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FEBRUARY' 2021

ENGLISH CURRENT AFFAIRS



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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY
CURRENT AFFAIRS
[MONTH OF FEBRUARY' 2021]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- **Indian Air Force will focus on ₹1.3 lakh crore deal for 114 fighter jets**
 - The Indian Air Force is now looking to focus on the multirole fighter aircraft project under which it is planning to acquire 114 combat aircraft expected to cost over ₹1.3 lakh crore.
 - The Air Force had been undertaking one fighter aircraft project at a time and now its 83 LCA Mark 1A fighters have been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security.
 - The ₹50,000 crore deal is set to be signed in Bengaluru during Aero India.
 - The IAF has already issued the Request for Information for the tender and would be soon moving a proposal for getting the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) before the Defence Ministry for the multi-billion dollar project which would enable it to acquire 4.5 plus generation aircraft in large numbers.
 - The Request for Information (RFI) has been responded to by several global players including fighter jet manufacturers from the US, France, Russia and Sweden.
 - Sweden's Saab is looking to pitch in with its Gripen fighter aircraft which it says is far more advanced than the one which was offered in 2007 to the Indian Air Force.

- **Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 45th Raising Day on 01 February**
 - The Indian Coast Guard celebrated its 45th Raising Day on 01 February 2021.
 - The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) through its tireless pursuits of excellence has established itself as a reliable force that responds with alacrity to situations impinging on the Security of the Coastline, Safety of the Seafaring Community and Coastal Populace.
 - As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian Coasts and enforcing regulations within the Maritime Zones of India.
 - On an average, the Coast Guard saves one precious life every second day at sea.
 - From a modest beginning with just 7 surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 156 ships and 62 aircraft in its inventory and is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.

- **Smriti Irani inaugurates 8th India International Silk Fair**
 - Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the 8th India International Silk Fair on Virtual Portal.
 - The fair is considered to be India's biggest silk fair, being held under one roof on Indian Silk Export Promotion Council's virtual platform.
 - The five days event is being held virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic.
 - India has a long history of silk production and is the 2nd largest producer of Silk.
 - India is the only country in the world which produces all the four major varieties of silk - Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga.

- **VP M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates National Tribal Festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ in National Capital**
 - Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Aadi Mahotsav, a National Tribal Festival at Dilli Haat in INA in the National Capital.
 - It will continue till 15th of this month. The Aadi Mahotsav - A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Crafts, Cuisine and Commerce is a successful annual initiative that was commenced in 2017.
 - The festival was an attempt to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place.
 - Around one thousand tribal artisans, artists and chefs from more than 20 States of the country will participate and provide a glimpse of their rich traditional culture.
 - Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), as the nodal agency under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has been working to improve the income and livelihoods of the tribal people, while preserving their way of life and traditions.

- **Around 89 lakh children administered polio drops on National Immunisation Day**
 - Around 89 lakh children were given polio drops under National Polio Immunisation drive across the country.
 - Union Health Ministry said, Vaccination were conducted at seven lakh booths.
 - India has been free of polio for a decade, with the last case of wild poliovirus reported on 13th January 2011.
 - Polio is a crippling and potentially fatal viral infectious disease.
 - There is no cure, but can be prevented through immunization.
 - India received polio-free certification by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2014.

- **Asus to develop local Esports talent with ROG Academy in India**
 - Asus Republic of Gamers (ROG), the brand behind the popular ROG gaming phone series, has announced the launch of the Asus ROG Academy in India.
 - The competitive Esports training initiative will be India’s first virtual academy programme for upcoming gamers who are looking to be professionals.
 - Through the initiative, Asus ROG will identify PC gamers through a screening process, and the selected individuals will be provided the necessary equipment, coaching, and even a stipend to prepare them for competitive Esport tournaments on a national, as well as international level.
 - As part of the initial quarterly phase, Asus ROG Academy will be looking at Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS: GO).

- **Varanasi receives second cruise boat under PRASAD scheme**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, received the second cruise boat under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme of the Central Government.
 - This two-tier cruise boat will run in waters of Ganga river and show the tourists the spectacular view of 84 ghats of Kashi.
 - The cruise named UP tourism ferry reached through waterways from Goa to Varanasi.
 - The cruise has seating capacity of hundred people on both ground and top floors and it will run from Rajghat to Assi Ghat.

- Under the Prasad scheme of the Central Government more than 10 crore rupees have been spent on cruise service, ticket counter and other amenities to promote the tourism at ghats of Kashi.
- **Govt extends last date for submission of nomination for Nari Shakti Puraskar-2020 till Feb 6**
 - Government has extended the last date for submission of nomination for the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar-2020 till 6th February.
 - The awards are conferred every year on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 - The award recognizes exceptional work done by individuals in the area of empowerment of women.
 - The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to individuals, groups, NGOs and institutions for encouraging women to participate in decision making roles, women's skill development in traditional and non-traditional sectors, promoting women in non-traditional sectors like science and technology, sports, art, culture and for the significant work towards safety and security.
 - The award carries a citation and a cash reward of two lakh rupees.
- **Uttarakhand sets up Botanical Garden to conserve 210 species of trees of Shivalik range**
 - In Nainital district of Uttarakhand, a first of its kind botanical garden named 'Shivalik Arboretum' has been inaugurated, for conserving over 210 species of trees found in the Shivalik range of Himalayas.
 - Shivalik Arboretum aims to spread nature education among people so that they are able to feel an emotional connection with the trees, and make them more active towards conservation.
 - The facility will showcase information like scientific information about particular species, cultural significance, medicinal use, country of origin, type of habitat in which it is found and all possible uses including timber, dyes or any other peculiar use.
- **PNB Restricts Withdraw of Money from non-EMV ATMs from February 1**
 - The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has taken a giant step and won't allow its customers to withdraw money from non-EMV automated teller machines (ATMs) from 1 February 2021.
 - PNB has already informed its customers that it will be restricting both financial and non-financial transactions from non-EMV ATM machines from 1 February.
 - To overcome this, PNB will introduce OTP based systems for withdrawing cash.
 - Non-EMV ATMs are those which reads data through magnetic strips and do not hold the ATM card during the transaction.
- **India gets its first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management in Chennai**
 - A dedicated Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) has been established at the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai.
 - The centre is expected to help in building partnership and networks with relevant national and international agencies.

- India has a total of 42 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar sites.
 - February 2 marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands at Ramsar in Iran in 1971.
- **Asia's biggest Aero show begins at Bengaluru in Karnataka**
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day mega event Aero India that is taking place for the first time in a hybrid mode due to Covid Pandemic.
 - The 13th edition of Aero India show will see participants in both physical and virtual mode.
 - Over 200 MoUs will be signed between different procurement and manufacturing agencies.
 - Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru, India at the Yelahanka Air Force Station.
 - It is organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence.
- **Oxford names Aatmanirbharta as Hindi Word of 2020**
- After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on Aatmanirbharta in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic, this particular word has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi Word of the Year 2020.
 - Aatmanirbharta means self-reliance.
 - The Oxford Hindi word of the year is a word or expression that is chosen to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year, and have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance.
- **Kerala's first Human Milk Bank to be opened on February 5**
- Kerala's first Human Milk Bank (HMB), a state-of-art facility will be opened at the Ernakulam general hospital.
 - Set up with the support of the Rotary Club of Cochin Global, the milk bank is to ensure breast milk for newborn babies, who are not being breastfed by their own mothers who may be sick, deceased or due to insufficient production of breast milk, in the hospital.
 - The collected milk can be stored up to 6 months safely in the bank if needed before it is given to an infant.
 - In the beginning, the milk will be provided free of cost to only the babies admitted in the neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital.
 - The donors will be the mothers from the hospital who have delivered babies there and will have all their health statistics available at the hospital.
- **Punjab CM launches 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission**
- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh virtually launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission.
 - It is a part of the government's campaign to accomplish the goal of 100 per cent potable piped water supply in all rural households by March next year.
 - The Chief Minister also inaugurated one Mega Surface Water Supply Scheme covering 85 villages in the Moga district, 144 new water supply schemes for 172 villages, 121 Arsenic, and Iron removal plants.

- **Ford joins hand with Google to offer cloud-based data services**
 - United States-based Ford Motor Co has joined hands with Alphabet Inc's Google to cooperate in software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing, to develop new consumer services and modernize internal operations.
 - The Dearborn, Michigan-based automaker has entered into six-year partnership with the tech giant, under which it will incorporate the Android operating system of the Google into its Ford and Lincoln vehicles starting in 2023.
 - The customers of the Ford will get built-in Google apps, including its map and voice technology.
 - The automaker will deploy Google artificial intelligence technology to improve the efficiency of vehicle development, supply chain and manufacturing operations.

- **Jal Shakti Ministry launches portal on Gobardhan scheme**
 - The Jal Shakti Ministry launched a unified portal on the 'Gobardhan' scheme.
 - Under the new unified approach, all these programmes/schemes will be coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen (SBMG).
 - The Gobardhan scheme is being pursued as a priority programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen-Phase 2.
 - The Jal Shakti Ministry is implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission.

- **PM inaugurates Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The day marks 100 years of the Chauri Chaura incident.
 - Modi also released a postal stamp dedicated to the Chauri Chaura Centenary during the event.
 - The Chauri Chaura incident took place on 4 February 1922.
 - A large group of protesters was participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police who opened fire.
 - In retaliation the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants.
 - The incident led to the death of three civilians and 22 policemen.
 - Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the non-co-operation movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

- **India hosts Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave**
 - India hosted Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave on the sidelines of Aero India 2021.
 - The broad theme of the conclave is 'Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean'.
 - The conclave is an initiative to promote dialogue in an institutional, economic and cooperative environment that can foster the development of peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region.
 - The conclave is also taking place at a time Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a bitter standoff in eastern Ladakh for the last eight months.

- **Year-long birth centenary celebrations of legendary classical singer Pandit Bhimsen Joshi begins**
 - The year-long Birth Centenary celebrations of doyen of music Pandit Bhimsen Joshi began.
 - A two-day event has been organised in Mumbai to commemorate the timeless legacy of the great musical maestro by Rithwik Foundation for Performing Arts.
 - To celebrate the musical maestro's life and music, Films Division will be screening his biopic on its website and YouTube channel.
 - Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi was an Indian vocalist from Karnataka, in the Hindustani classical tradition.
 - He is known for the khayal form of singing and belongs to the Kirana gharana tradition of Hindustani Classical Music.
 - He received the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 2009.

- **'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' victory flame received at Air Force Station Adampur**
 - As part of 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebration commemorating 50 years of the 1971 war triumph against Pakistan, one of the victory flames was received at Air Force Station Adampur.
 - The flame was received in a grand reception by Air Commodore GKJ Reddy.
 - On the occasion many Air veterans were felicitated for their invaluable contribution towards the nation.
 - From 16 December, the Nation is celebrating 50 Years of India-Pak War, also called 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.
 - In December 1971, the Indian Armed Forces secured a decisive and historic Victory over Pakistan Army, which led to the creation of a Nation - Bangladesh and also resulted in the largest Military Surrender after the World War - II.

- **West Bengal Forest Department conducts water birds census for first time**
 - In West Bengal, the Forest Department has conducted water birds census for the first time.
 - The study was conducted from 12th of January to 2nd of February in 54 different locations across the state.
 - The rich biodiversity of the Sundarbans attracts lots of migratory birds every year.
 - The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Vinay Kumar Yadav said that 65 species have been found so far.
 - For the first time, a black necked grebe has been traced in the Sunderbans while more than four thousand great knots were seen at different places in the area.

- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands becomes first Union Territory to be corona free**
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands has become the first state or Union territory in the country to become Covid-19 free with active cases falling to zero in the islands.
 - Health ministry's website reported that the last four infected persons in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been declared cured.
 - The UT had reported a total of 4,932 cases and 62 deaths from the virus.
 - Lieutenant governor of Andaman and Nicobar : Devendra Kumar Joshi

- **Reliance Industries gets world's first 'carbon-neutral' oil from US**
 - Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Industries Ltd has received the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV), a division of United State oil major Occidental.
 - This feat will further help the oil major to accomplish its target of becoming a net zero-carbon company by 2035.
 - The Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) Sea Pearl containing the carbon-neutral oil from the Permian basin, unloaded the cargo at Jamnagar on January 28, 2021.
 - It must be noted that Reliance operates the world's largest single-location oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat with a capacity of 68.2 million tonnes a year.

- **Ayesha Aziz becomes India's Youngest Female Pilot at 25**
 - A 25-year-old Kashmiri woman, Ayesha Aziz, has become the youngest female pilot in the country.
 - She became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15 in 2011.
 - In the year 2011, Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15 and underwent training to fly a MIG-29 jet at Russia's Sokol airbase the following year.
 - She later graduated in aviation from the Bombay Flying Club (BFC) and obtained a commercial license in 2017.

- **Chiefs of Air Staff (CAS) Conclave Organised at Bengaluru**
 - Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 'Chiefs of Air Staff (CAS) Conclave' at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - The two-day conclave has been organised by Indian Air Force, from 3 to 04 February 2021, in a Hybrid Form.
 - The Chiefs of Air Staff from about 75 countries would come together on a single platform to exchange their thoughts on current issues related to aerospace power strategy and technological developments.

- **45th Kolkata International Book Fair to be held in July 2021**
 - The 45th Kolkata International Book Fair will be held in July this year at the Central Park Ground of Salt Lake.
 - This year the focal theme country is Bangladesh to mark the country's Golden Jubilee Year of Independence and the Centenary of Bangabondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
 - 125th Birth year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Birth Centenary of Satyajit Ray will also be celebrated in the Book Fair.
 - Earlier, the Kolkata International Book Fair was deferred due to the pandemic situation.

- **CM Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates first heliport of Assam in Majuli district**
 - Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the first heliport of the state in Majuli district.
 - The heliport having facility for simultaneous landing of three helicopters was constructed at an expenditure of Rs 50 lakh.
 - The heliport was built with an aim to boost tourism in Majuli, which has a distinct identity as the world's largest river island.

- **First ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021 Concludes**
 - The first-ever ASEAN-India Hackathon was organised from February 01-04, 2021, by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.
 - The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) implemented the initiative with the support of nodal agencies from all ten ASEAN countries.
 - The ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021 aimed at enhancing the cooperation between India and ASEAN countries in science, technology, and education, through collaboration.
 - ASEAN Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia
 - Founded: 8 August 1967, Indonesia
 - Members: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Laos.

- **HAL to develop world's first high-altitude pseudo satellite that can fly unmanned for upto 3 months**
 - The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is developing a futuristic high altitude pseudo satellite with a start-up company, to strengthen the country's military strike capabilities.
 - It is a first of its kind project in the world, where a manned aircraft will operate within the boundary and the unmanned aircraft will enter the enemy zone and can carry out strikes deep inside the enemy territory.
 - The high altitude pseudo satellite will be solar energised and the unmanned object will fly around 70,000 ft for 2-3 months to take information.
 - The technology has been named Combined Air Teaming System (CATS).
 - It will have a manned aircraft (will be known as mother ship), operating from faraway, and four autonomous unmanned aerial vehicle known as CATS Warrior.

- **Jammu and Kashmir govt restores 4G mobile Internet service in entire Union Territory**
 - The Jammu and Kashmir government has restored 4G mobile Internet service in the entire Union Territory.
 - The 4G internet services remained curtailed in Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019 after the central government revoked Article 370 of the Constitution and split the state into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
 - The low-speed or 2G Internet service on mobile phones was restored on 25th of January, 2020.

- **Assam govt to distribute 3 thousand rupees each to nearly 7.5 lakh people under Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar scheme**
 - Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the third phase of Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar mela in Guwahati.
 - At the event, the Assam government distributed financial assistance of 3 thousand rupees each to nearly 7.5 lakh people belonging to tea garden areas under the Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar scheme.
 - The state government started the scheme in 2017- 18.
 - So far, 5 thousand rupees had been deposited to bank account holders in tea garden areas in two phases under this scheme.

- The Assam government took initiative to open bank accounts in tea garden areas after demonetization.
- **Himachal Pradesh becomes first State to implement e-cabinet**
 - Himachal Pradesh has become the first State in the country to make the end to end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing e-cabinet application.
 - The entire process from initiation of a cabinet memo, approval of the cabinet memo through concerned Secretary, Chief Secretary, concerned Minister and finally by Chief Minister to place in the cabinet has been made online.
 - It will also be possible to monitor the status of implementation of cabinet decision more effectively through this application.
 - The date of cabinet meeting will also be notified through this system after the approval of the Chief Minister.
 - The cabinet proceedings and recording of the cabinet decisions on respective agenda items and further issuance of advice to the concerned departments will also be done through the e-cabinet application.
- **NASA Selects SpaceX to launch its SPHEREx Mission**
 - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected spaceflight company, SpaceX to launch its SPHEREx Mission.
 - SPHEREx is short for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer (SPHEREx) spacecraft.
 - Through this mission, NASA aims to perform an all-sky survey to measure the near-infrared spectra of approximately 450 million galaxies across the universe and 100 million stars inside our Milky Way galaxy.
 - The small astrophysics spacecraft, SPHEREx, weighs 329-lb. (178 kilograms).
 - It will be launched to space aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, in June 2024, from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.
- **Manipur CM announces Rs 10 lakh reward for voluntary destruction of poppy**
 - In Manipur, the War on Drugs Campaign initiated by the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh with an aim to make Manipur Drug-Free State has encouraged even those villagers who themselves planted the poppy plants from which opium is manufactured.
 - The villagers of remote hill village-Peh (Paoyi) near Ukhrul village of Manipur has been practicing poppy plantation from past years as livelihood means.
 - Manipur Chief Minister announced a reward of 10 lakh rupees for Peh (Paoyi) village and instructed the officials of Horticulture, Agriculture and Fisheries Department to visit the village and find out suitable alternative livelihood activity for the villagers.
- **Madhya Pradesh launches 'SAANS' campaign to reduce infant mortality**
 - The health department in Madhya Pradesh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully ('SAANS') campaign with the aim of reducing infant mortality due to pneumonia.
 - To reduce the death rate due to pneumonia among infants a strategy is being chalked out under the Social awareness campaign in which medical staff is being trained.
 - Training will be imparted at the community and primary health centres.
 - Around 4,000 Health and Wellness Centres have been set up in Madhya Pradesh for this purpose.

- **Piyush Goyal Co-chairs First India-EU High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment**
 - The first India-European Union High Level Dialogue (HLD) was held on 5th February 2021.
 - The HLD was co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal from India side and the European Union Executive Vice-President & Trade Commissioner Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, from the EU side.
 - This Dialogue was organised in line with the commitment made at the 15th India-EU Leader's Summit held in July 2020.
 - Ministers agreed for further deepening of bilateral trade and investment relationship through a series of regular engagements, aiming at quick deliverable for the businesses in these tough times.

- **Federal Bank Launches 'FedFirst' Savings Account Scheme for Children**
 - Federal Bank has launched a special savings account scheme for children below the age of 18 years, called FedFirst.
 - It aims to enable children to learn the importance of money management.
 - The account will develop among children healthy saving and spending habits, and give them the freedom to save, spend and earn.
 - The account comes with FedFirst contactless Debit Card with a daily cash withdrawal limit of Rs. 2,500.
 - Free online facilities including access to internet banking, mobile alerts and e-mail alerts.

- **India-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 20' commences in Rajasthan**
 - The India-US joint military exercise "Yudh Abhyas 20" commenced in Mahajan Field Firing Range of Bikaner district in Rajasthan.
 - This is the 16th edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of both the armies.
 - It will continue till the 21st of this month.
 - The previous version of the joint exercise was held at Seattle in the United States.
 - About 250 US and 250 Indian army soldiers are participating in the exercise.

- **Centre allocates Rs 16,000 cr for PM Fasal Bima Yojana**
 - Government has allocated 16 thousand crore rupees for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for 2021-22 to boost the safety of farmers' crops.
 - This will ensure maximum benefit of crop insurance reaches to farmers.
 - The scheme extends coverage for the entire cropping cycle from pre-sowing to post-harvest including coverage for losses arising out of prevented sowing and mid-season adversities.
 - Government had approved this flagship crop insurance scheme, five years ago, on 13th January 2016.

- **NCMC reviews situation arising out of natural disaster in Uttarakhand**
 - The National Crisis Management Committee, NCMC met in New Delhi to review the situation arising out of the natural disaster in Uttarakhand caused by glacial burst.
 - The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba.
 - The glacial burst led to the rising of water levels in the river Rishiganga, which washed away the Rishiganga small hydro project of 13.2 Mega Watt.
 - The flash flood also affected the downstream hydro project of NTPC at Tapovan on the river Dhauliganga, which is a tributary of the river Alaknanda.

- A National Crisis Management Committee is a committee set up by the Government of India in the wake of a natural calamity for effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations.
 - It is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.
- **PM Modi launches 'Asom Mala' programme in Assam's Sonitpur to boost road infrastructure**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Asom Mala' programme in Dhekiajuli of Sonitpur district.
 - The aim of this project is to boost the state's road infrastructure and contribute to the state's economic progress and improve connectivity.
 - The programme is unique for its emphasis on effective maintenance through continuous field data collection and its linkage with the Road Asset Management System.
 - He also dedicated to the nation the 348-km Dobhi-Durgapur natural gas pipeline section, which is part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project.
- **India's first geothermal power project to be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh**
- India's first geothermal power project will be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh.
 - Puga has been identified as the hotspot of geothermal energy in the country by the scientists.
 - In the first phase of the pilot project, one megawatt (MW) power generation capacity will be generated.
 - India's first ever geothermal power project, known as Geothermal Field Development Project is planned to commission by the end of 2022.
 - In the first phase, the pilot project implemented by the ONGC-OEC will explore within the depth of 500 metres and it is planned to supply 24 hours free power to 10 neighbouring villages which are not connected with the northern grid for power supply.
- **More than 29 lakh people visited Hunar Haat in Lucknow**
- In Uttar Pradesh, more than 29 lakh people visited Hunar Haat which was organised at Avadh Shilpgram, Lucknow from 22nd January.
 - Artisans and craftsmen from 31 States and UTs participated in the Hunar Haat organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs at Lucknow.
 - He said that the 25th Hunar Haat is being organised at Maharaja College Ground, Chamarajapuram, Mysuru (Karnataka) from 6th to 14th February, 2021.
 - In the coming days, Hunar Haat will be organised at New Delhi from 20th Feb to 1st March 2021) and at Kota from 28th Feb to 7th March 2021.
- **Historical city Mandu in MP all set to welcome tourists to Mandu Festival**
- The historical city Mandu in Madhya Pradesh is all set to welcome tourists to the Mandu Festival of this year on February 13th and 14th.
 - The two-day Mandu festival organised by Madhya Pradesh Tourism will have heritage walks, cycling tours, photo contests, yoga workshops, musical performances and much more.
 - The festival will witness a celebration of the historic heritage blended with the modern vibrancy of the city culture.

- Mandu is a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh and adorned with Afghan architecture surrounded by baobab trees, native to Africa.
- **Defence Ministry inks pact with BEL to procure ship-borne modern radio system**
 - The defence ministry has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to procure a software-defined radio tactical (SDR-Tac) ship-borne system worth over Rs 1,000 crore.
 - The procurement of SDR-Tac (software-defined radio tactical) “will bring strategic depth to the armed forces.
 - The SDR-Tac is a four-channel multi-mode, multi-band, 19-inch rack-mountable, ship-borne software-defined radio system to serve ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore and ship-to-air voice and data communication for network-centric operations.
- **Prime Minister to inaugurate World Sustainable Development Summit 2021**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 via video conferencing.
 - The theme of the summit is ‘Redefining Our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All’.
 - The 20th edition of The Energy and Resources Institute’s (TERI) flagship event- the World Sustainable Development Summit, will be held online from 10th to 12th February.
- **41.75 crore accounts opened so far under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**
 - A total of 41.75 crore accounts have been opened so far under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) out of which 35.96 crore accounts are operative.
 - This was stated by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.
 - Under PMJDY, a bank account can be opened with any bank branch or Business Correspondent (BC) including those of Private Sector Banks.
 - PM Modi had announced this scheme on his first Independence Day speech on 15 August 2014.
- **FSSAI Caps Trans Fatty Acids In Food To 2 Per Cent By 2022**
 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has restricted the permissible amount of industrial Trans Fatty Acid (TFA) in food products to 2 per cent from 2022.
 - The latest amendment of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 will come into effect from January 1, 2022.
 - The permissible limit for trans fats in food products in 2021 is 3 percent, cut down from the previous limit of 5 per cent.
 - Trans fats are a form of unsaturated fat associated with a number of negative health effects.
- **President Kovind pays homage to former President Dr Zakir Hussain on his birth anniversary**
 - President Ram Nath Kovind paid homage to former President Dr Zakir Hussain on the occasion of his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 - Zakir Husain Khan was an Indian economist and politician who served as the third President of India, from 13 May 1967 until his death on 3 May 1969.

- He was also the co-founder of Jamia Milia Islamia, serving as its Vice-chancellor from 1928.
 - He was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 1963.
 - He was the first Muslim president of India and the first Indian president to die in office.
- **3 Assam youth launch TikTok-like video app TipTeapi**
- Saswati Kotoky, Amarjyoti Gautam and Himanga Madhukalya, three computer engineers from Assam, launched a video playing and sharing app called TipTeapi in Jorhat.
 - They hope would be India's answer to the banned Chinese TikTok.
 - The app has 12 categories and people can upload their videos that others can view.
 - TipTeapi allows users to make friends, follow, like, comment and share videos through social media.
 - The free app could be downloaded from Google Playstore.
- **Kala Ghoda Arts Festival starts in Mumbai**
- The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2021 is a 9-day event starting from February 6 and ending on February 14.
 - Kala Ghoda Arts Festivals started in 1999, since then it has become the largest multicultural festival in Mumbai.
 - The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is one of the most awaited festivals each year for art form lovers.
 - Kala Ghoda is an annual exhibition that celebrates theatre, music, films, comedy, world and modern art.
 - This year, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival has gone digital keeping in mind the situation of the pandemic.
- **Nitin Gadkari calls for 'all-round' efforts to reduce road accidents by 50 pct before 2025**
- Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari has called for all-round efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that deaths due to road accidents are reduced by 50 per cent before 2025.
 - The Minister informed this at inauguration of the Webinar series launched by International Road Federation, India Chapter, on the theme of "Road Safety Challenges in India & Preparation of an Action Plan."
 - India stands at number one position in road accidents in the world, ahead of US and China.
 - India is observing the Road Safety Month from 18th January 2021 to 17th February 2021 to build awareness on road safety issues.
- **As per latest census, Kaziranga National Park records 93 thousand 491 birds**
- In Assam, the Kaziranga national park has recorded a total of 93 thousand 491 birds as per the latest census.
 - There are 112 bird species and 22 families found during the enumeration.
 - The recent bird census has witnessed an increase of over 59 thousand birds in the Kaziranga national park.
 - Last year, the figure stood at 34 thousand 284.

- The park authority has recently conducted a 2 day census where 35 teams were involved.
 - Kaziranga National Park is a protected area in the northeast Indian state of Assam.
- **Rajasthan becomes 12th state in country to successfully undertake 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system reform**
- Rajasthan has become the 12th state in the country to successfully undertake 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
 - Now, the state has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs 2,731 crore through Open Market Borrowings and the permission in this regard has been issued.
 - Rajasthan has now joined 11 other states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh, who have completed this reform.
 - On completion of 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system reform, these 12 states have been granted additional borrowing permission of Rs 33,440 crore by the Department of Expenditure.
 - Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
 - Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- **National Horticulture Fair 2021 begins in Bengaluru**
- The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Kailash Choudhry, inaugurated the National Horticulture Fair (NHF) 2021 in Bengaluru via virtual mode.
 - The five-day long event has been organised by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), from February 8 to February 12 at its IIHR campus situated in Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru.
 - The theme of NHF 2021 is 'Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India'.
 - The NHF will showcase cutting edge technologies, crop varieties, pest and disease management practices and processing methods among others.
 - The IIHR is a subsidiary of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **IIT Kharagpur develops solar-powered pesticide sprayer for smaller farm fields**
- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur have developed energy-efficient pesticide sprayers devices for smaller agricultural tracts owned by marginal farmers.
 - The device is aimed to increase field capacity and uniformity in liquid spraying.
 - It will also reduce the drudgery to the operator and dependency on fossil fuel for carrying out spraying in cropped areas.
- **As Twitter seeks talks, Ministers move to Indian-made app Koo**
- Amid the ongoing tussle between the government and microblogging platform Twitter over blocking of content and accounts related to farmers' protest, Union Ministers and government departments are also setting up accounts on Koo, a Made-in-India alternative to Twitter.
 - Koo was launched in April 2020 as an alternative to Twitter.
 - Koo won the second prize in the social category after Chingari in Atmanirbhar app challenge in August.
 - It started in Kannada and has since expanded to include Tamil, Hindi, and Telugu.

- India is Twitter's third-largest market with 18.9 million users. The American platform is the preferred mode of social media engagement for prominent politicians, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Govt. launches website of India Toy Fair- 2021**
 - The government launched the website of the India Toy Fair, 2021.
 - India's first ever toy fair (Indian Toy Fair) will be held from February 27 to March 2, 2021.
 - The fair is being organised by the Ministry of Textiles in association with the Ministry of Education and the ministry of commerce and industry.
 - It is a virtual event that will be organised with the aim of providing a joyful learning for the children.
 - The fair would engage the children in teaching, learning and promoting the indigenous toy industry.
- **Nation pays tributes to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his death anniversary**
 - Nation paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his death anniversary.
 - He was an Indian politician and thinker of right-wing Hindutva ideology and leader of the political party Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
 - He passed away on February 11, 1968, under mysterious circumstances. His body was found near Mughal Sarai junction which has been renamed as Deendayal Upadhyay junction.
- **Vijayanagara officially declared as 31st District of Karnataka**
 - The Karnataka government issued an official gazette notification to declare Vijayanagara as the 31st district of the state.
 - The new district has been carved out of Ballari and named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.
 - The iconic cluster of monuments at Hampi or Hampe, a UNESCO world heritage site, will be part of the Vijayanagara.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind opens annual Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan**
 - President Ram Nath Kovind opened the annual Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 - Apart from the annual opening of Mughal Gardens, people can visit Rashtrapati Bhavan and Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum as well as witness the Change of Guard Ceremony.
 - Mughal Garden is also known as 'the first garden of the Republic' and was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens.
 - The Mughal gardens of Delhi depict the era and culture of the Mughal reign for decades.
 - Sir Edward Lutyens assimilated British prowess with the Islamic heritage while designing the majestic garden.
- **11 projects of Rs. 2560 lakhs have been sanctioned under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission**
 - Recently the government has approved the allocation for Rs. 500 crore for National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23).
 - The mission was announced as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat scheme.

- NBHM aims for the overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping in the country to achieve the goal of 'Sweet Revolution' which is being implemented through the National Bee Board (NBB).
 - The main objective of NBHM is to promote holistic growth of the beekeeping industry for income & employment generation.
- **Maharashtra govt signs MoU with Flipkart to promote wooden toys, local artifacts, handicrafts**
- In order to promote wooden toys, local artifacts, handicrafts Maharashtra Small Industries Development Corporation and Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Flipkart.
 - This MoU will enable artisans, weavers, craftsmen & MSMEs from Maharashtra to showcase their products to millions of customers in India.
 - Flipkart will provide free training for packaging and branding to all these manufacturers. Also, product photography will also be done by the company.
- **Shanghai-based NDB to invest USD 100 million in NIIF FoF**
- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) said that Shanghai-based New Development Bank has committed to invest USD 100 million (around Rs 728 crore) in NIIF Fund of Funds (FoF).
 - NDB joins the Government of India (GoI), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) as an investor in the FoF.
 - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund is India's first infrastructure specific investment fund or a sovereign wealth fund that was set up by the Government of India in February 2015.
 - NIIF CEO: Sujoy Bose
- **RBI Organises Financial Literacy Week from February 8-12, 2021**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) from February 8-12, 2021, to propagate financial education.
 - RBI conducts Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme every year across the country, through a focused campaign.
 - The theme for 2021 FLW is 'Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions'
- **National Women's Day in India: 13 February**
- In India, the National Women's Day is observed every year on 13 February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, also known as the Nightingale of India.
 - Born on 13 February 1879, Naidu is recognised for her contribution to women's equal rights.
 - Apart from this, she is widely remembered for her lyrical poems and contributions to the freedom struggle.
 - She was an important figure in India's struggle for independence from colonial rule.
- **Prakash Javadekar pays tributes to Swami Dayanand Saraswati on his birth anniversary**
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar paid tributes to Swami Dayanand Saraswati on his birth anniversary.
 - Dayanand Saraswati was a great thinker and a social reformer.

- He founded the Arya Samaj on April 7, 1875. Through this reform movement, he stressed on One God and rejected idol worship.
 - He wrote many books. His major contribution is the Satyarth Prakash. Other books include the Sanskarvidhi, Rigved Bhashyam, etc.
- **For the first time, ISRO tests satellites developed by private sector**
- For the first time in its history, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has opened its UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru for testing satellites developed by the private sector.
 - Two satellites, developed by the Indian startups SpaceKidz India and Pixxel (incorporated as Sygyzy) were tested at the UR Rao Satellite Centre.
 - ISRO also helped these two companies in fixing problems with the solar panels on their respective satellites.
 - So far in its history, the space agency has only taken help in manufacturing and fabrication of various parts of satellites and rockets from the Indian industry.
 - Both these two companies will also test their engines at the Sriharikota spaceport and Thiruvananthapuram rocket centre in coming days.
- **Ladakh LG makes his maiden tour to Hanle village in Changthang region**
- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur completed his maiden two-day visit to Hanle in Changthang region.
 - Mr Mathur also visited Indian Astronomical Observatory located in Hanley.
 - This observatory has one of the world's highest located sites for optical, infrared and gamma-ray telescopes.
 - It is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore.
 - Ladakh LG RK Mathur spent time in the nomadic tents called Rebo and interacted with the nomads, public representatives and the villagers of Anley.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates more than 57,000 water structures in MP under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign**
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated more than 57,000 water structures constructed in Madhya Pradesh under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign.
 - These water structures were created during COVID era by linking the work with the MNREGA scheme.
 - The 'Jalabhishekam' Campaign is fulfilling the intention of 'water for every farm and work for every hand'.
 - This will prove to be helpful in the betterment of the villages.
- **ISRO to launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 by month-end**
- In its first dedicated commercial mission of the newly-formed NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISO) will launch the PSLV-C51/ Amazonia-1 Mission at the end of the month.
 - Amazonia-1 is an optical earth observation satellite developed by National Institute for Space Research (INPE), Brazil.
 - This will be the first launch of a Brazilian satellite from India.

- **Production of Khadi records 29 % growth in country: KVIC Chairman**
 - Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Vinai Kumar Saxena said that the production of Khadi has recorded 29 per cent growth in the country.
 - KVIC has approached various educational institutes and departments to adopt khadi products.
 - 94 million square metres of Khadi has been produced during the last six years.
 - The Chairman mentioned that MoU was signed with Tribal Affairs Ministry to supply six lakh metres of Khadi clothes to school by March this year.
 - KVIC Founded: 1956
 - Headquarters: Mumbai
 - Parent agency: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- **'Robotic Spa' facility inaugurated at Visakhapatnam railway station**
 - Waltair Division, in its efforts to enhance the passenger amenities at Railway stations, has commissioned another innovative facility called Robotic Spa under Non-fare revenue at Visakhapatnam railway station.
 - It is the first of its kind facility at Railway station in East Coast Railway.
 - The Robotic Spa comprising Relaxing Chair, Foot massager and Fish pedicure spa gives a pleasant experience to the Rail Customers waiting at Visakhapatnam railway station.
 - The motto behind such an innovative model is to facilitate the esteemed rail customers to spend quality time while waiting for trains.

- **e-Office file management systems implemented in all districts of Manipur**
 - In Manipur, e-Office file management systems have been implemented in 62 Departments and in all the 16 districts.
 - It has become the leading state in the entire North East region in terms of e-Office implementation.
 - With an aim to implement the system in all the departments and other government agencies, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh distributed 186 desktop computer sets to different departments.
 - Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the statewide rollout of the system during his visit to the state on 27th of December last year.
 - Manipur Capital: Imphal
 - Governor: Najma Heptulla
 - Chief minister: N. Biren Singh

- **PM Modi launched several development projects in Tamil Nadu & Kerala**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a visit to Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
 - In Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the much-awaited Second Phase of Metro Rail Project in Chennai.
 - He also laid the foundation for the expansion of the historical Kallanai dam.
 - In Kerala, Prime Minister Modi will dedicate to the nation the Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.
 - He will also dedicate to the nation the Ro-Ro Vessels at Willingdon Islands, Cochin.
 - He will also inaugurate the Marine Engineering Training Institute, at Vigyana Sagar.

- **Odisha to construct 'COVID Warrior Memorial' in Bhubaneswa**
 - In order to recognize the sacrifice and services rendered by the Covid warriors who lost their lives fighting the pandemic, the government has decided to construct a Covid Warrior Memorial in Odisha.
 - The Biju Patnaik Park in Bhubaneswar has been selected for this purpose.
 - Odisha Health and Family Welfare Department to the Works Department it was also said that the Works Department has been declared as the Nodal Department for construction of the Covid Warrior Memorial.
 - They will engage an architect to finalise the design and structure of the said memorial and take approval from the competent authority.

- **PM hands over indigenously designed and manufactured Arjun Main Battle Tank to the Army**
 - The Prime Minister handed over the indigenously designed and manufactured Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Army.
 - It has been indigenously designed and manufactured by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation.
 - The army will get 118 units of the Main Battle Tank

- **Minority Affairs Ministry organising 26th Hunar Haat in New Delhi**
 - Minority Affairs Ministry is organising 26th Hunar Haat of indigenous artisans and craftsmen from across the country at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
 - More than 600 artisans and craftsmen, including a large number of women artisans, from more than 31 States and Union Territories will participate in the event.
 - The Hunar Haat will be organised with the theme of Vocal for Local from 20th February to 1st March this year.
 - Hunar Haat will also be available at virtual and online platform www.hunarhaat.org and on GeM Portal where the people of the country and abroad can buy Hunar Haat products digital and online also.

- **PM lays the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial, development work of Chittaura Lake**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh.
 - The event marks the birth anniversary of Maharaja Suheldev.
 - The complete project will include installation of an equestrian statue of Maharaja Suheldev and development of various tourist amenities like cafeteria, guest house and a children's park.
 - Suheldev was an Indian king from Shravasti, popularly known to have defeated and killed the Ghaznavid general Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud at Bahraich in 1034 CE.

- **Mandu festival starts at Mandu in Dhar**
 - In Madhya Pradesh, the three-day Mandu Festival began at Mandu in the historic town of Dhar district.
 - Handicrafts related to handmade art are also being displayed in the Mandu Utsav to encourage vocal for locals.
 - Dino Adventure Park & Fossils Museum also inaugurated by the state culture and tourism minister.

- The Dinosaur Park is the country's first modern fossil park which has 24 eggs and other fossils of dinosaurs on display.
- The park also provides information related to life of dinosaurs.
- **Puducherry launches campaign to become Covid-free by February 28**
 - In Puducherry, a campaign has been launched titled “Zero Covid by Feb28” to ensure that there is no COVID-19 cases by the end of February 2021, in the union territory.
 - Under the campaign, all those who had come into contact with people infected with coronavirus would be identified and provided treatment, so that the further spread of the pathogen could be prevented.
 - The overall caseload in Puducherry was 39,448 while 38,533 had recovered so far, leaving 258 active cases. While Puducherry region reported five new cases, Karaikal one and Mahe two cases.
 - Yanam region, located in Andhra Pradesh, continued to have nil COVID-19 cases.
- **Indian Navy gets third Scorpene submarine, to be commissioned as INS Karanj**
 - The Indian Navy got its third Scorpene submarine, which will be commissioned as INS Karanj, of Project P-75 in Mumbai.
 - With the delivery of Karanj, India further cemented its position as a submarine building nation.
 - MDL, one of the India's leading shipyards with the capacity and the capability to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Indian Navy, has delivered three Scorpene submarines named Khanderi, Kalvari and now Karanj.
 - The fourth submarine, Vela, launched on May 6 2019, has commenced sea trials, the fifth submarine Vagir, was launched on November 12, 2020 and has commenced harbour sea trials whilst the sixth submarine is presently in an advanced stage of outfitting.
 - All the six submarines are being constructed under Project 75.
- **Home Minister Amit Shah extends greetings on 74th foundation day of Delhi Police**
 - Home Minister Amit Shah has extended his greetings to all the police personnel and their families on the 74th foundation day of Delhi Police.
 - The Delhi Police (DP) is the law enforcement agency for the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT).
 - Delhi Police comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.
- **Mexico receives shipment of 870,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from India**
 - Mexico received a shipment of 870,000 doses of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine from India.
 - The country prepares to prioritize older people in the next phase of its vaccination campaign.
 - Mexico, which has one of the world's highest coronavirus death tolls, started vaccinating healthcare workers in December but struggled to hit its targets amid global shortages and delays of Pfizer's vaccine.
 - President: Andrés Manuel López Obrador
 - Capital: Mexico City
 - National language: Spanish
 - Currency: Mexican peso

- **Tribal painter Bhuri Bai of MP invited as Chief Guest at Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan**
 - The tribal painter Bhuri Bai of Madhya Pradesh was invited as the Chief Guest at the Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan.
 - When the construction of this building started, she used to work here as a labourer on a daily wage of Rs six. She never expected that she would become the Chief Guest in this Bharat Bhavan.
 - Bhuri Bai, also awarded Padma Shri, is a Master of Tribal Painting Art.
 - Bharat Bhavan is an autonomous multi-arts complex and museum in Bhopal.

- **Byculla zoo in Mumbai reopens after almost a year**
 - Almost a year after shutting its gates for visitors due to COVID-19 pandemic, Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo, popularly known as Byculla zoo, in Mumbai reopened.
 - The zoo, which houses a variety of animals ranging from deer and monkeys to elephants and a hippopotamus besides birds, was closed to the public on 15th of March last year.
 - The BMC It has appealed to senior citizens, pregnant women and children under the age of five years to avoid visiting the zoo.
 - It is the oldest public garden in Mumbai. After Indian independence it was Named after Jijamata, the mother of Shivaji, the first Maratha emperor.

- **UP govt starts training programme for aspirants of various competitive exams under 'Abhyudaya Yojana'**
 - In Uttar Pradesh, the State Government has started a training programme for aspirants of various competitive examinations under 'Abhyudaya Yojana'.
 - Under the scheme, free of cost training will be provided to the candidates who are preparing for various competitive examinations.
 - More than five lakh candidates have done their registration and 50 thousand aspirants have been selected for training in the first phase.
 - Under the Abhyuday Coaching Scheme candidates will get high-level guidance regarding examination and interview by skilled mentors including IAS, IPS, IFS, PCS, PPS and other state-level officers.
 - Retired officers would also be called for the training of aspirants for better management.

- **Mamata Banerjee launches scheme to provide meal at Rs 5 to poor people**
 - Ahead of the assembly election in the state, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee virtually launched the 'Maa' scheme under which her government would provide a meal at a nominal cost of Rs 5 to poor people.
 - They will get a platter of rice, dal, a vegetable and egg curry for Rs 5, adding that the state government will bear a subsidy of Rs 15 per plate.
 - Self-help groups will operate the kitchens from 1 pm to 3 pm every day and such kitchens will be set up everywhere in the state gradually.

- **SpaceKidz India-built Satish Dhawan Nanosatellite to be launched on Feb 28**
 - The Chennai-based SpaceKidz India has developed the nanosatellite called Satish Dhawan Satellite, or SD SAT.
 - The SD SAT, a 30x10x10cm cuboid, is an experimental communication satellite, to test the capabilities of LoRa (Long range) technology in Space.

- The indigenously designed and developed miniature spacecraft will be launched on February 28 by the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV), C51 rocket of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization).
 - Besides its scientific payloads, the nanosatellite will also carry a copy of Bhagavad Gita, a photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the names of 25,000 common individuals to space.
 - SpaceKidz India is an organization dedicated to promoting space science among students.
- **PM Modi to address NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum, NTLF through video conferencing.
 - The 29th edition of NTLF is being organized from 17th to 19th February.
 - It is the flagship event of the National Association of Software and Service Companies, NASSCOM.
 - The theme of this year's event is 'Shaping the future towards a better normal'.
 - Chairman of NASSCOM: UB Pravin Rao
- **11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit organised in Delhi**
- The joint conferences of the 11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit was organised in New Delhi on February.
 - Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted the increase in LPG coverage from 56 per cent to nearly 99.5 per cent in less than seven years.
 - He also mentioned that to reduce vehicular pollution, the country leapfrogged from BS-4 to BS-6 emission standards from April 2020.
- **Amazon India to commence manufacturing of electronics products in the country**
- Amazon India will start manufacturing of electronics products in India.
 - To begin with, it is going to start manufacturing Amazon Fire TV sticks from India.
 - The announcement came after Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad's virtual meeting with Amazon's Global Senior Vice President and Country Head for India Amit Agarwal.
 - Amazon will commence its manufacturing efforts with contract manufacturer Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn in Chennai and start production later this year.
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan**
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan under Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban, JJM-U.
 - It will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies with respect to quantity and quality of water through a challenge process.
 - As a first step, the Ministry has decided to launch the Survekshan in 10 cities- Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.
 - Jal Jeevan Mission Urban is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all 4,378 statutory towns in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal - 6.
 - The total outlay proposed for JJM (U) is 2 lakh 87 thousand crore rupees which includes 10 thousand crore rupees for continuing financial support to AMRUT Mission.

- **Pariksha Pe Charcha-2021 to be held online next month**
 - Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has announced that the fourth edition of Prime Minister's Interaction Programme with school students, teachers and parents - Pariksha Pe Charcha will be held next month.
 - The registration process for the forthcoming 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme has begun which will be open till 14th of March.
 - This time the programme will be held virtually.
 - The first edition of Pariksha pe Charcha was in 2018.

- **Home Minister Amit Shah pays tributes to Ramakrishna Paramhansa on his Birth Anniversary**
 - Home Minister Amit Shah paid tributes to Ramakrishna Paramhansa on his Birth Anniversary.
 - Ramakrishna Paramhansa was one of the leading Hindu spiritual leaders in the 19th century.
 - He was born Gadadhar Chattopadhyay on February 18, 1836, in Kamarpukur, in Hooghly district of West Bengal.
 - He emphasised that the realization of the existence of God is the supreme goal of all living beings. For him, various religions were only a means to reach the Absolute.
 - Among his most famous disciples was Swami Vivekananda, who became famous across the world in his own right.

- **Foreign Ministers of India, Australia, Japan and US to meet to discuss free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region**
 - The Third India-Australia-Japan-USA QUAD Foreign Minister's Meeting will be held with the participation of the respective Foreign Ministers.
 - The QUAD meeting provides an opportunity to continue the useful exchange of views from their last meeting in Tokyo in October last year.
 - The Ministers will exchange views on regional and global issues especially practical areas of cooperation towards maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
 - They will also discuss ongoing efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing global climate change and other issues of mutual interest.

- **PM Modi launches 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative and several development projects in Assam**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mahabahu-Brahmaputra, lay the foundation stone of Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge and perform Bhoomi Poojan for construction of Majuli Bridge Assam.
 - The launch of Mahabahu-Brahmaputra will be marked by the inauguration of the Ro-Pax vessel operations between Neamatighat and Majuli, North and South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari .
 - The Ro-Pax services will help in reducing the travel time by providing connectivity between banks and thus reducing the distance to be travelled by road.
 - The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of the longest river bridge of the country over the Brahmaputra between Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya.
 - The 19 kilometer long 4 lane bridge will reduce the distance of 205 kilometer to be travelled by road to 19 kilometer only.

- The Prime Minister will perform bhumi puja for the much awaited 8 km long Jorhat - Majuli bridge. This bridge will connect river island Majuli with mainland Assam.
- **India host workshop on ‘COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward’**
 - India hosted a workshop on ‘COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward’.
 - Ten countries - India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Seychelles and Sri Lanka will participate.
 - The Health Secretary of India will chair the event.
 - Each country has been invited to participate in one plus one format - health secretary and Head of their Technical Team in charge of COVID management.
- **‘Free Gift Milk to Girl Students of Sikkim’ initiative to benefit around 1,500 students**
 - Sikkim Chief Minister P. S. Tamang launched the ‘Free Gift Milk to Girl Students of Sikkim’ initiative at Gangtok last week.
 - The initiative will benefit around 1,500 students who would be provided 200 mls of milk every day.
 - Mr Tamang called the initiative a step towards eradicating malnutrition and other health problems among the young generation.
- **Kerala launches fibre optic network to provide free internet to 20 lakh families**
 - To bridge the digital divide by providing high-speed, affordable internet connectivity to every household, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the KFON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network) in the state.
 - With KFON, free internet connectivity will be provided to 20 lakh BPL families.
 - It will also cover villages in all 14 districts.
 - Earlier only 10% of government offices had high-speed Internet, with the launch of KFON, 30,000 government institutions will have high brand width connectivity.
 - KFON is a joint venture of Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited and Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB). A consortium led by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was selected to implement the project in March 2019.
- **Odisha Govt to develop Rs 200 crore Development Package for Maa Samaleswari Shrine**
 - The Odisha government has launched the development work for the SAMALEI Project (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives), to offer divine experience to tourists & devotees.
 - The project involves the development of 108 acres of land in & around the 16th-century shrine of Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of western Odisha.
 - Odisha Government has announced a package of Rs 200-crore for the 2021-22 fiscal for the implementation of the project.
 - It will include development of amenities for devotees inside the 12 acre temple premises and development of four tall heritage welcome gates.

- **Kerala launches 'Snakepedia' mobile app launched in to help treat snake bites**
 - A team of scientists, doctors and photographers in Kerala have launched a mobile application named "Snakepedia".
 - The app will present all relevant information on snakes, to help the public as well as doctors in treating snake bites.
 - The android mobile application documents information on snakes with the help of pictures, infographics and podcasts and analyses its first aid, treatment, myths and superstitions
 - The main aim of the app is to help the public identify snakes, avail proper treatment on time for snakebites, bust myths about snakes, and protect snakes as well as snakebite victims.

- **Hyundai Develops 'TIGER X-1' vehicle**
 - Hyundai Motor Company has launched a Transformer-like robocar dubbed as TIGER X-1.
 - The vehicle can travel over the most challenging terrains on the Earth as well as on other planets.
 - TIGER stands for Transforming Intelligent Ground Excursion Robot, and the X-1 denotes its experimental status.
 - The Ultimate Mobility Vehicle (UMV) TIGER is being developed by Hyundai in partnership with Autodesk and Sundberg-Ferar.
 - It is an electric vehicle, consisting of a small pod with four wheels on extendable legs.
 - It will help in search and rescue, scientific research, military, or exploratory missions (even on new planets).

- **Hyderabad gets recognition as 2020 Tree City of the World**
 - The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation have recognized Hyderabad as a 2020 Tree City of World, for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests.
 - The recognition was a testament to the city's sustained and institutional efforts to plant, nurture and celebrate trees, development of urban and peri-urban forestry actions, projects and strategic planning and commitment to building a healthy city.
 - Most of the other cities were from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

- **Indian Navy Ship Pralaya Participates in NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21 in Abu Dhabi, UAE**
 - The Indian Naval Ship Pralaya reached Abu Dhabi in UAE to participate in the Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX 21) and International Defence Exhibition (IDEX 21) from February 20 to 25, 2021.
 - NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21 is one of the leading international naval and defence exhibitions of the region.
 - Participation of INS Pralaya will showcase the strengths of India's indigenous ship building, in line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat'.

- **Oxford Economics Revises India's GDP to 10.2% for 2021**
 - The global forecasting firm Oxford Economics has revised India's economic growth projection for the Calendar year 2021 to 10.2 percent, compared to previous estimate of 8.8 percent.
 - The reason for the upward revision is the receding COVID-19 risks and the shift in the monetary policy outlook.
 - Oxford Economics is headquartered in Oxford, United Kingdom and has 6 office locations across 5 countries. It provides global forecasts and analysis to predict and manage economic risk.

- **DRDO Carries successful user trials of indigenously-developed Anti-Tank Guided Missile Systems 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra'**
 - The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed Helina and Dhruvastra Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) [HAL Dhruv] at the Pokhran deserts.
 - Helina is the Army version and Dhruvastra is the Air Force version for the ALH.
 - The missile systems have been designed and developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- **Prime Minister Hasina hands over Ekushey Padak 2021 in Dhaka**
 - Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over the prestigious Ekushey Padak 2021 to 21 eminent persons of Bangladesh in Dhaka.
 - The awards were given on the eve of 'Amar Ekushey' day which is celebrated on February 21 to honour the martyrs of the language movement of Bangladesh.
 - Ekushey Padak is the second highest civilian award of Bangladesh.
 - Introduced in memory of the martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952, it is given annually to personalities for their outstanding contribution in various fields.
 - The winners of the award get a gold medal, Tk 400,000 and certification.

- **US officially re-joins Paris climate agreement overturning Donald Trump's decision to exit**
 - The United States has officially rejoined the Paris Agreement.
 - The work to reduce US emissions has already begun, and we will waste no time in engaging our partners around the world to build our global resilience.
 - Under the Paris agreement, countries are expected to enhance their commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions every five years.
 - The goals of the global pact are to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
 - President Biden plans to host a climate summit of world leaders on Earth Day, April 22, where he will roll out the US' goal for reductions of carbon emissions by 2030 -- known as the nationally determined contribution under the Paris accord.

- **Bangladesh Supreme Court launches AI based translation software 'Amar Vasha'**
 - The Bangladesh Supreme Court launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI) based translation software 'Amar Vasha' through a virtual event.
 - The software will translate orders and judgements of the Supreme Court from English to Bangla.
 - The Software has been developed with 'EkStep' foundation of India.

- It is based on their 'Anuvaad' translation software used in India to translate from English to Indian languages including Bangla.
 - Anuvaad was deployed by the Supreme Court of India as SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software) from November 2019.
- **India, Ethiopia sign agreements on visa facilitation & leather technology**
- India and Ethiopia signed two agreements related to visa facilitation and leather technology.
 - The agreements were signed in the presence of Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
 - Hassen is on a 4-day visit to India, from February 16.
 - The two ministers agreed to expand India and Ethiopia bilateral agenda especially defence, economic, S&T, digital and cultural cooperation.
- **'Go Electric campaign' launched to give a boost to electric mobility and use of electrical appliances across the country**
- The Centre launched the Go Electric campaign to boost the adoption of electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances to ensure energy security in the country.
 - The Go Electric Campaign is an initiative aimed at reducing the import dependence of our country in the coming years and has also been projected as an important step towards a cleaner and greener future.
 - The campaign is aimed at creating awareness at PAN-India level and is expected to boost the confidence of Electric Vehicle manufacturers.
- **Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh observed their statehood day**
- The statehood day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh is observed every year on 20 February.
 - Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987.
 - Similarly, Mizoram became the 23rd state of India on February 20, 1987, with the Fifty-Third Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 1986.
 - The country is proud of the vibrant Mizo culture that marks Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Thalfavang Kut festivals.
 - The natural beauty of Arunachal Pradesh is spectacular and its cultural landscape has one of the world's richest diversities of ethnic tribal groups and languages.
- **47th Khajuraho Dance Festival begins**
- The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival began in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition.
 - On the first day, along with dance performances tourists also took part in e-bike tour from west group of temples to eastern group temples, village tour of Old Khajuraho and many more.
 - The first day event is dedicated to Bharatanatyam performance by Geeta Chandran and her troupe and Kathak performance by Deepak Maharaj.
 - The festival is being organized by the Culture Department through Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy Bhopal.

- This year festival will give the audience a chance to watch the performance of the dancers amid the aura of the temple as event is being held once again in the temple complex of the Western Temple Group of Khajuraho after a gap of 44 years.
- **Indian Army rescues 447 stranded tourists at Nathu La in East Sikkim**
 - The Indian Army rescued 447 stranded tourists at Nathu La, near the Indo-China border East Sikkim.
 - The tourists were rescued from the high reaches near the India-China border at Nathu La following sudden heavy snowfall.
 - The stranded tourists were in 155 vehicles stuck over a 15-kilometre stretch and started skidding after the snowstorm.
 - Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East Sikkim district.
 - It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 26th Hunar Haat in Delhi**
 - Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 26th edition of 'Hunar Haat' in New Delhi.
 - Hunar Haat brings together indigenous artisans and craftsmen from across the country.
 - Hunar Haat not only gives a common platform to the traditional artisans and craftsmen but is also an expression of the country's rich culture and tradition.
 - The Ministry of Minority Affairs is organising the Hunar Haat on the theme of Vocal for Local.
 - People will get a feel of the strength of the country's Unity in Diversity at the Hunar Haat.
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 launched to expand immunization coverage across the country**
 - Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0, (IMI 3.0) to expand immunization coverage across the country.
 - It will have two rounds starting from the 22nd of this month and the 22nd of March this year.
 - The IMI 3.0 is aimed at reaching the unreached population with all the available vaccines under Universal Immunisation Programme and thereby accelerate the full immunization and complete immunization coverage of children and pregnant women.
 - The focus of the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 will be the children and pregnant women who have missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The present campaign will target achieving 90 percent Full Immunization Coverage in all districts of the country.
- **Online four day Toy Fair to begin on Feb 27 in MP**
 - In Madhya Pradesh, online four-day Toy Fair will begin on 27th February.
 - It will include artists from all over the country making unique toys and creations, many artists and organizations from Madhya Pradesh are also participating in this unique event.
 - In a landmark initiative toward Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Government of India presents 'The India Toy Fair 2021'.

- **Prakash Javadekar inaugurates Atal Paryavaran Bhavan in Lakshadweep**
 - Union Minister for Forests, Environment, Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar's four day visit to Lakshadweep is in progress.
 - He inaugurated Lakshadweep forest department's headquarters, Atal Paryavaran Bhavan.
 - The central minister promised that the comprehensive development of the country will be realised by ensuring nature's security as desired by the people.

- **DRDO conducts two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile**
 - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).
 - The launches were carried out from a static vertical launcher from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
 - Indigenously designed and developed by the DRDO for Indian Navy, VL-SRSAM is meant for neutralizing various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.
 - The launches were monitored by senior scientists from various DRDO labs involved in the design and development of the system.

- **China says, it supports India in hosting BRICS 2021**
 - China said it supports India in hosting this year's BRICS meeting.
 - This will be the third time India will host the BRICS Summit after 2012 and 2016.
 - BRICS is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2021, but it will be the 13th BRICS Summit which India is chairing.
 - The theme for India's chairship is 'BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'.
 - Within the BRICS, during the last one year, relations were fraught with many tense moments specially between India and China when both the armies clashed near the LAC in eastern Ladakh.
 - All the leaders attended the 2020 BRICS Summit which was held virtually under Russian chairship.

- **India becomes 1st country in world to identify need for action for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease**
 - Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan today said that India has become the first country in the world to identify the need for action for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease.
 - He launched the operational guidelines for integration of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease with the National Programme for Prevention & Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke.
 - The abnormal accumulation of fat in the liver in the absence of secondary causes of fatty liver is a serious health concern as it encompasses a spectrum of liver abnormalities.
 - The vision of the Government is to move from diagnostic cure to preventive health.

- **L&T Delivers 100th & Final K-9 Vajra Howitzer to Indian Army**
 - The Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane flagged off the 100th and final K9 Vajra 155mm/52 calibre Tracked Self-Propelled Howitzer, at Hazira near Surat in Gujarat.
 - The indigenously made K-9 Vajra has been developed by Larsen and Toubro (L&T), under the Rs 4,500-crore contract awarded to it by the Ministry of Defence in May 2017, to develop 100 units of K9 Vajra howitzer.
 - L&T established a green-field manufacturing-cum-integration and testing facility at its Hazira manufacturing complex near Surat to produce the guns.

- **Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 50 artisan-based SFURTI clusters spread over 18 states**
 - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated 50 artisan-based SFURTI clusters spread over 18 States.
 - In these clusters, over 42 thousand artisans have been supported in the traditional segments of muslin, khadi, coir, handicraft, handlooms, wood craft, leather, pottery, carpet weaving, bamboo, agro processing, tea and others.
 - These clusters have been inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
 - The MSME Ministry has funded 85 crore rupees for development of these SFURTI clusters.
 - The Center is implementing the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) to organize traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive and increase their income.

- **Pune International Centre to co-chair this year's Asia Economic Dialogue**
 - The Pune International Centre will co-chair this year's Asia Economic Dialogue that.
 - The dialogue will be addressed by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and his counterparts from Japan, Australia, Maldives, Mauritius and Bhutan.
 - The conference under the theme of 'The post-COVID global trade and finance dynamics' will begin with an inaugural session on 'Resilient global growth in the post-pandemic world'.

- **Uttar Pradesh govt to develop Jewar Airport as Asia's biggest airport with six runways**
 - Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government plans to develop Jewar Airport as Asia's biggest airport with six runways.
 - The state government has to set aside 2,000 crore for Jewar Airport in its budget for 2021-22.
 - The state government has also increased the number of runways of the Jewar Airport to six, from two proposed earlier.
 - The under construction airport in Ayodhya will be named as Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport.
 - A provision of 101 crore rupees has been made for it in the budget. Ayodhya airport will also be subsequently made an international airport.

- **Uttarakhand brings ordinance to give co-ownership rights to women in husband's property**
 - The Uttarakhand state government has brought an ordinance that will give co-ownership rights to the women in the ancestral property of their husbands.
 - The ordinance by the government has been brought in view of the large-scale migration of men from hilly areas of the state in search of livelihood.
 - Uttarakhand has become the first state to give co-ownership rights to women in the ancestral property of their husbands.
 - The ordinance by the Uttarakhand government aims at providing economic independence to women who have been left behind and have to depend on agriculture in order to sustain themselves.

- **UP to export 20 tonnes of 'Kala Namak' rice to Singapore by March end**
 - The state of Uttar Pradesh is all set to export a consignment of 20 tonnes of Kala Namak rice to Singapore. This move is a major boost to the farm exports from the state.
 - Consignment of 20 tonnes will be sent to Singapore from Siddharth Nagar.
 - Rice is being packaged in glass jars which also mentions the qualities of rice on it.
 - The government has also planned to set up a Kala Namak Rice Research Centre at Siddharth Nagar in association with the International Rice Research Centre, Varanasi
 - The state government has also declared the rice as Once District One Product of Siddharth Nagar.

- **Central Excise Day: 24 February**
 - Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on February 24 in India.
 - The aim of this day is to encourage the employees of the excise department in carrying out the central excise duty in a better way.
 - The Central Excise Day is also celebrated to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act, which was enacted on February 24, 1944.
 - The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is the nodal national agency responsible for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, Service Tax & Narcotics in India.
 - Chairperson: M. Ajit Kumar, IRS

- **PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Second Edition of 'Maritime India Summit' in March 2021**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the virtual Maritime India Summit (MIS) 2021, from March 2 to 4, 2021.
 - The 'Maritime India Summit 2021' is the flagship initiative of the Union Ministry of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India.
 - FICCI is the industry partner for the summit.
 - The theme of the event is "Exploring the potential business opportunities in Indian Maritime sector and making Aatmanirbhar Bharat".
 - Around one lakh delegates and 40 partner countries are expected to participate in the event.

- **UPSC adds Leh as exam centre for Civil Services candidates from Ladakh**
 - In a first of its kind the Union Public Service Commission UPSC has opened a new centre for the Civil Services Examination, in Leh for the candidates from Union Territory Ladakh. Preliminary exam will be held on the 27th of June this year.
 - Sanctioning of a new centre for Civil Services examination in Leh is a great relief for the aspiring candidates.
 - Leh will be the 73rd centre in the country to hold the preliminary exam for Civil Services on 27th of June this year.
 - At least 800 candidates are expected to attend the civils preliminary exam from the Union Territory Ladakh.
 - UPSC Chairperson: Pradeep Kumar Joshi
 - Founded: 1 October 1926

- **NDA government's flagship programme PM KISAN completes two years**
 - The second anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM KISAN was observed on 24 February 2021.
 - The Scheme was formally launched in the year 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a function at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.
 - PM KISAN was started with a view to augment the income of the farmers by providing income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country.
 - Under the PM KISAN Scheme, an amount of 6000 rupees per year is transferred in three installments of 2000 rupees directly into the bank accounts of the farmers.
 - The Scheme initially provided income support to all Small and Marginal Farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land upto 2 hectares.

- **President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the world's largest stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad**
 - President Ram Nath Kovind formally inaugurated the world's largest Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Cricket Stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad Gujarat.
 - The President Kovind is expected to watch the third cricket test match between India and England for some time with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah soon after the inauguration ceremony.
 - Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad is all set to make history by hosting the day-night pink ball test match between India and England.
 - The newly built world's largest Motera Cricket Stadium is equipped with all modern technologies and facilities necessary for present day cricket.

- **Govt. and AIIB sign loan agreement for USD 304 million Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project**
 - Union Government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed a loan agreement for a 304 million dollar Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the State of Assam.
 - The project aims to strengthen Assam's electricity transmission system by constructing 10 transmission substations and laying transmission lines, upgrading 15 existing substations and providing technical assistance to support project implementation.

- The programme would strengthen the existing intrastate transmission network of Assam by augmenting it with newer networks to achieve affordable, secure, efficient and reliable round the clock power.
 - The total estimated cost of the project is USD 365 million of which USD 304 million will be financed by the AIIB.
- **DGCA gives necessary clearance to Kushinagar Airport**
- Aviation Regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given necessary clearance to Kushinagar Airport.
 - Kushinagar will be the third licensed international airport of Uttar Pradesh.
 - Kushinagar Airport will help boost tourism in the region and facilitate travel on Buddhist circuits.
 - Kushinagar is the city where Lord Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana.
- **Centre, Nagaland govt sign 68 USD project with World Bank to improve Quality of Education**
- The Centre along with the Nagaland State government has signed a 68 million dollar project with the World Bank in order to Improve the Quality of Education in Nagaland.
 - The project named “Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources” will improve classroom instruction; create opportunities for the professional development of teachers; and build technology systems to provide students and teachers with more access to blended and online learning.
 - The project will also allow better monitoring of policies and programs.
 - About 1 lakh 50 thousand students and 20 thousand teachers in the government education system will benefit from the statewide reforms in schools.
- **Centre Launches National Urban Digital Mission to create Digital Infra for Cities**
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Minister of Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the National Urban Digital Mission’ (NUDM).
 - The aim of this program is to create a digital infrastructure for cities in India.
 - The NUDM has been launched jointly by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
 - The mission aims to put in place a “citizen-centric” and “ecosystem-driven” approach to ‘urban governance and service delivery’ in cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns by 2024.
 - The mission has three pillars – people, process, and platform.
- **Prakash Javadekar uses Sanskrit for first time at UNSC on climate change**
- Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on used Sanskrit for the first time in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Debate on climate change.
 - Starting his UNSC debate on climate change, Javadekar addressed other dignitaries with the Sanskrit hymn from Sukla Yajurveda.
 - The Union Minister stated that India is the only country on track among the G20 nations to meet its climate change mitigation commitments.

- **Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill passed**
 - The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed by voice vote a bill aimed at curbing religious conversions by fraudulent or any other undue means, including through marriage.
 - The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2021 seeks to replace the ordinance promulgated in November 2020 that provides for imprisonment up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 for violators.
 - Under the bill, a marriage will be declared “null and void” if the conversion is solely for that purpose, and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate.

- **UP receives award for fastest implementation of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana**
 - Uttar Pradesh received award for fastest implementation of Pradhan mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
 - More than 27110 crores has been transferred in the accounts of the farmers of state under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi yojna.
 - Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar awarded the top-performing States and Districts for their exemplary work with respect to the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme.
 - Uttar Pradesh has been awarded in the category of fastest take off in year 2020-21.

- **Karnataka to set up a Flower Processing Centre to add value to its flower power**
 - The Karnataka State Horticulture Department is setting up a “Flower Processing Centre”, in collaboration with the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB), to convert unsold flowers into various useful products.
 - The incubation centre will process flowers and convert them to value-added products such as natural dyes, floral papers, incense sticks, flower petal powder for cosmetic usage, floral embedded works, floral arts, and silica-stored flowers.
 - The facility will provide support to the flower farmers who suffer huge losses whenever there is a glut or market disruption. Growers can learn the art of flower processing from the centre.

- **Govt. issues guidelines and digital media ethics code for OTT, online streaming and social media platforms**
 - Government issued guidelines and digital media ethics code for Over The Top (OTT), online streaming and social media platforms.
 - As per the guidelines, social media platforms have to remove content involving nudity and morphed pictures of women within 24 hrs to ensure online safety and dignity of users, specially women users.
 - The Social Media Intermediaries will have to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer who will be responsible for ensuring compliance of rules.
 - The OTT platforms will self-classify the content into five age based categories and prominently display the classification rating specific to each content together with a content deor informing the user about the nature of the content.
 - The platforms will be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13 or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as A.

- **2nd edition of Global Bio-India to be organised from 1st to 3rd March**
 - To showcase the strength and opportunities of the India's biotechnology sector at national level and to the global community, the second edition of Global Bio-India will be organised from 1st to 3rd March.
 - The theme for this year is Transforming lives and tag line Biosciences to Bioeconomy.
 - Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan will inaugurate the event virtually.
 - Global Bio-India is one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders' conglomerates that is being co-organised by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - Global Bio-India 2021 is expected to have representatives from more than 50 countries with Switzerland being the partner country and Karnataka as its state partner till date.

- **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation announces selection of 12 iconic sites under Phase IV of Swachh Iconic Places**
 - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced the selection of twelve iconic sites under Phase IV of Swachh Iconic Places.
 - These sites include Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra, Sanchi Stupa in Madhya Pradesh, Kumbhalgarh Fort, Jaisalmer Fort and Ramdevra in Rajasthan, Golconda Fort in Telangana and Konark Sun Temple in Odisha.
 - Chandigarh's Rock Garden, Jammu and Kashmir's Dal Lake, Banke Bihari Temple in Mathura, Agra Fort in Uttar Pradesh and Kalighat Temple in West Bengal are the other sites.
 - The initiative aims at enhancing the experience of both domestic and foreign visitors by improving the sanitation and cleanliness standards at and around the sites.

- **India kicks off BRICS chairship with inaugural three-day long Sherpas' meeting**
 - India has kicked off its BRICS Chairship with the inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting.
 - On February 19, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar launched India's BRICS 2021 website at the BRICS Secretariat at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan.
 - The group was formalised as BRIC in September 2006, during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
 - The 1st BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia on 16 June 2009.
 - BRIC group was renamed as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member in September 2010.
 - BRICS is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising 41% of the world population, having 24% of the world GDP and over 16% share in world trade.

- **Siliguri-Dhaka train service to start on Independence Day of Bangladesh**
 - The new Passenger train service between India and Bangladesh will start from 26th of March.
 - Independence Day of Bangladesh is observed on 26 March every year.
 - The train will leave NJP on every Thursday and Monday while it will depart from Dhaka on Friday and Thursday.

- The Haldibari-Chilahati (in Bangladesh) train route was opened after a gap of 55 years for goods trains on 17th of December last year.
 - The passenger train between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka will take the same route.
 - Haldibari, which is on the India-Bangladesh border, is in Cooch Behar district of the state, while Chilahati is the first station on the other side of the border, located in the Nilphamari district of the neighbouring country.
- **Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur launches 'e-Parivahan Vyavstha'**
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched 'e-Parivahan Vyavstha'.
 - It has been launched to provide faceless services to the people of the State regarding Driving Licence/Registration Certificates/Permits etc.
 - The State Government also started first e-Vidhan Sabha, then e-Budget and now it has started an e-cabinet. He said the e-Parivahan was a step forward in this direction.
 - He also released 'e-Parivahan Vyavstha' publicity literature on the occasion.
- **Delhi govt to switch its fleet of cars to electric vehicles in 6 months, says Deputy CM Manish Sisodia**
- The Delhi government will switch its entire fleet of hired cars to electric vehicles within six months.
 - Over two thousand cars will be impacted by this decision and will transition to electric vehicles.
 - The decision will go a long way in curbing pollution in Delhi.
 - Last year, the city government had launched an Electric Vehicle Policy to tackle the problem of air pollution.
- **Indian company 'Omega Seiki' to set up electric vehicle plant in Bangladesh**
- An Indian company Omega Seiki will set up an electric vehicle plant in Bangladesh.
 - The manufacturing unit will be set up near Dhaka with an investment of Rs. 100 crore.
 - It is the first project of any Indian company producing Electrical vehicles in the international market.
 - The project will be a modern greenfield facility and will focus on manufacturing two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and electric bicycles.
 - The company plans to contribute in reducing traffic jam and pollution with the use of electrical vehicles powered by the Li-Ion batteries and powertrains built in Bangladesh with technology transfer from India.
- **DGCA allows flight operators to give concessions in ticket prices to travellers who carry no baggage**
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation, DGCA has allowed domestic flight operators to give concessions in ticket prices to travellers who carry no baggage or only cabin baggage.
 - At present, a traveller can carry up to 7 kilograms of cabin baggage and 15 kilograms of check-in baggage without having to pay any additional cost.
 - The new rule will allow airline operators to provide tickets at lesser prices to those who opt to travel with no baggage or only with cabin baggage within the permissible weight limit.
 - The airlines will however have to prominently display the additional charges applicable in case the passenger turns up with extra baggage.

- DGCA Headquarters: New Delhi
- **IWAI inks pact with MOL for transportation of LPG through inland waterways**
 - A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India and the MOL (Asia Oceania) Limited for transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas through barges on National Waterways-1 and National Waterways-2.
 - The Inland Waterways Authority will provide support for, facilitating with adequate fairway, handling of LPG cargo on IWAI terminals or Multimodal Terminals at Haldia, Sahibganj and Varanasi.
 - Presently, 60 per cent of the LPG is moved through road to the various locations with a cost of five to six rupees per metric tonne per kilometre.
 - Handling LPG by inland waterways will help reduce the carbon footprints, lowering the overall logistics cost, which in India stands approximately 13 to 14 per cent of GDP, compared to global average of eight per cent.
 - NW1: Prayagraj-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River.
 - NW2: Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of Brahmaputra River.
- **EC announces schedule for Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry**
 - Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry will be held between 27th March to 29th April.
 - The counting of votes in all the four states and one Union Territory will take place on 2nd May.
 - The assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry will be held in a single phase on 6th April.
 - In West Bengal, the polling will be held in eight phases on 27th March, 1st, 6th, 10th, 17th, 22nd, 26th and 29th April.
 - Assam will go to polls in three phases on 27th March, 1st and 6th April.
 - West Bengal assembly seats: 294
 - Assam assembly seats: 126
 - Tamil Nadu assembly seats: 234
 - Kerala assembly seats: 140
 - Puducherry assembly seats: 30
- **Retirement age of Tamil Nadu govt employees raised to 60 years**
 - In Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced that the retirement age of State Government employees has been increased from 59 to 60 years.
 - Making a suo motu statement in the Legislative Assembly, he said, the order would be applicable to employees of the government and government-aided schools, legal and constitutional bodies, government sectors, local bodies, commissions, boards and unions.
 - All those who were in service and those who would retire on 31st of May this year, would be covered under the announcement.
- **Rare Disease Day: February 28, 2021**
 - Rare Disease Day is observed every year on the last day of February.
 - This year in 2021 it falls on February 28, 2021.

- It is observed to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families.
 - Rare Disease Day was first launched by EURORDIS and its Council of National Alliances in 2008.
- **National Science Day: 28 February**
- The National Science Day is celebrated on 28 February each year in India to spread the message about the importance of science in the daily life of the people.
 - The aim of this day is to commemorate the discovery of Raman effect.
 - Indian physicist Sir C V Raman discovered the Raman effect on 28 February 1928 and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for it.
 - Theme for 2021 – ‘Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work’
- **India observes Second Protein Day on February 27, 2021**
- In India, February 27th is celebrated as the National Protein Day, to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include this macronutrient in their diet.
 - The day was launched by the ‘Right to Protein’, a national-level public health initiative on February 27, 2020.
 - 2021 marks the second year for this nutritional awareness milestone in India by ‘Right to Protein’.
 - Theme for 2021: Powering with Plant Protein.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends virtual G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting**
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Italian Presidency.
 - The main aim of the meeting was to discuss policy actions for transformative and equitable recovery along with other issues on the agenda including global economic outlook, financial sector issues, financial inclusion and sustainable finance.
 - It must be noted that this meeting is follow-up for the upcoming 2021 G20 Summit, the sixteenth meeting of Group of Twenty, scheduled to take place in Rome, Italy, on 30–31 October 2021.
 - Since December 1st, 2020, Italy holds the Presidency of the G20.
- **ISRO successfully launches Brazil's Amazonia 1 satellite, along with 18 other passenger satellites**
- India’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C51 (PSLV-C51) rocket loaded with 19 satellites from Brazil, USA and India lifted off from the rocket port at Sriharikota.
 - After four stages of separation, the rocket launched Brazil's 637 kilogram Amazonia 1 satellite, its primary passenger.
 - Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE).
- **PM Modi to inaugurate ‘Maritime India Summit 2021’ on March 2**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate ‘Maritime India Summit 2021’ on 2nd March through video conferencing.
 - The three day Summit will be held till 4th of March.

- The Maritime India Summit is being organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on a virtual platform.
 - The Summit will visualize a roadmap for India's Maritime sector for next decade and will work to propel India to the forefront of the Global Maritime Sector.
 - Denmark is the partner country for the three-day summit.
- **PM Modi pays tributes to former PM Morarjibhai Desai on his birth anniversary**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Prime Minister Morarjibhai Desai on his birth anniversary.
 - Morarji Ranchhodji Desai was an Indian independence activist and served between 1977 and 1979 as the 4th Prime Minister of India and led the government formed by the Janata Party.
 - After the controversial emergency was lifted in 1977, the political parties of the opposition fought together against the Congress, under the umbrella of the Janata Party, and won the 1977 election.
 - Desai was elected Prime Minister, and became the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India.
- **Saras Aajeevika Mela, bringing rural women SHGs under one platform, opens at Noida Haat**
- The Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 is underway at Noida Haat.
 - The fair was inaugurated by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
 - It will continue till 14th March. More than 300 rural self-help groups and craftsmen from 27 states are participating in the Mela which is being run by the Ministry of Rural Development.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Military seizes power in Myanmar, announces 1year emergency**
 - The Myanmar Military Tatmadaw has announced a one year state of emergency in the country.
 - The Vice President Myint Swe has been made the acting President and all powers have been transferred to the Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing.
 - The leaders have been detained for committing fraud in the national elections held on Nov 8.
 - The development follows early morning detention of the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other senior leaders from the ruling party National League for Democracy (NLD) by the military.
 - The detention comes hours before the first meeting of the newly elected parliament was to begin.
 - Aung San Suu Kyi took over as the head of the civilian government in 2015 after a long period of military rule in Myanmar.

- **World Bank to provide USD 500 million to Bangladesh for improving Road and Digital Connectivity**
 - The government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with the World Bank for the upgradation of rural roads and connectivity in the western region.
 - The project is expected to benefit over 20 million people in the western region of Bangladesh.
 - The project will help upgrade the 48 kilometre two-lane Jashore-Jhenaidah road to a modern 4-lane highway.
 - It will also help improve 600 kilometre of connecting rural roads and build or develop new rural markets.
 - It will also install road crash barriers, signage and safe crossing facilities for pedestrians.

- **Nguyen Phu Trong re-elected as Chief of ruling Communist Party of Vietnam for 3rd term**
 - The ruling Community Party of Vietnam has re-elected its 76-year-old General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong for a third five-year term. He is serving the post since 2011.
 - Trong was granted an exemption to contest in the election, though he was above the age limit of 65.
 - Vietnam has a communist government, which means that the country does not have a single strongman at the apex.
 - There are four main leaders that collectively run the show which includes: The Communist Party general secretary, the prime minister, the president and the chair of the National Assembly.
 - The General Secretary is the highest office within the Communist Party of Vietnam.
 - Prime minister: Nguyen Xuan Phuc Trending
 - Capital: Hanoi
 - Currency: Vietnamese dong

- **Sri Lanka backs out of pact with India, Japan on terminal at Colombo Port**
 - Sri Lanka has backed out of an agreement with India and Japan to develop the East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port.
 - According to the tripartite agreement of May 2019, Sri Lanka, Japan and India were to jointly develop the strategic terminal with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) holding a 51% stake and India and Japan holding 49% together.
 - Now Sri Lanka has said that the East terminal of Colombo port will be 100% owned and operated by the state-owned Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA).
 - Sri Lanka is key in the battle for influence in South Asia between traditional power India and China, which has been making increasing inroads there.

- **UN World Tourism Organization confirms 2020 as 'worst year on record'**
 - According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Global tourism suffered its 'worst year on record' in 2020.
 - In 2020, international arrivals dropped by 74 per cent and destinations worldwide welcomed 1 billion fewer international arrivals than in the previous year (2019), .
 - The latest UNWTO report stated that the collapse in international travel represents an estimated loss of USD 1.3 trillion in export revenues - more than 11 times the loss recorded during the 2009 global economic crisis.
 - UNWTO Headquarters: Madrid, Spain
 - Founded: 1 November 1975
 - Head: Zurab Pololikashvili

- **World Cancer Day: February 4**
 - World Cancer Day is observed every year on 4 February by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).
 - The day aims to raise awareness and education about cancer, and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the disease.
 - World Cancer Day 2021 theme: 'I Am and I Will'

- **US extends New START Nuclear Arms Control Treaty with Russia for five years**
 - The United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years.
 - President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin reportedly discussed it by phone a week ago, and Mr Putin signed it into law.
 - The treaty had been set to lapse on 5 February, as the Trump administration had refused to approve the extension.
 - Now the pact has been extended to 5th February 2026.
 - The treaty, which first went into effect in 2011, limits the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads each and imposes restrictions on the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

- **International Day of Human Fraternity: 4 February**
 - International Day of Human Fraternity is observed on 4th February globally.
 - The day aims to underline the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance.
 - It also aims to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.
 - 2021 theme: A Pathway to the Future.

- The UN General Assembly on 21 December adopted a resolution declaring 4 February as the International Day of Human Fraternity. The day is being observed for the first time in 2021.
- **ICC in Hague convicts former Ugandan warlord Dominic Ongwen of war crimes and crimes against humanity**
 - In the Netherlands, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, convicted former Ugandan warlord Dominic Ongwen of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
 - Ongwen was accused of 70 counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, torture, sexual slavery and using child soldiers, between 2002 and 2004 in northern Uganda when he led a brigade of the LRA.
 - He was found guilty of 61 out of 70 counts.
 - Ongwen, a feared commander of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), is the first member of the LRA to appear before the court.
- **India & Bahrain join hands for Renewable Energy**
 - The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between India and Bahrain was held in virtual format.
 - In the meeting, both sides presented the initiatives taken, progress made and future targets set by their respective governments as well as opportunities available in this sector.
 - Both sides also agreed to forge deeper engagement in capacity building and focused cooperation between concerned agencies as well as the private sector of the two countries in this sector, particularly in the field of solar, wind and clean hydrogen.
 - Bahrain Capital: Manama
 - Currency: Bahraini dinar
- **International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation: 06 February**
 - International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on February 6 every year to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM).
 - It was first held in 2003.
 - Theme 2021: No time for global inaction: unite, fund and act to end FGM/C
- **World's First 'Energy Island' to be built by Denmark in North Sea**
 - The Government of Denmark has approved a project to build the world's first energy island, in the North Sea that will produce and store enough green energy to meet the electricity needs of three million households in European countries.
 - The first-of-its-kind giant island will be as big as 18 football pitches (120,000sq m).
 - The estimated cost of the project is around 210bn kroner (\$34bn) and is the biggest construction project in Danish history.
 - The artificial island will be linked to hundreds of offshore wind turbines and will supply power to households as well as green hydrogen for use in shipping, aviation, industry and heavy transport.

- **Chinese vessels enter Senkaku territorial waters for first time since new law allowing use of military force**
 - Chinese Coast Guard vessels entered the waters around the Japanese-administered and China-claimed Senkaku islands for the first time.
 - The move came after China passed a new law earlier this month that allows its Coast Guard to use military force in waters the country claims.
 - The Japan Coast Guard said in a statement, it had sent vessels to the area to protect the fishing ships while repeatedly urging the Chinese ships to leave the area.
 - Local media reported that China has ramped up the number of operations its coast guard and other government vessels conduct around the Senkakus in recent times.
 - Senkaku islands are the focus of a territorial dispute between Japan and both the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC), also known as Taiwan.

- **South Korea to Build World's Largest Offshore Wind Farm**
 - President Moon Jae-in-led South Korea Government has approved a plan to build the world's largest wind power plant in the country by 2030.
 - The project will help to foster an environmentally-friendly recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and fasten the step to achieve the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.
 - The Wind power Plant will be located in the southwestern coastal town of Sinan.
 - It will have a maximum capacity of 8.2 gigawatts.
 - Currently, the world's largest offshore wind farm is Hornsea 1 in Britain, which has 1.12 GW capacities.

- **Square Kilometre Array Observatory formed to set up World's Largest Radio Telescope**
 - The newly constituted Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council held its maiden meeting and approved the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope.
 - SKAO is a new intergovernmental organisation dedicated to radio astronomy.
 - The headquartered of SKAO is based in the United Kingdom
 - Currently organisations from ten countries are a part of the SKAO, which include Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK.
 - The Indian contingent of over 20 institutions will be lead by Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of TIFR.
 - The SKAO telescope will be an array of antennas located in two continents, i.e. Africa and Australia.

- **14th International Children's Film festival concludes in Bangladesh**
 - The 14th International Children's Film Festival of Bangladesh (ICFFB) came to an end in Dhaka.
 - 179 films from 37 countries were shown at various venues during the 7-day long festival organised by the Children's Film Society (CFS) of Bangladesh.
 - Dutch Film 'Jackie and Oopjen' was awarded the Best International Feature Film Award.
 - The Best Director award went to Ani Oganesyanyan for his film Stork's Nest from Armenia.

- A total of 12 awards were presented to the winners at the concluding ceremony.
- **Safer Internet Day: 09 February**
 - Safer Internet Day is celebrated every year on February 9.
 - The day aims to promote the safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones.
 - In this era of technology, the current generation relies on the internet for almost everything and thus, it has become a breeding ground for cybercriminals.
 - Last year, cyber-attacks had increased due to work from home and several other factors and it is expected to rise further at an unprecedented rate in 2021.
 - In a report published by OLX on the Internet usage habits of Indians, the internet usage of Indians spiked by 50% due to the pandemic and has also led to the increase in cyber frauds across 61% of Indian households.
- **World Pulses Day: 10 February**
 - The United Nations designated World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10 February.
 - The day has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.
 - In 2018, the UN General Assembly decided to mark 10 February as World Pulses Day. The first WPD was held on February 10, 2019.
 - Theme 2021: “Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future”.
- **Second impeachment trial of former US President Donald Trump begins in Senate**
 - Former US President Donald Trump's second impeachment trial formally commenced in the Senate.
 - The Senate has voted 56-44 to proceed to the first-ever trial of a former President.
 - Democrats hope to disqualify Trump from holding public office ever again.
 - Trump is the only US President in the history of America to be impeached twice.
 - This is the fourth impeachment trial in the US and first-ever impeachment trial of a former President.
 - Earlier impeachments included former President Andrew Johnson's trial in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998 for perjury and obstruction of justice and Trump in 2020 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.
- **Aung San Suu Kyi's party office raided**
 - The office of the National League for Democracy headed by the ousted state counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi was raided by the military authorities.
 - The military and police authorities broke into the headquarters of NLD in Yangon and a nearby regional office.
 - The raid follows widespread demonstrations against the military government in Myanmar.
 - Students and workers demonstrated in Yangon region demanding the military to step down and release the political leaders detained after the military take over on Feb 1.

- **India, Afghanistan sign MoU for construction of Shatoot dam**
 - India and Afghanistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] over video-conferencing (VTC), for the construction of the Shahtoot Dam (Lalander Dam) on a tributary of the Kabul river in Afghanistan.
 - The project, which costs nearly \$ 300 million, is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.
 - The Lalander [Shatoot] Dam would meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City, provide irrigation water to nearby areas, rehabilitate the existing irrigation and drainage network, aid in flood protection and management efforts in the area, and also provide electricity to the region.
 - This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam], which was inaugurated in June 2016.

- **World Unani Day: 11 February**
 - World Unani Day is observed globally on February 11 every year to mark the birthday of “Hakim Ajmal Khan”, an eminent Indian Unani physician.
 - Khan was a great scholar, a social reformer, a noted freedom fighter, as well as Unani medical educationist and founder of scientific research in the Unani System of Medicine.
 - The aim of this day is to spread awareness in masses and action about healthcare delivery through the Unani system of medicine worldwide through its preventive and curative philosophy.
 - The first Unani Day was celebrated in 2017 at Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad.

- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February**
 - The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated on 11 February every year.
 - The UN General Assembly established this Day, on 22 December 2015, to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology
 - The Day is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science.
 - 2021 theme “Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19”.

- **US Prez Joe Biden announces launch of China task force to counter challenges posed by Beijing**
 - US President Joe Biden has announced the launch of a new China task force that will provide recommendations on military strategy to the Department of Defense, DoD to counter growing challenges posed by Beijing.
 - The task force will work quickly, drawing on civilian and military experts across the department.
 - The US needs to meet the growing challenges posed by China to keep peace and defend its interests in the Indo-Pacific and globally.
 - The 15-member task force will have a broad portfolio, including defense strategy, Chinese technology and intelligence, and U.S. alliances and partnerships in Asia.

➤ **Darwin Day: 12 February**

- 12 February is celebrated every year as Darwin Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biology, Charles Darwin in 1809.
- This day highlights Darwin's contribution to evolutionary and plant science.
- In 2015, Darwin's 'Origin of Species' was voted the most influential academic book in history.
- The theory of evolution by natural selection was first formulated in Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species" in 1859.
- It is explained that organisms change over time as a result of changes in heritable physical or behavioural traits.
- These changes will allow an organism to adapt better in the environment and help to survive and to have better offspring.

➤ **Pakistan Navy organising Exercise Aman off the coast of Karachi**

- Pakistan Navy is organising Exercise Aman off the coast of Karachi from February 11 to 16, 2021.
- A total of 46 countries including US, China, Russia, UK, Turkey, Iran, Indonesia are participating.
- The collaborative drills are being held since 2007 when it started with three participants.
- The exercise seeks to develop and practice Response Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (RTTP) for maritime infrastructure, assets and forces against traditional and non-traditional threats.

➤ **World Radio Day: 13 February**

- World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February each year to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- According to UNESCO, radio is a powerful medium for celebrating humanity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse.
- Radio has the ability to reach out to the widest audience, in the process having the ability to shape a society's experience of diversity and providing a platform for everyone to be represented and heard.
- The theme of World Radio Day 2021 is 'New World, New Radio'.

➤ **Pakistan Army successfully test-fires surface-to-surface Babur cruise missile**

- The Pakistan Army conducted a successful test-firing of a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Babar'.
- This missile is capable of hitting land and sea targets with "high precision" up to 450 kilometres away.
- This test was the third missile test carried out over the past three weeks.
- Earlier, Pakistan army conducted a successful test of the surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-III in January 2021, followed by the 'training launch' of nuclear-capable ballistic missile Ghaznavi in February 2021.

➤ **BBC World News banned in China**

- China has banned BBC World News from broadcasting in the country. according to a statement from China's National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA).

- In an apparent retaliatory move, the announcement comes one week after British media regulator Ofcom withdrew broadcasting license for state-owned China Global Television Network (CGTN) in the United Kingdom.
 - It comes against the backdrop of growing conflict between Beijing and Western governments over issues ranging from human rights to trade and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Earthquake of 6.3 magnitude strikes Tajikistan**
- A high intensity earthquake hit Tajikistan, tremors of which were felt in Delhi-NCR and several other parts of North India including Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.
 - According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the magnitude of the quake was 6.3.
 - Tajikistan Capital: Dushanbe
 - Currency: Tajikistani somoni
 - President: Emomali Rahmon
 - Official language: Tajiki
- **'Pahela Phagun' spring festival celebrated in Bangladesh**
- The first day of the spring called 'Pahela Phagun' was celebrated in Dhaka despite the continued shadow of Corona pandemic in the country.
 - Cultural organisations held programmes at different venues in the city to herald the beginning of the spring.
 - The day also coincides with Valentine's Day after the revision of the Bangla Calendar in 2019 by the Bangla Academy to align it with the Gregorian calendar.
 - The two events were celebrated together by the youth of Bangladesh with the fragrance of love in the air.
- **Facebook blocks Australian users from sharing or viewing news content**
- Facebook has blocked Australian users from sharing or viewing news content on the platform, causing alarm over public access to key information.
 - Several government health, emergency and other pages were also blocked. Later the tech giant asserted it was a mistake.
 - Those outside of Australia are also unable to read or access any Australian news publications on the platform.
 - Facebook's move is in response to a proposed law in Australia which would make tech giants pay for news content.
 - Companies like Google and Facebook have argued the law doesn't reflect how the internet works, and unfairly 'penalises' their platforms.
- **Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia resigns**
- The Prime Minister of Georgia, Giorgi Gakharia has announced his resignation.
 - The 45-year-old Gakharia served as the Prime Minister from 8 September 2019 to 18 February 2021.
 - He stepped down because of a disagreement with his own team over the decision a day earlier to arrest Nika Melia, chairman of the United National Movement (UNM) opposition party.
 - Georgia Capital: Tbilisi
 - Currency: Georgian lari

- **Cabinet approves Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between India and Mauritius**
 - The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius
 - The India-Mauritius CECPA is the first trade agreement to be signed by India with an African country.
 - The agreement aims in liberalising norms to boost two-way commerce between the two countries.
 - The CECPA between India and Mauritius will cover 310 export items for India, while 615 products for Mauritius.

- **World Day of Social Justice: 20 February**
 - The United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice is observed on February 20 every year since 2009.
 - The day is observed to recognize the need to promote and tackle issues of social justice such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections
 - The day encourages the people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication.
 - 2021 Theme: "A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy."

- **World Pangolin Day 2021: 20 February**
 - The World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the "Third Saturday of February" every year.
 - In 2021, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on 20 February 2020. It marks the 10th edition of the event.
 - The day aims to raise awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts.
 - Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in Asia and Africa.

- **International Mother Language Day: 21 February**
 - International Mother Language Day is observed every year in 21 February.
 - In 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO had declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day.
 - Union Education Ministry has been celebrating Matribhasha Diwas since 2015.
 - The theme for this year is 'Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society'.
 - The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh.

- **Russian Scientists have detected the first case of transmission of Avian Flu to humans**
 - Russia has said that its scientists have detected the first case of transmission of the H5N8 strain of Avian Flu to humans and ed the World Health Organization in this regard.
 - The head of Russia's health watchdog Rospotrebnadzor, Anna Popova said that information about the world's first case of transmission of the Avian Flu (H5N8) to humans has already been sent to the World Health Organization.

- Highly contagious strain H5N8 is lethal for birds but it has never been reported before to have spread to humans.
- **India sends COVID-19 vaccine to Mongolia**
 - In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, India has sent 13 boxes of COVID-19 vaccine to Mongolia.
 - The vaccine was sent from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai to Mongolia.
 - 25 nations across the world have already received Made in India vaccines and 49 more countries will be supplied in the coming days, ranging from Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean to Africa, South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands.
 - Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar
 - President: Khaltmaagiin Battulga
 - Currency: Mongolian tögrög
- **Saudi Arabia women can join armed forces in latest widening of rights**
 - Saudi Arabia has opened up the armed forces for Women.
 - Saudi Arabian women can be employed as soldiers, lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, and staff sergeants.
 - This move aims to increase the rights of women in the country.
 - The plan to allow women in the armed forces was first announced in the year 2019.
- **21-year-old Jasmine Harrison from UK becomes youngest woman to row solo across Atlantic Ocean**
 - A British woman, Jasmine Harrison of England has become the youngest woman to row solo across an Ocean.
 - The 21-year-old from Thirsk, North Yorkshire in UK, achieved the feat by finishing top in the 2020 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, organized by Atlantic Campaigns.
 - Harrison, who is a swim instructor and bartender by profession, traveled 3,000 miles (4,828km) across the Atlantic Ocean in 70 days, 3 hours and 48 minutes.
 - Harrison began her journey in Spain's Canary Islands on December 12, 2020 and arrived in Antigua on February 20, 2021.
- **Ghana becomes 1st country to receive Coronavirus vaccines through Covax vaccine-sharing initiative**
 - The western African country Ghana has become the first country to receive Coronavirus vaccines through the Covax vaccine-sharing initiative.
 - Around six lakhs doses of the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and produced by the Serum Institute of India arrived in Ghana's Capital Accra.
 - Covax is aiming to deliver about two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines globally by the end of the year.
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) led COVAX programme aims to deliver tools to fight the coronavirus pandemic to 92 low and medium-income nations.

➤ **World NGO Day: 27 February**

- Each year the World NGO Day is celebrated on February 27.
- The Day was officially recognised and declared by the 12 member countries (Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Norway and Sweden).
- It was marked for the first time by UN, EU leaders and international organisations in 2014.
- The day aims to highlight the efforts and achievements of NGOs from all sectors, offer the opportunity for people to understand more clearly what NGOs are doing for society at a local, national and international level.

➤ **President Xi Jinping declares complete victory in eradicating poverty in China**

- President Xi Jinping declared that China has scored a “complete victory” in its fight against poverty by lifting over 770 million people out of it in the last four decades.
- China has a population of around 1.4 billion.
- China has achieved the U.N. goal of poverty eradication 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline.

➤ **China celebrates traditional ‘Lantern Festival’**

- China is celebrating its traditional Lantern festival.
- Celebrated on the 15th day of the first Chinese lunar month, the Lantern Festival traditionally marks the end of the Chinese New Year also known as ‘Spring Festival’ period.
- In 2021, China ushered into Lunar New Year - the ‘Year of the Ox’ on 12th February.
- The Lantern Festival is also the first full moon night in the Chinese calendar, marking the return of spring and symbolizing the reunion of family.

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- **Arbitration and conciliation (Amendment) bill 2021**
 - The Lok Sabha has passed the Arbitration and conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021, to check misuse by “Fly –by-night operators”
Who take advantage of the law to get favourable awards by fraud
 - The bill intends to replace the Arbitration and conciliation (Amendment) ordinance issued in November, 2020.

- **Lateral entry into the administrative services**
 - The Union Public Service commission(UPSC) has issued an advertisement to recruit 30 persons at the joint secretary and Director level in this central administration through Lateral entry
 - “Lateral entry “ relates to the appointment of specialists, mainly those from the private sector, in govt. organisations

- **Odisha’s Border Disputes**
 - A border disputes between odisha and Andhra Pradesh once again resurfaced when Andhra Pradesh announced panchayat polls in three villages of kotia Panchayat in koraput district of Odisha.

- **Supreme Court; Disability and facility of a scribe**
 - The SC directed the Central Govt. to frame proper guidelines to regulate and facilitate grant of a facility of a scribe to persons with disability in writing exams
 - Earlier, the SC observed that persons suffering from disabilities are also socially, back ward and entitled to the same benefits of relaxation as scheduled caste/ ST candidates in public employment and education.

- **Low Convictions Rate under UAPA Act**
 - According to data recently presented by the ministry of Home Affairs in the Rajya Sabha, Only 2.2 % of cases registered under the unlawful Activates(Prevention) Act, 1967 between the year 2016-19 ended in conviction by court.
 - The ministry quoted figures compiled by the national crime records Bureau (NCRB)

- **Sedition Law**
 - The SC protected a political leader and six senior journalists from arrest in multiple sedition FIR’s registered against them
 - Registered unrecognised Political Parties increased :ADR
 - According to a report report by Association for democratic Reforms(ADR), the number of registered unrecognised political parties has increased two-fold from 2010 to 2019.
 - ADR is an Indian non-government organization established in 1999 situated in New Delhi.

➤ **Progress Report of commission for sub- categorisation of OBC.**

- The centre has extended the tenures of the Rohini commission until 31st July, 2021 of submit its Report on sub- categorisation of other backward classes(OBCs)
- The Rohini commission was constituted in October 2017 under Article 340 of constitution. At that time, it was given 12 weeks to submit its report, but has been given several extension since, the latest one being the 10th
- Article 340 deals with the appointment of a commission to investigate the condition of backward classes

➤ **15th Finance commission Recommendations: Resource Allocation**

- The Govt. accepted the 15th Finance commission's recommendation to maintain the states , share in the divisible pool of taxes to 41% for the five year period starting 2021-22
- The commission's Report was tabled in the parliament.

➤ **Regulations on FCRA contribution**

- The ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued new regulating guidelines to banks under foreign contribution (Regulation)Act, 2010
- It states that the donation received in Indian Rupees by non – govtal organisation (NGOs) and association from and foreign source(even if that source is located in India at the time of such donation) should be treated as foreign contribution.

➤ **Right to privacy and Legitimate state interest**

- The central govt. has stated that through the right to privacy is held to be a sacred fundamental right, the veil of privacy can be lifted for legitimate state interest
- The govt. was responding to a petition seeking permanent halting of the centre's surveillance projects- centralized monitoring system. Network Traffic analysis and national intelligence Grid.

BUSNIESS

- **RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged, GDP forecast at 10.5%**
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that the monetary policy review has decided to continue with an accommodative stance of monetary policy to maintain status quo on key policy rates.
 - The repo rate is kept unchanged at 4 percent and the reverse repo rate at 3.35 percent.
 - While announcing the policy review the RBI governor Shaktikant Das said that the GDP growth is projected at 10.5 percent in the Financial Year 2021-22.
 - The projection of CPI inflation has been revised to 5.2 percent for the fourth quarter of the current financial year.

- **RBI to set up a 24x7 helpline for digital payment services**
 - RBI has announced certain measures of protection of common bank account holders in the Monetary policy statement.
 - It includes setting up of 24*7 helpline for digital payment services, integrated ombudsman scheme, CTS across all bank branches and allowing retail investors to open Gilt accounts with RBI. A
 - As a result, digital transactions have registered massive growth in recent times. But some users face difficulties during transactions and have to suffer a lot for grievance redressal.
 - The Payment Systems Vision document of RBI envisages setting up a 24x7 helpline for addressing customer queries in respect of various digital payment products.

- **Paypal to shut domestic payments service in India from April 1**
 - The California-based global digital payment platform PayPal has announced that the company has decided to wind down its domestic payment services in India with effect from April 01, 2021.
 - The decision has been taken because the company wants to shift its focus on cross-border payments business.
 - However, the global customer will be able to pay Indian merchants using Paypal.
 - PayPal was a payments options on many Indian online apps such as travel and ticketing service MakeMyTrip, online film booking app BookMyShow, and food delivery app Swiggy.

- **State Bank of India revises FY21 GDP estimates to -7.0 pct**
 - State Bank of India's Economic Research Department revised FY21 GDP estimates to -7.0%. Previously it had estimated GDP at -7.4%.
 - As per the report 'SBI Nowcasting Model' the GDP growth forecast for Q3 would be around 0.3%.
 - SBI is expecting FY 22 GDP to be 11%. But it has cautioned that all projections are conditional on the absence of any rise in infections.

- **World Bank Signs \$100 million Project to Support Nutrition-Supportive Agriculture in Tribal-Dominated Areas of Chhattisgarh**
 - The Government of India, jointly with the Government of Chhattisgarh has signed an agreement worth USD 100 million with the World Bank for project CHIRAAG (Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth).

- CHIRAAG Project aims to develop sustainable production systems in the state of Chhattisgarh, that will allow tribal households in remote areas of the state to produce diversified and nutritious food, round-the-year.
 - The project will be implemented in the southern tribal-majority region of the state where a large population is undernourished and poor.
- **Exim Bank to provide USD 400 mn funding for Greater Male Connectivity Project in Maldives**
- The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide USD 400 million to Maldives through Line of Credit (LoC) to fund Greater Male Connectivity Project.
 - The agreement under the LoC will be effective from January 28, 2021.
 - The 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands – Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi.
 - The Government of India will be funding the implementation of a major connectivity project in Maldives through a USD 400 million line of credit and USD 100 million grant.
- **FinMin to infuse Rs 3,000 cr in state-owned general insurers in Q4 of FY21**
- The Finance Ministry will infuse Rs 3,000 crore capital into state-owned general insurance companies during the current quarter, of 2020-21, for recapitalization, to improve their financial health.
 - The three public sector general insurance companies are: National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance.
 - The capital infusion will enable these companies to improve their financial and solvency position, meet the insurance needs of the economy, absorb changes and enhance the capacity to raise resources and improve risk management.
- **ICICI Lombard partners with Flipkart to offer ‘Hospicash’ insurance**
- The e-commerce company Flipkart has partnered with ICICI Lombard to offer its customers the ‘Group SafeGuard’ insurance, a group health insurance policy.
 - The ‘Group SafeGuard’ comes with a daily cash benefits starting from Rs 500, and ‘Hospicash’ benefit for Flipkart consumers.
 - The product will allow consumers to avail a payout for each day of hospitalisation.
 - The fixed daily amount will enable consumers to pay for incidental medical or emergency expenses.
 - The insurance is affordably priced, paperless, and flexible; covering both accidental hospitalisations or planned surgeries/treatment.
- **HCL Tech signs MoU with IIT-K for cybersecurity**
- HCL Technologies (HCL) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity.
 - As part of the MoU, HCL will work with C3iHub, a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IITK.
 - This collaboration will bring together the country’s brightest minds, advanced research capabilities and global resources to develop cutting-edge solutions in the area of cybersecurity.
 - HCL and IITK will bring in real-world industry exposure to carry out joint initiatives and research.

- HCL will also work with IITK to identify selective research projects to bring them to scale.

- **Fino Payments Bank Upgraded To Scheduled Commercial Bank Status**
 - Fino Payments Bank has been designated as a bank in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
 - By categorising Fino in the second schedule of the RBI Act, the payments bank now has a scheduled commercial bank status giving it the powers to expand its treasury operations and access to liquidity windows.
 - Fino is one of the only successful payments banks in the country, having broken even in the first-half of this fiscal while other payment banks continue to report losses.
 - For the June to September 2020 quarter, the bank posted its second consecutive net profit at Rs 1.9 crore compared to a net loss of Rs 10.9 crore during the same period a year ago.
 - The commercial bank status effectively gives Fino access to government business, it can become a member of a clearing house, in addition to the RBI's liquidity window.

- **Global rating agency Moody's ups India's growth projection for FY22 to 13.7 per cent from 10.8 per cent estimated earlier**
 - Moody's upped India's growth projection for the financial year 2021-22 to 13.7 per cent from 10.8 per cent estimated earlier.
 - In its 'Global Macro Outlook 2021-22, Moody's said, India's Economy has rebounded quickly from one of the world's longest and most stringent lockdowns, which also came with the steepest fall in GDP in the second quarter of 2020.
 - For the current fiscal year, the agency expects the Indian economy to contract by 7 per cent, lower than its previous estimate of 10.6 per cent contraction.
 - The revised numbers came on the back of normalisation of activity and growing confidence in the market with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines.

APPOINTMENTS

- **SBI Card appoints Rama Mohan Rao Amara as MD & CEO**
 - SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card) appointed Rama Mohan Rao Amara as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of two years.
 - Earlier this week, Ashwini Kumar Tewari had resigned from the post of MD and CEO of SBI Card owing to his appointment as the Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI).
 - Rao is a veteran banker, with a successful career spanning over 29 years at SBI, the credit card company.

- **Lt General Chandi Prasad Mohanty takes charge as Vice Chief of Army Staff**
 - Lieutenant General Chandi Prasad Mohanty took over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.
 - An alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun, National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, Lt Gen CP Mohanty was commissioned into the Rajput Regiment in 1982.
 - In a career spanning four decades, the General officer served across a wide spectrum of conflicts and terrain profiles and tenanted a host of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments.

- **NASA appoints Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal as acting chief of staff**
 - Indian-American Bhavya Lal was appointed by NASA as the acting chief of staff of the US space agency.
 - Lal brings extensive experience in engineering and space technology, serving as a member of the research staff at the Institute for Defence Analyses Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) from 2005 to 2020.
 - For her many contributions to the space sector, she was nominated and selected to be a corresponding member of the International Academy of Astronautics.

- **Facebook Hires Henry Moniz as its First Chief Compliance Officer**
 - Facebook Inc. has appointed Henry Moniz as its first-ever Chief Compliance Officer.
 - Mr Moniz will join Facebook on February 8 to lead the company's global compliance team, to enhance its global compliance and risk management and promote the highest standards of legal and ethical conduct at the company.
 - Prior to this, Henry Moniz had been the chief compliance officer and chief audit executive at media company ViacomCBS Inc.

- **Ajay Singh re-elected as President of Boxing Federation of India**
 - Ajay Singh has been re-elected as President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) after defeating former Maharashtra sports minister Ashish Shelar in the polls.
 - He will have a new secretary general by his side in Assam's Hemanta Kumar Kalita.
 - Singh received 37 votes while Shelar, who has held many top positions in sport, including the role of President of Maharashtra Cricket Association and Mumbai District Football Association, got 27 votes in the BFI elections.
 - The elections were originally scheduled for September last year but were postponed twice citing the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Nigeria's Okonjo-Iweala set to become first female Chief of WTO**
 - Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, has been chosen as the next Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
 - She would be the first woman as well as the first African national to lead the organization.
 - Okonjo-Iweala, the former finance minister of Nigeria, will succeed Roberto Azevedo, who stepped down in August 2020.
 - World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.

- **Asian Games gold medallist athlete Hima Das appointed DSP in Assam**
 - Athlete Hima Das has been appointed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police by the Assam government.
 - Nicknamed 'Dhing Express', Hima Das is a 20-year-old Indian sprinter from Assam.
 - She became the first Indian woman indeed the first ever Indian athlete to win a gold medal in any format of a global track event at IAAF World U20 Championships when she clocked a speed of 51.46 seconds.
 - She won a silver in women's 400m in the 2018 Asian Games, was also part of the gold-winning women's 400m relay and mixed 400m relay quartets in the quadrennial event in Jakarta

- **Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar appointed as chief justice of Manipur High Court**
 - President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.
 - A notification in this regard has been issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice yesterday.
 - Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar is presently Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
 - The President has appointed Pushpa Virendra Ganediwala as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court.

- **Mario Draghi sworn in as Italy PM**
 - The ex-head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, sworn in as Italian Prime Minister.
 - He has secured the support of almost all the main political parties, following the collapse of the previous administration last month.
 - Italy is still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic and is also facing its worst economic crisis in decades.
 - In this regard, Draghi, an economist with experience at the highest levels of the European Union and as governor of the Bank of Italy is being seen as a safe pair of hands.

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

- The committee will assess the regulatory measures taken by the RBI and other authorities in respect of UCBs and their impact over the last five years to identify key constraints and enablers in fulfillment of their socio-economic objective.
 - It will also suggest effective measures for faster rehabilitation and resolution of UCBs and assess potential for consolidation in the sector.
- **ISA announces Dr Ajay Mathur as its new Director-General**
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced Dr. Ajay Mathur as its new Director General following his election at the first special assembly of ISA members.
 - A coalition of 73 member countries, ISA was established in 2015 to accelerate the demand for and use of safe, sustainable, and affordable solar energy for all.
 - Dr Mathur replaces Mr Upendra Tripathy, who has served as Director General since the inception of the ISA.
- **Dr Kiran Bedi removed from post of Puducherry Lieutenant Governor**
- Dr. Kiran Bedi has been removed from the post of Puducherry Lieutenant Governor.
 - Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilsai Soundararajan has been given additional charge as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
 - The development comes in the backdrop of a major shake-up in the Puducherry Assembly after several Congress legislators resigned ahead of the Assembly elections due this year.
 - Puducherry Social Welfare Minister Kandasamy also said that the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy will resign following the resignations.
- **Indian-origin Preeti Sinha appointed to head United Nations Capital Development Fund**
- The UN Capital Development Fund has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary, the highest leadership rank in the institution.
 - Sinha will work with a focus on providing micro-finance assistance to women, youth, small and medium-sized enterprises in under-served communities.
 - The New York-based United Nations Capital Development Fund is an autonomous UN organization affiliated with UNDP.
- **Ajai Malhotra becomes first Indian Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council**
- Ajai Malhotra has been elected as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Human Rights Council.
 - He is the first Indian to be elected to the post.
 - Malhotra first joined the Indian Foreign Services in 1977 and has previously served as ambassador to Russia, Kuwait, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York and Romania.
- **Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti takes over as Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet**
- Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti, VSM took over the Command of the Eastern Fleet, the Sword Arm of the Eastern Naval Command at Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam.
 - He has taken over the Command from Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, AVSM, NM.
 - Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1988 and is a specialist in Navigation and Direction.

- The Eastern Fleet is a Naval fleet of the Indian Navy.
 - It is known as the 'Sword Arm' of the Eastern Naval Command.
 - It is headquartered at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on the east coast of India.
- **Former Union Minister Vijay Sampla takes charge as Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes**
- Shri Vijay Sampla assumed charge as the new Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on February 24, 2021.
 - Sampla has been the former Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment from 2014 to 2019.
 - NCSC is an Indian constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, that works for the socio-economic development of the scheduled castes and to prevent atrocities against them.
- **Indian economist Ligia Noronha appointed as Assistant Secretary-General of UN**
- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the appointment of Ligia Noronha of India as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme.
 - Ms. Noronha is an economist with over 30 years of international experience in the field of sustainable development.
 - She has worked since 2014 as Director of UNEP's Economy Division based in Nairobi, leading UNEP's work on climate mitigation and energy transitions on inclusive green economies, sustainable consumption and production as well as on trade and sustainable finance.

BOOKS

- **Dalai Lama pens new book 'The Little Book of Encouragement'**
 - Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has come out with his new book titled 'The Little Book of Encouragement', in which he has shared quotes and words of wisdom to promote human happiness.
 - The Little Book of Encouragement contains 130 quotes related to how to deal with the new realities of the panic-stricken world, combat rising extremism, polarity and climate change besides Dalai Lama's views on Tibet.
 - The book has been edited by Renuka Singh and published by Penguin Random House.

- **Joe Biden's Son Hunter Biden to Release Memoir 'Beautiful Things' in April 2021**
 - United States President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, is publishing his memoir titled "Beautiful Things", which narrates his struggles with addiction and drug abuse.
 - The book is scheduled to be published in the United States on April 6 by Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.
 - The 51-year-old Hunter Biden has narrated his personal story about how he was a drug addict- from his first sips of alcohol as a child, when he was dealing with the aftermath of family tragedy, to his crack-cocaine use and how he fixed that problem.

- **M. Hamid Ansari Pens his memoir 'By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life'**
 - The former vice president of India, Mohammad Hamid Ansari has written a book titled 'By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life'.
 - The book narrates about the life and work of Mr. Ansari, from academia to professional diplomacy and then be co-opted in public life followed by acquiring the second highest office for two consecutive terms.
 - The book has been published by the Rupa Publications India and has a foreword by Pranab Mukherjee.
 - M. Hamid Ansari was the vice president of India and chairman of the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 2007 to 2017.

- **Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas' memoir named 'Unfinished'**
 - Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas officially turned author with the release of her first book, "Unfinished: A Memoir".
 - The book covers her dual-continent 20-year-long career as an actor and producer and her work as a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador.
 - The memoir promises to offer insights into Priyanka Chopra Jonas' childhood in India, her formative teenage years in the US.
 - Her return to India resulted in the newcomer to the pageant world, against all odds, winning the national and international beauty competitions – Miss India and Miss World – that launched her global acting career.

- **Peter Mukerjea pens memoir 'Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive'**
 - Former media baron Peter Mukerjea has come out with his memoir 'Starstruck: Confessions of a TV executive'.
 - The book is presented as a recollection of his experiences in the satellite television industry in India and the changes it has gone through over the years.

- Mukerjea is the former chief executive of Star India.
 - Through this book, he has shared his journey, to highlight and showcase the plenty of mistakes made and the plenty of lessons learnt over almost three decades
 - It must be remembered that Mukerjea was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in November 2015 in connection with the Sheena Bora murder
- **Meghna Pant Pens her new novel ‘The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News’**
- The award-winning writer, journalist and speaker Meghna Pant has come up with her new novel titled ‘The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News’.
 - The book has been published by the Penguin Random House India and will be released in April 2021.
 - The book is about a small-town woman, Ladoo, who scandalizes her conservative family when she decides to use a sperm donor to have a baby while continuing to look for Mr Right.
 - This book takes a humorous and light approach to address an important issue, relevant to every woman in the world, without being belligerent or pedantic.
- **Home Minister releases book 'Rashtra Pratham - 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha'**
- Home Minister Amit Shah released a book 'Rashtra Pratham - 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha' in New Delhi.
 - The book chronicles the glorious history of CRPF since its raising in 1939 and it has detailed and thoroughly researched account of CRPF's journey, challenges, successes, and sacrifices.
 - The book which has the glorious history of CRPF and valour of CRPF Jawans will inspire the jawans of the force and people at large.

AWARDS

- **ICC nominates Rishabh Pant and two others for Men's Player of the Month award**
 - India's wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has been nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award along with England skipper Joe Root and Ireland's Paul Stirling.
 - The International Cricket Council announced the nominees for the inaugural Player of the Month Awards which will "recognise and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year".
 - The 23-year-old Pant played two Tests against Australia where he scored a 97 at Sydney to ensure a draw before an unbeaten 89 at Brisbane that led India to a historic series-clinching win.

- **Australia's Robert Irwin wins Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2021**
 - Robert Irwin, an Australian wildlife photographer, has won the first prize in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award Contest.
 - Robert won the award for the image titled 'bushfire', which is the picture of the devastating Australian Bushfire in 2020, he captured using a drone, near the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Cape York, Queensland.
 - The image shows a line of fire burning in between the bushes, dividing it into parts.
 - The Wildlife Photographer of the Year is the largest wildlife photography competition in the world, organised by the Natural History Museum.

- **Manasa Varanasi of Telangana crowned VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020**
 - Manasa Varanasi from Telangana has been crowned Miss India 2020.
 - The 23-year-old was crowned by Miss India 2019 Suman Ratan Singh Rao from Rajasthan.
 - She will now represent India at the 70th Miss World pageant in December 2021.
 - Born in Hyderabad, Manasa Varanasi is an engineer by profession and works as a financial information exchange analyst.

- **Tamil Movie "Koozhangal" Wins Tiger Award at Rotterdam International Film Festival 2021**
 - The Tamil film "Koozhangal" has won "Tiger" award, at the 50th edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2021.
 - The Tiger award is the top honour of the festival, given for best film.
 - Koozhangal (meaning Pebbles) has been Produced by Nayanthara and directed by Vinod Raj PS.
 - This is the second Indian film to win this international award and the first Tamil Film. The first Indian film was "Durga" directed by the Malayalam director Shashidharan.
 - The Tiger Award, worth Euro 40,000 cash prize, is shared between the director and producer of the winning film.

- **Four Women Scientists wins SERB Women Excellence Award 2021**
 - The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has announced the SERB Women Excellence Award for the year 2021, on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February.

- Four young women fellows of National Science Academies have been awarded SERB Women Excellence Award 2021. The winners include: Dr. Shobhna Kapoor, Dr. Antara Banerjee, Dr. Sonu Gandhi, Dr. Ritu Gupta
 - SERB Women Excellence Award is a one-time award being presented by SERB to women scientists since 2013 to support basic research in the frontier areas of science and engineering.
 - The award provides a grant of Rs. 15 lakhs for a period of three years to the awardees to pursue their research ideas.
- **Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy conferred Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award**
- The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award.
 - The Award has been presented to the CM by Chairman, Skoch group, Sameer Kochhar personally at Tadepalli in Andhra Pradesh.
 - Jagan was chosen for the award based on a year-long study of governance projects in the state.
 - Schemes like YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendras and Cheyuta were focused on bringing in efficiency and transparency, besides ensuring inclusive growth and development.

SPORTS

- **BCCI cancels Ranji Trophy 2020-21 for first time**
 - The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided not to conduct the Ranji Trophy in 2020-21.
 - This will be the first time in 87 years since its inception in 1934-35, that India's premier first-class cricket national championship will not be held in 2020-21 domestic season.
 - Instead on Ranji Trophy, BCCI has decided to conduct the Vijay Hazare Trophy 50-over tournament and Senior Women's One Day tournament after the completion of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament.

- **Tamil Nadu beat Baroda by 7 wickets to lift second Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy**
 - In Cricket, Tamil Nadu lifted the coveted Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy after defeating Baroda by seven wickets in the final at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad.
 - This was Tamil Nadu's second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) triumph, after winning their first title way back in 2006-07.
 - Baroda, who had won the title twice in the past (in 2011-12 and 2013-14), ended runners-up this time.
 - It was a clinical campaign for Tamil Nadu who remained unbeaten throughout the league.

- **India top medals tally with 11 medals at first Asian Online Shooting Championship**
 - The Indian shooting contingent has topped the medals tally in the first-ever Asian Online Shooting Championship, organised by Kuwait Shooting Federation on 29 and 30 January 2021.
 - The 24-member Indian shooting contingent won total 11 medals, which included four gold medals, two silver and five bronze medals.
 - 274 shooters from 22 Asian countries took part in the competition.

- **Ashok Dinda announces retirement from all forms of cricket**
 - Fast bowler Ashok Dinda, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
 - The 36-year-old right-handed pacer made his first-class debut for Bengal in 2005 and played for 15 years in Bengal cricket.
 - He made his international debut in 2009, in a T20I against Sri Lanka, followed by making his ODI debut in Zimbabwe in 2010.
 - He played 13 ODIs and 9 T20I matches for India. He played 116 first-class matches for Bengal, taking 420 wickets at a bowling average of 28.28.

- **Ankita Raina Becomes 5th Indian Woman To Feature In Grand Slam Main Draw**
 - Ankita Raina became only the fifth Indian woman tennis player in the Open era to secure a place in the main draw of a Grand Slam as she made the cut for the women's doubles event of the Australian Open.
 - Nirupama Mankad (1971), Nirupama Vaidyanathan (1998), Sania Mirza and Indian-American Shikha Uberoi (2004) have competed in the Grand Slam main draws for the country.
 - Ankita is only the second Indian after Sania, a six-time Grand Slam champion, to compete in the women's doubles of a tennis major.

- Nirupama was the first to crack a singles Grand Slam main draw, back in 1998 at Australian Open, while Nirupama Mankad played the 1971 Wimbledon mixed doubles with Anand Amritraj.
- **Rishabh Pant wins inaugural ICC Player of the Month January 2021**
 - The Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has won the inaugural ICC Player of the Month award 2021.
 - Pant has been honoured for his superlative performances in the two Tests against Australia in January 2021, wherein he scored a 97 at Sydney and an unbeaten 89 at Brisbane, leading India to an incredible series win.
 - Apart from this, Shabnim Ismail of South Africa has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month.
- **Ravichandran Ashwin becomes first bowler to dismiss left-handers 200 times in Tests**
 - Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen.
 - He achieved the feat during the second day of India's second Test against England at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai.
 - Fast bowler Stuart Broad was the 200th left-hander to be dismissed by Ashwin.
 - The second most successful bowler in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen is Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan.
 - He has dismissed left-handers 191 times out of his world-record 800 Test wickets.
- **Wicket-keeper batsman Naman Ojha announces retirement from all forms of cricket**
 - Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket.
 - Ojha made his first-class debut for Madhya Pradesh in 2000-01.
 - The 37-year-old from Madhya Pradesh holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the Ranji Trophy
 - Ojha has also represented India in all three formats, featuring in one Test, one ODI and two T20 Internationals.
- **Former South African Skipper Faf du Plessis retires from Test cricket**
 - Former captain of South Africa, Faf du Plessis has announced his retirement from Test cricket.
 - The 36-year-old made his Test debut in November 2012 and played a total of 69 games in the longest format.
 - He scored 4163 runs in his Test career, at an average of 40.02, with 10 centuries and 21 fifties.
- **Kings XI Punjab renamed as Punjab Kings ahead of IPL auction**
 - The IPL Franchise, Kings XI Punjab has formally been renamed as Punjab Kings.
 - The new brand name and logo of the team was officially released by the management.
 - The Punjab-based IPL franchise 'Punjab Kings' is co-owned by Bollywood actress Preity Zinta, along with businessman Ness Wadia, Mohit Burman and Karn Paul.
 - The side is currently led by batsman KL Rahul, with former Indian captain Anil Kumble as its head coach.

- **Vivo is back as title sponsor for Indian Premier League 2021 Season**
 - The Chinese mobile and technology company brand Vivo has returned as the title sponsors of IPL for the 2021 edition.
 - This was informed by the Indian Premier League Governing Council chairman Brijesh Patel at the IPL 2021 Auction in Chennai.
 - In 2018, Vivo acquired the IPL title sponsorship for Rs 2,199 crore in a five-year deal.
 - However, military clashes at the India-China border in June 2020, led VIVO to pull out as sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
 - VIVO was then replaced by Indian online gaming platform Dream11 in the 2020 season.

- **Manika Batra Wins her Second Women's Singles Title at 82nd National Table Tennis Championship**
 - India's top-ranked table tennis player Manika Batra beat Reeth Rishya, 4-2, in the women's singles final, to win the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championship.
 - The event was organised at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Panchkula, Haryana.
 - It was Manika's second Nationals title. She won her maiden national title in 2015 in Hyderabad.

- **South Africa's Chris Morris becomes 'most expensive player' in IPL auction history**
 - South-African all-rounder Chris Morris has broken all record as he became the costliest player in the history of Indian Premier League (IPL) auction, held in Chennai.
 - IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals has bought Chris Morris for Rs 16.25 crore.
 - The 33-year-old played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in IPL 2020 season.
 - Prior to him, Yuvraj Singh was the costliest-ever buy in auction history, when he was bought for Rs 16 crore by Delhi Daredevils in IPL 2015.

- **Naomi Osaka lifts Women's title of Australian Open defeating Jennifer Brady**
 - Japan's Naomi Osaka cemented her place as the outstanding star of the women's singles game by beating American Jennifer Brady in the Australian Open final to win her fourth Grand Slam title.
 - Osaka remained unbeaten in major finals after 6-4, 6-3 win in Melbourne.
 - Osaka has now won two Australian Open titles after also triumphing at Melbourne Park in 2019, with her other Grand Slam successes coming at the US Open in 2018 and 2020.

- **Japan Olympics Minister Hashimoto to accept the role as head of Tokyo 2020**
 - Japanese Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto, a woman who has competed in seven Olympic Games, intends to accept the job of Head of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee.
 - The previous leader Yoshiro Mori quit due to sexist remarks.
 - He resigned as President of the committee last week after saying women talk too much, a fresh blow to the games, already marred by an unprecedented delay of a year due to the Coronavirus pandemic and strong public opposition.
 - The games are set to begin on the 23rd of July this year despite repeated opinion polls showing that most citizens are opposed to holding them this year due to the pandemic

- **Elise Mertens, Aryna Sabalenka win women's doubles title of Australian Open**
 - In Tennis, the Belgian and Belarus pair of Elise Mertens and Aryna Sabalenka has won the women's doubles final of the Australian Open 2021.
 - They defeated Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic in straight sets of 6-2, 6-3.
 - Japan's Naomi Osaka won women's singles game by beating American Jennifer Brady.

- **Novak Djokovic wins his 9th Australian Open title**
 - In Tennis, Defending Champion Novak Djokovic has won his ninth Australian Open title, beating Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 in a one-sided final at Melbourne Park.
 - Victory takes Djokovic's grand slam singles tally to 18 - just two behind Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.
 - Earlier, in Men's doubles, ninth-seeded Croat -Slovak pair Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek won the title.
 - They defeated defending champion and fifth-seeded pair British Joe Salisbury and American Rajeev Ram 6-3, 6-4.
 - This was their first Grand Slam as a team.

- **Karnataka to host second Khelo India University Games this year**
 - Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that the second Khelo India University Games will be hosted by Karnataka.
 - The largest University games in the country scheduled later this year will be held in Bengaluru in partnership with the Association of Indian Universities.
 - Over 4,000 sportsmen under the age of 25 will compete with an opportunity to be selected for the national teams.
 - The first edition of University games was held in Bhubaneswar last year.
 - In the second edition of the games, Yogasana and Mallakhamb have been added.

- **Sri Lanka Fast Bowler Dhammika Prasad quits international cricket**
 - The Sri Lanka fast bowler Dhammika Prasad has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.
 - The 37-year-old played 25 Tests and 24 ODIs and a single T20I taking a total of 107 wickets for Sri Lanka.
 - He played his lone T20 International against Australia in 2011.

- **IOC President says weightlifting could be removed from Olympic programme by 2024**
 - International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach has said that weightlifting could be removed from the Olympic programme by 2024, if the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) fails to implement reforms in the fight against doping.
 - The IWF has been hit by doping scandals and accusations of corruption in recent years.
 - Last October, the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) said that 18 weightlifters from six countries were suspected of supplying false urine samples.
 - The International Weightlifting Federation, headquartered in Budapest, is the international governing body for the sport of Olympic weightlifting.

- **IOC names Brisbane as preferred bidder to host 2032 Olympic Games**
 - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has named Brisbane, Australia as the preferred bidder to host the 2032 Olympic Games.
 - The state of Queensland had hosted the 2018 Commonwealth Games and Brisbane was praised for its high percentage of existing venues, a good masterplan, experience in organising major events and its favourable weather.
 - Several cities and countries had expressed an interest in hosting the Games, including Indonesia, Budapest, China, Doha and Germany's Ruhr Valley.
 - The delayed 2020 Olympics will be held in Tokyo, Japan in the summer, with Paris in France staging the 2024 Games and Los Angeles in the United States hosting the 2028 Olympics.

- **2nd edition of Khelo India Winter Games begins in Gulmarg**
 - The second edition of 'Khelo India Winter Games' started from February 26 and culminate on March 2 in Jammu and Kashmir's winter destination of Gulmarg.
 - Around 1200 athletes and guests from across the country are scheduled to participate in the mega sports event.
 - Athletes from 27 states and Union Territories will converge on the snow-bound slopes of Gulmarg during the event to compete in different categories of sports.
 - The prominent sports activities, which will be the hallmark of the winter games, include snow shoe race, ice skating, ice hockey, skiing, Nordic ski, snowboarding, ski mountaineering and ice stock, etc.

- **Cricketer Yusuf Pathan announces retirement from all formats of game**
 - India's dashing batter Yusuf Pathan has announced his retirement from all formats of the game.
 - He played 57 ODIs and 22 T20Is for India between 2007 and 2012.
 - He was part of the 2007 T20 World Cup as well as the 2011 ODI World Cup, both of which were won by the Indian team.

- **Deepak Kumar wins silver at Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria**
 - In Boxing, Deepak Kumar (52kg) wins the silver medal at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.
 - He lost the final face-off in a split decision against Bulgaria's Daniel Asenov in the men's flyweight.
 - Deepak clinched one of the most memorable wins of his career with a 4-1 win over more fancied Zoirov, who had claimed the 2019 world championship title beating India's Amit Panghal.

DEATH

- **'Sound of Music' fame Oscar-winning Canadian actor Christopher Plummer, passes away**
 - Oscar-winning actor Christopher Plummer, who rose to prominence for his critically-acclaimed film 'Sound of Music', has passed away.
 - The prolific and versatile Canadian-born actor has received various awards for his work, which includes Academy Award, two Primetime Emmy Awards, two Tony Awards, a Golden Globe Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and a British Academy Film Award.
 - He is the only Canadian and one of the few performers globally to have received the Triple Crown of Acting, which are Academy Award, Emmy Award, and Tony Award.
 - He won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor at the age of 82 for Beginners (2010), becoming the oldest person to win an acting award.

- **Former US Secretary of State George Shultz dies at 100**
 - Former US Secretary of State, George Shultz who significantly shaped foreign policy in the late 20th Century, has died at the age of 100.
 - He served three former Presidents - Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan - in various roles
 - His efforts as America's top diplomat from 1982 to 1989 under the former President Ronald Reagan helped lead to the conclusion of the four decade long Cold War that began after World War Two.
 - He was an informal but influential adviser on foreign policy to Former US President George W Bush.

- **Former India Davis Cup tennis team coach Akhtar Ali dies at 81**
 - Former India tennis coach Akhtar Ali died at the age of 81 in Kolkata.
 - He represented India in Davis Cup between 1958 and 1964.
 - Akhtar also won the National squash championship in 1968.
 - He was National tennis team coach from 1966 to 1993. Under his guidance, the Indian team — comprising Krishnan, Mukerjea, Premjit Lall and S.P. Misra — reached the Davis Cup final in 1966.

- **Actor Rajiv Kapoor dies at 58**
 - Bollywood actor Rajiv Kapoor died at 58 following a heart attack.
 - Rajiv Kapoor, who was also a film producer and director, was the youngest son of the legendary Raj Kapoor, and the brother of Randhir Kapoor and Rishi Kapoor, all actors and filmmakers.
 - Rajiv Kapoor is known for his performance in 'Ram Teri Ganga Maili' (1985) and 'Ek Jaan Hain Hum' (1983).
 - He was also the director of 'Prem Granth', which starred Rishi Kapoor in the lead.

- **Indo-Pak war veteran retired Major General BK Mahapatra passes away at 87**
 - War veteran Major General (retired) Basant Kumar Mahapatra, who had participated in major battles including the 1962 Indo-China war, and 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan war, has passed away.

- Hailing from Bhubaneswar in Odisha, Mahapatra was commissioned into armoured corps (Tanks) of the Indian Army as a Combat Officer and was popularly known as 'Tank Man'.
- Mahapatra was conferred with the prestigious Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM).
- **Former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand M Rama Jois passes away**
 - Former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand M Rama Jois has passed away after a prolonged illness.
 - He also served as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court
 - Retired Justice Rama Jois had also served as a Rajya Sabha member.
 - During the Emergency he was imprisoned at Bengaluru along with Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Former Union Minister Captain Satish Sharma passes away**
 - Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Captain Satish Sharma passed away in Goa after a brief illness, and suffering from cancer.
 - He served as the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas from 1993 to 1996 in the Narasimha Rao government.
 - Captain Satish Sharma was a close aide of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- **Malayalam Poet Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri Dies**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the demise of Malayalam poet Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri.
 - Mr Namboothiri died in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 81.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS
MCQ**

1. Who authored the book, “Indian Economy’s Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead”?
(a) Jayati Ghosh
(b) Amartya Sen
(c) **Arun Kumar**
(d) Tirthankar Roy

2. Who authored the book, “Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love”?
(a) Ashis Ghatak
(b) Louis Banks
(c) Ustad Zakir Hussain
(d) Zakir Hussain

3. IAF Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria launched the book “The Epic Battle of Longewala” authored by Air Marshal (retd) Bharat Kumar. When was the Battle of Longewala took place?
(a) 1999
(b) 1947
(c) 1963`
(d) **1971**

4. When was the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) established?
(a) **1982**
(b) 1988
(c) 1955
(d) 1990

5. Which state does “Bodo” tribes belong to?
(a) Gujarat
(b) Kerala
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) **Assam**

6. Which is the capital of Mauritius?
(a) Male
(b) Victoria
(c) **Port Louis**
(d) Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

7. When was the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) formed?
(a) 1945
(b) 1955
(c) **1965**
(d) 1975

8. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has selected 25 cities (in Feb'21) to adopt the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' on a pilot basis. Under which scheme the challenge is conducted?
 - (a) **Smart Cities Mission**
 - (b) AMRUT
 - (c) Swachh Bharat Mission
 - (d) HRIDAY

9. Which organisation (in Feb'21) signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd to set up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H)?
 - (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
 - (b) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL)
 - (c) Hindustan Petroleum
 - (d) **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**

10. Where was the Joint Conference of the 11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit – 2021 held?
 - (a) Abu Dhabi, UAE
 - (b) **New Delhi, India**
 - (c) Ankara, Turkey
 - (d) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

11. Which country's Navy participated with Indian Navy in the Bilateral Military Exercise 'PASSEX' (Passage Exercise) in Arabian Sea on February 2021?
 - (a) **Indonesia**
 - (b) South Korea
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) Singapore

12. Who chaired the virtual workshop (in Feb'21), conducted on theme "Covid-19 Management: Experience, good practices and way forward"?
 - (a) **Rajesh Bhushan**
 - (b) Harsh Vardhan
 - (c) Narendra Modi
 - (d) Faggan Singh Kulaste

13. Which country participated with India (in Feb'21) in a CEO Forum, that is aimed at enhancing bilateral trade relation between the countries?
 - (a) Indonesia
 - (b) South Korea
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) **Singapore**

14. In which country, India is planning (as of Feb'21) to reconstruct earthquake-resilient Schools with technological assistance from Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee?
 - (a) Fiji
 - (b) Indonesia
 - (c) Peru
 - (d) **Nepal**

15. Which bank (in Feb'21) signed an MoU with Society for Innovation and Development (SID), an initiative of IISc, Bengaluru to provide loans to startups & MSMEs?
- (a) DBS Bank
 - (b) **Indian Bank**
 - (c) State Bank of India
 - (d) ICICI Bank
16. Which is the 1st & only Indian City to be named as '2020 Tree City of the World'?
- (a) New Delhi
 - (b) Mysore
 - (c) **Hyderabad**
 - (d) Gandhi nagar
17. Which organisation has won the Collective Award of Excellence in PSU under Organisational Award Category in the World Leadership Congress and Awards 2021?
- (a) NTPC
 - (b) **TRIFED**
 - (c) Coal India
 - (d) BHEL
18. Which organisation (in Feb'21), delivered the 100th & Final K-9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer guns to the Indian army?
- (a) **Larsen & Toubro**
 - (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)
 - (c) BHEL
 - (d) Ordnance Factory Board
19. Recently (in Feb'21), DRDO successfully conducted the trials of HELINA & Dhruvastra missiles. Which type of Missile does HELINA & Dhruvastra belong to?
- (a) Anti-Torpedo Defence System
 - (b) **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles**
 - (c) Cruise Missiles
 - (d) Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles
20. Which organisation launched (in Feb'21) 60 Starlink satellites using a 2 stage rocket, Falcon 9 booster?
- (a) JAXA
 - (b) NASA
 - (c) **SpaceX**
 - (d) ISRO
21. Which is the capital of Georgia?
- (a) Belarus
 - (b) **Tbilisi**
 - (c) Baku
 - (d) Kyiv

22. Which is the official Mascot of 2020 Tokyo Olympics?
(a) Vinicius
(b) Tom
(c) Hodori
(d) **Miraitowa**
23. Which is the capital of Libya?
(a) Accra
(b) **Tripoli**
(c) Dodoma
(d) Damascus
24. Which Ministry organized the NCAVES (Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services) India Forum-2021?
(a) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF)
(b) **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
(c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
(d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)
25. Where was India's 1st indigenous metro racks deployed, in January 2021?
(a) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
(b) Kolkata, West Bengal
(c) Bhubaneswar, Odisha
(d) **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
26. Which was India's 1st major acquisition of fighter planes in the last 23 years after acquiring the Sukhoi jets from Russia?
(a) F-35 from US
(b) **Rafale from France**
(c) IAI Kfir from Israel
(d) Mirage 2000 from France
27. Which organisation recently (in Jan 2021) listed 2020 as the "worst year on record" in its "World Tourism Barometer"?
(a) World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)
(b) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
(c) International Air Transport Association (IATA)
(d) **UN World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO)**
28. Which Indian Brand was ranked 5th as per the Global 500 – Brand Strength Index (BSI) 2021?
(a) Bharti Airtel
(b) Flipkart
(c) **Reliance Jio**
(d) Paytm
29. Which Indian city comes along the flow of Devika river?
(a) **Udhampur, J&K**
(b) Delhi

- (c) Patna, Bihar
 - (d) Trichy, Tamil Nadu
30. When was the Competition Commission of India (CCI) established?
- (a) 2000
 - (b) 1989
 - (c) 1991
 - (d) 2003**
31. Where is the headquarters of SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd located?
- (a) Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - (b) Delhi
 - (c) Gurgaon, Haryana**
 - (d) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
32. Which is Asia's 1st Stock Exchange?
- (a) Calcutta Stock Exchange
 - (b) National Stock Exchange
 - (c) Singapore Exchange
 - (d) Bombay Stock Exchange**
33. Where is the headquarters of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO) located?
- (a) London, UK
 - (b) Paris, France
 - (c) Manchester, UK
 - (d) Madrid, Spain**
34. When was the 2021 ASEAN-India Hackathon conducted?
- (a) February 1-3**
 - (b) January 30 – February 2
 - (c) January 27-31
 - (d) January 31 – February 3
35. When was the Indigenous Tejas Mark II Multirole Combat Jet planned to get launched by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?
- (a) 2025
 - (b) 2030
 - (c) 2023
 - (d) 2022**
36. Where is India's 1st Leather Park located?
- (a) Gurugram, Haryana
 - (b) Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - (c) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**
 - (d) Ambur, Tamil Nadu

37. In January 2021, PM Modi addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of the 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal. Who started the 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal?
- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
 - (b) Swami Vivekananda**
 - (c) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (d) Subhas Chandra Bose
38. What was the total worth of benefits provided through the new phase (in Jan 2021) of health insurance scheme, "Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojana"?
- (a) INR 10 lakhs
 - (b) INR 1 lakhs
 - (c) INR 5 lakhs**
 - (d) INR 2.5 lakhs
39. Recently (in Jan 2021), Rajeev Ranjan was appointed as the Chief Secretary of _____.
- (a) Kerala
 - (b) New Delhi
 - (c) Tamil Nadu**
 - (d) Odisha
40. What was India's rank in the PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) for 2021?
- (a) 5th
 - (b) 2nd**
 - (c) 4th
 - (d) 1st
41. Who authored the book "Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor"?
- (a) Pavan C.Lall**
 - (b) Rana Kapoor
 - (c) Niall Ferguson
 - (d) Anil Lamba
42. What was the theme of 2021's World Leprosy Day?
- (a) Ending discrimination, stigma and prejudice
 - (b) Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and Advocate for Mental Well-Being**
 - (c) To live is to help to live
 - (d) Zero Disabilities in Girls and Boys
43. Which country has the highest number of new cases of leprosy per annum in the world as per World Health Organization's data, as of February 2021?
- (a) Brazil
 - (b) Somalia
 - (c) India**
 - (d) Indonesia

44. Who is the present Chairman of World Economic Forum (WEF), in February 2021?
- (a) Kristalina Georgieva
 - (b) **Klaus Schwab**
 - (c) David Malpass
 - (d) Christine Lagarde
45. To promote the adoption of Electric Vehicles in India, the government has introduced FAME scheme in 2015. What does 'M' stands for in FAME?
- (a) Mobility
 - (b) Movement
 - (c) **Manufacturing**
 - (d) Mission
46. Where was the National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' 2021 held?
- (a) **New Delhi**
 - (b) Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - (c) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
 - (d) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
47. Recently (in Feb 2021), Barbara Pompili signed a letter of Intent between SECI & AFD for development of a 150 MW floating solar plant. She is the Minister for Ecological Transition of _____.
- (a) Singapore
 - (b) Italy
 - (c) **France**
 - (d) Qatar
48. Recently (in Feb 2021), Indo-French declared the period 2021-2022 as the Year of _____.
- (a) Economy
 - (b) Medical Amenities
 - (c) Renewable Energy
 - (d) **Environment**
49. Recently (in Feb 2021), a Corpus of INR 945 crores for the period 2021-25 was approved for setting up a Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). Which is the Implementing agency of SISFS?
- (a) NITI Aayog
 - (b) **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**
 - (c) Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)
 - (d) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
50. Which State government recently (in Feb 2021), launched 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission, aimed at providing 100% potable water supply to all rural households?
- (a) Rajasthan
 - (b) Haryana
 - (c) Gujarat
 - (d) **Punjab**

51. Which state launched 2 new schemes – ‘Pragyan Bharati’ & ‘Bhasha Gourab’ to provide financial assistance to college students & literary bodies?
(a) Punjab
(b) Tripura
(c) **Assam**
(d) Gujarat
52. Who authored the book, “The Little Book of Encouragement”?
(a) **Dalai Lama**
(b) Deepak Chopra
(c) Arundhati Roy
(d) Ruskin Bond
53. Where was a new species of gecko, “Cyrtodactylus arunachalensis” discovered by researchers?
(a) **Arunachal Pradesh**
(b) Uttarakhand
(c) Kerala
(d) Andaman & Nicobar
54. Where is Okhla bird sanctuary located?
(a) Mizoram
(b) Nagaland
(c) **Uttar Pradesh**
(d) Uttarakhand
55. When was the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands signed?
(a) 1986
(b) **1971**
(c) 1969
(d) 1993
56. Where is Harmandir Sahib located?
(a) **Punjab**
(b) New Delhi
(c) Gujarat
(d) Jammu & Kashmir
57. How is the 14th Dalai Lama commonly addressed as?
(a) Living Buddha
(b) His Highness
(c) Messenger of God
(d) **His Holiness**
58. Which of the following is not a source of Biofuel?
(a) Sugarcane
(b) Methane
(c) **Polystyrene**
(d) Ethanol

59. Which country is the World's Largest producer of Silk?
(a) India
(b) Sri Lanka
(c) **China**
(d) Pakistan
60. Who is the Present President of France, as of February 2021?
(a) Andrzej Duda
(b) Angela Merkel
(c) Boris Johnson
(d) **Emmanuel Macron**
61. Who is the Managing Director of TRIFED, as of February 2021?
(a) Siddhartha Mohanty
(b) **Pravir Krishna**
(c) Rattan Lal Kataria
(d) S.K Haldar
62. What does 'T' stands for in TRIFED?
(a) Technology
(b) **Tribal**
(c) Trending
(d) Teachers'
63. When was TRIFED established?
(a) 2003
(b) 2017
(c) **1987**
(d) 1971
64. Where was India's 1st Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) recently (in Feb 2021), got established by MoEFCC?
(a) Nagpur, Maharashtra
(b) Chandigarh
(c) Kochi, Kerala
(d) **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
65. Where was Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) 2nd Exclusive LCA-Tejas Fighter Jets Production Plant recently (in Feb 2021), inaugurated?
(a) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
(b) **Bangalore, Karnataka**
(c) Amritsar, Punjab
(d) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
66. Which Institution started India's 1st Amputee Clinic?
(a) JIPMER, Pondicherry
(b) Christian Medical College, Tamil Nadu
(c) **PGIMER, Chandigarh**
(d) Armed Forces Medical College, Pune

67. Which district topped the Aspirational Districts Ranking of Niti Aayog for December 2020?
- (a) **Shravasti, UP**
 - (b) Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu
 - (c) Aurangabad, Maharashtra
 - (d) Baksa, Assam
68. Which organisation is responsible for the operation & maintenance of Punjab's First 'Central Water Treatment Plant' set up at Village Daudhar of Moga district for 10 years?
- (a) NABARD
 - (b) **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**
 - (c) Tata Projects
 - (d) Department of Soil & Water Conservation, Punjab
69. Which state government recently (in Feb 2021), launched 2 schemes: Intellectual Property Rights Scheme and Quality Testing & Certification Scheme to provide financial assistance to startups for filing IT patents?
- (a) Gujarat
 - (b) Punjab
 - (c) Jharkhand
 - (d) **Maharashtra**
70. Federal Bank Ltd launched 'FedFirst', a special savings account. Who will be benefitted through this initiative?
- (a) Front line workers
 - (b) **Children**
 - (c) CRPF personnel
 - (d) Indian Army
71. Recently (in Feb 2021), SEBI issued guidelines to setup Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) by Asset Management Companies (AMCs) of Mutual Funds (MFs). What is the capital share of MF towards LPCC?
- (a) Rs 200 crore
 - (b) **Rs 150 crore**
 - (c) Rs 100 crore
 - (d) Rs 50 crore
72. Which Indian cricketer recently (in Feb 2021), announced his retirement from all formats of Cricket?
- (a) **Ashok Dinda**
 - (b) Manoj Tiwary
 - (c) Varun Aaron
 - (d) Amit Mishra
73. Who became the New CEO of Amazon after its founder Jeff Bezos stepped down in February 2021?
- (a) Tom Alberg
 - (b) **Andy Jassy**

- (c) MacKenzie Scott
(d) Elon Musk
74. Which was named as the Hindi Word of the Year 2020 by Oxford Languages?
(a) Samvidhaan
(b) Aatmanirbharta
(c) Nari Shakti
(d) Krishi
75. Where is the UNESCO world heritage site, Elephanta Caves, located?
(a) Gujarat
(b) Karnataka
(c) Jharkhand
(d) Maharashtra
76. Where is the Headquarters of Federal Bank Ltd located?
(a) Aluva, Kerala
(b) Madurai, Tamil Nadu
(c) Guwahati, Assam
(d) Mumbai, Maharashtra
77. When was the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) established?
(a) 1898
(b) 3) 1949
(c) 1971
(d) 1992
78. For which sport Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is played?
(a) Football
(b) Volleyball
(c) Hockey
(d) Cricket
79. Which bank functions with the tagline “We understand your world”?
(a) Federal Bank
(b) HDFC Bank
(c) Axis Bank
(d) Citibank
80. Where is Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) located?
(a) New Delhi
(b) Bangalore
(c) Pune
(d) Chandigarh
81. Which bank functions with the tagline “Your Perfect Banking Partner”?
(a) **Federal Bank**
(b) HDFC Bank
(c) Axis Bank
(d) Citibank

82. What is the required minimum duration of stay in India a Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to be considered as Resident of India as per 'Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2021'?
- (a) 186 days
 - (b) 100 days
 - (c) 120 days**
 - (d) 136 days
83. Who chaired the Company Law Committee (CLC) that recommended Decriminalization of Compound Offences under the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act, 2008?
- (a) Rajesh Verma**
 - (b) Anurag Singh Thakur
 - (c) Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
 - (d) G. Madhavan Nair
84. Recently (in Feb 2021), Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave approval for 100% strategic divestment of Indian government's share in _.
- (a) Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
 - (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**
 - (c) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF)
 - (d) National Aluminium Company (NALCO)
85. Which Ministry organized the Webinar Series, "Udyog Manthan", in February 2021?
- (a) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
 - (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
 - (c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
 - (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation
86. What is promoted through the "Switch Delhi" campaign?
- (a) LED Bulbs
 - (b) Electric Vehicles**
 - (c) Water Conservation
 - (d) Pollution Control
87. Which organisation(s) received guidelines on Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) from RBI in February 2021?
- (a) Urban Co-operative Banks
 - (b) Small Finance Banks
 - (c) Non-Banking Financial Companies
 - (d) Only 1 & 3**
88. What can be the maximum sum insured through Standard Vector Borne Disease Health Policy based on the guidelines of IRDAI, as of February 2021?
- (a) Rs. 10 lakhs
 - (b) Rs. 1 lakh
 - (c) Rs. 2 lakhs**
 - (d) Rs. 8 lakhs

89. Recently (in Feb 2021), RBI imposed a penalty of Rs. 55 lakhs to for non-compliance to certain directions, including 'Master Circular - Management of Advances -UCBs'.
- (a) **Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank**
 - (b) Financial Cooperative Bank
 - (c) Hindustan Coop Bank
 - (d) Laxmi Vishnu Sahakari Bank
90. Who was elected as the president of Boxing Federation of India(BFI), in February 2021?
- (a) Hemanta Kumar Kalita
 - (b) **Ajay Singh**
 - (c) Sunil Chhetri
 - (d) Igor Štimac
91. Recently (in Feb 2021), Indian Navy's Ilyushin 38SD successfully fired 'Combat Kh35E' anti-ship missile during TROPEX-21. Where was TROPEX-21 carried out?
- (a) **Indian Ocean**
 - (b) Odisha Coast
 - (c) South China Sea
 - (d) Baltic Sea
92. Recently (in Feb 2021), Which country successfully Test Fired the Nuclear-Capable Surface-to- Surface Ballistic Missile 'Ghaznavi (Hatf-III)'?
- (a) India
 - (b) Israel
 - (c) **Pakistan**
 - (d) North Korea
93. Which was the book published by International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently (in Feb 2021), that outlines the responsibilities to ensure safe & successful Olympic & Paralympic Games?
- (a) **Playbook**
 - (b) Olympic Media
 - (c) The Olympic Games effect
 - (d) Epidemiology of Injury in Olympic Sports
94. Which was the Mobile app, that was launched during the 2nd CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21?
- (a) Pol-App
 - (b) Cyware Social
 - (c) **Locate Nearest Police Station**
 - (d) e-Security
95. Recently (in Feb 2021), a 'Unified Portal of Gobardhan' was launched to promote GOBAR-DHAN scheme. What is the aim behind GOBAR-DHAN scheme?
- (a) Manage Cattle Waste
 - (b) Increase Farmers' Income
 - (c) Manage Biodegradable Waste
 - (d) **All 1, 2 & 3**

96. Where is Kailveli lake located?
(a) **Tamil Nadu**
(b) Kerala
(c) Assam
(d) Manipur
97. Where is Alai Darwaza located?
(a) Agra
(b) **Delhi**
(c) Ujjain
(d) Patna
98. Which Indian City is Nicknamed as the “City of Destiny”?
(a) Bengaluru
(b) Mumbai
(c) **Visakhapatnam**
(d) Madurai
99. Which is the capital of Pakistan?
(a) Lahore
(b) **Islamabad**
(c) Karachi
(d) Rawalpindi
100. Where is the headquarters of Boxing Federation of India(BFI)?
(a) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
(b) Mumbai, Maharashtra
(c) **Gurugram, Haryana**
(d) Noida, UP
101. Where is Wankhede Stadium located?
(a) Hyderabad, Telangana
(b) **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
(c) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
(d) Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
102. Which district registered the highest cancer rate among females in India, as per ‘Profile of Cancer and Related Health Indicators in the NorthEast Region of India-2021’ report?
(a) Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
(b) **Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh**
(c) Darrang, Assam
(d) Mokokchung, Nagaland
103. Recently (in Feb 2021), PM Modi released a postal stamp to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations of _____.
(a) Non-cooperation Movement
(b) Salt March
(c) Bengali Renaissance
(d) **Chauri Chaura Incident**

104. Which country's defence organisation will provide technological support to Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for manufacturing high quality aviation hoses as per the Offset Contract signed in February 2021?
- (a) Tecmash, Russia
 - (b) Lockheed Martin, USA
 - (c) **Rosoboronexport, Russia**
 - (d) General Dynamics, USA
105. Which is the Micro-tactical UAV System that will be introduced in India as per the MoU signed between Spear UAV of Israel & Paras Aerospace Solutions of India in February 2021?
- (a) **Ninox 40**
 - (b) Gagan UAV
 - (c) IAI I-View
 - (d) IAI Eitan
106. Where is Assam's 1st Heliport recently (in Feb 2021) got inaugurated?
- (a) **Majuli**
 - (b) Cachar
 - (c) Guwahati
 - (d) Darrang
107. Recently (in Feb 2021), BHEL commissioned the 2nd Unit of 1600 MW Gadarwara thermal power project. Where is Gadarwara thermal power plant located?
- (a) Gujarat
 - (b) Assam
 - (c) **Madhya Pradesh**
 - (d) West Bengal
108. Which Insurance company launched 'Salute to Caregivers – Ek Naya Nazariya' Campaign to support the cancer survivors on World Cancer Day?
- (a) **Bharti AXA General Insurance**
 - (b) Reliance General Insurance
 - (c) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
 - (d) The Oriental Insurance Company
109. Which organisation recently (in Feb 2021), signed an MoU with CSIR-NAL (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratory) for development of two-seater trainer aircraft through technology transfer?
- (a) Bharat Electronics
 - (b) **BEML Ltd**
 - (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)
 - (d) Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)
110. Who was recently (in Feb 2021), appointed as the Chairman of National Safety Council (NSC)?
- (a) Vivek Pawar
 - (b) Vinayak Deshpande

- (c) **SN Subrahmanyam**
(d) R. Shankar Raman
111. Who authored the book '1857 – The Sword of Mastaan'?
- (a) R. K. Narayan
(b) Jhumpa Lahiri
(c) **Vineet Bajpai**
(d) Kiran Desai
112. Which river is also known as 'Dakshin Ganga'?
- (a) Kaveri
(b) Sharavati
(c) Krishna
(d) **Godavari**
113. Who is the Founder & CEO of Zomato?
- (a) **Deepinder Goyal**
(b) Amit Agarwal
(c) Ralf Wenzel
(d) Sriharsha Majety
114. Where is the Air show & aviation exhibition "Aero India" annually conducted?
- (a) Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
(b) Asansol, West Bengal
(c) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
(d) **Bangalore, Karnataka**
115. What was the targeted Ground Level Credit (GLC) for agriculture & allied sectors set by Govt. of India for 2021-22?
- (a) Rs. 12 lakh crore
(b) Rs. 13.50 lakh crore
(c) **Rs. 16.50 lakh crore**
(d) Rs. 15.75 lakh crore
116. Which online payment company will shut down all its domestic payment services in India on April 1, 2021?
- (a) PayUmoney
(b) Paytm
(c) Instamojo
(d) **PayPal**
117. Which country recently (in Feb 2021), signed a \$43 billion deal to establish World's Biggest offshore wind farm?
- (a) India
(b) **South Korea**
(c) Denmark
(d) France

118. What can be the maximum duration taken by a Mutual Funds to pay back dividends to unitholders as per the new norms of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021?
- (a) 10 days
 - (b) 45 days
 - (c) 15 days**
 - (d) 50 days
119. Who was recently (in Feb 2021), inducted into the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)?
- (a) Sridhar Vembu**
 - (b) Arun K Singh
 - (c) Anshuman Tripathy
 - (d) K Radhakrishnan
120. Recently (in Feb 2021), 8th ASEAN-India Tourism Minister Meeting 2021 took place virtually, where Tourism Minister, Prahlad Singh Patel, highlighted India's SAATHI initiatives to revive tourism. What does 'H' stand for in SAATHI?
- (a) Homegrown
 - (b) Hassle-free
 - (c) Habitat
 - (d) Hospitality**
121. ISRO is planning (as of Feb 2021) to launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 using PSLV-C51, which is the launch site chosen for the launch?
- (a) Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha
 - (b) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)-SHAR, Andhra Pradesh**
 - (c) Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), Kerala
 - (d) Balasore, Odisha
122. When was the UN's 1st ever International Day of Human Fraternity observed across the globe?
- (a) 8th February 2021
 - (b) 4th February 2021**
 - (c) 3rd February 2021
 - (d) 5th February 2021
123. Which state became the 1st in India to launch "e-Cabinet" app making the cabinet proceedings paperless?
- (a) Himachal Pradesh**
 - (b) Gujarat
 - (c) Maharashtra
 - (d) Assam
124. As per the guidelines of MoRTH, all private vehicles should renew their Fitness Certificate (FC) after ____.
- (a) 20 years
 - (b) 5 years**

- (c) **15 years**
(d) 10 years
125. What is the theme of ASEAN for 2021 under the chair of Brunei Darussalam?
(a) Resilient and Innovative
(b) ASEAN – A Community of Peace and Shared Future
(c) **We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper**
(d) Cohesive and Responsive
126. Where is India's 1st Geothermal Field Development Project planned to get established, as per the MoU signed (in Feb'21) between the State/UT's administration with ONGC?
(a) Burail, Chandigarh
(b) **Puga, Ladakh**
(c) Dumka, Jharkhand
(d) Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh
127. Which company recently (in Feb'21) entered into a 'framework agreement' with RAC MiG to provide post-warranty product support of MiG aircrafts in India?
(a) **Aviatech Enterprises Pvt Ltd (AEPL)**
(b) Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS)
(c) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)
(d) Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)
128. Where was India's 1st Children's Boat library inaugurated?
(a) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
(b) Kochi, Kerala
(c) **Kolkata, West Bengal**
(d) Nagpur, Maharashtra
129. Which state govt. provides financial assistance of Rs. 3000 to promote cashless transaction among tea labours through 'Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Scheme'?
(a) Kerala
(b) **Assam**
(c) Tamil Nadu
(d) West Bengal
130. What was India's GDP growth rate projected by RBI for FY 2021-22, as of Feb'21?
(a) **10.5%**
(b) 6.0%
(c) 26.2%
(d) 8.3%
131. As per RBI guidelines, India became the 1st country to allow access to govt. securities by an entity or a person including 'a person resident outside India' through _____.
(a) Money Market Deposit Account
(b) **Gilt Account**
(c) Checking Account
(d) Ledger Account

132. Who was appointed (in Feb'21) as the acting Chief of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?
(a) **Praveen Sinha**
(b) Rakesh Asthana
(c) Alok Verma
(d) Ajit Doval
133. In Feb'21, Bruce Taylor, the only cricketer to score a century and take a five-wicket haul in a Test match debut passed away. Which country did he represent?
(a) England
(b) Australia
(c) West Indies
(d) **New Zealand**
134. What is the motto of Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI)?
(a) **Industry, Impartiality, Integrity**
(b) Kosha Moolo Dandah
(c) Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha
(d) Satyameva Jayate
135. In which sport Davis Cup is played?
(a) Hockey
(b) **Tennis**
(c) Cricket
(d) Badminton
136. Which represents the rate, that RBI uses to lends money overnight to scheduled banks in an emergency situation?
(a) Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
(b) **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate**
(c) Reverse Repo Rate
(d) Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)
137. Where is Sardar Patel Stadium located?
(a) New Delhi
(b) Mumbai, Maharashtra
(c) **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**
(d) Kolkata, West Bengal
138. Which is NOT one among the Maharatna Companies of India?
(a) NTPC Limited
(b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
(c) **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**
(d) ONGC Limited

139. Which organisation signed 2 separate MoUs with Smart Factory, IISc and Smart Manufacturing Demo & Development Cell (SMDDC) for creating 1st of its kind Digital Transformation labs in India?
- (a) **Siemens Ltd**
 - (b) Bosch
 - (c) Samsung Electronics
 - (d) LG Corporation
140. Which organisation signed a contract worth over Rs 1,000 crore with Ministry of Defence for delivery of Software Defined Radio Tactical (SDR-Tac)?
- (a) Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)
 - (b) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)
 - (c) Honeywell International
 - (d) **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**
141. Which organisation signed (in Feb'21) an MoU with Indian Institute of Science(IISc) to create a Joint Advanced Technology Program- Center of Excellence(JATP-CoE) in IISc?
- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 - (b) **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
 - (c) Bharat Electronics
 - (d) CSIR – National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)
142. Which company has collaborated with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) (in Feb'21) to Manufacture 3D printed Aero Engine Component?
- (a) Survey 2 CAD
 - (b) Dassault Systemes
 - (c) **Wipro 3D**
 - (d) TrueCADD
143. During the Aero India 2021, a Contract worth INR 48, 000 Crore for manufacturing of 83 Fighter planes was handed to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Which fighter planes will be manufactured by HAL as per the contract?
- (a) MiG-21
 - (b) HAL Dhruv
 - (c) **LCA Tejas**
 - (d) Chinook
144. Who authored the book, “Yearbook” a collection of true stories and essays?
- (a) **Seth Rogen**
 - (b) Dwayne Johnson
 - (c) Zac Efron
 - (d) Jonah Hill
145. Which country received the contract for the construction of Nepal’s 679 MW Lower Arun Hydropower Project?
- (a) China
 - (b) Bangladesh

- (c) **India**
(d) Japan
146. Which state/UT govt. signed (in Feb'21) an MoU with Flipkart to boost the e-commerce sales of handmade artifacts & Small industrial produce of the state?
(a) **Maharashtra**
(b) Jammu & Kashmir
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Gujarat
147. Where is Kaziranga National Park located?
(a) Meghalaya
(b) Uttarakhand
(c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) **Assam**
148. Who is the present (in Feb'21) Governor of Haryana?
(a) Satya Pal Malik
(b) **Satyadeo Narain Arya**
(c) Vajubhai Vala
(d) Bandaru Dattatreya
149. Who launched India's 1st diesel tractor converted Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) tractor, that was co-developed by Rawmatt Techno Solutions and Tomasetto Achille India?
(a) Narendra Modi
(b) **Nitin Gadkari**
(c) Dharmendra Pradhan
(d) Parshottam Rupala
150. Where was 2021's National Horticulture Fair conducted with the theme, "Horticulture: For start-up and stand-up India"?
(a) New Delhi
(b) Kolkata, West Bengal
(c) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
(d) **Bangalore, Karnataka**

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