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# THE HINDU REVIEW

JANUARY  
2021

CURRENT AFFAIRS | MONTHLY CAPSULE

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## The Most Important Current Affairs January 2020

### ICC Awards of the Decade 2020 announced

The winners of the prestigious **ICC Awards of the Decade** were announced on 28th December 2020. The ICC Awards of The Decade recognise the best players across Cricket over the past 10 years.

#### List of Winners

- **ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade:** MS Dhoni (India)

#### ICC Men's Awards

- **Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade:** Virat Kohli (India)
- **ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade:** Virat Kohli (India)
- **ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Decade:** Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- **ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Decade:** Steve Smith (Australia)
- **ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Decade:** Kyle Coetzer (Scotland)

#### ICC Women's Award

- **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade:** Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- **ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Decade:** Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- **ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Decade:** Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- **ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Decade:** Kathryn Bryce (Scotland)

### Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2020

Harmony Foundation hosted the **Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice**. The Awards in its 16th year is the only award endorsed by Sister Prema, the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity, the organization started by Mother Teresa. The theme for this year's awards was, 'Celebrating Compassion In Times Of Covid'.

#### Awardees this year included:

- Dr **Anthony Fauci** (USA) is the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA. He and his task force were among the first ones to realize the seriousness of this pandemic.
- **Father Fabio Stevenazzi** (Milan, Italy), decided to return to medical practice in order to help those infected with COVID 19 has thrust him to be the modern-day example of St Charles Borromeo who in 1576 during the Great Plague that hit the city of Milan and cut the population by half, stayed behind to nurse the sick and renovate hospitals.

- **Dr Pradeep Kumar** (Chennai) took it upon himself to give a befitting burial to his colleague with the help of two ward boys, at a cemetery in the city in the middle of the night.
- **IPS Sanjay Pandey** (DG Home Guards, Maharashtra) went beyond the call of duty as a police officer to open the first relief camp in the Mumbai city suburbs for migrant workers whose livelihood were disrupted by the lockdown to contain the pandemic.
- **Vikas Khanna** (Manhattan, USA) heart still moves to serve the lonely and underprivileged here in India.
- **KK Shailaja** (Minister of Health, Kerala), her extraordinary efforts and pro-activeness in dealing with the pandemic by following experts and scientific advice helped countless Keralites survive the terrors of this pandemic, serving as an example for governments of other states countries to follow.

#### About Harmony Foundation:

Harmony Foundation is an international NGO that works in the realm of Social Justice. It was founded in **October of 2005**, with its raison d'être, being the establishment, and strengthening, of social cohesion among various communities, and to work towards the benefit of all, without discriminating against any **religion, creed, sex**, or their origins. Instituted in 2005, these Awards, celebrate and commemorate the memory and legacy of Mother Teresa, canonized a Saint by **Pope Francis** in the Vatican.

### Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme**. The main aim behind the scheme is to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of **Jammu and Kashmir**.

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### About the AB-PMJAY Scheme

- **SEHAT** stands for **Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine**. It is a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.
- It provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K.
- It also provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K and an operational extension of PM-JAY to 15 lakh (approximately) additional families.

### Important points about PM- JAY

- It is the **world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme** fully financed by the government, provides a cover of Rs 500,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- The benefit of Rs 5,00,000 is on a family floater basis. This means that it can be used by one or all members of the family.
- It covers medical procedures including oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc and up to three days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days post-hospitalisation expenses like diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.

### Harsh Vardhan launches India's 1st indigenous pneumonia vaccine 'Pneumosil'

The Union Health Minister Dr **Harsh Vardhan** launched India's first indigenously developed vaccine against pneumonia. The **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** named '**Pneumosil**' has been developed by Pune-based **Serum Institute of India (SII)** in collaboration with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** and **PATH**, an international, nonprofit global health organization based in Seattle.

#### About the vaccine:

The vaccine will provide protection against 10 variants of pneumococcus bacteria that causes pneumonia, meningitis, ear, and blood infections in children. Pneumococcal disease is the largest contributor to under-five mortality rate worldwide.

### India's 1st Testbed TiHAN launched at IIT Hyderabad

Union Minister of Education, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually laid the foundation stone of "**TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad**", India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial) at **IIT Hyderabad**. The **Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Systems (TiHAN)** for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles at IIT Hyderabad.

### About the TiHAN Navigation Systems

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has sanctioned Rs. 135 crores to IIT Hyderabad under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems.
- Two acres of land has already been allocated in the IIT Hyderabad campus and the facilities are planned in phases.
- All Smart poles are enabled with communication providing technology with some Poles designed with sprinklers to simulate rain scenarios. The developed testbed will be available for use by all the industries, R&D labs, academia conducting research and development in the broad areas of autonomous navigation.

### DCGI gives final approval for Covid-19 vaccines of SII, Bharat Biotech

The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has formally announced the final approval for Oxford-AstraZeneca "**Covishield**" and Bharat Biotech "**Covaxin**" vaccines against the coronavirus disease (**Covid-19**) for emergency use. **CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation)** accepts the subject expert committee reformulations on Serum and Bharat Biotech Covid vaccines.

#### About Covishield:

The subject expert committee (SEC) under CDSCO had recommended **Oxford-AstraZeneca's** vaccine, which is being manufactured by the **Serum Institute of India (SII)** as **Covishield**, for emergency use and **Covaxin** for restricted use.

#### About Covaxin:

**Covaxin** is the indigenous vaccine being developed by **Bharat Biotech** in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

### India to chair 3 key subsidiary bodies of UN Security Council

The Permanent Representative of India to the UN, **T S Tirumurti** has announced that India has been asked to chair three important committees of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, during its tenure as a non-permanent member of the powerful **15-nation UN body**.

#### The three highly significant committees include:

1. Taliban Sanctions Committee
2. Counter-Terrorism Committee
3. Libyan Sanctions Committee

Among these, India will chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee of UNSC in 2022, which coincides with the 75th anniversary of India's independence. India began its two-year term at UNSC from January 01, 2021. It is the eighth time that the country has joined UNSC as the non-permanent member. In 2021, along with India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico joined as non-permanent members in the Council.

### RBI introduces the RBI-Digital Payments Index

Reserve Bank of India has launched a Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitization of digital/electronic payments across the country. This RBI-Digital Payments Index (DPI) has 5 broad parameters that will be used for the measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments.

These parameters and their weightage are as under:

- Payment Enablers (weight 25%),
- Payment Infrastructure - Demand-side factors (10%),
- Payment Infrastructure - Supply-side factors (15%),
- Payment Performance (45%) and
- Consumer Centricity (5%).

The base period for RBI-DPI is March 2018. This means that the DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100. RBI has calculated the DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 at 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth. RBI-DPI shall be published on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months.

### PM Modi inaugurates Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 450-km Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline built at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore via video conferencing. The event marks an important milestone towards the creation of One Nation One Gas Grid. Natural gas pipeline network will be doubled in 5-6 years and CNG stations will be raised to 10,000 from current 1,500.

About the Pipeline:

- The pipeline will carry natural gas from Kochi in Kerala through Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargod districts to Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.
- It has been built by GAIL (India) Limited. It will carry natural gas from the LNG Regasification Terminal at Kochi. The pipeline will supply environment-friendly PNG.
- The pipeline grid will help improve clean energy access as well as also aid in the development of city gas projects.

### MoS Reddy to head committee for 'protecting language, culture and land of Ladakh'

A 10-member delegation from Ladakh met Union home minister Amit Shah has urged the government to protect Ladakh's language, culture and land. The Central Government has decided to form a committee to protect the unique language, cultural identity and land of Ladakh. The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.

About the committee:

This committee will also ensure citizen's participation in the development of the Union Territory. The other members of the committee will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, central government, and the Ladakh administration.

### RBI sets up College of Supervisors chaired by N S Viswanathan

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an academic advisory council called 'College of Supervisors (CoS)' to further strengthen supervision over regulated entities. The Cos will be headed by former deputy governor N S Viswanathan and will have five other members. The objective of the council will be to identify areas where skill building/up-skilling are required, plan and develop curricula of all programmes, benchmark the programmes with international standards/best practices, and develop appropriate teaching methods, etc.

Other members include:

- Arijit Basu, State Bank of India Managing Director
- Paresh Sukhankar, former HDFC Bank Deputy Managing Director
- S Raghunath of Bangalore IIM
- Tadhagatha Bandyophay of Ahemadabad IIM and
- Subrata Sarkar of IGIDR, Mumbai.

### First time in history, Union Budget 2021 to be paperless

Union Budget 2021, slated to be presented on February 1, is going to be completely paperless in the wake of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This will be the first time since independence that the budget papers will not be printed. The Centre has received permission for the same from both houses of parliament. The decision has been taken as several people (approximately 100) would be required to stay at the printing press for around a fortnight amid the COVID-19 fear.

The budget papers are usually printed at the ministry's in-house printing press in the **North Block**. This year's budget may reportedly witness several conventions being broken as the traditional '**Halwa**' ceremony, which is a given every year is also not likely to take place, or a low-key function may be held with limited gathering in attendance.

### Donald Trump becomes first U.S. President to be impeached twice

**President Donald Trump** was impeached by the U.S. House for a historic **second time** on January 13, charged with "**incitement of insurrection**" over the deadly mob siege of the Capitol in a swift and stunning collapse of his final days in office. He was first impeached in **2019** over his Ukraine dealings.

The House voted **232-197** to impeach Mr Trump. The proceedings moved at lightning speed, with lawmakers voting just one week after violent pro-Mr. Trump loyalists stormed the U.S. Capitol, urged on by the President's calls for them to "**fight like hell**" against the election results.

### RBI forms six-member working group to regulate digital lending frauds

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set up a **working group** to study **digital lending** activities of the regulated and unregulated players, due to the growing instances of frauds in digital lending space. The group will suggest steps to regulate digital lending including online lending platform and mobile lending. The group will evaluate digital lending activities and assess the penetration and standards of outsourced digital lending activities in RBI regulated entities.

The six-member panel comprises of following four RBI internal and two external members:

1. **Jayant Kumar Dash**, Executive Director, RBI (Chairman)
2. **Ajay Kumar Choudhary**, Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Supervision (Member)
3. **P Vasudevan**, Chief General Manager, Department of Payment and Settlement Systems, RBI (Member)
4. **Manoranjan Mishra**, Chief General Manager, Department of Regulation (Member Secretary)
5. **Vikram Mehta**, Co-founder, Monexo Fintech (External Member)
6. **Rahul Sasi**, Cyber Security Expert & Founder of CloudSEK (External Member)

### India Ranks 85 in Henley Passport Index 2021

The **Henley Passport Index 2021** has been released by **Henley & Partners**, based on the exclusive data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**. As per the latest report, **India** has been ranked **85th among 110 countries**, in the Henley Passport Index for 2021, with a visa-free score of **58**. The index presents the original ranking of the world's most powerful passports, according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.

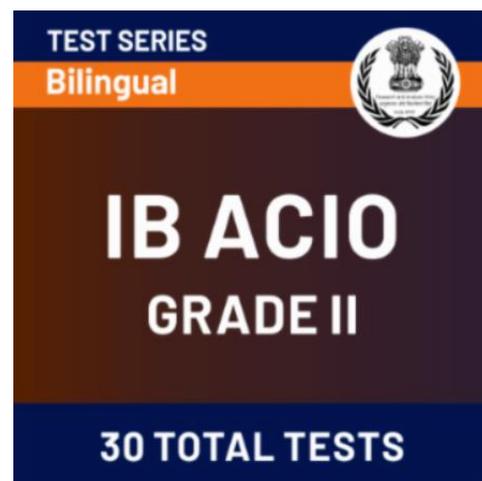
**Japan** has once again topped the list of being the most powerful passport in the world, for the third consecutive year. Japanese citizens can travel to as many as 191 countries visa-free. **Singapore** is in second place (190) and **South Korea** ties with Germany in third place (189). **Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan** are the countries with the worst passport, with a passport score of 29, 28 and 26 respectively.

### India's 7th Trade Policy Review (TPR) at WTO

The second session of the **7th Trade Policy Review (TPR) of India** concluded at the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. This was the final session of the 7th trade policy review. Trade Policy Review is a key mechanism under the monitoring function of WTO. During this trade policy review, WTO examines the trade and related policies of the member countries with an aim to improve their adherence to WTO rules and to provide constructive feedback.

#### Important Points Trade Policy Review (TPR) of India:

- The official delegation of India for the 7th TPR was headed by **Anup Wadhawan**, the Commerce Secretary.
- The Commerce Secretary responded to all the issues rose by the Members during the 1st TPR session of India.



- The Commerce Secretary also urged the members to provide a permanent solution to Public Stock Holding (PSH) for food security.
- India is committed to simplify and streamline the overall domestic business environment and has an aim to make a place in the **top 50 in the World Bank's Doing Business Report**.
- Before this, the last Trade Policy Review of India was held in the year **2015**.

#### About World Trade Organization:

WTO is an organization that regulates international trade between countries. It was established in the year **1955** and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**. It has 164 members at present.

#### IRDAI sets up panel to examine availability of health insurance products

Insurance regulator **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** has set up a panel of experts called '**Health Insurance Advisory Committee**' to examine the availability of health insurance products in the country, considering the need of the Indian society and recommend suitable products and processes. The expert committee will be headed by IRDAI Chairperson, **Subhash Chandra Khuntia** and will have a Member (Non-Life) as the vice-chairperson. The committee, which has a term of **one year**.

#### Members of the committee include:

- Nachiket Mor (Visiting Scientist, Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health),
- A K Chand (Professor and Neurosurgeon, Bangalore),
- B K Mohanti (Former Professor and Oncologist, AIIMS),
- K Hari Prasad (Anaesthetist, Hyderabad), and Pankaj Sharma (IRDAI).

#### GoI decides to celebrate January 23 as Parakram Diwas

The birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**, on **January 23**, as '**Parakram Diwas**' every year, the **Ministry of Culture** announced. The day is celebrated to honour and remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation. Earlier this month, the Ministry of Culture held a high-level committee, headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, to commemorate the **125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** in a befitting manner.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit **West Bengal on January 23** to attend Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary celebrations at the **Victorial Memorial in Kolkata**. The PM is also likely to visit **National Library** located in **Belvedere Estate, Alipore**.

#### Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw selected as one of USIBC vice-chair

The **US-India Business Council (USIBC)** has selected three top corporate leaders as the **Vice-Chairs of 2021** Global Board of Directors of USIBC with immediate effect. The three new appointees will now work with USIBC President **Nisha Biswal** and the Council's policy directors, for strengthening US-India commercial relationship for the future.

#### The three newly appointed VCs are

- Biocon Executive Chairperson: **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**.
- Amway CEO: **Milind Pant**.
- Vice-chair at Nasdaq: **Edward Knight**.

USIBC has strengthened its leadership team as it plans to work with the new Joe Biden-led US administration. The Council advocates for strengthening US-India commercial relationship for the future. The vice-chairs will work to amplify the voice of the industry on international trade and investment issues and emphasise the key role that businesses can play in strengthening democratic institutions and combatting the global pandemic.

#### NITI Aayog Releases India Innovation Index 2.0

**NITI Aayog** released the **second edition** of the **India Innovation Index** on 20 January 2021, along with the **Institute for Competitiveness**. India Innovation Index 2.0 or 2nd edition has released by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar**. The index demonstrates the government's continued commitment towards transforming the country into an innovation-driven economy. The report examines the innovation capabilities and performance of the states and union territories.

#### The innovation index ranking is based on five enabler parameters:

- Human Capital
- Investment
- Knowledge Workers
- 'Business Environment
- 'Safety and Legal Environment

#### Two performance parameters:

- Knowledge Output
- Knowledge Diffusion

In the India Innovation Index-2020, the States and Union Territories have been divided into the 17 Major States, 9 City-States and Union Territories, and 10 North-East and Hill States.

**In the 2020 ranking:**

- **Karnataka** retained its first position in the Major States category. **Maharashtra** moved one position higher and stood at 2nd spot while **Tamil Nadu** slid to 3rd position.
- In the North East and Hill States category, **Himachal Pradesh** stands at first position followed by **Uttarakhand** and **Manipur**.
- **Delhi** stands at the first position while **Chandigarh** retained its second spot in the Union Territories and small States category.

**PM Modi appointed chairman of Somnath Temple Trust**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was appointed the new **chairman** of the trust which manages the world-famous **Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district**, becoming the second PM to hold the post. After former **PM Morarji Desai**, Narendra Modi is the second Prime Minister who has been appointed the chairman of the temple trust. As per trust records, PM Modi has become the **eighth chairman of the trust**. As per the records, Desai had served as the chairman between **1967 and 1995**.

The post of the Somnath Trust's chairman fell vacant after the death of the incumbent, former Gujarat Chief Minister **Keshubhai Patel**, in October last year. Patel had served as the chairman for 16 years (2004-2020). Other trustees include BJP leader LK Advani, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat-based scholar JD Parmar and businessman Harshvardhan Neotia.

**Arjun Munda Virtually Launches "Shramshakti" Portal**

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri **Arjun Munda** has launched a National Migration Support Portal "**ShramShakti**", during a virtual programme organised at **Panjim, Goa**. The portal will help the government in smooth formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers.

Shram Shakti portal will address the **data gap and empower migrant workers** who generally migrate in search of employment and income generation. The government would also be able to link the migrant population with existing Welfare Scheme- under **Atam Nirbhar Bharat**.

The minister also launched "**ShramSaathi**", a training manual for migrant workers, to ensure that the process of livelihood migration is safe and productive. Apart from this, a dedicated **Migration cell** was also launched in Goa to facilitate and support migrants who come from different States to Goa. This makes Goa first destination state of India to set up a dedicated migration cell to address diverse issues of migrant workers.

**Republic Day 2021: India celebrates its 72nd Republic Day**

The nation celebrated the **72nd Republic Day** with a grand military parade and exhibition of its history, cultural diversity and strategic weaponry at the **Rajpath, Delhi**. This day is celebrated by all Indians and **26th of January** has been declared as a national holiday by the government of India. The Republic Day Parade ceremony will commence with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visiting the **National War Memorial**. The National Flag was unfurled followed by the National Anthem with a booming 21-gun salute.

The Indian Republic Day is celebrated all across India with lots of patriotism and fervour. At Rajpath, in Delhi, magnificent parades by regiments of the **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, police, and paramilitary forces** are witnessed. India's defensive prowess is on display too, with the latest missiles, aircraft, and weapon systems. Beautiful tableaux, representing the uniqueness of all the states of India are also showcased during the parade. The celebration usually ends with numerous air shows and flypasts by the Indian Forces.

**Republic Day Of India: Importance**

- India became independent on **15th of august, 1947**. Even after independence, the country did not have a sound constitution.
- The laws, before the enactment of the constitution, were running on the basis of **Government of India Act 1935**. Having realized the need for a permanent constitution and its own governing body, the government of India appointed a Drafting Committee on **28th of August 1947** to draft it and **Dr, B. R. Ambedkar** as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.
- After almost **3 years**, the **308 members** of the Assembly, after many consultations and a few modifications finally signed a constitution on **24th of January 1950**, which came into effect on **26th of January 1950**.
- And, that day, is being celebrated as Republic Day in India ever since then. This day defines the importance of having a proper constitution that all the citizens must abide by.

**Ministry of Home Affairs Padma Awards 2021 announced**

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has announced a list of **119 personalities** who will be conferred the Padma Awards by **President Ram Nath Kovind** this year. These awards cater to various disciplines including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil service. While 'Padma Shri' is awarded for distinguished service in any field, '**Padma Bhushan**' is awarded for distinguished service of a high order.

### Padma Vibhushan awards List

1. Shinzo Abe, Japan
2. S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous), Tamil Nadu
3. Belle Monappa Hegde, Karnataka
4. Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous), USA
5. Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, Delhi
6. B. B. Lal, Delhi
7. Sudarshan Sahoo, Odisha

### Padma Bhushan Awards List

1. Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra, Kerala
2. Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous), Assam
3. Chandrashekhara Kambara, Karnataka
4. Sumitra Mahajan, Madhya Pradesh
5. Nripendra Misra, Uttar Pradesh
6. Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous), Bihar
7. Keshubhai Patel (Posthumous), Gujarat
8. Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous), Uttar Pradesh
9. Rajnikant Devidas Shroff, Maharashtra
10. Tarlochan Singh, Haryana

## 51st International Film Festival of India Concludes

The **51st edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was held from 16 January to 24 January 2021 at Shyamaprasad Stadium near **Panaji in Goa**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival was held in hybrid mode, there was the physical and virtual screening of 50 films out of 224 films across various categories. **Bangladesh** was a country of focus at the festival. Four films of Bangladesh was included in 'country of focus' section.

### The winners of the IFFI awards are listed below:

- Golden Peacock Award for Best Film: Into the Darkness
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor (Male): Tzu-Chuan Liu, The Silent Forest
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor (Female): Zofia Stafiej, I Never Cry
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Director: Chen-Nien Ko, The Silent Forest
- Best Debut Director Award: Cássio Pereira dos Santos, Valentina
- Special Mention Award: Kripal Kalita, Bridge
- Special Jury Award: Kamin Kalev, February
- ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Award: Ameen Nayfeh's 200 Meters
- Indian Personality of the Year Award: Biswajit Chatterjee
- Lifetime Achievement: Vittorio Storaro (Italian cinematographer).

## India Ranks 7th in Global Climate Risk Index 2021

**India** has been placed among the top 10 most affected countries by climate change, in the **Global Climate Risk Index 2021** published by the Bonn-based environmental think tank **Germanwatch**. India ranked as the **seventh worst-hit country** in terms of climate change in 2019. The **Global Climate Risk Index 2021** is the **16th edition** of the annual report and has taken into account the data available for 2019 and from 2000 to 2019. The index analyses and ranks to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of climate-related extreme weather events (storms, floods, heatwaves etc.)

**Top 3 countries:** Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Bahamas were the top three most affected countries in 2019 respectively.

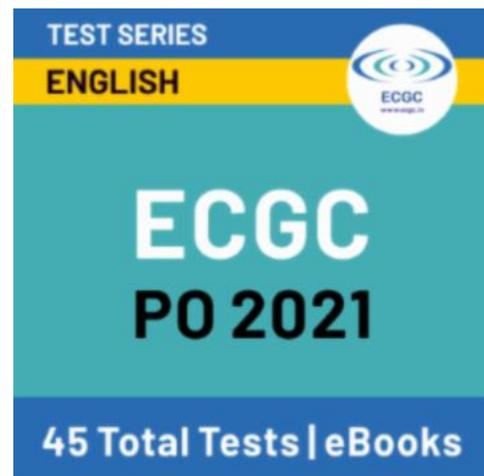
**Top 3 Countries most affected in the past 20 years:** Between 2000-2019, Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti were the countries most affected by the impacts of such weather events.

### About the Global Climate Risk Index:

The Global Climate Risk Index indicates a level of exposure and vulnerability to extreme weather events, which countries should understand as warnings in order to be prepared for more frequent and/or more severe events in the future.

## Ram Temple tableau of Uttar Pradesh on Republic Day wins 1st prize

The **Ram Temple tableau** of Uttar Pradesh that was on display during the **Republic Day 2021** has bagged the **first prize** among all tableaux. The theme of Uttar Pradesh's tableau was '**Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh**'. The cultural heritage of ancient holy town Ayodhya, a replica of a Ram temple, a glimpse of 'Deepotsav' and various stories from Ramayana epic were depicted in the tableau.



The Tripura tableau won the **second prize** for the Republic Day parade. Uttarakhand's tableau on the theme 'Dev Bhoomi – The Land of the Gods' was adjudged third among the states and union territories. The tableau of **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)**, with the theme 'Amar Jawan', bagged a special prize for paying tribute to the fallen heroes of the armed forces.

### Economic Survey 2021: Key highlights of Economic Survey

Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has presented **Economic Survey 2020-21** in the Parliament on **29 January 2021**. The major focus of this year's economic survey is the losses and impact of the **Covid-19 pandemic**. The survey will provide an assessment of how the Indian economy has been impacted by the deadly COVID-19 virus and how it is improving. It will also project India's gross domestic product growth for 2021-22.

The Economic Survey document is prepared by the **Economics Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor **Krishnamurthy Subramanian**. The Economic Survey 2020-21 will be followed by the Union Budget 2020-21 which will be tabled on February 1.

#### The theme of Economic Survey, 2020-21:

- #SavingLives&Livelihoods
- #VshapedRecovery

#### What is the Economic Survey?

- The Economic Survey is an annual document of the Ministry of Finance. It reviews the economic progress of the country and issues in the last 12 months.
- The survey provides information related to the performance of key developmental schemes launched by the government. The document also explains the performance of major government policies and their impact.
- The Economic Survey discusses major fiscal developments, macroeconomic factors, inflation, and other economic factors. The document also highlights the impact of agriculture, climate change, and employment on the economy of the country.
- The 1st Economic Survey was tabled in **1950-51**. However, till the year **1964**, it was presented along with the budget.

#### Here are the key highlights from the Economic Survey 2020-21:

- The real GDP of the country to record a growth of 11% in the financial year 2021-22 and nominal GDP by 15.4%.
- V-shaped economic recovery will be seen due to COVID-19 Vaccination Drive, recovery in the services sector, and growth in consumption and investment.

- According to the Economic Survey 2020-21, the GDP of the country is projected to decrease by 7.7% in the fiscal year 2020-21. It will include a sharp 15.7% decline in the first half and a 0.1% decreases in the second half.
- The agriculture sector has remained the silver lining while manufacturing, contact-based services, construction were the hardest hit sectors.
- In quarter 1, the GDP contraction was by 23.9% due to lockdown and Q2 saw a V-shaped recovery with a 7.5% decline.
- Food prices were high driving inflation. However, the inflation reached under the RBI's target range of 4+/-2% in December 2020 to reach 4.6%.
- Credit growth to agriculture and allied activities increased to 7.4% in October 2020 in comparison to 7.1% in October 2019.
- Credit growth to the services sector increased to 9.5% in October 2020 in comparison to 6.5% in October 2019.
- Exports are projected to decrease by 5.8% and imports by 11.3% in the second half of the year. India is expected to have a Current Account Surplus of 2% of GDP in FY21, a historic high after 17 years.
- The fiscal deficit of the country is expected to overshoot the initial estimates, 3.5% of GDP, in the financial year 2020-21.
- The Economic Survey 202-21 highlighted that the year 2020 was dominated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulted in the global economic slowdown.

### Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **IDBI Bank** announced the launch of video **KYC account opening (VAO) facility** for savings bank accounts. Through the facility, a customer can open a savings account with the lender from the convenience of his/her home or office as there are no physical forms to be filled or visits to be made to the branch.
- Uttar Pradesh-based, **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB)** has become the first **urban co-operative bank (UCB)** in India to receive a licence from **RBI** to operate as a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)**. The RBI had given an 18-month timeline to commence business.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has introduced **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** for all payment transactions of value **Rs 50 crore** and above undertaken by entities (non-individuals) via **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** and **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)**. The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.

- **IDFC Mutual Funds** has launched its latest pan-India investor awareness campaign titled **#PaisoKoRokoMat**. With this new campaign, IDFC Mutual Fund aims to shift the conversation regarding wealth creation from the traditional to the contemporary.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based **Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank**, with immediate effect. Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd will now not be allowed to conduct the business of 'banking', including acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits, with effect from the close of business on **January 11, 2021**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 2 crore** on **Deutsche Bank AG** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions concerning interest rate on deposits. The central bank said the statutory inspection of Deutsche Bank's financial position as on **March 31, 2019**, and the **Risk Assessment Report** revealed non-compliance with the '**Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016**'.
- **Yes Bank** has announced its partnership with **Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited** to launch the '**YES BANK Wellness**' and '**YES BANK Wellness Plus Credit Cards** - aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers. This is an innovative step to encourage and promote self-care, mental and physical well-being.
- **ICICI Bank**, a leading Indian private sector bank, and **Niyo**, a new age fintech company announced a tie-up to issue prepaid cards to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** workers. MSMEs will now be able to get '**ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card**' powered by Visa, for their blue-collar workers.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched a new mobile application '**InstaFX**' for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get '**ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card**' swiftly. ICICI is the bank is the first in the country to offer such facility to money changers. A money changer is a person or organization whose business is the exchange of coins or currency of one country, for that of another.
- To protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds, **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched '**Airtel Safe Pay**', a safe way to pay digitally. With '**Airtel Safe Pay**', Airtel customers making UPI or net banking-based payments through Airtel Payments Bank, no longer have to worry about money flowing out of their accounts without their explicit consent.
- **Axis Bank** has unveiled a credit '**AURA**' exclusively loaded with several health and wellness benefits for its users at an affordable price. Axis Bank has partnered with Poshvine to offer benefits and specialists such as **Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG etc.**, to offer a complete and unique health & wellness solution to the cardholders.
- The **RBI** state-owned **SBI**, along with private-sector lenders **ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** continue to be **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** or institutions which are '**too big to fail**'. SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as in the **2018 list of D-SIBs**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 2 crore** on **Standard Chartered Bank-India** for delays in reporting of frauds. The penalty has been imposed on the bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it contained in the '**Reserve Bank of India (Frauds - Classification and Reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) Directions 2016**'.

### Economy Current Affairs

- **World Bank** has projected the Indian economy to contract by **9.6 per cent** in the fiscal year 2020-21, in its Global Economic Prospects report. World Bank estimates Growth to recover to **5.4 per cent** in 2021. Apart from this, the global economy is estimated to expand by 4 per cent in 2021 by the World Bank. According to the report, global growth is projected to moderate to 3.8 per cent in 2022.
- The **GDP of India** is expected to contract by **7.7 per cent** in the current fiscal year 2020-21, as per the first advanced estimates released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)** on January 07, 2021. The first advance estimates of GDP of a financial year are released before the Union Budget. This data helps in the budget-making process.
- London-based financial services company **IHS Markit** has projected the Indian economy to rebound by **8.9 per cent** in the fiscal year **2021-22**, beginning April 2021. This upward estimate is based on the backdrop of the significant improvement in domestic economic activity in the fourth quarter of 2020 by India.
- Domestic rating agency **ICRA Ratings** expects the real **gross domestic product (GDP)** of India to grow by **10.1%** in the financial year **2021-22 (FY2022)**. The rating agency ICRA had earlier projected a contraction of 7.8% for the ongoing **fiscal 2020-21**.

- India's **retail inflation** fell sharply to **4.59 per cent** in **December**, mainly due to declining food prices, government data showed. Retail inflation based on the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** was **6.93 per cent** in November.
- The **BofA Securities** expects the GDP growth of India for the current financial year 2020-21 to contract by **6.7 per cent**. Apart from this, BofA Securities has projected the Indian economy to grow at **9 per cent** in **2021-22** if the vaccine distribution is done in the first half of the new fiscal year, but it expects GDP growth prospects at just at **6 per cent** if the distribution is delayed to the second half of 2021-22 (October-March).
- Swiss brokerage major **UBS Investment Bank** has projected the Indian economy to contract **7.5 per cent** in the current fiscal FY21, ending March 2021. UBS further expects the economy to rebound at **11.5 per cent** in FY22. For the FY23, GDP growth is expected to stabilise at **6 per cent**.
- The **Japanese brokerage Nomura** has revised upward, the GDP forecast for India in 2020-21 and now expects it to contract to **6.7 per cent**. Nomura has further projected the GDP of India to rise to **13.5 per cent** in **FY22 (2021-22)**.
- The **Fitch Ratings** expect the gross domestic product (GDP) of India to contract by **9.4 per cent** in **FY21** (April 2020 to March 2021). Fitch further projects the GDP to expand by **11 per cent** in **FY22** (April 2021 to March 2022).
- **CARE Ratings** has revised downwards its projection of the Centre's fiscal deficit to **7.8 %** of GDP during **FY21** against its earlier estimate of **9-9.5 %**. The combined effect of lower revenues & higher expenditure is likely to push the fiscal deficit to **7.8% of GDP**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has pegged the Indian economy to contract by **8 per cent** in the current financial year 2020-21, in its latest **World Economic Outlook**, released on 26 January 2021. The IMF expects GDP of India to rise to **11.5 per cent** in the next financial year i.e. 2021-22. Apart from this, the IMF projected the global growth to contract at **3.5 per cent** in 2020. The global economy is projected to grow by **5.5 per cent** in 2021 and **4.2 per cent** in 2022 as per the IMF.
- India's economic growth is forecast to be **7.3 per cent** in the Calendar Year 2021 by the UN. The **Indian economy** is estimated to contract by **9.6 per cent** in the Calendar year 2020, as per the **World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021**, produced by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**. In addition to this, the global economy is estimated to shrink by **4.3 per cent** in 2020. The UN has estimated the Global GDP to recover to **4.7 per cent** in 2021.

- The **gross domestic product (GDP)** of India is expected to contract by **8 per cent** in 2020-21, according to the latest **Economic Outlook Survey** of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**). Apart from this, FICCI expects the economy to perform much better in the financial year 2021-22 with a GDP growth rate of **9.6 per cent** in **FY22**.

### Business Current Affairs

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of India have signed a **\$10 million project readiness financing (PRF)**. This agreement aims to help finance piloting activities, and design and capacity building for an ensuing project that aims to expand horticulture production and farm household income in the hill state of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a **\$231 million loan** with the Government of India to augment **electricity generation capacity** in the state of **Assam**. This is the third tranche loan for the '**Assam Power Sector Investment Programme**' that was approved by the **ADB Board in July 2014**.
- Indian multinational two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturing company, **Bajaj Auto** has become the most valuable two-wheeler company in the world, after it crossed a market capitalization of more than **Rs. 1 lakh crore**, on January 01, 2021.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** will provide a **USD 100 million** (around Rs 730 crore) loan to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system in **Bengaluru city**. Besides the USD 100 million sovereign loans, ADB will provide a USD 90 million loan without sovereign guarantee for the project to **Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (BESCOM)**, one of the five state-owned distribution utilities in Karnataka.
- The **World Bank** has signed a **\$105 million** project with the **Government of India** and the **Government of West Bengal** to improve the inland water transport infrastructure in Kolkata, West Bengal. The **\$105 million loans** from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a maturity of **17 years**, including a grace period of **7 years**.
- Global financial services major **HSBC** has inaugurated its **International Banking Unit (IBU)** branch at **GIFT City near Gandhinagar city in Gujarat**. HSBC is one of the earliest global financial institutions setting up a branch at India's GIFT City and was the first bank to get a licence from the newly set up **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**. HSBC's IBU branch at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** will be operational for customer transactions with effect from January 27.

- **Bharti AXA General Insurance** has launched **Krishni Sakha App**, a one-stop-shop for Indian farmers that offers them relevant information to cater to their daily farming needs. It also provides guidance to farmers to adopt best farming practices and enhance their productivity.

### International Current Affairs

- The **Myanmar Navy** has officially inducted the submarine **INS Sindhuvir**, which was handed over by the Indian Navy to the country in October 2020. This is the first submarine in the **Myanmar Navy's arsenal**. The submarine has been refurbished for the Myanmar Navy by state-run defence shipbuilder, **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam**.
- USA's plan to set up the first nuclear reactor on the moon by the end of 2026. In early 2021, the US Department of Energy in collaboration with NASA intends to solicit industry design proposals. It also got an impetus with a recent White House directive. The outgoing President Donald Trump, issued the "National Strategy for Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion" on 16 December.
- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has become an Associate Member of the **International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**. The Headquarter of IOSCO is at **Madrid, Spain**.
- The **U.S. Congress** has passed the '**Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act**' to increase the number of scholarships for Pakistani women in higher education under merit and needs-based programme. The bill was passed by the United States Senate by a voice vote on January 1.
- **Alexander Ellis** has been appointed **British high commissioner to India** and will take up the key role later this month. He has held several posts, including deputy national security adviser in the cabinet office, director-general in the department for exiting the European Union, and the British ambassador to Portugal.
- President-elect **Joe Biden** will nominate federal appeals judge **Merrick Garland** to be the next U.S. attorney general. He serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, one of 13 federal appeals courts.
- Indian-American Dr **Raj Iyer** has taken over as the first **Chief Information Officer of the US Army**, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020. Dr Raj Iyer is one of the highest-ranking Indian-American civilians in the US Department of Defence.

- **Japan's Sumitomo Forestry company** and **Kyoto University** aims to launch the world's first **wood-based space satellite** by 2023 to combat the problem of space junk.
- The **Pakistan Army** successfully conducted the test flight of an indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, **Fatah-1**. The Fatah-1 weapon system is capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into "enemy territory." According to Director General of Army, Media Wing, Major General Babar Iftikhar, Fatah-1 weapon system can hit targets up to a range of **140 km**.
- **Faustin-Archange Touadera** was re-elected as the president of the **Central African Republic** with more than **53% votes**. The 63-year-old president has been in power since 2016 but has struggled to seize control of vast parts of the nation from armed militias.
- US President-elect **Joe Biden** named Indian-American **Sumona Guha** as **senior director for South Asia** and **Tarun Chhabra** as senior director for **Technology and National Security**. Guha was co-chair of the South Asia foreign policy working group on the Biden-Harris campaign and serves on the transition's State Department Agency Review Team.
- **Twitter Inc** has deleted new tweets posted by **U.S. President Donald Trump** on official government account @POTUS and suspended the account of his presidential campaign, after booting his personal account of the platform permanently. @POTUS Twitter account is an official Twitter account of **US President Donald Trump**. The Account is named President Trump.
- A passenger plane of **Indonesia's Sriwijaya Air** carrying 62 people on board crashed into waters off **Jakarta**. The **Boeing 737-500** was on an estimated 90-minute flight from Jakarta to Pontianak, capital of West Kalimantan province on Indonesia's Borneo island.



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- The frontrunner in **Kyrgyzstan's** presidential election, **Sadyr Japarov**, has won by a landslide. According to the **Central Election Commission**, Mr Japarov had won **79%** of votes cast. Mr Japarov, who served time in jail for taking a rival hostage, will also have sweeping new presidential powers after voters by a similar margin opted to amend the constitution in a referendum.
- Incoming First Lady, **Jill Biden** has named Indian-American **Garima Verma** as her digital director and **Michael LaRosa** press secretary, the Biden transition team has announced. She served as audience development and content strategist on the **Biden-Harris campaign**.
- The **United States** has recently designated the **Kingdom of Bahrain** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as the “**major strategic partners**” of the country. This has been announced before the formal transition of the president's office from **Donald Trump to Joe Biden**. This announcement of “**major strategic partners**” was done by **Kayleigh McEnany**, the White House Press Secretary.
- **Pakistan** has issued special permission to **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum**, the Dubai Ruler; the crown prince, and 5 members of the royal family for hunting **houbara bustard** during the 2020-21 hunting season.
- **Uganda's** incumbent President **Yoweri Museveni** has been declared as the winner of the country's **presidential election for 2021**. Museveni secured **58.64 per cent** of the total votes cast, to win the sixth term as the President.
- The Dutch Prime Minister, **Mark Rutte** and his entire Cabinet has **resigned** recently over the childcare subsidies scandal, in which thousands of families were wrongly accused of child welfare fraud. However, the Rutte government will stay on in a caretaker role until parliamentary elections in **March 2021**.
- **Joe Biden** became the **46th president** of the **United States**. He swore the oath of office moments after **Kamala Harris**, who became **America's first woman vice president**, turning the page on **Donald Trump's** tumultuous four years. At **78**, Biden is the oldest president in US history and only the second Roman Catholic president.
- The Prime Minister of Mongolia, **Khurelsukh Ukhnaa**, has resigned along with his entire government, following protests and public outrage over the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 52-year-old served as the Prime Minister of Mongolia from **4 October 2017 to 21 January 2021**.
- **China** overtook **Germany** to become the country with the world's largest current account surplus in the year 2020, as per a survey by the **Munich-based Ifo institute**. The current account surplus of China more than doubled to **\$310 billion in 2020**, while the current account surplus of Germany shrank for the fifth year in a row in 2020 to \$261 billion. The United States remained the country with the world's largest current account deficit which rose roughly by a **third to \$635 billion** in 2020 or 3.1% of economic output. **Japan** ranked third with a current account surplus of **\$158 billion**.
- The incumbent President of **Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa** has won a second five-year term after winning the **2021 Portuguese presidential election** with a landslide victory.
- **Kaja Kallas**, the leader of the Reform Party will become **Estonia's first female prime minister**. The Reform Party, led by Kallas, won the 2019 parliamentary election in Estonia with **34 MPs** in the country's 101-seat parliament, Riigikogu.
- Italian Prime Minister, **Giuseppe Conte** resigned after losing his Senate majority, plunging the country into political uncertainty just as it's battling the pandemic and a recession. He tendered his resignation to President **Sergio Mattarella**, the ultimate arbiter of Italian political crises, who invited him to stay on in a caretaker capacity pending discussions on what happens next.

### National Current Affairs

- 'New Bhaupur- New Khurja section' of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) will be inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi on **29th December, 2020** at 11 AM through video conferencing. During the event, Prime Minister will also inaugurate **EDFC's Operation Control Centre (OCC)** at Prayagraj.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off the country's first-ever fully-automated driverless train service on the **Magenta Line of the Delhi Metro**. Apart from this, PM also launched fully operational **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** on the Airport Express Line of Delhi Metro, to connect **DMRC with the NCMC service**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off the **100th 'Kisan Rail'** on 28th December 2020. The 100th run of the Kisan Rail was flagged off from **Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal virtually**. Kisan Rail is a mobile cold storage to move perishable things like fruits, vegetables, milk, fish, etc., with complete security.

- The **Central government** has further extended the deadline to file an income tax return (ITR) for FY 2019-20 by **10 days**, up to **January 10, 2021**. Earlier this deadline was December 31, 2020.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of **Light House projects (LHPs)** at six sites across **six States** through video conference on **1st January 2021**. The LHPs will be implemented at **Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- **India** has been chosen as the co-chair of the IUCN-supported **Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP)** for a period of three years till **November 2023**. India will replace **South Korea**, which held the post for 3 years until November 2020.
- The Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** and Union Minister WCD and Textiles Smt. **Smriti Zubin Irani** jointly launched **Toycathon-2021** and the **Toycathon Portal**. Toycathon is being organized to develop India as the global **Toy manufacturing hub**. Toycathon will provide a platform to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system which will inculcate the positive behaviour and good value among the children.
- The **Central Government** has set up a high-level group to build a **South Asia-focused energy security architecture**. The high-level group, named the **South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)**, will be headed by former Union Power Secretary **Ram Vinay Shahi**. SAGE has been set up under the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**-run think tank **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has dedicated the **306-km New Rewari-New Madar section** of the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)** to the nation. Through video-conferencing, Modi also flagged off the world's first double-stack long-haul 1.5-km-long container train hauled by electric traction from **New Ateli-New Kishangarh**.
- The **Government of Japan** has committed Official Development Assistance loan of **30 billion Japanese Yen** which is approximately **Rs 2113 crore** rupees for a programme loan to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** will be launching an innovative new paint developed by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission**. The eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, called "**Khadi Prakritik Paint**" is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.
- According to **External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava**, due to the global **COVID-19 situation**, it has been decided that this year there will not be a **foreign Head of State or Head of Government as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day event**. President **Ramnath Kovind** will take the salute at the parade this time. This will be the first time in over five decades that India will not have a chief guest at the Republic Day parade.
- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has launched a month-long mass awareness campaign titled '**SAKSHAM**' to spread awareness about green and clean energy. The campaign has been organised by the **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**, to motivate consumers to switch to cleaner fuels and bring in behavioural change to use fossil fuel intelligently. SAKSHAM stands for Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off eight trains connecting the **Statue of Unity in Kevadiya, Gujarat** with different regions of the country through video conferencing. PM Modi informed that it was the first time in history that so many trains from different locations were flagged off for a common destination.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched **Rs 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund'** on 16 January 2021, while addressing the '**Prarambh: Startup India International Summit**' 2021. This initiative will help in setting up new startups and promote their growth.
- The first-ever **National Road Safety Month** was inaugurated by Union Minister for Defence **Shri Rajnath Singh** and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME **Nitin Gadkari** on **18 January 2021**. It will be held till **17 February 2021**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved **850 megawatts (MW) Ratle hydropower** project worth an Rs. 5281.94 crore on **Chenab river in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir**. The project will be developed by a new joint venture company between state-run **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd** and **Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC)**, where NHPC will have a **51% stake** in the JV firm, while the balance will be held by JKSPDC.
- **India** has announced a pledge of **USD 150,000** to the **United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)** for the year 2021 to support the activities and programs this year. The Peacebuilding Fund has put forth its five-year strategy, which requires 1.5 billion dollars for 2020-2024. This was announced by **TS Tirumurti**, India's permanent representative to the United Nations on January 25, 2021.

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** has virtually inaugurated the Chennai Bench of the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**. This will be the second NCLAT Bench in the country, after the Principal Bench in **New Delhi**.
- **Vaccine Maitri Initiative** is an initiative launched by **India** to gift COVID-19 vaccines to neighbouring countries. Recently, **Sri Lanka and Bahrain** have received the COVID-19 vaccines from India under the initiative. The Vaccine Maitri initiative was launched by India on January 20 to gift COVID-19 vaccines to neighbouring countries.
- The Central Government has approved the **Rs 945-crore 'Start-up India Seed Fund Scheme' (SISFS)**, which aims to provide financial assistance to start-ups for the product trials, market-entry, proof of concept, prototype development and commercialization.

### States Current Affairs

- The **Chief Minister Secretariat of Bihar**, the Disaster Management Department besides the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the state have jointly been chosen as winners in the "pandemic category" **Digital India Awards 2020**.
- India's first **hot air balloon wildlife safari** in a tiger reserve was launched in the world-famous **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** by **Madhya Pradesh** forest minister Vijay Shah. Now like Africa's forests, tourists in India will also enjoy hot air balloon wildlife safari. The state was planning to introduce this service in **Pench, Kanha and Panna tiger reserves** as well.
- The country's first **pollinator park** with over 40 species of butterflies, honeybees, birds and insects has been developed over four acres at **Haldwani, Uttarakhand**. The objective behind developing the park is to conserve various pollinator species, create awareness among people in general about the importance of conservation of these species and to promote further research on various aspects of pollination, including a threat to habitat and impact of pollution on pollinators.
- The government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched a **'Launch Pad Scheme'** for the boys and girls coming out of child care institutions and having completed **18 years of age**. This scheme has been launched by the **Women and Child Development Department of the state** with the objective to provide a platform to these youth, through which they will be able to become self-reliant by continuing their education and training.

- The **Journalist Day** is observed by **Maharashtra state government** on **6th January** every year in the memory of late journalist **Balshastri Jambhekar**. The first newspaper in the Marathi language named '**Darpan**', was published on **January 6, 1832**, the date which also marks the birth anniversary of **Balshastri Jambhekar**.
- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** has signed loan agreements worth USD 646 million with the **Government of India** for two road projects in **Andhra Pradesh**. Each project costs **USD 323 million**. These projects will improve mobility and connectivity to the socioeconomic centres, enhance transport efficiency, improve road safety and riding quality, and provide all-weather accessibility for the State's road users.
- The Chief Minister of **Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa** flagged off **40 Krishi Sanjeevani vans** in Bengaluru. These vans have been launched by the state Agriculture Department with Central assistance under **National Krishi Vikas Yojana** to take up this novel programme.
- West Bengal CM, **Mamata Banerjee** has inaugurated the **26th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)**. The inaugural ceremony was also virtually attended by Bollywood superstar and West Bengal's brand ambassador **Shah Rukh Khan** from Mumbai. Legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray's classic '**Apur Sansar**' will be the inaugural film of the festival in which 131 movies from 45 countries will be screened till January 13.
- The **4th edition** of the **Cherry Blossom Festival, Mao** in **Manipur** was virtually inaugurated by Chief Minister **N Biren Singh**. However this year, the authority decided to scale down the festival due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The Festival featured the picturesque landscape of Mao adorned with beautiful cherry trees laden with blooming flowers which have traditionally attracted visitors from across the world.
- The Chief Minister of **Odisha, Naveen Patnaik** virtually inaugurated a first of its kind '**Fire Park**', to educate and bring awareness on basic fire safety measures among the people, particularly the students. The 'Fire Park' is located inside the premises of the **Odisha Fire and Disaster Academy in Bhubaneswar**.
- **Kerala** has become the **8th State** in the country to successfully undertake "**Ease of Doing Business**" reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Kerala has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of **Rs.2,373 crore** through **Open Market Borrowings**.

- Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** has inaugurated the 'OneSchool One IAS' scheme which has been rolled out under the **Vedhik Erudite Foundations Scholarship Programme**. According to a notification released an institution considered by top academics and retired IAS and IPS officers in the state is conducting the programme which seeks to refute the general notion that the civil service is for the elite class only.
- The Chief Minister of Bihar **Nitish Kumar** has inaugurated the first-ever bird festival of the state, '**Kalrav**', at **Nagi-Nakti bird sanctuary**, located in **Jamui district**.
- The **Maharashtra** government has renamed **Gorewada International Zoo** in **Nagpur** as '**Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park**'. The zoological park will come up on nearly 2,000 hectares forest land.
- Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** has launched **Himachal Pradesh's** first online youth radio station "**Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil**". The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of young entrepreneurs. The developer of the online radio **Karan**, and **Radio Jockeys Palak, Rahul and Nidhi** were also present on the occasion.
- The **Gujarat state government** has renamed dragon fruit as '**Kamalam**'. The move has kept the internet in splits and many criticized it using the hashtag **#SanskariFruitSabzi**. As per Gujarat Chief Minister, the dragon fruit has been renamed **Kamalam** because of the shape of the fruit.
- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister, **Trivendra Singh Rawat** will inaugurate the first child-friendly police station of Uttarakhand, which is meant to provide a friendly environment to children associated with crimes. The child-friendly police unit has been set up in the **Dalanwala police station** with a budget of about **Rs 5 lakhs** on the recommendation of the **Child Protection Committee of Uttarakhand**.
- The **Karnataka** Chief Minister, **BS Yediyurappa** recently launched **Avalokana software**. The software will enable the state government to access data on expenditures and sanctions incurred on **1,800 programmes**. The software provides a focused eye view on Sustainable Development goals, Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan, Tribal Sub-plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- Union Home Minister **Shri Amit Shah** has inaugurated the new 4-lane **Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge** in **Ahmedabad** city of Gujarat through video conferencing. The new overbridge has been built at a cost of **Rs 55 crore**.
- **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has inaugurated the annual **Toshali National Crafts Mela** in **Bhubaneswar**. The Crafts Mela was inaugurated virtually. The Toshali Crafts Mela has become one of the most popular **handlooms and handicrafts fairs** in Eastern India.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister, **Yogi Adityanath** has launched the '**Udyam Sarathi App**' on the occasion of the 71st Foundation Day of the state, on 24 January 2021. The app will enable the youths to get every information related to self-employment and the job industry, across the state.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** Day celebration will run from 24 January to 26 January 2021. The theme of **Uttar Pradesh Day 2021** is '**Respect for self-reliant Uttar Pradesh, women young farmers, development of all**'.
- **Shristi Goswami**, a nineteen-year-old **Haridwar-based** student, become the Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand** for one day on **National Girl Child Day**. She is a student of **BSc Agriculture**, lives in **Daulatpur village** in **Roorkee, Haridwar**. The move has received the nod of Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat**.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched a new scheme '**PANKH Abhiyan**' on **24 January**, to mark the occasion of **National Girl Child Day**. The scheme has been launched under the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' scheme for the empowerment and growth of the girl child. The CM also announced scholarships worth **Rs 6.47 crore** for **26,099 girls** under **Ladli Laxmi Yojana**.
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, a new **3,300-metre-long airstrip** has been constructed near **Kurebhar on Purvanchal Expressway**. With this new airstrip, **Uttar Pradesh** has become the first state in India having two airstrips on expressways. **Uttar Pradesh** also has an airstrip on **Lucknow-Agra Expressway**. Airstrips on expressways are designed to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
- The Prison Department of **Maharashtra** has launched its **jail tourism** initiative starting with more than **150-year-old Yerawada Central Prison in Pune**. The initiative was launched in a move to help students learn about historical experiences.
- The **Kerala government** is all set to launch **Rs 300 crore** three-tower '**Gender Park**' in **Kozhikode**. The park will become functional on the occasion of the second edition of the **International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II)**. The gender park was established with the aim of creating relevant interventions so as to address a range of gender-based issues. It includes both off-campus and on-campus activities and other projects that work to empower the individuals and communities.

## Schemes/Committees

- The **Government of India** launched the third phase of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** on 15 January 2021. The scheme has been rolled out for the current financial year, ending March 2021, and will be implemented by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**. The training will be imparted through **729 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs)**, empanelled non-PMKK training centres and more than 200 industrial training institutes (ITIs). Further, a five-year PMKVY will be launched in 2021-22 with an enhanced target of skilling **1.5 crore youth**.
- The **Health and Family Welfare Ministry** has recently formed a technical expert group to study the adverse findings from the **National Family Health Survey-5**. The Ministry has set up the technical committee of medicine and nutrition experts under the leadership of Joint Secretary **Preeti Pant**.
- The Union government has appointed **RS Sharma**, former Trai chief, as the chairperson of an empowered committee for the administration of **Covid-19 vaccine**. A ten-member team has been constituted to be headed by Sharma. This has come days ahead of the mega vaccination drive is to start in India. He has also been included as a member of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration of Covid-19 that was formed in August 2020.

## Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **AU Small Finance Bank** has announced a strategic partnership with **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** to offer life insurance solutions. The tie-up aims to deliver “**paperless, secure, and hassle-free life insurance**”.
- **Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pune** has recently signed an MoU with **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India** to co-create **India’s first Social Impact Bond (SIB)**. This is the first time that a government body will act as the ‘outcome funder’ in a bond, whereas traditionally most government-funded public projects require large and early investments by the government with a substantial gestation period of outcomes and involve various kinds of risks.
- **Indian Army** has inked a contract with **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** to procure **12 Fast Patrol Boats** for surveillance and patrolling of large water bodies, including those in high altitude areas like Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh.

- **Tata Power**, India’s largest integrated power company, announced its partnership with **SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India)** to offer easy and affordable financing scheme for **MSME** customers in the rooftop solar segment. This scheme will empower MSMEs to adopt sustainable energy for their businesses and promote greener.
- **Punjab National Bank** has partnered with **IIT Kanpur** and the **Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (FIRST)** to set up a ‘**Fintech Innovation Centre (FIC)**’ at the institute’s campus. PNB and IIT Kanpur will jointly work to set up this innovation centre as a vehicle for research and development of technological solutions, with the help of FIRST, to address challenges and explore opportunities in the **Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI)** space.
- Private lender **Bandhan Bank** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Army** to provide banking services to the personnel of the force. The bank got the mandate to maintain and a **Bank Shaurya Salary Account** of the Army personnel. Bandhan Bank Shaurya Salary Account will have a zero balance facility. The Shaurya Salary Account also offers protection for self and assets.
- **NHPC Limited** has signed an MOU with the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** for providing assistance in setting up renewable energy (RE) projects for the next **5 years**. The agreement was signed in the presence of Abhay Kumar Singh, NHPC CMD, and IREDA, CMD, Pradip Kumar Das.
- **Bharat Biotech** has announced that it has signed an agreement with **Precisa Medicamentos** for the supply of its indigenously manufactured **Covid-19 vaccine ‘Covaxin’** to Brazil.

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## Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- NITI Aayog and Flipkart, have come together to launch the revamped **Women Entrepreneurship Platform**. The **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** is a unified access portal which brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations.
- **Financial Software and Systems (FSS)**, a leading payment processor and provider of integrated payment products, has partnered with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments.
- **India and Japan** have signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)** via videoconferencing. The MoU was signed between Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and IT **Ravi Shankar Prasad** and the Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications **Takeda Ryota**.
- **India and Japan** signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to **Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)**, to promote the movement of skilled workers from **India to Japan**. The MoC was signed between Foreign Secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** and Ambassador of Japan to India **Suzuki Satoshi**.
- The **5th edition** of the **Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD)** between **India and Singapore** was successfully held on 20 January 2021 through a video conference, in an effort to deepen military cooperation. During the meeting, the '**Implementing Agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation**' was signed between the two Navies. The agreement was signed between Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and his Singaporean counterpart **Dr Ng Eng Hen**.
- **India** has inked a strategic partnership agreement with the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, the world's premier energy monitor, on 27 January 2021. The objective of the MoU is to strengthen cooperation in global energy security, stability and sustainability as well as strengthen mutual trust and cooperation between IEA members and the Government of India.
- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change **Prakash Javadekar** has launched the **Indo-French Year of the Environment**, along with **Barbara Pompili**, the French Minister for Ecological Transition in **New Delhi**. The basic objective of this partnership is to strengthen Indo-French cooperation in sustainable development, increase the effectiveness of actions in favour of global environment protection and give them greater visibility.

- Union Health Minister Dr **Harsh Vardhan** has been nominated as the board member of the **Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)**. The seat is currently held by **Myint Htwe** of **Myanmar**. Dr Vardhan will represent the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board. Dr Vardhan will assume the charge with effect from January 1, 2021, and serve till December 31, 2023.
- The Central Government has approved the extension of the term of ISRO Chairman **K Sivan**, for a period of **one year**. He was due to retire on **January 14, 2021**. Sivan will now continue as ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space up to **January 14, 2022**.
- **Soma Mondal** has taken over as the new **Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** with effect from **January 01, 2021**. She is the first-ever women-head of the body. She replaces **Anil Kumar Chaudhary**, who superannuated on 31 December 2020.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved **Suneet Sharma** appointment as **Chairman & CEO** of Railway Board, Ministry of Railways and ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India. He took over in his new role with effect from **January 01, 2021**.
- **Umesh Sinha** has been named as the **deputy election commissioner** in the **Election Commission of India**. Sinha, a 1986-batch IAS officer (retired) is at present serving as secretary-general in the commission.
- **Justice Pankaj Mithal** has been appointed as the new **Chief Justice (CJ) of the Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh** in Jammu on January 04, 2021.
- **Sanjay Kapoor** was elected president of the **All India Chess Federation (AICF)** while **Bharat Singh Chauhan** retained the **secretary's post**.
- The **All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)**, the national apex body of the gems and jewellery industry, has announced the appointment of **Ashish Pethe** as chairman and **Saiyam Mehra** as vice chairman for a period of two years.
- **Lt Gen Shantanu Dayal** has been named the new **Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS)**. Lt Gen Dayal is the Corps Commander of the Tejpur based 4 Corps.
- **Google Cloud** has announced the elevation of **Karan Bajwa** as its new leader for the **Asia Pacific**. Presently, Bajwa leads Google Cloud in India. He will lead all regional revenue and go-to-market operations for Google Cloud, including on **Google Cloud Platform (GCP)** and **Google Workspace**.

- **Arup Kumar Goswami** was sworn in as the Chief Justice (CJ) of Andhra Pradesh High Court by Governor Biswab Bushan Harichandan in the presence of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- The senior-most judge of Delhi High Court, Justice **Hima Kohli** has been appointed as the new **Chief Justice of Telangana High Court**. She is the first woman to be sworn in as CJ of Telangana HC. She replaces **CJ Raghvendra Singh Chauhan**, who has been appointed as the **CJ of Uttarakhand HC**.
- **Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia** appointed as **Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court** informed the Ministry of Law and Justice. The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** in the exercise of the power conferred by **clause (1) of Article 217** of the Constitution of India, appointed Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Judge of the **Uttarakhand High Court**, as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.
- Justice **Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari** was sworn in as the new **Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court**.
- **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** president, **Dushyant Dave** has resigned from his post with immediate effect, he has forfeited his right to continue. Acting SCBA Secretary **Rohit Panday** confirmed the development that the senior advocate has resigned with immediate effect.
- **Intel** has appointed **Pat Gelsinger** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**, effective Feb. 15, 2021. Gelsinger will also join the **Intel board of directors** upon assuming the role. He will succeed **Bob Swan**, who will remain CEO until Feb. 15.
- The **Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)** has appointed **Sandeep Aggarwal** as the new Chairman. Aggarwal, the Managing Director and Promoter of Delhi-based Paramount Communications, will take over from **Shyamal Ghosh**, ex-Telecom Secretary.
- The **UN Human Rights Council** elected **Fiji's ambassador as its 2021 president** in an unprecedented secret ballot after a diplomatic stand-off blocked the usual consensus decision. Fiji's ambassador in Geneva, **Nazhat Shameem Khan**, who served as the council's vice president in 2020 and is considered a rights champion, won with **29 out of 47 votes**.
- The board of directors of **RBL Bank** has approved the re-appointment of **Vishwavir Ahuja** as the **Managing Director and CEO** of the bank for three years.
- Ministry for Sports and Youth Affairs, **Kiren Rijju** has been given the additional charge of the **Ayush Ministry**. He will hold the fort till Shripad Yesso Naik recovers from an accident. The President has directed that this arrangement may continue till Shri Shripad Yesso Naik resumes his work related to **Ministry of AYUSH**."
- The board of **Sundaram Finance** has named **Rajiv Lochan** (director Strategy) as **managing director** with effect from April 1. **Sundaram Finance Ltd** has made top-level changes as the current managing director **T.T. Srinivasaraghavan** will be retiring on **March 31, 2020**.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed **Siddhartha Mohanty** as the managing director of India's largest insurer **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** from February 1 onwards.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Sanjeev Kumar** as the new **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)**.
- Board of Directors of Kerala-based **Dhanlaxmi Bank** have given the approval to appoint **J K Shivan** as **managing director and CEO** of the Bank. It may be recalled that the shareholders of the Kerala-based had voted against MD & CEO **Sunil Gurbaxani** On September 30, 2020. Then, in December that year, the lender appointed Shivan as the new MD & CEO.
- Lieutenant General **Chandi Prasad Mohanty** has been appointed as the new **Vice-chief of Army staff**. He would assume the office on February 1, 2021, from **Lt General SK Saini**, who is superannuating on 31 January 2021. Lt General CP Mohanty is an alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun, and National Defence Academy. He is a June 1982 batch Infantry Officer from the Rajput Regiment.
- The appointments committee (ACC) of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Swaminathan Janakiraman** and **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** as new **Managing Directors (MDs)** of **State Bank of India (SBI)** for a period of three years.

## Ranks and Reports

- India's richest man **Mukesh Ambani**, the chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) dropped down to **12th spot** in the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021** (as on 2nd January 2021). The net worth of Ambani dropped from **90 billion USD** (around Rs. 6.62 lakh crore) (in early 2020) to **76.7 billion USD** (around Rs. 5.6 lakh crore). Zhong Shanshan, referred to as "Lone Wolf", has replaced Ambani as Asia's richest person, he is one of the fastest in the history to achieve the feat. Zhong Shanshan is Chinese billionaire whose net worth is **78.2 billion USD**, which is attributed to the listing of Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprises Co and Nongu Spring Co, a bottled water firm.

- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, **Tesla CEO Elon Musk** overtakes Amazon's **Jeff Bezos** to become the world's richest person. Elon Musk had a net worth of more than **\$188.5 billion**.
- Rapidly digitalising India was ranked 4th in "Break Out Economies" in the third edition of the Digital Evolution Scorecard developed by Tufts University's Fletcher School in partnership with Mastercard. China which leads the countries in the "Break Out Economies" group is more evolved digitally due mainly to its combination of rapidly growing demand and innovation. Third rank Indonesia, and India, which ranks number four in momentum, have displayed increasing digital momentum suggesting the potential to rapidly digitalise for both post-COVID economic recovery and longer-term transformation.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Global Risks Report 2021, 16th Edition. The findings of the report are based on the Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS) undertaken by over 650 members of WEF's diverse leadership communities. The Report is prepared with Strategic Partners, Marsh McLennan in Partnership with SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group. The report is being released before WEF's upcoming virtual Davos Agenda scheduled to be held between January 25-29, 2021. The main objective behind the publishing of the report is to enable better preparation by Government & other International Communities during the times of crisis.
- China was the largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2020, according to a report released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). China overtook the United States to gain the top position in 2020. The country attracted \$163 billion inflows in 2020, compared to \$134 billion attracted by the United States.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has been ranked third most-valued IT services brand globally, after **Accenture** and **IBM**, according to a report by **Brand Finance**. Third-ranked TCS is rapidly closing the gap with IBM following a healthy 11% brand value increase to **USD 15 billion**. Accenture retained the title of world's most valuable and strongest IT services brand with record brand value of **USD 26 billion**, while IBM continued at the second place with a brand value of **USD 16.1 billion**.
- **India** has been ranked **86th** among 180 countries in the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020**, released by **Transparency International**. This year, India's rank has slipped six places compared to 2019, when it was ranked at **80th spot**. Top Country: New Zealand and Denmark have jointly secured the first position with scores of 88. Lowest Country: Somalia and South Sudan rank lowest at 179th position with scores of 12.

- **India** has been ranked at **86th position** among 98 countries in the new **Coronavirus Performance Index** released by **Australia-based Lowy Institute**. Countries were ranked based on the publicly available and comparable data on **Covid-19 response**. **New Zealand, Vietnam and Taiwan** are the top three countries respectively in the index. Brazil was ranked at the bottom of the list for worst handling of the pandemic than any other country. China was excluded from the list due to lack of publicly available data.
- Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's** four-year-old telecom venture **Reliance Jio** has been ranked the fifth strongest brand globally behind the likes of **Ferrari and Coca-Cola**.
- **India** ranked **10th** out of **11 Asia Pacific countries** in a newly-launched health index to measure the progress towards personalised healthcare. **Singapore(1st), Taiwan (2nd), Japan (3rd) and Australia (4th)** also performed well in overall readiness. These include Policy Context, Health Information, Personalised Technologies and Health Services.

### Sports Current Affairs

- Indian wrestler, **Anshu Malik** has become the first wrestler of the country to finish on the podium position at the **Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia**.
- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has imposed a **5-year ban** on Russian shuttler **Nikita Khakimov** for charges of **"betting, wagering and irregular match results"**. Khakimov was part of the Russian men's team that won the bronze medal at the **2020 European Team Championships**.
- **M S Dhoni** won the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade for his gesture of calling back England batsman Ian Bell after a bizarre run out in the Nottingham Test in 2011. The incident won the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award in 2011.

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- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the ICC Teams of the Decade based on the performances, consistency of players over the period of last 10 years. Former Indian captain and wicket-keeper batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been named as the captain of the ICC ODI Team of the Decade. Dhoni has also been named the skipper of the ICC T20I Team of the Decade. Similarly, Virat Kohli has been named the captain of the ICC Test Team of the Decade. Ravi Ashwin is the only other Indian in this list.
- Goa's 14-year-old **Leon Mendonca** has become **India's 67th chess Grandmaster** by winning the third and final norm at a tournament in Italy.
- **Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament** organised at Chiktan in Kargil, Ladakh. For the first time, the women team of Chiktan also participated in the **Khelo India Games** in Kargil district. There are **13 teams** from different villages of Chiktan participating in the tournament, which include **11 men's teams** and **2 women's teams**.
- Australia's **Claire Polosak** is set to become the **first female match official** in a **men's Test match** when she takes up the fourth umpire's role in the third Test between **India and Australia**.
- Former India striker **Abhishek Yadav** has been appointed as the first deputy general secretary of **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** after the sports body decided to create a new post in its hierarchy.
- **Jay Shah** has been named as the official representative of **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** for the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** Board meetings. Shah is the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- **Jigmet Dolma** from India secured the fourth position in the **Dhaka Marathon 2021**. Jigmet Dolma is an SPO of Ladakh police. In the marathon, **Hicham Lakohi** of Morocco came first in the elite competition of the marathon in men's category while **Angela Jim Asunde** from Kenya won the women's category in the same event.
- The oldest surviving Olympic champion, **Ágnes Keleti**, celebrates her 100th birthday. She is one of her country's most successful Olympians, having won 10 medals for Hungary in gymnastics, at the **Olympic Games Helsinki 1952 and Melbourne 1956**. Her haul included five golds.
- In **Ladakh**, the inaugural edition of the **Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sport & Youth Festival 2021** kicked off on 18th January 2021. The 13- Day Zaskar Winter Sports Festival aims to open a new arena in Ladakh for adventure and Nature loving tourists and a boost for

local Youth to hone up their skills in winter sports to represent India.

- Reigning Olympic champion **Carolina Marin** bolstered her chances of defending her title in Tokyo later this year after claiming the **Thailand Open in Bangkok** over top seed **Tai Tzu-Ying**. Men's Category: Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) defeated Angus Long (Hong Kong) to clinch the Men's Singles Title.

### Summits And Conferences

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has inaugurated the two-day Virtual International Akhand Conference '**EDUCON 2020**' through video conferencing. This two-day International Conference is being organized by the **Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB)** in collaboration with the **Global Educational Research Association (GERA)**. The focal theme of EDUCON-2020 is **Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace**.
- The **Government of France** organised the fourth '**One Planet Summit**', through videoconferencing, which aimed at protecting the world's biodiversity. The Summit was organised in cooperation with the **United Nations** and the **World Bank**. The theme of the Summit was "**Let's act together for nature!**"
- The **13th India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue** was held in a virtual format. The virtual event was co-chaired by Defence Secretary **Dr Ajay Kumar** along with Vietnamese Sr Lt Gen **Nguyen Chi Vinh**, Deputy Defence Minister, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution, **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the two-day '**Prarambh', Startup India International Summit** in New Delhi on 15 January 2021. The Summit has been organized by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under M/o Commerce & Industry.
- Dr **Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally chaired the **148th session of WHO Executive Board**, through Video Conference. The meeting provides a platform to bring together all member states to set the directions and agenda and continue striving for the objective of Health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Also, the WHO has declared the **Year 2021 as the Year of Global Solidarity and Survival**.
- The **15th India Digital Summit**, the flagship event of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** is one of the biggest conferences for the digital industry. The theme for this year's summit, which is being held virtually is '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**

- Start of New Decade' in line with the government's 'Make for the World' Initiatives.

- The **7th edition of 'MASCRADE 2021 - Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade'** was inaugurated by **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, the Union Minister of Health and Family welfare. The two-day programme was organized by **FICCI CASCADE** (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy), to combat illicit trade, especially in a post **COVID era**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has chaired the **35th PRAGATI** meeting to review multiple projects, grievances and programmes. In the meeting, ten agenda items were taken for review worth **Rs. 54,675 crore**, related to 15 states. These included nine projects and one programme. Prime Minister also reviewed the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana**. PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.
- The **5th joint meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum (AEF)** was held in New Delhi. During the 5th meeting, the AEF reviewed the progress of ongoing projects in the North Eastern Region of India in various areas including **connectivity, hydropower, sustainable development, harnessing of water resources, and skill development**.

### Awards & Recognition

- The **Dr Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award** for this year has been conferred upon **Dravidar Kazhagam** president **K. Veeramani**. The award was instituted in the memory of the Maharashtra-based rationalist Dabholkar.
- Senior scientist **Hemant Kumar Pandey** has been honoured with **DRDO's "Scientist of the Year Award"** for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug **Lukoskin** meant for the treatment of **leucoderma**.
- The chairman & CEO of Railway Board, **Vinod Kumar Yadav** has been conferred with the prestigious **"Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020"**. This award is given by the **Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)** for his outstanding contribution towards modernization and reforms over Indian Railways.
- In Madhya Pradesh, **96th Tansen Music Festival** began in **Gwalior** with strict COVID-19 guidelines in place. In the inaugural ceremony renowned santoor player, **Pandit Satish Vyas** was conferred upon the prestigious **Tansen Samman**. Bhopal-based institution **Abhinav Kala Parishad** was honoured with **Raja Mansingh Tomar** award. The festival pays tribute to Tansen, one of 9 gems in Akbar's court.

- The **All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** in **Bhubaneswar** has proved its mettle once again for promoting cleanliness, hygiene and creating sustainable practices in public health facilities by winning the **Kayakalp Award Scheme**. AIIMS Bhubaneswar will get an award of **Rs 2 crore** for the performance.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting **Prakash Javadekar** announced veteran actor, director and singer **Biswajit Chatterjee** as the recipient of the **'Indian Personality of the Year'** award.
- **Nikhil Srivastava**, a young Indian mathematician, has been named winner of the prestigious 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison-Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs. Srivastava is currently Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of California. Srivastava from the University of California, Berkeley, Adam Marcus, the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) and Daniel Alan Spielman from Yale University will receive the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize.
- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has won the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) **10th National Ice Hockey Championship** trophy after a win over **Ladakh** in the finals in **Gulmarg**.
- **Shyam Srinivasan**, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of **Federal Bank**, is the **Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2019-20**. The award was given for his bank's consistent healthy performance at a time when most of its peers witnessed large stress on asset quality, registered losses, or even invited regulatory actions.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)** for the year 2021 has been conferred to 32 children, hailing from 32 districts of 21 States/UTs. The PMRBP award is given by the Government of India to the children with exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments, in the fields of innovation, scholastic, sports, arts & culture, social service and bravery.
- The **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021** has been conferred upon **Dr Rajendra Kumar Bhandari** in the Individual category and **Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)** in Institutional category. The award carries a cash prize of **Rs 51 lakh** and a certificate for an institution and **Rs 5 lakh** and a certificate in case of an individual.



- The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Meghalaya was selected for a Special Award for Information Technology applications in Elections by the Election Commission of India (ECI), in the National Best Electoral Practices Awards-2020. President Ram Nath Kovind virtually conferred the award to Meghalaya CEO F.R. Kharkongor at the National Voters' Day Award function held in New Delhi.

### Important Days

- **World Braille Day** is observed globally on **4th January** since 2019. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**, the inventor of Braille – for people with visual disabilities. Louis Braille was born on **4th January 1809** in the town of Coupvray in northern France.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day** is celebrated every year on **January 9** to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India. The theme of 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2021 is “Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat”.
- The **World Hindi Day** is celebrated annually on **January 10** since **2006** to promote the language at the global stage. The day marks the anniversary of first **World Hindi Conference** which was inaugurated on **January 10, 1975**, by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.
- **National Youth Day** is celebrated in India every year on **12 January** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**. The day was declared by the Government of India in **1984** while the event was first celebrated in **1985**. The main aim behind this is to make sure that the students across the country can be encouraged to learn about the life, the ideas and

philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and apply them in their lives.

- The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** observes the **National Road Safety Week** every year in the **second week of January**. However, in 2021, the Government has decided to observe National Road Safety Month instead of National Road Safety Week.
- In India, the **Armed Forces Veterans Day** is observed each year on **14 January** since **2017** to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation. The day was initially called **Armistice Day**. 2021 marks the **5th Armed Forces Veterans Day**.
- The Army Day in India is celebrated on **15 January** every year, to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens. This year marks the **73rd Indian Army Day**. The Army Day is celebrated at all Army Command headquarters to honour our country's soldiers who set the greatest example of selfless service and brotherhood, and above all, love for the country.
- The **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** celebrated its **16th Raising Day** on **18th January**. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), a specialized multi-skilled, humanitarian force of the country, came into existence on **January 19th, 2006** has been playing a vital role in Disaster Management and Community awareness for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the country.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's**, 125th birth anniversary on **23 January 2021** is observed as **Parakram Diwas**. The day is celebrated to honour and remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation.
- In India, the **National Girl Child Day (NGCD)** is observed annually on **January 24**. The day aims to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girl child, and to spread awareness about the rights of a girl child.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed **24 January** as **International Day of Education**, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. The third International Day of Education will be marked under the theme '**Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation**'.
- India observes “**National Voters' Day**” every year on **January 25** to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process. 2021 marks the **11th National Voters' Day (NVD)**. The theme of NVD 2021 is, '**Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed**'. The day has been started from January 25, 2011, to mark the Foundation day of Election

Commission of India (ECI), which was established on **25th January 1950**.

- The Indian government established **January 25** as the **National Tourism Day** to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy. The day is observed to cultivate awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism and its social, political, financial and cultural worth.
- The **International Customs Day (ICD)** is observed on **26 January** every year. The day is celebrated to recognise the role of customs officials and agencies and focus on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs. This year International Customs Day theme: **"Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience"**.
- **International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust** (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) is observed on **27 January** every year since **2006** to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War. The theme of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2021 is **"Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust"**.
- **Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas** is observed every year on **January 30** in the memory of **Mahatma Gandhi**, who was assassinated at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House by **Nathuram Godse in 1948**. The day is observed to remember the sacrifices made by freedom fighters in the struggle for India's independence and to pay our respects to them.

### Defence Current Affairs

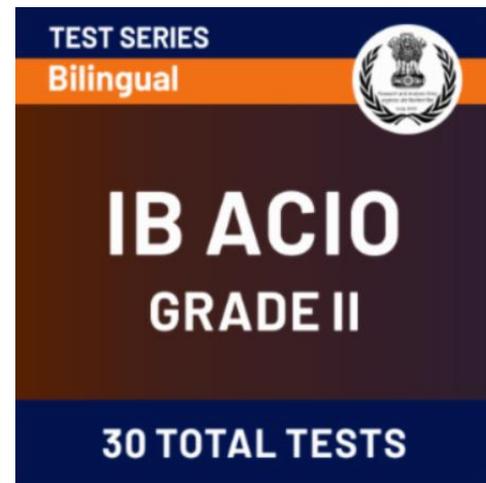
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the proposal to export indigenously-developed **Akash Missile System**. The Cabinet has also approved to set up of a committee for faster approvals of exports. The export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** observed the **63rd Foundation Day** of its establishment on **January 01, 2021**. DRDO was established in **1958** with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in the Defence sector. At that time, it was tasked with designing and developing cutting edge defence technologies for **Indian Armed Forces**.
- The **Indian Navy** has signed a contract with the **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, to procure Light Amplification by **Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazzlers (Laser Dazzlers)**. Initially, agreement has

been signed for 20 Laser Dazzlers. The Laser dazzler technology has been developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and would be manufactured by **BEL, Pune plant**. It is the first time that this unique product is indigenously designed and developed for the Armed Forces.

- Kolkata-based **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** has delivered the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class vessel '**IN LCU L-58' (Yard 2099)** to the **Indian Navy**. The amphibious ships, to be based in the strategic location of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, which is close to various routes leading to the **South China Sea**. LCU L-58 is the final ship in the series of 8 LCUs being manufactured by GRSE for the Indian Navy.
- **India and Israel** successfully tested a **Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)** defence system. The MRSAM missile defence system has been developed jointly by DRDO and **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** to deal with airstrikes by enemy countries. Currently being used by all three wings of the Indian Army as well as Israel Defence Forces (IDF), the air and missile defence system was a joint venture of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the IAI.
- Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan has launched Coastal Research Vehicle (CRV) 'Sagar Anveshika' at the Chennai Port. The vehicle will be used to carry out environment indexing and bathymetric (mapping underwater features) in both coastal and offshore waters. It will be used for research purposes by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and has been built by Titagarh Wagons, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- A major exercise to test military readiness at sea along the coastline of the country starts. This is the **second edition** of the biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise **"Sea Vigil-21"** will be conducted on **January 12 and 13**. The two-day exercise involving all stakeholders, states and Central government agencies will set the tempo of operations, including **"transition from peace to conflict"**.
- The **Indian Army** has recently signed a contract with Mumbai-based drone manufacturing company, **ideaForge**, to procure high-altitude variant of **SWITCH** unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The total cost of the deal is approximately **USD 20 million**.
- India's first indigenous **9mm Machine Pistol** has been jointly developed by **DRDO and Indian Army**. Infantry School, Mhow and **DRDO's** Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune have designed and developed this weapon using their respective expertise in the complementary areas. The weapon has been developed in a record time of four

months. The weapon is aptly named "Asmi" meaning "Pride", "Self-Respect" & "Hard Work".

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation** has handed over Motor Bike Ambulance **Rakshita** to the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. The bike ambulance will help in overcoming the problems faced by Indian security forces and emergency health care providers. The bike ambulances will provide life-saving aid for the evacuation of injured patients from low-intensity conflict areas.
- The **Government of India** is set to procure **21 MiG-29** and **12 Sukhoi-30MKI** fighter aircraft from **Russia**. Apart from this, the Centre will also purchase the upgrades of the existing fleets of aircraft from Russian state-run defence export arm **Rosoboronexport**.
- **Indian Air Force** and **French Air and Space Force** are conducting a bilateral Air exercise, **Ex Desert Knight-21** in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The exercise marks an important milestone in the series of engagements between the two Air forces. It is unique as it includes fielding of Rafale aircraft by both sides and is indicative of the growing interaction between the two premier Air Forces.
- The **Indian Army** is to conduct a large scale joint military exercise **Kavach** in the **Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal**. The exercise is to be held under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command. The Joint Military Exercise Kavach will involve **Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard**.
- The **DRDO** successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** from **Hawk-I** aircraft of **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** off the Odisha coast. This was the 9th successful mission of SAAW conducted by DRDO till now and the first test conducted from the Hawk-i aircraft.
- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has launched "**Operation Sard Hawa**" on the western international border of **Rajasthan**. The Operations aims to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog cover in the region and increase security on the border areas in Jaisalmer.
- A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise **AMPHEX - 21** was held in Andaman & Nicobar group of islands. The exercise involved the participation of troops of Army, Navy as well as the Indian Air Force. The exercise was aimed at validating India's capabilities to safeguard the territorial integrity of its island territories. The joint force executed multi-domain, high-intensity offensive and defensive manoeuvres in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.



- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted successful maiden launch of **Akash-NG (New Generation)** Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha. Akash-NG is a new generation **Surface-to-Air Missile** for use by Indian Air Force (IAF) with an aim of intercepting high manoeuvring aerial threats. The launch met all the test objectives by performing high maneuvers during the trajectory.

### Science and Technology

- A68a, the giant Antarctic iceberg has become a cause for concern for South Georgia Island. The giant iceberg A68, the biggest block of free-floating ice from Antarctica with an area of about 5,800 sq. Km. Since 2017, it has been drifting in the Atlantic Ocean. Due to an ocean current, this year the iceberg was propelled into the South Atlantic Ocean and since then it has been drifting towards the remote sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. It is a British Overseas Territory (BOT). This has prompted fears about the impact the iceberg could have on the island's abundant wildlife.
- Indian Space startup, **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test-fired a solid propulsion rocket engine, named **Kalam-5**. With this, it has become the first private company of India to successfully design, develop and test a full solid-fueled rocket stage. This crucial propulsion technology will be used for their maiden rocket **Vikram-1**, which is under active manufacturing and is targeted to be launched in December 2021 with the help of **ISRO**.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is looking to carry out the eighth and final test in its "**Green Run**" test series. This eighth stage termed "**hot fire**," will bring to an end a series of tests which, NASA says, will gradually bring together the core stage of the **Space Launch System (SLS)** to life for the very first time. The core stage of the SLS will form the backbone of what NASA says will be the

“most powerful rocket in the world” and will power its next-generation **human Moon Missions**.

- **Infosys** has recently announced that it has been accredited with the **Google Cloud Partner Specialization** in the data and analytics space. Infosys is among the top global system integrators which have been accredited with this specialization.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has announced the establishment of a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in partnership with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**. The move will give select researchers, scientists access to **Amazon’s Bracket cloud-based quantum computing service**.
- Tech major **Microsoft** has launched its new **India Development Center (IDC)** facility in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**. The new centre will serve as a leading hub for driving advanced engineering and innovation. The centre will build on Microsoft’s commitment to tap India’s world-class engineering talent and create solutions for a global impact.
- **ISRO** chairman **K Sivan** is likely to inaugurate the ‘**SriShakthiSat**’ ground station at **Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology** in **Coimbatore**. The station will help monitor the satellite developed by the institute, which is set to be launched by the ISRO. A satellite communication lab was established in the college in **2010**.
- **Bharti Airtel** took an edge by becoming the first telecom operator in India to demonstrate **5G** services successfully. **Bharti Airtel** announced that it orchestrated live fifth-generation (5G) service over a commercial network in **Hyderabad**.

### Books & Authors

- Union Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Defence **Shripad Naik** released a Konkani book “**Sutranivednachi sutra- ek anbv**”, by **Dr Roopa Chari** on 26 December, 2020. It is published by **Sanjana Publications**.
- The family of Late Justice **Rajindar Sachar** in association with **The Indian Society of International Law** and **The Indian Law Institute** is organizing the book launch “**In Pursuit Of Justice: An Autobiography**” written by Late **Justice Rajindar Sachar**. The book has been posthumously published.
- **Alfredo Covelli**, an Italy based author has launched his new book **Vahana Masterclass** for children and Young Audience. The books will be illustrated and published by **Scholastic India**. Alfredo had a keen interest in our Indian culture and mythology which inspired him to write a story on Lord Ganesh for children.

- A book titled ‘**India’s 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia**’ and one which reflects on India’s previous 12 tours Down Under, was launched. The book, a **Bradman Museum** initiative, is authored by senior cricket scribe **R. Kaushik**, and it chronicles a rivalry that has given a fillip to Test cricket.
- A general manager at RBI, **R Giridharan** has authored his debut book “**Right Under our Nose**”. In “Right Under Your Nose”, a murderer eliminates scientists right under the nose of the police and leaves forensics baffled. In response, the chief minister calls upon **Vijay**, who is given an impossible deadline to solve the case before Parliament resumes in a week.
- A coffee table book named “**Modi India Calling - 2021**” has been released on the occasion of 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The book contains various photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi captured during his “**107 overseas and bilateral visits**”. The book is the idea of BJP leader **Vijay Jolly** and it was released by **Adesh Gupta**, the Delhi BJP president. The book has been published by **Maneesh Media** and has 450 pages containing thousands of photographs of the PM Modi.
- Former chief election commissioner (CEC) **S Y Quraishi** has come out with his book titled “**The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India**”. The book will hit the stands on February 15, 2021. It has been published by HarperCollins India.
- Manipur Governor, **Dr Najma Heptulla** has virtually released a book titled “**Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo**” authored by (Retd) Lt General **Konsam Himalaya Singh** at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Imphal. The book elegantly summons the essence and imperatives of superior command of one of the most formidable forces in the world.
- **Ramchandra Guha’s** latest book “**The Commonwealth of Cricket**” would be launching virtually in the Tata Literature Live (The Mumbai Lit fest) this month. His latest book juxtaposes his life with his abiding love for the game & this conversation could not come at a better time with India and Australia in the midst of an enthralling test series.
- Goa Chief Minister, **Pramod Sawant** has released a book ‘**Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record**’ at a function organized at Institute Menezes Braganza hall in the city. The book has been written by senior journalist **Waman Subha Prabhu**.

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Science & Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually inaugurated the web-based application “Digital Ocean”. It has been developed by Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) an autonomous organization under M/o Earth sciences. Digital Ocean is a first of its kind digital platform for Ocean Data Management.
- The 21-year-old college student, **Arya Rajendran** has been elected the new mayor of **Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, of Kerala**. The **Communist Party of India (Marxist)** leader, Arya is the youngest person in India to occupy the post of mayor anywhere in the country.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** has announced that a **multi-modal logistics park in Assam**. It will be constructed in **Silchar and the Balacherra-Harengajao section** of the **Silchar-Saurashtra Highway** will be completed in **March 2022**. Mr Gadkari made this announcement at a public meeting at Zero Point on the East-West Corridor at Madhuramukh at Rangpur.
- Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the **meteorological centre (MC) of the India Meteorological Department** at **Leh in Ladakh** via video conferencing. The centre would provide localised weather forecasts in the region, which would result in strengthening the weather-related early warning system for the region.
- **Indian Railways** successfully completed the **180 km per hour speed trial** of its new design **Vistadome** tourist coaches. These Vistadome coaches will make train journeys memorable for the passengers, as well as give a further boost to tourism.
- Home Minister **Amit Shah** has released the inaugural issue of the **National Police K-9 Journal** in **New Delhi**. It is the first such publication in the country on the subject of **Police Service K9s, Police Dogs**. This is a unique initiative that will further enrich the subjects related to Police Service Dog, K-9, PSK teams in the country.
- **Delhi government Department of Art, Culture, and Language** has set-up a **Tamil academy** to promote the language and culture of the southern state of **Tamil Nadu**. Delhi has a large population of people from Tamil Nadu and we want to present a platform to the people of Delhi to get a taste of the art and culture of Tamil Nadu.
- The **51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will open on 16th January, with the Indian premiere of the movie ‘**Another Round**’ by **Thomas Vinterberg**.
- The International Jury for **51st edition of International Film Festival of India** has been announced with eminent filmmakers from across the world. According to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the Jury will comprise **Pablo Cesar** of Argentina as **Chairman**, **Prasanna Vithanage** of Sri Lanka, **Abu Bakr Shawky** of Austria, **Priyadarshan** of India and **Rubaiyat Hossain** of Bangladesh.
- The **40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** was flagged off on **January 05, 2021**, from **Mormugao Port, Goa**. The chartered ice-class vessel **MV Vasiliy Golovnin** has been chosen for the prestigious **40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA)** mission journey and will reach Antarctica in 30 days.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has capped the amount of **trans fatty acids (TFA)** in oils and fats to **3% for 2021 and 2% by 2022** from the current permissible limit of 5% through an amendment to the **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations**. It was in 2011 that India first passed a regulation that set a TFA limit of 10% in oils and fats, which was further reduced to 5% in 2015.
- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha** has launched Mobile Application ‘**Satark Nagrik**’ and **Departmental Vigilance Officers Portal** of J&K Anti Corruption Bureau. The Lt Governor observed that the UT Government is taking comprehensive measures for ensuring transparent, accountable, and responsive governance.
- **Bangladesh** has been chosen as the ‘Country in Focus’ for the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The festival will be held at Goa from January 16 to January 24, 2021. The Country in Focus is a special segment that recognizes the cinematic excellence and contributions of the country. This section at the 51st IFFI will showcase four films from Bangladesh.
- In **Leh**, the first-ever **Ice climbing festival** was celebrated in **Nubra valley**. The Seven Day event was organized by **Nubra Adventure Club**. Ice climbing is a popular winter sport abroad. To promote winter tourism in Nubra valley, Nubra Adventure Club, with the help of Social activist Dr Nordan Otzer, has organized the Seven Day Ice Climbing Festival.
- **Elon Musk**-owned electric vehicle (EV) company **Tesla** has registered a fully-owned subsidiary in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. Tesla, the world’s most valued carmaker has incorporated a fully owned subsidiary ahead as a first step to set up an R&D unit and a manufacturing plant for its electric vehicles in the country.

- The **51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will be celebrating the work of legendary filmmaker **Satyajit Ray** by screening five of his classics. As part of the tribute, the festival will showcase Ray's acclaimed "**Pather Panchali**", the first film of his **The Apu Trilogy**, 1964 romantic drama "**Charulata**", "**Sonar Kella**", his 1977 Hindi directorial debut "**Shatranj Ke Khilari**" and "**Ghare Baire**" (1984).
- Union Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh** has unveiled India's first '**Driverless Metro Car**' on 15 January 2021 during a function held at **BEML's Bangalore Complex**. The indigenously designed & developed state-of-the-art Driverless Metro trains are being manufactured at BEML Bengaluru manufacturing facility, for **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**.
- **Manish Kumar**, a sanitation worker in Delhi, became the first person to receive the **COVID-19 vaccine** in India after PM Modi flagged off the nationwide vaccination drive on **16 January 2021**. Manish Kumar was given the injection at **AIIMS in Delhi** while Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan was also present.
- The first-of-its-kind **Labour Movement Museum**, in India, would be launched in **Alappuzha in Kerala**, to showcase the history of the world labour movement. The museum will portray the growth of the world labour movement and the history of Kerala's labour movement, through pictures, documents and other exhibits. Alappuzha is famous as the global houseboat tourism hub.
- **Rishabh Pant** was signed by **JSW Sports**, the sports arm of **JSW Group**. The multi-year association between the two parties will see JSW Sports manage all commercial interests and marketing rights of the 23-year-old cricketer, who most recently played a starring role in India's magnificent Test series win in Australia.
- One of the oldest trains of Indian Railways, the **Howrah-Kalka Mail** has been renamed as the '**Netaji Express**'. Indian Railways have renamed the train just a few days before the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on January 23**.
- Flight lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** will become the **1st woman fighter pilot** to take part in the **Republic Day parade**. She will be a part of the **Indian Air Force's tableau** in the 2021 Republic Day Parade that will showcase mock-ups of the light combat helicopter, light combat aircraft, and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane.
- **Meghalaya** Chief Minister, **Conrad K. Sangma** has inaugurated India's longest road arch bridge "**Wahrew Bridge**" at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district of **Meghalaya** on 22 January 2021. The project was sanctioned in 2013 and, the work started in 2014.

The construction of the bridge was completed in December 2018.



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- The **South-East Central Railways (SECR)** zone in **Chhattisgarh** breaks its own previous record by successfully operating the longest ever freight train by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit of around **3.5 km**. Named as '**Vasuki**', it covered the distance of **224 km** between the railway stations of **Bhilai and Korba** and took about seven hours. The '**Vasuki**', comprising of **300 wagons** of long haul rake of five goods trains, ran with the help of one pilot, one assistant loco pilot and a guard.
- The **Election Commission** has rolled out the electronic version of the voters' photo identity card **e-EPIC**, which can be stored on mobile phones and downloaded on personal computers. The physical card takes time to print and reach the voter, and the idea is to provide faster delivery and easy accessibility to the document.
- **SpaceX** successfully launched its ambitious rideshare mission called **Transporter-1**, carrying **143** small satellites, and created a new record of launching many satellites from a single rocket. With this launch, SpaceX broke the record set by **ISRO in February 2017** for deploying **104** satellites onboard PSLV in a single mission. The SpaceX used two-stage Falcon 9 rocket for the mission, from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. The 143 satellites included 133 commercial and government satellites and 10 Starlink satellites of SpaceX.
- **National Marine Turtle Action Plan** has been recently released by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in **New Delhi**. The Ministry also released the '**Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines**' along with the Marine Turtle Action Plan.

## Obituaries

- Padma Shri awardee dance historian and critic, **Sunil Kothari** has passed away. He was qualified as a Chartered Accountant, before turning to the study of Indian dance forms. He authored more than 20 books on the subject of Indian dance forms.
- Former professional wrestler **Jon Huber**, who was popularly known by his ring name 'Luke Harper' in the WWE has passed away, due to a non-COVID-19 related lung illness.
- Veteran broadcaster, **Indira Joseph Venniyoor** passed away. She was a renowned broadcaster, **All India Radio** veteran & first **English news announcer of Travancore Radio** when its English service began in 1949.
- Legendary Odia musician, **Shantanu Mohapatra** passed away. He was the first Odia music composer to work with legends like Lata Mangeshkar, Manna Dey and Md Rafi and also the first to work in Hindi, Bengali, Assamese and Telugu film industries.
- Veteran Congress leader **Madhavsinh Solanki**, who served as former External Affairs Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Gujarat, has passed away. He had served as External Affairs Minister of India from **June 1991 to March 1992**. He had been the Chief Minister of Gujarat for three times between **1976 to 1990**. He was the longest-serving chief minister of the state before Narendra Modi.
- Veteran journalist and orator (public speaker) **Sri Turlapati Kutumba Rao** has passed away. He is known for his service to journalism in the **Telugu language**.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning author & journalist **Neil Sheehan** passed away. He covered the **Vietnam War for United Press International** and the **Times from 1962 to 1966**. He won a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award in 1989 for "**A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam.**"
- Indian American writer **Ved Mehta** passed away. The **Indian-American novelist** overcame blindness & was widely known as the **20th-century writer** most responsible for introducing American readers to India.
- Noted social activist and Padma Shri winner, **D Prakash Rao** has passed away. He was conferred with the prestigious **Padma Shri award in 2019** for his contribution towards boosting the value of education among slum kids in Cuttack. Apart from this, Rao was also a well-known blood donor.
- Legendary Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan** passed away. He was awarded the Padma Shri in **1991**, the Padma Bhusan in **2006**, and the Padma Vibhushan in **2018**.
- Former Union minister and noted industrialist **Kamal Morarka** has passed away. He served as the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office under Prime Minister **Chandra Shekhar** from 1990 to 1991.
- Padma Award winning renowned oncologist **Dr V Shanta** has passed away. She was the chairperson of **Adyar Cancer Institute in Chennai**, which she joined in 1954. The institute is known for providing state-of-the-art healthcare to all patients.
- Former Arunachal Governor **Mata Prasad** has passed away at the age of 95. He served as minister in the Congress government in **Uttar Pradesh in 1988- 89** and appointed as **Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 1993**.
- Veteran Malayalam actor, **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri** has passed away while contracting COVID-19. He made his acting debut in **1996 with Desadanam**.
- The iconic Indian Bhajan singer **Narendra Chanchal**, who specialized in religious songs and hymns, has passed away. He sang a Bollywood song **Beshak Mandir Masjid** for the 1973 film Bobby and won **Filmfare Best Male Playback Award**.
- The iconic American radio and television host, and paid spokesman, **Larry King**, has passed away. He rose to fame in **1978** as a radio host of **The Larry King Show** and then hosted **Larry King Live** on CNN for about 25 years from **1985 to 2010**.
- Noted historian, author, poet and retired bureaucrat **Narendra Luther** has passed. A 1955 batch IAS officer, Luther was closely associated with the history and culture of erstwhile Hyderabad state and its rulers. He had served in various positions before retiring as the chief secretary of the **undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1991**.
- Former Indian National Football team goalkeeper, **Prasanta Dora** has passed away. He was represented Tollygunge Agragami, Calcutta Port Trust, Mohammedan Sporting, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal in domestic football.
- Oscar winning-actor **Cloris Leachman** has passed away. The late star was known as one of Hollywood's most prolific performers having won an **Academy Award, a Golden Globe, and eight Primetime Emmy Awards**.
- Former Union Minister and senior Rajasthan Congress leader **Buta Singh** passed away. The veteran politician Buta Singh served as **Home Minister of India** in the Rajiv Gandhi government from 1986 to 1989. He was a four-time MP from **Jalore-Sirohi Lok Sabha constituency**. He served as the Chairperson of the

**National Commission For Scheduled Cast from 2007 to 2010.**

- Ace mountaineer Colonel **Narendra 'Bull' Kumar**, who helped India secure the **Siachen Glacier**, passed away. He was responsible for the success of Operation Meghdoot in 1984. He was the first Indian to climb **Mount Nanda Devi**.
- Former Maharashtra cabinet minister and seven-time Congress MLA **Vilas Patil Undalkar** has passed away.
- Olympic bronze and World Cup-winning hockey player **Michael Kindo** passed away. He played 3 Men's Hockey World Cup in **1971, 1973 & 1975** where India bagged bronze, silver & gold medals. He also represented in **1972 Olympic Games** where India secured a bronze medal. Kindo received the **Arjuna Award in 1972**.
- The world's oldest living first-class cricketer **Alan Burgess** has passed away at the age of **100**. A right-hand batsman and slow left-arm bowler, Alan appeared in 11 first-class matches for **Canterbury** from 1940/41 to 1951/52 and also for **New Zealand Services** in England in 1945. He took 6-52 on debut against Otago at Lancaster Park in a match that began on Christmas Day 1940.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's** niece and eminent academician **Chitra Ghosh** has passed away. She made pioneering contributions to academics and community services and dedicated her life in serving the people, teaching & inspiring the youth. Professor Bose was the former head of the political science department at Lady Brabourne College in Kolkata.
- Veteran Fashion designer **Satya Paul**, best known for reinventing the Indian saree for contemporary women, has passed away. Satya Paul launched the first saree boutique in India, L'Affaire, in 1980. In 1986, he launched India's first designer label, under the brand 'Satya Paul', which has now become one of the premier brands in the country.

**Static Takeaways**

- President of Myanmar: Win Myint.
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw.
- Myanmar Currency: Kyat.
- AU Small Finance Bank Bank HQ: Jaipur;
- GAVI Headquarters location: Geneva, Switzerland.
- GAVI Founded: January 2000.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Indian Railway Founded: 16 April 1853.

- Indian Railway Headquarters: New Delhi.
- INCOIS Founded: 1998.
- Headquarters of INCOIS: Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad.
- Folk Dance of Assam: Bihu dance, Bagurumba, Bhortal Dance, Jhumur dance.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- Skyroot Aerospace Founded: 12 June 2018.
- Skyroot Aerospace Headquarters location: Hyderabad.
- Serum Institute of India Founded: 1966.
- Serum Institute of India Headquarters location: Pune.
- Chief Election Commissioner Formed: 25 January 1950.
- Chief Election Commissioner Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Railway Board Founded: March 1905.
- Headquarters of Railway Board: New Delhi.
- SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SAIL founded: 19 January 1954.
- UNDP Headquarters: New York, New York, United States.
- UNDP Founded: 22 November 1965.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Founded: 5 October 1948.
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa; Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- ADB Established: 9 December 1966.
- New Development Bank Headquarters Location: Shanghai, China.
- New Development Bank Founder: BRICS.
- New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) set up on 2nd April 1990.
- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Tata Power Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank HQ: Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IDFC First Bank Founded: October 2015.
- Headquarter of Bajaj Auto: Pune, Maharashtra.

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- All India Chess Federation Headquarters: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium; Chennai.
- All India Chess Federation Founded: 1951.
- All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council Founded: 2005.
- CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai; Headquarters: California, United States.
- Bharat Electronics Limited Headquarters: Bengaluru.
- Bharat Electronics Limited Founded: 1954.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- International Chess Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Chess Federation Founded: 20 July 1924.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- Delhi Minister of Art, Culture, and Language: Manish Sisodia.
- FSSAI Founded: August 2011.
- FSSAI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan.
- IHS Markit Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- IHS Markit Founded: 1959.
- Tesla Founded: 1 July 2003.
- Tesla Headquarters: California, United States.
- All India Football Federation Founded: 23 June 1937.
- All India Football Federation Headquarters: Dwarka, Delhi.
- Bandhan Bank HQ: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Bandhan Bank Founded: 2001.
- Central African Republic Capital: Bangui;
- Central African Republic Currency: Central African CFA Franc.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo.
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen.
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- Capital of Indonesia: Jakarta.
- The currency of Indonesia: Indonesian rupiah.
- President of Indonesia: Joko Widodo.
- Kyrgyzstan Capital: Bishkek;
- Kyrgyzstan Currency: Kyrgyzstani som.
- Bharat Biotech Founded: 1996.
- Bharat Biotech Headquarters location: Hyderabad.
- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015.
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi.
- Flipkart headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Establishment: 1978.
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governors: 4 (Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, and M Rajeswar Rao).
- Deutsche Bank Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany.
- Deutsche Bank Founded: 10 March 1870.
- ICRA Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana.
- BofA Securities Headquarters: New York, New York, United States.
- BofA Securities Parent organization: Bank of America.
- BofA Securities Founded: 1 January 2009.
- Fitch Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Fitch Ratings Founded: 1914.
- Supreme Court Bar Association Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Intel Founded: 18 July 1968.
- Intel Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States.
- National Institute of Ocean Technology HQ: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- IdeaForge HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- France Capital: Paris.
- France President: Emmanuel Macron.
- France Prime minister: Jean Castex
- France Currency: Euro.
- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi.
- Vietnam Currency: Vietnamese dong.
- Vietnam Prime Minister: Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

- Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.
- Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and Mission on 1 May 1897.
- In 1898, he established Belur Math.
- 28th Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- IRDAI Founded: 1999.
- IRDAI Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- YES bank HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- UN Human Rights Council Founded: 15 March 2006.
- UN Human Rights Council Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.
- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- Capital of Bahrain: Manama; Currency of Bahrain: Bahraini Dinar.
- President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan.
- Uganda Capital: Kampala; Currency: Ugandan shilling.
- Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Airtel Payments Bank Headquarters Location: New Delhi.
- Airtel Payments Bank Founded: 2017.
- Airtel Payments Bank Parent organization: Bharti Airtel.
- Axis Bank Commenced operations: 1994.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Axis Bank Tagline: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi Managing.
- Standard Chartered Bank Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- Standard Chartered Bank Founded: 1969.
- US-India Business Council Founded: 1975.
- US-India Business Council Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- RBL Bank Ltd Incorporated: 1943, under the Indian Companies Act, 1913
- RBL Bank Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- RBL Bank Ltd Tagline: Apno Ka Bank.
- Sundaram Finance Ltd Founded: 1954.
- Sundaram Finance Ltd Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Life Insurance Corporation Founded: 1 September 1956.
- Life Insurance Corporation Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Telecommunications Consultants India Limited Founded: 1978.
- Telecommunications Consultants India Limited Headquarters: New Delhi.
- France President: Emmanuel Macron.
- France Capital: Paris.
- France Currency: Euro.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar.
- Capital of Singapore: Singapore.
- PM of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- JSW Group Founded: 1982.
- ITBP Founded: 24 October 1962.
- ITBP Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Ice Hockey Association of India membership: 27 April 1989.
- Federal Bank Founded: 23 April 1931.
- Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar.
- Mongolia President: Khaltmaagiin Battulga.
- Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Togrog.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Portugal Capital: Lisbon; Currency: Euro.
- Estonia Capital: Tallinn.
- Estonia Currency: Euro.
- International Energy Agency headquarters: Paris, France.
- International Energy Agency Member Countries: 30.
- International Energy Agency Establishment: November 1974.
- HSBC Bank India HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C. U.S.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Headquarters location: New York, United States.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Founded: 1948.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Founded: 1927.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala.
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Founded: 1927.
- BSF Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Tata Consultancy Services Founded: 1 April 1968.

- Tata Consultancy Services Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- UNCTAD Headquarters location: Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNCTAD Founder: United Nations General Assembly.
- UNCTAD Founded: 30 December 1964.
- 1st Chief Election Commissioner of Independent India- Sukumar Sen.
- World Customs Organization headquarter: Brussels, Belgium.
- World Customs Organization Membership: 182 countries.
- World Customs Organization Secretary-General: Kunio Mikuriya.
- Chief Election Commissioner Formed: 25 January 1950.
- Chief Election Commissioner Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SpaceX Founded: 2002.
- SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.
- Transparency International Headquarters location: Berlin, Germany.
- Transparency International Founded: 4 May 1993.
- The motto of Indian Army: "Service Before Self".
- Headquarters of Indian Army: New Delhi.
- State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Bharti AXA General Insurance Established: 2008.
- Bharti AXA General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- Bharti AXA General Insurance Tagline: Suraksha ka Naya Nazariya.
- President of Italy: Sergio Mattarella.
- Capital of Italy: Rome;
- Currency of Italy: Euro.
- France Capital: Paris.
- France President: Emmanuel Macron.
- France Prime minister: Jean Castex
- France Currency: Euro.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Prakash Javadekar.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995.



#### 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

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
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 January 2021

Sr. No.	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Union Minister of Home Affairs	Amit Shah.
2	Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	DV Sadananda Gowda
3	Minister of Women and Child Development	Smriti Zubin Irani
4	Union Minister of Railways	Piyush Goyal
5	Union Minister of Defence	Raj Nath Singh
6	Ministers of State (I/C) for Statistics and Programme Implementation	Rao Inderjit Singh
7	Minister of State (I/C) for Civil Aviation	Hardeep Singh Puri
8	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti	Rattan Lal Kataria
9	Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment	Thaawarchand Gehlot
10	Union Minister of Education	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
11	Union Minister for External Affairs	Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
12	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of AYUSH	Shripad Yesso Naik
13	Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao
14	Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad
15	Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting	Prakash Javadekar
16	Minister of State (I/C) for Power	Raj Kumar Singh

#### Heads of various organizations in News in month of January 2021

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	HSBC Bank India CEO	Surendra Rosha
2	IMF Managing Director and Chairman	Kristalina Georgieva
3	IMF Chief Economist	Gita Gopinath

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
4	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Head	Liu Zhenmin
5	BSF Director General	Rakesh Asthana
6	Tata Consultancy Services CEO	Rajesh Gopinathan
7	UNCTAD Head	Mukhisa Kituyi
8	23rd Chief Election Commissioner	Sunil Arora
9	SpaceX founder & CEO	Elon Musk
10	SpaceX president & COO	Gwynne Shotwell
11	Transparency International Chairperson	Delia Ferreira Rubio
12	28th Chief of Army Staff	General Manoj Mukund Naravane
13	Bharti AXA General Insurance MD and CEO	Sanjeev Srinivasan
14	Microsoft CEO	Satya Nadella
15	ISRO Chairman	K.Sivan
16	Bharti Airtel CEO	Gopal Vittal
17	Bharti Airtel Founder	Sunil Bharti Mittal
18	International Union for Conservation of Nature CEO	Grethel Aguilar
19	New Development Bank President	Marcos Prado Troyjo
20	SIDBI Chairman & MD	Devendra Kumar Singh
21	Tata Power CEO	Praveer Sinha
22	Punjab National Bank CEO	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
23	RBI 25th Governor	Shaktikant Das
25	IDBI Bank CEO	Rakesh Sharma
26	MD & CEO of Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank	Suveer Kumar Gupta
27	IDFC First Bank CEO	V. Vaidyanathan
28	Managing Director of Bajaj Auto	Rajiv Bajaj
29	CEO of Google	Sundar Pichai
30	Bharat Electronics Limited Chairman & Managing Director	M V Gowtama
31	Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Chairman & Managing Director	Rear Admiral V K Saxena
32	Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral Karambir Singh
33	Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
34	President and CEO of Israel Aerospace Industries	Boaz Levy
35	International Chess Federation President	Arkady Dvorkovich
36	Chairman of ICC	Greg Barclay
37	CEO of ICC	Manu Sawhney
38	FSSAI Chairperson	Rita Teatota
39	FSSAI Chief Executive Officer	Arun Singhal
40	Serum Institute of India CEO	Adar Poonawalla
41	IHS Markit CEO	Lance Uggla
42	All India Football Federation President	Praful Patel

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
43	Bandhan Bank MD & CEO	Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
44	Bharat Biotech Executive director	Dr V Krishna Mohan
45	NITI Aayog Chairperson .	Narendra Modi
46	Flipkart CEO	Kalyan Krishnamurthy
47	MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	J Venkatramu
48	Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Chairman	Michael Debabrata Patra
49	Deutsche Bank CEO	Christian Sewing
50	ICRA Non-Executive Chairman and Director	Arun Duggal
51	Nomura President and Group CEO	Kentaro Okuda
52	BofA Securities CEO	Brian T Moynihan
53	Fitch Ratings CEO	Paul Taylor
54	Intel Founders	Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce
55	National Institute of Ocean Technology Director	Dr G A Ramadass
56	IdeaForge CEO	Ankit Mehta
57	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
58	Airtel Payments Bank CEO	Anubrata Biswas
59	Axis Bank MD and CEO	Amitabh Chaudhry
60	Standard Chartered Bank CEO	Bill Winters
61	Care Ratings HQ Mumbai; CEO	Ajay Mahajan
62	Sundaram Finance Ltd Founder	T.S.Santhanam
63	Director-General of CRPF	Dr A P Maheshwari
64	Director-general of WHO	Tedros Adhanom
65	World Economic Forum Founder and Executive Chairman	Klaus Schwab
66	Badminton World Federation President	Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen
67	JSW Group Founder	Sajjan Jindal
68	ITBP DG	S S Deswal
69	Ice Hockey Association of India president	K. L. Kumar
70	Federal Bank Founder	K.P Hormis
71	AU Small Finance Bank MD & CEO	Sanjay Agarwal
72	Badminton World Federation President	Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen
73	Director of INCOIS	T. Srinivasa Kumar
74	Director of IIT-Hyderabad	Budaraju Srinivasa Murty
75	UNDP Head	Achim Steiner
76	ISRO Chairman	K.Sivan

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