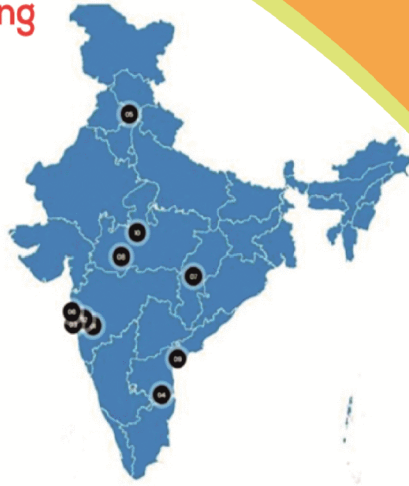


Ease of Living
Index

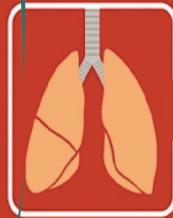


Current Affairs

: DATE :

01/03/2021 to 31/03/2021

TB MUKT BHARAT

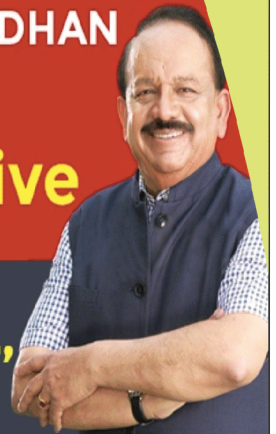


UNION HEALTH MINISTER

DR HARSH VARDHAN

LAUNCHES

Tribal TB Initiative



in pursuit of

'TB MUKT BHARAT'

FIRST "QUAD" SUMMIT-2021

1st QUAD meeting Focus on Indo-Pacific



QUAD

Important For
All Upcoming Competitive Exams Like

Bank

SBI

IBPS

SSC

Railway

GPSC-I/II

GPSC-III

ମିଳିତ
ମାମଲିକା

PSI/ASI
Constable

ବିଶାଳ



(Creating A Way For Govt. Jobs)

Banking Academy

(Preparation for All Types of Competitive Exams)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Central Silk Board** on a convergence model for the implementation of **Agroforestry in the silk sector**. It is a part of the ongoing **Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF)** Scheme.
 - ✓ Earlier, the Government of India allocated **Rs. 2161.68 crores** for three years i.e. 2017-2020 to its **Central Sector Scheme 'Silk Samagra'** for the development of **sericulture in the country**.
 - ✓ **Aim:** To incentivize the farmers to take up sericulture based Agroforestry models thereby contributing to the Make in India and Make for the World vision of the Prime Minister.

Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme

The **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW)** has been implementing the **SMAF** since 2016-17 as part of the recommendation of the **National Agroforestry Policy 2014**. **India was the first country** to have such a comprehensive policy which was launched at the **World Agroforestry Congress** held in **Delhi** in February 2014. The scheme is implemented only in the states having **liberalized transit regulations** for the **transport of timber** and will be extended to other states as and when such relaxations are notified by them. At present, the scheme is being implemented in **20 States and 2 UTs**.

- ❖ The **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has flagged off an all-women crew onboard **Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)** vessel **MT Swarna Krishna**.
 - ✓ The initiative is a part of SCI's ongoing **Diamond Jubilee celebrations** and also to commemorate the **International Women's Day** (8th March).
 - ✓ This is the **1st time in the world maritime history** that a cargo ship is being sailed by all women officers.
 - Launch: The **TransUnion CIBIL in partnership** with the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has launched **MSME Credit Health Index**. The Index is published quarterly.
 - ✓ **Aim:** To provide a measure of the **growth and strength of the MSME sector in India**.
- ❖ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Floriculture Mission** has been approved for implementation in **21 States and Union Territories of India**.
 - ✓ **CSIR's Societal Portal** has also been launched along with the **Android App**.
 - ✓ **Floriculture is a branch** of horticulture that deals with the **cultivation, processing and marketing of ornamental plants** vis-à-vis landscaping of small or large areas, and **maintenance of gardens** so that the surroundings may appear aesthetically pleasant.
 - ✓ The mission will focus on **commercial floral crops, seasonal/annual crops, wild ornaments and cultivation of flower crops for honey bee rearing**.
 - The Indian floriculture market was worth **Rs. 15,700 crore in 2018**. The market is projected to reach **Rs. 47,200 crore by 2024 during 2019-24**.
- ❖ The birth anniversary of **Biju Patnaik** was celebrated (5th March). He is remembered as a **freedom fighter**, an Indian politician, an aviator and a businessman.
- ❖ According to information provided to the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources**, only half of government schools and **anganwadis** have tap water supply, despite a **100-day campaign for 100% coverage** being launched by the **Jal Shakti Ministry** in October 2020.
 - ✓ **The Committee** also noted the progress of the flagship **Jal Jeevan Mission**.

Basic need unmet

While seven States in the country have 100% tap water coverage in schools, three have abysmally low coverage of less than 15%
States with 100% tap-water coverage

State
Andhra Pradesh
Goa
Tamil Nadu
Haryana
Himachal Pradesh
Telangana
Punjab

**Least coverage**

State	% of schools with tap water supply
Uttar Pradesh	7.93
West Bengal	10.89
Jharkhand	12.99

- ❖ **Governments** around the world are exploring the potential use of **vaccine passports** as a way of reopening the economy by identifying those **protected against the coronavirus**.
 - ✓ A vaccine passport is an **e-certificate that stores and records jabs** and **Covid-19 test status**.
 - It can be kept in a **smartphone app** or in other **digital formats**.
 - Its contents can be flashed at security checkpoints when people travel across borders.
 - ✓ The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** is against the introduction of **Covid-19 vaccination proofs** as a requirement for international travel.
 - There are still critical unknown facts regarding the efficacy of vaccination in reducing transmission.

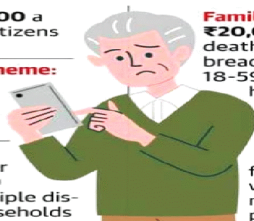
- ❖ The Centre government must increase the amount of pensions provided for poor senior citizens, widows and disabled people, said the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development.

Little support | The National Social Assistance Programme is applicable to elders, widows and the physically challenged. Here is a low-down:

Pension: ₹200-₹500 a month for senior citizens BPL households

Widow Pension Scheme: ₹300-₹500 a month for widows aged over 40 in BPL households

Disability pension: ₹300 per month for persons aged 18-79 with severe or multiple disabilities in BPL households



Family benefit: ₹20,000 upon the death of a breadwinner aged 18-59 in BPL households

Annapurna Scheme: 10kg of food grains per month for senior citizens who are not receiving any pension

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a welfare programme being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development. This programme is being implemented in rural as well as urban areas.

The programme was 1st launched on 15th August 1995 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It was brought within the umbrella of 'Core of Core' schemes of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in 2016.

Currently, it has five components namely:

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) - since inception of NSAP in 1995.

National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) - 1995.

Annapurna Scheme - launched in 2000.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) - launched in 2009.

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme - launched in 2009.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess.
 - ✓ The proceeds of Health and Education Cess are levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.
- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education has recommended that all government schools start providing free breakfast in the coming academic year, as a part of an expansion of midday meal scheme envisaged by National Education Policy.
 - ✓ The National Education Policy identifies "providing food and nutrition" as one of the key long-term thrust areas for financing to cultivate a robust education system.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has flagged off a commemorative 'Dandi March' (on 12th March) to launch the celebrations of the 75th year of Independence - 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
 - ✓ The padyatra is being undertaken by 81 marchers from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in Navsari, a journey of 386 km. The march will end after 25 days, on 5th April 2021.
 - ✓ Descendants of those who walked the Salt March (in 1930) will be honoured.
 - ✓ Big events will be organised at six places associated with Gandhi. These include MK Gandhi's birthplace Porbandar, along with Rajkot, Vadodara, Bardoli (Surat), Mandvi (Kutch) and Dandi (Navsari).
 - ✓ Cultural programmes are planned at 21 spots on the route at the nightly stops for the walkers.
 - The Dandi March, also known as the Salt March and the Dandi Satyagraha was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
 - The march lasted from 12th March, 1930 to 6th April, 1930 as a direct action campaign of tax resistance and nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.
- ❖ The Ministry of Power has launched "Energy Efficiency Enterprise (E3) Certifications Programme for the Brick Manufacturing Sector".
 - ✓ The E3 Certification Scheme is aimed at tapping huge energy efficiency potential in this sector.
 - ✓ E3 certification is an accreditation process focused on the Brick industry. The certification will be provided by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ❖ In order to facilitate the 'One Nation One Ration Card' system in the country, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the 'Mera Ration' mobile app to benefit citizens in identifying the nearest Fair Price Shop (FPS).
 - ✓ This app will benefit especially those ration card holders who move to new areas for livelihoods.
 - ✓ The app is developed by the National Informatics Center (NIC).
 - ✓ Language: The application is currently available in English and Hindi.
 - However, it is planned to be introduced in 14 languages which will be identified on the basis of places where most migrant people move.
- ❖ Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh to check illegal influx from Myanmar into India.
 - ✓ The instructions have also been given to Border Guarding Force (BGF), i.e. Assam rifles.
 - ✓ India already has a lot of Rohingya migrated from Myanmar.

- India, treats all refugees entering the country as **illegal immigrants**.
- In 2020, it was estimated that **40,000 Rohingya refugees** lived in India, scattered across different states.
- ❖ Recently, the **Union Road and Transport Minister** announced the **Vehicle Scrapping Policy** in the **Lok Sabha**.
 - ✓ It was 1st announced in the **Union Budget for 2021-22**.
 - ✓ The policy is estimated to cover **51 lakh Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs)** that are **above 20 years of age** and another **34 lakh LMVs** above **15 years of age**.
 - ✓ India will also implement a **Global Positioning System (GPS)-based toll collection system** and **do away with all toll booths within a year**.
 - Vehicle manufacturers will also give a **discount of 5% to people** who will produce the '**Scrapping Certificate**' and **registration fees** will be waived off on the **purchase of a new vehicle**.
 - ✓ **Aim:** Reducing the population of old and defective vehicles, bringing down vehicular air pollutants, improving road and vehicular safety.

Other Initiatives to Curb Vehicular Pollution

Go Electric Campaign
 FAME India Scheme Phase II.
 Electric Vehicles (EV) Policy 2020 for Delhi.
 Hydrogen Fuel Cell Based Bus and Car Project.
 National Electric Mobility Mission 2020.

- ❖ Recently, the **Government** has launched the **Gram UJALA Programme** - an ambitious scheme offering the world's **cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas** at a mere **Rs. 10**.
 - ✓ Coverage: In its 1st phase launched from Arrah in Bihar, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of 5 districts - Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and villages in western Gujarat.
 - ✓ The **light-emitting diode (LED)** is one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing lighting technologies.
- Other Schemes for Encouraging Use of LED Bulbs:
 Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA).
 Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP).
- ❖ The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has asked **all government departments** to ensure that workers executing government contracts must have official certification for their skills.
 - ✓ Initially, up to **10% of the strength of workers** utilized in 2021-22 can be certified. This can be progressively increased to **100% by 2026-27**.
 - ❖ The **Prime Minister of India** paid tribute to **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia** on his **birth anniversary** (23rd March).
 - ❖ The **Lokpal of India** organized a Webinar on '**Bringing Synergies in Anti-Corruption Strategies**'.
 - ✓ **Corruption** can be defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It can impact a nation's development in various ways.
 - ❖ **Centre** is planning to introduce a **14-digit identification number** to every **plot of land in India** within a year.
 - ✓ As per the **Department of Land Resources**, **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)** scheme was launched in 10 states this year. ULPIN will be launched across India by **March 2022**.
 - ✓ Land parcel will be identified based on their longitude and land coordinates. This is the next step in DILRMP.
 - ✓ **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)** was started in **2008**. It was extended several times. Now, the department has proposed further extension until 2023-2024.
 - ✓ **NGDRS (National Generic Document Registration System)** is also an initiative taken by Department under DILRMP.
 - ❖ **NITI Aayog** released a report on '**Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector**'. It includes investment opportunities in hospitals, medical devices and equipment, health insurance, telemedicine, etc.
 - ✓ **Healthcare** is one of the important sectors of the **Indian economy**. The **Healthcare industry** has been growing at the rate of **22% since 2016** and it is expected to reach **USD 372 billion in 2022**.
 - ❖ **Prahlad Singh Patel**, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, and **Shivraj Singh Chauhan**, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, inaugurated the **Chhatrasal Convention Center** under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Khajuraho**.
 - ✓ They also launched "**MICE Roadshow Meet in India**" Brand and Roadmap for the Promotion of India as **MICE Destination in Khajuraho**. MICE stand for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions**.
 - ✓ **Ministry of Tourism**, in association with the **Madhya Pradesh government** and **India Convention Promotion Bureau**, organized '**MICE Roadshow - Meet in India**' to **promote India as MICE Destination**.
 - ❖ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, launched the "**Tribal TB Initiative**" to achieve the goal of "**TB Mukh Bharat**".
 - ✓ The Health Minister has also announced that the **Lakshadweep and district of Badgam in Jammu and Kashmir** have **become TB Free**.
 - ✓ Initiatives launched by the government for elimination of TB:
 - In March 2017, the Government of India had set a target to **eliminate tuberculosis by 2025**.



IBPS-RRB Results - 2020/21

Record
Breaking
Result...

Old is Gold

RRB

(Gramin Bank)

Officer/Assistant

**Selected in
Govt. Jobs**

कभी भी जीवनमे आधे रास्ते से पीछे न मुडिये, क्योंकि जितना समय पीछे आने मे लगेगा, उतने समयमे आप अपने लक्ष्य तक पहुँच जाओगे

आज हमने हमारे लक्ष्य को पा लिया

PO



Mansi Jain

BARODA GUJARAT GRAMIN BANK

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Saurav Patel

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Assistant



Riya Patel

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Assistant



Akshay Modi

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Assistant



Akshita Kukna

BARODA GUJARAT GRAMIN BANK

Assistant



Archana Tandel

GRAMIN BANK

Assistant



Mehul Parvatiya

BARODA GUJARAT GRAMIN BANK



Assistant



Priyanka Chaudhari

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Assistant



Hardik Trivedi

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- In 2018, the government launched the **Nikshay Poshan Yojana** to provide nutritional support for TB patients.
- In 2019, the government launched the **'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' Campaign**.
- ❖ **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign** will be launched by PM Modi on **World Water Day**.
 - ✓ **'Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls'** is the theme for this campaign. The campaign will be carried out in both rural and urban areas. It will start from 22 March and continue till 30 November.
 - ✓ On this occasion, a **Memorandum of Agreement** will also be signed between the **Minister of Jal Shakti** and the Chief Ministers of **Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh** to implement the **Ken Betwa Link Project**.
 - ✓ **Ken Betwa Link Project** is the 1st project of the **National Perspective Plan** for the **interlinking of rivers**. Under **Ken Betwa Link Project**, the water will be transferred from the **Ken to Betwa River** through the construction of the **Daudhan dam**.
- ❖ **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and Amazon Web Services** have collaborated to **strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India**.
 - ✓ The aim of the initiative will be to **empower school students with cloud computing skills** and enabling **entrepreneurs** to build innovative **education technology solutions** on the cloud.
 - ✓ A **Statement of Intent (SoI)** was signed between **NITI Aayog and Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AISPL)**, which undertakes the resale and marketing of **Amazon Web Services Cloud services in India**.
 - ✓ The students will be introduced to the fundamentals of cloud computing such as cloud storage, virtual computer power, web hosting, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and virtual reality at more than **7000 Atal Tinkering Labs**.
- ❖ **Adhidhi Achyuth** has become **1st transgender in India's fisheries sector** to begin an entrepreneurial initiative.
 - ✓ **Adhidhi Achyuth** has got help from **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** to open a fish vending stall in Kochi.
 - ✓ As part of the **Central government scheme** of the **Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)**, **Rs 5 lakh** were spent by CMFRI to set up fish stall.
- ❖ **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020** was approved by **Rajya Sabha on 16 March**.
 - ✓ **Lok Sabha** had already passed the bill in March 2020. **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020** provides for a **limit of 24 weeks for medical termination of pregnancy**.
 - ✓ Currently, **abortion within 12 weeks** of conception requires the opinion of one doctor and abortion between 12 and 20 weeks requires the opinion of two doctors.
 - ✓ As per the new bill, abortion up to 20 weeks can be done on the advice of one doctor and abortion in the case of a certain category of women between 20 and 24 weeks requires the opinion of two doctors.
 - ✓ As per the new bill, the opinion of state-level medical board is required for abortion after 24 weeks in certain abnormal cases.
- ❖ **Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, D.V. Sadananda Gowda**, inaugurated the **11th edition of India Chem-2021** on 17 March 2021 in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ It is being organised by the **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and FICCI**.
 - ✓ The theme of India Chem-2021 is –**"India: Global Manufacturing Hub for Chemicals and Petrochemicals"**.
 - ✓ It is one of the largest events of the chemical and petrochemical sector in the Asia-Pacific Region.
 - ✓ The objective of this summit is to promote the **small scale** as well as **large scale chemical industries** under the **"Make in India"** program.
 - ✓ Three different bilateral events will also be organised for enhancing trade and investment in the chemical sector. The bilateral events names are:
 - **India-Japan Chemical and Petrochemical Forum.**
 - **India-EU Chemical and Petrochemical Forum.**
 - **India-US Chemical and Petrochemical Forum.**
- ❖ The **government** has reconstituted the **Advisory Committee for multidisciplinary study of River "Saraswati"**.
 - ✓ **The Committee** has been reconstituted for 2 years. **Culture Minister would chair this Committee**.
 - ✓ The **Committee** has 27-members. It has officials from various ministries, representatives of ISRO, officials from the governments of Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan and an official from ASI.
 - ✓ The Committee also has archaeologists **B.R. Mani**, Vasant Shinde, K.N. Dixit and K.K. Muhammed, and historian **Balmukund Pandey** as its non-official members.
- ❖ The **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** had set up the **Index Monitoring Cell (IMC) committee in 2020** for improving India's rank in the **World Press Freedom Index**.
 - ✓ **Index Monitoring Cell (IMC)** has submitted its recommendations for improving **press freedom in India**.
 - ✓ **Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia** has chaired this **15 member committee**. Four journalists and 10 government employees are other members of the **Index Monitoring Cell (IMC)**.
 - India's rank is continuously declining in the **World Press Freedom Index**.

- **World Press Freedom Index 2020:** It is released by **Report without borders**.
 - **Norway** has achieved the **1st rank** in **World Press Freedom Index 2020**. **India's rank is 142 among 180 countries**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has launched a new scheme for tourist vehicle operators. Under this scheme, any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an **"All India Tourist Permit/ Authorization"** online.
 - ✓ The **Government** has announced this scheme to **boost tourism across the country**. It will also help in increasing revenue for the states.
 - ✓ This new set of rules will be known as **"All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021"**. It will become applicable from **1 April 2021**.
- ❖ Union Health Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** addressed the inaugural session of **2nd edition TechBharat 2021**.
 - ✓ **TechBharat 2021** is an e-conclave that brings together stakeholders from **Health Tech & Edutech** sectors.
 - ✓ **Udyog Bharati and IMS Foundation** organized the second edition of **TechBharat on a virtual platform**.
- ❖ The **Women and Child Development Ministry** has classified all schemes under **3 umbrella schemes -Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti**.
 - ✓ This step has been taken for the effective implementation of various programmes of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
 - ✓ **Mission Poshan 2.0:** It has been announced in the **Union Budget of 2021-22**. All supplementary nutrition programme will be merged into **Mission Poshan 2.0**. It aims for improving the **Nutritional status of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers**.
 - ✓ **Mission Vatsalya:** All programmes related to **child protection services and child welfare services** will be merged under it. The Government has allocated **Rs 900 crores for Mission Vatsalya in the Budget 2021-2022**.
 - ✓ **Mission Shakti:** All schemes associated with the **protection and empowerment of women** will be merged into it. Schemes like one stop centre, women's helpline, **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** will now be covered under the **Mission Shakti**.
- ❖ The government has set up a **high-level national committee to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence in 2022**.
 - ✓ The **national committee comprises 259 members**, and it will be headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
 - ✓ The committee will give the guidelines for the programs of celebration. The celebration will begin **75 weeks prior to August 15, 2022**.
- ❖ **Third Jan Aushadhi Diwas** celebrations have started on **1 March**, and they will continue until **7 March**.
 - ✓ On this occasion, **HEALTH Check-up Camps** were organized by **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** all over India.
 - ✓ Theme of **3rd Janaushadhi Diwas** is **"Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi"**.
 - ✓ **Janaushadhi Diwas** is celebrated every year. **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is implementing agency of **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.
 - ✓ **"Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana"** is an initiative by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
- ❖ The **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot** launched the **"Sugamya Bharat App"** for persons with disabilities. He also released a handbook entitled **"Access - The Photo Digest"**.
 - ✓ **Sugamya Bharat App** is developed by the **department of empowerment of persons with disabilities (DEPwD)** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
 - ✓ It will act as a medium to enhance the accessibility for disabled peoples through **3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign, i.e., built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **'Maritime India Summit 2021'** on **2nd March**.
 - ✓ The **3-day summit** will be organised by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** on a virtual platform.
 - ✓ **Denmark** is the **partner country for Maritime India Summit 2021**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ There has been an outbreak of **Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1)** among **horses in Europe**.
 - ✓ So far **7 countries** have confirmed **EHV-1 cases**: **Spain, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Qatar**.
- ❖ **Indian Prime Minister** held a **Virtual Summit** with the **Prime Minister of Sweden** to discuss bilateral issues and other **regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest**.
 - ✓ The Summit provided an opportunity to discuss the international situation and response to the **Covid-19 pandemic** as well as regional and global issues of mutual importance including **climate action, sustainable development, gender equality, counter-terrorism and disaster resilient infrastructure**, among others.
- ❖ The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** in its latest report named **"Protecting Women's Livelihoods in Times of Pandemic: Temporary Basic Income and the Road to Gender Equality"** has proposed a **Temporary Basic Income (TBI)** for poor women in developing countries.
 - ✓ The proposal comes ahead of the **International Women's Day (8th march)** celebrations.



- ✓ **Gender Inequality: Unpaid Labor:** On an average, women spend 2.4 more hours per day than men on unpaid care and domestic work.
- ❖ **25 programmes** offered by **higher education institutions in India** ranked among the **top 100** in the world in their respective subject categories, according to the latest edition (11th) of the **QS World University Rankings by Subject**.
- ✓ **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS):** It is a leading **global career and education network** for ambitious professionals looking to further their personal and professional development.
 - **QS develops** and successfully implements methods of **comparative data collection** and analysis used to highlight institutions' strengths.
- ✓ **Top Performers:** **Globally Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT -USA)** and **Harvard (USA)** are among top performers, Russia and China record best-ever performances.
- ✓ **India's Performance:** The 2021 QS's global university performance comparison offered independent data on the performance of 253 programs at 52 Indian higher education institutions, across 51 academic disciplines.
- ✓ **12 Indian institutions** that have made it to the top 100 of the world - **IIT Bombay**, **IIT Delhi**, **IIT Madras**, **IIT Kharagpur**, **IISC Bangalore**, **IIT Guwahati**, **IIM Bangalore**, **IIM Ahmedabad**, **JNU**, **Anna University**, **University of Delhi** and **OP Jindal University**.
 - **IIT-Bombay** has cornered more top 100 positions than any other Indian institution.
- ❖ **India** expressed its intent to include **Chabahar port** in the **13-nation International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** that extends from **India to Russia**, and to expand **INSTC membership** by including **Afghanistan and Uzbekistan**, at a "**Chabahar Day**" event organised as part of **Maritime India summit**.
 - ✓ This Summit saw participation from several regional officials including infrastructure Ministers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ **World Bank** report named "**Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia**" stated that seamless **transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh** has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17% in Bangladesh and 8% in India.
 - ✓ The report analyzes the **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)**.
- ❖ Recently, the **Prime Minister** inaugurated **Bharat Bangla Maitri Bridge** in **Tripura's South district**.
 - ✓ The bridge '**Maitri Setu**' has been built over the **Feni river** which flows between Indian boundary in **Tripura State and Bangladesh**.
 - Feni originates in the **South Tripura district**. The river passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and **meets the Bay of Bengal** after it flows into Bangladesh.
 - ✓ The **1.9 Km** long bridge joins **Sabroom (in Tripura) with Ramgarh (in Bangladesh)**.
 - ✓ The name '**Maitri Setu**' symbolises growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between **India and Bangladesh**.
 - ✓ The construction was taken up by the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd** at a project cost of **Rs. 133 crore**.
 - The **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited** is a fully owned company of the Government of India.
- ❖ Recently, the **Prime Minister** addressed the **1st summit of the leaders' of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Framework)**. The meeting was **hosted by the USA** on a **virtual platform**.
 - ✓ Earlier in February 2021, **QUAD ministerial meeting** discussed issues across **Indo-Pacific and the military takeover in Myanmar**.
 - ✓ **QUAD** is a grouping of **India, USA, Australia and Japan** which aims to **safeguard the interests of democratic nations in the Indo-Pacific region** and **address global challenges**.
 - ✓ **QUAD pledged** to promote a free, open rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

QUAD: It is a **4-nation alliance of India, Australia, USA and Japan** which was established in **2007**. It is often dubbed as an "**Asian**" or "**mini**" **NATO**, and is viewed as a counterbalance to China's military and economic clout in the **Indo-Pacific region**. Interestingly, the QUAD, which used to be known as the quadrilateral security dialogue, is now known as the quadrilateral framework to indicate it has gone beyond a narrow security dialogue.
- ❖ Recently, in response to the **backsliding of LGBTIQ rights in some EU countries, notably Poland and Hungary**, the **European Parliament** has declared the European Union an "**LGBTIQ Freedom Zone**"
 - ✓ A majority of countries in the EU (**23/27**) recognise **same-sex unions**, with **16** legally recognising **same-sex marriage**.
 - ✓ **LGBTIQ** stands for **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Inter-sex and Queer**.
- ❖ According to a recent report by **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** **India's arms imports** came down by a **3rd** (about 33%) between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.
 - ✓ **2nd Highest Importer:** India remains the **2nd highest importer**, only behind **Saudi Arabia**.
 - ✓ **Arms Suppliers to India:** Russia is the largest arms supplier to India in both periods (2011-2015 and 2016-2020). However, Russia's share of Indian arms imports fell from 70% to 49%.

- **France and Israel** were the 2nd and 3rd largest arms suppliers in 2016–20. India's arms imports from France increased by 709% while those from Israel rose by 82%.
 - The **USA became the 4th largest supplier** for the period 2016-20. It was the 2nd largest arms supplier to India in 2011–15.
 - ❖ Recently, the President of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** addressed Members of Parliament at the **Central Hall of the Indian Parliament**.
 - IPU is an international organisation of national parliaments. It was established in 1889 in Paris.
 - It was founded by statesmen Frederic Passy of France and William Randal Cremer of the United Kingdom.
 - ✓ **Aim:** To promote parliamentary dialogue world-wide and works for peace and cooperation among the peoples.
 - ✓ To promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among its members.
 - ❖ The **World Air Quality Report**, prepared by **Swiss organisation IQAir**, mentions that 22 of the top 30 most polluted cities globally are in India. The Report aggregated PM2.5 data from 106 countries.
 - ✓ **World Capital City Ranking:** Delhi has been ranked as the world's most polluted capital city followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Kabul (Afghanistan), Doha (Qatar).
 - ✓ **World Country Ranking:** Bangladesh has been ranked as the most polluted country followed by Pakistan and India.
 - The least polluted country is Puerto Rico, followed by New Caledonia, US Virgin Islands respectively.
 - ✓ **World City Ranking:** Hotan in China is the most polluted city with an average concentration of 110.2 µg/m³ followed by Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Indian Scenario:** Shows a boost in Delhi's air quality by approximately 15% from 2019 to 2020.
 - **Delhi** has been listed as the 10th most polluted city and the **top polluted** capital city in the world.
 - **Ghaziabad** is the 2nd most polluted city in the world followed by Bulandshahar, Birsakh Jalalpur, Bhiwadi, Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur and Lucknow.
 - ❖ Recently, a new research conducted by **Pew Research Center** has found that the **coronavirus pandemic** has pushed about **32 million Indians** out of the **middle class** and increased **poverty in the country**.
 - ✓ The report is based on an analysis of **World Bank** data.
 - ✓ **Pew Research Center** is a **nonpartisan fact tank** that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world.
 - The **poverty rate in India** likely rose to 9.7% in 2020, up sharply from the January 2020 forecast of 4.3%.
- Indian Initiatives to Mitigate the Effects of Covid**

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.
Reserve Bank of India's Covid-19 Economic Relief Package.
Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India).
- ❖ The **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the **United Nations** released the **World Happiness Report 2021**, a day before the **International Happiness Day**.
 - ✓ This year it focuses on the effects of **Covid-19** and how people all over the world have fared.
 - ✓ The **World Happiness Report** ranks **149 countries** by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
 - ✓ **Top Performers:**
 - **Finland** has been ranked as the **happiest country** in the world for the 4th consecutive year.
 - Followed by Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Norway.
 - ✓ **Worst Performers:**
 - Afghanistan (149) is the most unhappy country.
 - Followed by Zimbabwe (148), Rwanda (147), Botswana (146) and Lesotho (145).
 - ✓ **India has been ranked 139, out of 149 countries evaluated.**
 - ✓ In 2020, India was ranked 144 out of 156 countries surveyed.
 - ❖ Recently, **US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI)** initiative has been launched to scale up the **science and technology** relationship between **India and the United States**.
 - ✓ **US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI)** is an initiative of **Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** which was established in March 2000.
 - The **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, and the **U.S. Department of State** are respective nodal departments for **IUSSTF**.
 - ❖ According to a new report released by the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, one in 5 children worldwide reside in areas of **high or extremely high water vulnerability**.
 - ✓ The Report was released ahead of **World Water Day** (22nd March).
 - ✓ The new report is part of UNICEF's '**Water security for all**' initiative that identifies areas where physical water scarcity risks overlap with poor water service levels.
 - ✓ The initiative aims to mobilise resources, partnerships, innovation and global response to identified hot spots.
 - ✓ **Children in more than 80 countries** live in areas with **high or extremely high water vulnerability**.
 - ✓ **India has 4% of the world's freshwater** which has to cater to **17% of the world's population**.

- The report says that nearly 40% of the population will have absolutely no access to drinking water by 2030 and 6% of India's GDP will be lost by 2050 due to the water crisis.

Measures Taken by the Central Government

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign:
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Measures Taken by State Governments

Uttar Pradesh: Jakhni Village (water village), Bundelkhand.

Punjab: Pani Bachao Paise Kamao.

Madhya Pradesh: Kapil Dhara Yojana.

Gujarat: Sujalam Sufalam Yojana.

Telangana: Mission Kakatiya Program.

Maharashtra: Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan.

Andhra Pradesh: Neeru Chettu Programme.

Rajasthan: Mukhya Mantri Jal Swalambhan Abhiyan (MJSA).

- ❖ Recently, the **Labour and Employment Minister** has informed the Lok Sabha that **Oxfam Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020** lacked clarity and did not take into account provisions of the **4 new labour codes**.
 - ✓ The **Index ranked countries** measuring their **policies and actions** in three areas that it said are proven to be directly related to reducing inequality:
 - **Public services** (health, education and social protection), **Taxation**, **Workers' rights**.
 - ✓ **Nigeria, Bahrain** and India, which experienced the world's fastest-growing outbreak of Covid-19, were among the world's worst-performing countries in tackling inequality going into the pandemic.

Country	Public services ranking*	Tax ranking	Labour ranking	Overall ranking
India	141	19	151	129
Pakistan	148	71	116	128
Bangladesh	142	32	109	113
Nepal	120	16	130	112
Bhutan	124	130	141	146
Afghanistan	153	6	113	102
Sri Lanka	106	91	86	94

*Health + education + social protection

- ❖ The **116th Meeting of Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)** between **India and Pakistan** is underway in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ The **1st day** of the Meeting coincided with the **National Day of Pakistan** (marks Lahore Resolution of 23rd March, 1940).
- ❖ The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has declared **African Forest and Savanna** (or bush) elephants as '**critically endangered**' and '**endangered**' respectively.
 - ✓ Earlier, **African elephants** were treated as a single species, listed as Vulnerable. This is the first time the two species have been assessed separately for the **IUCN Red List**.
- ❖ The **Earth Hour** is being observed on **27th March 2021**.
 - ✓ Earth Hour is the **World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)**'s annual initiative that began in 2007.
 - ✓ It is **held every year on the last Saturday of March**.
 - ✓ It **encourages people** from more than 180 countries to **switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time**.
 - ✓ The idea is to refrain from the use of non-essential lighting to save energy in a **symbolic call for environmental protection**.
- ❖ **Indian Defence Minister** and his **South Korean counterpart** inaugurated the **India-Korea Friendship Park** in a ceremony at the **Delhi Cantonment**.
 - ✓ Later on both the ministers concluded a **bilateral meeting** and **explored different areas of cooperation**.
 - ✓ Earlier in February 2019, the **Prime Minister of India** visited **South Korea** (Republic of Korea).
 - The park has been developed in joint consultation with the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, Indian Army, Delhi Cantonment Board, Embassy of Korea and Korean War Veterans Association of India.
- ❖ **Japan** has finalised loans and a grant totalling around **233 billion yen** for several key **infrastructure projects in India**, including for a project in the **Andaman and Nicobar islands**.
- ❖ The **Prime Minister of India** paid a **State Visit to Bangladesh** to join the celebrations of the **Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh**, the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** and 50 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between **India and Bangladesh**.
 - ✓ Bangladesh thanked India for conferring **Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020** on **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
 - ✓ Jointly inaugurated the **Bangabandhu - Bapu Digital Exhibition in Dhaka**.
 - ✓ To mark the **50th anniversary of India-Bangladesh friendship**:
 - Both sides released respective commemorative postage stamps.

- Decided to commemorate 6th December as **Maitri Diwas**, the day when India recognized Bangladesh in the year 1971. India announced the establishment of the Bangabandhu Chair at the University of Delhi.
- ❖ **Global Wind Report 2021** released by **Global Wind Energy Council**.
 - ✓ The **16th** edition of the annual report of the **Global Wind Energy Council** has been released before the **conference of COP26**.
 - ✓ According to a new report by the **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)**, the capacity to **generate electricity from wind** jumped by **53 percent in 2020**.
 - ✓ In 2020, **93 gigawatts (GW)** capacity was installed. Reports show this is not sufficient for the world to reach a '**net zero**' emission status by 2050.
 - ✓ According to the report, the world needs to install a minimum of **180 GW** of new wind power capacity every year.
 - ✓ **China and the USA** were the largest **Installers of Wind Power in 2020**. Both installed **75%** of the total **Wind Energy installed in 2020**.
 - ✓ Around the world, presently, a total of **743 GW of wind energy capacity** has been installed.
- ❖ **World Bank Group** has released its flagship report, **World Development Report**, for the year 2021.
 - ✓ The report is titled "**World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives**". It is about changing the potential of the data landscape to improve the lives of poor people.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** will attend the **9th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) on Afghanistan in Dushanbe**. He is on a three-day visit to **Tajikistan**.
 - ✓ The main aim of this conference is to bring regional and **international consensus for Afghan peace**.
 - ✓ India is a key stakeholder for the peace, prosperity and stability in Afghanistan. India has started a dedicated Air Freight Corridor between **India and Afghanistan** and made efforts to integrate with Afghanistan.
 - ✓ S Jaishankar also visited the **Dushanbe-Chortut Highway Project site**.
- ❖ **Norway** is going to build **World's 1st ship tunnel**.
 - ✓ The tunnel will be constructed under the **mountains in Norway's Stadhavet peninsula**. It will be 1,700 meters long, 37 meters high and 26.5 meters wide.
 - ✓ The construction of the tunnel has to start in **2022** and will be completed by **2025 or 2026**.
 - ✓ It will be constructed at an estimated cost of **\$315 million**.
- ❖ **India** has been ranked **40th** in the recently released **International Intellectual Property Index 2021**.
 - ✓ It is annually released by the US Chamber of Commerce **Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)**.
 - ✓ It evaluates the **Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies**. It evaluates patent and copyright policies, commercialization of IP assets and ratification of international treaties of a country.
 - ✓ The US, the UK, Germany, France and Japan are the top five economies on the intellectual property index 2021.
- ❖ **India's ranking** in the latest **global house price index** has declined by **13 spots** and it was in the **56th position in December 2020**.
 - ✓ **Knight Frank's Global House Price Index** tracks how more than **50 mainstream national housing markets** around the world performed.
 - ✓ Turkey continues to lead the annual **Global House Price Index** rankings. It is followed by **New Zealand and Slovakia**.
- ❖ **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** has announced to hold '**Pabbi-Antiterror-2021**' exercise.
 - ✓ **Pabbi-Antiterror-2021** will be a joint **anti-terrorism exercise**. **India, Pakistan and China** will participate in this exercise.
 - ✓ The decision to hold **Pabbi-Antiterror-2021** was announced during the **36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.
 - ✓ **RATS** is a permanent organ of SCO. It is headquartered in **Tashkent**. **Next meeting of RATS SCO** will take place in **September in Uzbekistan**.
- ❖ **European Union** has now become part of **India's Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** initiative.
 - ✓ EU says that the objectives of the **European Green Deal** and the recently adopted **EU Strategy on Adaptation** are aligned with CDRI.
 - ✓ **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** initiative:
 - The initiative was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 23 September 2019 at the UN Climate Change Summit.
 - It is a voluntary organisation that aims to promote **disaster risk and climate-resilient** new and existing infrastructure systems. Its headquarters is located in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **UNESCO** has joined with **Toonz Media Group** and **USO India** in order to do **water conservation awareness programme** for students.
 - ✓ On the occasion of **World Water Day (March 22)**, animation videos created by students will be released as part of **H2Ooooh! – Waterwise Program** for school students.
 - ✓ **H2Ooooh! – Waterwise Program** is conducted in collaboration with National Mission for Clean Ganga, United Schools Organization India (**USO India**), Water Digest magazine and Toonz Media Group.

Golden Opportunities (Govt. Bank Vacancy - 2021/22)

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- ❖ **Russia** has launched one of the **world's largest underwater space telescopes** in **Lake Baikal**.
 - ✓ It is being described as **Baikal-GVD**. It is located at a depth of 750-1300 meters.
 - ✓ As per the Russian scientists, the telescope is the largest neutrino detector in **Northern Hemisphere**. Lake Baikal is the **largest freshwater** lake in the world.
 - ✓ The telescope is a result of the partnership between scientists from **Czech Republic**, Germany, Poland, Russia and Slovakia.
- ❖ The **6th India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting** was chaired by **Smriti Zubin Irani**, Minister for **Textiles, Women & Child Development**.
 - ✓ The joint declaration highlighted the shared **IBSA goals and commitments for achieving gender equality**.
 - ✓ The **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA)** is a unique platform. It brings together three large democracies and major economies from three different continents.
 - ✓ IBSA Women's Forum is one of the 6 People-to-People Forums under IBSA.
- ❖ The **Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** has launched the **US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI)** initiative on 17 March 2021.
 - ✓ It has been launched to enhance cooperation between both countries in the field of **Artificial Intelligence**.
 - ✓ The **U.S-India AI (USIAI)** initiative will identify the new areas of research and development and it will also give an opportunity for all stakeholders to share their experiences.
- ❖ The **world's largest floating solar farm** will be **constructed in Singapore**.
 - ✓ **Singapore** is one of the largest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in Asia. It is constructing the **world's largest floating solar farm for promoting renewable energy**.
 - ✓ Singapore government is aiming to increase solar energy use by four-fold times by 2025.
- ❖ **Italy** has signed the amended **Framework Agreement** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** on 17 March 2021.
 - ✓ Recently, the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has amended the framework agreement to enable **UN member states to join the group**. After this amendment, countries outside the tropics can join the International Solar Alliance.
 - ✓ **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** and Italian Ambassador to India **Vincenzo De Luca** also discussed various issues, including the G20 Presidency and Vaccine Maitri.
- ❖ The **United States** has become **India's 2nd-biggest oil supplier**. It has **replaced Saudi Arabia**.
 - ✓ Iraq continued to be the top oil supplier to India, while Nigeria becomes India's 3rd-largest oil supplier. Saudi Arabia has slipped to the fourth position for the first time since 2006.
 - ✓ **India is the 3rd-biggest oil importer and consumer in the world**. India has imported 3.92 million bpd of oil in February.
 - ✓ India's oil supplier:

Rank	Countries
1 st	Iraq
2 nd	United States
3 rd	Nigeria
4 th	Saudi Arabia

- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **4th Global Ayurveda Festival**. **25 countries** have taken part in the **4th Global Ayurveda Festival**.
 - ✓ Ayurveda help in **boosting the immunity** of the body and it provides a cure for many diseases.
 - ✓ The Prime Minister said that India offers wellness tourism through Ayurveda. He also talked about the measures taken by the government to promote Ayurveda.
- ❖ Final rankings of **Ease of Living Index 2020** and **Municipal Performance Index 2020** have been issued by the **government**.
 - ✓ Ranking exercise for **Ease of Living Index 2020** was carried out last year and a total of **111 cities participated** in the assessment exercise for ranking.
 - ✓ In the **Million Plus category** of **Ease of Living Index 2020**, the top 3 cities are **Bengaluru (1st)**, **Pune (2nd)** and **Ahmedabad (3rd)**.
 - ✓ In the **cities with Less than a Million population category** of **Ease of Living Index 2020**, top 3 cities are **Shimla (first)**, **Bhubaneshwar (second)** and **Silvassa (Third)**.
 - ✓ For the assessment of **Municipal Performance Index 2020**, municipalities were classified into the categories of **Million plus** and **less than Million Population**.
 - ✓ In the **Million Plus category of Municipal Performance Index 2020**, **Indore (1st)**, **Surat (2nd)** and **Bhopal (3rd)** are the top 3 municipalities.
 - ✓ In the **municipalities with Less than Million population category** of **Municipal Performance Index 2020**, **New Delhi Municipal Council (1st)**, **Tirupati (2nd)** and **Gandhinagar (3rd)** are the top three municipalities.

- ❖ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared **2023 as the International Year of Millets**.
 - ✓ The resolution of '**International Year of Millets 2023**' was started by India and was supported by over 70 nations.
 - ✓ It has been adopted to raise awareness about the benefits and adaptive capacity of Millet. Millet can be produced in many UN member countries.
 - ✓ On **1 April 2016**, the UN General Assembly had adopted the **UN Decade of Action on Nutrition** from 2016 to 2025.
- ✓ **List of UN International Years:**

2024	International Year of Camelids
2023	International Year of Millets
2022	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
2021	International Year of Peace and Trust
	International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development
	International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
	International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The new cases of **Kala-azar or Visceral Leishmaniasis** have been reported in Bihar's **Muzaffarpur** district, casting **serious doubt** on the state government's efforts to **eradicate the disease in the state by 2022**.
 - ✓ Bihar has already missed the **Kala-azar elimination target 4 times since 2010**.
 - ✓ The 1st deadline was 2010, under the **National Health Programme**, followed by 2015. It was later extended to 2017 and 2020 due to the government's failure to eliminate Kala-azar.
- ❖ India's **biggest floating solar power plant** by generation capacity (100MW) is being developed by the **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** at **Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana**.
 - ✓ The project is in line with India's commitment to attain the target of 175 GW of installed **renewable energy** capacity by 2022 including 100 GW of solar installed capacity.
- ❖ The **Himachal Pradesh government** has decided to **start planting seabuckthorn** in the **cold desert areas** of the state. It's a shrub which produces an orange-yellow coloured edible berry.
 - ✓ In India, it is found above the tree line in the Himalayan region, generally in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti.
 - ✓ A major part is covered by this plant in **Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The Seabuckthorn Plantation has many **Ecological, Medicinal and Economical benefits**.
- ❖ A pilot project **RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees)** has been launched in **Karnataka** which entails installing **bee boxes** along the periphery of the **forest and the villages** to **mitigate human-elephant conflict**.
 - ✓ These spots are located on the periphery of **Nagarahole National Park and Tiger Reserve**, which is a known conflict zone.
- ❖ Recently, the **Kerala High Court** ordered the **Central government** to amend the **National Cadet Corps Act (NCC Act) 1948** which excludes transgender persons from joining the National Cadet Corps (NCC).
 - ✓ Kerala was **one of the 1st states** in the country to formulate and implement a **welfare policy for transgender persons in 2015**.
 - The move followed the **Supreme Court** verdict in **National Legal Services Authority v Union of India 2014** in which the **right to equality and equal protection for transgender persons** under articles 14, 15 and 16 was **upheld** and the bracket of a '**third gender**' allotted to transgender persons.
- ❖ Recently, funds from **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)** were disbursed to the village panchayats of **Goa**.
 - ✓ Due to Covid-19 pandemic **MPLAD Funds Scheme** is currently **suspended** and the disbursed funds were allocated earlier.
 - MPLAD is a Central Sector Scheme which was announced in **December 1993**.
 - Initially, it came under the control of the **Ministry of Rural Development**. Later, in October 1994, it was transferred to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- ❖ Recently, the **Government of Haryana** has passed the **Haraya Recovery of Damages to Property During Disturbance to Public Order Bill, 2021**.
 - ✓ It can be noted that earlier **Uttar Pradesh Government** too had passed a similar **bill named "Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, 2020**.
 - **Recovery of Damages:** The Bill provides for recovery of damages to properties caused by persons during disturbances to public order by an assembly, lawful or unlawful, including riots and violent disorder.

- **Compensation to Victims:** It also ensures compensation to the victims.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** The recovery will not only be made from those who indulge in violence but also from those who lead the protest, the organizers, those involved in its planning and provide encouragement and the participants.
- ❖ Recently, the **Chief Minister of Rajasthan** announced the implementation of the **Rajasthan Model of Public Health** that would include a **Right to Health** as well as measures for preventive, primary and curative care as envisioned by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.
 - ✓ The **Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana** will also be launched as a **Universal Health Care scheme** as part of measures to reinforce **health infrastructure** and ensure accessibility to all citizens.
 - The scheme stipulates cashless health services up to **Rs. 5 lakh to every family in the State**.
- ❖ The **Goa government** has limited the **Shigmotsav** (Shigmo festivities) parades to three locations only (Panaji, Ponda and Mapusa), owing to rising cases of Covid-19 in the state.
 - ✓ **Shigmo** is the celebration of a '**rich, golden harvest of paddy**' by the tribal communities of **Goa**.
 - ✓ Agricultural communities including the **Kunbis, Gawdas and Velips** celebrate the festival that also marks the onset of spring.
 - ✓ **Two Variants of the Festival:**
 - **Dhakto Shigmo:** It is celebrated by the rural population, farmers and the labour class.
 - **Vhadlo Shigmo:** It is of greater importance and is celebrated by everyone.
- ❖ The **Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre** has been inaugurated at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**.
 - ✓ The Convention Centre, named after the legendary **Bundelkhand King Maharaja Chhatrasal**, was built under the **Swadesh Darshan scheme** of the **Ministry of Tourism**.
- ❖ **First Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme** of **Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA)** was inaugurated by **Ladakh** Lieutenant Governor **R K Mathur**.
 - ✓ The scheme was inaugurated at **Latoo Village**, which is the last village on **Line of Control (LOC)**.
 - ✓ In collaboration with **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil**, KREDA has installed and commissioned a 41 HP Submersible Pump backed with a 50 Kw Solar Photovoltaic Plant.
 - ✓ This is the 1st prototype of the **Solar Lift Irrigation System** in Ladakh.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh government** has organised a '**Banana Festival**' in **Kushinagar** from March 22 to 25.
 - ✓ It has been organised to promote the **One District One Product (ODOP)** scheme.
 - ✓ Around 4,000 farmers are associated with banana cultivation in Kushinagar. 3 banana fibre processing units and a **Common Facility Centre (CFC)** will also be established in **Kushinagar**.
 - ✓ The main aim of this banana festival is to support farmers and entrepreneurs engaged in banana cultivation.
- ❖ Union Power Minister **R K Singh** launched the **GRAM UJALA scheme** in **Varanasi** after launching in **Arrah, Bihar**, on 19 March.
 - ✓ Under this scheme, **Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)** will distribute **high-quality LED bulbs** at an affordable cost of **Rs 10 per bulb in rural areas**.
 - ✓ In the **first phase** of this scheme, around **1.5 crores LED bulbs** will be distributed across villages of **Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and Gujarat**.
- ❖ **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar** has been opened for tourists. It is the largest tulip garden in **Asia**.
 - ✓ The tulip garden is spread over 30 hectares in the foothills of the **Zabarwan Range**. It is located along the bank of **Dal Lake**. It has 15 lakh tulips flowers of more than 64 varieties.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** will launch **India's 1st government-run animal ambulance network**.
 - ✓ This initiative's main objective is to reach out to the distressed animals and provide them with proper animal healthcare.
 - ✓ CM **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** further said that the **Animal Husbandry Department** would set up **one Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic** at every assembly constituency.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched the **UP FPO Shakti Portal** as part of the **Kisan Kalyan Mission**.
 - ✓ The **Department of Agriculture** has been developed the portal in association with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**.
 - ✓ The main objective of this portal is to bring farmers, producer groups, traders and the **Department of Agriculture at one platform**.
 - ✓ It is the 1st fully dedicated **FPO portal for farmers**. It will enable farmers to download all necessary information to form **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)** in the state.
- ❖ **Bihar** has become the **1st Indian state** to implement an **ethanol promotion policy**.
 - ✓ The policy would enable investors in directly preparing ethanol from maize, molasses, broken rice and rotten grains.
 - ✓ The policy was approved by the state cabinet. It was tabled in the Bihar legislature on 17 March 2021.
 - ✓ The **central government** permitted **direct production of ethanol** last December in agreement with **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018**.

- ✓ Government would give 15% subsidy to investors. The subsidy can be given only up to a maximum of Rs. 5 Crore.
- ❖ Pune's **Blades of Glory Cricket Museum** has become the **world's largest cricket museum**.
 - ✓ It has been awarded a '**World Record**' by the **World Record Academy**.
 - ✓ Blades of Glory Cricket Museum was founded by **Rohan Pate**. **Sachin Tendulkar** formally inaugurated it in 2012.
 - ✓ It has more than 51000 cricket-related items and around 450 international cricket players have visited the museum.
 - ✓ It has beaten the Lords' Cricket Museum, the Bradman Museum, West Indies Cricket Heritage Centre and the New Zealand Cricket Museum in terms of collection of cricket related items.
 - ✓ It is also known as '**Castle of Cricket**'.
- ❖ Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** inaugurated **Mai-Own 2021**, an exhibition for **local products of global standards** in Imphal. The exhibition is being organised under the vision of "**Atmanirbhar Bharat**".
 - ✓ Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** instructed the concerned officials to prepare a detailed report on which Department is helping which type SHGs and what products are being produced.
- ❖ **Jharkhand government** has approved a reservation policy for **75% reservation in private sector jobs** for locals. It will be applicable for jobs with salaries up to **Rs 30,000 per month**.
 - ✓ Earlier, **Haryana government** has also approved **75% reservation** for locals in **private sector jobs** with salaries below **Rs 50,000 per month**.
 - ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** is the **1st state in India to reserve 75% of jobs for locals in the private sector**.
- ❖ The **Uttar Pradesh government** has organised a 3-day **Kalanamak Rice Festival** in the **Siddharthnagar district**. It was inaugurated by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**.
 - ✓ **Kala Namak rice** is produced in **Eastern Uttar Pradesh**. It is also **One District One Product (ODOP)** of some districts of **Uttar Pradesh**.
 - ✓ The festival has been organised to promote the production and to provide a market for **Kala Namak Rice**.
- ❖ **Tirath Singh Rawat** becomes the **new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand** after the resignation of **Trivendra Singh Rawat**. Tirath Singh Rawat is the **1st Education Minister of Uttarakhand**.
 - ✓ **Tirath Singh Rawat** has taken the oath as the Chief Minister in the presence of Governor **Baby Rani Maurya**.
- ❖ **President** inaugurated the **conservation works of the Singorgarh Fort in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh**.
 - ✓ He also inaugurated **Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India** and addressed the **State Level Tribal Conference in Damoh**.
 - ✓ On this occasion, **President** also launched the portal for virtual classes for **tribal artists** and a booklet of the **Tribal Department** was also released. President also gave **Shankar Shah and Rani Durgavati** awards to tribal students.
- ❖ **UP Government** will launch a campaign to prepare the **golden cards of the Ayushman Bharat scheme** and it will be given to families who have not yet benefited from the scheme.
 - ✓ The campaign will be launched all over the state with twin aims as given next.
 - Promote awareness about **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** and its benefits.
 - Enable **rural beneficiaries and beneficiaries** in remote areas to get cashless healthcare worth **Rs 5 lakh per family per year**.
- ❖ The **Tripura government** has launched the digital platform "**Jagrut Tripura**" to promote **e-governance** in the state. It has been launched by Chief Minister **Biplab Kumar Deb**.
 - ✓ It will help people in availing the benefits of various scheme of the Centre and the state government. Around 102 schemes will be available on this platform.
 - ✓ '**Jagrut Tripura**' platform has been developed by **EasyGov**, a **Jio Group company**.
- ❖ On the occasion of **International Women's Day**, Culture Minister **Prahlad Singh Patel** has inaugurated the **All-Women's Art Exhibition** titled '**Akshya Patra**'.
 - ✓ More than 250 workers from 12 countries have participated in this Exhibition. It is scheduled to be organised between 8 March to 20 March.
 - ✓ It has given an opportunity to female artists from India and the world to showcase their work.
 - ✓ It is being organised by the **Lalit Kala Akademi at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Gur Mahotsav or jaggery festival** was celebrated in **Lucknow**. It was inaugurated by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**.
- ❖ **Outcome-based budget** has been presented by the **Jharkhand government** for the **1st time**.
 - ✓ In this budget, the state government has given specific targets and responsibilities to the eleven departments.
- ❖ The **1st consignment of 'red rice'** has been **flagged off from Assam to the USA** to promote **the export of rice**.
 - ✓ Iron rich '**red rice**' is mainly produced in the area of **Brahmaputra valley in Assam**. It is produced without using any **chemical fertilizer**.
 - ✓ It is known as '**Bao-dhaan**' in Assam. The export of '**red rice**' will increase the income of farmers in Assam.
 - ✓ The government has set up the **Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF)** to promote the export of rice. It works under the **APEDA**.

- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** announced the calendar for **23 Welfare schemes**.
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh government has approved the '**EBC Nestam**' scheme for women in the **Economically Backward Classes** category. Under this scheme, women in the age group of **45-60 years** would receive financial assistance of **Rs 15,000 per annum**.
 - ✓ The state cabinet has approved the implementation of the '**Navaratnalu**' scheme for **FY 2021-22**. It is a combination of **9 welfare schemes**.
 - ✓ Cabinet also gave its approval to implement the **Jagananna Vasathi Deevana** scheme for providing financial assistance to **BPL students**. It will be implemented in April, July, and December in 2021 and in February 2022.
 - ✓ The **Jagananna Vidya Kanuka** scheme will help in **providing school kits to the poor children of the state**. It will be implemented in June.
 - ✓ The state cabinet has also approved the implementation of various schemes such as **Matsyakara Bharosa, Rythu Bharosa, Kapu Nestam, Netanna Nestam**, etc.
 - ✓ The social welfare schemes like **YSR Law Nestam, Jagananna Goru Mudda, YSR Sampoorna Poshana** will also be implemented this financial year.

ECONOMY AWARENESS

- ❖ The latest **MSME Credit Health Index** indicates that **MSME credit growth** has accelerated in the quarter ending September 2020 as compared to the quarter ending in June 2020.
 - ✓ The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECGLS)** has helped in the **credit growth** for the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** sector.
- ❖ Recently, a sub-committee of the **Insolvency Law Committee (ILC)** has recommended a **pre-pack framework** within the basic structure of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**.
 - ✓ The **Government** had constituted a sub-committee of **Insolvency Law Committee (ILC)** in June, 2020 under the chairmanship of **Dr. M. S. Sahoo**, Chairperson, **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** to make recommendation on **Pre-Pack Insolvency Resolution Process (PPIRP)**.
 - ✓ A **pre-pack** is an agreement for the resolution of the **debt of a distressed company** through an agreement between **secured creditors and investors** instead of a **public bidding process**.
 - This system of insolvency proceedings has become an increasingly popular mechanism for insolvency resolution in the UK and Europe over the past decade.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme for the **telecom sector** with an outlay of **Rs. 12,195 crores** over 5 years.
 - ✓ **PLI Scheme:** In order to **boost domestic manufacturing** and cut down on import bills, the central government in March 2020 introduced a scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
 - Apart from inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.
- ❖ The **private companies** have shown interest in setting up **New Umbrella Entities (NUEs)** for payment systems - an idea floated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
 - ✓ The aim is to create an **alternate mechanism** to the existing **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
 - NUEs will be a **non-profit entity** that will set-up, manage and operate new **payment systems**, especially in the retail space such as **ATMs, white-label PoS, Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services**.
- ❖ Recent data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** showed that **Bank credit and deposits grew** and were higher in February 2021 than January 2021.
 - ✓ The **credit and deposits** for February 2021 were even higher than the pre-pandemic data of February 2020.
 - ✓ Bank Related Data by RBI: At the end of February 2021:
 - Bank credit grew by **6.63% to Rs.107.75 lakh crore** which in February 2020 stood at **Rs.101.05 lakh crore**.
 - Bank deposits grew by **12.06% to Rs.149.34 lakh crore** which in February 2020 stood at **Rs.133.26 lakh crore**.
- ❖ Recently, the Office of the Economic Adviser, **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** has released the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** for the month of February, 2021.
 - ✓ **Wholesale Price-Inflation:** It increased for the second consecutive month to **4.17%**.
 - This is the highest since November 2018, when wholesale inflation was at 4.47%.
 - The WPI inflation was 2.03% in January 2021 and 2.26% in February 2020.
 - ✓ The base year of **All-India WPI** has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to conduct simultaneous **purchase and sale of government securities (G-Sec)** under **Open Market Operations (OMOs)** for an amount of **Rs. 10,000 crore** each.
 - ✓ Simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under OMOs, popularly known as operation twist, involves purchasing G-Sec of longer maturities and selling equal amounts of G-Sec of shorter maturities.

- ❖ The **Supreme Court** flagged the **possibility of misuse of money** received by political parties through **electoral bonds** for ulterior objects like funding terror or violent protests.
 - ✓ The court also asked the government **whether there is any “control”** over how these donations were used by political parties.
- Electoral Bond:-** Electoral Bond is a **financial instrument** for making **donations to political parties**. The **bonds are issued in multiples** of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.

State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance. These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.

The bonds are available for purchase by any person (who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India) for a **period of ten days** each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.
- ❖ The **Rajya Sabha** cleared the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) Bill, 2021**.
 - ✓ The Bill seeks to establish the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID)** as the principal **Development Financial Institution (DFIs)** for **infrastructure financing**.
 - ✓ **NBFID was announced in the Budget 2021**.
 - ✓ NBFID will be set up as a corporate body with authorised share capital of one lakh crore rupees.
 - ✓ **Aim:** To directly or indirectly lend, invest, or attract investments for infrastructure projects located entirely or partly in India.
 - ❖ **Standing External Advisory Committee** has been set up by **RBI** to evaluate **on-tap applications for universal and small finance banks**.
 - ✓ RBI's former deputy governor, **Shyamala Gopinath**, is head of the **Standing External Advisory Committee**.
 - ✓ In addition to the chairperson, the committee has 4 other members also. The names of four other members are given below.
 - RBI central board director Revathy Iyer
 - NPCI chairman B Mahapatra
 - Canara Bank's former chairman T N Manoharan
 - SBI's former MD & PFRDA's former chairman Hemant Contractor
 - ❖ **SBI and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** have signed a **\$100 million** deal by using the new **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** in the **external commercial borrowing (ECB)** market.
 - ✓ It is the 1st deal with the **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)**.
 - ✓ **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** is a secured **interbank overnight interest rate**. It will replace the existing benchmark rate **LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate)**.
 - ✓ **London Inter-bank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** is a benchmark rate for various financial instruments. It will be discontinued from December 2021.
 - ✓ Recently, **ICICI Bank** has carried out its 1st **Secured Overnight Funding Rate (SOFR)**-linked interbank-money market transaction.
 - ✓ **External commercial borrowing (ECB):** It is a financial instrument to borrow money from a foreign source. It is used by Indian corporations and PSUs to borrow money in foreign currency.
 - ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved a bill to set up a **Development Finance Institute (DFI)** with an initial capital of **Rs. 20,000 crore**.
 - ✓ The bill will be presented in Parliament during the current Budget Session. DFI will raise long-term funds for infrastructure development projects in India.
 - ✓ As per Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, **Rs 5,000 crore** will be the initial grant to the DFI. She further said that additional increments of the grant would be made within the limit of Rs 5,000 crores.
 - ✓ A DFI is an institution that provides development finance to sectors or sub-sectors of the economy. **Industrial Finance Corporation of India** was the 1st DFI. It was established in 1948.
 - ❖ **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has formed **14-membered Committee** to review its **Information & Cyber security Guidelines**.
 - ✓ **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)** Chairman **D Janakiram** is the head of this committee. **A R Nithiyanantham** is its convenor. The Committee will submit its report in 2 months.
 - ✓ Guidelines on **information and cyber security for insurers** were issued by **IRDAI in April 2017**.
 - ❖ **SBI** is at the top of the list of the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's, Digital Payment Scorecard** for 3 consecutive months.
 - ✓ SBI recorded the highest **UPI transaction volume**. It recorded nearly **64 crores (640 million) UPI transactions** despite having a user base of **13.5 crores**.
 - ✓ The number of UPI transactions processed by SBI through its digital platforms is 636 crore. It is about 67% of transactions of SBI's total transaction volume.

- ✓ SBI's market share by transaction volume of mobile banking is 25%. SBI's digital platform YONO disbursed more than 10 lakh personal loans during April-December 2020.
- ❖ **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has partnered with **SBI Payments** to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS'.
 - ✓ It will transform an NFC-enabled smartphone into merchant **Point of Sale (PoS)** terminals for the merchants.
 - ✓ It will enable **merchants to perform transactions** of up to **Rs 5,000** through their **smartphones**.
 - ✓ It will provide a **cost-effective infrastructure for merchants** to promote **contactless digital transactions**.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** celebrated the **3rd Janaushadhi Diwas** (7th March 2021) to spread awareness about quality generic medicines, available at low prices.
 - ✓ Theme of **Janaushadhi Diwas** was "**Seva Bhi - Rozgar bhi**". The Janaushadhi week was celebrated across the country from 1st-7th March 2021.
 - ✓ As a part of celebrations, the **Prime Minister** inaugurated the **7,500th Janaushadhi Kendra** at NEIGRIHMS, Shillong.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

PMBJP is a campaign launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** in 2008 under the name **Jan Aushadhi Campaign**. The campaign was revamped as **PMBJP** in 2015-16.

Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP.

The **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India** works under the **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.

BPPI has also developed the **Janaushadhi Sugam Application**.

- ❖ The **Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** and **Shell** have released a report titled "**India: Transforming to a Net-Zero Emissions Energy System**".
 - ✓ It illustrates a pathway to steer the domestic energy system towards **net-zero emissions by 2050**, while achieving **India's sustainable economic development ambitions**.
 - ✓ '**Net zero emissions**' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.
 - ✓ 1st, human-caused emissions (like those from fossil-fueled vehicles and factories) should be reduced as close to zero as possible. 2nd, any remaining **GHGs** should be balanced with an equivalent amount of **carbon removal**, for example by restoring forests.
- ❖ **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)** launched an e-tendering Portal, '**PRANIT**'.
 - ✓ It has been launched for ease of operation and to **bring transparency** in the tendering process.
 - ✓ It has been approved by the **Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC)** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- ❖ **ReNew Power** is the **world's 1st clean energy company** to be added to the **World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network of Companies**.
 - ✓ **ReNew's Hubli facility** was specifically nominated to **Global Lighthouse**. **Mr. Sumant Sinha** is the founder and CEO of ReNew Power.
 - ✓ **World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network** of Companies recognizes the companies leading in the area of technology-Enabled, **Sustainable Growth**.
 - ✓ **Global Lighthouse Network** is a group of **69 factories**, which provide a platform to create opportunities for cross-company learning.
- ❖ **NTPC Ltd** has been conferred with the '**Role Model**' Award at the **11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21**.
 - ✓ It has been presented during the virtual conference "**Learn from the Achievers**".
 - ✓ It is the highest award given by the **Confederation of Indian Industry** in the field of **Human Resources**.
- ❖ The **FICCI**, in association with **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**, has released the '**India FinTech: A USD 100 Billion Opportunity**' report. It is related to the growth of **FinTech in India**.
 - ✓ According to this report, **Fintech Industry** has been growing steadily in India. Most of the Fintech companies have been set up in the last five years.
 - ✓ At present, the total valuation of the **FinTech industry in India** is about **\$50-\$60 billion**. Around 2100 Fintech companies are part of India's dynamic FinTech industry.
 - ✓ According to the study, India's FinTech industry will grow continuously over the next five years and it will reach up to a valuation of **USD 100 billion**. The number of **FinTech Unicorns** will become double over the next five years.
- ❖ **India's 1st dedicated express cargo terminal** has been launched by **Kempegowda International Airport** in **Bengaluru**.
 - ✓ **Dedicated express cargo** is exclusively for the export and import of international couriers.
 - ✓ The terminal was inaugurated by the Chief Commissioner of Customs in Bengaluru zone **Mr. M Srinivas**. **Express Industry Council of India** will operate this facility.

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- ❖ Google launched the “Women Will Web” platform for supporting **1 million women entrepreneurs** of rural India.
 - ✓ The **Women Will web platform** will help **rural women** in starting a business through tutorials and mentorship programme. It will be available in **English and Hindi language**.
 - ✓ It has been launched as part of the **Google Internet Saathi programme**. It will help in increasing the contribution of women to the economy of the country.
 - ✓ The **Internet Saathi Programme** was launched by **Google in 2015** to impart digital literacy training to women across villages.
- ❖ The **Western Railway zone** of the **Indian Railways** has introduced the **Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC)** system on 1 March 2021.
 - ✓ It will facilitate a better communication system between the train crew and the control centre and the station master. It is an effective and advanced method for communication.
- ❖ **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus** becomes the **1st railway station** to get **IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Gold Certification in Maharashtra**.
 - ✓ It has also become the **1st railway station** of the western division to get **IGBC Gold Certification**.
 - ✓ **CSMT** implemented various green and passenger-friendly initiatives, including the installation of solar panels, plantation of trees, Smart-tech amenities for passengers, Divyangjan and senior citizen-friendly building, etc.
- ❖ **Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV** have been merged into one channel, which will now be known as **Sansad TV**.
 - ✓ The plan of merger was proposed by an expert committee headed by **Surya Prakash in 2019**.
 - ✓ **Ravi Capoor** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of ‘**Sansad TV**’ for one year.
 - ✓ **Sansad TV** will telecast the proceedings of Upper and Lower Houses on two different channels.
 - ✓ **Lok Sabha TV** was launched in **2006**, while **Rajya Sabha TV** was launched in **2011**.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted the test of the **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** technology, which is crucial for the **indigenous development** of long range **air-to-air** missiles.
 - ✓ **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) Technology:**
 - **SFDR technology** is a missile **propulsion system** based on the concept of **Ramjet Engine principle**.
 - **The system utilises a solid fuelled air-breathing ramjet engine.**
- ❖ **Multi billion deals for armed drones from the USA** and advanced **submarines under Project-75I** are to be taken by the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**.
 - ✓ **India** has been looking to procure 30 armed drones, 10 for each service, from the USA but the process has been repeatedly delayed over the last couple of years.
- ❖ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted the final development test of **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System**, crucial for **diesel electric submarines**.
- ❖ Recently, the **2nd edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise "Dustlik-2"** started in **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand**.
 - ✓ **Aim of the Exercise: Counter Insurgency (CI) and Counter Terrorism (CT)** operations in mountainous, rural and urban scenarios under the **United Nations (UN)** mandate.
 - About the **1st Edition: Took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan** in November 2019.
- ❖ Recently, **Indian Navy's 3rd stealth Scorpene class (of Project-75) Submarine INS Karanj** has been commissioned at the **Naval Dockyard Mumbai**.
 - ✓ **Project 75:** It is a programme by the **Indian Navy** that entails **building six Scorpene Class** attack submarines.
 - It is given support by the **Department of Defence Production** (Ministry of Defence) and **Indian Navy** throughout its various phases of construction.
 - ✓ **Other Submarines of the Ongoing Project-75:**
 - Two submarines, **Kalvari and Khanderi**, have been commissioned into the Indian Navy.
 - The **4th Scorpene, Vela**, has commenced its sea trials.
 - The **5th Scorpene 'Vagir'** was launched in November 2020.
 - The **6th and last submarine, Vagsheer**, is being readied for boot together.
- ❖ **Special Forces of India and the USA** conducted the joint military exercise '**VAJRA PRAHAR 2021**' in **Himachal Pradesh**.
 - ✓ Earlier, **India and the USA navy** had carried out a 2-day **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** in the eastern **Indian Ocean Region**.
 - ✓ This is the **11th edition** of the exercise conducted at **Special Forces Training School** located at **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**.
 - The **10th edition of VAJRA PRAHAR** was held in 2019 at **Seattle, USA**.

Other Exercises of India with the USA

Exercise Yudh Abhyas (Army).
Cope India (Air Force).
Red Flag (USA's multilateral air exercise).
Malabar Exercise (trilateral naval exercise of India, USA and Japan).

- ❖ **Indian Navy** will participate in the **France-led 'La Pérouse' joint exercise** in the **Bay of Bengal** from April 5 to 7.
 - ✓ **Navies of Australia, Japan and the US** will also participate in this joint exercise.
 - ✓ This 3-day-long **joint exercise** will include maritime drills, communication systems overseas, complex combat operations, etc.
 - ✓ After the **'La Pérouse'** joint exercise, **Varuna naval exercise** between **India and France** will be held. This year the **United Arab Emirates** will also participate in this exercise
- ❖ **Indian Coast Guard ship 'Vajra'** has been commissioned into service for **enhancing coastal security capability**.
 - ✓ It is designed and built by **Larsen and Toubro Ship building Limited** at **Kattupalli, Chennai**. It is the 6th in the series of **7 offshore patrol vessels** to be constructed by **Larsen & Toubro Ltd.**
 - Earlier, an indigenously built Coast Guard ship **'Sujeet'** has been **commissioned at Goa**.
- ❖ According to a study by the defence website **'Military Direct'**, the **Chinese Military** is the **strongest military force** in the world. **USA** is in second place, followed by **Russia** in 3rd place.
 - ✓ **India** with 61 points has been ranked in **4th place**, it is followed by **France** with 58 points. The **U.K.** is in the 9th position with a score of 43.
- ❖ **Indian Army** has decommissioned the **130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns** and the **160mm Tampella Mortars** from service at **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges**.
 - ✓ The decommissioning ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General **K Ravi Prasad**, Director General Artillery.
- ❖ **India** successfully conducted a flight test of **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** technology from **Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur**.
 - ✓ **SFDR technology** will enable the **DRDO** to **develop long-range air-to-air missiles**. In the world, only a few countries have developed this technology.
- ❖ **Indian Army** has started its community Radio Station **"Radio Chinar 90.4, Har Dil Ki Dhadkan"** in Sopore of Baramulla district.
- ❖ 1st time, the **Indian Air Force** will participate in the **'Exercise Desert Flag-06'** at **Al-Dhafra airbase in UAE**.
 - ✓ Exercise **'Desert Flag'** is an annual **warfare exercise** of the **United Arab Emirates Air Force**.
 - ✓ Air Force of United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain will also participate in this exercise.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ **Forty scholars from six countries** have been recommended for award of **Indian Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021**.
 - ✓ This fellowship is a platform to establish **research cooperation with neighbouring countries of India**, which is one of the mandates of **Department of Science and Technology (DST) International Science and Technology Cooperation**.

India Science Research Fellowship (ISRF)

As part of **India's initiatives to engage with neighbouring countries** to develop S&T partnerships, the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** has launched **ISRF Programme**. This fellowship is for scholars from the neighbouring countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

ISRF programme has provided an opportunity to the young researchers from neighbouring countries to get access to the state of art facilities available in the Indian institutes/universities. ISRF has been implemented since 2015.

- ❖ Recently, an **international team of astronomers** has discovered the most distant **'Radio-Loud' Quasar** with the help of **European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (ESO's VLT)**.

Joint Military Exercises of India with Other Countries	
Name of Exercise	Country
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia
Ekuverin	Maldives
Hand-in-Hand	China
Bold Kurukshetra	Singapore
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia
Shakti	France
Surya Kiran	Nepal
Yudh Abhyas	USA

- ❖ **China and Russia** have agreed to build a **International Lunar Research Station (ILRS)**, possibly on the **moon's surface**, marking the start of a new era in **space cooperation** between the two countries.
 - ✓ **Russia** is a part of **International Space Station** which is a habitable **artificial satellite** - the single largest man-made structure in **low earth orbit**.
 - ✓ The **ILRS** is a comprehensive **scientific experiment** base with the capability of **long-term autonomous operation**.
 - ✓ The station would be built on the lunar surface and/or on the lunar orbit that would carry out scientific research activities such as the lunar exploration and utilization, lunar-based observation, basic scientific experiment and technical verification.
- ❖ **France** has begun its **1st space military exercises** to test its ability to **defend its satellites**.
 - ✓ The exercise drills are codenamed "**AsterX**" to commemorate the **1st French satellite Asterix from 1965**.
 - ✓ The exercises are part of France's strategy to become the **world's 3rd-largest space power**, after the **USA and China**.
 - ✓ These space military exercises are the **1st ever attempt** not only for the French army but also for Europe.
 - ✓ Moreover, France has planned to **develop anti-satellite** laser weapons and to **strengthen surveillance capabilities** to close the gap with rivals; **China and Russia**.
- ❖ **National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)** is going to launch the **1st-of-its-kind** project of **Genome Mapping** in the **Indian Ocean**.
 - ✓ Indian Ocean is the **3rd largest water body** in the world, covering about **20% of the Earth's water surface**.
 - ✓ **Aim:** To **gather samples** for **genome mapping of microorganisms** in the **Indian Ocean**.
 - To **understand the biochemistry** and the **response of the ocean** to climate change, **nutrient stress** and increasing pollution.
 - ✓ **Project Cost & Duration:** **Rs. 25 crore** and will take **three years** to complete.
- ❖ **NASA and ISRO** are collaborating on developing an **SUV-sized satellite** called **NISAR**, which will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as **0.4 inches** over areas about half the size of a tennis court.
 - ✓ The satellite will be launched in **2022** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh)** into a near-polar orbit.
 - ✓ The Name '**NISAR**': The name **NISAR** is short for **NASA-ISRO-SAR**.
 - **SAR** here refers to the **Synthetic Aperture Radar** that **NASA** will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.
- ❖ **India** developed its **1st indigenously developed Appstore, 'Mobile Seva Appstore'**.
 - ✓ **Mobile Seva Appstore** hosts more than **965 live apps** from various domains and categories of public services.
 - ✓ **India** is the largest user of mobile apps. As per **India's App Market Statistics report 2021**, around **5%** of apps on Android are from Indian Apps developers.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Education** has announced to link **Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System (OTPRMS)** Certificates with **DigiLocker**.
 - ✓ The issued certificate will be automatically transferred to **DigiLocker**.
- ❖ **Russia** has launched its **1st satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment** named "**Arktika-M**".
 - ✓ The carrier rocket **Soyuz-2.1b with Arktika-M satellite** was launched from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan**.
 - ✓ This satellite will provide continuous monitoring of the **northern territory of Russia** and the seas of the **Arctic Ocean**. The second satellite is planned to be launched in **2023**.
- ❖ **Government** has decided to integrate **Common Service Centres** with **e-daakhil portal** to facilitate the **rural consumers for e-filing**. **E-daakhil portal** was launched by **National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission** on **7 September, 2020**.
 - ✓ **E-daakhil portal** was launched for **online redressal of consumer grievances**. It is now operational in **15 states and Union Territories**.

SPORTS

- ❖ **India** has reached the **7th position** on **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League** standings.
 - ✓ In the **3rd ODI**, **India** won over **England** by seven runs. In the series, India won over England by **2-1**.
 - ✓ However, **England remains top** ranked team in **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League** standings.
- ❖ **Gin Wigmore's** song '**Girl Gang**', the **female empowerment** anthem, will be the official song for the **ICC Women's World Cup 2022**.
 - ✓ **Girl Gang** song stands for, I figured I needed to follow through and take care of some business.
 - ✓ The tournament is scheduled from **4 March to 3 April 2022** and it will be hosted by **New Zealand**.
 - ✓ The **2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup** will be the **12th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup**.
- ❖ In **ISSF World Cup**, **Indian Trio Rahi Sarnobat, Chinky Yadav, and Manu Bhaker** won a **gold medal** in the women's **25m Pistol Team event**.
 - ✓ **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** becomes the **youngest player** to win a **gold medal** in the **3 Positions event** at **ISSF World Cup**.

SBI-Junior Associate(Clerk)

“રાહ જોનાર વ્યક્તિ ને ફક્ત એટલું જ મળે છે, જેટલું પ્રયત્ન કરનાર વ્યક્તિ છોડી દે છે”

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Job

સમગ્ર ગુજરાત માં સૌથી વધુ Selections

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Vasu Sojitra
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- ❖ Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has announced that **Khelo India Scheme** will be extended from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
 - ✓ The **Sports Ministry** has furnished an **Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)** memorandum to the **Ministry of Finance** for the continuation of the scheme.
 - ✓ Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** also said that **the government** is committed to give **financial assistance** for training of players, participation of Indian teams in international events, organizing national and international tournaments in India, purchase of equipment, etc.
 - ✓ The **1st Khelo India Games** were held in 2018, and the **1st Khelo India Winter Games** were held in Gulmarg and Leh.
- ❖ Youth Affairs & Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has announced that government will set up a **Winter Sports Institute in Gulmarg, Jammu Kashmir**.
 - ✓ The government has prepared a roadmap for promoting and training Kashmiri youths in different sports.
 - ✓ Recently, the government has organised **2nd Khelo India Winter Games** from 26 February to 2 March at Gulmarg. The **1st Khelo India Winter Games** was held in **Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - ✓ **Ice skating**, ice hockey, ski mountaineering are some famous Winter Sports.
 - ✓ Winter Olympic Games is a major sport event of the Winter Sports.
- ❖ **ICC** bans UAE cricketers **Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar** for **eight years** on match-fixing charges.
 - ✓ Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt had attempted to fix matches in the T20 World Cup qualifier in 2019.
- ❖ **Bhavani Devi** has become the **1st Indian fencer** who has qualified for the **2021 Tokyo Olympic Games**.
- ❖ **Mithali Raj** has become the **1st Indian woman cricketer** to score **10,000 runs** at the **international level**. She is the **2nd woman cricketer** to achieve this milestone.
 - ✓ She has achieved this milestone in the **3rd ODI** against **South Africa in Lucknow**.
 - ✓ She has scored 6,974 runs in ODIs and 2,364 runs in T20 Internationals. She has scored 663 runs in 10 Test matches. **England's Charlotte Edwards** is the **1st women cricketer** to score 10,000 runs.
 - ✓ She has been awarded numerous national and international awards, including **Arjuna Award in 2003** and the **Padma Shri in 2015**.
- ❖ Wrestler **Bajrang Punia** has won a **gold medal** in **Matteo Pellicon World ranking series** in **Rome**.
- ❖ **PV Sindhu** won a **silver medal** in the **Swiss Open 2021**. She was defeated by Olympic champion Carolina Marin by 12-21, 5-21 in the finals.
- ❖ Indian boxer **Manish Kaushik** (63kg) won a **gold medal** in the **35th Boxam International Tournament** in Castellon, Spain. He defeated **Denmark's Nikolai Terteryan** in the finals.
 - ✓ **Mohammed Hussamuddin** (57kg) and **Vikas Krishan** (69kg) won silver medals in their respective category.
 - ✓ In the women's category, **Simranjit Kaur** (60kg), **Pooja Rani** (75kg) and **Jasmine** (57kg) won silver medals. **M C Mary Kom** (51kg) has won the bronze medal.
- ❖ The **All India Football Federation** has announced that **Odisha** will host the **2020-21 Hero Indian Women's League (IWL)**. It will be the **5th edition** of IWL. The **1st edition** of IWL was also hosted by **Odisha in 2016**.
 - ✓ Odisha government is a strategic partner of the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**.
 - ✓ **India** will also host the **AFC Women's Asia Cup** in 2022 and **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022**.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- ❖ The **Prime Minister of India** was conferred with the **Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award** by **Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA)**.
 - ✓ He was awarded for his commitment to expanding India's leadership in sustainable development to meet the country's, and the world's, future energy needs.
 - ✓ He addressed the **CERAWEEK conference** and highlighted the steps taken by India to address the issue of climate change and attaining the target of achieving clean fuel.
- ❖ The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** received the prestigious International "**King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award**" conferred by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome**.
 - ✓ The award was announced on the eve of **World Soil Day - 2020 (5th December 2020)** in view of the ICAR's excellent contributions in "**Soil Health Awareness**" on the theme "**Stop soil erosion, save our future**" (2019 theme).
- ❖ Recently, Marathi writer **Nanda Khare** refused to accept the **Sahitya Akademi award** for his novel "**Udya**", published in 2014.
 - ✓ **Sahitya Akademi award** established in **1954**, is a **literary honour** that is conferred annually by **Sahitya Akademi**, India's National Academy of letters.
 - ✓ Akademi gives **24 awards annually to literary works** in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.
 - **Besides the 22 languages** enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has **recognised English and Rajasthani** as languages in which its programme may be implemented.

- ✓ The **Sahitya Akademi award** is the **2nd-highest literary honour** by the Government of India, **after the Jnanpith award**.
- ❖ **Dr. Sharankumar Limbale** will get **Saraswati Samman 2020** for his book **Sanatan**.
- ❖ **Prakash Javadekar**, Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, has congratulated **Mahinder Giri** for getting the prestigious **International Ranger award**.
 - ✓ Mahinder Giri, a **Rajaji Tiger Reserve range officer (RTR)**, has now become the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious **International Ranger Award**.
 - ✓ The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)** has awarded 10 professionals across the world with this prestigious award.
- ❖ **Asha Bhosle** will be conferred with the **Maharashtra Bhushan award for the year 2020**.
 - ✓ It is the highest honor of the Maharashtra Government.
- ❖ The **67th National Film Awards** have been announced to honour films from 2019. The Directorate of Film Festivals has organized this event.
 - ✓ The **Directorate of Film Festivals** was set up by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** to organize national and international film festivals in India.
 - ✓ The complete list of the winners in each category:
 - **Best Feature Film: Marakkar:** Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam).
 - **Best Actor (shared):** Manoj Bajpayee for "Bhonsle" (Hindi), and Dhanush for "Asuran" (Tamil).
 - **Best Actress:** Kangana Ranaut for "Panga" (Hindi) and "Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi" (Hindi).
 - **Best Supporting Actress:** Pallavi Joshi for The Tashkent Files (Hindi).
 - **Best Supporting Actor:** Vijay Sethupathi for Super Deluxe (Tamil).
 - **Best Director:** Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi).
 - **Best Debut Film of a Director:** Mathukutty Xavier for Helen (Malayalam).
 - **Best Action Direction:** Avane Srimannarayana (Kannada), Vikram Mor.
- ❖ **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** has been honored the **Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020** by India.
 - ✓ Late **Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said** of Oman has been conferred with the **Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019**.
 - ✓ These prestigious awards of 2019 and 2020 have been given posthumously for the first time.
- ❖ Renowned author **Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay** will be conferred the **Sahitya Akademi Award 2020** for his memoir 'Eka Eka Ekashi'.
- ❖ **Mohankrishna Bohara** will receive the **Bihari Puraskar for 2020**. He will be conferred this award for his book titled 'Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya'.

PERSON APPOINTED /RESIGNED

- ❖ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has been appointed **Chairman** of the **Stop TB Partnership Board**.
 - ✓ He will serve a three year term, commencing July 2021, as the **Chair of the Board of Stop TB Partnership**.
- ❖ **N.V. Ramana**, the senior most judge of the **Supreme Court**, has been recommended as the next top judge by the present **Chief Justice of India (S A Bobde)**.
 - ✓ Justice Ramana will take over as the **48th Chief Justice of India (CJI)** from 24th April 2021. He would be the CJI till 26th August, 2022.
- ❖ **Soma Mondal**, **Chairman** of **SAIL**, has been elected as the new Chairperson of **Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)**.
- ❖ **Sonu Sood** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** of **Royal Green Packaged Drinking Water**.
- ❖ **Sanjeev Kumar** has been appointed as **chairman** of the **Airports Authority of India**.
- ❖ **Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte** has won his 4th election.
- ❖ **Arindam Bagchi** has been appointed as the new spokesperson of the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- ❖ **Ajay Mathur** is appointed as the **Director-General** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- ❖ **Pradeep Kumar Sinha** has **resigned** as Principal Advisor to **PM Narendra Modi on personal grounds**.
- ❖ **GP Samanta** has been appointed as **Chief Statistician of India** and he will replace **Kshatrapati Shivaji**.
- ❖ **AIBA's Board of Directors** has elected **Mary Kom** as **Chairperson** of its champions and veterans committee.
 - ✓ She has been appointed as Chairperson of the **International Boxing Association's (AIBA)** champions and veterans committee. The committee was formed last year.
- ❖ **Matam Venkata Rao** has been appointed as **MD and CEO** of the **Central Bank of India**.
 - ✓ He was serving as Executive Director of Canara Bank until 1 March 2021.
- ❖ The current Secretary to Department of Economic Affairs, **Tarun Bajaj**, has been given additional charge of **Department of Revenue**. He has replaced Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ Actor **Samir Soni** is currently writing his debut book "My Experiments with Silence". It will be released later this year.
 - ✓ It will be published by **OM Books International**.
 - ✓ In this book, he has written some of his "darkest, most intense and introspective thoughts" on anxiety and self-discovery. He has narrated his personal experience in dealing with anxiety and depression.
- ❖ **Anindya Dutta** has penned a book titled 'Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis'. He has written about the history of Indian tennis in this book.

OBITUARY

- ❖ Renowned writer and director **Sagar Sarhadi** passed away.
- ❖ Renowned Odissi dancer **Laxmipriya Mohapatra** passed away.
- ❖ Audio cassette tape inventor **Lou Ottens** passed away.
- ❖ Tanzanian President **John Magufuli** passed away at the age of 61.
- ❖ Former Rajasthan Governor **Anshuman Singh** has passed away at the age of 86 years.
- ❖ Recently, the Kathakali actor **Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair** died at the age of 105 in Kozhikode, Kerala.
 - ✓ He played a significant role in making Indian classical dances popular in Kerala.
 - ✓ Guru Chemancheri was awarded with Padma Shri in 2017.
 - ✓ Kathakali is one among the eight classical dances of India.

Eight Classical Dances of India,	Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu),	Kathak (North India)
Kathakali (Kerala),	Mohiniyattam (Kerala),	Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)
Odissi (Odisha),	Sattriya (Assam),	Manipuri (Manipur)

- ❖ Renowned Goa artist **Laxman Pandharinath Pai** died in Goa after a brief battle with illness.

Days|Week|Year

- ❖ 1st March 2021:- **Zero Discrimination Day**.
- ❖ 1st March 2021:- **World Civil Defence Day**.
- ❖ 3rd March 2021:- **World Wildlife Day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet.
- ❖ 4th March 2021:- **National Security Day**.
- ❖ 8th March 2021:- **International Women's Day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:-** "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world".
- ❖ 9th March 2021:- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ 10th March 2021:- **CISF Raising Day**.
- ❖ 14th March 2021:- **International Day of Mathematics**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Mathematics for a Better World.
 - **National Mathematics Day** is celebrated on 22 December in India.
- ❖ 15th March 2021:- **World Consumer Rights day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Tackle plastic pollution.
 - **National Consumer Day** is celebrated in India on 24th December every year.
- ❖ 16th March 2021:- **National Vaccination Day**.
- ❖ 18th March 2021:- **Global Recycling Day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Recycling Heroes.
- ❖ 21st March 2021:- **World Down Syndrome Day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** We Connect.
- ❖ 21st March 2021:- **International Day of Forests**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being.
- ❖ 22nd March 2021:- **World Water Day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Valuing Water.
- ❖ 23rd March 2021:- **World Meteorological Day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** The ocean, our climate and weather.
- ❖ 23rd March 2021:- **Martyrdom Day/ Shaheed Diwas**.
- ❖ 24th March 2021:- **World Tuberculosis Day**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** The Clock is Ticking.
- ❖ 27th March 2021:- **World Theatre Day**.