

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS : NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **India Sending Humanitarian Assistance To Drought-Hit Madagascar: S Jaishankar**

- **India** announced it will send a consignment of **1,000 metric tonnes of rice and 100,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine to drought-hit Madagascar.**
- The humanitarian assistance will be delivered onboard the Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa. The ship will leave with food and medical assistance on March 3 and is expected to reach the Port of Ehoala in Madagascar between **March 21 and 24.**
- The Indian assistance was conveyed to the Madagascar government during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's phone call with his Madagascar counterpart Tehindrazanarivelo Djacoba A.S Oliv.
- Indian naval training team will also be deployed in Madagascar for capacity building and training of the Malagasy Special Forces for two weeks.
- Besides Madagascar, INS Jalashwa will also visit Port Anjouan in the Republic of Comoros to deliver a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of Indian rice, following a commitment made by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu during his visit to Comoros in October 2019.
- The supply of this food assistance was announced by Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu during his visit to Comoros in October 2019.**
- The supplies of food assistance and support for capacity building to the friendly countries of Madagascar and Comoros is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR and India's time-tested role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.

#### **Union Cabinet apprised of the signing of MoU between India, French Republic in field of renewable energy cooperation**

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was apprised of the signing of **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **India and French Republic in the field of renewable energy cooperation.**
- The MoU was signed in January this year.
- The **objective** of the MoU is to establish the basis for promotion of bilateral cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.
- It covers technologies relating to solar, wind, hydrogen and biomass energy. The MoU entails exchange and training of scientific and technical personnel; exchange of scientific and technological information and data; organization of workshops and seminars; transfer of equipment, know-how and technology and development of joint research and technological projects.
- The MoU will help in the development of technological know-how in the field of Renewable Energy and will aid the process of attaining the target of 450 GW of installed Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.

#### **PM Modi to Mark the inaugural session on 'Harnessing Education, Research and Skill Development for Atmanirbhar Bharat'**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will address the inaugural session on 'Harnessing Education, Research and Skill Development for an **Atmanirbhar Bharat**'.
- Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** will address valedictory session.

#### **Education Minister releases study material of Indian Knowledge Tradition courses of NIOS**

- Union Minister of Education Ramesh **Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** released the study material of **Indian Knowledge Tradition courses of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**
- Mr Pokhriyal said, NIOS is already making efforts to spread the Indian knowledge tradition within the country and abroad.

- He informed, Vedic studies, Sanskrit grammar, Indian philosophy, Sanskrit literature and Sanskrit language courses have been prepared for Secondary and Senior Secondary level by NIOS.

## Indigenously designed and developed Spectrograph, commissioned in Nainital

- The 'Made in India' optical spectrograph named as Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC) is indigenously designed and developed by Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital.

### About the Spectrograph :

- The spectrograph is presently being used by **astronomers** from India and abroad to study distant quasars and galaxies in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies, cosmic explosions like supernovae and highly energetic Gamma-ray bursts, young and massive stars, and faint dwarf galaxies.
- It is about **5 times less costly** compared to the imported ones and can locate sources of light with a photon-rate as low as about 1 photon per second.
- This low-cost optical spectrograph can locate sources of faint light from distant quasars and galaxies in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies, and cosmic explosions. The total cost of this instrument is nearly Rs. 4 Crore.
- The spectrograph, the largest of its kind among the existing astronomical spectrographs in the country, has been successfully commissioned on the 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT), the largest in the country and in Asia, near Nainital, Uttarakhand.

### About ADFOSC :

- It is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- The ADFOSC spectrograph can locate sources of faint light from distant quasars and galaxies in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies, and cosmic explosions

### About Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences :

- Founded : 20 April 1954

## Nag River Pollution Abatement Project approved at a cost of over Rs 2,117

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** announced that the **Nag River Pollution Abatement Project** has been approved at a cost of over **Rs 2,117 crore**.
- The river which flows through **Nagpur** city thus giving its name to the city is now a highly polluted water channel of sewage and industrial waste.
- It will reduce the pollution level in terms of untreated sewage, flowing solid waste and other impurities flowing into the Nag river and its tributaries.
- The project approved under the National River Conservation Plan will be implemented by the National River Conservation Directorate.

## Wipro joins World Economic Forum initiative to advance racial justice, social equality

- **Wipro** has joined the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Partnering for Racial Justice in Business' initiative to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people** of all racial backgrounds in the workplace.
- The initiative is **aimed** towards driving action and accountability for companies to confront racism at a systemic level, set new global standards for racial justice in business and accomplish necessary policy changes for inclusion and advancement of professionals with under-represented racial and ethnic identities, said the company in a press release.

### About Wipro :

- CEO: Thierry Delaporte
- Founder: M.H. Hasham Premji
- Founded: 29 December 1945, India
- Owner: Azim Premji
- Headquarters : Bangalore

## I&B Minister Holds meeting with OTT industry representatives

- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** held a meeting with representatives of Over the Top, OTT industry and explained to them the provisions of the new OTT rules.
- The Minister mentioned that the Government has done several rounds of consultation with the OTT players in the past and stressed the need for self-regulation.
- Informing them about the provisions of the rules, Mr. Javadekar said, it merely requires them to disclose information and that there is no requirement of registration of any kind with the Ministry.
- He added that a form for this will be ready soon.
- **It was highlighted** that the rules focus on self classification of content instead of any form of censorship.

## Separate cell for National Commission for Women commissioned in Ladakh, J&K

- **Newly formed Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir Union Territories** will have a separate cell in **National Commission for Women (NCW)**.
- The Commission's Chairperson **Rekha Sharma** said that by the end of this month, separate cells for the new UTs will be created.
- Four days ahead of International Women's Day, Ladakh became the launching pad for the first-ever online training programme Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship.
- **In collaboration with IIM, Bangalore and India SME Forum**, the Commission is providing online training to five thousand women entrepreneurs from across the country.
- Chairperson Rekha Sharma said that NCW chose Ladakh for the occasion, to involve the women in the journey of development.

## Karnataka CM admires Bengaluru for its model of citizen centric initiatives development

- **Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa** has tweeted that **Bengaluru** has emerged as the most livable city in India in the **Ease of living Survey** conducted by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- He has said that the Bengaluru model of development of citizen centric initiatives and delivery of services have ensured this top ranking.

## Nagaland launches its first air cargo services from Dimapur airport

- **Nagaland** launched its **first air cargo** services from **Dimapur**
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially flagged off the service, a joint initiative of Department of Horticulture, Nagaland and Airport Authority of India with Air India and Indigo as airline partners.
- The introduction of air cargo service is a long felt need for the state as many of the products from the state go wasted.
- AAI is planning to construct a new terminal building including cargo service terminal at Dimapur with all modern facilities.

## About Nagaland :

- Capital : Kohima
- Governor : RN Ravi
- CM : Neiphiu Rio

## Fire spreading in forest areas of Similipal, Odisha

- **Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Chandra Sarangi** have expressed concern over the fire spreading in the forest areas of **Similipal in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha**, which is a Tiger Reserve and also an important biosphere reserve of the country.
- Describing the situation as alarming, Union minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Mr. Pradhan has sought the urgent attention of the **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar and Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik**.
- Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and MSME Sarangi has described the forest fires in Similipal as not being a good sign for Asia.

## Madhya Pradesh: 2-day national seminar on NEP and its Implementation concluded

- A two-day national seminar on National Education Policy and its Implementation, organised by **Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal, NITI Aayog and Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal**
- **State Higher Education Minister Dr Mohan Yadav** said that Universities in Madhya Pradesh will execute NEP from next academic session.
- **General Secretary of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal Dr Umashankar Pachauri** said that education should unfold the inner knowledge and skills of students.
- The NEP followed this concept. Vice Chancellor Prof. K.G. Suresh said, Indian culture is education and teacher-centric.
- National Education Policy focused on teachers.
- Prof Suresh announced establishment of Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) in the university and said, MCU will implement the policy from next academic session

## PM Modi pays tributes to 105th Birth Anniversary of former Odisha CM Biju Patnaik

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to **former Chief Minister of Odisha Biju Patnaik on his 105th Birth Anniversary(5<sup>th</sup> March)**.
- Mr Modi said, Biju Babu's futuristic vision for India, emphasis on human empowerment as well as social justice inspires us all.
- He said, the nation is proud of his efforts for **Odisha's progress**.

## PM Modi to hold virtual summit with Swedish counterpart

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will hold a virtual summit with his **Swedish counterpart Stefan Löfven**.
- This will be the fifth interaction between the two leaders since 2015.
- **India and Sweden** have warm and friendly relations based on shared values of democracy, freedom, pluralism and rules-based international order.
- During the Summit, the two leaders will hold comprehensive discussions on the entire spectrum of the bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and global issues including further strengthening of cooperation in the post-COVID era.
- Around 250 Swedish companies are actively operating in India in various sectors such as health and life sciences, auto industry, clean technology, defence, heavy machinery and equipment. Around 75 Indian companies are also active in Sweden.

## Union Education Minister announces opening of 2 new KVs in Punjab and Karnataka

- **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** announced opening of **two new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Karnataka and Punjab**.
- KV Sadalaga, Belagavi, in Karnataka and KV IIT Ropar in Punjab will be two new additions to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.
- With this, the total number of **KVs across the country will rise to 1247**.
- Initially, these two Vidyalayas will function with classes I to V and grow consequentially upto class XII.

- When these Vidyalayas start functioning in full capacity, around 1000 students of the area will be benefited in each school.
- The Admission process in both the Vidyalayas will start in the academic session 2021-22.

## Combined Commanders' Conference starts at Kevadiya in Gujarat

- A three-day Combined Commanders' Conference will begin at **Kevadia in Gujarat**.
- Theaterisation of armed forces, self-reliance in the defence sector and evolving threats in the region will be the focus areas during the three-day annual event.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the top commanders of the **Indian Army, Navy and Air Force**.
- During the conference, the setting up a new air defence command and maritime command is likely to be discussed at length.
- Implementation of the air defence command timeline is also likely to come up for discussion.
- The formation of theatre commands will synergise the capabilities and combat potential of the three forces during war and peace

## IMPCL decided to sell products on Government e-Market portal

- **Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL)** will sell products on the Government **e-Market (GeM) portal**.
- The IMPCL and GeM has finalised a deal in this regard and now the Ayurvedic and Unani medicines of IMPCL will figure on the GeM portal to hundreds of government sector buyers.
- This will facilitate quick procurement of these medicines by Central and State Government institutions for their healthcare programmes.
- It will also help to streamline the procurement and distribution of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines by State Units.
- The thousands of patients and other clients who visit Government Ayush hospitals every day stand to gain because of this increased availability of such medicines even in far-flung Ayush Hospitals and Clinics.
- The GeM has created **31 categories covering 311 medicines** which live in the marketplace and IMPCL can now upload these medicines on GeM Portal.
- IMPCL, the 100 crore rupees turnover PSU of the **Ministry of AYUSH**, is one of the most trusted manufacturers of Ayush medicines in the country and is known for the authenticity of its formulations.

## Karnataka launches engineering research policy

- The **Karnataka** government has launched the country's maiden **Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy** to **raise its contribution to the sector** in the country to **45%** in the next **five years**.
- The new policy envisages creation of an additional **50,000 jobs**.
- According to industry apex body Nasscom, ER&D has the potential to become a **\$100-billion** industry in the country in the next five years.
- The new policy, drafted jointly by the Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, and Nasscom in consultation with industry stakeholders
- It has identified five key focus sectors such as
  1. aerospace and defence;
  2. auto, auto components and EV;
  3. biotechnology, pharma and medical devices;
  4. semiconductors, telecom, ESDM;
  5. software products.
- The policy will also support industrial application of academic research, spend ₹10,000 per student on training and certification as provide grants to universities to set up laboratories.

## About Karnataka :

- CM : BS Yediyurappa
- Capital : Bangalore
- Governor: Vajubhai Vala

## Udaipur Science Centre inaugurated at Udaipur , Tripura

- The **Udaipur Science Centre**, at **Udaipur, Tripura** was dedicated to the people by the Governor of Tripura, Shri Ramesh Bais on 28th February 2021.
- The Udaipur Science Centre has been developed at a cost of **Rs 6 crore** funded jointly by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Tripura Government and with this; **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** has now set-up science centres in all the north eastern states
- It is the **22nd Science Centre** which has been developed by NCSM and handed over to the State Governments under the Ministry of Culture's Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science
- It is funded jointly by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and Dept. of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Tripura and with this; NCSM has now set-up science centres in all the north eastern states.

## About National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) :

- Founded: 4 April 1978
- Headquarters: Kolkata
- Director General: Shri A. D. Choudhury

## About Tripura :

- Capital: Agartala
- Governor: Ramesh Bais

## Mumbai's CSMT becomes first railway station to get IGBC Gold Certification

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Railway Station** of **Central Railway** is the **first railway station** in **Maharashtra** to be awarded with Gold certification as per **CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** ratings.
- The rating system gives impetus to the national priorities like energy efficiency, water conservation, handling of waste measures and motivates the adoption of green standards for buildings and its environment.
- Central Railway has implemented various green initiatives across its zone, with plantations creating green areas, installation of solar panels, customer-friendly initiatives at many stations, LED bulbs and lights etc.

## About Indian Green Building Council :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters : Hyderabad

## Indian Army launches Community Radio Station

- The first of its kind in North Kashmir, Community Radio Station with the tagline "**Radio Chinar 90.4, Har Dil Ki Dhadkan**" was inaugurated 04 Mar 2021 by the Indian Army for the Awam in Mazbugh, Sopore.
- The Radio Station was inaugurated by Lt Gen BS Raju, General Officer Commanding Chinar Corps in presence of Maj Gen HS Sahi, General Officer Commanding Kilo Force and various Army and civil dignitaries.
- The reach of the Community Radio Station will be **Sopore, Bandipora and Baramulla Districts**.
- This Community Radio Station has been started with an aim to revitalize the connection within different segments of the community.
- This will provide a good platform for a community dialogue, sharing of information, art & culture.

- It will build a community environment, which is better connected with issues which are local and important to the community.

## Meghalaya: State Govt launches online registration portal for migrant workers

- In Meghalaya, the State Government launched the online registration portal for migrant workers under the **Meghalaya Identification Registration (Safety and Security) of Migrant Workers Act 2020**, in a function organized by the Labour Department in Shillong.
- **Launching the portal, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong** said, the online portal will improve the ease of doing business.
- He urged all stakeholders to utilize the portal so that a record of genuine migrant labourers or workers is maintained in the State.
- He said, this move is crucial for the development of the State as **labour forces** from other parts of the country are required to complete projects of different departments.
- He reiterated that only those migrant workers/labourers who fulfil various criteria stated under the Act, will be issued with a labour license.

## India Commemorates “Chabahar Day” on 04 March 2021

- India commemorated the ‘**Chabahar Day**’ on March 04, 2021 on the **sidelines of the Maritime India Summit-2021 which was held from March 2-4, 2021**.
- The event was held virtually. Ministers from **Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan** participated in the event.
- It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean and the agreement was signed between India and Iran in 2018 for its development.

### About Chabahar Port :

- Chabahar Port is a seaport located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- The commemoration was part of the strategy of India to boost its involvement in the Chabahar Port, which is New Delhi’s key gateway to Afghanistan.
- The location of the Chabahar port has strategic advantage and high potential to provide connectivity among India, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and other **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries**, and boost trade.
- The Port will also be part of INSTC network connecting Mumbai with Russia via Iran.
- It is a key pillar of India’s Indo-Pacific vision, to connect Eurasia with the Indian Ocean Region.

## MP, West Bengal top performers in land records digitisation

- **Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha** are the best performing Indian states in land record digitisation, according to an annual land records index prepared by Delhi-based think-tank **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**.
- The NCAER’s Land Records and Services Index (NLRSI) 2020-21 released Thursday said nearly all states and union territories 29 out of 32 showed a gradual improvement in their efforts to digitise land records compared to the previous year.
- The data was primarily collected on two aspects: the extent of digitisation of land records and the quality of these records.
- Out of the 32 states and UTs ranked, only Assam and Lakshadweep Islands saw a decline in points from last year.
- As a result, the mean N-LRSI score across the 32 states and UTs has shown an increase of 16.6 per cent in 2020-21, from 38.7 in 2019-20 to 45.1 in 2020-21 (out of the maximum score of 100 points).

### About NCAER :

- Establishment : 1956
- Headquarters : New Delhi

- President : Nandan M Nilekani

## EPFO board recommends an unchanged 8.5% interest on deposits for 2020-21

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has kept the **interest rates unchanged on provident fund deposits at 8.5 per cent for financial year 2020-21.**
- This rate, the **same** as last year's, is the lowest offered by **EPFO in eight years.**
- There were speculations that the EPFO would lower interest on provident fund deposits for this fiscal (2020-21) from 8.5 per cent given in 2019-20, owing to the coronavirus-induced slowdown through 2020.
- The retirement fund body has more than **50 million active subscribers**
- The decision was taken at the **Central Board of Trustees (CBT)** meeting, which is the main decision-making body of
- The interest rate would be officially notified in the government gazette following which EPFO would credit the rate of interest into the subscribers' accounts

## About EPFO :

- Founded: 4 March 1952, New Delhi
- Headquarters: New Delhi

## Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches "CSIR Floriculture Mission"

- **Dr Harsh Vardhan** encouraged scientists of **CSIR** laboratories across the country to develop the land available at each laboratory to be set up as a model under the "**CSIR Floriculture Mission**".
- CSIR Floriculture Mission has been approved for implementation in **21 States and Union Territories of India wherein available knowledge base in CSIR Institutes will be utilized** and leveraged to help Indian farmers and industry reposition itself to meet the import requirements.
- The CSIR Floriculture Mission is expected to create opportunities for entrepreneurship development in floriculture. Infusion of the latest technologies in the field of floriculture can be successfully led by CSIR.
- The mission will focus on commercial floral crops, seasonal/annual crops, wild ornaments and cultivation of flower crops for honey bee rearing. Some of the popular crops include Gladiolus, Canna, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Gerbera, Lilium, Marigold, Rose, Tuberose etc.
- This Mission is being implemented in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Directorate of Floriculture, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Universities.
- The Portal is to facilitate the public to submit the societal problems that can be resolved using S&T interventions.

## Centre constitutes National Committee headed by PM Modi to 75 years of India's Independence commemoration

- The Government has constituted a National Committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate **75 years of India's Independence.**
- The committee has **259 members** and includes dignitaries and eminent citizens from all walks of life.
- It will provide policy direction and guidelines for formulation of programs for the commemoration of 75th anniversary of Indian Independence, at the national and international levels.
- The 75 years of India's Independence falls on **15th August next year** and celebrations are proposed to be launched 75 weeks prior to this date on 12th March this year.
- **12th March is the 91st anniversary of the historic Salt Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi.**
- The Committee will hold its first meeting to discuss modalities relating to preparatory activities.
- The Government intends to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence in a befitting manner at national and international level in the form of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**'.

## New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 inaugurated by Education Minister

- **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** inaugurated the **New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 – Virtual Edition**.
- The Minister appreciated that '**National Education Policy-2020**' is the **theme** of the book fair.
- The Minister said it has emerged as the world's biggest reform.
- He said, National Education Policy will develop India not only as the Knowledge hub but will also help in making learners ideal and global citizens.
- The Minister congratulated National Book Trust and its entire team for holding the Virtual Edition of Book Fair.

## New Cultural Centre of High Commission of India inaugurated by EAM Dr. Jaishankar in Dhaka

- A **new cultural centre** of the **High Commission of India** was inaugurated by the **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in Dhaka**.
- It is the **second cultural centre** of the High Commission of India after the **Dhanmondi centre at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka**.
- The new cultural centre has facilities for conducting short term courses on Indian art forms and holding cultural programmes and art-exhibitions.
- Inaugurating the cultural centre at the old India House Building Dr. Jaishankar said that the new centre will act as a centre of energy for the unique relations between India and Bangladesh.
- He said that the shared cultural heritage of the two countries is the strength of their partnership.
- Commending the opening of the second cultural centre, Dr. Jaishankar said that Dhaka is among the few cities in the world that hosts more than one Indian cultural centre.

## Free entry for women visitors to all centrally protected monuments for Women's Day

- Women visitors will be allowed free entry to all centrally protected monuments to mark **International Women's Day**.
- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** said **both foreign and Indian Women visitors** will be allowed free entry to all centrally protected monuments.
- There are **3 thousand 6 hundred 91** centrally protected monuments under the ASI.

## Andhra Pradesh CM launches AP Fact Check website and Twitter account

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S .Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched the **AP Fact Check website and Twitter account at his camp office**.
- The Chief Minister said that with malicious propaganda spread in the media and on social media, the State Government has launched the website in a bid to curb such false news.
- He directed the authorities to take action against such half-truths.
- He stressed on the need to identify where these campaigns originate and take legal action.
- He said no one should spread misinformation to mislead people about the welfare schemes that the Government is taking seriously, and also about the institutions involved.

## PM Modi inaugurates 7500th Janaushadhi Kendra at NEIGRIHMS, Shillong

- On March 07, 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will address the '**Janaushadhi Diwas**' celebrations via video conferencing.
- The **last day** of the **week** which falls on **7th March** is celebrated as '**Janaushadhi Diwas**'.
- The theme of Janaushadhi Diwas 2021 is "**Jan Aushadhi – Seva bhi, Rozgar bhi**".
- The Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation the 7500th Janaushadhi Kendra at **North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong** during the event.
- The celebrations are organised by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- In 2021, third Janaushadhi Diwas is being celebrated.

## About PMBJP:

- Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendras known as Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendra.

## India Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021 Announced; 40 Scholars From Six Countries Awarded

- **Forty scholars from six countries** have been awarded with **Indian Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021**.
- The forty scholars will now have the opportunity to carry out their research in Indian institutes and universities.
- These scholars have been selected based on research proposal, experience, academic merit and publication record and recommended for the award of ISRF 2021.

## About ISRF:

- 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.
- This fellowship is a platform to establish research cooperation with neighbouring countries of India, which is one of the mandates of DST's International Science and Technology Cooperation.
- The initiative was launched by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** in 2015 for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- It has been implemented since 2015, and as of now, **5 calls** have been announced in this programme with participation of young researchers from these countries. About 128 fellows from these countries have been awarded fellowship under this programme.

## National Committee to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence to hold its first meeting

- The **National Committee** set up to commemorate **75 years of India's Independence** will hold its **first meeting to discuss modalities relating to preparatory activities**.
- The **259** member committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet virtually.
- The committee includes Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Governors as well as leaders of different political parties including BJP President JP Nadda and Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi.
- The Government has decided to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence in a befitting manner at National and International level in the form of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- The National Committee includes dignitaries and eminent citizens from all walks of life including Artists, Sportspersons, Business leaders, Gandhians and media persons.
- The committee will provide policy direction and guidelines for formulation of programs for the commemoration.
- The 75 years of India's Independence falls on 15th August next year.
- The celebrations are proposed to be launched 75 weeks prior to this date on 12th of this month.
- 12th March is the 91st anniversary of the historic Salt Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi.

## Smriti Irani says India will be fully Aatmanirbhar in Silk production in next two years:

- **Textiles Minister Smriti Irani** has said that **India** will be **fully Aatmanirbhar in Silk production in the next two years**.
- Addressing the National level programme on convergence of **Agro-Sericulture and eradication of Thigh reeling in New Delhi**, Mrs Irani said that raw silk production in the country has increased 35 per cent in the last six years.
- She informed that more than 90 lakh people have got employment in raw silk production.
- On the eve of International Women's Day, the Textiles Ministry distributed Buniyaad Reeling Machines to Women Silk Reelers to eradicate Unhygienic and Obsolete Thigh Reeling Practice.
- Mrs Irani said eight thousand women thigh reelers were identified for providing Buniyaad machines and five thousand women have already been supported under **Silk Samagra Phase -1**.

- She said that for the remaining three thousand thigh reelers, fund provision has been made.

## PM Modi Dedicates 7500th Janaushadhi Kendra to the nation at NEIGRIHMS, Shillong

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** called upon the people to use medicines from **JanAushadhi Kendra** saying that people have **saved more than 9,000 crore rupees** through these Kendras.
- Mr Modi said, the **Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi scheme** has relieved the poor of their high medical expenses.
- Jan Aushadhi centres are helping people from **poor and middle-class families to save around 3,600 crore rupees every year.**
- He said, Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Sanitary Pads are sold at just one rupee per pad.
- He was happy to note that the JanAushadhi scheme is helping people not only in medical treatment but also in generating employment for the youth.
- He pointed out that more than 1,000 JanAushadhi Kendras are being run by women.
- Mr Modi also dedicated the **7500th Janaushadhi Kendra at NEIGRIHMS, Shillong to the nation.** He said there were less than 100 JanAushadhi Kendras till 2014.
- He said the government is focused on opening 10,000 centres very soon.

## All Helpline numbers of Railways merged into single number

- Indian Railway has integrated all railway help lines into single number **139** which is **Rail Madad Helpline** for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey.
- As the new helpline number 139 will take over all the existing helpline numbers, **it will be easy for the passengers to remember this number and connect with Railways for all their needs during the travel.**
- The Ministry of Railways in a statement said that various Railway grievances helplines were discontinued last year and now, **Helpline number 182 would also be discontinued from 1st of April, 2021 and will be merged into 139.**
- The Helpline 139 will be available in twelve languages and passengers can opt for Interactive Voice Response System- IVRS or directly connect to call-centre executives by pressing the asterisk button.
- There is **no need for a smart phone to call on 139.**

## 'Maitri Setu' connecting India and Bangladesh - inaugurated by PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **Maitri Setu** between India and Bangladesh **through video conferencing.**
- Mr Modi will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure projects in Tripura during the event.
- The bridge Maitri Setu has been **built over Feni River** which flows between **Indian boundary in Tripura State and Bangladesh.**
- The name Maitri Setu symbolizes growing bilateral relations and **friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.**
- The construction was taken up by the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited at a project cost of 133 Crore rupees.**
- The **1.9 Kilometres long bridge** joins Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- It is poised to herald a new chapter for trade and people to people movement between India and Bangladesh.
- With this inauguration, Tripura is set to become the Gateway of North East with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, which is just 80 Kilometres from Sabroom.

## Digital platform 'Jagrut Tripura' launched to boost e-governance

- The **Tripura** government has come up with a **digital platform to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state government.**
- The project was developed by **EasyGov**, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura.

- It will have At least **102 schemes** of various departments of both the governments available on the platform.
- The digital platform is one of the many proactive initiatives undertaken by the state government to spur a technology-led innovation ecosystem to make '**Atmanirbhar**' (self-reliant) Tripura.
- "With 'Jagrut', we want to empower people to get the benefits they deserve, and the focus is on building a family- centric, progressive model having 'one data one source' and privacy at the core.

## About Tripura :

- CM : Biplab Kumar Deb
- Capital: Agartala
- Governor: Ramesh Bais

## India's biggest Kidney Dialysis Hospital inaugurated in Delhi at Balasahib Gurudwara

- India's biggest **Kidney Dialysis Hospital** was inaugurated at **Balrasahib Gurudwara** in Delhi.
- The **Guru Harikshan Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Kidney Dialysis Hospital** has been opened by Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.
- The 100 bedded hospital is equipped with most technically advanced medical facilities where services will be provided free of cost to the patients.
- There will also be no billing counter at the hospital.

## Uttarakhand CM declares ten thousand each for ASHA, Anganwadi volunteers

- **Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat** has announced **Rs Ten thousand each for ASHA and Anganwadi volunteers**, who had worked during the Covid 19 phase on the occasion of International Women Day.
- He also announced **15000 for each of the Mahila Mangal Dal and women self-help groups**.
- The Chief Minister virtually attended the function and addressed the gathering in Gairsain in Chamoli district and said that empowerment of women is extremely important for the all-around development of the society and the state.
- The Chief Minister said that during his four years in power, he had taken several steps for the welfare of women.

## About Uttarakhand:

- **Capital:** Dehradun
- **Chief minister:** Trivendra Singh Rawat
- **Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya

## India's first-ever transgender community desk in Cyberabad

- The **Cyberabad Police** launched **India's first-ever 'Transgender Community Desk' at the Gachibowli Police Station in Hyderabad**.
- This desk is the **first-of-its-kind** gender-inclusive community policing initiatives in the country.
- The desk was formally inaugurated by **Cyberabad Police chief VC Sajjanar in a ceremony that was attended by over 200 transgender people**.
- It is the world's first-ever help desk for the transgender community and it will be managed by a Police Liaison Officer and a member of the transgender community who is designated as a community coordinator.
- It will also be the focal point for all grievance redressal among the transgender community in Cyberabad Commissionerate.
- Earlier in 2014, the Supreme Court recognised the transgender community as a third gender along with male and female and ruled that they have equal privilege over the fundamental rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

## About transgender community desk:

- The transgender desk **will provide support to file cases in offences related to violence or discrimination against any transgender person.**
- Among other services, the desk will also provide counselling, legal aid, life-skills, soft skills training, job placements, and referral linkages to welfare schemes in partnership with the Department of Women & Child Welfare and District Legal Services Authority.
- The desk has been set up by the Cyberabad Commissionerate in collaboration with Society for Cyberabad Security Council and Prajwala.

## About Telangana:

- CM : K Chandrasekhar Rao
- Governor : Tamilisai Soundararajan

## India Inc's Business Confidence highest in decade: FICCI Survey

- **FICCI's Overall Business Confidence Index** has witnessed a decadal high of **74.2** in the current round on account of improvement in present conditions as well as expectations.
- The Index had stood at **9 in the previous survey and 59**
- It revealed recovery of demand conditions, improved capacity utilisation and a promising outlook on various operational parameters.
- Improved economic conditions and greater pricing power are likely to drive profits of corporate India over the next two quarters.
- The percentage of participants citing **higher profits over next six months increased to 36 per cent in the latest survey from 33 per cent respondents stating likewise in the previous round, the survey showed.**

## About FICCI:

- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Secretary General: Dilip Chenoy
- Founders: Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Ghanshyam Das Birla

## BEL pays interim dividend of 140 % on its paid-up capital to Govt for 2020-21

- **Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited, BEL** paid interim dividend of **140 percent** on its paid-up capital to the Government for financial year 2020-21.
- The Interim Dividend cheque of **174 crore 43 lakh 63 thousand 5 hundred 69 rupees payable on the shares held by the President of India, to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.**
- The BEL has declared 140 per cent as interim dividend to its shareholders for the financial year 2020-21.
- This is the **18th consecutive year that BEL is paying interim dividend.**
- It had paid a total dividend of 280 per cent on its paid-up capital for the financial year 2019-20.

## About BEL:

- Chairman & MD : M V Gowtama
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founded: 1954

## Two of Passport Seva Kendras to be transformed as All Women PSKs

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, **Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan unveiled two of the Passport Seva Kendras, PSKs to be transformed as All Women PSKs.**
- One PSK is at RK Puram, Bhikaji Cama Place in New Delhi and another at Tripunithura in Cochin, Kerala.

- The Minister expressed that the Government is continuously working to create a balance between both men and women in various spheres of lives, be it professional or personal.

## PM lists five pillars - to celebrate 75 years of Independence

- Chairing the first meeting of the National Committee to commemorate **75 years of independence**, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav virtually, Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed that **5 pillars** have been decided for the **celebration of the 75 years**.
- These are **Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, and Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolve at 75**.
- All these should include the ideas and feelings of the **130 crore indians**.
- The Prime Minister said this historical festival is about fulfilling the dreams of the freedom fighters, an attempt to elevate India to the height which they had wished.
- He asserted that the country is achieving things which were unthinkable a few years ago.
- He added that the celebration will be in accordance with the historical glory of India.

## Union Minister Sanjay Dhotre inaugurates MEMP 2021

- Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated the **International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials and Processing (MEMP 2021)** virtually on the occasion of **30th foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology**.
- Mr Dhotre said that the domestic production of electronic items has increased from over one lakh 90 thousand crore rupees in 2014-15 to over five lakh 33 thousand crore rupees in 2019-20 at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate of 23 per cent.
- He said, India's share in global electronics manufacturing has grown from 1.3 per cent in 2012 to 3.6 per cent in 2019, as per industry estimates.

## Centre announces More than 81 % accounts under Stand Up India Scheme belong to women entrepreneurs

- Government has said that more than 81 percent accounts under **Stand up India Scheme** and about **68 percent of loan accounts under MUDRA scheme belong to women entrepreneurs**.
- The Finance Ministry said, out of the total of over 41 crore accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, **over 23 crore accounts** belong to women.
- The Ministry said, these Schemes have financially empowered women to lead a better life and chase their dreams of being an entrepreneur.

## Govt declares 122 NACs identified under National Clean Air Programme

- **The Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry** has said that a total of 122 non attainment cities, NACs have been identified under the National Clean Air Programme.
- In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, **Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change** said that city specific clean air action plans have been prepared and approved for 111 NACs.
- He informed that the government is taking several steps to curb the air pollution level in the country by cutting down vehicular and industrial pollution.
- He said, **more than two thousand 200 crore rupees** have been released in the financial year 2020-21 to tackle the problem of air pollution.
- He added that an amount of **two thousand 217 crore rupees** have been allocated for 42 urban centres for improvement of air quality.

## Uttar Pradesh govt launches 2nd phase of Mission Shakti

- **Uttar Pradesh** government launched **the second phase of Mission Shakti on the occasion of International women's day**.
- It will become a **milestone in women empowerment**.
- In addition to that **First commercial flight from Bareilly** also started On March 08.
- The flight was operated by all women crew members' carrying **60 passengers to Delhi**.

# SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- With this flight Bareilly became 8th city in state with flight services on 4 days in a week to delhi within 2000 rupees.
- Many discussions, pink marathons, competitions and other events were organized to mark the occasion.
- Under Mission Shakti campaign Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated women special Police stations in 18 districts along with pink booths and pink toilets.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, the 'First Adarsh Mahila Barrack' in Mahila Thana, Muzaffarnagar was also inaugurated .
- Like the first Adarsh Barrack, it has all the basic facilities and amenities and in addition has Dressing Area, Lockers and attached Washrooms for the female police personnel.

## About UP :

- Capital : Lucknow
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath

## Manipur: Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana becomes changing factor for lives of tribal women

- There are a number of tribes across the country and the government has been implementing many welfare schemes and programs just to improve their income through various means.
- One such initiative is **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana** which was launched in 2018 by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India** with an intention to improve the tribal income through value addition of tribal products.
- The scheme has become a changing factor for the lives of many tribal women in Manipur.
- Manipur has **77 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras comprising 1,995 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and around 25,000 beneficiaries.**
- Registration of another 100 Kendras are under process and TRIFED has agreed to do funding for making storage and construction of hut bazaars for the products produced by SHGs.

## About Manipur:

- **Capital:** Imphal
- **Governor:** Najma Heptulla
- **Chief minister:** N. Biren Singh

## Himachal Pradesh police to organize 'All Women Parade' for International Women's Day

- On the occasion of **International Women's Day, Himachal Pradesh Police Department** will organize '**All Woman Parade**' at the historic Ridge Grounds in Shimla, aimed at increasing the strength of women in the police force.
- The state police will celebrate the Day in two sessions.
- **State governor Bandaru Dattatreya** will be the chief guest in the first session during which the Parade will be held on the Ridge, while the **chief minister Jai Ram Thakur** will be the chief guest during the second session.
- **Himachal Pradesh DGP Sanjay Kundu** said the state Police will hold a series of events on Women's Day.
- On the occasion, 26 women cop will perform daring bike stunts and musketry drills, which will be a major attraction in the first session.
- An exhibition on the theme, '**Women in HP Police in 50 Years**' would be displayed at Gaiety Theatre at six pm followed by a cultural program during the second session.
- The exhibition will continue till March 14.

## About Himachal Pradesh:

- **Capital:** Shimla
- **Chief Minister:** Jai Ram Thakur
- **Governor:** Bandaru Dattatreya

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 2023 Declared As International Year Of Millets As UN General Assembly

- The **UN General Assembly** adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over **70 nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets**
- It aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and their suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions
- The resolution titled 'International Year of Millets 2023' was initiated by India with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia and Senegal and was co-sponsored by over 70 nations.
- The **193-member** General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- In April 2016, the UN General Assembly had proclaimed the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025, recognising the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide.
- The Decade of Action on Nutrition provides an "umbrella for a wide group of actors to work together to address these and other pressing nutrition issues."

### About UN General Assembly :

- President: Volkan Bozkır
- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Founded : 1945

### Lok Sabha TV & Rajya Sabha TV merged into one single entity, Sansad TV

- The **Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Television channels** that broadcast the proceedings of the upper and lower Houses of Parliament, respectively, have been merged into a single entity.
- Retired Indian Administrative Service officer Ravi Kapoor was appointed the chief executive officer of the channel for one year on **March 1**.
- The decision is in line with the proposals of a panel headed by former Prasar Bharati chairperson **A Surya Prakash**.
- The panel was set up by **Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu after consulting with Speaker Om Birla in November 2019**.
- These two channels are also expected to serve as two language variants of Sansad TV by airing similar programming in English and Hindi , when not telecasting live proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- While Lok Sabha TV was launched in 2006, Rajya Sabha TV was launched in 2011.

### Israel officially receives first ever UAE ambassador

- **Israel's president** formally received the **first-ever ambassador** from the **United Arab Emirates, following last year's historic agreement between the countries**.
- The **UAE** was the **first country** to agree to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state under the Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by former US president Donald Trump.
- This will bring peace and prosperity to the people of the Middle East.
- Israel opened its UAE embassy in January, with veteran diplomat Eitan Naeh heading the Abu Dhabi mission.
- Israel and the UAE have already signed treaties on direct flights and visa-free travel, along with accords on investment protection, science and technology.

### About Israel :

- PM : Benjamin Netanyahu
- Capital : Jerusalem
- President : Reuven Rivlin

## New passenger train service between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri

- A **new passenger train service** between **Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri** is set to start from 26th of March marking the **50th Anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh**.
- According to an official release by the **Bangladesh Rail Ministry**, the direct train between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri will run through the **Chilahati-Haldibari** cross border rail route.
- However, other details like the schedule of the train, fair and immigration and its name will be decided later through discussion between the officials of the two countries.
- There are two passenger trains currently running between Bangladesh and India.
- The **Maitree Express** runs between Dhaka and Kolkata and Bandhan Express links Khulna with Kolkata.
- At present, **five rail routes connect Bangladesh and India** namely Petrapole-Benapole, Gede-Darshana, Singhabad-Rohanpur Radhikapur-Birol and Haldibari-Chilahati.

## SpaceX successfully tests Starship SN10 rocket

- **SpaceX** successfully tested its **Starship SN10 prototype rocket** after two recent failed attempts.
- The rocket prototype was launched to an altitude of **10,000 kilometers** and then landed back on the ground. However, the rocket exploded about six minutes after landing.
- The test launch is deemed successful because the goal was to gather information on how the flaps work to control the rocket when it is horizontal as it is falling back to earth.
- The SN10 is an early prototype of the Starship Mars rocket of SpaceX which aims to get people and payloads to the moon, Mars and other distant destinations.
- This rocket is also a part of the company's strategy to phase out its other flight hardware including, the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets and Dragon cargo and crew capsules, and let Starship shoulder the entire load.

## About SpaceX :

- Founder & CEO : Elon Musk
- President & COO : Gwynne Shotwell
- Founded : 2002
- Headquarters : California, United States

## Bangladesh govt. launched national app portal

- The Government of Bangladesh has launched its **national app portal [bdapps.com](http://bdapps.com)**.
- The agreement between the **ICT division of the government of Bangladesh and the telecom company Robi was signed in Dhaka**.
- Through this agreement, BDApps will be established as the hub of the ICT division for application developers.
- Under the agreement, the ICT division will collaborate with bdapps to organise exclusive boot camps and software development events in the country.
- **Launching the app portal** as the national app portal, ICT minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak said that app developers from any organisation can use this platform to upload their apps.
- He said that the ICT division will seek exemption on income tax for the developers and the abolition of VAT on apps.
- The minister announced that training facilities of the ICT department will be extended to developers seeking to put their apps on the portal.
- BDApps is the largest mobile application platform in Bangladesh hosting **more than 23,000 apps developed by 12,000 developers**.

## EAM Dr S Jaishankar speaks to his German counterpart

- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar spoke to his **German counterpart Heiko Maas**.
- Dr Jaishankar said, they discussed **70 years of India-Germany diplomatic relations** and the COVID situation and regional issues.

## Australia building world's first platypus sanctuary to promote breeding and rehabilitation

- **Australian conservationists** unveiled plans to build the **world's** first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction due to climate change.
- The **Taronga Conservation Society** Australia and the New South Wales State government said they would build the specialist facility, mostly ponds and burrows for the semi aquatic creatures, at a zoo 391 km (243 miles) from Sydney, by 2022, which could house up to 65 platypuses.
- The new facility will promote breeding and rehabilitation of these iconic creatures, which are native to Australia.

### About Australia :

- Capital : Canberra
- Currency: Australian dollar

## UN report shows close to 931 million tonnes of food were wasted globally in 2019

- The **Food Waste Index Report 2021**, from the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and partner organisation **WRAP**, said that around **931 million tonnes of food waste was generated in 2019**, sixty-one per cent of which came from households, 26 per cent from food service and 13 per cent from retail.
- This suggests that 17 per cent of total global food production may be wasted.
- In India, the household food waste estimate is 50 kg per capita per year, or 68,760,163 tonnes a year.
- **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)** target 12.3 aims at halving per-capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains. One of the two indicators for the target is the Food Waste Index.

### About UNEP :

- Headquarters location: Nairobi, Kenya
- Head: Inger Andersen
- Founder: Maurice Strong
- Founded: 5 June 1972, Nairobi, Kenya

## Reliance Power forms JV with Jera for 745 MW Project in Bangladesh

- **Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power** has formed a joint venture with **Japan-headquartered Jera Co. Inc** to develop a new gas-fired power generation project in **Bangladesh**.
- The company has achieved financial closure for the project with a group of lenders including Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Asian Development Bank and all requisite conditions for availing drawdown under the loan agreements have been achieved.
- The project is to build, own, and operate a **745-MW** (net output: 718 MW) natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat near Dhaka.
- Reliance Power's wholly-owned subsidiary Samalkot Power has received the approval from the Export Import Bank of the United States to sell one module of equipment to EPC contractor of the project Samsung C&T Corporation of South Korea for ₹1,540 crore.

### About Reliance Power :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Anil Ambani

## Build new school building under Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership – India permits NRs 44.17M

- India has extended a grant of **17 million Nepali Rupees** to Nepal to build a new school building in Rupandehi district of the country under the **Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership**.
- In a statement Indian Embassy in Nepal said, an **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed **between the two countries** for the construction project.
- Indian Embassy said that since 2003, under High Impact Community Development Projects programme, India has completed 446 projects in the areas of health, education, drinking water, connectivity, sanitation and creation of other public utilities across all seven provinces of Nepal.

## Bangladesh observes historic Speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

- **Bangladesh is observing the 50th anniversary of the historic speech given by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka on 7th March 1971.**
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib by placing wreaths at his portrait in front of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in Dhaka.
- Her younger sister Sheikh Rehana accompanied Prime Minister Hasina during the wreath-laying ceremony.
- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had delivered the historic speech on this day in 1971 at the then **Race Course Maidan which is now known as Suhrawardy Udyan.**
- He had declared before a huge crowd on that day that 'Ebarer songram amader muktir songram, ebarer sangram swadhinatar sangram' meaning 'the struggle this time is for our freedom, the struggle this time is for our independence'.
- UNESCO recognised this speech as part of World Documentary Heritage in 2017.

## Temporary legal residency to Venezuelans – United States offered

- The United States has announced to offer **temporary legal residency to several hundred thousand Venezuelans who fled their country due to economic collapse.**
- The **White House** announced that the US will also review US sanctions intended to isolate the South American nation.
- Both measures mark a shift from U.S. policy toward Venezuela under President Donald Trump.
- President Joe Biden's administration announced it would grant temporary protected status to Venezuelans already in the United States, allowing an estimated three lakhs 20 thousand people to legally live and work in the country for 18 months. Citizens of 10 countries, totaling about **400,000 people**, are in the United States now with temporary protected status.
- The largest number comes from El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti, many with U.S. citizen children and spouses

## Indian Navy Ships to visit Bangladesh on 50th anniversary of 1971 Liberation war

- On part of the '**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**' celebration commemorating **50 years of the 1971 war triumph against Pakistan**, Indian Naval Ships are scheduled to make the first-ever visit to the historic port town of Mongla in Bangladesh from March 8 to 10.
- Indian Naval Ships Sumedha, an indigenously build Offshore Patrol vessel and Kulish, an indigenously built guided missile corvette, are scheduled to make a port call at Mongla from March 8 to 10 to commemorate the ongoing Swarnim Vijay Varsh and reiterating the historic Indo-Bangladeshi friendship.
- This is the first time that any Indian Naval Ship is visiting the port of Mongla in Bangladesh and the visit is aimed at paying homage to the Bangladeshi and Indian combatants and citizens who laid down their lives during the Liberation War of 1971, and reiterate India's firm resolve and commitment to maintain peace, stability and good order in the region, in line with SAGAR – Security and Growth for all in the Region, as articulated by the Prime Minister of India

### About Bangladesh:

- Capital: Dhaka

- Currency: Bangladeshi taka
- President: Abdul Hamid

## Two Indian Naval ships arrive in port city Mongla – Bangladesh

- Two ships of Indian navy arrived at the **port city of Mongla in Bangladesh** on a port call between March 8-10.
- The ships **INS Kulish and INS Sumedha with Cmde MV Raju, NM, Naval Officer-in-Charge Andhra Pradesh** onboard were given a ceremonial welcome by the Bangladesh navy on their arrival in Mongla.
- **INS Sumedha** is an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel and **Kulish** is an indigenously built guided missile corvette.
- They are visiting Bangladesh to commemorate the ongoing '**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**' and to reiterate the historic **India-Bangladesh friendship**.
- This is the first time that any Indian Naval Ship is visiting the port of Mongla to pay homage to the Bangladeshi and Indian combatants and citizens who laid down their lives during the **Liberation War of 1971**.
- It is also aimed to reiterate India's firm resolve and commitment to maintain peace, stability and good order in the region, in line with SAGAR – Security and Growth for all in the region, said the official press release.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : BANKING NEWS

### Sebi eases listing rules for large IPOs, paving way for LIC's mega float

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** eased the listing norms for large companies, apparently paving the way for the much-awaited mega float of **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**.
- The regulator said large companies can now divest a minimum 5 per cent in the IPO, instead of 10 per cent. Further, they will get five years, instead of three, to raise the public float to 25 per cent.
- This move would encourage large firms to opt for listing.
- The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State (Finance and Corporate Affairs) Anurag Thakur.

### About SEBI :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Establishment : 1992
- Chairman : Ajay Tyagi

### SBI MF Launches First Overseas Fund

- The **State Bank of India (SBI) Mutual Funds** has launched its **first overseas** offering on 1 March 2021.
- The fund titled SBI International Access US Equity FOF is an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in mutual fund schemes/ETFs that invest in US markets, which are domiciled overseas.
- The scheme will invest **95-100 percent** of its net assets generally in Amundi Funds US Pioneer Fund (including ETFs), which invest predominantly in the US markets.

### Main features of the scheme :

- **International diversification:** Provides international diversification to the portfolio and provides investors the opportunity to invest in themes not available in the Indian market.
- **Lower correlation:** Aids in mitigating overall risk by investing in a market that has lower correlation to Indian markets.
- **Currency depreciation:** Provide investors the opportunity to benefit from any depreciation in the Indian currency as against the currency of the underlying fund.

### Minimum Investment Amount :

# SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

---

- The customers interested in the scheme are required to invest at least Rs 5,000 for the first time. However, for additional purchase the minimum application amount is Rs 1,000.
- There is no upper cap for the investment in this fund.

## About SBI :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- MD & CEO : Vinay Tonse
- Chairperson : Dinesh Kumar Khara

## Kotak Mahindra Bank steer salary account of Indian army personnel

- Private sector lender **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will handle the salary account of the Indian army personnel.
- **The bank** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army** here for a salary account.

## Bharat Petroleum Corporation Board approves sale of its 61.65 % stake in Numaligarh Refinery

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Board** has approved sale of its **61.65** percent stake in Numaligarh Refinery for **9,875 crore rupees**.
- Oil India Limited, Engineers India Ltd and Assam Government will be picking up the stake.
- Government has also received Multiple Expressions of Interest for privatisation of Shipping Corporation of India Limited.

## About Bharat Petroleum Corporation Board :

- Founded : 1952
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

## India bags highest ever FDIs of over 67 bn US dollars for first nine months of current fiscal

- India received the highest ever **Foreign Direct Investments** of over 67 billion US dollars for the **first nine months of a financial year, last year**.
- During the period of **April to December 2020**, **FDI equity inflow grew by 40 percent** as compared to the corresponding period in the last financial year.
- As per Ministry of Commerce & Industry, these trends are an endorsement of India's status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors.
- Measures being taken by the Government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in tremendous FDI inflows into the country.

## GST collections up by 7 % to Rs 1.13 lakh cr in Feb

- The gross **GST revenue** collected in the month of February is **one lakh 13 thousand 143 crore rupees**.
- Finance Ministry said, out of this amount, CGST is 21 thousand 92 crore rupees, SGST is 27 thousand 273 crore, IGST is 55 thousand 253 crore and Cess is 9,525 crore rupees.
- The government has settled 22 thousand 398 crore rupees to CGST and 17 thousand 534 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement.
- In addition, the Centre has also settled 48 thousand crore rupees as IGST ad-hoc settlement in the **ratio of 50:50** between Centre and States and UTs.
- The total revenue of Centre and the States after regular settlement and ad-hoc settlement in February was 67 thousand 490 crore rupees for CGST and 68 thousand 807 crore for the SGST.

## AFI, Verraton launched new layer of security for online transactions

- **Academy of Fraud Investigations** along with Consult Verraton have developed **Trayambak**, a solution to prevent ATM, online banking and **PoS (point of sale)**
- Trayambak will add another layer of security for all ATM, online banking and PoS transactions.

## Cashfree partners with PayPal for global payment solution

- Homegrown **payments** and banking technology company, **Cashfree** on announced its **partnership with PayPal** to enable **international payments** for merchants.
- Cashfree Payment Solutions is a Payment Gateway.
- It can Collect local and international payments with a simple integration.

## World Bank plans \$100-mn guarantee scheme for solar rooftop projects

- The **World Bank** plans to introduce a **\$100-million** credit guarantee scheme to **boost India's rooftop solar programme**.
- The scheme will allow **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units.
- The World Bank scheme, along with State Bank of India (SBI) and the MSME ministry to accelerate adoption of rooftop solar units, will help MSMEs access credit of around **\$1 billion**.
- The arrangement will be beneficial for the firms that often do not meet the lending criteria of banks and other financial institutions, with their financial woes being exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic.

### About World Bank :

- Headquarters : Washington, D.C.
- Founded : July 1944
- Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

### About SBI :

- Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1 July 1955

### About MSME :

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 2007
- Joint secretary : Ateesh Kumar Singh

## PNB Housing Finance and Yes Bank sign strategic co-lending pact

- **PNB Housing Finance said it has tied up with Yes Bank** for a strategic co-lending service that will facilitate retail home loans at competitive rates.
- PNB Housing Finance said in a regulatory filing that PNB Housing and Yes Bank will synergise capabilities to provide an efficient and seamless experience to existing and new retail home loan customers.
- It added that this strategic co-lending agreement will offer "**convenient and customised retail loans to homebuyers at competitive interest rates**".
- PNB Housing and Yes Bank will jointly do due diligence and co-originate the loan at an agreed ratio.

## Amazon changes its app icon

- **E-commerce Company Amazon** has renewed its **iOS and Android app icon**

- According to Mashable, a month ago, the company introduced a new icon for its mobile apps, replacing the old 'shopping cart' icon with one that combined Amazon's smile logo and a blue adhesive tape strip on a brown background, as a nod to Amazon's shipping boxes.
- The **problem** with that design, apparently, was that the adhesive tape strip looked a **bit too much like the moustache of Adolf Hitler**, which was noticed on social media.
- The new design is very similar, but the adhesive tape strip has been redesigned to look nothing like a moustache.

## **NPCI, SBI Payments join hands to launch "RuPay SoftPoS" for merchants**

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** partnered with **SBI Payments to announce the launch of 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants.**
- This innovative solution has the capability to transform NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to **₹5000** through a simple tap and pay mechanism on their smartphones.
- RuPay SoftPoS will provide cost effective acceptance infrastructure to retailers at nominal cost. This unique phenomenon would be able to proliferate digital payment acceptance among millions of underserved Indian MSMEs.
- Merchants can convert their existing android smartphone devices into a payment terminal by simply downloading a supported app.
- This solution will revolutionize the way micro and small merchants receive payments and create a demarcated shift in their tendency to deal in cash to accepting secure, contactless digital payments instead.
- The RuPay SoftPoS solution will provide cost effective acceptance infrastructure to retailers at nominal cost.

## **About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) :**

- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Founded: 2008
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe.

## **Indian Bank to divest stake in JV ASREC India for asset reconstruction**

- **State-owned Indian Bank** will divest stake in **joint venture entity ASREC (India) Ltd as part of asset monetisation exercise.**
- The bank holds a 38.26 per cent stake in ASREC (India) Ltd.
- As part of the monetization of the bank's non-core assets, the board of directors of the bank in its meeting held on March 5, 2021, accorded in-principle approval for partial/full divestment of the bank's stake in joint venture ASREC (India) Ltd, Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing.
- **ASREC is an asset Reconstruction Company** in which Bank of India, Union Bank of India, LIC and Deutsche Bank are the shareholders.

## **Axis Securities launches platform to make investment in bond, debenture hassle free**

- **Axis Securities** announced the launch of '**YIELD**' – **an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market.**
- YIELD is the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows retail investors direct access to the debt instruments.
- This removes the hassle of filling up physical forms or the need for separate KYC with the bond institutions.
- To facilitate transactions only in secure options, it aggregates only '**AAA**' to '**A**' **rated quality debt instruments available for investment in the secondary market.**
- A seamless online platform that gives retail investors access to bonds available earlier only to the large corporations, family offices, or HNIs.
- Investing in bonds through YIELD is the answer to the investors seeking new alternative investment avenues for safe and relatively higher returns.

## About Axis Securities :

- Managing Director & CEO : B Gopkumar
- Founded: 2011
- Executive Director : Anand Shaha

## HDFC ERGO's new Business Kisht Suraksha to protect MFIs from natural calamities

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** has introduced **Business Kisht Suraksha** a unique cover aimed at protecting the balance sheet of **MFIs**, financial institutions and banks in the event of a **catastrophe** or **natural disaster**.
- It aims to limit the impacts on the balance sheet of financial institutions, due to non-payment of EMIs by borrowers, resulting out of listed calamities such as **floods, earthquakes, cyclones**, etc.
- Business Kisht Suraksha aims to address these concerns by indemnifying against these climatic changes whilst also protecting financial institutions from rising NPAs occurring due to the impact of natural disasters.
- Business Kisht can be customised as per the needs of an individual MFI or financial institution.
- The product can also be tailor-made depending on the geographical presence of the borrower, MFI or any financial institution basis the perils/climatic conditions that the location is prone to.

## About HDFC ERGO General Insurance :

- CEO: Ritesh Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 2002

## Hershey launches special chocolate edition

- **Kriti Bharti**, a rehabilitation psychologist from Jodhpur and managing trustee of **Sarathi Trust** was inducted into the unique **Har-She campaign** of world-renowned chocolate company Hershey for **International Women's Day**.
- The company launched a special edition of chocolate with the '**Har-She Rises**' title in the campaign in which the picture of Dr. Bharti was carved on the chocolate front cover.
- Dr Kriti Bharati who runs an NGO, the Saarthi Trust, is now helping to annul many child marriages in Rajasthan

## WCD Ministry signs agreement with Invest India in New Delhi

- **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** signed an agreement with **Invest India in New Delhi to enhance cooperation**.
- The aim of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** is to enhance co-operation in the thematic areas of Nutrition, Child Protection and Development, Women Empowerment and convergent capacity building in mission mode.
- It was signed by **joint Secretary in the Ministry Aditi Das Raut and Vice President, Invest India, Hindol Sengupta**.
- To formulate, design and conduct strategic research for the Ministry, **DRISHTI** under Invest India will conduct input and output analysis research, and other research as per requirement including coordinating with research agencies for primary, secondary and tertiary research.

## SEBI cancels registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation as Sub-broker

- Markets regulator **Sebi** cancelled the **certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation** as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfill the "**fit and proper**" criteria.
- The regulator had appointed a designated authority in 2018 to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of Intermediaries Regulations.

- According to the designated authority's report, considering the antecedents of Subrata Roy Sahara and the various judicial pronouncements against him and other group companies of Sahara, it is determined that Sahara India Financial (noticee) is not a "fit and proper person" to continue as a sub-broker in the securities market.
- In the **12-page** order passed Sebi Whole Time Member G Mahalingam said that he was in agreement with the findings of the designated authority that the notice is not a "fit and proper person" in terms of Intermediaries Regulations.

## About SEBI:

- Founded : 12 April 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- India Agency executive : Ajay Tyagi

## Defence & Aerospace sectors receive FDI worth Rs 4191 crore

- **Defence and Aerospace sectors** have received foreign direct investment worth of **four thousand 191 crore rupees till January this year.**
- This was stated by **Minister of State for Defence, Shripad Naik** in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.
- He said, the government has taken several steps to boost the indigenous manufacturing of defence items.
- He informed that out of **304 contracts, 190 contracts** have been signed with Indian vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment for armed forces in the past five years.
- Replying to another query, Mr. Naik informed that investments of more than one thousand crore rupees have been attracted by the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor and two thousand 72 crore rupees by Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor.**
- He added that around eight thousand defence items have been uploaded on SRIJAN portal for indigenization.
- This portal is a one stop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items for indigenization.

## KVGB launches new loan scheme for women entrepreneurs

- The **Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB)** has launched the '**Vikas Asha' loan scheme for women.**
- This **new loan scheme** is exclusively for women to meet business-related needs, including purchasing machinery/equipment/vehicle, and working capital requirements under micro and small enterprises, including retail trade.
- Under this scheme, the bank will extend loan up to a maximum of **10 lakh** with a repayment period of 84 months.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

### In a first, Air Force to participate in Exercise Desert Flag VI in UAE

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in the Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with the air forces of the **UAE, the US, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain for the first time.**
- The exercise is scheduled from **March 3 to 21 at the Al-Dhafra air base in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
- The Exercise Desert Flag is an annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the UAE Air Force.
- The IAF is participating for the first time in Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with air forces of United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.
- The IAF is participating with six Su-30 MKI, two C-17 and one IL-78 tanker aircraft.
- The C-17 Globemaster will provide support for the induction and de-induction of the IAF contingent.
- The aim of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to the participating forces, while training them to undertake simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment.

- The participating forces will get an opportunity to enhance their operational capabilities, it said, adding that there will also be a mutual exchange of best practices.

## About Indian Air Force :

- Founded: 8 October 1932
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Commander in Chief : RamNath Kovind

## DRDO successfully flight test SFDR technology

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Chandipur.**
- The SFDR technology will help DRDO with the technological advantage to develop long-range air-to-air missiles (AAMs).
- The performance of the missile was monitored using the data captured by Electro Optical, Radar and Telemetry instruments deployed by ITR and confirmed successful demonstration of the mission objectives.
- The launch was monitored by senior scientists of various DRDO labs, including Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)
- The High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL) has developed the nozzle-less booster while the ramjet engine is being developed with Russian assistance.

## About DRDO :

- Chairman : Dr G Satheesh Reddy
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Established : 1958

## Current Affairs : Conferences

### India-Sweden Virtual Summit 2021

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of the King-dom of Sweden **E. Stefan Löfven held a Virtual Summit where they discussed bilateral issues** and other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.
- This was the fifth interaction between the two leaders since **2015**.

## About the Summit :

- Both the leaders underlined that the longstanding close relations between India and Sweden were based on shared values of democracy, rule of law, pluralism, equality, freedom of speech, and respect for human rights.
- They reaffirmed their strong commitment to work for multilateral-ism, rules-based international order, counter terrorism and peace and se-curity.
- They also acknowledged the growing salience of India's partnership with the European Union and EU countries.
- The leaders also noted the growing member-ship of the India-Sweden joint initiative the Leadership Group on Indus-try Transition (LeadIT) that was launched during the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York.
- The two leaders also discussed the Covid-19 situation including the vaccination drive and stressed the need for vaccine equity by providing urgent and affordable access to vaccines across all nations.
- The two leaders reviewed the extensive ongoing engagement between India and Sweden, and expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the Joint Action Plan and Joint Innovation Partnership agreed during

# SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sweden in 2018. They explored avenues of further diversifying the themes under the rubric of these partnerships.

## About Sweden :

- Capital : Stockholm
- Currency: Swedish krona
- PM : Stefan Lofven

## Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses inaugural session of TechBharat 2021

- Union health minister, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** addresses the inaugural session of **TechBharat 2021**,
- **Laghu Udyog Bharati** and IMS Foundation organized the 2nd edition of the conclave bringing together stakeholders from the HealthTech sector on a virtual platform

## About TechBharat 2021 :

- Techbharat is facilitating interactions & deliberations between thousands of domestic & global participants, including policy makers, government representatives, industry members, investors & start-ups to nurture resourceful partnerships and boost growth in the sectors.
- The Pradhan Mantri Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, with a massive outlay of over 64 thousand crore rupees over the next six years, will develop capacities of primary, secondary and tertiary care, health care systems.

## Culture Minister inaugurates All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra' in New Delhi

- Minister of Culture and Tourism **Prahlad Singh Patel** inaugurated the **All-Women's Art Exhibition** titled '**Akshya Patra**' at **Rabindra Bhavan** Galleries in **New Delhi** on the occasion of **International Women's Day**.
- He also congratulated Lalit Kala Akademi for curating this encouraging opportunity for all the female artists around India and the world which has given them a platform where they are showcasing their work made with lots of emotions and the story of their lives.
- The exhibition will continue till **20th of this month and showcase more than 250 artworks from over 12 countries**.

## President of India Inaugurates conservation works at Singorgarh Fort in Damoh district (MP)

- The President of India **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of **Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh**.
- The President also inaugurated the newly carved **Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India**.
- He also addressed the State Level Tribal Conference at Singrampur village in Damoh.
- The program was organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Tribal Affairs Department of Madhya Pradesh.

## About MP :

- Capital: Bhopal
- Chief minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : RANKING

### Hurun Global Rich List 2021: Mukesh Ambani 8th richest in world, Elon Musk at top

- **Asia's richest person and Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has been ranked eighth** on the **Hurun Global Rich List 2021**.

# SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- Mukesh Ambani's total wealth swelled to **\$83 billion (approximately Rs 6.09 lakh crore)** over the past one year.
- **Tesla** chief Elon Musk bagged the **top** spot on the list for the first time after adding a massive \$151 billion during the year to take his net worth to \$197 billion.
- **com Inc boss Jeff Bezos ranked second** with \$189 billion in net worth.
- Bernard Arnault, chief executive of LVMH Moët Hennessy, the world's largest luxury-goods company, with a net worth of \$114 billion, Microsoft founder Bill Gates with \$110 billion and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg with \$101 billion were among the top five billionaires.
- The report showed that despite COVID-19 pandemic, the world added 8 billionaires every week in 2020 and 421 in a year, taking their total number to a record 3,288.
- The total wealth of all billionaires across the globe surged 32 percent, an addition of \$3.5 trillion, to take their total wealth to \$14.7 trillion, during the period under review.
- The wealth calculations taken into account is as of January 15, 2021.

## Ease of Living Index - Bengaluru and Shimla among 'Most liveable' cities across country

- **Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri** announced the release of the final rankings of **Ease of Living Index-2020 and the Municipal Performance Index-2020** in New Delhi in an online event.
- The rankings under Ease of Living Index-2020 were announced for cities with a population of more than a million and cities with less than a million people.
- In all, 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted last year.
- Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million Plus category, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore and Greater Mumbai.
- In the Less than Million categories, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere and Tiruchirappalli.
- Similar to the Ease of Living Index index, the assessment framework under Municipal Performance Index-2020 has classified municipalities based on their population, Million plus and less than Million Population.

## QS World University Rankings: 12 Indian Institutions on securing position in top 100

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has congratulated 12 Indian Institutions on securing a position in top 100 in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021.
- **These institutions are** IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi, and O P Jindal University.
- IIT Madras has been ranked 30th in the world for Petroleum Engineering, IIT Bombay has been ranked 41st and IIT Kharagpur has been ranked 44th in the world for Minerals and Mining Engineering, and University of Delhi has been ranked 50th in the world for Development Studies.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Karnataka Major and Medium Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi resigned

- In **Karnataka**, the **Major and Medium Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi has resigned** after he was allegedly caught up in a sex scandal CD released.
- The CD was released by a social activist Dinesh Kallahalli and a complaint was filed with the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant.
- The Opposition Congress and JD(S) had sought the resignation of the Minister after the CD was released.
- After tendering his resignation, Ramesh Jarkiholi said that he has sent his resignation letter to the Chief Minister on moral grounds.

### About Karnataka :

- CM : YS Ediyurappa
- Capital : Bangalore

## Saurabh Mittal appointed as CTO of retail finance business – Piramal

- Piramal appoints Saurabh Mittal as Chief Technology Officer of its Retail Finance Business.
- In this role, Saurabh will lead technology strategy towards building a world-class Tech and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-led lending business, creating a cloud-native cutting-edge tech-stack.

## Susheel Umesh appointed as Chief Commercial Officer of Biocon Biologics

- Biocon Biologics Ltd., a fully integrated 'pure play' biosimilars company and a subsidiary of Biocon Ltd, announced that Mr Susheel Umesh has joined Biocon Biologics as the Chief Commercial Officer – Emerging Markets (CCO-EMs) effective March 1, 2021.
- He will drive the company's business in the Emerging Markets (EMs) and will also be responsible for the Branded Formulations business.

## Kuldiep Singh takes additional charge as CRPF DG

- IPS officer Kuldiep Singh has assumed the additional charge of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) director general (DG).
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has given Singh an additional charge of DG CRPF to Kuldiep who is a 1986 batch officer from the West Bengal cadre.
- Special DG CRPF Kuldiep Singh will look after the duties of Director General, CRPF after A P Maheshwari who retired.

### About CRPF :

- Formed: 27 July 1939
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- The Central Reserve Police Force is India's largest Central Armed Police Force. It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India.
- The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter insurgency

## Mary Kom appointed as Chairperson of AIBA's champions & veterans committee

- Six-time world champion pugilist Mary Kom has been appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee.
- The Committee, formed in December last year, consists of most respected worldwide boxing veterans and champions who have achieved significant results and who are ready to share their experience.
- AIBA President Umar Kremlev said this in a letter to the 2012 Olympic bronze-medallist. Mary Kom was elected by the Board of Directors of AIBA.

### About AIBA :

- Headquarters location: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President: Umar Kremlyov
- Founded: 1946 The International Boxing Association or AIBA, originally the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur, is a sport organization that sanctions amateur boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.

## Cricketer Rohit Sharma appointed as brand ambassador of Glenmark Pharma

- Drug major Glenmark Pharma said it has signed cricketer Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador for its product Candid Powder.
- The company said in a statement that Sharma has "officially signed on to represent Glenmark's Candid Powder, a legacy brand of the company's consumer care division".

## Hollywood Critics Association honoured Director Zack Snyder with special 'Valiant Award'

- **American filmmaker Zack Snyder** will be presented with the first-ever Valiant Award from The Hollywood Critics Association at the virtual fourth **Annual HCA Film Awards ceremony**.
- According to The Hollywood Reporter, the **Hollywood Critics Association** is presenting Snyder with this first-ever Valiant Award as an honour for how the filmmaker and his wife, and producing partner, Deborah Snyder, responded to their 20-year-old daughter autumn's suicide in 2017.

## Federal Reserve Bank of New York appointed Indian-origin Naureen Hassan as its first VP, COO

- An **Indian-origin** veteran of the financial services industry has been appointed as the **first vice president and chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York**.
- **Naureen Hassan** has been appointed by the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as the first vice president and chief operating officer, effective from March 15.
- The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said in a statement.

## Bangladesh's first transgender Tashnuva Anan appointed as newsreader

- A private news channel has appointed **Bangladesh's Tashnuva Anan first transgender newsreader**.
- Tashnuva Anan Shishir will start presenting news for Boishakhi TV from the International **Women's Day on March 8**.
- This was announced by the TV news channel.
- The TV channel has appointed another transgender Nusrat Mau as one of the main characters for the regular drama section of the TV channel's entertainment wing.
- The Bangladesh government has taken several steps to ensure the dignity and rights of the transgender persons.
- They have been given the right to vote and stand in elections. Government provides an allowance to a large number of transgenders in the country.
- However, they suffer from social stigma and discrimination and remain one of the most marginalised and violated groups in the country.
- Tashnuva Anan is a model and actor who began her career in theatre group Natua in 2007.
- She has been actively associated with theatre in Bangladesh with appearances in many popular productions.

## About Bangladesh :

- Capital: Dhaka
- Currency: Bangladeshi taka
- President: Abdul Hamid

## M Venkaiah Naidu praise Mallikarjun Kharge on becoming new Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

- **Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu** complimented Congress leader **Mallikarjun Kharge** on becoming the **new Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha**.
- On the first day of the second part of the Budget Session, Mr. Naidu expressed confidence that the vast and diverse experience of Mallikarjun Kharge will benefit the House significantly.
- He said, the leader of opposition plays a major role in smooth functioning of the House.
- During the session, the Chairman informed the House that the **eight Committees of Rajya Sabha** have spent 12 per cent more time this year on examination of Demands for Grants of 18 Ministries in comparison to last year.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOUR

## LJP's 'Jallikattu' selected for Golden Reel awards nomination

- **Lijo Jose Pellissery's Jallikattu** has been nominated for the prestigious **Motion Picture Sound Editors (MPSE) Golden Reel Awards**, which honour various categories in the entertainment sector.
- The film has been nominated for outstanding achievement in **Sound Editing (Foreign Language) in the 68th edition of the awards**.
- Sound editor/designer Renganaath Ravee and his team comprising Sreejith Sreenivasan, Kannan Ganpat, Boney M Joy, Arun Rama Varma, Amandeep Singh, Francis C David, and Mohammad Iqbal Paratwada worked on the film's sound.

## ROPE achievement awards conferred

- The **Rotary Police Engagement (ROPE) Lifetime Achievement awards** were presented to senior police officers in the state who have taken the initiative to modernise and popularise **Kerala Police**.
- **Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** presented the awards to State Police Chief Loknath Behera, ADGP and Cyberdome nodal officer Manoj Abraham, ADGP B Sandhya, ADGP (Crime Branch) S K Sreejith, Coastal Security IG P Vijayan, Anti-Terrorist Squad DIG Anoop Kuruvila John, and DIG P Prakash, at a function held at Raj Bhavan.
- **ROPE is a joint venture between the three Rotary districts of Kerala from Kasaragod to Parassala**.
- ROPE Kerala chief coordinator and former district governor Suresh Mathew presided over the function.
- Kerala secretary and general coordinator Jigeesh Narayanan welcomed the gathering.

## Bihari Puraskar 2020 to be awarded to Mohankrishna Bohara

- The **30th Bihari Puraskar for 2020** will be given to **Mohankrishna Bohara** for his **Hindi book** of Criticism, titled **Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya**.
- The K.K. Birla Foundation announced this in New Delhi.
- The book was published in 2016.

## About Bihari Puraskar

- Bihari Puraskar carries an award money of two lakh 50 thousand rupees, a Citation and a Plaque. The award is one of the three literary awards instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991.
- Named after famous Hindi poet Bihari, the award is given every year for an outstanding work in Hindi or Rajasthani published in the last 10 years by a Rajasthani writer.

## PM Modi to receive CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will receive the **CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award**.
- He will also deliver a keynote address at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week -2021 via video conferencing.
- CERA Week was founded in 1983 by Dr. Daniel Yergin.
- CERA Week Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award was instituted in 2016.
- It recognizes the commitment of leadership on the future of global energy and environment and for offering solutions and policies for energy access, affordability and environmental stewardship

## Hyundai i20 bags ICOTY 2021 and Tata Nexon EV bags Green Car award

- The **Tata Nexon EV** won the inaugural **Green Car**
- **Hyundai i20** has won the **2021 Indian car of the year award (ICOTY)**.
- The third-gen hatchback was amongst the nine contenders competing for the most esteemed car award in the country.
- Tata Nexon EV claimed the top honour in its category with 106 points, followed by Hyundai Kona with 99 points, and the MG ZS EV in third with 93 points.

## Terumo Penpol employee selected for Lifetime Award – Women’s day observance

- As part of **Women’s Day observance celebrations**, JCI Trivandrum Green City is **honouring** some of the **eminent personalities in the social cause and education field from the city**.
- **Baby P S**, senior manager in-charge (PR and CSR), **Terumo Penpol Private Limited** has been selected for the **Lifetime Excellence Award** for her outstanding contribution in the category of Social cause.
- She will receive the award in a function to be held at Hotel Terrace, SS Kovil Road, Thampanoor.
- **Other eminent personalities such as K Omanakutty Amma**, Carnatic vocalist and academician;
- **Kalamandalam Vimala Menon**, mohiniyattam exponent;
- **Vinduja Menon**, film artist;
- **Shailaja Beegum**, chairperson of Hussain Charitable Trust;
- **Dr Amitha Praveen**, assistant professor, blood bank, Sree Chitra hospital;
- **Jameela Begum A**, former senate member, Kerala University;
- **Jolly Jacob**, principal, Christ Nagar College, **Radika Nair**, singer and **Arifa Nasifat Beevi**, president of Muslim Welfare association will also receive the awards.
- Apart from this, **Baby P S** has also been nominated to receive the award Project C.U.R.E.

## Bangladesh to confer its highest civilian award ‘Swadhinta Puraskar’

- **Bangladesh** has announced the names of **9 individuals and one organization** for conferring the Independence Award, the highest civilian award of Bangladesh for the year 2021.
- The Cabinet department of the government issued a press release.
- **Four individuals** have been selected **posthumously** for the award under the category of freedom fighters for their contribution to the liberation war of Bangladesh.
- These include **A K M Bazlur Rahman, Ahsan Ullah Master, Brig Gen. Khurshid Uddin Ahmed and Akhataruzzaman Chowdhury Babu**. **Dr. Mrinmoy Guha Niyogi** has been selected for his contribution to **science and technology**.
- **Mahadev Saha** will be honoured with the award for **literature** while **Ataur Rahman and Gazi Mazharul Anwar** will get the award for their contribution in the **field of Culture**.
- **M Amzad Hossain** has been nominated for the award for **social and public service**.
- In the category of organisations, the **Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council** has been **nominated for research and training**.
- The award has been given since 1977 ahead of the Independence Day of Bangladesh.
- The **recipients of the award get a gold medal and a cash reward of Taka 5 lakh**.

## Nomadland and the Crown won big at the 26th Annual Critics’ Choice Awards

- **Nomadland and the Crown won big at the 26th Annual Critics’ Choice Awards** that was held earlier.
- The ceremony hosted by **Taye Diggs** was held as an **in-person/virtual hybrid show**.
- Similar to the recently held **Golden Globes award ceremony**, a few presenters were present on a stage in Los Angeles, while nominees appeared on screen from all across the world.
- **Nomadland**, starring Frances McDormand, won the award for the Best Picture, while **Chloe Zhao** won the Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay.

## Best SHG award: won by Stitching masks, Cuttack’s Hazi Ali group

- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** felicitated city-based **Hazi Ali Producer Group**, which was adjudged as the best SHG for its outstanding contribution towards mask making during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **President Halima Khatun and Secretary Jasmin Mallick** of the producer group were felicitated during State-level celebration of **International Women’s Day through video conference and received a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with a certificate** in the presence of Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani and Joint CEO, ORMAS, Cuttack Bipin Rout at the Cuttack Collectorate.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU’s

## KVGB inks pact with Our Food

- The Dharwad-headquartered **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Our Food Pvt Ltd**, Visakhapatnam, for **arranging cost-effective processing units to farmers** through the bank loan.
- They must instead **process** their produce and sell it to fetch better prices.”

## Cabinet nods MoUs with France, Fiji

- The agreements are in the fields of renewable energy and agriculture. The **Cabinet** on **approved two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with France and Fiji**.
- The **MoU with France** is on renewable energy (RE) cooperation, and was signed in January.

## India signs pact with Philippines for supply of BrahMos missile

- **India** and the **Philippines** have signed a key agreement to **facilitate government-to-government deals on military hardware, including the potential supply of BrahMos cruise missiles**.
- The BrahMos missile is produced by an **India-Russian** joint venture “**BrahMos Aerospace**” and it can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms.
- The pact was signed by under-secretary Raymundo Elefante of the Philippines’ department of national defense and Indian ambassador Shambu Kumaran at Camp Aguinaldo, headquarters of the Filipino armed forces
- It is the **fastest supersonic cruise missile** in the world.
- Currently the missile is used only by India, however several countries including Philippines, Vietnam, South Africa, Egypt, Oman, Chile and Brunei have expressed interest in the procurement of the missile.

## Textiles Ministry sign MoU with Agriculture Ministry to amplify sericulture activities in the country

- **Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Agriculture signed an MoU** to amplify sericulture activities in the country in the presence of **Textiles Minister Smriti Irani and Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala**.
- The MoU will focus on establishing tree based agro-forestry models in sericulture and exploring possibilities of activities through **Krishi Vigyan Kendras**.
- Ms Irani said it will enhance training, boost technology and create sustainable livelihood for silk farmers or rearers.
- On the eve of International Women’s Day, **Ms Irani distributed Buniyaad Reeling Machines to women silk reelers** with an aim to eradicate unhygienic and obsolete Thigh Reeling practice.

## WAN-IFRA names The Hindu Group ‘Champion Publisher of the Year 2020’

- The **Hindu Group** won **two golds and two silvers** at **WAN IFRA’s South Asian Digital Media Awards, culminating in being named ‘Champion Publisher of the Year’**, owing to the highest tally on the points table.
- The awards are presented in recognition of outstanding work done by news publishers, in digital media.
- The winners were honoured virtually at the Digital Media India 2021 Conference.

## About WAN-IFRA :

- The World Association of News Publishers or WAN-IFRA, is a global organisation of the world’s press, with a network of 3,000 news publishing companies and technology entrepreneurs, and 60 member publisher associations representing 18,000 publications in 120 countries.
- South Asian Digital Media Awards are presented in 10 different categories.
- Twenty judges from across the globe evaluated the entries and chose the winners.

## 19 women achievers bags Aarya awards

- As many as **19 women achievers** from different fields were felicitated at the **9th edition of Aarya Awards** here to mark the **International Women's Day**.
- **Organised by** city-based philanthropic organisation Parichay Foundation, the event was inaugurated by Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro in presence of Kathak exponent Shovana Narayan, Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta, former MP Prasanna Patasani and OSHB chairperson Priyadarshi Mishra.

## Koneru Humpy bags BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award

- **Chess player Koneru Humpy** won the **BBC India Sportswoman of the Year award for 2020**.
- The **award was based on a public vote** in which Humpy beat sprinter Dutee Chand, shooter Manu Bhaker, wrestler Vinesh Phogat and hockey captain Rani Rampal.
- "Being an indoor game, chess doesn't get as much attention as sports like cricket gets in India.
- But with this award, I hope the game will draw people's attention," she said after winning the honour.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : SPORTS NEWS

### Boxing: Deepak Kumar wins silver at Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria

- In **Boxing, Deepak Kumar (52kg)** wins the **silver medal at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria**.
- He lost the final face-off in a split decision against Bulgaria's Daniel Asenov in the men's flyweight.
- The 23-year-old youngster belongs to Haryana's Hisar, which is known as the 'City of Steel', for being India's largest manufacturer of galvanised iron.

### 2nd ODI National Zone Cricket Championship League for the deaf begins

- The **Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA)** affiliated and recognized by the **Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC)** will organize the **2nd ODI National Zone Cricket Championship** league for the deaf from **March 1 to 5, 2021**.
- The **50-over tournament to be held in New Delhi** will witness deaf cricketing talent from across the country competing for the championship title.
- The tournament will also hand over a handsome prize money for various categories of awards.
- The 'Champion Winner' team will get a cash reward of INR 1,00,001 while the 'Runner-up' team will be given a cash prize of INR 50,001.
- The Man of the Series will be given INR 5,100, the Best Bowler & Best Batsmen would be given INR 2500 per match and the Man of the Match will be given a cash prize of INR 1100 per match.

### About IDCA :

- IDCA (Indian Deaf Cricket Association formerly Deaf Cricket Society) is a National Governing Body recognized by DICC (Deaf International Cricket Council) to control Deaf Cricket in India under the aegis of DICC having their headquarter in South Africa.
- President – Sumit Jain

### Mumbai City FC Beat ATK Mohun Bagan to Win 2020-21 ISL League Winners' Shield

- **Mumbai City FC beat ATK Mohun Bagan 2-0** and finished at the top of the ongoing Indian Super League, thereby clinching the **ISL League Winners Shield** and securing a spot in the **2022 AFC Champions League**.
- The finals of the ISL was held at the GMC Stadium in Goa on February 28, 2021.
- Mumbai City FC, coached by Sergio Lobera, is one of the eight clubs worldwide whose majority stakes are owned by City Football Group (CFG). Manchester City, a top side in the English Premier League, is the flagship club of the CFG.
- In 2019, Mumbai City sold 65 percent of its stake to CFG whose majority stakeholders are Abu Dhabi United Group.

## About Indian Super League :

- Founded: 21 October 2013
- Founders: All India Football Federation, Star Sports, IMG-Reliance

## About City Football Group :

- Founded: 2013
- Founders: Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Khaldoon Al Mubarak

## Indian shuttlers Varun, Malvika win Uganda International titles

- On Feb 25 to 28, 2021, Indian shuttlers **Varun Kapur** and **Malvika Bansod** registered hard-fought wins to clinch the **men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2021 Uganda International in Kampala.**
- Varun beat his Indian counterpart Sankar Muthusamy, 21-18 16-21 21-17 to win the men's singles final.
- Meanwhile Malvika won 17-21 25-23 21-10 over compatriot Anupama Upadhyaya in the women singles summit clash.

## About Uganda :

- Capital: Kampala
- Currency: Ugandan shilling
- President: Yoweri Museveni

## Kohli becomes first cricketer to have 100 million followers on Instagram

- India captain **Virat Kohli** has recorded another century, albeit not on the pitch this time, as he became the **first cricketer** in the world to have **100 million followers** on social media platform **Instagram.**
- The 32-year-old Kohli is also the first person in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the feat.
- Kohli is also the **fourth most followed sportsperson on Instagram.**
- Portugal football star **Cristiano Ronaldo tops the chart with 265 million followers**, ahead of Argentina football captain and FC Barcelona legend Lionel Messi and Brazil's Neymar, who are second and third in the list with 186 million and 147 million followers respectively.
- The others in the 100 million club are Hollywood actor and former pro-wrestler Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, American singer-songwriter Beyonce, and Ariana Grande. Kohli, regarded as the one of the best batsmen in the world, has 27 centuries in Test matches and 43 tons in ODI cricket.
- For over two years now, Kohli has been the most followed person on Instagram in India.

## J&K tops medals tally at Khelo India Winter National Games in Gulmarg

- Union Territory of **Jammu** and **Kashmir** topped the medals tally in the **second edition of Khelo India Winter National Games.**
- The **five-day mega sports** event which began on 26th of February, concluded in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.
- **J&K won 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals.**
- The event was e-inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The event was organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir.
- In the event, more than 1,000 athletes from 27 states and union territories took part.

## Women's Trap Team wins silver as India finish year's first Shotgun World Cup with 2 medals

- India's **Women's Trap** team trio of **Kirti Gupta, Manisha Keer** and **Rajeshwari Kumari** won a **silver medal** on the concluding day of the year's first **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun stage, in Cairo, Egypt, going down 4-6 to Russia in the final.**

- There were a total of seven 25-shot rounds, five of which had been shot in the previous days. On Thursday, all three Indian women shot scores of 20 or more in the final two qualifying rounds, with Manisha top-scoring for them with 158 out of 175 shots.
- With this, the Indian team managed to collect two medals at the tournament. Earlier, the Men's Skeet team bagged a bronze medal.

## About ISSF :

- Headquarters : Munich, Germany
- President : Vladimir Lisin
- Founded: 1907
- Membership: 150 regions

## India beats England in final Cricket Test match, Qualifies for World Test Championship Final

- **India defeated England** in the **final Cricket** test match at **Ahmedabad** to enter the final of the inaugural edition of the **World Test Championship**.
- The hosts won the fourth and final Test comprehensively by a margin of an innings and **25 runs**.
- Australia have now been eliminated from the ICC World Test Championship.
- **India made 365 runs** in their **first innings**.
- India deserved to be in the final being at the top with 520 points.
- India will face New Zealand in the final of the ICC World Test Championship at Lord's between June 18 and June 22.

## About ICC :

- Chairperson: Greg Barclay
- CEO: Manu Sawhney
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Founded: 15 June 1909

## India finish with 10 medals including one gold at Boxam International

- From March 01 to 07, 2021, The **35th** edition of the **Boxam International Tournament** was held at **Castellon**, in Spain.
- A 14-member (8 men and 6 women) Indian contingent had participated in the event and concluded the game with 10 medals including

1. 1 Gold,
2. 8 Silver and
3. 1 Bronze.

## Gold Medal Winner :

- Manish Kaushik
- The 2018 Commonwealth Games silver medallist Kaushik, who returned into the ring for the first time after the Asian Olympic Qualifiers held in March last year, beat Denmark's Nikolai Terteryan with a split 3-2 decision in the men's 63kg summit bout

## Silver Medal Winners :

- Vikas Krishan – men's 69kg
- Pooja Rani – women's 75kg
- Jasmine – women's 57kg
- Simranjit Kaur – women's 60kg
- Mohammed Hussamuddin – men's 57kg

- Ashish Kumar – men's 75kg
- Sumi Sangwan – men's 81kg
- Satish Kumar – men's 91kg

## Bronze Medal Winner

- M C Mary Kom – 51kg

## Vinesh Phogat continues her golden run, reclaims World No. 1 rank with gold at Matteo Pellicone

- **Vinesh Phogat** continued her golden return to wrestling after she defeated **Canada's Diana Weicker 4-0 to win gold medal at Matteo Pellicone Rome Rankings.**
- This is her **second title** win in less than two weeks.
- With this she reclaimed the world No.1 spot.
- Phogat entered the Matteo Pellicone final in a dominant fashion, confirming a medal for India in **53kg women wrestling.**
- The 26-year-old defeated Samantha Leigh Stewart (CAN) by fall to confirm a podium finish.
- It is the second successive gold medal for a 27 year Haryana wrestler, who had won the previous gold at this competition in 2020 by beating Jordan Oliver of the USA in the final.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : DAYS

### World Hearing Day 2021 : March 03

- The world observes **World Hearing Day on March 3**, every year.
- This year, the theme is '**Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate**', to address hearing loss and ear diseases across the life course.
- This day is observed to highlight and spread the message that timely and effective care can help people with hearing loss to achieve full potential.
- This occasion is to spread awareness about action that can be taken to protect the auditory nerves and adopt preventive measures.
- **WHO** commemorates World Hearing Day each year and decides the theme.

### Objective of the day :

- This day is observed to **raise awareness about how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote hearing care across the world.**
- World Hearing Day aims to promote public health actions for ear and hearing care. Stimulate intersectoral partnership for ear and hearing care.
- Raise awareness on hearing loss and care at national and community levels across the world.
- Encourage behavior change towards healthy EHC practices.

### World Wildlife Day 2021: Mar 03

- **World Wildlife Day** is observed annually on **March 3 to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's flora and fauna.**
- This year's theme for World Wildlife Day is "**Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet**".
- The day was proposed by **Thailand and recognised in 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).**
- This year, the UN intends to highlight the role of the ecosystem and forests in providing livelihood to millions of people.
- The day is about raising awareness about wildlife and educating yourself and others about the diversity and importance of flora and fauna across the world.
- March 3 was chosen as World Wildlife Day as the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** was signed on the same day in 1973.

## About United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) :

- President : Volkan Bozkır
- Headquarters : New York, United States
- Founded : 1945

## About CITES :

- CITES is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The convention was opened for signature in 1973 and CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975.
- Located at : Geneva, Switzerland

## National Safety Day: 04 March

- **National Safety Day** is observed on **March 4** every year to **commemorate the foundation of the National Safety Council.**

### Aim:

- To raise awareness about safety measures that need to be undertaken to prevent accidents and mishaps.
- The objective of the day is to renew the commitment of employees and the general public to work safely and ensure the integration of a safe and sound work culture and lifestyle.
- This year's theme is '**Sadak Suraksha (Road Safety).**'
- National Safety Day was observed for the first time in 1972, on the foundation day of the National Safety Council.

## About National Safety Council :

- National Safety Council is a non-profit, self-financing and tripartite apex body at the national level.
- It was set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment on 4 March 1965 to generate and develop a voluntary movement on Safety, Health, and Environment.
- It is an autonomous body.
- The main objective and vision of the National Safety Council have remained the same – To protect and serve the society and foster a preventive culture and scientific mindset among people.

## National Security Day: 04 March

- On **March 4** India is celebrated as **National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas)** every year, in the **honor of the Indian Security Forces.**

### Aim :

- To show **gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, paramilitary forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country.**
- March 4 also marks the day when the **National Security Council (NSC)** of India was established, in 1966 by the Ministry of Labour under the Government of India.
- The first National Security Day (NSD) was held in **1972.**

## About National Security Council :

- Founded : 19 November 1998
- Headquarters : New Delhi

## International Women's Day: 08 March

- The **International Women's Day (IWD)** is celebrated on **March 8** every year, to **celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.**
- The theme for International Women's Day 2021 is **'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world'**.
- According to the UN Women website, it aims to 'celebrate the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic'.
- The hashtags for the day will be **#IWD2021 and #InternationalWomensDay.**
- The date of March 8 was chosen for the celebration as it marks the day when women in Soviet Russia started protests for the right to vote which they were granted in 1917.
- The first National Woman's Day was observed in the **United States on 28 February.1909.**
- The day was adopted in **1975** by the United Nations.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

### BJP Lok Sabha MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan dies at 69

- Bharatiya Janata Party Lok Sabha MP **Nandkumar Singh Chauhan** He was 69.
- Nandkumar Singh Chauhan started his political career in 1978 from the Shahpur Municipal Council and was later elected as an MLA.
- He was an MLA from 1985 to 1996 when he was elected a Lok Sabha member.
- He was re-elected in 1998, 1999, 2004, 2014 and 2019.

### Muthoot Group Chairman & Whole Time Director M G George Muthoot passed away

- **MG George Muthoot**, the **Chairman of Muthoot Group of Companies**, died in **New Delhi**. He was 71.
- He became the **Managing Director** of the Muthoot Group in **1979** and its **Chairman** in **1993**.
- Muthoot Finance is India's largest gold loan company with over 5,000 branches.
- He was also a member of the National Executive Committee of the FICCI and the Chairman of the FICCI Kerala state council.
- According to Forbes India's Richest List, the Forbes Asia Magazine listed him as the 50th richest man in India in 2011, and in 2019, his ranking climbed to 44th richest in India.

### About Muthoot Finance Limited :

- Headquarters: Kochi
- Founder: M George Muthoot
- Founded: 1939, Kerala

### Noted Kannada Poet N S Lakshminarayana Bhatta Passes Away At 84

- Noted Kannada poet, critic, and translator **N S Lakshminarayana Bhatta** passed away. He was 84.
- Popularly known as 'NSL' in Kannada literary world, he was born in 1936 in Shivamogga district.
- He is known for his contribution to **modern Kannada poetry**, critical works and translations.
- He had translated about **50 of William Shakespeare sonnets, the poetry of T S Elliot and works of poet Yeats into Kannada.**
- A recipient of Karnataka Sahitya Akademi award and Kannada Rajyotsava Award among others, his popular works include "**Thaye ninna madilali**".

### Veteran Indian Athlete Ishar Singh Deol Dies At 91

- Veteran Indian athlete **Ishar Singh Deol**, a recipient of the **Dhyan Chand National Sports Award**, has died at the age of 91.
- Deol had won many medals for the country and the state since 1951 and was awarded the Dhyan Chand National Award in 2009 for his lifelong contribution towards sports.

- Deol had competed in the first three Asian Games and won a bronze medal in the second Asian Games held in Manila, the Philippines in 1954.
- “During the International Athletic Meet-1957 in Montgomery, Pakistan, he set a new Asian record in Shot-put with 46 feet 11.2 inches throw.
- “Deol continually participated in shot-put and discus throw events from 1951 to 1960. He won gold medals in the All India Police Meet for five consecutive years from 1952 to 1957 besides clinching gold at the first Asian Veteran Athletic Meet in Singapore in 1982.”

### Former Rajasthan Governor Anshuman Singh Passed Away

- Former **Rajasthan Governor Anshuman Singh** passed away. He was 86.
- Anshuman Singh was a retired Justice who served as the Governor of Rajasthan from January, 1999 till 2003
- Anshuman Singh was a retired Justice who served as the Governor of Rajasthan from January, 1999 till 2003.
- He was born in 1935 in Allahabad and pursued arts and law.
- He was also appointed as the **governor of Gujarat state in 1998**



Desire Decide Develop Achieve