

Economic Survey - 2020/21

ECONOMIC SURVEY

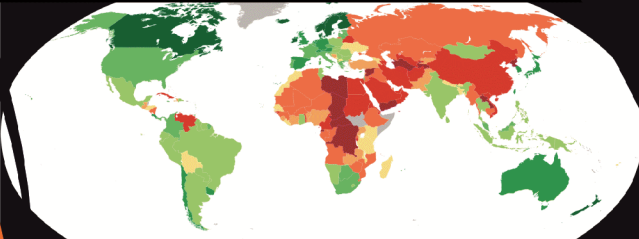


E-COPY

(Week-1 to 4)

Feb - 2021

Global Democracy Index's - 2020



Current Affairs

: DATE :

01/02/2021 to 28/02/2021

UNION BUDGET 2021-22

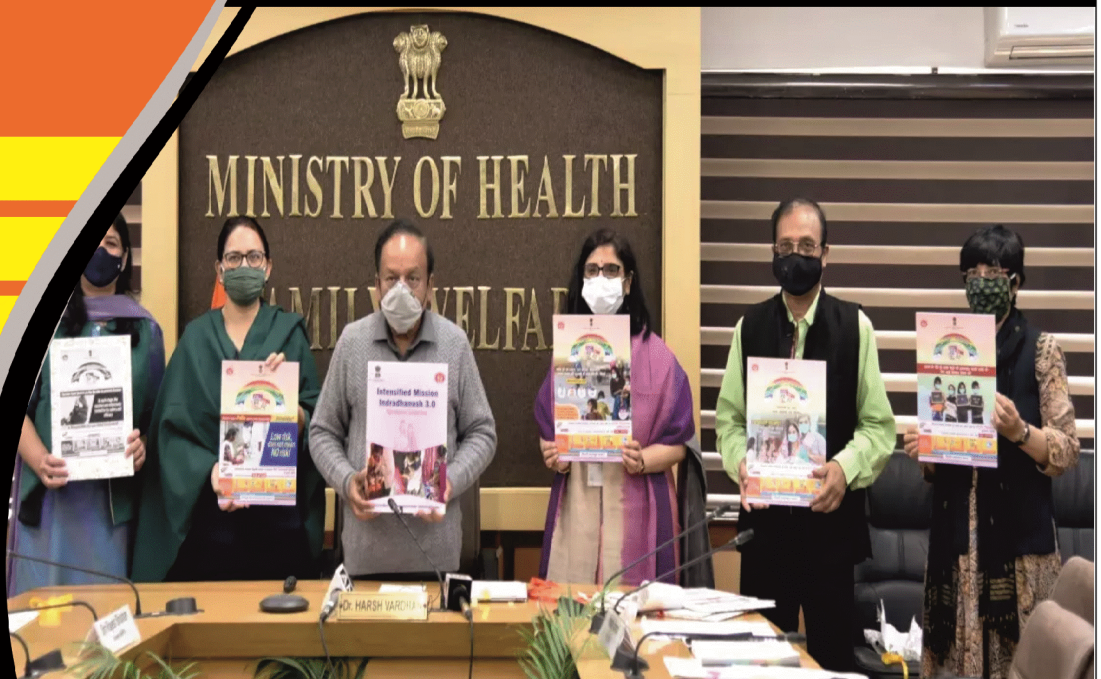
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01 Feb 2021



Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0



Important For
All Upcoming Competitive Exams Like

Bank

SBI

IBPS

SSC

Railway

GPSC-I/II

GPSC-III

ନାଥଜ
ମାମଲବଦାର

PSI/ASI
Constable

ବଳାଶି



(Creating A Way For Govt. Jobs)

Banking Academy

(Preparation for All Types of Competitive Exams)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ Recently, a plan named the **Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island Vision Document** by NITI Aayog for the **sustainable and holistic development** of the 680 sq km, **fragile Little Andaman Island** in the Andaman and Nicobar island group has raised alarm among conservationists.
- ✓ Earlier in 2020, the **Prime Minister** declared that the **Andaman and Nicobar islands will be developed as a "maritime and startup hub"**.
- ✓ **Purpose:** To leverage the strategic location and natural features of the island.
 - The islands are critical for India's security because of their strategic location in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
 - Better infrastructure and connectivity will help India enhance its military and naval strength in the islands.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

Planning Commission was replaced by a new institution – NITI AAYOG on **January 1, 2015** with emphasis on 'Bottom -Up' approach to envisage the vision of **Maximum Governance, Minimum Government**, echoing the spirit of 'Cooperative Federalism'.

NITI Aayog Hubs

- **Team India Hub** acts as interface between **States and Centre**.
- **Knowledge and Innovation Hub** builds the think-tank acumen of NITI Aayog.
- The Aayog planned to come out with 3 documents - 3-year action agenda, 7-year medium-term strategy paper and 15-year vision document.

Headquarters: New Delhi,

Chairperson: Narendra Modi,

Vice Chairperson: Rajiv Kumar,

CEO: Amitabh Kant.

- ❖ The annual event **Bharat Parv** was celebrated from **26th to 31st January, 2021** on a virtual platform created by the **Ministry of Tourism**.
 - ✓ On the occasion, the **Ministry** dedicated three virtual pavilions - **DekhoApnaDesh, Statue of Unity & Incredible India**.
 - ✓ The **Ministry of Tourism** organizes **Bharat Parv** every year since **2016** in front of the ramparts of the **Red Fort** on the occasion of **Republic Day Celebrations** from **26th to 31st January**.
 - ✓ **Bharat Parv 2021** showcased many pavilions of Central Ministries, State Theme Pavilions, Handicrafts, Folk performances from various states and UTs etc.
 - ✓ **Dekho Apna Desh' Campaign:** It was launched by the **Ministry of Tourism in 2020**.
 - It is an initiative to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country and explore the wonders of India thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure in tourism spots in the country.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** issued **new regulating guidelines to banks** under **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**. It states that the **donations received in Indian rupees** by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and associations from **any foreign source** (even if that source is located in India at the time of such donation) should be treated as **foreign contribution**.
 - ✓ **New Guidelines:**
 - **Widening the Scope of Foreign Contribution:** Under the issued regulations, donations given in Indian rupees (INR) by any foreigner/foreign source including foreigners of Indian origin like **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** or **Person of India Origin (PIO)** cardholders should also be treated as foreign contribution.
 - Meeting the Standards of **FATF**: The guidelines mandate that good practices should be followed by NGOs in accordance with standards of global financial watchdog- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.
 - It asked NGOs to inform the Ministry about "**suspicious activities**" of any donor or recipient and "take due diligence of its employees at the time of recruitment."

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

Foreign funding of persons in India is **regulated under FCRA Act** and is implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Individuals are permitted to accept foreign contributions without permission of MHA. However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000.

- ❖ **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)** has been announced under the **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** to provide **universal coverage of water supply to all households** through functional **taps** in all statutory towns in accordance with **Sustainable Development Goal- 6**.
 - ✓ It complements the **Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural)** which envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC)** by **2024**.
 - ✓ **Securing tap and sewer connections:**
 - To bridge the estimated gap of 2.68 crore urban household functional water tap connections.

- To provide 2.64 crore sewer connections/septage in 500 AMRUT cities.

- ❖ On the occasion of the centenary of the **Chauri Chaura** incident, a **postage stamp** was released by the **Prime Minister**.
 - ✓ **Chauri Chaura** is a town in **Gorakhpur** district of **Uttar Pradesh**.
 - ✓ On **4th February, 1922**, this town witnessed a violent incident - a large crowd of peasants set on fire a police station that killed 22 policemen. Due to this incident **Mahatma Gandhi** called off the Non-Cooperation Movement (**1920-22**).
- ❖ The **Prime Minister** paid homage to **Pandit Bhimsen Joshi**, the **classical music vocalist**, on his centenary birth anniversary. **Pandit Bhimsen Joshi** was born on **February 4, 1922**.
 - ✓ **Important Recognition:** He received the **Bharat Ratna** in **2008**.
 - ✓ **Work:** He is remembered for his famous ragas including **Shuddha Kalyan, Miyan Ki Todi, Puriya Dhanashri and Multani** etc.
- ❖ The inaugural function of the **2nd CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21** of the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ It aimed to deepen **understanding and enhance skills** of the law enforcement personnel across all ranks and file, empowering them to **adopt smart strategies** for effectively addressing the evolving threats.
 - ✓ **The 2nd CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge:**
 - Police officials especially those from the cutting edge level, academia, industry, students and others are being invited to help improve existing IT applications as well as help identify new IT applications to improve the CCTNS ecosystem.
 - The Mobile App: "**Locate Nearest Police Station**" was also launched at the function.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Education** has decided that the **Schools and hostels** under the **Samagra Shiksha** scheme will now be renamed after **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
 - ✓ The renaming of the scheme will help to create awareness regarding the facility of these residential schools and hostels in difficult areas. It will also inspire these schools to achieve the high standards of quality education.
- ❖ The **3rd phase** of **Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar mela** is set to be held in **Guwahati** on **February 6, 2021**. The event will be attended by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
 - ✓ The **Assam government** will be distributing the **financial assistance** of **3 thousand rupees** to each of **7.5 lakh people** who belongs to **tea garden areas**.
 - ✓ The **financial assistance** would be provided under the **Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar** scheme.
- ❖ The **National Horticulture Fair** will start in **Bengaluru**. It is a 5-day event that will be organised at the **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)** campus. People from all across India will also participate the event virtually.
 - ✓ The **theme** of the **National Horticulture Fair 2021** will be: '**Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India**'.
 - The theme seeks to encourage the farmers to become entrepreneurs.
 - ✓ The fair will be organised by the **Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)**.
- ❖ **India** is going to launch its **1st-ever diesel tractor** that has been converted to **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)** on **February 12, 2021**.
 - ✓ The **CNG Tractor** will be formally launched by **Nitin Gadkari**, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways.
 - ✓ The **conversion** of the **Diesel tractor into the CNG tractor** was carried out jointly by **Rawmatt Techno Solutions and Tomasetto Achille India**. The conversion of the diesel to CNG will help the farmers to increase their income.
- ❖ The **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** has endorsed the **1st-ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)** which aim to support countries to **eradicate hunger and malnutrition** in all its forms by utilizing a food systems approach. The endorsement took place during the **CFS 47th Session**.
 - ✓ The Guidelines highlight the **complex and multidimensional interlinkages** between sustainable food systems and healthy diets.
 - ✓ Food systems are a complex web of activities involving production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, distribution, marketing, access, purchase, consumption, food loss and waste, as well as the outputs of these activities, including social, economic and environmental outcomes.
 - ✓ **India's Scenario: State of Hunger and Malnutrition:**
 - According to **FAO** estimates in '**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2020**' Report:
 - **189.2 million people** are **undernourished** in India i.e. **14%** of the population is **undernourished**.
 - **51.4%** of **women** in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are **anaemic**.
 - **34.7%** of the **children aged under 5** are **stunted** (too short for their age) while **20%** suffer from **wasting** (weight too low in proportion to height).
 - Besides, **India ranked 94th among 107 countries** in the **Global Hunger Index 2020**.
- ❖ Recently, the **Ministry of Coal** has started **commercial auction** of coal mines on a **revenue share** basis using the **National Coal Index (NCI)**. **NCI** was rolled out in **June 2020**.

- ✓ It is a price index which **reflects the change of price level of coal** in a particular month relative to the **fixed base year**. The base year for the NCI is Financial Year **2017-18**.
- ❖ The **Government of India** and the **World Bank** signed a **500-million US dollar Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Programme (STARS)** to improve the **quality and governance of school education** in **6 Indian states**.
 - ✓ These include Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan. Some 250 million students (between the age of six and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the programme.
 - ✓ The **STARS programme** builds on the long partnership between India and the **World Bank** (since 1994), for strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing Education for All.
- ❖ **Shrawasti** in **Uttar Pradesh** has **topped** in the ranking of **aspirational districts** by government think tank **Niti Aayog** in December 2020.
 - ✓ **Dhalai** (Tripura) and **Garhwa** (Jharkhand) have been placed at the 2nd and the 3rd positions, respectively, Niti Aayog said. **Baksa** (Assam) and **Bokaro** (Jharkhand) have been ranked 4th and 5th, respectively.
 - ✓ The delta rankings took into account incremental progress made by over **112 aspirational districts** across 6 developmental areas in December 2020.
- ❖ **Aatmanirbharta** implying **self-reliance** has been named by **Oxford Languages** as its **Hindi word of the year 2020** as it "validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic".
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **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 **1 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.
- ❖ Recently **the government** has approved the allocation for **Rs. 500 crore** for **National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)** for **3 years** (2020-21 to 2022-23). The mission was announced as part of the **Atma Nirbhar 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.
- ❖ Recently, the **Parliament** has passed the **Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020**. The Bill seeks to provide greater autonomy in decision-making to **12 major ports in the country** and professionalise their governance by setting up boards. It also seeks to **replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963**.
 - ✓ India has 12 major ports - Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla), Mumbai, JNPT, Marmugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar (earlier Ennore), V O Chidambarnar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia).
 - ✓ **About:** The Bill provides for the creation of a Board of Major Port Authority for each major port. These Boards will replace the existing Port Trusts.
 - Under the 1963 Act, all major ports are managed by the respective Board of Port Trusts that have members appointed by the central government.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)** recently issued orders to make **FASTag compulsory** at all toll plazas in effect from **February 15, 2021** all across India.
 - ✓ **FASTag:** It is an electronic toll collection system which is operated by the **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)** in India.
 - ✓ This system uses the **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** technology to make the toll payments.

- ✓ The payments are deducted directly from the prepaid or savings account of the toll owner.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Communications** has decided to set up a **Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)** as a nodal agency to deal with complaints of **unsolicited commercial communication (UCC)** and cases of **financial fraud**, especially in the **digital payments space**.
 - ✓ Apart from the DIU a **Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAFMCP)** will also be set up at all the **22 license service area levels**.
- ❖ The Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** said that the annual interaction of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** with the students called the '**Pariksha Pe Charcha**' will be held online is the backdrop of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The interaction will be held with the students from classes 9 to 12 before their exams in March.
 - ✓ The registration for the programme will start from February 18, 2021 and it will be concluded on March 14, 2021.
 - ✓ Selection of the students who will get to ask questions will be done through a competition.
 - The **1st** edition of the interaction programme with **school and college students** was held on **February 16, 2018** at **Talkatora Stadium, New 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.
- ❖ The **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)** has urged the government to **bring over-the-top (OTT) service providers** such as WhatsApp **under the licensing regime** and **defer net neutrality rules on telecom operators** till the time 'same service, same rules' are applied on the applications.
 - ✓ COAI was **constituted in 1995** as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI's core membership **includes private Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)**, namely **Bharti Airtel Ltd., Vodafone India Ltd., Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.**, operating across the whole country.
 - **Licensing Regime:** Telecom operators are required to comply with quality of service norms, audit of accounts, procure spectrum for services, pay goods and services tax, licence fees and spectrum usage charges, facilitate lawful interception and monitoring system etc. but no such obligations are imposed on OTT players.
- ❖ The Prime Minister **suggested that neighbouring countries should consider creating a special visa scheme for doctors and nurses**, so that they could travel quickly within the region during health emergencies, on the request of the receiving country.
 - ✓ This suggestion was made during a workshop on '**Covid19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward**' hosted by India with **nine neighbouring nations, including Pakistan**.
 - ✓ The eight members of the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** and **Mauritius and Seychelles** participated in the workshop.
 - ✓ **SAARC** comprises the following **member States:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has announced the names of the **25** cities selected for the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge** under the **Smart Cities Mission**.
- ❖ **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched a **Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan** under **Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban**.
 - ✓ 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 **1st** 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**.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Health and Family Welfare Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** launched **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0, (IMI 3.0)** to expand **immunization coverage across** the country.
 - ✓ 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.

ना कोई दिखावा ना कोई शोर,
केवल रिसल्ट की विश्वसनीयता और सच पर स्थापित

IBPS 2019/20- Result

Once Again

Banking Academy

Created History...!!!

**+
120**

Record Breaking Result

**Students Selected as
Officer/Assistant in Govt. Banks**

Heartiest Congratulations



PO

Savan Chaudhary

Bank of Maharashtra



PO

Babita Prajapati

Central Bank Of India



Jignesh Patel
Bank Of India



Jenish Gadhetariya
Bank Of Baroda



Utsav Kapadiya
Union Bank of India



Tanvi More
Bank Of Baroda



Swati Patel
Bank Of Baroda



Khushbu Patel
India Bank



Ketan Patel
Bank Of India



Reenu Mali
UCO Bank



Vaibhav Parmar
Bank Of Baroda



Siddha Oja
Bank Of Baroda



Milan Patel
Punjab National Bank



Prasanth Viswanathan
Bank Of India



Vijaylaxmi Yadav
Bank Of India



Kajal Bambhaniya
Bank Of Baroda



Payal Parmar
Bank Of Baroda



Dixita Patel
India Bank



Jatina Patel
Bank Of India



Bhavana Mali
Andhra Bank



Ankita Patel
Central Bank Of India



Hetal Chaudhary
Corporation Bank

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- ✓ 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.
- ❖ Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** said that **India** has become the **1st 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.
- ❖ 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".
- ❖ The **2nd 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 **3 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.
- ❖ **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman** participated in the **1st 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 16th 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**.
- ❖ The **National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)** has been launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** along with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**.
 - ✓ Several other digital initiatives of MoHUA viz. **India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)**, **SmartCode**, **Smart Cities 2.0 website**, and **Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS)** have also been launched.
 - ✓ These initiatives will further the ongoing efforts of both Ministries to realise the vision of **Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
 - ✓ **National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)**:
 - It will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India, working across the 3 pillars of **people, process, and platform** to provide holistic support to **cities and towns**.
 - It will institutionalise a **citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach** to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2024.
- ❖ The government said the '**E-Daakhil**' portal for **consumer grievance redressal** is now operational in **15 states and Union Territories (UTs)**. The **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, which came into force from July 20, 2020, has a provision for **e-filing of consumer complaints** in the consumer commissions and online payment of the fees for filing a complaint. To facilitate the rural consumers for **e-filing**, **common service centres (CSC)** has been integrated with the **E-Daakhil portal**.
- ❖ The **NITI Aayog** and **Invest India** have associated with the **National Bamboo Mission** to conduct the **National Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo in India**.
 - ✓ The **National Conference on Opportunities** will be organised with the aim to discuss on the **bamboo ecosystem** in order to **promote holistic growth of the sector across** the entire value chain system.
 - ✓ The discussion by experts and stakeholders from several fields will further accelerate the efforts of National Bamboo Mission in order to bring about solutions regarding the issues that sector is facing.
- ❖ The **3rd India Tourism Mart** was organised on February 18, 2021. It was addressed by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**. The event was organised by the **Federation of Associations in India Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH)** through video conferencing.
- ❖ The government has notified **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021**. These new rules broadly deal with **social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms**.
 - ✓ These rules have been framed in exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the **Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000** and in supersession of the earlier **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011**.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Identify 'first originator' of content that authorities consider anti-national
- Appoint grievance officer, resolve complaints in 15 days
- File monthly compliance report on complaints received, action taken

DIGITAL NEWS

- Follow Press Council of India, Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act norms.
- Self-regulatory bodies to oversee adherence to Code of Ethics
- I&B Ministry to form panel, oversight mechanism

OTT PLATFORMS

- Self-classify content into five age-based categories: U (universal), U/A 7+ (years), U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A.

- Parental locks for any content classified as U/A 13+ or above.
- Age verification mechanism for content classified as 'A' (adult)

- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has cleared **Production-Linked incentive (PLI)** schemes for **pharmaceuticals and IT hardware**, including laptops, which would cost the government as much as **Rs. 22,350 crore**.
 - ✓ Earlier, **the government** had announced the **PLI scheme** for medical devices, mobile phones and specified active pharmaceutical ingredients, with a proposed outlay of **Rs. 51,311 crore**.
 - ✓ **PLI Scheme:**
 - It aims to **give companies incentives on incremental sales** from products manufactured in domestic units.
 - It invites foreign companies to set units in India, however, it also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.

HOW DOES THE INCENTIVE WORK

It is a kind of subsidy to the sector

Is a direct	Amount	Is based on
payment from the budget to goods made in India	varies from sector to sector	disadvantage /disability faced by a sector

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ **Ukraine** has shown interest to procure some **military hardware from India** in addition to efforts to deepen its presence in the **Indian defence market**.
 - ✓ It is in sync with **Indian defence sector reforms** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, which includes making India **self reliant in defence manufacturing**.
 - ✓ **Ukraine** has signed four agreements worth **USD 70 million** which includes sale of new weapons as well as maintenance and upgrades of existing ones (**R-27 air-to-air missiles**) in service with the Indian armed forces.
 - ✓ **Ukraine** also showed its intent to **sell India its AN-178 medium transport aircraft**.
 - **Ukraine** is currently upgrading the **AN-32 transport fleet** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** under a deal finalised in 2009.
 - ✓ The **Ukraine team** also held discussions with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and looked at possible collaborations in research and development.
- ❖ The **Joe Biden administration in United States** is all set to **re-join the UN Human Rights Council**. The **United States** had **withdrawn from the council in the year 2018** under Presidency of the **Donald Trump**.
- ❖ **India and Afghanistan** have inked the deal to build a dam, called **Sahtoot dam**, in order to **supply water** to the **Kabul City**. Following the deal, the **prime minister of India** called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan in order to end a spike in violence. Prime minister Modi expressed his concern over increase in violence in Afghanistan.
 - ✓ President of Afghanistan, **Ashraf Ghani**, also stated that both the countries want a terrorism free region.
- ❖ The **Denmark** has recently given its **approval** for the plan to construct the **1st energy field island of the world**. The energy island will be constructed in the **North Sea**.
 - ✓ The energy island will be used to produce and store enough green energy to meet the electricity demands of around 3 million European households. The artificial island in the North Sea will be equal to the size of the 18 football fields.
 - ✓ The energy island will be linked to hundreds of offshore wind turbines so as to supply power to the households.
- ❖ The **Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi**, will inaugurate the **20th edition World Sustainable Development Summit 2021** on **10th of February** through video conferencing. The **World sustainable development summit** will be organised under the theme- '**Redefining Our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All**'.
 - ✓ This summit is organised by the **Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI)**.
 - ✓ The summit will be organised with the **aim** to bring together a wide number of governments, academicians, business leaders, climate scientists, civil society and youth to fight against climate change.

- ✓ **The summit** will be held the discussions on the topics ranging from the Climate finance, circular economy, Energy & industry transition, adaptation & resilience, nature-based solutions, clean oceans and air pollution.
- ❖ The **1st High Level Dialogue (HLD)** on **Trade & Investment** was held between **India and European Union (EU)**. The dialogue was co-chaired by **Shri Piyush Goyal**, the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** and **Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis**, the **European Union Executive Vice-President & Trade Commissioner**.
- ❖ **Poland** has invited **India's Prime Minister** while he will be visiting **Portugal** for the **European Union-India summit (May 2021)**, and **Cornwall, United Kingdom** to attend the **G7 grouping** where **India** is a **special invitee (June 2021)**.
 - ✓ Poland is also negotiating with India for a travel bubble arrangement to resume direct flights suspended due to **Covid-19 pandemic**.
 - Creating a travel bubble involves **reconnecting countries or states** which have shown a **good level** of success in containing the **Covid-19 pandemic** domestically.
 - Such a bubble would **allow the members of the group to restart trade ties** with each other and open travel and tourism.
- ❖ **India** slipped **2 places** to **53rd position** in the **2020 Democracy Index's global ranking**, according to **The Economist Intelligence Unit**, which said the "**democratic backsliding**" by authorities and "**crackdowns**" on civil liberties has led to a further decline in the country's ranking.
 - ✓ However, **India** is ranked higher than most of its neighbouring countries. India's overall score fell from 6.9 in 2019 to 6.61 in the Index that provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide for 167 countries.
 - ✓ **Norway topped** the report titled "**Democracy in sickness and in health?**", with **Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada** making up the **top five**.
- ❖ **India and Bahrain** have agreed to **forge deeper engagement** in the field of **renewable energy**.
- ❖ 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.
 - ✓ **Currently**, the **world's largest offshore wind farm** is **Hornsea 1 in Britain**, which has 1.12 GW capacity.
- ❖ The **Pakistan Army** is holding a month-long exercise code-named '**Jidar-ul-Hadeed**' in the **Thar Desert**. The aim is to prepare for conflict in extreme desert environments.
 - ✓ A **multinational naval exercise** hosted by **Pakistan**, **Aman-2021**, has also begun in the Arabian Sea. 45 countries, including the USA, Russia, China and Turkey, will be participating in the exercise.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ The Nigerian economist **Ngozi Okonjo Iweala** has been appointed as the head the **World Trade Organization**. She has become the **1st woman** to take this position. She has also become the **1st African** to hold this charge amid rising protectionism.
- ❖ The **Union Minister** for Road Transport and Highways released the **World Bank Report** titled "**Traffic Crash Injuries And Disabilities: The Burden on India Society**".
 - ✓ The Report has been prepared in collaboration with the **NGO-Save Life Foundation**.
 - ✓ The survey data was collected from **4 Indian states** i.e. **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra**.
 - ✓ **Road Accidents and Related Deaths in India:**
 - Accounts for 11% of the global death in road accidents, the highest in the world.
 - Accounts for about 4.5 lakh road crashes per annum, in which 1.5 lakh people die.
 - ✓ **Economic Impacts of Road Accidents:**
 - Estimated Economic Loss - 3.14% of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, indicating underreporting phenomenon in the country.
 - ✓ **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** Estimates:
 - Socio-economic cost of Road Crashes is equivalent to 0.77% of the GDP.
 - 76.2% of people who are killed in road crashes are in their prime working-age, 18-45 years.
- ❖ **India's rank has slipped 6 places to 86th among 180 countries in Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** released by **Transparency International**. **India** was ranked **80th out of 180 countries in 2019**.
 - ✓ **Top Performers:**
 - The **top countries** on the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** are **Denmark** and **New Zealand**, with scores of 88, followed by **Finland, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland**, with scores of 85 each.
 - ✓ **Poor Performers:**

- **South Sudan and Somalia** are the **bottom Countries** with scores of 12 each, followed by Syria (14), Yemen (15) and Venezuela (15).

- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed a Workshop on '**COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward**' with nearly **10 Neighboring Countries** on February 18, 2021. **India** hosted a Secretary-level virtual meeting on COVID-19 management with **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** countries.
- ❖ The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** have planned to launch the **World Solar Bank (WSB)** at the **United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow** that is scheduled for **November 2021**.
 - ✓ The development of the **World Solar Bank** will support India's attempt to secure its leadership in the climate arena.
 - ✓ The development of the bank is significance because the **green finance** will be one of the priority themes at the climate meet called COP-26. COP-26 will be organised in the backdrop of **US re-joining the Paris climate accord**.
- ❖ The **3rd 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **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 1st announced in the year 2019.
- ❖ A British woman, **Jasmine Harrison** of England has become the **youngest woman to row solo across an Ocean**.
- ❖ The western African country **Ghana** has become the **1st country** to receive **Coronavirus vaccines** through the **Covax vaccine-sharing initiative**.
 - ✓ Around 6 lakhs doses of the vaccine developed by **Astra Zeneca 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.
- ❖ **India** has kicked off its **BRICS Chairship** with the inaugural 3-day-long **Sherpas' meeting**.
 - ✓ 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.
- ❖ **India** and the **Maldives** have signed a defence **Line of Credit** agreement worth **USD 50 million**.
 - ✓ The agreement was signed during the visit by the **External Affairs Minister of India to Maldives**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved signing of the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)** between **India and Mauritius**.
 - ✓ The **India-Mauritius CECPA** is the **1st trade agreement** signed by **India with a country in Africa**.
 - ✓ It is a kind of free trade pact that aims to provide an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.
- ❖ **Sri Lanka** has made an appeal to the member states of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** to reject the impending resolution on the island nation's **human rights accountability and reconciliation**.
 - ✓ **Sri Lanka** is facing a new resolution calling on it to hold human rights abusers to account and deliver justice to victims of its 26-year civil war (1983-2009).
 - The war was mainly a clash between the **Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan government** and the **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)** insurgent group, the latter of which had hoped to establish a separate state for the Tamil minority.
 - ✓ **Sri Lankan forces and Tamil rebels** were accused of atrocities during the war, which killed at least 1,00,000 people.

- ❖ The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has decided to retain **Pakistan** on the “**greylist**” till the next review of its performance on its recommendations during the June Plenary session.
- ❖ The militaries of **India** and **Pakistan** announced that **both sides** have agreed to **stop cross-border firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir**. This agreement will come into effect from February 2021.
 - ✓ The joint statement was releasing by the **Director Generals of Military Operations** of both the countries.
 - ✓ Both sides have decided that border flag meetings will be utilised in order to resolve any misunderstanding between the countries.
- ❖ The **International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)** Symposium on **Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins** was inaugurated by the Minister for Jal Shakti, **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**.
 - ✓ The **Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins** is being organised by the International Commission on Large Dams (**INCOLD**) in association with the **Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP)**, **Central Water Commission (CWC)** and **National Hydrology Project (NHP)**.
 - ✓ The **symposium** is being organised with the objective of **providing an opportunity** to Indian Dam Engineering Professionals and Agencies to share their experiences, ideas and latest developments.
- ❖ **Bangladesh** has become the **1st country** that has banned the **painkiller ketoprofen**. This painkiller is used widely to treat the cattle. But this **painkiller is toxic to vultures**.

STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ For the **1st time** in the country, the **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in **Kerala** has taken up training of a **tiger cub** to equip it to **naturally hunt** in the **forest environment**.
 - ✓ The **1st geothermal power project of India** will be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ The **Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh** announced that an investment of **Rs. 400 crore** will be made in **Goa** to make this state a **fisheries hub of India**.
 - ✓ The coastal state, Goa, has the potential for highest fish production across India.
 - ✓ The state can also become a “**fisheries hub**” of India.
 - ✓ The amount of the investment would jointly be raised by the **Union government and the state fisheries board**.
- ❖ The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has approved the creation of the **5th tiger reserve** in **Tamil Nadu**. The tiger reserve will surround the **Meghamalai** and the **Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuaries** within it. The approval was given in the backdrop of the demand by the environmental activists.
 - ✓ The activists were demanding for the creation of a tiger reserve linking the 2 sanctuaries in the adjoining areas of Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala.
 - ✓ They also **demand to connect the tiger reserve** with the **Tirunelveli Wildlife Sanctuary** and the **Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve**.
- ❖ A **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** is suspected to have caused the flash floods in **Chamoli district of Uttarakhand**.
 - ✓ In October 2020, the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** had issued detailed guidelines on how to reduce and deal with disasters caused by **GLOFs/Glacial Bursts**.
 - ✓ The NDMA guidelines suggest that risk reduction can be done by **identifying and mapping potentially dangerous lakes, taking structural measures to prevent their sudden breach**, and establishing mechanisms to save lives and property in times of a breach.
- ❖ The **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir** and a **United Kingdom** based space agency have joined hands to work on a **collaborative project** on the impact-based **flood forecasting**.
- ❖ The state of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched a **Police Museum** at the police headquarters in **Bhind, Madhya Pradesh**. It is a unique museum themed on the **dacoits to showcase their stories**.
 - ✓ The museum contains several unique items that were used by dacoits namely **Phoolan Devi** and **Nirbhay Gujjar**.
 - ✓ Several other items related to the **Chambal dacoits** will come up at the police museum.
 - ✓ The museum will also **highlight the sacrifices** made by **police to prevent any crime of the Chambal Dacoits**.
- ❖ The **Karnataka Government** recently notified that, the **Vijayanagara** has become the **31st district** of **Karnataka** officially. The district has its headquarter at **Hosapete**.
- ❖ The **Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh**, inaugurated 57,000 water structures under the “**Jalabhishekam Water Conservation Campaign**” on February 11, 2021 virtually from **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ These water structures were constructed in **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - ✓ The **Water conservation work** is being carried in the **Madhya Pradesh** by the Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** with participation of public in it.
 - ✓ The **conservation work** will help to achieve the goal of water conservation and build a self-reliant **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - ✓ The **Defence Minister** highlighted that the ‘**Jalabhishekam**’ Campaign is fulfilling the aim of ‘**water for every farm and work for every hand**’. The campaign would be helpful in the betterment of the villages.

- ❖ Goa has become the 6th State in the country that have successfully completed the **Urban Local Bodies reforms**.
 - ✓ These Urban Local Bodies reforms were set up by the **Department of Expenditure**.
 - ✓ **Finance Ministry** highlighted that the **state of Goa** will now eligible to **mobilise the additional financial resources of 223 crore rupees** with the help of **Open Market Borrowings**.
 - ✓ **Apart from Goa, 5 other states** namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Manipur and Telangana have already completed the Urban Local Bodies reforms.
 - ✓ These 5 states have also been granted a total additional borrowing permission of ten thousand 435 crore rupees.
- ❖ Recently, a shadow leather puppet in **Kerala's famous temple art Tholpavakkoothu** has been animated by a **robot**.
 - ✓ **About:** It is a traditional temple art in Kerala having its roots in Palakkad and neighbouring regions.
 - This art is confined largely to Pulavar families from Shoranur region of Palakkad district.
 - Among the ancient artforms of Kerala, tholpavakkoothu or shadow puppet play occupies a prominent place. It is a fine example of the integration of Aryan and Dravidian cultures.
- ❖ The **Lucknow Metro** has become the 1st metro in the country to **use ultraviolet (UV) rays to sanitise train coaches**.
 - ✓ **DRDO approved** the equipment in October last year and **Lucknow Metro** has become the 1st metro to use this to **sanitize the coaches**. The remote operated equipment also reduces the cost by 40 times less than what comes in sanitizing the coach by sodium hypochlorite.
- ❖ In **Gujarat**, the **State Government** has asked the **Tata group** to start the work on setting up **Indian Institute of Skills- (IIS)**. This was conveyed during a meeting between the high powered team from **Tata Group** and senior officials of **Gujarat Government** held in **Gandhinagar**.
 - ✓ IIS is being set up by the **Labour and Employment Department of Gujarat** along with **Tata Group** at **Nasmed village of Gandhinagar**. The **State Government** has allotted around 20 acres of land for **Tatas to start Indian Institute of Skills**.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ 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**. 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.
- ❖ In **Madhya Pradesh**, the 3-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 1st **modern fossil park** which has 24 eggs and other fossils of dinosaurs on display.
- ❖ 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 **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.
- ❖ The **Bihar government** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** for **climate resilience and low carbon** development strategy formulation.
 - ✓ The **UNEP** will provide technical assistance to Bihar to prepare its greenhouse gas inventory and carry out climate impact scenario and vulnerability assessments.
- ❖ **Himachal Pradesh** has become 1st State in the country to make the **end to end processing** of the cabinet paperless by implementing **e-cabinet application**.
 - ✓ Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** inaugurated 1st **e-cabinet at Shimla**. 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.
- ❖ The **Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan**, has inaugurated the 1st **route and terminal buildings of Kochi Water Metro**. This project connects the islands across the city with the help of state-of-the-art boats.
 - ✓ The metro route ranges from **Vyttila to Kakkanad**.
 - ✓ **Vyttila** is 1 of the busiest traffic hubs in Kerala while, **Kakkanad** is the IT hub.

- ❖ The Governor of West Bengal, **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar**, inaugurated the **11th** edition of '**Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav**'.
- ✓ The event was inaugurated in the presence of **Minister of State (I/C)** for Culture and Tourism, **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**. It was inaugurated at Cooch Behar Palace in **West Bengal**.
- ❖ In **Nainital district of Uttarakhand**, a **1st** of its kind **botanical garden** named '**Shivalik Arboretum**' has been inaugurated, for **conserving over 210 species of trees found** in the Shivalik range of Himalayas.
- ✓ **Shivalik Arboretum aims** to spread nature education among people so that they are able to feel an emotional connect with the trees, and make them more active towards conservation.
- ❖ Recently, **6 elephants** died of **Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS)** in **Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary** located in **Odisha's Kalahandi district**.
- ❖ Experts from the **Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), Nagpur**, are working on the design of crash barriers made of **beema bamboo and coir**.
- ✓ These are being developed as a **low-cost alternative to steel barriers** to reduce accident deaths on highways.
 - Around **1.5 lakh** people die every year in close to **5 lakh road accidents** in **India**. Over a **3rd** of those accidents happen on the highways.
 - Currently, **India** is engaged in a project to remove accident-prone "**black spots**" and **rectify road designs** on highways with loans to the tune of **Rs. 14,000 crore** from the **Asian Development Bank** and **World Bank**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the '**Mahabahu-Brahmaputra**' initiative in **Assam**. The programme is aimed at providing seamless connectivity to the **eastern parts of India** and includes various development activities for the people living around **River Brahmaputra and River Barak**. As part of '**Mahabahu-Brahmaputra**' programme, he inaugurated the **Ro-Pax vessel operations** between Neamati-Majuli Island, North Guwahati-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari. He also laid the foundation stone of **Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal** at Jogighopa and various tourist jetties on River Brahmaputra.
- ❖ Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** launched "**Maa**" canteens for providing **subsidised cooked meals** for the **poor and the destitute** at a nominal cost of **Rs. 5**.
- ✓ The e government will give a subsidy of **Rs.15** and people will have to pay **Rs.5**. The kitchens will be run by self-help groups.
- ❖ **Hyderabad city** (Telangana's Capital) has been recognised as a '**2020 Tree City of the World**' by the **Arbor Day Foundation** and the **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations**.
- ✓ **Hyderabad** has earned recognition in the **Foundation's 2nd year** of the programme along with 51 other cities in the world (during 2020 & cumulative 120 cities from 63 countries).
 - Most of the cities were from countries: **USA, UK, Canada, Australia** etc.
- ✓ It is the only City in India to get this recognition so far.
- ❖ The **Prime Minister of India** extended his wishes to the people of **Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram** on their **35th Statehood Day**.
- ✓ **Mizoram** became the **23rd state of India** on the same day, with the **53rd Amendment** of the **Indian Constitution, 1986**.
- ✓ Similarly, through the **55th amendment** to the **Indian Constitution in 1986**, **Arunachal Pradesh** became the **24th state of the Indian Union** on **20th February, 1987**.
- ✓ **Mizoram: Geographical Location:**
 - **International Border:** Myanmar and Bangladesh
 - **State Border:** Tripura (northwest), Assam (north) and Manipur (northeast).
- ✓ **Demography:** Mizoram is the second least populous state of the country holding a population of 400,309.
 - The **Sex Ratio** is 975 female per 1000 male (National: 943).
 - The **Literacy rate** of the state is 91.58 % (National: 74.04%).
 - **Protected Areas:** Dampa Tiger Reserve, Murlen National Park, Phawngpui National Park.
 - Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ **Festivals and Dance:** The Mizos have two main festivals- Mim Kut and Chapchar Kut.
- ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh: Geographical location:** The state was formed out of Assam in the year 1987.
 - In the west, **Arunachal Pradesh is bordered by Bhutan** and in the north falls the Tibetan region of China.
 - In the Southeastern region falls Nagaland and Myanmar and to the southwestern region falls Assam.
- ✓ The **total literacy rate** of the state (as per Census 2011) is 65.38% with male literacy rate being 72.55% and for females, it is 57.70%.
- ✓ The **Sex Ratio of the states is 938 female per 1000 male** (National: 943)
 - Protected Areas: Namdapha National Park, Mouling National Park,
 - Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ **Tribals of Arunachal:** The significant tribal groups include **Monpas, Nyishis, Apatanis, Noctes and Sherdukpens**.
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Master in Relevant Field)

: Age Limit :

21 to 27 (As on 01-02-2021)

Not earlier than 02.02.1994 and not
later than 01.02.2000

: Online Form :

05th to 19th March - 2021

: Exam Schedule :

03rd April, 2021

Phase - I

Time : 160 min

Subject	Ques.	Marks	Time
Reasoning & Computer Aptitude	50	60	45 mins
General /Financial Awareness	50	50	35 mins
General English	40	40	35 mins
Quantitative Aptitude	50	50	45 mins
Total	190	200	160 min

Phase II - Personal Interview

50 Marks

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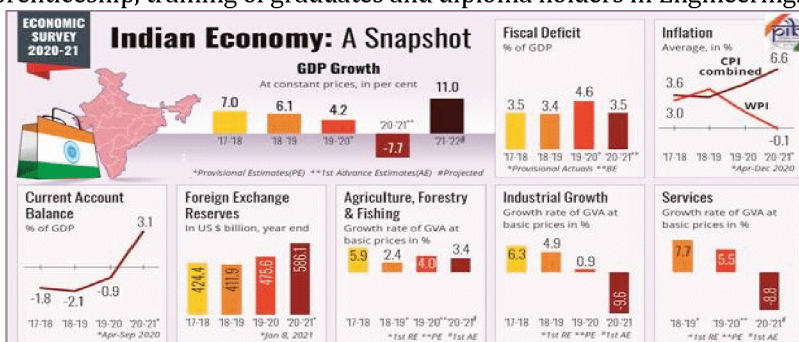
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of **Maharaja Suheldev Memorial** and development work of **Chittaura Lake in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh**. The event marks the birth anniversary of **Maharaja Suheldev**.
 - ✓ The complete project will include installation of an equestrian statue of Maharaja Suheldev and development of various tourist amenities like cafeteria, guest house and a children's park.
 - ✓ **Suhaldev** 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 identify snakes, avail proper treatment on time for snakebites, bust myths about snakes, and protect snakes as well as snakebite victims.
- ❖ **Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh** government plans to develop **Jewar Airport** as **Asia's biggest airport** with 6 runways. The state government has to set aside **2,000 crore for Jewar Airport** in its budget for 2021-22.
 - ✓ The under construction airport in Ayodhya will be named as **Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport**.
- ❖ 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 **1st state to give co-ownership rights to women** in the ancestral property of their husbands.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ 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 1st 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 **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 craftsman from 27 states are participating in the Mela which is being run by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- ❖ The **Union government** approved **more than Rs 1,100 crore** for **critical infrastructure development** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - ✓ The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** also cleared a proposal for **construction of 32 roads** under phase II of the **Indo-China Border Roads (ICBR) scheme**.
 - ✓ **Earlier**, the government **followed a restrictive policy** and areas along the China border were not developed much.
- ❖ **Chandigarh** became the **1st state or Union Territory** in India to launch **Carbon Watch**, a mobile application to **assess the carbon footprint of an individual**.
 - ✓ A carbon footprint is **the total amount of greenhouse gases—primarily carbon dioxide—released into the atmosphere by a particular human activity**.
 - ✓ The app focuses on individuals' actions and calculates carbon footprint on the basis of Transport, Energy, Waste and Water consumption.

- ✓ It will also provide information such as the national and world average of the emission, and the individual's level of emission generation.
- ❖ The **Chief Minister** of Karnataka, **B.S. Yediyurappa**, launched the '**Namma Cargo**' services.
 - ✓ The **State road transport corporations** will transport the parcels so as to generate more revenue, except for the **Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC)**.
 - ✓ The Cargo services will be implemented across 109 bus stations in Karnataka.
 - ✓ It will also be implemented across the selected locations in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ The **Chief Minister** of Madhya Pradesh, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, has announced to **rename** the **Hoshangabad city of MP** as **Narmadapuram**.
- ❖ The **Union Minister** for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Prakash Javadekar**, inaugurated the **Atal Paryavaran Bhavan** at Lakshadweep. Highlights While inaugurating the Atal Paryavaran Bhavan, the minister said that, Lakshadweep will undergo a **comprehensive development** that too without compromising the **UT's commitment to nature**.

ECONOMY AWARENESS

- ❖ The **American Digital payment** solutions provider **PayPal** announced that it will stop offering the **domestic payment services** within **India** beginning from **April 1, 2021**.
 - ✓ The **PayPal** has further said that it will now focus on enabling more **international sales for the Indian businesses**.
 - ✓ It highlighted that, it had processed **USD 1.4 billion** international sales in the year 2020 for over **3.6 lakh** Indian merchants. Thus, the company has decided to shift the focus away from the domestic products in India.
- ❖ The **Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)** has launched 2 new initiatives - **SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch) Job Portal** and a **Seaweed Mission**.
 - ✓ **TIFAC** is an autonomous organization set up in 1988 under the **Department of Science & Technology** to look ahead in the technology domain, assess the technology trajectories, and support innovation by networked actions in select areas of national importance.
 - ✓ **SAKSHAM Portal**: It is a dynamic portal for jobs/mapping the skills of **Shramiks** (workers) vis-a-vis requirements of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** and other industries all across the country. It is an all India Portal. It will facilitate creation of 10 lakh blue collar jobs.
 - ✓ **Seaweed Mission**: It has been launched for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting the national economy.
- ❖ The **Union Minister of Finance** presented the **Economic Survey** that details the **state of the economy** ahead of the government's budget for the **fiscal year** beginning **1st April, 2021**.
 - ✓ The foundational theme of the survey is "**Saving Lives and Livelihoods**".
 - ✓ **Four Pillar Strategy**: India adopted a unique 4-pillar **strategy of containment, fiscal, financial, and long-term structural reforms**.
 - ✓ **Economic Recovery: V-shaped Economic Recovery** after Lockdown:
 - Starting July 2020, a resilient V-shaped recovery is underway.
 - A V-shaped recovery is characterized by a quick and sustained recovery in measures of economic performance after a sharp economic decline.
 - ✓ **GDP's Estimation**:
 - India's real **GDP** to record a growth of **11%** in 2021-22 and nominal **GDP by 15.4%**-the highest since independence.
 - India's **GDP** is estimated to contract by **7.7%** in the **Financial Year (FY) 2020-21**, composed of a sharp **15.7%** decline in the 1st half and a modest **0.1%** fall in the 2nd half.
 - ✓ **Agriculture: Growth**: The Agriculture and Allied activities clocked a growth of **3.4%**.
 - As per the Provisional Estimates of **National Income** released by **Central Statistical Organization** in May, 2020, the share of **Agriculture and Allied Sectors** in **Gross Value Added (GVA)** of the country at current prices is **17.8%** for the year 2019-20.
 - ✓ **Agriculture**:
 - Ensured **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** at minimum 1.5 times the cost of production across all commodities.
 - **SWAMITVA Scheme** to be extended to all States/UTs.
 - **SWAMITVA Scheme** to be extended to all States/UTs, **1.80 lakh** property-owners in 1,241 villages have already been provided cards. **SVAMITVA scheme**: 200 crores has been allocated for scheme-SVAMITVA.
 - **1,000 more mandis** to be integrated with the **National Agricultural Market (e-NAM)** to bring **transparency and competitiveness**.
 - ✓ **Fisheries**:
 - **5 major fishing harbours** – Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, and Petuaghat to be developed as hubs of economic activity.

- Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu to promote seaweed cultivation.
- **Skilling:** Rs. 3000 crore for realignment of existing National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) towards post-education apprenticeship, training of graduates and diploma holders in Engineering.



- ❖ The government's fiscal deficit has increased to **Rs. 11.58 lakh crore** or **145.5%** of the Budget Estimate (BE) at the end of December 2020 (accounting for the 1st nine months of the year 2020-21) mainly on account of lower revenue realisation.
- ✓ **Fiscal Deficit Target Fixed for 2020-21:** The Centre had pegged the fiscal deficit at Rs. 7.96 lakh crore or 3.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ✓ **Fiscal Deficit in 2019-2020:** According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit at the end of December in the previous fiscal year was **132.4% of the BE of 2019-20**.
 - **Fiscal Deficit** = Total expenditure of the government (capital and revenue expenditure) – Total income of the government (Revenue receipts + recovery of loans + other receipts).
 - The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003** provides that the Centre should take appropriate measures to limit the fiscal deficit upto **3% of the GDP by 31st March, 2021**.
 - The **NK Singh committee** (set up in 2016) recommended that the government should target a fiscal deficit of 3% of the GDP in years up to 31st March, 2020, cut it to 2.8% in 2020-21 and to 2.5% by 2023.
- ❖ The **Minister of Finance** presented the **Union Budget 2021-22**. This was the **1st ever digital Union Budget**.
 - ✓ It is based on **6 pillars** - health and well-being, physical and financial capital and infrastructure, inclusive development for aspirational India, reinvigorating human capital, innovation and R&D, and 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.
 - ✓ This section deals with the proposals for the **Health and Wellbeing Sector**.



- ✓ **Budget Outlay:** Outlay for Health and Wellbeing in 2021-22 as against 2020-21 is an increase of 137%.
- ✓ **Vaccines:**
 - Rs. 35,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccine in Budget Expenditure (BE) 2021-22.
 - The Made-in-India **Pneumococcal Vaccine** to be rolled out across the country.
- ✓ **Health Systems:**
 - **PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana** – a new centrally sponsored scheme to be launched, in addition to National Health Mission (NHM).

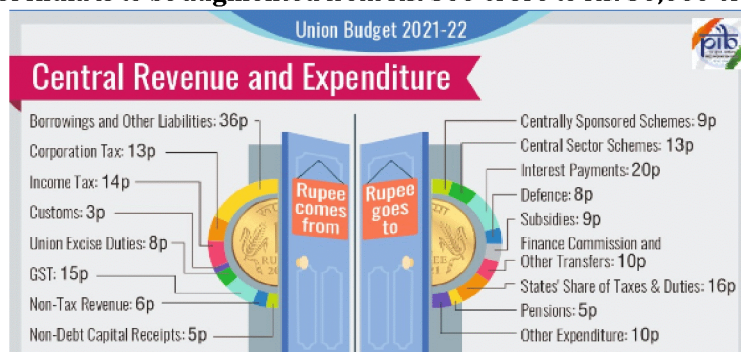
- ✓ **Nutrition:**
 - **Mission Poshan 2.0** to be launched to improve nutritional outcomes across 112 aspirational districts.
- ✓ **Universal Coverage of Water Supply:**
 - **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) - to be launched** - to bring safe water to 2.86 crore households through tap connection.
- ✓ **Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat:**
 - Strengthening of **Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0**.
- ✓ **Clean Air:**
 - **Rs. 2,217 crore to tackle air pollution**, for 42 urban centers with a million plus population.
- ✓ **Scrapping Policy:**
 - **Voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and unfit vehicles.**
- ✓ This section deals with proposals related to Infrastructure.
- ✓ **Production Linked Incentive scheme (PLI):**
 - **Rs. 1.97 lakh crore** in next 5 years for **PLI schemes** in 13 Sectors to create and nurture manufacturing global champions for an **AatmaNirbhar Bharat**.
- ✓ **Textiles: Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme to be introduced.**
- ✓ **Roads and Highways Infrastructure:**
 - **Rs. 1,18,101 lakh crore**, highest ever outlay, for **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
 - **New Economic corridors and Expressways** being planned.
 - **Advanced Traffic management system** in all new 4 and 6-lane highways.
- ✓ **Railway Infrastructure:**
 - **National Rail Plan for India (2030)** to create a “**future ready**” Railway system by 2030.
 - **100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes** to be completed by **December, 2023**.
 - **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and Eastern DFC** to be commissioned by **June 2022**.
- ✓ **Urban Infrastructure:**
 - **Expansion of metro rail network and augmentation of city bus service.**
 - ‘**MetroLite**’ and ‘**MetroNeo**’ technologies will be used to provide metro rail systems at much lesser cost with similar experience.
- ✓ **Power Infrastructure:**
 - A comprehensive **National Hydrogen Energy Mission 2021-22** to be launched.
 - **Rs. 3,05,984 crore** over 5 years for a revamped, reforms-based and result-linked **new power distribution sector scheme**.
- ✓ **Ports, Shipping, Waterways:**
 - **Rs. 2,000 crore** worth 7 projects to be offered in **Public Private Partnership (PPP)-mode** in **Financial Year (FY) 2021-22** for operation of major ports.
- ✓ **Petroleum & Natural Gas:**
 - Extension of **Ujjwala Scheme** to cover **1 crore** more beneficiaries.
 - A new gas pipeline project in **Jammu & Kashmir**.
- ✓ This section deals with proposals related to **Physical and Financial Capital**.
 - A new permanent institutional framework to help in development of the **Bond market**.
 - Setting up a system of **Regulated Gold Exchanges**.
 - **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to be notified as a regulator and Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority to be strengthened.
- ✓ **Stressed Asset Resolution:**
 - **Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company (Bad Bank)** to be set up.
- ✓ **Increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Insurance Sector:**
 - To **increase** the permissible FDI limit from **49% to 74%** and allow foreign ownership and control with safeguards.
- ✓ **Deposit Insurance:**
 - Amendments to the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961**, to help depositors get easy and time-bound access to their deposits to the extent of the deposit insurance cover.
 - Deposit insurance **increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh** for bank depositors.
 - **Minimum loan size** eligible for debt recovery under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002** proposed to be reduced from **Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh** for NBFCs with minimum asset size of **Rs. 100 crore**.
- ✓ **Rs. 4,000 crore** over 5 years for **Deep Ocean Mission** survey exploration and conservation of deep sea biodiversity.
- ✓ **Minimum Government, Maximum Governance:**

- Rs. 3,768 crore allocated for 1st digital census in the history of India.
- Rs. 300 crore grant to the Government of Goa for the diamond jubilee celebrations of the state's liberation from Portuguese.
- Rs. 1,000 crore for the welfare of Tea workers especially women and their children in Assam and West Bengal through a special scheme.

✓ **Fiscal Position:**

- Fiscal deficit stands at 9.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and is estimated to be 6.8% in 2021-22.
- Plan to continue on the path of fiscal consolidation, achieving a fiscal deficit level below 4.5% of GDP by 2025-2026 with a fairly steady decline over the period.

✓ **The Contingency Fund of India is to be augmented from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 30,000 crore through Finance Bill.**



✓ **Recommendations of Fifteenth Finance Commission:**

- The final report covering 2021-26 was submitted to the President, retaining vertical shares of states at 41%.
- Funds to UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh would be provided by the Centre.
- On the Commission's recommendation, Rs. 1,18,452 crore have been provided as Revenue Deficit Grant to 17 states in 2021-22, as against Rs. 74,340 crore to 14 states in 2020-21.

✓ **Exemption from filing tax returns for senior citizens over 75 years of age and having only pension and interest income; tax to be deducted by paying the bank.**

- Income Tax settlement commission abolished.
- Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on a small number of items.
- Dispute Resolution Committee to be set up for taxpayers with taxable income up to Rs. 50 lakh and disputed income up to Rs. 10 lakh.
- National Faceless Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Centre to be established.

✓ **The allocation for National Security Council Secretariat has increased from Rs 170 crore last year to Rs 228 cr.**

✓ **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget 2021-22 allocates Rs 73,000 crore for MGNREGA, 34.52 per cent below the Revised Estimate of Rs 111,500 crore for 2020-21. Budgetary Estimate for 2020-21 was Rs 61,500 crore; In 2019-20, Rs 71,686.70 crore was spent on the programme.**

✓ **The Union Budget 2021-22 allocated Rs 3.05 lakh crore for the power distribution, to be released over 5 years. Funds will be released based on financial performance and viability demonstration by the distribution companies (DISCOMS).**

✓ **Universal Coverage of Water Supply:**

- Rs. 2,87,000 crore over 5 years for Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) - to be launched with an aim to provide:
- 2.86 crore household tap connections.
- Universal water supply in all 4,378 Urban Local Bodies.
- Liquid waste management in 500 AMRUT cities.

✓ **Scrapping Policy: Voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and unfit vehicles**

- Fitness tests in automated fitness centres: After 20 years in case of personal vehicles.
- After 15 years in case of commercial vehicles.

✓ **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) expanded to 7,400 projects: Around 217 projects worth Rs. 1.10 lakh crore completed.**

✓ **Rs. 20,000 crore to set up and capitalise a Development Financial Institution (DFI) – to act as a provider, enabler and catalyst for infrastructure financing.**

✓ **Rs. 5 lakh crore lending portfolio to be created under the proposed DFI in 3 years.**

✓ **Roads and Highways Infrastructure:**

- Rs. 1,18,101 lakh crore, highest ever outlay, for Ministry of Road Transport and Highways – of which Rs. 1,08,230 crore is for capital
- Under the Rs. 5.35 lakh crore Bharatmala Pariyojana, more than 13,000 km length of roads worth Rs. 3.3 lakh crore awarded for construction:

- ✓ **Agriculture:** The **government** increased the target for **agricultural credit** to **Rs. 16.5 lakh crores** to ensure the availability of higher credit to farmers and for animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries sector. The allocation for rural infrastructure development fund is proposed to be increased to **Rs. 40,000 crore** by **2021-22**.
- ✓ **Defence:** The **Finance Minister** allocated a sum of **Rs. 1,35,060 crore** of **capital expenditure** and **Rs. 2,12,027 crore** of **revenue expenditure** for the defence sector. In **Budget 2021**, there is an increase of 18.75 per cent in capital defense expenditure over last year's budget.
- ✓ **Technology:** The government announced an allocation of **Rs 1,500 crores** to **promote digital payments**.
- ✓ **Banking:** The government announced allocated a sum of **Rs 20,000 crore** for **public sector banks (PSBs)** in **2021-22** to meet regulatory norms. For the **current financial year**, the government had made a provision of **Rs 20,000 crore** for **recapitalisation**.
- ✓ The **Ministry of Science and Technology** has been allocated **Rs 14,793.66 crore** in the budget 2021-22, a 20 per cent increase from the current fiscal. Separately, the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** has been allocated **Rs 1,897.13 crore**.
- ✓ **Disinvestment and Strategic Sale:**
 - **Rs. 1,75,000 crore** estimated receipts from disinvestment in BE 2020-21.
 - **Strategic disinvestment of BPCL, Air India, Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, IDBI Bank, BEML, Pawan Hans, Neelachal Ispat Nigam limited etc.** to be completed in 2021-22.
 - Other than IDBI Bank, **2 Public Sector Banks and 1 General Insurance company** to be **privatized**.
- ✓ **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund** to be enhanced to **Rs. 40,000 crore** from **Rs. 30,000 crore**.
- ✓ To double the **Micro Irrigation Fund** to **Rs. 10,000 crore**.
- ✓ **'Operation Green Scheme'** to be extended to **22 perishable products**, to boost value addition in agriculture and allied products.
- ✓ **Rs. 4,000 crore** over 5 years for **Deep Ocean Mission** survey exploration and conservation of deep sea biodiversity.
- ✓ **Rs. 3,768 crore** allocated for first digital census in the history of India.
- ✓ **Rs. 300 crore** grant to the Government of Goa for the diamond jubilee celebrations of the state's liberation from Portuguese.
- ✓ The **government** has increased the **capital expenditure** from **Rs. 4.39 lakh crore** last year to **Rs. 5.54 lakh crore** for FY 2021-22.
- ❖ In the **Budget 2021-22**, **Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)** have been proposed to be set up by **state-owned and private sector banks**, and there will be **no equity contribution from the government**.
 - ✓ The ARC, which will have an **Asset Management Company (AMC)** to manage and sell bad assets, will look to resolve stressed assets of **Rs. 2-2.5 lakh crore** that remain unresolved in around 70 large accounts.
 - ✓ This is being considered as the **government's version of a bad bank**.
- ❖ The **Union Budget 2021-22** proposed to tax the interest income on **Provident Fund (PF) contributions** by **employees exceeding Rs. 2.5 lakh a year**.
 - ✓ The **Ministry of Finance** expressed concerns over **investments** as much as **Rs. 1 crore** each month into PF and suggested it was **unfair** that they **get tax concessions as well as an assured return**.
 - ✓ The **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme** is managed under the aegis of the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**.
 - EPFO is a **government organization** that manages provident fund and pension accounts for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.
- ❖ The **government's** maternity benefit scheme, or **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, has crossed **1.75 crore** eligible women till the **financial year 2020**.
 - ✓ A total sum of **Rs. 5,931.95 crore** was paid to **1.75 crore** eligible beneficiaries between financial year 2018 and 2020.
- ❖ According to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, farm exports have registered **9.8% growth** for the period of April-December 2020.
 - ✓ Previously, the government of India launched the **Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP)** scheme replacing **Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)** to further improve exports.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has proposed to **allow retail investors to open gilt accounts** with the **central bank** to invest in **Government securities (G-secs)** directly and without the help of intermediaries.
 - ✓ **Retail Investor** is a non-professional investor who buys and sells securities or funds that contain a basket of securities such as **mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has forecasted that real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, hit by the **Covid pandemic** in 2020-21, is expected to grow by **10.5% in 2021-22**.
 - ✓ RBI had previously introduced a number of measures in its **Monetary Policy Report** for dealing with the **Covid-19 induced economic setback**.



RBI RECRUITMENT - 2021

RBI ATTENDANT

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Vacancies

841

: Online Form :

24th Feb-2021 to 15th March-2021

: Educational Qualification :

10th Pass

: Age Limit :

18 to 25 years (as on 01/02/2021)
(SC/ST : +5 yrs; OBC : +3 yrs)

: Exam Schedule :

09th April- 2021

Salary **26000/-** * (per month)

: Exam Pattern :

Marks : 120

Time : 1 hr 30 minutes

Subject	Ques.	Marks	Time
Reasoning	30	30	1 hr 30 mints.
General English	30	30	
General Awareness	30	30	
Numerical Ability	30	30	
Total	120	120	



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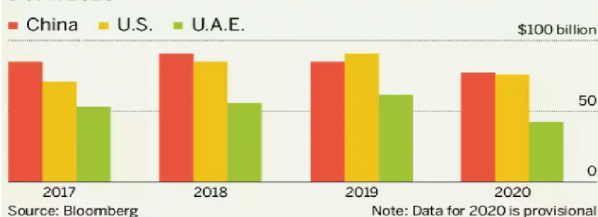
- ✓ The **10.5% real GDP growth in 2021-22** forecasted by RBI will move in the range of **26.2 to 8.3%** in the 1st half and 6% in the 3rd quarter of 2021.
 - Hit by **lockdown** and closures of industries, **GDP** had contracted by **23.9% in the June quarter of 2020-21** and fell by **7.5% in the September quarter of 2020-21**.
- ✓ **Unchanged Policy Rates:**
 - The RBI has kept the repo rate under the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** unchanged at **4%**.
 - The **reverse repo rate** under the LAF remains unchanged at **3.35%** and the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** rate and the **Bank Rate at 4.25%**.
- ✓ **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** The RBI has decided to **restore the CRR** in a **non-disruptive manner** from **3% to 4%** in **2 stages by May 2021**.
- ❖ Recently, a **committee** was set up by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** on the request of some insurers. The committee has recommended to introduce the **index-linked insurance policies (ILIPs)**.
 - ✓ **Index-linked insurance policies (ILIPs):**
 - The returns coming from the ILIPs will be linked to benchmark indices.
 - **ILIPs** are the Insurance products linked with the benchmark indices. It includes 10-year Sovereign Bond Index, Sensex or Nifty etc.
 - The ILIPs linked with the government bonds are less risky while those linked with the equity-based indices will go through the fluctuation in returns in accordance with the stock market performance.
- ❖ In the **Union Budget 2021-2022**, total of **Rs.913.43 crores** have been dedicated to the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)**. This amount to **32% increase** in the revised estimate of **budget 2020-21**.
 - ✓ **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan(RGSA):**
 - Out of the **Rs. 913.43 crores**, **Rs.593 crores** have been provided under the **Scheme Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**.
- ❖ In the **Union Budget 2021**, **Rs. 1050 crore budget** has been allocated for **Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** for the **financial year 2021-2022**.
- ❖ The **Central government** has allocated **Rupees 16,000 crores** for the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** for the upcoming **fiscal year 2021-22**.
 - ✓ The budgetary amount has increased this year by around **Rs.305 crore** as compared to the **fiscal year 2020-21**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** have announced that it will purchase **4 government securities (G-Secs)** that amounts to **Rs. 20,000 crore**. The **central bank** will purchase it on February 10, 2021 under the **open market operations (OMOs)**.
 - ✓ This move was announced in aftermath of the **yields** that was moving up to touch the intra-day high of **6.1634 per cent** recently. The RBI was concerned about the higher government borrowing.
 - ✓ After the announcement of the OMO purchase was made, yield on the benchmark 10-year G-Sec slowed down by 3-4 basis points. It now carries a coupon rate of 5.77 per cent as opposed to its previous closing yield of 6.1283 per cent.
- ❖ The **Minister of State for the Electronics and IT, Sanjay Dhotre**, highlighted in a written reply to the **Rajya Sabha** that; more than **2.9 lakh digital banking cybersecurity** incidents were reported in the year 2020.
 - ✓ The data from the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** reveals that, a total number of **2,90,445 cybersecurity incidents** were reported in the year 2020.
 - ✓ These incidents have increased as opposed to **2,46,514 incidents** in 2019 and **1,59,761 incidents** in 2018.
 - ✓ These **cybersecurity incidents range** from the network scanning probing, phishing attacks, viruses and the website hacking.
 - ✓ **Rising Digital Transactions:**
 - The ministry highlighted that, the **digital transactions** have increased by **46% in the year 2020** amid the COVID-19 pandemic when compared to that of 2018 and 2019.
 - In the **financial year 2019-20**, the numbers of digital transactions have increased to **4,572 crores** as opposed to the **3,134 crores transactions in financial year 2018-19**.
 - **Ministry** further said, the scope of digital payments has now expanded because of increasing popularity of **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** along with the popularity of the e-commerce.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that it will integrate the **consumer grievances redressal** under a **single ombudsman** as opposed to the **3 grievance redressal schemes** working at present.
 - ✓ RBI will adopt the '**One Nation One Ombudsman**' approach to make the alternate dispute redress mechanism simple and more responsive to the users.
 - ✓ The **mechanism** will cater to all the customers from **banks, NBFCs and the non-bank issuers of prepaid payment instruments**.
 - ✓ The **e-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** will be rolled out in **June 2021**.

- The **central bank** has decided to adopt the approach of “**One Nation, One Ombudsman**” with the objective of making process of **redress of grievances** easy. The approach will make the **grievance process** easy by enable the customers to register the complaints under the integrated scheme with a centralised reference point.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that the **Export-Import Bank of India** (Exim Bank) will provide **USD 400 million to Maldives project**. It will provide the fund for the **Greater Male Connectivity Project**.
 - ✓ The **Exim Bank** had signed an agreement with the **Maldives government** to provide the supported **Line of Credit** of **USD 400 million** on October 12, 2020.
 - ✓ The **Greater Male Connectivity project** is the **Male to Thilafushi Link project in Maldives**.
 - ✓ The agreement under the **Line of Credit** is effective from January 28, 2021.
 - ✓ The utilisation period of the terminal is 60 months after the completion date of the project.
- ❖ The **New Development Bank** (NDB) has announced to invest **\$100 million** into the **NIIF Fund of Funds (FoF)**.
 - ✓ With the NDB's investment of **\$100 million**, the NIIF FoF has now secured **\$800 million** in commitments.
 - ✓ NDB has joined the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** (AIIB), **Government of India** (GoI) and **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) as an investor in the NIIF FoF.
 - ✓ The investment by the NDB is the **1st equity investment** by it into **India**. It is also the **1st-ever investment** into a **Fund of Funds** by the NDB.
- ❖ The **RBI** said the licence of **Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank** has been **cancelled** as it does not have **adequate capital and earning prospects**.
 - ✓ Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 29, 2021.
 - ✓ With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of **Shivam Sahakari Bank** as per the **DICGC Act, 1961** will be set in motion.
- ❖ Leading stock exchange **BSE** said it has set up an “**innovation sandbox**” web portal where fintech firms and individuals may use the environment for offline testing of their applications in a test environment.
 - ✓ This will help in creating an ecosystem which promotes innovation in the securities market.
 - ✓ The portal is a workflow-based platform, where applicants will be able to access application programming interfaces (APIs), test data of stock exchanges, depositories and qualified registrar and share transfer agents, among others.
- ❖ **Federal Bank** has announced the launch of **FedFirst**, a **special savings account scheme** for children below 18 years of age.
 - ✓ The bank said the account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits, thereby giving them the freedom to save, spend and earn.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ 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**’.
- ❖ Recently, the **Central Government** admitted that no **actual assessment of farm income** has been carried out since 2013.
 - ✓ The Government of India in its Annual Budget **2016-17** set a policy target of **doubling farmers' income by 2022**.
- ❖ **Sri Lanka** has settled a **USD 400 million currency swap facility** with India, the **Indian High Commission** said.
 - ✓ The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) and the **Central Bank of Sri Lanka** (CBSL) had concluded the **USD 400 million currency swap agreement** in July last year under the **SAARC currency swap framework**.
 - ✓ This **swap facility** was drawn by CBSL on July 31, 2020 for an initial period of 3 months. A three-month rollover was provided at CBSL's request till February 1, 2021.
- ❖ The **Finance Ministry** will infuse **Rs 3,000 crore capital** into state-owned **general insurance companies** during the current quarter in a bid to improve their **financial health**.
 - ✓ The cabinet had also decided to increase the authorised share capital of **National Insurance Company Limited (NICL)** to **Rs 7,500 crore** and that of **United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL)** and **Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL)** to **Rs 5,000 crore** each to give effect to the capital infusion decision.
 - ✓ The **capital infusion** will enable the **3 public sector general insurance 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.

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to set up an expert committee on **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** involving all stakeholders in order to provide a **medium-term road map to strengthen the sector**, enable faster rehabilitation/resolution of UCBs, as well as examine other critical aspects relating to these entities.
 - ✓ This follows the provisions of the **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020** becoming applicable to **Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** with effect from June 26, 2020.
 - ✓ The amendments have brought near parity in supervisory and regulatory powers between UCBs and commercial banks in respect of regulatory powers, including those related to governance, audit, and resolution.
 - ✓ Former RBI DG **NS Vishwanathan** to head expert committee on urban co-operative banks.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently released its data on the **Bank Credit and Deposits**.
 - ✓ The data shows that, the **Bank credit** grew by **5.93 per cent** which now accounts for **Rupees 5 lakh crore** for the fortnight that ended January 29, 2021.
 - ✓ It also highlights that, the deposits in the banks have rose by 11.06 per cent that accounts for **Rupees 98 lakh crore** for the same period.
 - ✓ Thus, in the fortnight that ended January 31, 2020, the bank credit stands at **Rs.05 lakh crore** while the deposits stand at **Rupees 133.24 lakh crore**.
 - The RBI data further shows that, during the 1st nine months of the fiscal year 2020-2021, the bank credit increased by 3.2 percent while the deposits increased by 8.5 per cent.
- ❖ **Fino Payments Bank** has been designated as a bank in the **2nd Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
 - ✓ By categorising Fino in the 2nd 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.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** inaugurated **50 artisan-based SFURTI clusters**, spread over 18 States, to provide a boost to the MSME sector.
 - ✓ The **Ministry of MSME** is implementing a **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)** with a view to organize traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive and increase their income.
 - ✓ The **Ministry of MSME** launched this scheme in the **year 2005** with the view to **promote Cluster development**.
 - **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** is the nodal Agency for promotion of Cluster development for Khadi as well as for Village Industries products.
 - ✓ SFURTI clusters are of 2 types i.e., Regular Cluster (500 artisans) with Government assistance of up to Rs. 2.5 crore and Major Cluster (more than 500 artisans) with Government assistance up to Rs. 5 crore.
- ❖ According to provisional data from **India's commerce ministry**, **China** regained its position as **India's top trade partner in 2020** despite **high border tensions** between the 2 countries.
 - ✓ The two-way trade between **India and China** stood at **USD 77.7 billion** for the year 2020.
 - Trade with China was **USD 85.5 billion** total in the previous year (2018-2019).

Dragon Returns

China displaces the U.S. to regain India's top trade partner slot in 2020



- ❖ Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** on February 3 banned the **Biyani brothers** and **FCRL** from accessing the **securities market** for a **period of 1 year**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in its **Currency and Finance (RCF)** report for the year 2020-21 has said that the **current inflation** target band (4% +/-2%) is appropriate for next 5 years.
- ❖ The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** has launched a **standard personal accident cover** called **Saral Suraksha Bima**. This accident cover will be mandatorily offered by the **general and health insurers** from April 1, 2021.
 - ✓ **Saral Suraksha Bima:**
 - This product has assured maximum sum of **Rs 1 crore** while the minimum assured sum of **Rs 2.5 lakh**.
 - Beyond this specified range, insurers are free to offer the sum assured on their own. For such sum assured, same name can be given if all terms and conditions are same.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has brought the **State Bank of Sikkim** under its regulation.
 - ✓ It is a **state-owned banking institution**. the headquarter of the bank is at **Gangtok, Sikkim**.

- ✓ It operates under the **jurisdiction of the State of Sikkim**.
- ✓ The bank handles the banking services as well as the treasury functions of State Government of Sikkim.
- ✓ It was established in the year 1968 five years before Sikkim was made a part of India in 1973.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** will launch the data analytics-driven **MCA21 Version 3.0** by October 2021 in the **financial year 2021-22**.
 - ✓ The **MCA21 Version 3.0** system is the **Mission Mode e-Governance project of India**.
 - ✓ The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** highlights that the project will comprise of the additional modules for **e-Adjudication, e-Consultation, and Compliance Management**.
 - ✓ It is a technology-driven project that will be launched with the aim of,
 - Promoting Ease of Doing Business, Strengthening the enforcement,
 - Facilitating the seamless integration, Exchanging the data among the regulators and
 - Enhancing the user experience.
- ❖ **Singapore-based neobanking startup StashFin and SBM Bank India** announced the launch of their **co-branded contactless prepaid cards**.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** gave in-principle approval for **100 percent divestment** of Centre's stake in **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**, the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** said.
 - ✓ As per the decision finalised by the Cabinet, the Centre would completely divest its stake from the loss-making **public sector unit (PSU)**.
- ❖ Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's**, Reliance Industries Ltd has sourced the **world's 1st consignment** of '**carbon-neutral oil**' from the US as it looks to become a **net zero-carbon company by 2035**.
 - ✓ Reliance, which operates the world's largest single-location oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat with capacity of 68.2 million tonnes a year, got 2 million barrels of consignment Permian basin.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **ICICI Lombard** launched what it claims to be the **1st corporate risk index** to help **businesses navigate the post-pandemic world** by addressing a myriad of issues across the operation, supply-chains, cyber threats, falling revenue, hybrid working, among others.
 - ✓ **Corporate risk index** that uses risk measurement tool has been developed with the management consulting firm Frost & Sullivan covering 150 top companies from its own investment portfolio across 15 key sectors.
- ❖ The **Tata Electronics** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Tamil Nadu government** in order to establish a facility to **manufacture the mobile components**.
 - ✓ The project by the **Tata Electronics** will cost **Rs 4684 crores**.
 - ✓ It will be established in **Krishnagiri** to **manufacture** the mechanical enclosures of mobile phones.
 - ✓ **Tamil Nadu** has also signed a MoU with the **Grasim Industries** in order to establish a **paint manufacturing unit** at Cheyyar. It will be established with an investment of **Rs 750 crore**.
 - ✓ In total, the **Tamil Nadu** states has signed 28 MoUs for the projects for which the budget outlay is **Rs 28,000 crore**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has cleared the acquisition of **Diwan Housing Finance Corporation** by **Piramal Capital And Housing Finance**. DHFL was sent to **bankruptcy court** in December 2019 after the company defaulted to its lenders on debt worth **Rs 90,000 crore**. The promoters of the company are currently in jail and are facing money laundering charges. **Piramal's** plan is to recover **Rs 37,250 crore** over the next 5 years for DHFL's lenders.
- ❖ 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**'.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **Renewable energy** producer '**ReNew Power**' announced an agreement to merge with **RMG Acquisition Corp II**, a blank-cheque company or a **Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC)**.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ The 13th edition of the **Aero India** show began at Bengaluru's **Yelahanka Air Force Station** (Karnataka).
 - ✓ This is the **1st-of-its-kind 'hybrid' air show**, which means people can also attend it digitally.
 - ✓ The **focus region** for **Aero India 2021** is the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
 - ✓ It has been organised by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
 - ✓ **Aero India 2021** has seen the participation of top aviation firms, while India is showcasing its indigenous defence capability.
 - ✓ During the Aero show, the government has also formally sealed the **Rs. 48,000 crore** deal to procure **83 Tejas light combat aircraft** from state-run aerospace company **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL)**.
 - Tejas, manufactured by the HAL, is a single engine and highly agile multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft capable of operating in high-threat air environments.
- ❖ Recently, a maiden contingent of **34 CRPF women personnel** were inducted into the **specialized jungle warfare commando force** called **CoBRA**. The contingent would now be deployed in the **anti-naxal operations grid of India**.
 - ✓ **COBRA** is a **special operation unit** of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** of India.
 - ✓ The operation unit is skilled in the guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare.
 - ✓ It established in the year **2009 to counter the Naxalite problem**.
 - ✓ It is deployed to tackle the insurgent groups who are engaged in asymmetrical warfare.
 - ✓ **1st Women CoBRA Unit**:
 - The induction of the **1st women CoBRA Unit** was marked by a ceremony that was held in **Kadarpur village**. In the ceremony, the chosen women personnel performed the combat drills. A member of **34 CRPF women** personnel contingent have been selected from 6 all-women battalions of CRPF. They will now undergo pre-induction training for 3 months. After that, they will be deployed with the units in Naxal violence-affected districts in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ **Indian Navy's** largest biennial **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21)** is currently underway.
 - ✓ Theme: **Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive force**.
 - ✓ **Aims: Promote Stability and Peace**: The Theatre Level exercise also aims to validate the Navy's offensive-defence capabilities, safeguard national interests in the maritime domain and promote stability and peace in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ 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.
 - ✓ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 **3rd** 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.
- ❖ The Defence Minister of India, **Rajnath Singh**, has launched the **e-Chhawani portal** on February 16, 2021.
 - ✓ With the launch of this portal, the residents of **Cantonment areas** can now register their complaints with respect to the civic issues. The portal would also help in resolving the complaints regarding the civic issues from home.
 - ✓ This portal will work with the objective of refining the system and improving the **Ease of Living for people**.
 - ✓ The **e-Chhawani project** was launched with the aim of providing online municipal services for more than 20 lakh citizens.
- ❖ The **Indian Navy** got its **3rd 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.
 - ✓ Indian Navy, has 3 Scorpene submarines named **Khanderi**, **Kalvari** and now **Karanj**.
 - ✓ The **4th** submarine, **Vela**, launched on May 6 2019, has commenced sea trials, the **5th submarine Vagir**, was launched on November 12, 2020 and has commenced harbour sea trials whilst the **6th** submarine is presently in an advanced stage of outfitting. All the 6 submarines are being constructed under Project 75.
- ❖ **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Pralaya** arrived at **Abu Dhabi**, UAE to participate in the **NAVDEX 21** (Naval Defence Exhibition) and **IDEX 21** (International Defence Exhibition), scheduled from 20 to 25 February 2021.
 - ✓ **INS Mysore** (an indigenously built guided missile destroyer deployed in the Persian Gulf) is also participating in the exhibition.

- ❖ India has successfully test-fired indigenously-developed anti-tank guided missile systems 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra' in the Pokhran range, Thar desert (Rajasthan).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ The **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)** Council held its inaugural meeting and approved the establishment of the **world's largest radio telescope**.
 - ✓ The new venture is being deemed as important following the collapse of one of the most **prolific radio telescopes** in the world, the **Arecibo in Puerto Rico**, in December last year.
 - ✓ **SKAO** is a new intergovernmental organisation dedicated to **radio astronomy** and is headquartered in the UK.
 - At the moment, organisations from ten countries are a part of the SKAO.
 - These include Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK.
- ❖ The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has put a probe called **Hope** in the orbit around the **MARS**. By doing so, UAE has become the **5th** country to launch the spacecraft into the orbit of MARS after United States, Soviet Union, Europe and India.
- ❖ The **space industry of Russia** announced that the country is going to launch **40 satellites** into orbit from 18 different countries of the world in March 2021. The satellites will be launched using the **Soyuz-2 carrier rocket**.
 - ✓ It was also informed in the November 2020 that the space industry will blast off the **Soyuz-2.1 on March 20, 2021**.
 - ✓ **Soyuz 2.1** is a carrier rocket with the Fregat booster.
- ❖ The **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)** has developed a new marigold variety named **Arka Shubha**.
- ❖ The **Union Minister of Science and Technology** informed that the human spaceflight module of **Gaganyaan** will be launched after the **2nd unmanned mission planned in 2022-23**.
 - ✓ It was initially envisaged that the **Rs. 10,000 crore Gaganyaan mission** aims to send a 3-member crew to space for five to seven days by 2022 when India completes 75 years of independence.
 - **1st unmanned mission is planned in December 2021**.
 - It has been delayed due to the **Covid-19 induced lockdown**.
- ❖ **Russia** has launched a new progress cargo ship into orbit in February 14, 2021. The cargo ship was launched in order to deliver the cargo to the seven crew members in the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **MapmyIndia** have partnered to come up with an indigenous geospatial portal known as '**Bhuvan**'.
 - ✓ This is in line with the above discussed new guidelines for the **Geo-Spatial Sector in India**.
- ❖ The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** has launched an instant messaging platform called **SANDES** on the lines of WhatsApp.
 - ✓ **NIC** is under the aegis of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**. It provides network backbone and e-Governance support to the Central Government, State Governments and UT Administrations.
- ❖ **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA's) Perseverance Rover** has landed on **Mars**.
 - ✓ This was one of the most crucial aspects of the **Mars 2020 Mission**.
 - ✓ **Perseverance** will collect rock and soil samples in cigar-sized tubes. The samples will be collected, the canisters will be sealed, and left on the ground.
 - ✓ **Fetch**: A Mars Fetch Rover (provided by the European Space Agency) will land, drive, and collect all samples from the different locations, and return to the lander.
 - ✓ **Transfer**: These samples will be transferred to the **Mars Ascent Vehicle** which will meet with an Orbiter.
 - ✓ **Return**: The Orbiter will carry the samples back to Earth.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ 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 launched on February 28 by the **polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV), C51 rocket of ISRO** (Indian Space Research Organization).
 - ✓ SpaceKidz India is an organization dedicated to promoting space science among students.
- ❖ The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** is planning to conduct **airline mapping of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep** to get a better picture of the ocean floor.
 - ✓ **Lakshadweep Islands** are located in the Arabian Sea. These are **coral islands** located off the coast of Kerala. The **Andaman and the Nicobar Islands** lie to the southeast of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal.

SPORTS

- ❖ Veteran fast bowler **Ishant Sharma** became the **6th Indian bowler** to take **300 wickets in Test cricket** in his 98th test against **England at Chennai**. Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434), Ravichandran Ashwin (377), Harbhajan Singh (417) and Zaheer Khan (311) are other Indian bowlers to take more than 300 wickets in tests.
- ❖ **Ashoke Dinda**, who served Bengal cricket with pace and passion for one-and-a-half decades, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- ❖ The **Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant** has won the inaugural **ICC Player of the Month award 2021**.
- ❖ **Ravichandran Ashwin** has become the **1st player** in the 143-year history of **Test cricket** to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen.
- ❖ In **Kargil Ladakh**, **Drass Red** has won the **13th CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship** beating Hockey Club Chikitan team in the Final match.
 - ✓ The **1st Women CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2021** was lifted by **Shakar Chikitan Team** defeating **Wakha Mulbekh Team**.
 - ✓ **32 Men teams** and **5 Women Teams** participated in the tournament which was organized by the **District Youth Services & Sports**.
- ❖ The **Chinese mobile and technology company brand Vivo** has returned as the **title sponsors of IPL for the 2021 edition**.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ Union Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has announced that the **2nd 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 **1st edition of University games** was held in **Bhubaneswar** last year.
 - ✓ In the 2nd edition of the games, **Yogasana** and **Mallakhamb** have been added.
- ❖ **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 6 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.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ In Boxing, **Deepak Kumar** wins the silver medal at the **72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament** in **Sofia, Bulgaria**.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has restored the recognition of **Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI)** as the **National Sports Federation (NSF)** with immediate effect till December 31, 2021.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- ❖ The **Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence** were announced on February 8, 2021.
 - ✓ **Lifetime Achievement Award** was won by former HDFC Bank MD **Aditya Puri**.

- ✓ **Businesswoman of the year award** was jointly won by **Preetha Reddy**, Vice-Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals and Suneeta Reddy, MD, Apollo Hospitals.
- ✓ **Emerging company of the year award** went to **ICICI Lombard General Insurance**.
- ✓ **Business reformer of the year award** was won by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das**.
- ✓ **Corporate citizen of the year award** was won by **Tata Consultancy Services**.
- ✓ **Global Indian award** was won by **Piyush Gupta**, CEO, DBS Group.
- ✓ **Entrepreneur of the year award** was won by **Adar Poonawalla** Chief Executive Officer, Serum Institute of India.
- ✓ **Business Leader of The Year award** was won by **Pawan Munjal**, Chairman, Hero MotoCorp.
- ❖ Music composer **A R Rahman** was presented with '**ALERT Being ICON**' award.
- ❖ Former pacer **Merv Hughes** has been inducted into the **Australian Cricket Hall of Fame**, the country's board (CA).
- ❖ 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 Oganessian** for his film **Stork's Nest** from Armenia.
 - ✓ A total of 12 awards were presented to the winners at the concluding ceremony.
- ❖ **Robert Irwin**, an **Australian wildlife photographer**, has won the **1st 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 **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** is the largest **wildlife photography competition** in the world, organised by the **Natural History Museum**.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ 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 **2nd Indian film** to win this **international award** and the **1st Tamil Film**. The **1st 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **S. Theodore Baskaran**, who is a writer, a historian, a naturalist and an activist has won the **Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award, 2020**. The award was instituted by the **Sanctuary Nature Foundation**.
- ❖ The **Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards for the year 2019** were announced, and author **S. Hareesh's Meesha (Moustache)** has won the best **novel prize**. The awards carry prize money of **Rs 25,000**, a citation and a certificate.
 - ✓ **Rathri Pandrandarayk oru Tharattu** (A Lullaby at 12:30 in the Night), written by **P. Raman**, won the award for the best poetry. **Ramachi** by **Vinoy Thomas** has bagged the award for the best short story.
 - ✓ Noted actress **Sajitha Madathil** bagged the Akademi award for her contribution in the drama **Arangile Matsyagandhikal**.
- ❖ The **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** has been conferred the **Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award**.
- ❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will receive the **CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award** for his commitment to expanding India's leadership in **sustainable development** to meet the country's, and the **world's, future energy needs**. The award will be given to him during an **annual international energy conference**, which will be held virtually from **March 1 to 5, 2021**.

PERSON APPOINTED /RESIGNED

- ❖ The **Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI)** Secretary **Jay Shah** was unanimously elected as the President of the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)**.

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- ❖ Senior bureaucrat and former TRAI chairman **Ram Sewak Sharma** is the new Chief Executive Officer of the **National Health Authority (NHA)**, an autonomous body which is responsible for implementing **India's \$1.43 billion** public health insurance / assurance scheme **Ayushman-Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.
- ❖ **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 2 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)**.
- ❖ **Facebook Inc.** has appointed **Henry Moniz** as its **1st-ever Chief Compliance Officer**.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ Amazon CEO and founder **Jeff Bezos** announced that it would **step down** as the company's CEO. He will assume the role of Executive Chairman of Amazon.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, it has also been announced that the head of Amazon's cloud services, **Andy Jassy** will **take over as the company's new CEO**.
- ❖ **Gujarat** cadre IPS officer **Praveen Sinha**, currently Additional Director of the **CBI**, was appointed as its interim chief as current chief **R.K Shukla's** 2-year tenure ended.
- ❖ Athlete **Hima Das** has been appointed as a **Deputy Superintendent of Police** by the **Assam government**.
- ❖ The **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** has appointed **Preeti Sinha** as its Executive Secretary. She is an Indian-origin investment and development banker.
- ❖ Indian-American **Bhavya Lal** was appointed by **NASA** as the Acting Chief of Staff of the **US space agency**.
 - ✓ She served as a member of the **Biden Presidential Transition Agency Review Team** for the agency and oversaw the agency's transition under the administration of President Joe Biden.
- ❖ India's **Usha Rao-Monari**, a leading investment professional, has been appointed by UN chief **Antonio Guterres** as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the **UNDP**.
- ❖ **Georgian** Prime Minister **Giorgi Gakharia** announced his **resignation**.
- ❖ **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has announced **Dr. Ajay Mathur** as its new **Director General** following his election at the **1st special assembly** of **ISA** members.
- ❖ 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 6. 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**.
- ❖ **Dr. Kiran Bedi** has been removed from the post of **Puducherry Lieutenant Governor**.
 - ✓ **Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan** has been given **additional charge** as Lieutenant Governor of **Puducherry**.
- ❖ **Ajai Malhotra** has been elected as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the **United Nations Human Rights Council**.
- ❖ **Shri Vijay Sampla** assumed charge as the new Chairman of **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**.
- ❖ United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio 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.
- ❖ Vice Admiral **R Hari Kumar** took charge as the **Flag Officer Commanding-In-Chief** of **Western Naval Command**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ **Girish Karnad's** memoir, which was to be translated from **Kannada into English** by the actor-playwright himself but could only finish a part of it before his death in 2019, will now be out in May after final touches by award-winning translator **Srinath Perur**.
 - ✓ **"This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad"** will be released on the director's **83rd birth anniversary** on May 19 by **4th Estate**, an imprint of **Harper Collins Publishers**.
- ❖ The book titled **'Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor'** by **Pavan C. Lall** has been released recently.
 - ✓ **Yes Man** is the story of **Rana Kapoor**, and his **Icarus-like flight** that eventually led to the **Yes Bank crisis**.
- ❖ **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 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.

- ❖ Former media baron **Peter Mukerjee** has come out with his memoir '**Starstruck: Confessions of a TV executive**'.
✓ The book is presented as a recollection of his experiences in the satellite television industry in India and the changes it has gone through over the years.
- ❖ Actor-producer **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** officially turned author with the release of her 1st book, "**Unfinished: A Memoir**".
- ❖ The book titled "**The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News**" has been released recently. The book is written by award-winning writer, journalist and speaker **Meghna Pant**.
✓ 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.
- ❖ Chairperson of the **Standing Committee on Defence** and MP **Jual Oram** has launched '**Turn Around India: 2020-Surmounting Past Legacy**', a book on creating economic awareness among masses. The book is authored by **RP Gupta**.
- ❖ Filmmaker **Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari** has turned author with her debut fiction novel, titled "**Mapping Love**".
✓ The 41-year-old director's book will be published by Rupa Publications in May this year.
- ❖ Entrepreneur-author **Sangeet Paul Choudary** has released his new book titled "**Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World**".
✓ The book explains the inner workings of platform business models and their ability to scale rapidly.
- ❖ The Vice President, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released the book titled "**Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan**" at a virtual event.
✓ The book is written by **Dr K.N. Bhandari** and focuses on the health and education initiatives undertaken through the **MPLAD Scheme** on the recommendation of **Dr Abhishek Singhvi in Rajasthan** over 12 years from 2006 to 2018.
- ❖ The prize winning writer **Irwin Allan Sealys** announced his stunning new novel, titled "**ASOCA: A Sutra**". The book will be published by **Penguin Random House India**.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor (LG) **Manoj Sinha** has released the book, titled "**Tipane Kashmiri (notes on Kashmir), untold stories**", authored by **Arun Karmarkar**, in Mumbai.
- ❖ Home Minister **Amit Shah** released a book '**Rashtra Pratham - 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha**' in New Delhi.

OBITUARY

- ❖ **Guitarist** and founding member of The Animals, **Hilton Valentine** has passed away.
- ❖ Oscar winner and multiple Emmy-winning actor **Cloris Leachman** has passed away.
- ❖ The Nobel Prize-winning chemist **Paul J. Crutzen**, has passed away.
- ❖ Oscar-winning actor **Christopher Plummer**, who rose to prominence for his critically-acclaimed film '**Sound of Music**', has passed away.
- ❖ **Former India Davis Cup tennis** team coach **Akhtar Ali** has passed away.
- ❖ Captain **Satish Sharma**, Congress leader and former **Union Petroleum Minister** (1993-1996) in the P.V. Narasimha Rao government, passed away.
- ❖ **Former Governor** of Bihar and Jharkhand **M Rama Jois** has passed away.

Days|Week|Year

- ❖ **1st February 2021:- Indian Coast Guard Day.**
- ❖ **2nd February 2021:- World Wetlands Day.**
✓ **Theme:-** Wetlands and Water.
- ❖ **4th February 2021:- World Cancer Day.**
✓ **Theme:-** I Am and I Will.
- ❖ **4th February 2021:- International Day of Human Fraternity.**
✓ **Theme:-** The Pathway to the future.
- ❖ **6th February 2021:- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.**
✓ **Theme:-** No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation.
- ❖ **8th February 2021:- World Epilepsy Day.**
- ❖ **2nd February to 8th February 2021:- International Development Week.**
- ❖ **9th February 2021:- Safer Internet Day.**
✓ **Theme:-** Together for a better internet.
- ❖ **10th February 2021:- World Pulses Day.**
✓ **Theme:-** Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future.
- ❖ **10th February 2021:- National Deworming Day.**
- ❖ **11th February 2021:- World Unani Day.**
- ❖ **11th February 2021:- National Inventors' Day.**

- ❖ **11th February 2021:- International Day of Women and Girls in Science.**
 - ✓ **Theme:-** Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ **12th February 2021:- Darwin Day.**
- ❖ **12th February 2021:- National Productivity Day.**
- ❖ **13th February 2021:- World Radio Day.**
- ❖ **13th February 2021:- National Women's Day.**
- ❖ **20th February 2021:- World Day of Social Justice.**
 - ✓ **Theme:-** A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy.
- ❖ **20th February 2021:- World Pangolin Day.**
- ❖ **21st February 2021:- International Mother Language Day.**
- ❖ **22nd February 2021:- World Scout Day.**
- ❖ **24th February 2021:- Central Excise Day.**
- ❖ **27th February 2021:- World NGO Day.**
- ❖ **27th February 2021:- National Protein Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:-** Powering with Plant Protein.
- ❖ **28th February 2021:- National Science Day.**
 - ✓ **Theme:-** Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work.
- ❖ **28th February 2021:- Rare Disease Day.**

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