarantee scheme**. The rating agency expects GDP growth to turn positive at **0.3 per cent** in the January-March quarter of FY21 after shrinking in the first nine months of the year.
- The global forecasting firm **Oxford Economics** has revised India's economic growth projection for the Calendar year 2021 to **10.2 per cent**, compared to a previous estimate of **8.8 per cent**. The reason for the upward revision is the receding COVID-19 risks and the shift in the monetary policy outlook.
- India's rating agency, **ICRA** has projected the Indian economy to **contract 7 percent** in the **current fiscal (FY21)**. For the next fiscal, i.e. FY22 (2021-22), ICRA expects a considerable rebound in India's economic growth to **10.5 per cent** due to higher central government spending, and a pick-up in consumption.
- The GDP growth of India during 2020-21 is estimated to **contract 8 per cent**, as per the second advanced estimates projected by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. This was 4.9 per cent in 2019-20. NSO had projected a GDP contraction of **7.7 percent** in its first advance estimate.

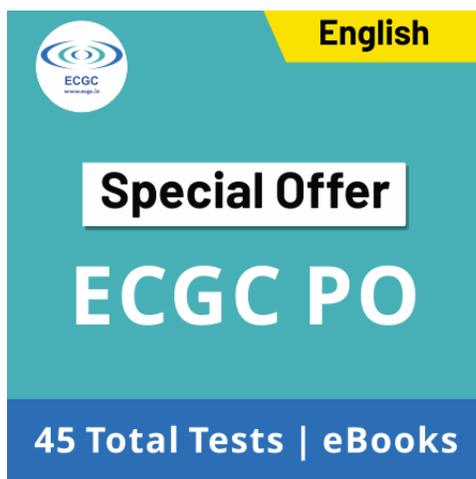
Business Current Affairs

- The California-based global digital payment platform **PayPal** has announced that the company has decided to **wind down** its domestic payment services in India with effect from **April 01, 2021**. The decision has been taken because **the company wants to shift its focus on cross-border payments business**.
- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** has committed to invest **USD 100 million (Rs 727.6 crore)**, into the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF) Fund of Funds (FoF)**. With NDB's investment, the total commitments secured by the FoF has reached **\$800 million (about Rs 5,820 crore)**. This investment marks NDB's first equity investment into India and its first-ever investment into a Fund of Funds.
- The e-commerce company **Flipkart** has partnered with **ICICI Lombard** to offer its customers the '**Group SafeGuard**' insurance, a group health insurance policy. The '**Group SafeGuard**' comes with daily cash benefits starting from **Rs 500**, and '**Hospicash**' benefit for Flipkart consumers.
- **Ford Motor Co** has joined hands with **Alphabet Inc's Google** to cooperate in software, **artificial intelligence and cloud computing**, to develop new consumer services and modernize internal operations. The automaker will deploy Google artificial intelligence technology to improve the efficiency of vehicle development, supply chain and manufacturing operations.

- Digital payments platform, **PhonePe** has announced that it has partnered with **Axis Bank** on a **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** multi-bank model. The partnership will provide PhonePe users with the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with **Axis Bank's "@axl" handle**. This collaboration with PhonePe strengthens our commitment towards digitisation of the **Indian payment ecosystem**. It will help expand our reach to customers and the merchant community while offering secure and seamless payment experiences.
- **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of a **Common Payment Card System (CPCS)** in partnership with the **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)** and **Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL)** to provide citizens with a one-stop solution for making various kind of payments. The prepaid card also facilitates retail payments within Chennai as well as in retail stores and e-commerce websites across the country. This will offer a common payment card platform to residents for making payments for various services within the city.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has announced that **UPI AutoPay** has now gone live on **Gaana**. Its integration with **UPI AutoPay** has made Gaana the 1st player in the Media & Entertainment industry to roll out the innovative e-mandate feature on UPI. The introduction of UPI AutoPay will empower Gaana's users to experience a smooth and seamless mechanism of renewing their subscriptions.

International Current Affairs

- Indian-American **Bhavya Lal** was appointed by **NASA** as the **Acting Chief of Staff** of the US space agency. She served as a member of the **Biden Presidential Transition Agency Review Team for the agency** and oversaw the agency's transition under the administration of President Joe Biden.
- In **Myanmar**, a military coup was put in place on **1st February 2021**, after the country's military detained State Counsellor **Aung San Suu Kyi** along with President **Win Myint** and other members of the ruling party. Myanmar military (also known as the Tatmadaw), took this step because they declared the November **2020 Myanmar general election results fraudulent**, in which Aung San Suu Kyi won a landslide victory in Parliamentary election 2020 to form next Government.



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- The ruling **Community Party of Vietnam** has re-elected its 76-year-old General Secretary **Nguyen Phu Trong** for a **third five-year term**. He is serving the post since **2011**. Trong was granted an exemption to contest in the election, though he was above the age limit of 65. The General Secretary is the highest office within the Communist Party of Vietnam. Trong also holds the position of the **President of Vietnam since 2018**.
- The **Government of Denmark** has approved a project to build the world's first energy island, in the North Sea that will produce and store enough green energy to meet the electricity needs of three million households in **European countries**. The hub will strengthen the integration of Europe's power grids and increase renewable electricity production necessary for a climate-neutral Europe.
- President **Moon Jae-in-led**, South Korea Government has approved a plan to build the world's largest **wind power plant** in the country by **2030**. Currently, the world's largest offshore wind farm is **Hornsea 1 in Britain**, which has 1.12 GW capacity. The project will help to foster an environmentally-friendly recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and fasten the step to achieve the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.
- The **14th International Children's Film Festival of Bangladesh (ICFFB)** came to an end in Dhaka. A total of **12 awards** were presented to the winners at the concluding ceremony. Dutch Film **Jackie and Oopjen** were awarded the **Best International Feature Film Award**. Bangladeshi film **Maati** got **The Young Talent Award** while Lottery won the Special mention under the Young Talent Award.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has put a probe called Hope in the orbit around the **MARS**. UAE has become the fifth country to launch the spacecraft into the orbit of MARS after **United States, Soviet Union, Europe and India**. With the successful launch of spacecraft in orbit, UAE scientists can now study the planet's atmosphere.
- The **Pakistan Army** conducted a successful test-firing of a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile '**Babar**' on February 11, 2021. This test was the third missile test carried out over the past three weeks.
- The former European Central Bank Chief **Mario Draghi** has been sworn in as the **new Prime Minister of Italy** on 12 February 2021.
- The **United States** has extended the "New START" nuclear disarmament treaty with **Russia** for a period of **five years**. The New START, which stands for **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty**, is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.
- The **People's Republic of China** has overtaken the **United States (US)** as the biggest trading partner of the **European Union (EU) in 2020**, according to the data by the European Union statistics agency, Eurostat. **Britain**, which left the European Union in 2020, was the third-largest trading partner for the bloc, behind China and the United States.
- The first day of the spring called '**Pahela Phagun**' was celebrated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** despite the continued shadow of **Corona pandemic in the country**. Cultural organisations held programmes at different venues in the city to herald the beginning of the spring. Programmes were held at the Suhrawardy Udyan, Nandan Manch of Shilpakala Academy and several other locations.
- The Prime Minister of Georgia, **Giorgi Gakharia** has announced his resignation. The 45-year-old Gakharia served as the Prime Minister from **8 September 2019 to 18 February 2021**. He was stepping down because of disagreements within his own team over the decision to arrest **Nika Melia**, chairman of the **United National Movement opposition party**.
- The **United States** has officially rejoined the **Paris Agreement**, under the Presidency of US President **Joe Biden**. Earlier, in November 2020, the US had officially exited the agreement on the order of then-President **Donald Trump**.
- **Israel** has launched a coronavirus "**green pass**" system, which allows people who have been vaccinated to access public facilities that would otherwise be off-limits. As of Sunday COVID-19 inoculation is a sort of status symbol in Israel.
- **China** has regained its position as the **top trading partner of India in 2020**, which was held by the **United States**, since 2018-19. The two-way trade between India and China stood at **\$77.7 billion** in

2020 despite the conflict along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the rising anti-China sentiment. The India-US bilateral trade stood at **\$75.9 billion**, according to provisional data from the commerce ministry. Meanwhile, the **UAE** continues to remain India's **third**-biggest trading partner.

- The **Parliament of Georgia** confirmed **Irakli Garibashvili** as Prime Minister along with a vote of confidence in the cabinet Garibashvili put forward. Garibashvili pledged to create a long-term development strategy for Georgia in his first one hundred days in office.
- Russian supermodel and philanthropist **Natalia Vodianova** has become a **United Nations goodwill ambassador**, to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies. She will be a campaigner for the **UN Population Fund**, which now calls itself the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency, known as UNFPA.

National Current Affairs

- The Union Textiles Minister **Smriti Irani** inaugurated the **8th India International Silk Fair** on Virtual Portal on **31st January 2021**. The five days event is being held on the **Indian Silk Export Promotion Council's** virtual platform due to COVID-19 pandemic. The fair is considered to be India's biggest silk fair.
- The Vice President of India **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the **National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav"** at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi. The Aadi Mahotsav 2021 is being organized from **February 1-15, 2021**. The festival aims to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, the culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Chauri Chaura incident on February 4 via videoconferencing. February 4, 2021 marks 100 years of the 'Chauri Chaura' incident, a landmark event in the country's fight for independence. PM Modi also released a postal stamp dedicated to the Chauri Chaura incident, to mark the beginning of the event. The state government of Uttar Pradesh has planned a year of celebrations in all 75 districts of the state in the memory of the martyrs.

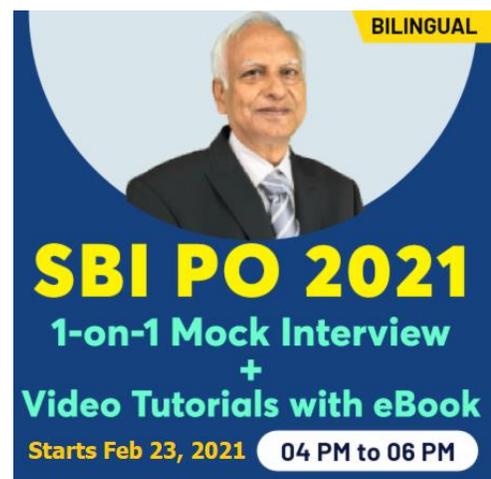
- As per the recent data by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, four more states have completed the reforms in the '**Ease of Doing Business**', as stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The four states are- **Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab**.
- The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, **Kailash Choudhry** has inaugurated the **National Horticulture Fair (NHF) 2021** on February 08, 2021, in **Bengaluru via virtual mode**. The five-day-long event has been organised by the **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)**, from February 8 to February 12 at its IIHR campus situated in **Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru**. The theme of NHF 2021 is '**Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India**'.
- The **Government of India** will organise the first-ever '**The India Toy Fair, 2021**' from February 27, 2021, to March 02, 2021, on a virtual platform. The official website for India Toy Fair-2021 is **www.theindiatoyfair.in**. This initiative is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of making India a global hub for the Toy Industry.
- Union road transport and highways minister, **Nitin Gadkari** has launched India's first-ever diesel tractor, converted to a much cleaner (**compressed natural gas**) **CNG variant**. With this, farmers will be able to save more than **₹1 trillion annually** on fuel cost, which will help them to improve their livelihood.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** recently launched an online portal '**e-Chhawani**' and mobile app, to facilitate '**ease of living**' and '**ease of doing**' for the residents of the Cantonment Boards across the country. The '**e-Chhawani**' portal will provide online municipal services to more than 20 lakh citizens across all 62 Cantonment Boards of India while sitting at home.
- The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has launched an instant messaging platform called "**Sandes**". Similar to WhatsApp, the new **government instant messaging systems (GIMS) platform** can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone using a mobile number or email id.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually launched '**Mahabahu-Brahmaputra**' initiative in **Assam**. He laid the foundation stone for the **Dhubri Phulbari bridge**. PM also perform the bhumi puja for the construction of **Majuli Bridge in Assam**. PM has announced the details stated that the landmark day in the development journey for Assam as Mahabahu-Brahmaputra initiative is going to be launched.
- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Prakash Javadekar**, inaugurated the **Atal Paryavaran Bhavan** at **Lakshadweep**. During the visit, the minister attended high-level meetings with the Secretaries of various departments in the Lakshadweep administration, participated in various official programmes at Suheli, Kadmat and Bangaram islands.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **26th edition** of '**Hunar Haat**' in **New Delhi**. The "Hunar Haat" will be held from February 21 to March 01, 2021, with the theme of "**Vocal for Local**". More than 600 artisans and craftsmen from more than 31 states and UTs are participating.
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri** and Minister of Electronics and IT **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the **National Urban Digital Mission** (NUDM) at a virtual event, to create a digital infrastructure for cities in India. The NUDM has been launched jointly by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** along with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved to dissolve the **Puducherry Assembly** and impose **President's rule** in the Union Territory, following the resignation of the Chief Minister, **V Narayanasamy**, whose government lost majority power in the assembly. The decision was taken as no party claimed to form a government, following which, Lieutenant Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** had recommended President's Rule.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has delivered the inaugural address at the **2nd Khelo India National Winter Games** through a video conference. The second edition of the Khelo India-Winter Games has been organised at the world-famous ski-resort **Gulmarg in the Baramulla** district of **Jammu and Kashmir**.

States Current Affairs

- **Lucknow Metro** has become the 1st metro in the country to use ultraviolet rays to sanitise train coaches. For this, the LMRC has procured UV sanitization apparatus from M/s FB TECH, an Indian firm in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) has taken inspiration from the **New York Metro's experiment** to sanitise trains with UV lamp rays.
- In **Nainital** district of **Uttarakhand**, a first of its kind botanical garden named '**Shivalik Arboretum**' has been inaugurated, for conserving over **210 species of trees** found in the **Shivalik range of Himalayas**. Shivalik Arboretum aims to spread nature education among people so that they are able to feel an emotional connect with the trees, and make them more active towards conservation.
- Punjab Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** has virtually launched the '**Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai**' mission as part of the government's campaign to accomplish the goal of 100 per cent potable piped water supply in all rural households. The scheme is being funded by the **World Bank, Jal Jeevan Mission of GoI, NABARD, and State Budget**.
- The glacier burst took place at the Rishiganga power project after a portion of Nanda Devi glacier broke off in Tapovan area of Joshimath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on 7th February morning and damaged the Rishiganga dam on Alaknanda river. National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC) Tapovan Vishnugad project on Dhauliganga river and Rishi Ganga Power Corporation Ltd's project, with a planned capacity of 520 MW and 13.2 MW, respectively, have been nearly washed away.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the '**Asom Mala**' programme in Dhekiajuli of **Sonitpur district, Assam**. As per the PMO, this initiative will boost the state's road infrastructure and contribute to Assam's economic progress and improve connectivity.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** has introduced a system of issuing a unique **16-digit Unicode** to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state. The main purpose of the system is to check the cases of land disputes, put an end to fake registries of the disputed land and save people from falling into the trap of fraudsters.

- The health department in **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the **Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) campaign**. The main purpose of the campaign is to reduce the death rate due to pneumonia among infants a strategy is being chalked out under the Social awareness campaign in which medical staff is being trained.
- The **Central government** has given its approval for the creation of a **fifth tiger reserve** in **Tamil Nadu** that will encompass the **Meghamalai and Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuaries**. It will be the **51st Tiger Sanctuary of India**.
- The **Karnataka government** issued an official gazette notification to declare **Vijayanagara** as the **31st district of the state**. The new district has been carved out of **Ballari** and named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.
- A **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** was signed between the **Meghalaya police** and the **State Bank of India** for implementation of the e-Challan within the jurisdiction of the **Shillong Traffic Police (STP)**. The e-Challan system which will be launched in the days to come is a digital traffic enforcement solution whereby, imposing penalties on violators of traffic rules and generating of challan will be done digitally.
- **Indian Govt** and **Chhattisgarh Govt** has signed a **\$100 million** for **CHIRAAG (Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth)** project with the **World bank**. The main purpose is to develop sustainable production systems that allow tribal households in remote areas of Chhattisgarh to practice round-the-year production of diversified and nutritious food.
- The state government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched a water conservation campaign called '**Jalabhishekam**', under which more than **57,000 water structures** has been constructed. The campaign was inaugurated by the Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** virtually.
- In order to recognize the sacrifice and services rendered by the **Covid warriors** who lost their lives fighting the pandemic, the government has decided to construct a **Covid Warrior Memorial in Odisha**. The **Biju Patnaik Park** in **Bhubaneswar** has been selected for this purpose.
- The three-day famous "**Mandu Festival**" began at the historic town of **Mandu** in **Dhar district** of **Madhya Pradesh** on February 13, 2021. The festival will culminate on February 15, 2021. The festival is organised by the state government of Madhya Pradesh to showcase each and every aspect of the **ancient Mandu city, ranging from food, music, history & heritage, art & craft etc.**
- **Maharashtra government** has signed an MoU with **Flipkart** to promote wooden toys, local artefacts, handicrafts. **Maharashtra Small Industries Development Corporation** and **Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Flipkart.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** has been conferred the **Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award**. The Award has been presented to the CM by Chairman, Skoch Group, **Sameer Kochhar** personally at Tadepalli in Andhra Pradesh. The award selection was based on a study of project-level outcomes in various States.
- **West Bengal** government launched "**Maa**" canteens for providing subsidised cooked meals for the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of **₹5**. The govt will give a subsidy of **₹15** and people have to pay **₹5**. The kitchen will run by **Self-Help Groups (SHG)**. The government allocated **₹ 100 crores** for this project.
- A team of scientists, doctors and photographers in **Kerala** have launched a mobile application named "**Snakepedia**", that will present all relevant information on snakes, to help the public as well as doctors in treating snake bites.



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- The state government of **Odisha**, under Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik**, has launched the development work for the **SAMALEI Project (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives)**, to offer the divine experience to tourists & devotees. The project involves the development of **108 acres** of land in & around the **16th-century** shrine of **Maa Samaleswari**, the presiding deity of western Odisha.
- The state government of **Kerala** has sanctioned **Rs. 9 crores** to build 'smart anganwadis', by converting the conventional anganwadis into "smart" structures with better amenities. The state **Department of Women and Child Development** has given permission for **48 anganwadis** in the state to construct new buildings under the Smart Anganwadi scheme.
- The Chief Minister of **Assam**, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has laid the foundation of the **first skill university of eastern India** in **Darrang district in Assam**. The state-of-the-art skill university would be built with a financial outlay of **Rs 1,000 crore**. It will impart training to over **10,000** students in 12 disciplines. The university is expected to be completed by **2026**. It will have "understandings" with countries like **Germany, Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Japan, England**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has dedicated to the nation **INDMAX Unit** at Indian Oil's Bongaigaon Refinery, Oil India Limited's Secondary Tank Farm at Madhuban, Dibrugarh, and a Gas Compressor Station at Hebeda Village, Makum, Tinsukia remotely from Dhemaji in **Assam**. He also inaugurated the **Dhemaji Engineering College** and laid the foundation stone for Sualkuchi Engineering College in Assam.
- The **47th Khajuraho Dance Festival** began in **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh** which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition. Khajuraho Temples come alive with splendour, beams, and the hustle-bustle of art lovers at the Festival. The first-day event is dedicated to **Bharatanatyam performance** by **Geeta Chandran** and her troupe and **Kathak performance** by **Deepak Maharaj**.
- **Hoshangabad city** in the state of **Madhya Pradesh** will be renamed **Narmadapuram**. This was announced by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** during the **Narmada Jayanti programme** held in Hoshangabad. Hoshangabad was earlier named after an attacker **Hoshang Shah**, the first ruler of **Malwa**.
- The **Karnataka State Horticulture Department** is setting up a "**Flower Processing Centre**", in collaboration with the **International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB)**, to convert unsold flowers into various useful products. The facility will provide support to the flower farmers who suffer huge losses whenever there is a glut or market disruption. Growers can learn the art of flower processing from the centre.
- Governor of Kerala, **Arif Mohammed Khan** has inaugurated India's **first Digital University** named **Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology**. A Digital University has been set up in Kerala's Technocity, **Mangalapuram**. Kerala University is established by upgrading the two-decade-old state government's **Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K)**.
- The **Punjab Cabinet** has approved the implementation of the mission '**Lal Lakir**' aimed at facilitating villagers to monetise property rights and availing benefits provided by government departments, institutions and banks in all villages across the state. As no record of rights is available for such properties within the '**Lal Lakir**', the same cannot currently be monetised as per the real value of the property and no mortgages can be created on such properties.

Schemes/Committees

- Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Animal Husbandry Minister **Giriraj Singh**, Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and Minister of State for Jal Shakti **Rattan Lal Kataria** jointly launched a unified web portal for monitoring the progress of **GOBARDHAN activities** across the nation. Gobardhan aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **Rs 12,195-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** for domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products such as switches, routers, radio access network, wireless equipment and other IoT access devices. Through this decision, the government aims to offset the imports of telecom equipment worth more than **Rs 50,000 crore** and reinforce it with **“Made in India”** products both for domestic markets and exports.
- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0, (IMI 3.0)**, to expand immunization coverage across the country. The focus of IMI 3.0 will be on children and pregnant women who missed their vaccine doses during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual. Although the app can be accessed by everyone, it has specific options for the residents of Chandigarh to compile a detailed study. The application can be downloaded through a QR code in Android supported smart cell phones.
- **Ajai Malhotra** became the first Indian to be elected as the **Chairperson** of the **United Nations Advisory Committee** of the **Human Rights Council**. He has been on the Indian team negotiating issues such as biological diversity, climate change, desertification, education, energy, forestry, health, human rights, human settlements, intellectual property, international law, labour, ozone depletion, sustainable development and trade.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will set up an expert committee on **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**. The committee, involving all stakeholders, will provide a medium-term road map for strengthening the sector, enable faster resolution/rehabilitation of UCBs.
- The **defence ministry** has signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** to procure a **software-defined radio tactical (SDR-Tac) ship-borne system** worth over **Rs 1,000 crore**. The procurement of SDR-Tac (software-defined radio tactical) “will bring strategic depth to the armed forces.
- India’s first-ever **geothermal power project** will be implemented by state-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** at Puga village of eastern **Ladakh**. The project, known as **Geothermal Field Development Project**, will be implemented in three phases and is planned to commission by the end of **2022**.
- Skyroot Aerospace has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bellatrix Aerospace to make use the Orbital Transfer Vehicle, being developed by Bellatrix Aerospace, in the upper stage of Vikram series of launch vehicles, being developed by Skyroot. The vehicle is expected to launch to low earth orbit in 2023 on the Vikram rocket. The vehicle is expected to help global operators reduce time and costs for launching communication and earth observation satellites.
- India and Afghanistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU over video-teleconferencing (VTC), for the construction of the Shahtoot Dam (Lalander Dam) on a tributary of the Kabul river in Afghanistan. The project, which costs nearly \$ 300 million, is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.
- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has launched the **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)** programme in partnership with **nine Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) across India**. Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister **Mahendra Nath Pandey** chaired the event on **‘Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships under SANKALP’** and rolled out the MGNF and other initiatives.
- **HCL Technologies** has inked an agreement with the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)** to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity. As part of the pact, the IT company will work with **C3iHub**, a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IITK. This collaboration will bring together the country’s brightest minds, advanced research capabilities and global resources to develop advanced solutions in the area of cybersecurity.

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- The first **India-Bahrain Joint Working Group** meeting in the field of **Renewable Energy** was held in a virtual format on February 04, 2021, for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** to support the development, conduct and promotion of health research in India. Gates Foundation and CSIR will work together to identify opportunities to initiate scientific and technological collaborations.
- **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** has signed a Statement of Intent with **Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd.**, a subsidiary of **Greenstat Norway**, to set up a **Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen**. Under this association, a Center of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H) including CCUS and Fuel Cells, would be developed for clean energy by IndianOil and M/s Greenstat in cooperation with Indo-Norwegian Hydrogen Cluster companies/organizations.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM), **S. Jaishankar** was on a two-day official visit to the archipelago nation the **Maldives** to review bilateral ties and development cooperation. During this visit, Mr S Jaishankar handed over **1 lakh** additional doses of the made-in-India **COVID-19 vaccine** to the Maldives. With this, the total Covid vaccine doses gifted by India for the Maldives reaches two lakh. Jaishankar also offered a **\$40-million line of credit (LoC)** to support the development of sports infrastructure in the **Maldives**.
- **India and Ethiopia** signed two agreements related to **visa facilitation and leather technology**. The Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen is on a 4-day visit to India to hold useful and productive discussions on a range of bilateral and regional issues.
- The Indian foreign minister **S Jaishankar** was on an official visit to two key Indian Ocean region countries- **Maldives and Mauritius**. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar visited the Island nation **Mauritius** to review the comprehensive and important bilateral relationship between the two nations. India signed a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** or (**Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement-(CECPA)**) with Mauritius.
- The **Government of India**, the **Government of Nagaland** and the **World Bank** signed a **\$68 million** agreement for "**Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project**", to enhance the governance of schools across Nagaland. The \$68 million loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a final maturity of 14.5 years including a grace period of **5 (five) years**.
- The **Government of India** and the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has signed a **\$304 million** loan agreement on February 23, 2021, for the **Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project**. The project aims to improve the reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the **northeastern state of Assam**.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** has appointed **RS Sharma** as the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of country's flagship public health insurance scheme **Ayushman Bharat**, also called **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**. He would replace **Indu Bhushan**, who is serving as the Chief Executive of the **Ayushman** scheme since its inception in 2018.
- **SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card)** has appointed **Rama Mohan Rao Amara** as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of two years. Rao is a veteran banker, with a successful career spanning over 29 years at SBI, the credit card company. Prior to taking charge at SBI Card, he was the Chief General Manager, SBI Bhopal Circle.
- **Facebook Inc.** has appointed **Henry Moniz** as its first-ever Chief Compliance Officer. He will join Facebook on February 8 to lead the company's global compliance team, to enhance its global compliance and risk management and promote the highest standards of legal and ethical conduct at the company. Prior to this, Henry Moniz had been the chief compliance officer and chief audit executive at media company **ViacomCBS Inc.**

- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has announced the appointment of Anish Shah as the chairman of the board, effective April 2, 2021. Shah is already a director of the company. He is the deputy managing director and group CFO of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. Shah takes over from Dhananjay Mungale. Mungale shall continue to be an Independent Director on the Board of MMFSL.
- Amazon.com Inc founder and CEO, Jeff Bezos has announced that he would step down as CEO of the company and become Executive Chairman in Q3 of 2021, i.e. with effect from July 01, 2021. Andy Jassy, who is currently serving as the chief executive of Amazon Web Services (AWS), will replace Bezos as CEO of Amazon. Bezos started the company 27 years ago, on 5 July 1994, as an internet bookseller.
- Spicejet chairman **Ajay Singh** defeated **Ashish Shelar** in a high-profile contest to get re-elected as **president of Boxing Federation India** for a second term.
- Department of Personnel and Training, under Personnel Ministry, has appointed Praveen Sinha, as the interim director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), with immediate effect on 03 February 2021. He has been appointed in place of the incumbent chief RK Shukla, whose tenure came to an end on February 03, 2021.
- Google Cloud has appointed Bikram Singh Bedi as the new Managing Director for its India Business. He will succeed Karan Bajwa, who has been elevated as Vice president for the Asia Pacific (APAC) region cloud operations at Google Cloud. At Google, Bikram Bedi will be responsible for leading Google Cloud's sales and operations teams in this dynamic market.
- Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has been chosen as the next Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). She would be the first woman as well as the first African nation to lead the organization. Okonjo-Iweala, the former finance minister of Nigeria, will succeed Roberto Azevedo, who stepped down in August 2020.
- The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres re-appointed Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions. Bloomberg is the founder and owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News. He was previously appointed as the U.N. special envoy for climate action between March 2018 and November 2019.
- Aegon Life Insurance, India's first digital-only life insurance company, elevated Satishwar Balakrishnan to be the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Prior to joining Aegon Life, he has worked with IndiaFirst Life, Reliance Life and ICICI Prudential Life. He is a Chartered Accountant by qualification.
- **Tata Motors** Limited has appointed **Marc Llistosella** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** and **Managing Director (MD)**. The appointment of Llistosella will be effective from July 1, 2021.
- Justice **Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar** has been sworn-in as the **Chief Justice of Manipur High Court** at Raj Bhavan, Imphal. He was appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur by the President of India. Prior to this, he served as a Judge in the **Punjab and Haryana High Court**.
- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has announced **Dr Ajay Mathur** as its new **Director-General** following his election at the first special assembly of ISA members. Dr Mathur replaces **Mr Upendra Tripathy**, who has served as Director-General since the ISA was founded in 2015.
- The **UN Capital Development Fund** has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker **Preeti Sinha** as its Executive Secretary, the highest leadership rank in the institution. She succeeds **Judith Karl**. He will work with a focus on providing micro-finance assistance to women, youth, small and medium-sized enterprises in under-served communities.

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- Former Union Minister **Vijay Sampla** has assumed the charge of Chairman **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**. He has been the former Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment from 2014 to 2019. NCSC is an Indian constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, that works for the socio-economic development of the scheduled castes and to prevent atrocities against them.
- **Dushyant Chautala** has been re-elected as the **President of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** for a period of four years. He was elected unanimously during the **84th** annual meeting of the TTFI, on February 24, 2021.
- **Fullerton India Credit Company** has appointed **Shantanu Mitra** as the new **CEO and Managing Director**. He has over 40 years of experience in financial services, with over 20 years at **Standard Chartered and Citibank**, where he had stints in **India, Singapore and Thailand**.
- **OLXGroup** appoints **Gautam Thakar** as global CEO of **OLX Autos**. He will lead a worldwide organisation with a workforce of more than 4,000 employees across **Asia, Africa, Latam, and the United States**. OLXGroup announced the appointment of Gautam Thakar as global CEO of OLX Autos effective March 15, 2021.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** has named **Sharad Goklani** as its new President & CTO. He was earlier associated with **Equitas Small Finance Bank** as its EVP & Chief Technology Officer.

Ranks and Reports

- The **second edition** of the **India Justice Report**, India's only ranking of states on delivery of Justice to people, announced. **Maharashtra** once again at the top of the 18 Large and Mid-sized states (with a population of over one crore each) in the 2nd Edition of the India Justice Report, an initiative of **Tata Trusts**, followed by **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, and Kerala**.
- **India** will emerge as the **second** most resilient economy in 2021, as per the **International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank**, released by industry body,

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). The ranking has been topped by **Germany**, among the top-10 leading economies. **South Korea** is at the third position in the list. Apart from this, India's real GDP growth rate is projected to be the highest in the year 2021 among the top-10 leading economies in the world, at **11.5%**. It reflects India's strong "**economic resurgence**" to the global economic turmoil caused by the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

- **India's** position has slipped by two places to be placed at **53rd spot** in the **2020 Democracy Index**, from among **167 countries**. The overall score of India is 6.61 in the Index, on a scale of 0-10. India has been classified as a '**flawed democracy**'. Democracy Index is the global ranking released by **The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** that provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide. **Norway** has topped the Index. **Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada** are the top five countries on the list.

Sports Current Affairs

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has decided not to conduct the **Ranji Trophy in 2020-21**. This will be the first time in **87 years** since its inception in **1934-35**, that India's premier first-class cricket national championship will not be held in 2020-21 domestic season.
- Jay Shah, the incumbent Secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been appointed as the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). He is the youngest person ever to be appointed to the office. He replaces Nazmul Hussain, Chief of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) who was the previous chief of the ACC.
- The **Indian shooting contingent** has topped the medals tally in the **first-ever Asian Online Shooting Championship**, organised by **Kuwait Shooting Federation**. The 24-member Indian shooting contingent won total **11 medals**, which included four gold medals, two silver and five bronze medals. **274 shooters from 22 Asian countries took part in the competition**.

- Tamil Nadu beat Baroda in the final to win the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2020-21. The tournament was the twelfth edition of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and was played at Sardar Patel Stadium (Motera Stadium), Ahmedabad. The Player of the match title was won by Manimaran Siddharth (Tamil Nadu) who picked 4 wickets, conceding 20 runs. They needed 121 runs to win, which they achieved in 18 overs with 7 wickets.
- Former right-arm fast bowler Merv Hughes has been inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame. The 59-year-old played 53 Tests and 33 ODIs for Australia in a career spanning from 1985 to 1994, during which he captured 212 Test wickets and 38 ODI wickets.
- Fast bowler **Ashok Dinda**, has announced his retirement from **all forms of cricket**. The 36-year-old right-handed pacer made his first-class debut for **Bengal in 2005** and played for **15 years in Bengal cricket**.
- **Joe Root**, the England captain, sent India on a leather hunt, becoming the **first player** in history to **score a double century in his 100th Test match**. In the process, Root also surpassed former Pakistan captain **Inzamam-Ul-Haq** as the player with the highest individual score playing the 100th Test match of his career. Inzamam had hit **184** against India in a Test match in Bengaluru in 2005, which Pakistan had won by 168 runs.
- The Indian wicketkeeper-batsman **Rishabh Pant** has won the inaugural **ICC Player of the Month award 2021**. Apart from this, **Shabnim Ismail of South Africa** has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** following her performances across three ODIs and two T20Is in January 2021.
- Indian fast bowler **Ishant Sharma** became the **sixth Indian and third pacer** from the country to take **300 wickets** in Test cricket. The 32-year-old Ishant reached the milestone in **98 matches**, more than the other Indian bowlers in the club. Besides Anil Kumble (619) and Kapil Dev (434), Ravichandran Ashwin (377 before this game), Harbhajan Singh (417), and Zaheer Khan (311) are the other bowlers from the country who have reached the landmark.
- Former India wicketkeeper-batsman **Naman Ojha** has announced his retirement, from all formats of **cricket**. He made his first-class debut for **Madhya Pradesh in 2000-01**.
- Star sprinter **Hima Das** has been appointed as a **Deputy Superintendent of Police** by the **Assam government**. The 21-year-old from Assam, known as '**Dhing Express**' referring to the town near her native village, is currently training at the **NIS-Patiala** and will be aiming to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics as the athletics calendar starts in a few days.
- The IPL Franchise, **Kings XI Punjab** has formally been renamed as Punjab Kings ahead of the **Indian Premier League auction**. The new brand name and logo of the team was officially released by the management.
- Former captain of **South Africa**, **Faf du Plessis** has announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 36-year-old made his Test debut in November **2012** and played a total of 69 games in the longest format.
- Former Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) superstar and South African all-rounder **Chris Morris** shattered all records at the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 auction** in Chennai. Rajasthan Royals went all-out for the South African all-rounder Morris, buying him for a whopping **INR 16.25 crore**.
- India's top-ranked table tennis player **Manika Batra** beat **Reeth Rishya**, 4-2, in the women's singles final, to win the **82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championship**, at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in **Panchkula, Haryana**. It was Manika's second Nationals title. She won her maiden national title in **2015 in Hyderabad**.
- **Sri Lanka** fast bowler **Dharmika Prasad** has announced his retirement from international cricket. He represented Sri Lanka in 25 Tests and 24 ODIs, bagging 75 and 32 wickets respectively. He also played alone T20 International against Australia in 2011.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the newly revamped **Motera cricket stadium** in Ahmedabad, which has been renamed the **Narendra Modi Stadium**. The biggest cricket stadium in the world will hold its first international match, with the newly renovated **Sardar Patel Stadium** to host the third Test between **India and England**. Both India and England had a forgettable outing in their last **pink-ball outings**.

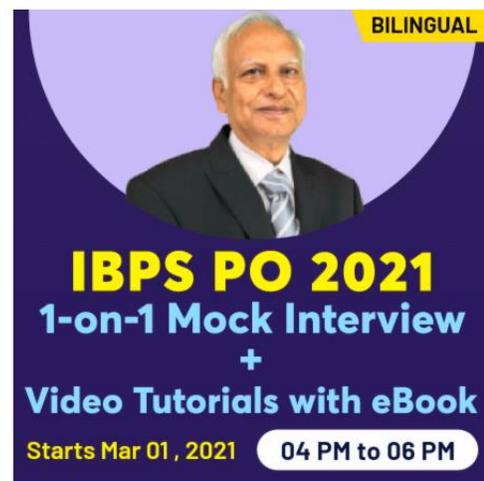
- The **second edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021**, is scheduled to be held in **Karnataka**. This announcement was made by the Karnataka Chief Minister, **Shri BS Yediyurappa** and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Kiren Rijju**. The KIUG-2021 will be hosted by **JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru**, in partnership with the **Association of Indian Universities (AIU)**.
- Former India all-rounder, **Yusuf Pathan** has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket. He played 57 ODIs and 22 T20Is for India since making his international debut in 2007. He was part of the Indian team that won the **ICC T20 World Cup 2007 and ICC Cricket World Cup 2011**.
- Former India international and Karnataka captain, **R Vinay Kumar** has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. The **"Davangere Express"** after running for 25 years and passing so many stations of cricketing life, has finally arrived at the station called retirement.
- The **11th IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks** was held virtually on February 17, 2021, under the patronage of the Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud. From India, the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, participated in the symposium.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the virtual Maritime India Summit (MIS) 2021, from March 2 to 4, 2021. The 'Maritime India Summit 2021' is the flagship initiative of the Union Ministry of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India. FICCI is the industry partner for the summit. The theme of the event is "Exploring the potential business opportunities in the Indian Maritime sector and making Aatmanirbhar Bharat".
- Union Minister of Jal Shakti, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has inaugurated the **International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium** in New Delhi. The theme of the symposium is **"Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins"**. More than 300 delegates from across the country and abroad will participate in the Symposium.

Summits and Conferences

- Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 'Chiefs of Air Staff (CAS) Conclave' at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The two-day conclave has been organised by Indian Air Force, from 3 to 04 February 2021, in a Hybrid Form with extensive use of digital media. The Chiefs of Air Staff from about 75 countries would come together on a single platform to exchange their thoughts on current issues related to aerospace power strategy and technological developments.
- The first India-European Union High-Level Dialogue was co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal from India side and the European Union Executive Vice-President & Trade Commissioner Mr Valdis Dombrovskis, from the EU side. This Dialogue was organised in line with the commitment made at the 15th India-EU Leader's Summit held in July 2020.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 through video conferencing. The theme of the Summit is 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'. 2021 WSD Summit is the 20th edition of the flagship event organised by 'The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)'.
- A trilateral dialogue was held among **India, France, and Australia** on February 24, 2021, at the senior officials' level, with a focus on further enhancing cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**. The aim of this trilateral dialogue is to build strong bilateral relation among the three countries and synergies their respective strength to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- The **6th edition of the International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector** was inaugurated by Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, and Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution **Piyush Goyal**. The conference which includes **INDIA PHARMA 2021 & INDIA MEDICAL DEVICE 2021** is scheduled to take place from February 25-26, 2021 & March 1-2, 2021. The theme of India Pharma 2021: **'Indian Pharma Industry: "Future is Now"**. The theme of India Medical Device 2021 is **"India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance"**.

Awards & Recognition

- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has presented the **50th Kerala State Film Awards 2019** and the **J C Daniel Award** at a function here. Pinarayi Vijayan released the **stamp** published in connection with the **International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK)**. Veteran filmmaker Hariharan, who was conferred with the J C Daniel Award, is an artist who had travelled with cinema for about half a century and made films which went on to become milestones in the annals of Malayalam tinsel town. The film awards were also distributed. Culture Minister A K Balan presided.
- Music composer AR Rahman and social activist from Saidapet Hari Krishnan were among the 14 people who were presented the fourth edition of the **Alert Being Awards 2020** by the NGO ALERT, for their Good Samaritan work. In his video message, Mr Rahman said ALERT had been doing a brilliant job in empowering a common man to save lives. Hari Krishnan had been appointed by the Greater Chennai Corporation as a district volunteer head for Covid-19 relief work.
- Robert Irwin**, an Australian wildlife photographer, has won the first prize in the **Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award Contest**. Robert won the award for the image titled 'bushfire', which is the picture of the devastating **Australian Bushfire in 2020**, he captured using a drone, near the **Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Cape York, Queensland**. The image shows a line of fire burning in between the bushes, dividing it into parts.
- The **Bangalore International Airport Limited's (BIAL)** or **Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru** has bagged global recognition from the **Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer'** award. The 'Voice of the Customer' recognises airports that continued to prioritise their customers and remained committed to ensuring that their voice was heard during the **Covid-19 pandemic in 2020**.
- The Tamil film "**Koozhangal**" has won "**Tiger**" award, at the **50th edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2021**. The Tiger award is the top honour of the festival, given for best film. Koozhangal (meaning Pebbles) has been Produced by **Nayanthara** and directed by **Vinod Raj PS**.
- Telangana-based **Manasa Varanasi** has been crowned as the winner of **VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020**. Manasa Varanasi was crowned by the winner of Miss India 2019, **Suman Ratan Singh Rao** from Rajasthan. The 23-year-old will now represent India at the **70th Miss World pageant** in December 2021. Born in Hyderabad, Manasa Varanasi is an engineer by profession and works as a financial information exchange analyst. Manika Sheokand of Haryana: Miss Grand India 2020, Manya Singh of Uttar Pradesh: Miss India 2020 runner-up
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** presented the trophies of **best marching contingents** of the **Republic Day Parade 2021** in New Delhi on February 15, 2021. **Jat Regimental Centre** bagged the trophy of best marching contingent among the Tri-Services while **Delhi Police** was adjudged as the best marching contingent among the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** and other auxiliary services.
- S. Theodore Baskaran** who is a writer, a historian, a naturalist and an activist has won the **Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award, 2020**. The award was instituted by the **Sanctuary Nature Foundation**. He won the award for his writing prowess in English and Tamil contributing towards the conservation discourse. He was also chosen for the award in the backdrop of inspiring the young naturalists.



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- Telangana's capital, **Hyderabad** has been recognized as a **2020 Tree City of World**, by the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **Arbor Day Foundation**, for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests.
- **Union Bank of India** was awarded "**Best Service Provider**" in **Human Resources** and also the best institution for "**Excellence in Learning & Development**" at the **29th Global HRD Congress awards**. **Kalyan Kumar**, Chief General Manager, HR was named as "**Chief Human Resources Officer of the Year**".
- **Anjali Bharadwaj**, an Indian social activist working on issues of transparency and accountability, is one of the 12 "courageous" individuals named by the Biden administration for the newly-instituted **International Anti-Corruption Champions Award**. The 48-year-old Bhardwaj has served as an active member of the Right to Information Movement in India for over two decades. She is the founder of the **Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS)**, a citizens' group which promotes transparency and accountability in government and encourage the active participation of citizens.
- **World Cancer Day** is observed every year on **4 February** by the **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**. The day is celebrated to raise awareness and education about cancer, and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the disease. World Cancer Day 2019-21 theme: '**I Am And I Will**'.
- **International Day of Human Fraternity** is observed on **4th February** globally. International Day of Human Fraternity aims to underline the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance. This year International Day of Human Fraternity 2021 theme: **A Pathway to the Future**.
- **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female** is observed globally on **6 February**. This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in **2003**. This year theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female: **No Time for Global Inaction: Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation**.
- The **United Nations** designated **World Pulses Day** is observed every year on **10 February**. The day has been established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food. The theme, "**Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future**," was decided back in 2016 when the year was nominated to be celebrated as International Year of Pulses. Since then, the theme has remained the same from 2019 to 2021.
- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** is observed globally on **11 February**. International Day of Women and Girls in Science to recognize the critical role of women and girls play in science and technology.
- The **International Epilepsy Day** is observed on the **second Monday of February** every year across the world. In 2021, the International Epilepsy Day was observed on **February 08**. The day is organised jointly by the **International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE)** and the **International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)** to raise awareness about epilepsy and highlight the kinds of problems faced by victims, their friends and family.

Important Days

- **World Leprosy Day** is observed around the world on the **last Sunday of January** every year. This year World Leprosy Day held on **31 January**. The day is celebrated to raise global awareness of this deadly ancient disease and call attention to the fact that it can be prevented, treated and cured. This year theme of World Leprosy Day 2021 is "**Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and advocate for Mental Wellbeing**".
- **World Wetlands Day** is observed every year on **February 2** globally. The day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet. The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2021 is '**Wetlands and Water**'. 2021 marks 50 years of the Convention on Wetlands.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is celebrating its **45th Raising Day** on **01 February 2021**. The ICG was formally established on **February 1, 1977**, by the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** of the Parliament of India. It operates under the **Ministry of Defence**.

- In India, the **National Women's Day** is observed every year on **13 February** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Sarojini Naidu**. This year Nation celebrates its **142nd** Birth Anniversary. She was born on **February 13, 1879**. She was famous for her nickname '**Nightingale of India**' or '**Bharat Kokila**' because of her poems.
- **World Radio Day** is celebrated on **13 February** each year to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world. The theme of World Radio Day 2021 is "**New World, New Radio**".
- **National Productivity Day** is observed every year in **India** on **February 12**. The objective of National Productivity Council is stimulating and promoting productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.
- **World Day of Social Justice** is celebrated annually all over the world on **20 February**. The **International Labour Organization** unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on **10 June 2008**. This year theme of World Day of Social Justice is "**A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy**".
- **World Pangolin Day** is celebrated on the "**Third Saturday of February**" every year. In 2021, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on **20 February 2020**. It marks the **10th** edition of the event. The day aims to raise awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts. Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in **Asia and Africa**.
- Every year India observes the **Soil Health Card Day** on **19 February** to commemorate the launch of the **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme**, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. 2021 marks the **sixth year** of the launch of the SHC Scheme.
- **World Thinking Day**, originally known as **Thinking Day**, is celebrated annually on **22 February** by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide. The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding. The theme for World Thinking Day 2021 is **peacebuilding**.
- The **International Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is observed annually on **21 February** to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The theme of the Day this year, "**Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society**".
- **Central Excise Day** is celebrated every year on **February 24** across India. The day is being celebrated to honour the service of the **Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC)** to the country. The day is celebrated to honour the officers associated with CBEC and their services. This is done to encourage the officers to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity.
- **World NGO Day** is celebrated every year on **27th February** globally. World NGO Day aims to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGOs (Charities, NPOs, CSOs) and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs and both the public and private sector.
- In India, **February 27th** is celebrated as the **National Protein Day**, to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include this macronutrient in their diet. This year theme of National Protein Day is "**Powering with Plant Protein**". 2021 marks the second year for this nutritional awareness milestone in India by '**Right to Protein**'.
- **National Science Day** is celebrated all over India on **28th February**. On this day, Sir CV Raman had announced the discovery of the **Raman Effect** for which he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 1930**. The government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in **1986**. The theme for this year's National Science Day is '**Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work**'.
- **Rare Disease Day** is observed every year on the **last day of February**. This year in 2021 it falls on **February 28, 2021**.

Defence Current Affairs

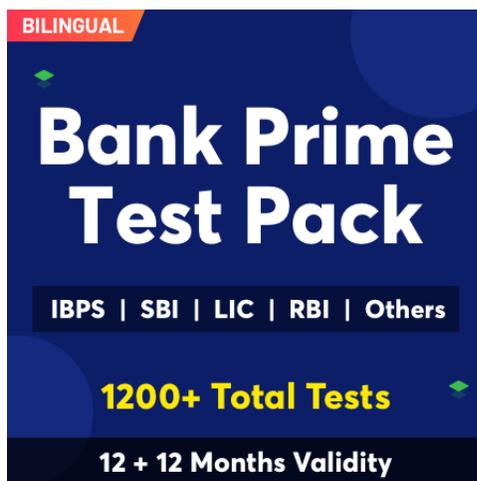
- Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL)** second **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas** production line in **Bengaluru**, ahead of the upcoming Aero India 2021. The deal to be signed in the next few days with HAL would strengthen the Indian Air Force's fleet of homegrown fighter jet '**LCA-Tejas**' and **overall combat capability**.
- The Aero India 2021 event, country's premier aerospace and defence exhibition, kick-started at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru. The 13th edition of the international event touted as the world's first-ever hybrid aero and defence show will see several aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Army, Navy, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), and the Coast Guard participating in the show.
- The **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** is developing a futuristic high altitude **pseudo satellite** with a start-up company, to strengthen the country's military strike capabilities. It is a first of its kind project in the world, where a manned aircraft will operate within the boundary and the unmanned aircraft will enter the enemy zone and can carry out strikes deep inside the enemy territory.
- The **India-US joint military** exercise "**Yudh Abhyas 20**" commenced in Mahajan Field Firing Range of **Bikaner district in Rajasthan**. This is the **16th edition** of an annual bilateral joint exercise of both the armies. It will continue till the 21st of this month.
- A maiden contingent of **34 CRPF women personnel** has been inducted into its specialized **jungle warfare commando force CoBRA**. The contingent will soon be deployed in the anti-Naxal operations grid of the country. This women's contingent will undergo pre-induction training for 3 months and then deployed with the units in Naxal violence-affected districts of Chhattisgarh like Dantewada, Sukma, and Bijapur. The members of the 34 CRPF women personnel contingent have been chosen from the 6 all-women battalions of CRPF.
- The **Indian Navy** is carrying out a mega war game involving almost all operational assets like warships, submarines and aircraft over a vast geographical expanse in the **Indian Ocean Region** to test the force's combat readiness in a complex multi-dimensional scenario. The biennial '**Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX)**' aims to validate the Navy's offensive as well as defence capabilities and safeguard national interests in the maritime domain besides promoting peace and stability in the Indian Ocean.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has handed over the indigenous main battle tank **Arjun Mk-1A** to the Army in a function at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium** in Chennai. Chief of the Army Staff General **Manoj Mukund Naravane** received the model of the tank, designed and developed by Chennai-based **Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE)**, a unit of the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **India** joined **Iran and Russia** in the naval exercise dubbed as "**Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021**", which kicked-off in the northern part of the Indian Ocean. The Chinese navy will also join the exercise. The purpose of the drill is to enhance the security of international maritime trade, confront maritime piracy and terrorism, and exchange information.
- **Indian Naval Ship Pralaya** reached **Abu Dhabi in UAE** to participate in the **Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX 21)** and **International Defence Exhibition (IDEX 21)** from February 20 to 25, 2021. NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21 is one of the leading international naval and defence exhibitions of the region.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation** has successfully carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed **Helina** and **Dhruvastra Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM)** from the Advanced Light Helicopter at the **Pokhran deserts in Rajasthan**.

- The **Indian Navy** and the **Indonesian Navy** conducted the **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** on February 18, 2021, in the **Arabian Sea**. The military exercise between the navies of both countries aims to enhance operational interoperability and overall cooperation among them. Indian naval ship **INS Talwar** and the Indonesian Navy's multirole corvette **KRI Bung Tomo** participated in the exercise.
- Army Chief Gen **Manoj Naravane** has flagged off the **100th K9 Vajra** tracked self-propelled howitzer built by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** at its armoured system complex at **Hazira in Gujarat**. L&T had completed the delivery of all the howitzers under the contract awarded in **May 2017 ahead of schedule**.
- Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** through virtual mode at **Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh**. The first of its kind in India facility has been created by Delhi based **DRDO laboratory 'Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)'**.
- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two successful launches of **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)**. DRDO carried out the launch from a static vertical launcher from **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha**.

- The **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICG)** named **C-453** was commissioned into services in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. This was the **17th interceptor boats** out of the 18 which are being indigenously built by **Larsen & Toubro Ltd.**

Science and Technology

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has selected spaceflight company, **SpaceX** to launch its **SPHEREx Mission**. Through this mission, NASA aims to perform an all-sky survey to measure the near-infrared spectra of approximately **450 million** galaxies across the universe and **100 million stars inside our Milky Way galaxy**.
- The newly constituted **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council** has approved for the establishment of the **world's largest radio telescope**. The telescope will enable astronomers to monitor the sky in unprecedented detail and survey the entire sky much faster than any system currently in existence. To look into some of the unexplored areas of the universe and seek answers about its history and evolution, study fundamental physics in extreme environments and know about galaxies over cosmic time.
- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has announced to set up the first **'Thunderstorm Research Testbed'** of the country at **Odisha's Balasore district**. The main objective of the "Thunderstorm Research Testbed" is to minimise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has opened its **UR Rao Satellite Centre** for testing satellites developed by the private sector for the first time in its history. Two satellites, developed by the Indian startups **SpaceKidz India** and **Pixel (incorporated as Sygyzy)** were tested at the **UR Rao Satellite Centre**.
- **Indian astronomers** have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding supermassive black hole or blazar called **BL Lacertae**, analysis of which can help trace the mass of the black hole and the source of this emission, the Department of Science and Technology said.



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- An IIT Madras-Incubated start-up **Pi Beam Electric** has recently launched a sustainable electric two-wheeler, dubbed as **PiMo**. The utility e-bike has been developed for personal and commercial use. It does not require a licence or registration.
- **Hyundai Motor Company** has launched a Transformer-like robocar dubbed as **TIGER X-1**, that can travel over the most challenging terrains on the Earth as well as on other planets. **TIGER** stands for **Transforming Intelligent Ground Excursion Robot**, and the X-1 denotes its experimental status.
- The **NASA Perseverance rover** safely landed on Mars after its **292.5 million-mile** journey from Earth. The rover has been on a nearly 300 million-mile journey since it left Earth more than 6 months ago. Indian-American named **Dr Swati Mohan**, who first confirmed that the rover had survived a particularly tricky plunge into the **Martian atmosphere**.
- India's homegrown app **MapMyIndia** ties up with **ISRO** to build an alternative to **Google Maps**. The agreement between ISRO and MapmyIndia is suggested to become an alternative to Google maps and similar platforms. The collaboration with MapMyIndia will turn out to be a benefit for users because it will use digital maps of MapmyIndia and satellite imagery and earth observation data of ISRO.
- A book titled '**By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life**' has been authored by **M Hamid Ansari**. Mohammad Hamid Ansari was the **vice president of India and chairman of the Rajya Sabha** for two consecutive terms from **2007 to 2017**. A former diplomat, he served as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, as high commissioner to Australia and as permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.
- A Book titled '**Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World**' has been authored by Sangeet Paul Choudhary. It is published by Penguin Random House India. It explains the importance of inner workings of platform business models and their ability to scale rapidly. The 1st edition of Platform Scale was published in 2015.
- Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence and MP Jai Prakash Narayan has launched '**Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy**', a book on creating economic awareness among masses. The book is authored by RP Gupta.
- Actor-producer **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** officially turned author with the release of her first book, "**Unfinished: A Memoir**", which she described as "honest, raw and vulnerable". The end result is a book, published by the Michael Joseph imprint, which covers her dual-continent 20-year-long career as an actor and producer and her work as a **Unicef Goodwill Ambassador**.
- Former media baron **Peter Mukerjee** has come out with his memoir '**Starstruck: Confessions of a TV executive**'. The book is presented as a recollection of his experiences in the satellite television industry in India and the changes it has gone through over the years.
- Award-winning writer, journalist and speaker, **Meghna Pant** has penned a new book "**The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News**". The book will be released in April 2021, and soon be seen as a major motion picture under the title **Badnam Ladoo**.

Books & Authors

- Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has come out with his new book titled '**The Little Book of Encouragement**', in which he has shared quotes and words of wisdom to promote human happiness. The book has been edited by Renuka Singh and published by Penguin Random House. The Little Book of Encouragement contains 130 quotes related to how to deal with the new realities of the panic-stricken world, combat rising extremism, polarity and climate change besides Dalai Lama's views on Tibet.
- United States President **Joe Biden's** son, **Hunter Biden**, is publishing his memoir titled "**Beautiful Things**", which narrates about his struggles with addiction and drug abuse.

- Prizewinning writer **Irwin Allan Sealy's** new novel '**ASOCA: A Sutra**', an imagined memoir of Ashoka The Great. The novel will be presented as an imagined memoir of Ashoka The Great, the emperor who ruled most of the Indian Subcontinent and played a pivotal role in the spread of Buddhism from India to other parts of Asia in the 3rd century BC.
- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released "**Maveric Messiah**", a political biography on former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N.T. Rama Rao** authored by senior journalist **Ramesh Kandula**.
- Home Minister **Amit Shah** has released a book '**Rashtra Pratham - 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha**' in New Delhi. The book chronicles the glorious history of CRPF since its raising in 1939 and it has detailed and thoroughly researched accounts of CRPF's journey, challenges, successes, and sacrifices and said it will become a source of inspiration for personnel joining the force.
- Veteran actor **Kabir Bedi** will tell his life story in his memoir, which will be released in April. Entitled "**Stories I Must Tell: An Actor's Emotional Journey**," the actor will provide an honest glimpse into his life.
- The Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has addressed the inaugural ceremony of the ASEAN India Hackathon 2021 on February 1. The Ministry of Education has launched the ASEAN India Hackathon 2021. The ASEAN India Hackathon 2021 is being conducted virtually from February 1 to 3, 2021. The 10 ASEAN countries are- Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Brunei, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.
- The first of its kind '**amputee clinic**' in India, has been launched by the **Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)**, a premier medical and research institution in **Chandigarh**. The basic intent of this initiative is to bring an Amputee as a near-normal functional human being in society.
- A 25-year-old Kashmiri woman, **Ayesha Aziz**, has become the youngest female pilot in the country. She became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15 in 2011. The 25 -year-old from Kashmir who is the youngest female pilot in the country acts as a source of inspiration and a beacon of empowerment for numerous Kashmiri women.
- Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani**-owned **Reliance Industries Ltd** has received the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from **Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV)**, a division of **United States** oil major **Occidental**. This feat will further help the oil major to accomplish its target of becoming a net zero-carbon company by 2035.
- Engineering college students in **Hubballi, Karnataka** have come up with '**Maya**', a robot that has been programmed to serve in banks and speaks in many regional languages. The students of the **Automation and Robotics** department of **KLE Technological University** have spent nearly eight months and spent Rs 5 lakh to develop the robot.
- Delhi Chief Minister, **Arvind Kejriwal** has launched the '**Switch Delhi**' campaign to promote electric vehicles and appealed to people to buy such vehicles to combat pollution in the city. **Kejriwal** said his government will hire only electric vehicles for various purposes in the next six weeks.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, **Kiren Rijju** has launched a breakthrough **Reference Material** for use in chemical testing in the field of **anti-doping**. A reference material jointly synthesised by the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)** and **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati**.
- A dedicated Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) has been established at the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, an institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. This was announced by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Babul Supriyo** on the occasion of the World Wetland Day on 2nd February 2021.

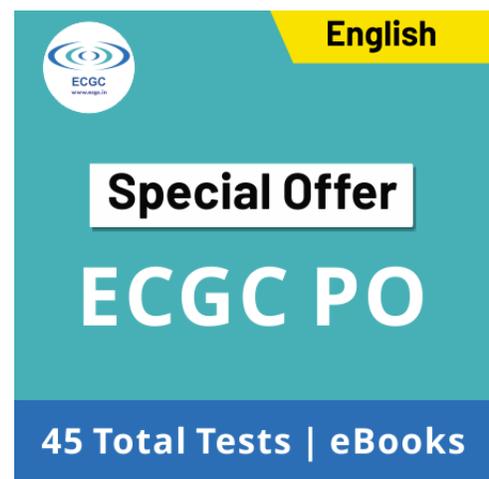
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated a museum, dedicated to the life of former Army **Chief General Kodandera Subayya Thimayya**, in Karnataka. General Thimayya served as the Chief of Army Staff from 1957 to 1961. The ancestral house of General Thimayya called "**Sunny Side**" at Madikeri in Kodagu district of Karnataka has been renovated and converted into a museum.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has restricted the permissible amount of industrial **Trans Fatty Acid (TFA)** in food products to **2 per cent**. The latest amendment will come into effect from January **01, 2022**. Currently, the permissible limit for trans fats in food products in 2021 is **3 per cent**, cut down from the previous limit of **5 per cent**.
- The Indian Army has laid the foundation stone of the tallest 'Iconic National Flag' at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir. The flag will be on a 100 feet-high pole, the highest Tricolour in the Valley. The Indian Army in collaboration with the Solar Industry India will install the 'Iconic National Flag' at Gulmarg.
- The Delhi cabinet has approved "Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha" in which Rs 5,000 will be provided to 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship. The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes at the school level. According to the release, the students studying in Delhi schools who have secured more than 60 per cent in Class 8 are eligible for the examination. Students belonging to SC, ST, PH, or OBC category will be given a relaxation of up to 5 per cent of marks.
- In **Puducherry**, a campaign has been launched titled "**Zero Covid by Feb28**" to ensure that there are no COVID-19 cases by the end of February 2021, in the union territory. The overall caseload in Puducherry was **39,448** while **38,533** had recovered so far, leaving **258** active cases.
- The Governor of West Bengal, Shri **Jagdeep Dhankhar** inaugurated the **11th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav** at Cooch Behar Palace at West Bengal. The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Culture, organised under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme, since 2015, to celebrate the idea of unity in diversity. The event was inaugurated in the presence of Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.
- **IIT Bombay** has launched its first-ever annual fundraising campaign in India, **Cherish IIT Bombay 2021**. As per information shared by the IIT, the funds will be used for the creation of world-class laboratory complexes, modernization of lecture halls and continuation of awards to attract and retain faculty.
- The ancient **Kanchoth festival**, a symbol of ancient **Nag culture**, was observed with religious fervour and gaiety across the **Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir**. The festival is celebrated by locals, mainly Nag followers who believe that on this day of Gouri Tritiya, Lord **Shiva and Goddess Parvati** got married and the latter insisted on a throne made of snow as her wedding gift.
- **Kiran Bedi**, the Lieutenant-Governor of **Puducherry**, has been removed from the top position. **Tamilisai Soundararajan**, the Governor of Telangana, has been given additional charge as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry till a permanent replacement will be announced.
- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** released the "**3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary**", in a virtual event. The 3rd edition of the ISL dictionary contains a total of **10,000 terms**. These include the 6000 terms of the first and second edition of the dictionary.
- The Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry, V Narayanasamy has submitted the letter of his resignation and his council of ministers on February 22, 2021, to Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan. The decision was taken as the Congress-led Government in the UT lost its majority in the House, which is 14.
- A British woman, Jasmine Harrison of England has become the youngest woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. The 21-year-old from Thirsk, North Yorkshire in the UK, achieved the feat by finishing top in the 2020 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, organized by Atlantic Campaigns.

- The under-construction **Kushinagar Airport** in **Uttar Pradesh** has received the necessary clearances from aviation regulator **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** to operate international flights. Once operational, Kushinagar airport will become the third functional international facility in the state.

Obituaries

- The Nobel Prize-winning chemist **Paul J. Crutzen**, has passed away. He won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995, jointly with **Mario J. Molina** and **F. Sherwood Rowland**, for their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the **formation and decomposition of ozone**.
- Pioneering US actress Cicely Tyson has passed away. Cicely Tyson, the pioneering Black actor who gained an Oscar nomination for her role as the sharecropper's wife in 'Sunder' & won a Tony Award in 2013 at age 88. She touched TV viewers' hearts in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" & won 2 Emmys for playing the 110-year-old former slave.
- Oscar-winning actor **Christopher Plummer**, who rose to prominence for his critically-acclaimed film 'Sound of Music', has passed away. He won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor at the age of 82 for Beginners (2010), becoming the oldest person to win an acting award.
- Tennis legend Akhtar Ali, a father figure in Indian tennis, passed away. He represented India in eight Davis Cup ties against Pakistan, Malaysia, Iran, Mexico, Japan and Monaco between 1958 and 1964.
- Founder of **Rang Vidushak** and theatre director Padma Shri **Bansi Kaul** passed away. He was born in 1949 in a Kashmiri Pandit family, Bansi Kaul was a Hindi theatre director and the founder of Rang Vidushak, a theatre group and theatre institute in Bhopal.
- Bollywood actor and Raj Kapoor's son **Rajiv Kapoor** passed away. He made his acting debut with 1983 movie **Ek Jaan Hain Hum**. He gained recognition with his father's last directorial **Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985)**.

- Noted jurist and a former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand, Justice (Retd.) **M. Rama Jois** has passed away. The former Rajya Sabha MP, had also served as the **Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court**. He was also a senior advocate in the **Supreme Court of India**.
- War veteran Major General (retired) **Basant Kumar Mahapatra**, who had participated in major battles including the 1962 Indo-China war, and 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan war, has passed away.
- Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Captain **Satish Sharma** passed away. He served as the **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas** from **1993 to 1996** in the Narasimha Rao government.
- Rahul Khullar, the former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has passed away. He was a 1975-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, who was appointed as TRAI chief in May 2012. He served at TRAI for three years. Prior to being appointed as TRAI chief, he was a secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.
- The first prime minister of Papua New Guinea, **Michael Somare** has passed away. He was known as the "father of the nation" because he led the Pacific archipelago to independence from **Australia in 1975**. He had served as the prime minister of the country four times, between 1975 to 2011, and has been the longest-serving prime minister (17 years).
- Renowned Malayalam poet, the priest and academician **Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri**, has passed away. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 2014**, for his contribution to the world of Malayalam literature for decades.



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Static Takeaways

- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow.
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw.
- Myanmar Currency: Kyat.
- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi.
- Vietnam Currency: Vietnamese dong.
- Vietnam Prime Minister: Nguyen Xuan Phuc.
- Ford Motor Co-Founded: 16 June 1903, Detroit, Michigan, United States.
- Google Headquarters: California, United States.
- DICGC Founded: 1961.
- DICGC Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.
- SBI Card Founded: October 1998.
- SBI Card Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Founded: 1991.
- Amazon.com Inc Founded: 5 July 1994.
- Amazon.com Inc Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States.
- Boxing Federation India established: February 25, 1949.
- Central Bureau of Investigation Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Central Bureau of Investigation Founded: 1 April 1963.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HQ: Bengaluru.
- Indian Airforce founded: 8 October 1932.
- Indian Airforce Headquarters: New Delhi.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit Parent organization: Economist Group.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit Founded: 1946.
- Asian Cricket Council Headquarters: Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Asian Cricket Council Founded: 19 September 1983.
- Union for International Cancer Control Headquarters in: Geneva, Switzerland, Founded: 1933.
- WADA Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.
- Founded: 10 November 1999.
- United Nations World Tourism Organization Member States: 159.
- United Nations World Tourism Organization Headquarter: Madrid, Spain.
- PayPal Founded: December 1998, Palo Alto, California, United States.
- Denmark Capital: Copenhagen.
- Denmark Currency: Danish krone.
- Federal Bank HQ: Aluva, Kerala.
- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- Bahrain Capital: Manama.
- Bahrain Currency: Bahraini dinar.
- Headquarters of ICAR: New Delhi.
- ICAR founded: 16 July 1929.
- South Korea Capital: Seoul.
- South Korea Currency: South Korean won.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.
- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.
- President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington DC, United States.
- World Bank Founded: July 1944.
- Bharat Electronics Limited Headquarters: Bengaluru.
- Bharat Electronics Limited Founded: 1954.
- ONGC Energy Centre Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- Skyroot Aerospace Founded: 12 June 2018.
- Skyroot Aerospace Headquarters location: Hyderabad.
- Afghanistan Capital: Kabul.
- Afghanistan President: Ashraf Ghani.
- Afghanistan Currency: Afghan afghani.
- Afghanistan Official languages: Pashto, Dari.
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- India Ratings and Research Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- New Development Bank Headquarters: Shanghai, China.
- Export-Import Bank of India Founded: 1 January 1982.
- Export-Import Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai; Headquarters: California, United States.
- World Trade Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Trade Organization Founded: 1 January 1995.
- Aegon Life Insurance is headquartered in Mumbai.
- Aegon Life Insurance Founded in 2008.
- Central Reserve Police Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- European Union (EU) Headquarters location: Brussels, Belgium.
- European Union (EU) Founded: 1 November 1993.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- Mr Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- FSSAI Founded: August 2011.
- FSSAI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Governor of Delhi: Anil Bajjal.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- India Meteorological Department Founded: 1875.
- India Meteorological Department Headquarters: Mausam Bhavan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
- National Productivity Council of India established: 1958.
- National Productivity Council of India HQ: New Delhi.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- National Informatics Centre Founded: 1976.
- National Informatics Centre Headquarters: New Delhi.
- President of Italy: Sergio Mattarella.
- Capital of Italy: Rome; Currency of Italy: Euro.
- President of United States: Joe Biden; Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Georgia Capital: Tbilisi; Currency: Georgian lari.
- HCL Technologies Founded: 11 August 1976.
- HCL Technologies Headquarters: Noida.
- ICICI Lombard Headquarters: Mumbai.
- ICICI Lombard Founded: 2001.
- Flipkart headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- India's first IFSC: Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.
- Tata Motors Founded: 1945, Mumbai.
- International Solar Alliance Headquarters: Gurugram.
- International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015.
- International Solar Alliance Founded: Paris, France.
- Human Rights Council Founded: 15 March 2006.
- Human Rights Council Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha.
- Hyundai Motor Company Founded: 29 December 1967, Seoul, South Korea.
- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director-General of International Labour Organization: Guy Ryder.
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919.

- CSIR Founded: 26 September 1942.
- CSIR HQ: New Delhi.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Prime Minister of Australia: Scott Morrison.
- The currency of Australia: Australian dollar.
- Capital of Australia: Canberra.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- Lakshadweep Capital: Kavaratti.
- Lakshadweep Administrator: Praful Patel.
- Prime Minister of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem.
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Georgia Capital: Tbilisi; Currency: Georgian Lari.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- Ethiopia Capital: Addis Ababa.
- Ethiopia Currency: Ethiopian Birr.
- Ethiopia President: Sahle-Work Zewde.
- Ethiopia Prime minister: Abiy Ahmed.
- Prime Minister of Mauritius: Pravind Jugnauth; President: Prithvirajsing Roopun.
- Mauritius Currency: Mauritian rupee.
- Mauritius Capital: Port Louis.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington DC, United States.
- World Bank Founded: July 1944.
- Headquarters of AIIB: Beijing, China.
- AIIB established: 16 January 2016.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- S&P Global Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.
- HSBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- HSBC Founder: Thomas Sutherland.
- HSBC Founded: 3 March 1865, Hong Kong.
- Headquarters of Moody's: New York, United States.
- ICRA Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana.
- OLXGroup Founded: 2006.
- OLXGroup Headquarters: Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes Founded: 19 February 2004.
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Headquarters Table Tennis Federation of India: New Delhi.
- Table Tennis Federation of India Founded: 1926.
- Fullerton India Credit Company Founded: 1994.
- Fullerton India Credit Company Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd Founded: 7 February 1938, Mumbai.
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Union Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Union Bank of India Founded: 11 November 1919.
- International Commission on Large Dams Founded: 1928.
- International Commission on Large Dams Headquarters location: Paris, France.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- Headquarters of Central Board of Excise and Custom: New Delhi.
- Central Board of Excise and Custom Founded: 1 January 1964.
- HQ of DGCA: New Delhi; Established in Jan 1978.
- Chandigarh Administrator: V.P. Singh Badnore.
- UNFPA Headquarters: New York, New York, United States.
- UNFPA Founded: 1969.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- JPMorgan Headquarters: New York, United States.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- EURORDIS Founded: 1997.
- EURORDIS Headquarters location: Paris, France.

States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal	Satyadeo Narain Arya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
11	Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

Union Ministers in News in month of February 2021

Sr. No.	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep Singh Puri.
2	Minister of Science and Technology	Dr Harsh Vardhan
3	Union Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
4	Union Textiles Minister	Smriti Irani
5	Agriculture Minister	Narendra Singh Tomar
6	Petroleum Minister	Dharmendra Pradhan
7	Animal Husbandry Minister	Giriraj Singh
8	Jal Shakti Minister	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
9	Minister of State for Jal Shakti	Rattan Lal Kataria

Sr. No.	Ministry	Union Minister
10	Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare	Kailash Choudhry
11	Union road transport and highways minister	Nitin Gadkari
12	Defence Minister	Rajnath Singh
13	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister	Mahendra Nath Pandey
14	Minister of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal
15	Minister of State for Environment Forest and Climate Change	Babul Supriyo
16	Union Education Minister	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
17	Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism	Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
18	Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment	Thaawarchand Gehlot
19	Minister of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
20	Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Shipping	Mansukh L. Mandaviya
21	Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Kiren Rijju

● **Heads of various organizations in News in month of February 2021**

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	Ford Motor Co-Founder	Henry Ford
2	CEO of Google	Sundar Pichai
3	DICGC Chairperson	Michael Patra
4	Punjab National Bank CEO	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
5	Punjab National Bank Founders	Lala Lajpat Rai, Dyal Singh Majithia
6	Chief Executive Officer of Facebook	Mark Zuckerberg
7	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited CMD	R Madhavan
8	Air Chief Marshal	Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
9	Asian Cricket Council Chairman	Amitabh Choudhary
10	Director-General of Indian Coast Guard	Krishnaswamy Natarajan
11	President of WADA	Sir Craig Reedie
12	UN World Tourism Organization Secretary-General	Zurab Pololikashvili
13	PayPal CEO	Dan Schulman
14	Federal Bank MD & CEO	Shyam Srinivasan
15	ICAR Director	Trilochan Mohapatra
16	World Bank President	David Malpass
17	Bharat Electronics Limited Chairman & Managing Director	M V Gowtama
18	ONGC Energy Centre Chairman & Managing Director	Shashi Shanker
19	Founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace	Pawan Kumar Chandana
20	CEO of Phonepe	Sameer Nigam
21	MD & CEO of India Ratings and Research	Rohit Karan Sawhney
22	National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Sujoy Bose
23	New Development Bank Chairperson of the Board of Governors	Anton Siluanov
25	Export-Import Bank of India CEO	David Rasquinha

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
26	Central Reserve Police Force Director-General	AP Maheshwari
27	European Parliament President	David-Maria Sassoli
28	Food and Agriculture Organization Head	Qu Dongyu
29	FSSAI Chairperson	Rita Teatonia
30	FSSAI Chief Executive Officer	Arun Singhal
31	Acting Administrator of NASA	Steve Jurczyk
32	India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director-General	Mrutyunjay Mohapatra
33	Director-General of National Productivity Council	Arun Kumar Jha
34	ISRO Chairman	K.Sivan
35	National Informatics Centre Director-General	Neeta Verma
36	HCL Technologies CEO	C Vijayakumar
37	ICICI Lombard CEO	Bhargav Dasgupta
38	Flipkart CEO	Kalyan Krishnamurthy
39	Tata Motors Founder	J. R. D. Tata
40	Human Rights Council President	Nazhat Shameem
41	Hyundai Motor Company Founder	Chung Ju-Yung
42	CSIR Head	Shekhar C. Mande
43	Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral Karambir Singh
44	Defence Research and Development & Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
45	Indian Oil Corporation Limited Chairman	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
46	World Bank President	David Malpass
47	President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Jin Liqun
48	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
49	President of S&P Global Ratings	John Berisford
50	HSBC CEO	Noel Quinn
51	President & CEO of Moody's	Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr
52	ICRA Non-Executive Chairman and Director	Arun Duggal
53	Larsen & Toubro Ltd CEO	S. N. Subrahmanyam
54	Union Bank of India CEO	Rajkiran Rai G
55	International Commission on Large Dams President	Michael Rogers
56	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
57	Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Custom	M. Ajit Kumar
58	Acting Administrator of NASA	Steve Jurczyk
59	UNFPA Head	Natalia Kanem
60	National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
61	JPMorgan CEO	Jamie Dimon
62	SBI Chairperson	Dinesh Kumar Khara
63	JPMorgan Founder	J. P. Morgan