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January
CA MockDrill
Combo

(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the MockDrill Test of January 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF जनवरी 2021 माह में Testzone पर MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

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National & States Affairs

1. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and the Minister of MSMEs Nitin Gadkari has stated that the Elon Musk-owned Tesla is expected to start operations in India in 2021. He also stated that India is going to become a number 1 manufacturing hub for auto in 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tesla is expected to start operations in India in 2021
- [HQs of Tesla – California, USA | CEO – Elon Musk](#)

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rajkot, Gujarat. It will be built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1195 Cr and is expected to be completed by mid of 2022. There are a total of 15 AIIMS across India and the AIIMS Rajkot will be the 16th institute. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of AIIMS – in Rajkot, Gujarat (16th AIIMS in India)
- Total number of AIIMS across India = 15 (excluding AIIMS Rajkot)
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

3. On January 1, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of 6 Light House Projects (LHPs) under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India). The programme seeks to build over 1,000 houses each in six cities in 12 months. The LHPs are being constructed at the following 6 places. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – the foundation stone of 6 LHPs under GHTC-India
1. Indore (Madhya Pradesh) 2. Rajkot (Gujarat) 3. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
 4. Ranchi (Jharkhand) 5. Agartala (Tripura) 6. Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

4. On January 1, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has unveiled an e-commerce portal “eKhadiIndia.com” which catalogues over 50,000 locally made products of over 500 varieties and various categories. It is the first-of-its-kind government online shopping platform to boost rural economy and become self-sustainable. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – unveiled its first-of-its-kind e-commerce portal “eKhadiIndia.com” to boost rural economy
- [KVIC works under – Ministry of MSME \(Nitin Gadkari – Nagpur, Maharashtra\)](#)
- [HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena](#)

5. On January 2, the SEBI has imposed a fine of Rs 15 Cr on Mukesh Ambani and Rs 25 Cr on his oil-to-telecom conglomerate for ‘manipulative trading’ done in shares of Reliance Petroleum Ltd in 2007. SEBI has also imposed fine of Rs 20 crore on Navi Mumbai SEZ and Rs 10 crore on Mumbai SEZ. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – imposed a fine of Rs 15 Cr on Mukesh Ambani & Rs 25 Cr on his oil-to-telecom conglomerate

- Fine imposed for 'manipulative trading' done in shares of Reliance Petroleum – in 2007
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

6. Maitre Setu - the 1.9 km bridge over River Feni connecting South Tripura with Ramgarh of Bangladesh is all set to be opened in a couple of months after confirmation of schedule from Prime Minister of India and Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maitre Setu (1.9 km) – over River Feni – connects Tripura with Ramgarh (Bangladesh)
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

7. Northeast's first-ever specialised 'Ginger' processing plant at district Ri-Bhoui in Meghalaya is being revived and is likely to become functional in the beginning of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Northeast's first-ever specialised 'Ginger' processing plant – in Ri-Bhoui, Meghalaya
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

8. A farmers' association has applied for the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the 'Cumbum Panneer Thratchai', a grape variant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Farmers' association – applied for the GI tag for Cumbum Panneer Thratchai' - a Grape variant

9. On January 1, India has begun its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). On January 1, India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico joined non-permanent members of the UNSC. India will be UNSC President in August 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – begun its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the IUCN – on January 1, 2021
- Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico – also joined on the IUCN as non-permanent members on January 1, 2021
- India – UNSC President in August 2021
- Permanent members in the UNSC = 5 – China, France, Russia, U.K. & U.S.
- HQs of UNSC – New York, USA | Presidency in January 2021 – Tunisia (followed by UK & USA)

10. On January 2, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus in the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone IIM Sambalpur – in Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

11. Union home minister Amit Shah has released the inaugural issue of the “National Police K-9 Journal” of the Union Home Ministry's Police Modernisation Division. The police dog squad can act as a force multiplier to ensure the safety of society, much like the way drones or satellites are being used in the country [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – released the inaugural issue of the “National Police K-9 Journal”
- “K-9” represents – Police Service Dogs
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

12. The Odisha government will set up a memorial in honour of all the Covid Warriors who sacrificed their lives fighting the deadly virus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to set up a memorial in honour of all the Covid Warriors
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

13. According to farmers, around 10,000 ducks have died in Kuttanad, Kerala. Majority of the dead ducks belonged to two farmers in Thalavady and Pallippad. The cause of death can only be ascertained after receiving the test results. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Around 10,000 ducks have died in – Kuttanad, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

14. The “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project was launched by Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Ministry of Culture. Under this project, public as well as private companies are invited to become the “monument mitras” of the heritage sites in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project – launched by Ministry of Tourism + Ministry of Culture
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

15. Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria has launched an “e-governance” portal at Vayu Bhawan for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in order to promote a paperless office. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RKS Bhadauria (IAF) – an “e-governance” portal to promote a paperless office
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

16. Ministry of Railways has released a booklet of achievements of Ministry of Railways in the year 2020 with the title “Building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat”. The Hindi & English version of the booklet is available in Ministry of Railways’ website. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat” booklet – released by Ministry of Railways
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

17. The Union Home Ministry has declared the entire Nagaland a 'disturbed area' for 6 more months enabling the continuation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) that has been in force in Nagaland for several decades. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Home Ministry declared the entire "Nagaland" as a 'disturbed area' for 6 more months
- [Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi](#)

18. The 4th Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2021), aimed at the global discussion and development of Ayurveda, will be held from March 12 to 19 as a virtual meet. Kerala will host the festival this time. Earlier, the festival was scheduled from May 16 to 20 in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala will host the 4th Global Ayurveda Festival – from March 12 to 19, 2021
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

19. The government is implementing a Rs 320-crore Enterprise Business System (EBS) project for 5 major ports in order to provide a Digital Port Ecosystem, according to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. These ports are Mumbai, Chennai, Deendayal, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government is implementing a Rs 320 Cr project for 5 major ports to provide a Digital Port Ecosystem
- 5 ports: Mumbai, Chennai, Deendayal, Paradip & Kolkata

20. TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has proposed to collaborate with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and India Post to implement a successful marketing and logistic intervention for promoting the rich and traditional tribal products of the North Eastern states. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Ministry of DoNER + India Post = to promote products of North-East region
- [TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs \(Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand\)](#)
- [HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna](#)
- [Jitendra Singh – MoS of DoNER, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space](#)
- [HQs of India Post – New Delhi | Director General – Vineet Pandey](#)

21. The inaugural flight of Flybig, India's newest airline, took off from Indore. It has concluded its journey in Ahmedabad in the course of an hour and five minutes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flybig – India's newest airline – took off 1st flight from Indore to Ahmedabad
- [HQs of Flybig – Gurugram, India | CEO – Sanjay Mandavia Srinivas Rao](#)

22. The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department in Odisha has decided to give cash award of Rs 2.5 lakh to a normal person for marrying a Person with Disability (PwD) in a bid to promote social harmony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to give cash award of Rs 2.5 lakh to a normal person for marrying a Person with Disability
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

23. To ease the inconvenience faced by pensioners, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has launched the “mPension Manipur” App on January 4, where pensioners can self-update without going to the treasury office. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – launched the “mPension Manipur” app on January 4
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

24. The SEBI has extended the date of implementation of uniformity in applicability of Net Asset Value (NAV) across various mutual fund schemes on realisation of funds by one month to February 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI extended the date of implementation of uniformity in applicability of Net Asset Value (NAV) – to Feb 1, 2021
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 450-km Natural Gas Pipeline between Kochi and Mangalore. The GAIL India Ltd has constructed this pipeline at a cost of Rs 3000 Cr. Moreover, the government has also planned to increase the share of natural gas in the energy sector to 15% by 2030 from 6% at present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 450-km Natural Gas Pipeline between Kochi and Mangalore
- The pipeline is constructed by – GAIL India Ltd | Cost – Rs 3000 Cr
- Target: To increase the share of Natural Gas in the Energy sector – to 15% by 2030
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain

26. The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) will use indigenously designed ‘Ballastless Tracks’ for the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS). The Track slabs will be operational by 2023, while the entire 82-km-long corridor will be completed by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCRTC – to use indigenously designed ‘Ballastless Tracks’ for India’s RRTS
- HQs of NCRTC – New Delhi | MD – Vinay Kumar Singh

27. Union petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated India’s 1st migrant worker cell at Surat in Gujarat. It is the initiative to help Odia migrant workers working in different industries of the city. It was created under the center’s “National Urban Livelihood Mission Scheme”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's 1st migrant worker cell at – Surat, Gujarat – to help Odia migrant workers
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

28. On January 3, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped the amount of Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021 and 2% by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5%. It was done through an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FSSAI capped the amount of Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) in oils and fats to – 3% for 2021 & 2% by 2022 (from 5%)
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatonia

29. India has flagged off the 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica from the Mormugao Port in Goa. This Indian expedition marks four decades of the country's scientific endeavour to the southern white continent. Maitri and Bharati are the two Indian Research Stations located in Antarctica. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India flagged off the 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica – from Mormugao Port (Goa)
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

30. On January 3, TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has signed an MoU with Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra (ABVKK) to set up TRIFOOD Parks in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh to improve the livelihoods of the tribals (both forest dwellers and artisans) and work towards tribal empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + ABVKK = an MoU to set up TRIFOOD Parks in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

31. The telecom industry moves to a new regime from January 1, 2021 with the Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) becoming zero. This means the operators will no longer have to pay the termination charge of 6 paise per minute to each other. Reliance Jio is the only operator which charged its customers for termination of off-net calls. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "IUC" - Interconnect Usage Charge became zero – from January 1, 2021 (Exception – Reliance Jio)

32. The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched a new initiative "Prayaas", to address the needs of the local communities near its fuel stations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOC – launched a new initiative “Prayaas” to address the needs of the local communities
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

33. An 11-year-old boy has recently died in Kozhikode, Kerala due to a Shigella infection. Shigella is a genus of bacteria that causes an infection called shigellosis. It is the second leading cause of bacterial diarrhea worldwide and the third leading cause of death in children less than 5 years old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shigella infection – caused by or a genus of ‘Bacteria’

34. The Department of Art, Culture and Language of the Delhi government set up a Tamil academy to promote the South Indian language and culture in the Capital. N. Raja is appointed as vice-chairman of the academy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi government – set up a “Tamil Academy” to promote the South Indian language and culture
- Vice-chairman of the academy – N. Raja
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

35. On January 5, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has launched an exclusive “Freight Business Development Portal” to promote and develop the railways’ freight business. It will act as a ‘One-Stop, Single-Window’ solution for all the needs of its freight customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – launched “Freight Business Development Portal”
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

36. Smriti Zubin Irani and Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ have jointly launched the “Toycathon 2021” to promote indigenous toy industries. This Toycathon is aimed to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system which will inculcate the positive behaviour and good value among the children. Six Ministries, including education, women & child development, textile, commerce and industries, MSME, I&B and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are part of the initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Zubin Irani & Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ = jointly launched the “Toycathon 2021”
- 6 ministries – are part of “Toycathon 2021” initiative
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women & Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Amethi, Uttar Pradesh)
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

37. On January 6, DRDO will install its Eco-Friendly Bio-Digester units for the implementation of its advanced bio-digester Mk-II technology for the treatment of human waste (night soil) across the facilities operated by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MAHA-METRO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – to deploy advanced bio-digester ‘Mk-II Technology’ across – Maha Metro Rail Network
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

38. On January 6, Uttar Pradesh government has launched its mega farmer outreach programme “Kisan Kalyan Mission” to provide the agrarian community a platform to swiftly address key problems and most importantly help them double their income with tech upgrade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched “Kisan Kalyan Mission” mega farmer outreach programme
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

39. Dr Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated one of seven labs globally designated as centralised network labs of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) established at Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated India’s 1st Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations – at THSTI (Faridabad)
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi)

40. Centre has given additional financial assistance of Rs 1,004 Cr to Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for capital expenditure after they completed 3 out of the 4 citizen-centric reforms - “One Nation, One Ration Card Reforms”, “Ease of Doing Business Reforms” and “Urban Local Bodies Reforms”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh & Andhra Pradesh – 1st group of states to complete 3 out of the 4 citizen-centric reforms
- Both of the states received an additional financial assistance of – Rs 1,004 Cr
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

41. The world's largest floating 600 MW Solar Energy project will be constructed at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh which will begin power generation by year 2022-23. The estimated investment in this project stands at Rs 3,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The world's largest floating 600 MW Solar Energy project to be constructed – at ‘Omkareshwar dam’ in MP
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

42. On January 6, the IRDAI has asked general insurance companies to mandatorily offer 3 standard products covering risk of fire and allied perils from April 1. The Standard Fire and Special Perils (SFSP) Policy will be replaced by these 3 standard products - Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha and Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – asked all insurers to offer 3 standard products for fire & allied peril from April 1
- 3 products – Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha & Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

43. On January 5, the Delhi government has directed schools in the national capital to implement the new “school bag policy” to reduce the weight of school bags and the burden of students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – ordered all the schools for the implementation of new “school bag policy”
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

44. Adani Green Energy’s subsidiary, Adani Solar Energy Kutchh Two has commissioned a solar power project at Khirsara in Gujarat of capacity 100 megawatts, taking the company’s total operational renewable capacity to 2,950 mw. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Solar Energy Kutchh Two – commissioned 100 MW Khirsara Solar Power project – in Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- HQs of Adani Green Energy – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain

45. On January 6, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is ready to operationalise India’s first government-sponsored Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) by March, 2021. Around 6 road assets worth Rs 5,000 crore have been given in-principle approval for transfer to the InvIT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHAI is set to operationalise India’s first government-sponsored “InvIT” by March, 2021
- InvIT – Infrastructure Investment Trust

46. On January 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 306-km long New “Rewari- Madar” section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and flagged off the world’s first 1.5-km-long electrified double stack long haul container train. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – dedicated the 306-km long “Rewari-Madar” section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor
- Narendra Modi – flagged off the world’s first 1.5-km-long Electrified Double Stack long haul container Train
- It was flagged off between – Haryana & Rajasthan

47. The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has declared that advertisement of any article using the name of any God and claiming that it has supernatural qualities, is “illegal” and falls under the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bombay HC declared – using God’s name to sell articles is “illegal”
- [Present Chief Justice of Bombay HC – Dipankar Datta](#)

48. On January 6, the Angamaly-Sabarimala rail project has got a new lease of life as Kerala government has agreed to bear 50% of the cost of the estimate of ₹2,815.62 Cr along with the centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – agreed to bear 50% of the cost of ‘Angamaly-Sabarimala rail project’
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

49. On January 8, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has launched Mobile Application ‘Satark Nagrik’ and Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal of J&K Anti Corruption Bureau. The Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal has been designed to enable an online communication channel with the DVOs of various departments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Sinha – launched Mobile Application ‘Satark Nagrik’ & DVO portal of J&K Anti Corruption Bureau
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

50. On January 5, the Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) in its 60th meeting held on 5th January has approved the advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the country. During the meeting, Caracal was included into the list of critically endangered species. It is a medium size wild cat found in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 60th meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife – held on 5th January
- Caracal (Rajasthan & Gujarat) – included into the list of critically endangered species

51. On January 4, Hyderabad International Airport Ltd and Dubai Airports have come together to build an exclusive Vaccine Air Freight Corridor Product ‘HYDXB-VAXCOR’ - a global vaccine corridor to pave the way for worldwide distribution of vaccines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hyderabad Int. Airport Ltd + Dubai Airports = to build an exclusive Vaccine Air Freight Corridor Product

52. On January 5, IDFC Mutual Fund has launched its latest pan-India investor awareness campaign #PaisanKoRokoMat, asking savers to become investors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDFC Mutual Fund – launched its latest pan-India investor awareness campaign “#PaisanKoRokoMat”
- [HQs of IDFC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Vikram Limaye](#)

53. Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has launched “Krishi Sanjeevani” vans in Bengaluru. The 40 vans flagged off on January 7, will reach out to the agriculture fields to test soil, water and suggest remedies for pest control to improve yield. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka launched “Krishi Sanjeevani” vans in Bengaluru (40 vans flagged off)
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

54. On January 8, Manipur government has launched the website “COSFOM” (Community-based Sustainable Forest Management) for Water Resource Conservation at Sanjenthong in Imphal. COSFOM is a project of the Government of India supported by the Federal Government of Germany through KfW, a German development bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – launched the website “COSFOM” for Water Resource Conservation
- COSFOM – Community-based Sustainable Forest Management
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla](#)
- [HQs of KfW IPEX-Bank – Frankfurt, Germany | HQs of SREI – Kolkata, West Bengal](#)

55. On January 8, L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering (LTHE) has bagged an order worth over Rs 7,000 Cr from HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd (HRRL) for setting up a dual feed cracker unit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LTHE – bagged an order worth over Rs 7,000 Cr from ‘HRRL’ for setting up a Dual Feed Cracker Unit
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

56. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has initiated the process of commencing operations of the Seaplane services on the select routes, under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework through prospective airline operators. The project execution and implementation would be through Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sagarmala Development Co. – to implement the Seaplane Service Project – initiated by MoPSW
- [HQs of Sagarmala Development Co. – New Delhi | MD – Dilip Kumar Gupta](#)
- [MoS I/C in Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – Mansukh L. Mandaviya](#)

57. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has holistically addressed all the aspects relating the Earth System Science for providing weather, climate, ocean, coastal state, hydrological and seismological services. The Flash Flood Guidance Services was launched by MoES in 2020, the first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Earth Sciences launched “Flash Flood Guidance Services”
- [Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & MoES – Dr. Harsh Vardhan \(Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi\)](#)

58. On January 6, Kerala has recently announced to provide 'Green tag' to government offices and public sector undertakings. A total of 10,000 State government offices and public sector undertakings in Kerala will be declared 'Green' on January 26, the Republic Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – to provide 'Green tag' to 10,000 government offices and public sector undertakings on January 26
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

59. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organising "Udyog Manthan" in association with the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the National Productivity Council (NPC) between January 4 and March 2 this year. It is a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars for promoting quality and productivity in Indian Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT + QCI + NPC = organising "Udyog Manthan" – between January 4 and March 2
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra
- HQs of QCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Adil Zainulbhai | Secretary General – Dr Ravi P Singh

60. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has decided to create a new 'Bagasara Prant' in Amreli district which would come into effect on 26th January. This will take the state's revenue services nearer to the people and provide services faster. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Rupani – decided to create a new 'Bagasara Prant' in Amreli, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

61. A high-level 85-member committee has been constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, starting January 23. The committee is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A high-level 85-member committee is constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji S. C. Bose
- The committee is headed by – PM Narendra Modi (Earlier it was expected to be headed by Amit Shah)

62. On January 8, An MoU was signed between the Himachal Pradesh government and Nagsons Developers to develop India's 1st Indoor Ski Park at Kufri in Shimla to make Himachal Pradesh a favourite tourist destination in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st Indoor Ski Park to come up – at Kufri, in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya



63. An all-women pilot team of Air India is set to create a history by flying over North Pole on the world's longest air route and the flight from San Francisco (SFO) reached Bengaluru covering a distance of about 16,000 Km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An all-women pilot team of Air India – to create a history by flying over North Pole
- Flight from San Francisco to Bengaluru covering a distance of about 16,000 Km
- [HQs of Air India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Rajiv Bansal](#)

64. On January 8, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Cabinet in Delhi has approved the setting up of a Konkani Language Academy in the capital. Currently, there are 8 functional language academies in Delhi covering Urdu, Sanskrit, Punjabi, Hindi, Maithili-Bhojpuri, Garhwali-Kumaoni-Jaunsari, Sindhi and Tamil. Tamil was notified recently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – approved the setting up of a “Konkani Language Academy” (Tamil Academy was set up recently)
- Currently, there are 8 functional language academies in Delhi
- [Konkani – the official language of Goa](#)
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

65. On January 10, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the government has reduced the age limit of the aspirants of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services Exam from 37 years to 32 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The age limit of the aspirants of J&K Administrative Services Exam reduced – to 32 years (from 37 years)
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

66. As part of its ‘Swachhta Pakhwada’ programme observed between December 16 to 31, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (CCARI) has carried out “Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav” programme - a series of activities to dispose of garbage from Goa's rural belt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAR-CCARI ([Goa](#)) – carried out “Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav” programme
- ICAR – also observed ‘Swachhta Pakhwada’ programme between December 16 to 31
- [HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | President – Narendra Singh Tomar](#)

67. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the ‘Fire Park’, a first of its kind initiative in India to bring awareness on fire safety measures. He also launched a dynamic online portal, ‘AgnishamaSeva’ of Odisha Fire Service on virtual platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – inaugurated the 1st ‘Fire Park’ & also launched ‘AgnishamaSeva’ - a dynamic portal
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

68. On January 8, the Air India Express has become the first airline in India to use robotic technology to clean and disinfect the interiors of aircrafts using an Ultraviolet Robotic Device at Delhi Airport. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Air India Express – became the first airline in India to use ‘Ultraviolet Robotic Device’
- HQs of Air India Express – Kochi, Kerala | CEO – Pradeep Singh Kharola

69. On January 11, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the “Single Window Clearance System” - an online platform to obtain clearances for smooth operationalisation of coal mines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – launched the Single Window Clearance System for ‘Coal mines’
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Pralhad Joshi – Minister of Coal, Minister of Mines (Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka)

70. On January 10, In a bid to ease the woes during menstruation of women residing in congested slums and to provide them hygienic sanitary facilities, a “Period Room” has been set up at a public toilet in Maharashtra's Thane city. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Period Room” – set up at a public toilet in Maharashtra's Thane city
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

71. On January 8, India's 1st Solar Electric RORO service and Kerala's first amphibious water bus will be introduced during the year 2021-2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st Solar Electric RORO service – to be launched in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

72. On January 8, the government has cleared 8 Hydropower Projects of 144 MW on the Indus river and its tributaries in Ladakh, the highest so far. These projects will come up in Kargil and Leh districts of Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government cleared 8 Hydropower Projects of 144 MW on the Indus river – in Kargil & Leh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

73. On January 8, the Assam government has decided to gift khadi clothes (khadi shirts, shawls & stoles made of ‘Eri’ - a variety of silk) to grade IV state employees as a mark of respect to Mahatma Gandhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – decided to gift ‘Khadi clothes’ to grade IV state employees
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

74. On January 8, the Embassy of Israel in India has appointed Joyshree Das Verma as 'Honorary Consul' in the North-East region with jurisdiction over the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim. She will be based in Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel appointed – “Joyshree Das Verma” as Honorary Consul in the North-East region
- Embassy of Israel in India – Ron Malka
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

75. On January 10, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has asked government to ban WhatsApp & its parent company Facebook over new privacy policy. Facebook has more than 200 million users in India and enabling it to access data of every user can pose serious threat to not only the economy but even to the security of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CAIT – asked government to ban WhatsApp & Facebook new privacy policy
- [HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg](#)
- [HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum](#)

76. National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) will invest around Rs 30,000 Cr by financial year 2027-28 on various expansion and diversification plans. Of this proposed investment, Rs 22,000 Cr will be spent on smelter and captive power plant (CPP) expansions including company's smelter plant at Angul district in Odisha with construction of a 1400 MW feeder CPP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nalco – to invest around Rs 30,000 Cr by financial year 2027-28
- Rs 22,000 Cr will be spent for the construction of a 1400-MW feeder captive power plant (CPP) – in Angul, Odisha
- [HQs of Nalco – Bhubaneswar, Odisha | CMD – Sridhar Patra](#)

77. According to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, the Centre will soon hold a campaign named “Know your Constitution” in schools, colleges and universities across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centre – to hold a campaign named “know your Constitution” in schools, colleges and universities
- [Lok Sabha Speaker - Om Prakash Birla](#)

78. On January 9, Indian universities and colleges with the Institutions of Eminence (IOEs) tag will now be able to set up campuses in foreign countries with newly issued guidelines by the University Grants Commission (UGC). According to the norms, IOEs shall be permitted to start a maximum of three off-campus centres in 5 years, but not more than one in an academic year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 'Institutions of Eminence (IOEs)' can now set up maximum of 3 off-campus in foreign countries in 5 years
- [HQs of UGC – New Delhi | Chairman – Prof D. P. Singh | Founded in – 1956](#)

79. On January 10, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has launched the “TESOL Core Certificate Program” for English teachers of Delhi government schools. The current batch is of 50 teachers. Regional English Language Officer Ruth Goode from the US Embassy in India was also present during the launch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – launched the “TESOL Core Certificate Program” for English teachers
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Dep. CM – Manish Sisodia | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

80. On January 10, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a colour-coded India's map which segregates Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh from rest of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The WHO – launched a colour-coded India's map which segregates J&K, Ladakh from rest of India
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

81. On January 12, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSME Nitin Gadkari has launched an eco-friendly, non-toxic paint called “Khadi Prakritik Paint” developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched an eco-friendly, non-toxic paint called “Khadi Prakritik Paint” – developed by KVIC
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

82. On January 10, Vanadium which is a high-value metal used in strengthening Steel and Titanium is recently found in Arunachal Pradesh. According to data provided by GSI, India consumed 4% of about 84,000 metric tonnes of vanadium produced across the globe in 2017. China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumed 44% of the metal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Vanadium” - a high value metal used in strengthening Steel & Titanium – found in Arunachal Pradesh
- According to data provided by GSI for 2017: India consumed 4% & China consumed 44% Vanadium
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

83. On January 13, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has taken a new initiative to introduce its flagship “Liberalised MSME AEO Package” for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC introduced its new flagship – “Liberalised MSME AEO Package” for MSMEs
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

84. On January 12, Tata Power Delhi Distribution has unveiled its official brand mascot named ‘Roshni’ to convey information on various topics to the consumers via the company's digital platforms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power Delhi Distribution – unveiled its official brand mascot named ‘Roshni’
- HQs of Tata Power Delhi Distribution – New Delhi | CEO – Ganesh Srinivasan

85. India's new Foreign Trade Policy 2021-2026, under formulation, will come into effect from April 1, 2021, for 5 years and will strive to make the country a leader in international trade. The Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, headed by Piyush Goyal has framed the Policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's new "Foreign Trade Policy" will come into effect from April 1, 2021 – for 5 years

86. On January 12, the Supreme Court has stayed the execution of the 3 contentious Agri Laws of the centre which are being protested by the farmers since November 26, 2019. The top court also constituted a 4-member committee to hear the grudges of the farmers and recommend points to solve the vexed issue. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court stayed the execution of the 3 contentious Agri Laws & constituted a 4-member committee
- [Supreme Court Chief of Justice – Sharad Arvind Bobde \(47th\)](#)

87. Tesla Inc, the US-based electric vehicle company, has registered with the Registrar of Companies in Bengaluru as 'Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited' on January 8, 2021. The most valued carmaker in the world, has registered itself as a private company with an authorised capital of Rs 15 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tesla Inc – registered with the Registrar of Companies in Bengaluru as 'Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Ltd'
- Authorised capital – Rs 15 lakh
- [HQs of Tesla – California, USA | CEO – Elon Musk](#)
- [HQs of Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Ltd – Bangalore, Karnataka](#)

88. On January 8, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar has launched a Digital Calendar and Diary along with the mobile application to access them during an event at the National Media Center. The app is free and will be available in 11 languages from January 15, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – launched a Digital Calendar and Diary available in 11 languages
- [Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting \(Constituency – Maharashtra\)](#)

89. Mamata Banerjee Chief Minister of West Bengal has virtually inaugurated the 26th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) 2021. The festival was held from 8th to 15th January. 'Apu Sansar' (The World of Apu), the third film in legendary film maker Satyajit Ray's internationally recognised Apu Trilogy, was screened at the inauguration. It also marks the birth centenary of Satyajit Ray. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mamata Banerjee – inaugurated the 26th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) 2021 – from 8th to 15th January
- It also marks the birth centenary of – Satyajit Ray
- 'Apu Sansar' (The World of Apu) film – screened at the inauguration
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar](#)

90. On January 10, the Tamil Nadu government will provide free data cards of 2 GB per day capacity to over 9.69 lakh college students to enable them to attend online classes till April, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – to provide free data cards of 2 GB per day capacity to college students – till April, 2021
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

91. On January 10, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has directed complete waiver of examination fees for the matriculation examination to be conducted by the Board of Secondary Education this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – waived the examination fees for matriculation students this year
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

92. On January 14, Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has dedicated a “National Innovation Portal” to the nation, in New Delhi. The portal is developed by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) and it is a step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – dedicated a “National Innovation Portal” to the nation – developed by NIF
- HQs of NIF – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairperson – P. S. Goel

93. National Informatics Centre (NIC) & Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have launched “CollabCAD” software. It will provide a total engineering solution from 2D drafting and detailing to 3D product design for students and faculty of engineering graphics curriculum. NIC, CBSE & Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) have jointly released a comprehensive e-book on “CollabCAD 3D modelling”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIC + CBSE = launched “CollabCAD” software
- NIC + CBSE + AIM = released a comprehensive e-book on “CollabCAD 3D modelling”
- HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant)

94. Finally, India will not invite any foreign dignitary to be the Chief Guest at the upcoming Republic Day celebrations on the 15th January, 2021. The last time such a situation arose was in 1966 when no Chief Guest was present at the event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will not invite any foreign dignitary to be the Chief Guest
- The last time such a situation arose was in – 1966

95. On January 15, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled India’s first indigenously designed and developed ‘Driverless Metro Car’ for Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority at the BEML manufacturing facility in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – unveiled India's 1st indigenously designed and developed Driverless Metro Car – in Bengaluru
- Mumbai Metropolitan Region – will be the first to avail the service
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota

96. On January 14, India has planned to achieve 20% ethanol-blending with gasoline by 2025, five years ahead of its previous target to help reduce its dependence on costly oil imports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India plans to achieve 20% ethanol-blending with gasoline by 2025

97. Every year, the Gujarat government undertakes the “Karuna Abhiyan”, a campaign to save and treat birds that get injured during Uttarayan, the kite festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – undertakes the “Karuna Abhiyan” to save birds getting injured during Uttarayan
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

98. On January 14, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated India's 1st small aircraft Air Taxi Service. The air taxi service in its first phase will function from Chandigarh to Hisar under UDAN scheme of the central government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st small aircraft Air Taxi Service – inaugurated in Chandigarh (Flight – Chandigarh to Hisar)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

99. On January 15, Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone for establishing a unit of the CRPF's Rapid Action Force (RAF) at Bhadravati in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. He also inaugurated Indian Reserve Battalion unit's administrative office building at Tikota, Vijayapura district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – laid the foundation stone of a unit of the CRPF's Rapid Action Force (RAF) – in Shivamogga, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

100. On January 16, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has launched a month long fuel conservation campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) - “Saksham 2020” to spread awareness about green and clean energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoPNG – launched “Saksham 2020” a flagship program of PCRA
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)

101. On January 12, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family (MoHFW) welfare has inaugurated the first “Red Ribbon Quiz Competition” organized by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and the MoHFW. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the 1st ever “Red Ribbon Quiz Competition” – organized by NACO + MoHFW
- HQs of NACO – New Delhi
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

102. On January 15, two new ‘Doppler Radar Weather’ stations were set up at Mukteshwar in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh’s Kufri to improve the localised forecasting and help avert devastation due to natural disasters. The launch of the stations coincided with India Meteorological Department (IMD)’s 146th Foundation Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2 new ‘Doppler Radar Weather’ stations set up at – Mukteshwar (Uttarakhand) & Kufri (Himachal Pradesh)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

103. On January 14, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated a new institute of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) namely “CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)” by merging 2 prestigious institutes of CSIR namely, CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) & CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh Vardhan inaugurated – CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication & Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)
- By merging = CSIR-NISCAIR + CSIR-NISTADS
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

104. On January 14, State-owned Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has paid a final dividend of Rs 215.48 Cr to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India for 2019-20. The dividend is 5% of net worth of the company as on March 31, 2020 or 41% of profit for 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SPMCIL paid a final dividend of Rs 215.48 Cr to the Ministry of Finance (5% of net worth or 41% of profit)
- HQs of SPMCIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Tripti Patra Ghosh

105. On January 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off 8 trains from various parts of India connecting to Kevadiya in Gujarat, where the “Statue of Unity” is located, in a bid to increase tourism in the belt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi flagged off 8 trains from various parts of India connecting to Kevadiya in Gujarat
- “Statue of Unity” – located in Kevadiya, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

106. On January 16, the Ministry of Railways has approved a new “Iron-ore Policy 2021” governing the allocation of rakes and transportation of iron-ore. It will come into effect from February 10, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Railways approved a new “Iron-ore Policy 2021” (effective from – Feb 10, 2021)
- [Minister of Railways – Piyush Goyal \(Maharashtra\) | MoS for Railway Ministry – Suresh Angadi](#)

107. On January 17, Jitendra Singh has stated that recently-introduced electronic Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) promises ease of living for Senior Citizens. The Department of Pensions and Pensioners’ Welfare has decided to integrate the electronic PPO generated through PFMS application of CGA (Controller General of Accounts) with Digi-locker. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- electronic-Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) promises Ease of living for ‘Senior Citizens’
- Dept of Pensions and Pensioners’ Welfare decided – to integrate “e-PPO” with “Digi-locker”

108. India’s first Labour Movement Museum, showcasing the history of world labour movement, would be launched in Kerala's houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha with an outlay of ₹9.95 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first Labour Movement Museum – to be launched in Alappuzha, Kerala (Outlay - ₹9.95 Cr)
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

109. On January 18, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadakari has announced that the target of constructing 40 kilometre roads per day will be achieved by the end of March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Target of constructing 40 Km roads per day will be achieved – by the end of March, 2021
- [Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs \(Nagpur, Maharashtra\)](#)

110. On January 14, Tech giant Google has reviewed hundreds of personal loan apps in India that were flagged by users and government agencies and those found to be violating its user safety policies were immediately removed from its Play Store. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – removed hundreds of personal loan apps in India from its Play Store
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)

111. On January 15, Wipro Limited has been chosen as a strategic technology services partner by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) to establish its first Global Digital Hub called “FCA ICT India” in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fiat Chrysler Automobiles + Wipro = to establish its 1st Global Digital Hub called “FCA ICT India” in Hyderabad
- [HQs of FCA – London, UK | CEO – Michael Manley](#)
- [HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte](#)

112. On January 17, A geographical indication (GI) tag has been sought for one of the costliest mushrooms in the world that grows in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district. Locally called "Gucchi or Morel", the mushroom is priced at over ₹20,000 a kg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Gucchi or Morel" in J & K – received GI tag | priced at over ₹20,000/kg
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

113. On January 15, A Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac has presented a Covid-dented State budget for 2021-22 that provides for additional expenditures of ₹ 1,164 Cr and tax concessions of ₹ 191 Cr against additional revenue mobilisation of just ₹ 200 Cr, leaving a cumulative deficit of ₹ 1,306.69 Cr. Isaac presented his 12th overall and the last budget of the Pinarayi Vijayan government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thomas Isaac (FM of Kerala) – presented a Covid-dented State budget for 2021-22
- Additional Expenditures – ₹ 1,164 Cr | Tax concessions – ₹ 191 Cr | Additional revenue mobilization – ₹ 200 Cr

114. On January 14, the government has notified the modified scheme for extending financial assistance for producing "1st Generation" (1G) ethanol from feed stocks such as cereals, sugarcane and sugar beet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has notified the modified scheme to produce '1G ethanol'

115. On January 16, PM Narendra Modi has virtually flagged-off the first phase of the pan-India roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination drive which is the world's largest vaccination programme. 'CoWIN' app will be used to monitor the vaccination programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi flagged-off the 1st phase of World's Largest Vaccination Programme
- 'CoWIN' app will be used to monitor the vaccination programme

116. On January 19, the Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has commissioned one of the biggest floating solar power plants in Kerala with a capacity to produce 452 KWh. It is the world's first fully solar-powered operated airport. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin International Airport ([Kerala](#)) – commissioned one of the biggest floating solar power plants in Kerala
- Capacity – 452 KWh

117. Satellite imagery has shown that China has constructed a village in disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh. The village is located on the banks of Tsari Chu river in Upper Subansiri district, an area along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satellite imagery shows that China has constructed a village in disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh
- The village is located on the banks of – Tsari Chu river
- **Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra**

118. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified “Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules - 2021” which would facilitate and regulate the movement of passenger and goods vehicles between India and neighbouring countries. The Inter Country Transport Permit will remain valid for a period of 1 year from the date of its issue and it will be renewable for a period of 5 years on yearly basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways – notified “Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules - 2021”
- The permit will remain valid for a period of 1 year from the date of its issue

119. Wild Otters Research, a Goa-based organisation has launched Project Lighthouse in Goa, roping in citizen scientists to collate information on otters. Of the world’s 13 otter species, 3 are found in India: the Eurasian, the smooth-coated, and the small-clawed otter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wild Otters Research – launched “Project Lighthouse” in Goa to collate information on ‘Otters’ - a mammal animal
- 3 out of 13 species of Otters are found in India
- **Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari**

120. On January 15, Minister of State (IC) for Culture & Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has inaugurated 2 excavations Sites at Karanbel Tripuri and Tewar in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated 2 excavations Sites at Karanbel Tripuri and Tewar – in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- **Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel**

121. Chattergala tunnel to be build at a cost of Rs 3,000 Cr by Border Road Organisation (BRO) is going to be a revolutionary game changer. The tunnel will connect district Kathua with Doda, both in Jammu & Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chattergala tunnel – to be build at a cost of Rs 3,000 Cr by BRO
- It will connect ‘Kathua’ with ‘Doda’ – in Jammu & Kashmir
- **J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha**

122. On January 20, Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has launched “Avolokana” software that will enable the government to access data on sanctions and expenditures incurred by 39 departments on 1,800 programmes implemented by them. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched “Avolokana” software to access data on government sanctions & expenditures
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

123. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been directed by Cabinet Secretary to act as the nodal department for coordinating the exercise of minimizing regulatory compliance burden for citizens and businesses. A major initiative in this regard is the launch of “Regulatory Compliance Portal” by DPIIT on 1st January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT – launched “Regulatory Compliance Portal” on 1st January
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

124. On January 19, Indian Railways has renamed one of its oldest trains, the Howrah-Kalka Mail as the ‘Netaji Express’. It was started in the 19th Century as one of the early commercial passenger train services in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – renamed one of its oldest trains ‘Howrah-Kalka Mail’ or ‘Kalka Mail’ as the “Netaji Express”
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma

125. On January 13, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced the “Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021” which will digitise issuing of penalties on assesseees under the faceless taxation regime. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBDT introduced the “Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021”
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody

126. On January 20, PM Narendra Modi has released Financial Assistance of around ₹2691 Cr to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh, under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) via video conferencing. The government is ensuring ‘Housing for All’ in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi released Financial Assistance of around ₹2691 Cr to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

127. On January 21, Kerala Assembly has rejected a resolution moved against Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan by the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF). He is the third Speaker in Kerala Assembly against whom the resolution seeking dismissal from office has been moved. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Assembly – rejected the resolution for Speaker's removal
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

128. Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi has approved the much awaited 850 MW “Ratle Hydroelectric Project” at an investment of ₹5,282 Cr on Chenab river and ensuring the unprecedented development of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved 850 MW “Ratle Hydroelectric Project” of ₹5,282 Cr on Chenab river in J&K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

129. From April 1, all general insurers dealing in fire and allied-perils insurance business have to offer 3 standard products designed by the IRDAI. IRDAI has asked to replace Standard Fire and Special Perils (SFSP) Policy with Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha and Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha from April 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI asked to replace Standard Fire and Special Perils (SFSP) Policy with 3 standard products from April 1
- 3 Products: Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha & Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

130. The Gujarat government has renamed Dragon fruit as ‘Kamalam’ since according to Chief Minister Vijay Rupani the fruit's outer shape resembles a lotus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat government has renamed Dragon fruit as ‘Kamalam’
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

131. Under the Uttar Pradesh government's ‘Virasat Drive’ campaign, more than 4.43 lakh cases have been disposed of till January 19. These cases were pending for years and within a month, all these have been disposed of by the officials of the revenue department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Under UP's ‘Virasat Drive’ campaign – over 4.43 lakh cases have been disposed of till January 19
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

132. On January 20, A Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched Himachal Pradesh's first online youth radio station “Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – launched its 1st online youth radio station “Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil”
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

133. On January 23, Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has announced a fund of ₹1 Cr for taking care of street children and orphans under the child-friendly police station initiative. He has made the announcement after inaugurating the state's first child-friendly police station in Dehradun's Dalanwala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – announced a fund of ₹1 Cr for welfare of orphans & street kids
- Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated state's 1st child-friendly police station – in Dalanwala, Dehradun
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

134. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has prepared a parade Tableau for this year's Republic Day Parade. The theme of the tableau is 'Respect for hard work and Equal rights for all'. The Labour ministry has recently got 4 labour codes approved by Parliament. The 44 central labour laws have been amalgamated into 4 codes on wages, industrial relations, social security and occupational safety, health & working conditions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Theme of the tableau of Labour Ministry – 'Respect for hard work and Equal rights for all'
- Labour ministry recently got 4 labour codes approved by Parliament
- [MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Gangwar](#)

135. Airtel Payments Bank (APB) has launched a new feature 'Airtel Safe Pay' to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel Payments Bank – launched a new feature 'Safe Pay'
- [HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas](#)

136. Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan will soon host a reality show named "100 Days in Heaven" to promote Uttarakhand tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amitabh Bachchan – host "100 Days in Heaven" reality show to promote tourism of Uttarakhand
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

137. The Uttar Pradesh government has developed an anti-land mafia software called "Dhara". The software will help in the prevention of duplication of revenue records, which will prevent manipulation of records by officers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – developed an anti-land mafia software called "Dhara"
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

138. The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has virtually launched "ShramShakti", a National Migration Support Portal at a programme held at Panjim, Goa. He also launched 'Dedicated Migration Cell' in Goa. Goa is going to be first destination state of India to set up 'Dedicated Migration Cell' to address diverse issues of migrant workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Munda – launched “ShramShakti” - a National Migration Support Portal
- Goa – 1st state of India to set up ‘Dedicated Migration Cell’
- [Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda \(Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand\)](#)

139. Under the Covid vaccination drive, the government uses ‘Rapid Assessment System (RAS)’, a platform developed by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) for taking feedback from those who get vaccinated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government uses “RAS” platform for instant feedback under the Covid Vaccination Drive
- RAS – Rapid Assessment System – developed by MeitY
- [Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice \(Patna Sahib, Bihar\)](#)

140. On January 19, the government has nominated 28 non-official members on the National Startup Advisory Council. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had constituted the council on January 21 to advise the government on measures required to build a strong ecosystem. The council is chaired by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Startup Advisory Council – nominated 28 Non-official members on the committee
- The council is chaired by – Piyush Goyal

141. On January 19, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved the adoption of a new policy namely “Land Allotment Policy 2021-30” for allotment of land to industrial entrepreneurs. It will also cover land allotment for health institutions/medi-cities and educational institutions/edu-cities. Under the policy, land will be allotted to the investors on lease for an initial period of 40 years, extendable to 99 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K approved the adoption of “Land Allotment Policy 2021-30” for allotment of land to industrial Entrepreneurs
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

142. On January 25, Chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has flagged-off the Mobile Dispensing Units (MDU) to be deployed for distribution of rice and other essential commodities under Public Distribution System (PDS) from Benz circle in Vijayawada city. With this, Andhra Pradesh is the first state in the country to launch the door-delivery of rice under PDS. The cost per annum of this scheme will be Rs. 830 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – flagged off “Mobile Dispensing Units” (door delivery vehicles) in Vijayawada
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

143. In Madhya Pradesh, Wipro group is all set to act as knowledge partner of the State Government to implement the New Education Policy (NEP). The Wipro Group will also set up a Software Development Centre in Bhopal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro – will act as knowledge partner of the State Government to implement the NEP
- Wipro – will set up a Software Development Centre in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte

144. On January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 18th convocation of Tezpur University in Assam. Assam Governor and chancellor of Tezpur University, Jagdish Mukhi, will preside over the convocation and award the degrees and diplomas to the students virtually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the 18th convocation of Tezpur University in Assam
- Location of Tezpur University – Assam | Chancellor – Jagdish Mukhi | Established in – 1994
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

145. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) have signed an MOU with the government of Gujarat for exploring possibilities of development of a Dedicated Air Cargo Complex (DACC) and India's largest Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Virochan Nagar near Sanand, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Ports and SEZ + Gujarat = an MoU for a Dedicated Air Cargo Complex and India's largest MMLP
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

146. The government has approved the first set of 5 pharma projects, worth a total committed investment of ₹3,761 Cr, under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for promoting domestic manufacture of bulk drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved the first set of 5 pharma projects (worth ₹3,761 Cr) under PLI scheme
- PLI – Production Linked Incentive

147. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has roped in Top Technical Institutions to set up a Decision Support System (DSS) which will use Artificial Intelligence to help improve the air quality in Delhi and NCR. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CAQM roped in Top Technical Institutions to set up a “DSS” to use AI to improve air quality in Delhi-NCR
- DSS – Decision Support System
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

148. On January 20, the Indian government has stated that any attempt by China to set up a Hydropower Station on the Brahmaputra river will act as an encroachment on the entitled rights of lower riparian states like India and Bangladesh and adversely affect the availability of water in its basin during the lean season. India also plans to build a multipurpose 10,000 MW reservoir in Arunachal Pradesh to offset the impact. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Any attempt by China to set up a Hydropower Station on the Brahmaputra river will act as an encroachment
- Brahmaputra = Siang river (in Arunachal Pradesh) = Yarlung Zangbo River (in Tibet)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

149. The Uttarakhand government has increased the number of working days guaranteed per year under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) programme from 100 to 150. The scheme aims to provide investment subsidy from 15-25% to those who want to start their own businesses. Uttarakhand is expected to conduct Assembly polls in 2022. The state government has also launched the 'Uttarakhand Aajeevika App' with the aim to provide help to the unemployed people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand increased number of working days per year from 100 to 150 under MGNREGA scheme
- Uttarakhand has also launched the 'Aajeevika App' for unemployed people
- The scheme aims to provide investment subsidy from 15-25% to those who want to start their own businesses
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

150. On January 21, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family welfare has inaugurated the 7th Edition of "MASCRAGE 2021" movement against smuggled & counterfeit trade organised by FICCI Cascade. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was amended under Drugs & Cosmetics Amendment Act 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the 7th Edition of "MASCRAGE 2021" movement – organised by FICCI
- Aim of "MASCRAGE 2021" – movement against smuggled & counterfeit trade of spurious products
- [HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy](#)

151. January 21, the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has inaugurated the new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge, built at a cost of Rs 55 Cr, in Ahmedabad city of Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated the new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge – in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Cost of the bridge – Rs 55 Cr
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

152. On January 22, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma has formally inaugurated the longest road arch bridge in India - the Wahrew Bridge at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district. The arch bridge was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 49.395 Cr under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) of the Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Wahrew Bridge” - India’s longest road arch bridge – inaugurated at Sohbar, Meghalaya | Length – 169m
- NLCPR Scheme – belongs to Ministry of DoNER | NLCPR was initiated in – 1998
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

153. On January 19, Karnataka CM B.S. Yediyurappa has chaired a meeting of the State Wildlife Board and approved a proposal to set up a ‘Grey Wolf Sanctuary’ spread over 800 acres of forest area at Bankapura-2 reserve in Gangavathi division of Koppal district, Kalyana-Karnataka region. The Indian Grey Wolves inhabit the dry grassland region in the Koppal district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s 1st ‘Grey Wolf Sanctuary’ is to be set up – in Koppal, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

154. On January 21, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers D.V. Sadananda Gowda has chaired a meeting on upcoming 12.7 lakh MMTPA (Million Metric Tonne Per Annum) capacity urea plant at Namrup in Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12.7 lakh MMTPA capacity urea plant is to be set up at Namrup in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

155. On January 24, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated the 24th “Hunar Haat” of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen at Lucknow’s Avadh Shilpgram. It was organised by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. “One District One Product” (ODOP) articles of UP have been included for the first time in the Hunar Haat, which will continue till February 4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh inaugurated the 24th “Hunar Haat” of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen – in Lucknow
- It was organised by – Union Ministry of Minority Affairs
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

156. On January 26, a tableau from Ladakh has participated in the Republic Day Parade on Rajpath for the first time this year. Ladakh’s tableau has depicted the iconic ‘Thiksey Monastery’ located on top of a hill in Thikse in Leh district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A tableau from Ladakh – participated in the Republic Day Parade on Rajpath for the first time
- Ladakh’s tableau – depicted the iconic ‘Thiksey Monastery’

157. Uttar Pradesh government has launched ‘Udyam Sarathi’ mobile app to promote entrepreneurship among youth and help them explore new opportunities for self-employment. Yogi Adityanath has unveiled the app on ‘UP Diwas’ on January 24. Apart from this, the government also launched ‘Abhyudaya’ - Free coaching facility programme & ‘UP Garav Samman’ award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh launched 'Udyam Sarathi' mobile app to promote entrepreneurship among youth
- January 24 – 'UP Diwas'
- UP government also launched – 'Abhyudaya' - Free coaching facility programme & 'UP Garav Samman' award
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

158. On January 23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched "Union Budget mobile app" to provide information about the Union Budget 2021-22. The app has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the guidance of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman launched "Union Budget mobile app" – developed by NIC
- [HQs of NIC – New Delhi](#) | [Director General – Neeta Verma](#)

159. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is scheduled to perform the Bhoomi Poojan of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-II and Surat Metro Rail Project. The Metro Projects will provide an environment friendly 'Mass Rapid Transit System' to these cities. Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-II is 28.25 Kms long with two corridors. While Surat Metro Rail Project is 40.35 Kms long and comprises two corridors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – performed the Bhoomi Poojan of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-II & Surat Metro Rail
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Vijay Rupani](#) | [Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

160. On 25 January, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has inaugurated IIT Kharagpur's Agri-Food Techathon (AFT) 2021. The AFT was conducted by the Institute in association with NABARD to promote Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The foundation of the Agri-Business Incubation Centre will also be laid at the inaugural event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has inaugurated IIT Kharagpur's Agri-Food Techathon (AFT) 2021
- The AFT was conducted by = IIT Kharagpur + NABARD
- [HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu](#) | [Founded in – 1982](#)

161. Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has recently launched an e-EPIC programme. Electors will be able to download electronic versions of the Electors Photo Identity Cards (e-EPICs) from January 25 which is National Voters Day. The e-EPIC would be a non-editable PDF of the EPIC that can be downloaded on the phone and stored on the DigiLocker app or self-printed from a computer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – launched an "e-EPIC programme"
- e-EPICs = electronic-Electors Photo Identity Cards
- [Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice \(Patna Sahib, Bihar\)](#)

162. On January 25, during the 40th meeting of the Transport Development Council, Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari has approved a proposal to levy a “Green Tax” on vehicles older than 8 years at the time of renewal of fitness certificate. Nitin Gadkari also approved the policy of deregistration and scrapping of vehicles owned by government department and PSU above 15 years. It will be notified and come into effect from April 1, 2022. The government has also proposed higher tax (50% of the road tax) for vehicles registered in highly polluted cities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry for Road Transport – approved a proposal to levy a “Green Tax” on vehicles older than 8 years
- Policy of deregistration and scrapping of government’s vehicles above 15 years – effective from April 1, 2022
- Higher tax (50% of the road tax) is also approved for vehicles registered in Highly Polluted Cities
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

163. On January 27, Rajasthan government has brought Manufactured sand (M-sand) policy for construction works. It gives industry status to the units producing it for construction work and reducing the dependence on bajri (riverbed sand). The Supreme Court had banned illegal mining on riverbeds in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – brought Manufactured sand (M-sand) policy for construction works
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

164. Ministry of Tourism has dedicated 3 virtual pavilions, Dekho Apna Desh, Statue of Unity & Incredible India in “Bharat Parv-2021” that was organized on a Virtual platform from January 26-31, 2021 to promote tourism. ‘Incredible India Pavilion’ comprises information on UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The virtual Bharat Parv was inaugurated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha Om Prakash Birla. Ministry of Tourism organizes Bharat Parv every year since 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism – organized “Bharat Parv-2021” from January 26-31, 2021 (since 2016)
- The virtual Bharat Parv was inaugurated by – Om Prakash Birla
- 3 virtual pavilions = Dekho Apna Desh, Statue of Unity & Incredible India
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture

165. With the completion of the construction of the 3,300-metre-long airstrip near Kurebhar on Purvanchal Expressway, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country with two airstrips on expressways to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – became the 1st state in India with 2 airstrips on expressways to facilitate emergency landing
- Purvanchal Expressway – located in Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

166. On January 27, Karnataka has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country to automatically select beneficiaries for old-age pensions that will be paid through the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode using the 'Navodaya' app. This model was piloted in Udupi and Ballari districts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka launched Direct Benefit Transfer for old-age pensions automatically using 'Navodaya' app
- This model was launched on pilot basis in – Udupi & Ballari districts
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

167. To address nutritional challenges leading to stunting, underweight and anemia amongst children and women US food major Cargill, in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Delhi based Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), have launched a program to improve nutrition status in Jaipur, Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cargill (USA) + UN WFP + CRB (Delhi) = launched a Nutritional Program – in Jaipur, Rajasthan
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | [Countries – 36](#)
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

168. On January 27, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Copra. The decision, taken by PM Narendra Modi, would benefit copra farmers in 12 coastal State. The MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra was increased by ₹375 to ₹10,335 a quintal for 2021 from ₹9,960 in 2020 & the MSP for ball copra was increased by ₹300 to ₹10,600 a quintal from ₹10,300 in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Copra
- MSP for 'milling copra' increased by ₹375 – to ₹10,335/quintal (from ₹9,960 in 2020)
- MSP for 'ball copra' increased by ₹300 – to ₹10,600 /quintal (from ₹10,300 in 2020)

169. On January 26, the 72nd Republic Day celebrations had several firsts and had also missed out some long-standing traditions for the first time. On this day, Indian National Congress (INC) had declared 'Purna Swaraj' in 1929. A total of 32 tableaux - 17 of states and UTs, 9 of ministries and 6 from the defence arm, rolled down at Rajpath. The tableau of Uttar Pradesh has won the first prize at this year's Republic Day parade. It was based on the theme 'Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh'. Below are the highlights of the events which were observed this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The tableau of Uttar Pradesh has won the first prize at this year's Republic Day parade.
- Uttar Pradesh displayed a model of the upcoming 'Ram temple'.
- 122-member contingent from Bangladesh's armed forces participated at Rajpath.
- Rafale fighters flypast over Rajpath.
- Ladakh participated in the Republic Day Parade for the 1st time. It depicted the iconic 'Thiksey Monastery'.

- CRPF had its own tableau for the 1st time at Rajpath. Its tableau featured CRPF's 'Combat skills in conflict zones'.
- IAF tableau featured India's first woman fighter pilot – Bhawana Kanth (Bihar).
- A tableau of the Department of Biotechnology showcased the indigenous production of 'Covid vaccine'.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands troops to participate for the first time.
- For the 1st time, there was no Chief Guest. Last time, it was in 1966 when there was no Chief Guest.

170. The West Bengal Transport Corporation has launched the first of its kind children's library on a boat namely "Young Readers' Boat Library" in Kolkata. The trip will start at Millenium Park to Belur Math jetty and return. A ride on the boat would cost ₹100 for adults and ₹50 for children. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – launched the first of its kind "Young Readers' Boat Library" in Kolkata
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar](#)

171. On January 25, Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the Chennai Bench of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) through virtual mode. Shri Balvinder Singh and Justice Venugopal M. have taken charge of the newly constituted Chennai Bench of the NCLAT. Five new Benches of NCLT have been announced at Jaipur, Cuttack, Kochi, Indore and Amaravati, bringing the total number of Benches to 16 (including the Principal Bench). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Chennai Bench of NCLAT
- Balvinder Singh & Venugopal M. – took charge of the newly constituted Chennai Bench
- [Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka](#)
- [Chairperson of NCLAT – Bansi Lal Bhat](#)

172. 'Vasuki' train of the South-East Central Railways (SECR) zone in Chhattisgarh has broken its own previous record by successfully operating the longest ever freight train by amalgamating 5 rakes of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km. It covered the distance of 224 km between the railway stations of Bhilai & Korba. The nation's most profitable railways zone SECR had earlier operated 177 loaded wagons "Super Anaconda" of 2 km long freight train. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Vasuki' train of SECR broke record by successfully operating the longest ever freight train (Length – 3.5 km)
- [HQs of SECR – Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh | General Manager – Shri Goutam Banerjee](#)

173. On January 25, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a revamped website that provides information about gallantry awards in India and their recipients since Independence. Along with portal, he also launched a Gallantry Award Quiz competition and an e-magazine 'Shauryawaan'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – unveiled a revamped website that provides information about gallantry awards in India
- Rajnath Singh – launched a Gallantry Award Quiz competition & an e-magazine 'Shauryawaan'
- [Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh \(Constituency – Lucknow, UP\)](#)

174. On January 27, Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched its new app 'Krishi Sakha' to cater to the specific needs of the farmers in the country and guide them in adopting best farming practices and enhancing productivity. The farmers will also have access to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) portal for crop insurance related information. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti AXA General Insurance – launched its new app 'Krishi Sakha' for farmers
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched in – 2016
- [HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan](#)

175. The Supreme Court has recently stated that the successful bidders for a corporate debtor under 'Section 32 A' of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) would be immune from any investigations being conducted either by any investigating agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) or other statutory bodies such as Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A corporate debtor would be immune from any investigations under 'Section 32 A' of the IBC
- CIRP – Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process | IBC came into being in – 2016

176. "Ayu Samvad" (My Health My Responsibility) is one of the largest public awareness campaign program on Ayurveda and Covid 19 Pandemic, organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) New Delhi, as envisioned & supported by Ministry of AYUSH. More than 5 lakh lectures will be organized across the nation by Ayurveda Physicians for citizens of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Ayu Samvad" (My Health My Responsibility) – largest public awareness campaign on Ayurveda & Covid 19 Pandemic
- The campaign was organised by – All India Institute of Ayurveda ([New Delhi](#))

177. On January 26, On the occasion of Republic Day, Akshay Kumar launched the mobile action game "Fearless and United Guards (FAU-G)". The initial episode of the game is based in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh and the rest of the episodes will be set in other Indian battlegrounds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshay Kumar – launched a mobile action game "FAU-G" (Fearless and United Guards)

178. On January 28, Maharashtra has formally launched the Agriculture Pump Power Connection Policy. The state has also inaugurated Krishi Urja Abhiyan Policy Web Portal, Solar Energy Land Bank Portal, Maha Krishi Abhiyan App and ACF App prepared by the power discom Mahavitaran. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched the Agriculture Pump Power Connection Policy
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

179. On January 27, a new School of Public Health (SPH) has been launched to make policy intervention for building public health capacity and skills and bridge gaps between education and practices in Rajasthan. The school is named after Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) chairperson S.D. Gupta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- School of Public Health (SPH) – launched in Rajasthan
- The school is named after IIHMR chairperson – S. D. Gupta
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

180. Odisha government in collaboration with UNICEF & technical support from Structural Dynamics Research Corporation (SDRC), has launched a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based interactive Dashboard for Teacher Education Institutes (TEI) to monitor progress against the annual academic calendar and improve the quality of teacher training. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + UNICEF + SDRC = launched a GIS-based interactive Dashboard for Teacher Education Institutes (TEI)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946
- HQs of SDRC – Texas, USA

181. On January 28, Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has released 'Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines' for long-term conservation of marine species and their habitats. He has also launched 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – released 'Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines' & 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan'
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

182. The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board (UPSCWB) has formally launched the 'Dhannipur project' on the allocated 5-acre land at Dhannipur village of Ayodhya by hoisting the national flag and planting saplings to mark Republic Day celebrations. The Dhannipur project includes a mosque, hospital, museum, library, community kitchen, Indo-Islamic Cultural Research Centre and Publication House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP Sunni Central Waqf Board launched the 'Dhannipur project' on the allocated 5-acre land in Ayodhya
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

183. The Haryana government will provide free books to Scheduled Caste students studying in state-run colleges for the year 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – to provide free books to Scheduled Caste students studying in state-run colleges
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

184. On January 27, a phoenix-themed memorial for late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa was inaugurated at Chennai. Palaniswami and Panneerselvam in May 2018 had jointly laid the foundation stone for the memorial adjacent to that of party founder and late chief minister M G Ramachandran located on the Marina Beach at Kamarajar Salai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A phoenix-themed memorial for late Tamil Nadu CM 'J. Jayalalithaa' was inaugurated at – Marina beach, Chennai
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

185. On January 28, the Union Environment ministry has launched the “Indo-French Year of the Environment”. The Indo-French Year of the Environment over the period 2021-2022 would be based on 5 main themes including environmental protection, climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable urban development, renewable energy and energy efficiency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Environment ministry launched the “Indo-French Year of the Environment”
- 5 themes:
 1. Environmental Protection
 2. Climate Change
 3. Biodiversity Conservation
 4. Sustainable Urban Development
 5. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- [France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex](#)

186. Bharti Airtel has become the first telecom service provider in India to successfully “demonstrate and orchestrate” live 5G service. The demonstration took place in the city of Hyderabad. Airtel has tested the new 5G network over its existing liberalised spectrum in the 1800 MHz band through the NSA (non-standalone) network technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel became the 1st telecom service provider in India to successfully demonstrate live 5G service – in Hyderabad
- [HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal](#)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

187. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved closure of Lucknow-based loss-making state-owned firm Scooters India Limited and shutting down the operations of its units. It has also cleared seeking a loan (with interest) of ₹ 65.12 Cr required for the closure from the Government of India. The firm has around 100 employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved closure of loss-making firm 'Scooters India Ltd'
- [HQs of Scooters India Ltd – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Renati Sreenivasulu](#)

188. January 28, Microsoft has launched its new India Development Center (IDC) facility at the National Capital Region. The facility will serve as a premier hub for driving cutting-edge engineering and innovation. IDC NCR is Microsoft's third Development Center in India after Bengaluru and Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft launched its new & 3rd India Development Center (IDC) facility at – Noida, NCR
- [HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella](#)

189. The Beating Retreat ceremony which marks the culmination of the 4-day long Republic Day celebrations, took place on January 29 at the historic Vijay Chowk with as many as 26 performances by the bands by the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). For the very first time, a special new composition 'Swarnim Vijay' was played which was composed to commemorate the 50 years of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Beating Retreat ceremony took place on January 29 at 'Vijay Chowk'
- For the very first time, a special new composition 'Swarnim Vijay' was played

190. Starting on January 29, Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) is stepping up its digital campaign "#ChupNaBaitho" to scrub digital platforms clean with a fresh initiative that encourages audiences to report objectionable ads. The 3-month pilot will focus on New Delhi and Mumbai and mainly target finance portals and technology sites. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Advertising Standards Council of India launched a digital campaign "#ChupNaBaitho" to report objectionable ads
- 3-month pilot will focus on New Delhi & Mumbai
- [HQs of ASCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Kamath](#)

191. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has set up an "Innovation Sandbox" web portal where fintech firms and individuals may use the environment for offline testing of their applications in a test environment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE – set up an "Innovation Sandbox" web portal
- [BSE is Asia's 1st Stock Exchange Company](#)
- [HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan](#)

192. The first indigenously built Metro Rake to be deployed for Metro 2A (Dahisar-DN Nagar) and Metro 7 (Dahisar-Andheri via Western Express Highway) arrived in Mumbai from the Bengaluru facility of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML). The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) plans to commence indigenously designed "driverless" Metro cars services from May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first indigenously built Metro Rake deployed in Mumbai
- The Metro Rake was built by – Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML)
- [HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota](#)

193. The UP Metro Rail Corporation has taken inspiration from the New York Metro's experiment to sanitise trains with UV lamp rays. The Lucknow Metro has become the first metro project in India to use ultraviolet (UV) rays to sanitise train coaches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lucknow Metro – became the first metro project in India to use ultraviolet (UV) rays to sanitise train coaches
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

194. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has busted wildlife trafficking syndicates in Jammu and Kashmir. In an unprecedented intelligence operation of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), two epicentres of illegal wildlife poaching and trade were identified in Anantnag area of Srinagar valley and Manwal in the Jammu region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau – busted wildlife trafficking syndicates in Jammu & Kashmir
- [HQs of WCCB – New Delhi](#) | [Additional Director – Tilotama Varma](#)
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar](#) | [Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

195. On January 29, Infrastructure firm Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has received an up to Rs 2,500 Cr contract for the upcoming and country's first high speed rail corridor project connecting the financial capital, Mumbai and the city of Ahmedabad. This high speed rail corridor project is being implemented by National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), based on Japanese E5 Shinkansen technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Larsen & Toubro – received an up to Rs 2,500 Cr contract for Mumbai - Ahmedabad Bullet Train project
- [HQs L&T – Mumbai](#) | [CMD – SN Subrahmanyam](#)

196. On January 29, In a bid to encourage people to drink only tap water, instead of running after branded and packaged drinking water, the Telangana government has come up with this unique idea of creating its own brand and calling it "Mission Bhagiratha". Mission Bhagiratha, a flagship programme of the Telangana government, is aimed at providing safe drinking water to every household. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Mission Bhagiratha" – a flagship programme of the Telangana to provide safe drinking water
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

197. On January 31, ASUS Republic of Gamers (ROG) has launched "ROG Academy" - India's 1st virtual Academy program for gamers. The initiative is meant to provide mentorship to gamers in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASUS – launched "ROG Academy" - India's 1st virtual Academy program
- [HQs of ASUS – Taipei, Taiwan](#) | [CEO – Samson Hu](#)

198. On January 31, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought urgent intervention of the Union Ministry of Tourism and Culture for protection and preservation of the ancient heritage structures that have surfaced during the demolition drive conducted by the State government as part of its 'Ekamra Kshetra' beautification project. In a letter to the Union Culture Minister Pralhad Singh Patel, Dharmendra Pradhan has urged him to send an expert team to Bhubaneswar to conduct a detailed study. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan urged Tourism Ministry to protect 'Ekamra Kshetra' heritage in Bhubaneswar
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Constituency – MP)
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, MP)

199. On January 31, Fashion e-tailer Myntra has changed its logo following a complaint by a Mumbai-based activist who alleged that the brand's signage was offensive towards women. The complaint had been lodged in December with the cyber cell in Mumbai by Avesta Foundation's Naaz Patel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Myntra – changed its logo following a complaint that the brand's signage was offensive towards women
- HQs of Myntra – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amar Nagaram



International Affairs

1. India will be the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for 3 years. The APAP is a regional platform to help governments and other stakeholders to collaborate for more effective management of protected areas (PA) in the region. The APAP currently consists of 21 members from 17 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for 3 years
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang

2. China has deployed a fleet of underwater drones called “Sea Wing (Haiyi) glider” in the Indian Ocean, which can operate for months on end and make observations for naval intelligence purposes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – deployed a fleet of underwater drones called “Sea Wing (Haiyi) glider” in the Indian Ocean
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

3. A Japanese startup called Sumitomo Forestry has teamed up with researchers from the Kyoto University, to work on a wooden satellite. The two teams plan to launch the world's first satellite made out of wood in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – to launch the world's first-ever wooden satellites – by 2023
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

4. On January 2, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has signed a law ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which entails a formal commitment to abolish the death penalty. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kazakhstan – abolished the death penalty
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

5. For the first time ever, more than half of U.K. electricity came from wind as “Storm Bella” blew through the country, according to data from Drax Plc’s Electric Insights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Storm Bella” – hits the UK (produced 50% of its power from wind)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

6. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Small drones will be allowed to fly over people and at night in the United States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Small drones will be allowed to fly over people and at night in – USA
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

7. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a mobile application called the “WHO Covid-19” app to provide users with the latest updates on the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). WHO had launched a similar app at the beginning of the year to provide real-time updates on the coronavirus disease. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – launched a mobile application called the “WHO Covid-19” app
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194](#)

8. Argentina has become the largest Latin American country to legalise abortion after its senate approved the historic law. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Argentina – the largest Latin American country to legalise abortion
- [Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso](#)

9. The US House of Representatives has officially re-elected House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to another term with 216 members voting for her. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nancy Pelosi – re-elected as the US House Speaker – after winning 216 votes
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

10. Iran has resumed enriching uranium to 20% purity at the Fordo nuclear facility, far beyond the limits laid out in the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran also seized a South Korean-flagged chemical tanker. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – resumed enriching uranium to 20% purity at the Fordo nuclear facility
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial/Toman | President – Hassan Rouhani](#)

11. China has completed the track-laying work for a railway line linking the cities of Lhasa and Nyingchi in Tibet. The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. Linzhi, also known as Nyingchi, is located close to Arunachal Pradesh border. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – completed the track-laying work for a railway line linking ‘Lhasa’ & ‘Nyingchi’ in Tibet
- ‘Nyingchi’ also known as ‘Linzhi’ – located near Arunachal Pradesh border

12. Australia has changed its national anthem in a bid to reflect its 60,000 years of Indigenous history. Olivia Fox sang Australia's national anthem in the Eora language during the Tri Nations rugby match in Sydney. “Advance Australia Fair” was declared the official national anthem in 1984. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – changed its national anthem in a bid to reflect its Indigenous history
- “Advance Australia Fair” was declared the official national anthem – in 1984
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

13. On January 6, India has provided a grant assistance of INR 19.21 Cr (Nepalese Rs. 30.66 Cr) to Nepal as part of its commitment towards reconstruction of educational institutions damaged during the 2015 earthquake. With this, India has reimbursed an amount of NRs 819.8 million (NRs 81.98 crore/INR 51.37 crore) to Nepal towards educational sector reconstruction projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal – received INR 19.21 Cr (NRs 30.66 Cr) from India – as part of post-quake aid to build educational institutions
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

14. On January 9, TS Tirumurti, India's envoy to the UN has stated that India was asked to chair 3 important subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - the Taliban sanctions committee, the Counter-terrorism committee and the Libya sanctions committee. The move follows India joining the Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to chair 3 Key UNSC committees
- 3 committees: Taliban sanctions committee + Counter-terrorism committee + Libya sanctions committee
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador – T S Tirumurti
- Permanent members in the UNSC = 5 – China, France, Russia, U.K. & U.S.
- HQs of UNSC – New York, USA | Presidency in January 2021 – Tunisia (followed by UK & USA)
- India – UNSC President in August 2021

15. On January 5, Diplomatic relations have been restored between Qatar and 4 Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt) that imposed an embargo against it for 3 years. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar in 2017, accusing it of supporting terrorism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Diplomatic relations have been restored between – Qatar & Saudi Arabia + UAE + Bahrain + Egypt
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani

16. Amazon has purchased 11 used “Boeing 767-300ER” passenger aircraft to expand its air cargo operations and delivery network for its Prime Air fleet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon – purchased 11 used “Boeing 767-300ER” passenger aircraft
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos

17. On January 12, the Trump administration has re-designated Cuba as a ‘state sponsor of terrorism’, reversing an Obama-era decision days ahead of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – re-designated Cuba as a ‘state sponsor of terrorism’
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris
- Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Díaz-Canel

18. Bangladesh Armed Forces will participate in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi on January 26, at Rajpath. A contingent of 122 proud personnel of the Bangladesh Armed Forces has departed for India in a specially-sent IAF C-17 aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh Armed Forces – participate in the Republic Day Parade on January 26 – at Rajpath, New Delhi
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka](#) | [PM – Sheikh Hasina](#) | [President – Abdul Hamid](#)

19. On January 14, the U.S. has barred entry of all cotton products and tomatoes from China's Xinjiang region due to some companies' alleged ill-treatment of workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – banned the entry of all cotton products & tomatoes from China's Xinjiang region
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [President – Joe Biden](#) | [VP – Kamala Harris](#)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

20. On January 13, the President Donald Trump was impeached by the US House for a historic second time. Trump is the only US president to be twice impeached. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Donald Trump – 1st President of USA to be impeached twice
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [President – Joe Biden](#) | [VP – Kamala Harris](#)

21. The 19th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) was inaugurated on 16th January. The film festival this year is dedicated to the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 16 – 19th Dhaka International Film Festival (birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman)
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka](#) | [PM – Sheikh Hasina](#) | [President – Abdul Hamid](#)

22. On January 15, US President-elect Joe Biden has announced a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package to tackle the economic fallout from the pandemic. Biden's proposal also sets aside USD 20 billion for a national vaccination programme and USD 50 billion to scale up coronavirus testing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Biden announced a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package to tackle the economic fallout
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [President – Joe Biden](#) | [VP – Kamala Harris](#)

23. On January 15, the 6th India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. During the meeting, India conveyed that it would undertake 2 more cultural heritage projects in Nepal, namely, the Pashupatinath Riverfront Development and the Bhandarkhal Garden Restoration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) – co-chaired by S. Jaishankar
- India – to construct 2 cultural heritage sites in Nepal

- Two Sites: Pashupatinath Riverfront Development & Bhandarkhal Garden Restoration (Nepal)
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

24. On January 18, India has supplied a consignment of 2 Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) to Iran's Chabahar port with a total contract value of over \$25 million under a contract agreement for supply of 6 MHC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India supplied a consignment of 2 Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) – to Iran's Chabahar port (Value: \$25 million)
- Iran – Tehran – Rial/Toman | President – Hassan Rouhani

25. On January 18, the US National Rifle Association (NRA) has filed for bankruptcy under 'Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code' in an effort to avoid being investigated by New York's Attorney General. NRA is the most powerful gun lobbyist in the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US National Rifle Association – filed for bankruptcy under 'Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code'
- HQs of NRA – Virginia, USA | President – Carolyn D. Meadows

26. On January 12, the Pakistan government has issued at least 7 special permits to Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and 6 other members of the ruling family to hunt the internationally protected bird 'Houbara Bustard' during the 2020-21 hunting season. 'Houbara Bustard' is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan issued 7 special permits for Dubai royals to hunt – 'Houbara Bustard' an internationally protected Bird
- 'Houbara Bustard' is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

27. On January 19, Malaysia has seized a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Boeing-777 Airplane at the Kuala Lumpur Airport owing to non-payment of aircraft lease dues. It is in one of the rarest incidents in the history of international civil aviation that signals the state of Pak economy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Malaysia – seized a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Boeing-777 Airplane
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Muhyiddin Yassin
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

28. On January 15, Russia has announced to leave the Open Skies treaty, saying that the pact had been seriously compromised by the withdrawal of the United States in November. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – announced to leave the ‘Open Skies treaty’
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- The Open Skies Treaty – signed in 1992 & entered into force in – 2002 | Countries – 23

29. Sri Lanka’s President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has announced the revival of an ‘Indian and Japanese Investment Project’ to develop a deep-sea terminal in Colombo harbour. The terminal will be developed with 51% ownership by Sri Lanka and the remaining 49% by Adani Group (India) and Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka revived port deal with India and Japan for a deep-sea terminal – in Colombo harbour
- Ownership of Deep-sea terminal = 51% by Sri Lanka + 49 by Adani Group (India) & Japan

30. On January 21, to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) recover from the pandemic and prepare for the future, Mastercard has launched the Digital Acceleration for Small Businesses Microsite across most of its Asia Pacific websites. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard – launched the Digital Acceleration for Small Businesses Microsite – across Asia Pacific websites
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

31. On January 16, a team of 10 Nepali climbers has made history by becoming the first to scale in winter the world's second highest mountain K2, considered as the world's most dangerous and challenging peak. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A team of 10 Nepali climbers – made history by becoming the 1st to scale “K2” in winter
- “K2” – the world's second highest mountain | Height – 8611 meters
- It is Located in – on the China-Pakistan border in the Gilgit-Baltistan region

32. On January 22, Minister of State for External affairs V Muraleedharan has inaugurated the Indian government's first “Upskilling & Training Centre” for blue-collar workers in the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V Muraleedharan – inaugurated the Indian government's first “Upskilling & Training Centre” in the UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

33. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, but none of the nine countries known or believed to possess nuclear weapons supported it and neither did the NATO alliance. The treaty came into force on January 19, 2021. Nuclear-capable countries - USA, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea & Israel (Undeclared Nuclear Power) did not support the Treaty nor have signed it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – came into force on January 19

- The treaty was approved by the UNGA in 2017
- Nuclear-capable countries – USA, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea & Israel
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkır | Member Countries – 193

34. On January 21, India has handed over 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal under grant assistance in sync with its 'Neighbourhood First' policy under the "Vaccine Maitri" Initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India handed over 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal under "Vaccine Maitri" Initiative
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

35. On January 21, the UK government has placed a temporary export ban on Robert Clive's Indian silver Durbar set. It is made up of rosewater sprinklers, paan caskets and huqqa bases worth around 730,000 pound. The set is believed to have been used in Mughal court assemblies in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – placed a temporary export ban on Robert Clive's Indian silver Durbar set
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

36. Spain's largest utility Iberdrola SA and the French food giant Danone SA have signed an agreement to build 590 MW-capacity photo-voltaic plant, the largest in Europe. It will be built at the cost of 300 million-euro (\$364 million). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spain + France = signed an agreement to build 590 MW-capacity & the largest Solar Power Plant of Europe
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

37. Russia and the United States have signed a deal to extend the "New START" nuclear arms control treaty for 5 years. Signed in 2010, the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) is a cornerstone of global arms control. It limits the number of strategic nuclear warheads deployed by the United States and Russia to 1,550 each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia + USA = signed a deal to extend the "New START" nuclear arms control treaty for 5 years
- The treaty was initially signed in – 2010 | It limits no. of nuclear warheads – to 1,550 for each country
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

38. On January 22, Germany's current account surplus shrank for the 5th year in a row in 2020 as China overtook Europe's biggest economy during the COVID-19 pandemic to run the world's largest current account surplus, a survey by the IFO institute. China's current account surplus has more than doubled to \$310 billion last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China overtook Germany's Current Account Surplus (China's current account surplus in 2020 - \$310 billion)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

39. Project Loon, the Google X spinout that hoped to make broadband more accessible using solar-powered balloons, has been shut down by parent company Alphabet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Project Loon" – shut down by Alphabet Inc.
- [HQs of Alphabet Inc. – California, USA | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)

40. Google employees across the globe, in coordination with UNI Global Union, have formed an international union called the "Alpha Global". The union consists of 13 different unions representing workers in 10 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google employees – formed an international union called "Alpha Global"
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)

41. The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution to promote a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites all across the world. The resolution adopted calls for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNGA adopted a resolution to promote a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard Religious Sites
- [HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193](#)

42. The World Economic Forum has launched an Essential Digital Infrastructure and Services Network (EDISON) Alliance that will work towards ensuring global and equitable access to the digital economy. The alliance will be chaired by Verizon's Chairman and CEO Hans Vestberg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WEF launched 'EDISON' Alliance – chaired by Hans Vestberg (Chairman & CEO of Verizon)
- EDISON – Essential Digital Infrastructure and Services Network
- [HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab](#)

43. Japan has raised concerns about British proposals to invite Australia, India and South Korea to a meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) foreign ministers. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is hosting this year's G-7, has invited South Korea, India and Australia to attend the leaders' summit in Cornwall in June. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan raised concerns about British proposals to invite Australia, India & South Korea to G-7 meeting

- G-7 is hosted by the UK in 2021
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975

44. U.S. President Joe Biden has signed an order reversing a Trump-era Pentagon policy that largely barred transgender individuals from serving in the military. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U.S. President Joe Biden signed an order to allow Transgender persons to serve in Military
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

45. Puerto Rico has declared a state of emergency over gender-based violence, after a wave of killings targeting women and transgender people. The state of emergency will be in effect until June 30, 2022. At least 60 direct and indirect femicides were reported in Puerto Rico in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Puerto Rico – declared a state of Emergency over gender-based violence
- Puerto Rico – San Juan – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden (It is an unincorporated U.S. territory)

46. Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli vening has awarded the contract for construction of 679 MW Lower Arun Hydropower Project to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam. The project cost for Lower Arun is estimated at over NRs. 100 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal – awarded 679 MW Lower Arun Hydropower Project to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam
- HQs of SJVN Ltd – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

47. On January 30, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced plans to grant citizenship to a select group of foreigners to this oil-rich nation home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, part of efforts to stimulate its economy amid the coronavirus pandemic. The offer could apply to artists, authors, doctors, engineers and scientists, as well as their families. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE – announced plans to grant citizenship to a select group of foreigners in Abu Dhabi & Dubai
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

48. Pakistan has received the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag for its Basmati, paving the way for creating a local registry for the particular strain of rice. Pakistan is fighting a case in the 27-member European Union against India's move to get Basmati rice registered as its product. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – received the GI tag for its Basmati rice
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

Banking & Economic Affairs

1. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an associate member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). The IOSCO works closely with the G20 nations and the Financial Stability Board (FSB), in setting up the standards for strengthening the securities markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA – become an associate member of the IOSCO
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas
- HQs of IOSCO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary General – Paul P. Andrews

2. The Reserve Bank of India has come up with a composite “Digital Payments Index (DPI)” to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India. The RBI-DPI index has been set-up with March 2018 as the base year. India’s UPI payments have shot up 82% in the current fiscal year’s Q2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – introduced a composite “Digital Payments Index (DPI)” to measure the extent of digitisation of payments
- The base year for the RBI-DPI index – 2018 | rise in India’s UPI payments – 82% in the Q2
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

3. RuPay has partnered with RBL Bank to launch “RuPay PoS” - a payment solution for Indian merchants in association with fintech company PayNearby. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to Rs 5,000 through a simple tap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RuPay + RBL Bank + PayNearby = to launch “RuPay PoS” - a payment solution for Indian merchants
- HQs of RuPay – New Delhi | Launched by – NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja
- HQs of PayNearby – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anand Kumar Bajaj

4. The government has kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, unchanged for the January-March quarter (Q4). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Interest rates on small savings schemes for Q4:
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1%
- National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 6.8%
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) – 6.9%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 7.4%
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Interest rate on savings deposits – 4%

5. India's fiscal deficit surged to Rs 10.75 lakh Cr at the end of November 2020, which is equivalent to 135.1% of the 2020-21 Budget Estimates (BE), according to the latest data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's fiscal deficit surged to – Rs 10.75 lakh Cr = 135.1% of the 2020-21 Budget Estimates (as of Nov 2020)
- [Present CGA – Soma Roy Burman](#)

6. PayPal has been imposed a Rs 96 lakh penalty by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) for alleged contravention of the anti-money laundering law and accused of “concealing” suspect financial transactions and abetting “disintegration” of India’s financial system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPal – imposed a Rs 96 lakh penalty by the FIU for alleged contravention of the anti-money laundering law
- [HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman](#)

7. The gross Goods and Services Tax collections has touched a record high of over Rs 1.15 lakh Cr in December - the highest since the implementation of the regime. With this, the GST has also now crossed the psychological Rs 1 lakh crore-mark for the third straight month in the current fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The gross Goods and Services Tax collections – touched a record high of over Rs 1.15 lakh Cr in December
- [HQs of GSTN – New Delhi | CEO – Prakash Kumar | Founded in – 2013](#)

8. The Labour Ministry has decided to notify the 8.5% rate of interest for crediting the same into the account of over 6 crore subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Ministry decided to notify the 8.5% rate of interest for 6 crore subscribers of EPFO
- [HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Shri Sunil Barthwal](#)

9. The government has used financial innovation to recapitalise Punjab & Sind Bank by issuing the lender Rs 5,500-crore worth of non-interest bearing bonds valued at par. Since these bonds are not tradable, the lender has kept them in the held-to-maturity (HTM) category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government has issued the lender of Rs 5,500 Cr – to recapitalise Punjab & Sind Bank
- [HQs of Punjab & Sind Bank – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S Krishnan](#)

10. On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.50 Cr on Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.50 Cr on – Bajaj Finance
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\)](#)
- [HQs of Bajaj Finance – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjiv Bajaj | CFO – S. Sreenivasan](#)

11. On January 6, the RBI has announced the operationalisation of the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme, which is intended to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centres. An advisory council (AC) under the chairmanship of RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo has been constituted for managing the PIDF scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI announced the operationalisation of PIDF scheme
- Management of PIDF scheme will be done under an advisory council headed by – BP Kanungo
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)
- Total Deputy Governors – 4 – Mukesh Kumar Jain | B P Kanungo | Michael D Patra | M Rajeshwar Rao

12. On January 7, Bandhan Bank has signed an MoU with the Indian Army for the Bandhan Bank “Shaurya Salary Account”, which comes with banking privileges meant for the brave hearts of the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bandhan Bank + Indian Army = an MoU for the “Shaurya Salary Account”
- HQs of Bandhan Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- Tagline – “Aapka Bhalai, Sabki Bhalai”
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

13. On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for all payment transactions of value ₹50 crore and above undertaken by entities (non-individuals) using the Reserve Bank-run Centralised Payment Systems with effect from April 1. The “LEI” is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI to introduce the “LEI” system for all payment transactions of value ₹50 crore and above – from April 1
- LEI – Legal Entity Identifier | LEI is a 20-digit number
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

14. Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India has grown 21% to USD 35.33 billion (approx Rs 2.5 lakh Cr) during April-October period of the current financial year, as per the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FDI equity inflows into India grew 21% to USD 35.33 billion (approx Rs 2.5 lakh Cr) (during April-Oct)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)

15. On January 6, Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB) is the first urban co-operative bank (UCB) in India to transition to a Small Finance Bank (SFB) under the RBI’s voluntary transition scheme. Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) will start its banking operations from April 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank – 1st UCB in India to transition to a SFB under RBI's voluntary transition scheme
- HQs of SSFB – Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Suveer Kumar Gupta

16. On January 6, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to enable MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) apply online for one-time restructuring (OTR). The public sector bank's MSME customers can now access the web-based portal, 'Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs (ARM-MSME)'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB + SIDBI = an MoU to enable MSMEs apply online for one-time restructuring (OTR)
- BoB's MSME customers can now access 'Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs (ARM-MSME)' portal
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa

17. On January 8, State Bank of India (SBI) in partnership with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) has launched a co-branded contactless RuPay debit card for fuel purchase anywhere in India. It is a contactless card and transactions up to Rs 5,000 can be paid for with just a tap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + IOC = launched a co-branded contactless RuPay debit card
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

18. On January 8, Central Bank of India (CBoI) and NABFOUNDATION have signed MoU whereby working capital will be provided by the bank to all self-help groups (SHGs) which have an account with it and undertake the Nabard-sponsored 'My Pad My Right' project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBoI + NABFOUNDATION = an MoU to provide loans to SHGs to undertake 'My Pad My Right' project
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Pallav Mohapatra
- HQs of NABFOUNDATION – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – G R Chintala

19. On January 7, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has partnered with IIT Kanpur and FIRST (Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology) to jointly establish the "PNB - IIT Kanpur Innovation Centre" at the IIT campus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB + IIT Kanpur + FIRST = partnership to set up 'Fintech Innovation Centre' – at the IIT campus
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

20. On January 12, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has signed an MoU with 'Jai Kisan' (a rural-focused fintech platform of Greenizon Agritech Consultancy) to expand access to financial services to individuals and businesses in Karnataka, including farmer and non-farmer entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank + Jai Kisan = an MoU to provide financial services all Entrepreneurs
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P Gopi Krishna
- HQs of Jai Kisan Fintech – Mumbai, MH | Founder & CEO – Arjun Ahluwalia

21. On January 12, the RBI has released the 22nd Bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR). As per the FSR, the GNPA (Gross Non-Performing Assets) ratio may increase from 7.5% in September 2020 to 13.5% by September 2021 under the baseline scenario. And the ratio may escalate to 14.8% under the severe stress scenario. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released the 22nd Bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR)
- GNPA ratio may increase: 13.5% under Baseline Scenario & 14.8% under Severe Stress Scenario
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

22. Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank citing failure to meet regulatory requirements. The RBI has barred the bank from undertaking banking business with effect from the close of business on January 11, 2021. Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 provides power to RBI to cancel the licence of a bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank
- “Section 11(1)” of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – provides power to RBI to cancel the licence of a bank
- HQs of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank – Osmanabad, Maharashtra

23. On January 14, the RBI has set up a 6-member Working Group (WG) on digital lending. The committee will be responsible for suggesting specific regulatory measures in the realm of digital lending within 3 months. And it will be chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – set up a 6-member Working Group (WG) on digital lending – chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

24. On January 12, the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 Cr on Deutsche Bank AG for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions concerning interest rate on deposits. The statutory inspection of Deutsche Bank's financial position as on March 31, 2019 and the Risk Assessment Report revealed non-compliance with the 'Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 2 Cr on Deutsche Bank AG for non-compliance with certain provisions
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Deutsche Bank – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Christian Sewing | President – Karl von Rohr

25. On January 12, Mahindra Lifespace Developers has signed an MoU with SBI for faster home loan approvals as well as to offer special discounts to customers and employees of both the companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + Mahindra Lifespace Developers = an MoU for faster home loan approvals & to offer discounts
- HQs of Mahindra Lifespace – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Arvind Subramanian
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia

26. On January 12, FSS (Financial Software and Systems) has partnered with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments. As part of the collaboration, IPPB will use FSS' Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) to deliver interoperable and affordable doorstep banking services to customers across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB + FSS = partnership to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments
- AePS – Aadhaar enabled Payment System
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu
- HQs of FSS – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – Nagaraj Mylandla

27. On January 14, ICICI Bank has announced a tie-up with FinTech 'Niyo' to issue prepaid cards to MSME workers. MSME blue-collar workers would be able to get the "ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card" which Allowed customers to receive funds of upto Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Niyo = to issue "ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card"
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"
- HQs of Niyo – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Vinay Bagri

28. State Bank of India has provided a major relief to farmers under its loan settlement schemes "Rin Samadhan Yojna". Under the Rin Samadhan Yojna, if the farmer who has borrowed loan, pays 20% of the principal amount of the total dues pending since 2 years, then the entire loan will be waived. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – provided a major relief to farmers under its "Rin Samadhan Yojna"
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia

29. On January 15, YES Bank has teamed up with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited to launch "YES BANK Wellness" and "YES BANK Wellness Plus" credit cards, which aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- YES Bank + Aditya Birla Wellness = to launch Wellness Credit Cards

- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Aditya Birla Wellness – Mumbai, MH | Head – Murtuza Arsiwala

30. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) has reviewed the major developments in the global and domestic economy as well as financial markets that impact financial stability. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) – headed by Shaktikanta Das
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

31. On January 15, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and European Investment Bank (EIB) have formed a new clean and sustainable ocean partnership to support initiatives in Asia and the Pacific to help meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate goals of the Paris Agreement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + EIB = collaborated to make oceans Clean and Sustainable
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- HQs of EIB – Kirchberg, Luxembourg | President – Werner Hoyer

32. On January 20, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has virtually launched “YES MSME”, a proposition with the aim to strengthen the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with speedy and easy access to funds. The launch comes during the SME carnival from January 18 – 22, 2021 at the Bank’s MSME-focused branches across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched “YES MSME” to enable access to funding
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

33. On January 21, ICICI Bank has launched a new mobile application ‘InstaFX’ for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get ‘ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card’ swiftly. ICICI Bank is the 1st in India to offer digital validation of KYC for its Forex partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched a new mobile application ‘InstaFX’ to help customers get ‘Forex Prepaid Card’
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

34. On January 20, the RBI has released a list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) based on the Framework for dealing with D-SIBs. SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). These banks are considered 'too big to fail banks'. The assets of the bank greater than 2% of GDP are considered part of this group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released a list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)
- Criteria for D-SIBs: Assets of the bank should be greater than 2% of GDP

- D-SIBs – SBI, ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

35. On January 16, IIFL Home Finance and Standard Chartered Bank have entered into a co-lending agreement for extending credit to the MSME loans (loan against property). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIFL Home Finance + SCB = a Co-lending Agreement for extending credit to the MSME loans
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nirmal Jain
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters

36. As per the Financial Stability Report released by the RBI, the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRPs) has taken an average of 433 days as of September 2020. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) prescribes a maximum period of 330 days for a resolution as per an amendment introduced in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CIRPs took an average of 433 days as of September 2020
- IBC prescribes a maximum period of 330 days for a resolution
- CIRPs – Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

37. On January 19, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has announced its partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) to facilitate fixed deposit services to its account holders. The payments bank has already been offering fixed deposits service in collaboration with IndusInd Bank with a minimum investment of Rs. 100. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PPBL + SSFB = partnership to facilitate fixed deposit services to its account holders'
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Suryoday SFB – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Baskar Babu

38. On January 19, Private lender Axis Bank has launched a credit card named “Aura” dedicated towards various health and wellness benefits. The card would have tie ups with Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG, amongst others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank launched a credit card named “Aura” – for various health and wellness benefits
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

39. The RBI has drained Rs 2 trillion (\$27.4 billion) from the banking system, as it seeks to push up money-market rates that had crashed below the reverse repo rate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – drained Rs 2 trillion (\$27.4 billion) from the banking system in a bid to nudge shorter rates higher
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

40. The government has raised the authorised capital of Punjab & Sind bank to Rs. 10,000 Cr from previous Rs. 3000 Cr. Last year, the government had approved capital infusion of Rs 5,500 Cr into the bank through preferential allotment of shares. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government raised the authorised capital of Punjab & Sind bank to Rs. 10,000 Cr (from previous Rs. 3000 Cr)
- HQs of Punjab & Sind Bank – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S Krishnan

41. On January 20, State Bank of India (SBI) has executed 2 inter-bank short-term money market deals through its Hong Kong branch with the pricing linked to SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate). SOFR is an identified replacement for USD (US Dollar) LIBOR (London InterBank Offered Rate), which is expected to be phased out at the end of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI executed 2 inter-bank short-term money market deals through its Hong Kong branch
- SOFR – Secured Overnight Financing Rate | LIBOR – London InterBank Offered Rate
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia

42. On January 21, the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 Cr on Standard Chartered Bank India for delays in reporting of frauds to it. The monetary penalty has been imposed on the bank for non-compliance with certain directions contained in the 'RBI (Frauds - Classification and Reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) Directions 2016'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 2 Cr on Standard Chartered Bank India
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters

43. On January 21, Education fintech company GrayQuest has collaborated with SBM Bank India to facilitate access of affordable funds to its clients. Established in 2017, GrayQuest is working towards increasing convenience of educational fee payments in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GrayQuest + SBM Bank India = collaboration to facilitate access of affordable funds to its clients
- HQs of GrayQuest – Mumbai, MH | Founder & CEO – Rishab Mehta
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD&CEO – Sidharth Rath | Commenced operation in India – in 2018

44. On January 21, the RBI has released the January 2021 issue of its monthly Bulletin. The Bulletin includes one Speech, 4 Articles and Current Statistics. The 4 articles are: I. State of the Economy; II. Effective Exchange Rate Indices of the Indian Rupee; III. Small Finance Banks: Balancing Financial Inclusion and Viability; IV. Green Finance in India: Progress and Challenges. As per the Article III, the assets of small finance banks (SFBs) have grown 150% annually between FY 2017-18 and 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released the January 2021 issue of its monthly Bulletin
- The 4 articles are:
 - I. State of the Economy
 - II. Effective Exchange Rate Indices of the Indian Rupee
 - III. Small Finance Banks: Balancing Financial Inclusion and Viability
 - IV. Green Finance in India: Progress and Challenges
- Assets of SFBs grew 150% annually between FY 2017-18 & 2019-20
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

45. On January 23, the RBI has issued a Discussion Paper on a scale-based regulation of Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). NBFCs will be benefited through the revised regulatory framework. In its discussion paper on revised regulatory framework for NBFCs, the RBI has proposed a tighter regulatory framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) by creating a four-tier structure with a progressive increase in intensity of regulation. The 4 layers are: Base Layer, Middle Layer, Upper Layer and a possible Top Layer. It has also proposed classification of non-performing assets (NPAs) of base layer NBFCs from 180 days to 90 days overdue. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – issued a Discussion Paper on a scale-based regulation of NBFCs
- RBI proposed a 4-tier structure for tighter regulatory framework of NBFCs
- RBI also proposed classification of NPAs of 'Base layer' NBFCs from 180 days to 90 days overdue
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

46. On January 23, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 Cr on HDFC Bank for wrongly invoking securities pledged by stock broking firm BRH Wealth Kreators in violation of an interim order by the regulator. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI imposed a penalty of Rs 1 Cr on HDFC Bank for wrongly invoking securities pledged by BRH Wealth Kreators
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"
- HQs of BRH Wealth Kreators – Kolkata, West Bengal

47. Global financial services major HSBC has inaugurated its International Banking Unit (IBU) branch at GIFT City near Gandhinagar city in Gujarat. HSBC was the first bank to get a licence from the newly set up International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). HSBC has been present in India for more than 160 years and its 4th branch globally was opened in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HSBC – inaugurated its International Banking Unit (IBU) branch at GIFT City - Gandhinagar, Gujarat (4th branch)
- HSBC – the 1st bank to get a licence from the newly set up IFSCA
- HQs of HSBC – London, UK | CEO – Noel Quinn
- HQs of HSBC Bank India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Surendra Rosh

48. IDFC First Bank has entered the 'Credit Card Business' with many industry first perquisite by way of lowest interest on revolving credit and nil interest on cash withdrawal for first 45 days. The bank will charge interest as low as 9% on revolving credit for those with a good track record. It will be offered to existing customers by invitation. For new customers, the card will be launched in March. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDFC First Bank entered the 'Credit Card Business' with lowest interest rate of 9%
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan

49. According to Reserve Bank of India's data, overseas investment by domestic firms in India fell by over 42% to \$1.45 billion in December 2020. In the year-ago period, companies in India had invested \$2.51 billion in their foreign firm. Among major investors, ONGC Videsh Ltd invested a total of \$131.85 million in joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Overseas investment by domestic firms in India fell by over 42% to \$1.45 billion (in December 2020)
- ONGC Videsh Ltd – India's biggest Overseas investor (invested a total of \$131.85 million)
- HQs of ONGC Videsh Ltd – New Delhi | MD & CEO – A K Gupta
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Sashi Shanker

50. On January 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is examining if there is a need to introduce Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in India since private digital currencies, virtual currencies and cryptocurrencies gaining popularity in recent years. CBDC is a legal tender and a central bank liability in digital form denominated in a sovereign currency and appearing on the central bank's balance sheet. It is in the form of electronic currency which can be converted or exchanged at par with similarly denominated cash and traditional central bank deposits. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI is examining if there is a need to introduce CBDC in India
- CBDC - Central Bank Digital Currency
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

51. One of the ways to restrict fiscal deficit is by resorting to “Off-budget borrowings”. Off-budget borrowings are loans that are taken not by the Centre directly, but by another public institution which borrows on the directions of the central government so that it is not counted in the calculation of fiscal deficit. Such borrowings are used to fulfill the government’s expenditure needs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Off-budget borrowings” – are loans that are taken not by the Centre directly but by another public institution
- $\text{Total Expenditure} - \text{Total Receipts/Revenue (excluding borrowings)} = \text{Fiscal Deficit}$

52. Global public debt is estimated to touch 98% of GDP at the end of 2020, as per the latest fiscal monitor update by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on January 28. As per the update, India's government debt is expected to remain elevated at 83% of GDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per the IMF’s report – Global public debt is estimated to touch 98% of GDP at the end of 2020 [{Estimation}](#)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 189

53. On January 27, Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India increased by 37% to USD 43.85 billion during April-November 2020, according to data by the commerce and industry ministry. It is the highest ever for the first 8 months of a financial year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FDI into India increased by 37% to USD 43.85 billion during April-November 2020
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

54. On January 28, HDFC Bank and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd - a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), has announced the EMI Collection Services for CSC-HDFC Bank’s Business Correspondents across India. The CSC-HDFC Bank Correspondent or Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE) will match the loan account with the customers’ registered phone number to cross-check the amount payable on the system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd = partnership for EMI Collection Services
- CSC e-Governance Services – functions under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

55. On January 28, RBI has announced in the ‘Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies’ issued as part of the Monetary Policy statement dated December 4, 2020 that with a view to strengthen and improve the efficacy of the grievance redress mechanism of banks, a comprehensive framework will be put in place during January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released Framework for strengthening Grievance Redress Mechanism in Banks
- Framework is titled – ‘Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies’
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

56. The Indian Economy has recorded lower growth of 4% in 2019-20, as against 4.2% growth estimated earlier, the First Revised Estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on January 29 showed. The NSO also revised up the GDP growth rate for 2018-19 to 6.5% from 6.1%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Economy recorded GDP of 4% in 2019-20 – as per the First Revised Estimates released by the NSO
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

57. On January 30, Singapore-based neobanking startup StashFin and SBM Bank India have partnered to launch of their co-branded contactless prepaid cards. With its enhanced safety and security features, the prepaid card acts like a personal overdraft facility, allowing the customer to take loans up to Rs 5 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- StashFin ([Singapore](#)) + SBM Bank India = partnership to launch of their co-branded contactless prepaid cards
- Personal overdraft loans up to – Rs. 5 lakhs
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI

58. On January 29, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has presented the Economic Survey that details the state of the economy ahead of the government's Budget for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021. The “Economic Survey 2020-21” is authored by a team led by Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Venkata Subramanian. This year's Economic Survey is dedicated to ‘COVID warriors’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman presented the “Economic Survey 2020-21” – dedicated to ‘COVID warriors’
- India's Chief Economic Adviser – Krishnamurthy Venkata Subramanian
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

59. The RBI has cancelled the license of Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 29, 2021. As per the RBI, On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5,00,000 from the DICGC as per the DICGC Act, 1961. The Section 5(b) under the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 deals with accepting and repaying deposits by a bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the license of Shivam Sahakari Bank due to inadequate capital
- Bank's depositor will receive deposit insurance claim amount up to Rs 5 lakh as per the ‘DICGC Act, 1961’
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

1. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has delivered MK IV class vessel LCU ship “L-58” to the Indian Navy the last of the eight landing craft utility (LCU) ships manufactured by it. The ship will be based in the Andaman & Nicobar Command. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GRSE – delivered MK IV class vessel LCU ship “L-58” – to the Indian Navy (last of the eight LCU ships)
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

2. The Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed two contracts with Ministry of Defence to supply 20 “Laser Dazzlers”, a non-lethal weapon to Indian Navy for warning and stopping suspicious vehicles, boats and aircraft. And the second contract for procuring as many as 10 “Lynx U2 fire control systems” for frontline warships of Indian Navy at a cost of ₹1,355 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEL + Defence Mini. = an MoU to supply 20 “Laser Dazzlers” + 10 “Lynx U2 fire control systems” – for Indian Navy
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

3. On January 5, BEML Ltd has bagged ₹758 Cr worth of orders from Ministry of Defence (MoD) to supply high-mobility vehicles to the Indian Army in a span of a year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEML Ltd – bagged orders worth of ₹758 Cr from Ministry of Defence to supply high-mobility vehicles
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota

4. The handing over ceremony of Retractable Landing Gear Systems (RLGS) for ‘Tapas’ and ‘SWiFT’ UAVs and 18 types of filters for ‘P-75 Submarine’ took place on January 10 at DRDO’s laboratory - Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The handing over ceremony of RLGS for ‘Tapas’ and ‘SWiFT’ UAVs & ‘P-75 Submarine’ – took place at DRDO-CVRDE
- Tapas – Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance-Beyond Horizon-201 or “Tapas BH-201”
- Location of DRDO-CVRDE – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

5. On January 8, an MoU was signed between the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil and the Indian Army to evacuate the Kargil’s lower plateau. As per MoU, the Army will move its Maratha Unit from Kurbathang and Mulbekh area within 6 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LAHDC (Kargil) + Indian Army = an MoU to evacuate the Kargil's lower plateau
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

6. On January 11, Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani has flagged-off the 91st “K9 VAJRA-T Gun” manufactured by L&T's Armoured System Complex (ASC) at Hazira near Surat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – flagged-off the 91st “K9 VAJRA-T Gun” | manufactured by – L&T (Hazira, Surat, Gujarat)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

7. On January 14, An army officer has designed and developed the first prototypes of a compact 9 mm sub-machine gun called ‘Asmi’. The prototype weapon is produced in collaboration with the DRDO's Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE). The pistol ‘Asmi’ was handed over to the Indian Navy as a part of ‘Atmanirbhar’ programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + ARDE (Pune) – developed the 1st prototypes of a compact 9 mm sub-machine gun called ‘Asmi’
- The pistol ‘Asmi’ was handed over to – Indian Navy
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

8. On January 13, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a much-awaited deal worth Rs 48,000 Cr to procure 83 indigenously-developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) “Tejas” for the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India approved 83 indigenously-developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) - “Tejas” (Deal worth Rs 48,000 Cr)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

9. On January 12, the Indian Navy has kick-started the 2nd edition of multi-agency military exercise “Sea Vigil” covering India's 7,516 km-long coastline, involving 13 coastal States and Union Territories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – kick-started the 2nd edition of multi-agency military exercise “Sea Vigil”
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

10. Indian Army will deploy the first batch of women helicopter pilots by 2022 into the Aviation Corps of the Indian Army. Indian Army's Aviation Corps was raised on November 1 in 1986. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – to deploy the 1st batch of women helicopter pilots by 2022 into Army Aviation Corps
- HQs of AAC – New Delhi | DG – Lt Gen Kanwal Kumar

11. On January 18, 21 'Bike Ambulances' namely "Rakshita" developed by the DRDO were inducted into the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for casualty evacuation tasks in remote Naxal violence and insurgency-affected areas. The ambulances have been created on 350cc Royal Enfield Classic bikes by DRDO's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 21 'Bike Ambulances' namely "Rakshita" developed by the INMAS-DRDO – inducted into the CRPF
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

12. On January 20, French A-400M tactical aircraft arrived at Jodhpur to participate in the Indo-French bilateral exercise "Desert Knight 21" which is being held at Air Force Station Jodhpur from January 20 to 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Desert Knight 21" – a bilateral Air exercise between India & France (from January 20 to 24)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

13. The Indian Air Force is going ahead with plans to urgently procure "21 MiG-29" and "12 Sukhoi-30MKI" fighters jets from Russia. In addition, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by PM Narendra Modi has approved a ₹48,000-Cr proposal to buy 83 Tejas LCA (light combat aircraft) Mk 1A aircraft for the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – to urgently procure "21 MiG-29" and "12 Sukhoi-30MKI" – total 33 fighters jets from Russia
- CCS approved a proposal to buy 83 'Tejas' LCA Mk 1A aircraft for IAF (worth – ₹48,000 Cr)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

14. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully test fired a Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from the 'Hawk-i' aircraft off the coast of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – test fired a Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from the 'Hawk-i' aircraft off the coast of Odisha
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

15. As India prepares to receive the first batch of "S-400" long-range air defence system by year-end, the first group of Indian Military Personnel are scheduled to depart for Moscow to undergo training courses on the "S-400" missile system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st group of Indian Military Personnel are scheduled to depart for Moscow for training courses on "S-400"
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

16. On January 21, An MoU was signed between the Indian Army and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers for Defence equipment manufacturing on the occasion of 25 Years of Army-Industry Partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers = an MoU for Defence equipment manufacturing
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

17. A large scale Joint Military exercise - “Exercise Kavach” involving assets of Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard will be conducted in January under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Exercise Kavach” will be conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command
- This exercise involves – Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard
- HQs of Andaman and Nicobar Command – Port Blair | 15th Commander-in-Chief – Lt. Gen Manoj Pande

18. Delhi Police has requested ITBP to deploy its “Crack K9 Commandos” team for deployment to sanitise and secure the area around India Gate and Rajpath. This team includes dogs like Belgian Malinois. These dogs belong to the ITBP's K9 QRT (Quick Reaction Team). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Police requested to deploy “Crack K9 Commandos” team of ITBP
- This team includes dogs like – Belgian Malinois
- HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | DG – Surjeet Singh Deswal | ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat

19. On January 20, Border Security Force (BSF) has launched “Operation Sard Hawa” under which it aims to increase security on the borders in Jaisalmer. BSF runs Operation “Garam Hawa” in summer season and operation “Sard Hawa” during the winter season as a routine exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSF – launched “Operation Sard Hawa” to increase security on the borders in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- Operation “Garam Hawa” in summer season & Operation “Sard Hawa” in winter season – run by BSF
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | Director General (DG) – Rakesh Asthana

20. A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise “AMPHEX – 21” was conducted in Andaman & Nicobar group of islands from 21 – 25 Jan 2021. The exercise involved the participation of Naval ships, amphibious troops of the Army and different types of aircraft from the Air force. Exercise “KAVACH” for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands formed a part of AMPHEX – 21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise “AMPHEX – 21” conducted in Andaman & Nicobar islands
- Exercise “KAVACH” for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was a part of “AMPHEX – 21”
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

21. On January 25, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the Integrated Weapons System Design Centre at DRDO's APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex in Hyderabad. The facility would enhance capability in design and development of command and control systems for surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems and ballistic missile defence systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated DRDO's "Integrated Weapons System Design Centre" in Hyderabad
- DRDO's Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex – located in Hyderabad, Telangana
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

22. On January 28, Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft (IN FAC) "T-81" of 'Super Dvora MK II' class was recently decommissioned after serving the nation successfully for over 20 years. The vessel was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. The 25-metre long vessel, with 60 ton displacement, was built at Goa Shipyard Limited in collaboration with M/s Ramta of Israel, and was commissioned into the Navy on June 5, 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IN FAC "T-81" of 'Super Dvora MK II' class decommissioned after 20 years – at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
- It was built in 1999 – at Goa Shipyard Limited
- [MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal](#)

23. The third batch of 3 Rafale fighter jets landed in India after flying 7000Km non-stop from France, in a further boost to the strike capability of the Indian Air Force. Rafale is India's 1st major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after Russia's Sukhoi jets. The Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) of the United Arab Emirates provided mid-air refuelling to the three Rafale jets. With the arrival of the new batch, the number of the Rafale aircraft has increased to 11. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The third batch of 3 Rafale fighter jets landed in India after flying 7000Km non-stop from France
- Rafale is India's 1st major acquisition of fighter planes after Russia's Sukhoi jets
- Total number of Rafale jets as present – 11 (including this 3)
- [France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex](#)

24. Tejas Mark II Multirole Combat Jet is likely to be launched by August-September of 2022. The first high-speed trial of the jet will start in 2023 and its production is likely to start somewhere around 2025. The new variant will be much superior to Tejas Mark-IA, 73 of which are being procured by the Indian Air Force from the HAL under a ₹48,000 Cr deal that was approved by the government on January 13. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Tejas Mark II" – to be launched by August-September of 2022 – by HAL
- The first high-speed trial of the jet will start in – 2023 | Its production is likely to start around – 2025
- [HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt](#)

Schemes & Initiatives

1. Madhya Pradesh has recently started “Launch Pad Scheme” to provide employment opportunities for boys and girls coming out of child care institutions and having completed 18 years of age. An amount of Rs 6 lakh will be provided by the Women and Child Development Department for the installation of each launch pad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – started “Launch Pad Scheme” to provide employment opportunities for the youth
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

2. Launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has 5th, 2015, the Government of India's zero subsidy Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and LED Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) have marked their 6th anniversary on January 5, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UJALA & SLNP – marked their 6th anniversary on January 5, 2021 (launched in 2015 – by PM Modi)
- [UJALA – Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All | SLNP – LED Street Lighting National Programme](#)

3. On January 7, Government of India has formulated New Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K IDS, 2021) as Central Sector Scheme for the development of Industries in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme is approved with a total outlay of Rs 28,400 Cr up to the year 2037. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government formulated a New Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K IDS, 2021)
- Total outlay of the scheme – Rs 28,400 Cr up to the year 2037
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

4. On January 6, Lucknow University (LU) has launched the “Karmayogi Scheme” which offers students part-time jobs while continuing their studies on the campus. A student can earn up to maximum Rs 15,000 in a year through the ‘Karmayogi Scheme’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lucknow University (UP) – launched the “Karmayogi Scheme”
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

5. On January 8, Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh has launched a set of welfare projects, including free sanitary pads for high school and college girl students in the state. He has dedicated January month to girl child through its “Dheeyan Di Lohri” scheme. He rolled out a Rs 75.64 crore smart metering project and an ‘e-Daakhil’ portal for e-filing of consumer complaints and ‘Basera’ scheme for slum dwellers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab CM dedicated – ‘January’ month to girl child through its “Dheeyan Di Lohri” scheme
- He also launched – an ‘e-Daakhil’ portal for consumers & ‘Basera’ scheme for slum dwellers
- Punjab – announced to provide Free sanitary pads for high school and college girl students
- [Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore](#)

6. On January 9, Under the “Bhraman Sarathi Scheme”, the chief minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal has launched 25 buses to provide free transport service to Women and Senior Citizens to travel within the city of Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – launched “Bhraman Sarathi Scheme” to provide free transport service to Women & Senior Citizens
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

7. To settle pending C-form cases pertaining to pre-GST era, the Punjab government has approved a ‘One-Time Settlement Scheme’ for traders to clear their pending arrears. The Punjab “One Time Settlement Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues-2021” will be implemented from February 1. According to the assessments conducted for the year 2013-14, 40,000 plus dealers with demand of up to Rs 1 lakh would get 90% relief in tax and 100% relief in interest and penalty. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – approved “One Time Settlement Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues-2021” (effective from Feb 1)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

8. On January 10, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan have launched the “Clean Bindu Sagar” initiative. It aims at reviving and transforming the largest water body in Bhubaneswar into a spiritual and tourist hotspot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched the “Clean Bindu Sagar” initiative
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

9. On January 12, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has completed 5 years. The claims worth Rs 90,000 Cr have so far been disbursed to farmers since the launch of the scheme on January 13, 2016. The scheme was made voluntary for all farmers, after its revamp in February 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) – completed 5 years on January 12 (launched in 2016)
- Claims worth Rs 90,000 Cr have so far been disbursed to farmers

10. The third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) was launched on January 15 in 600 districts across all states of India. It is focused on new-age and COVID-related skills. Skill India Mission PMKVY 3.0 envisages training of 8 lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs. 948.90 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd phase of PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) – launched in 600 districts to provide Skill development courses
- Outlay – Rs. 948.90 Cr | PMKVY was launched in – 2015

11. On January 13, Ministry of Finance has introduced the “Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021” which will digitise issuing of penalties on assesseees under the faceless taxation regime. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance – introduced the “Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021”
- Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Karnataka) | MoS for Ministry of Finance – Anurag Thakur

12. On January 16, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative “Street Theatre and Performing Arts Fellowship” scheme to give artists an opportunity to showcase their craft. The flagship scheme has been started by the Sahitya Kala Parishad under the Department of Arts, Culture & Languages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – launched a first-of-its-kind initiative “Street Theatre and Performing Arts Fellowship” scheme
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

13. On January 17, Kerala Governor has launched ‘One School One IAS’ scheme of Vedhik Erudite Foundation for financially weak students. It will provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students across the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched ‘One School One IAS’ scheme for financially weak students
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

14. On January 16, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has virtually kicked off a state-wide scheme for allotment of 7,219 Fair Price Shops (FPS) under his government's flagship “Ghar Ghar Rozgar te Karobaar Mission”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – started allotment of 7,219 FPS under “Ghar Ghar Rozgar te Karobaar Mission”
- FPS – Fair Price Shops
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

15. On January 16, Gujarat Chief minister Vijay Rupani has announced the formation of ‘Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission’ or ‘Horticulture Development Mission’. The aim is to accelerate agriculture, horticulture and promote farming of herbal plants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – to form ‘Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission’ or ‘Horticulture Development Mission’
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

16. Madhya Pradesh has become the first State to give electricity subsidy through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). With this, the State has successfully implemented one out of the three stipulated reforms in the power sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – became the 1st State to give ‘Electricity Subsidy’ through Direct Benefit Transfer
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

17. On January 18, Rajasthan government has decided to rename the central government’s “Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance Scheme” as “Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Health Insurance Scheme”. The scheme will provide health care benefits worth Rs 5 Lakh to around 1 crore 10 lakh families in the state. The total outlay of the Scheme is ₹1800 Cr annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – renamed “AB Health Insurance Scheme” as “AB Mahatma Gandhi Health Insurance Scheme”
- Health care benefits worth – Rs 5 Lakh | Total annual outlay of the Scheme – ₹1800 Cr
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

18. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the “Ayushman CAPF” scheme in Assam, extending the benefit of the central health insurance programme to the personnel of all armed police forces in the country. The scheme will be fully implemented by May 1, 2021. Amit Shah has ceremoniously distributed the “Ayushman CAPF” health cards among some personnel from the 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in Guwahati, Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – “Ayushman CAPF” scheme in Assam (to be fully implemented by May 1, 2021)
- Amit Shah – distributed the “Ayushman CAPF” health cards among some personnel from the 7 CAPF in Guwahati
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

19. In a first-of-its-kind project in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has launched the State’s ‘Jail Tourism’ initiative on Republic Day-2021. The ‘Jail Yatra’, which began with Pune’s 150-year-old Yerwada Jail on the occasion of Republic Day, will eventually be extended to other prisons in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra launched its ‘Jail Tourism’ initiative on Republic Day-2021 (‘Jail Yatra’ began in Pune)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

20. Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has announced a hike from Rs 31,000 to Rs 51,000 in the “Shagun” amount for the marriage of daughters of construction workers in the state from April 1, 2021. In another major decision, the CM announced compensation worth Rs 2 lakh in case of death of a worker in an accident while being involved in any construction activity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – announced a hike to Rs 51,000 in the “Shagun” scheme amount from April 1, 2021
- Punjab – announced compensation worth Rs 2 lakh in case of death of a worker in an accident
- Balri (Female Child) Birth Gift scheme – belongs
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

Sports & Games

1. A famous tennis player from Slovakia Dagmara Baskova has been banned for 12 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) after uncovering 5 incidents of match-fixing by the player in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dagmara Baskova (Slovakia) – a Tennis player – banned for 12 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU)
- HQs of TIU – London, UK | CEO – Jonny Gray
- Slovakia – Bratislava – Euro | President – Zuzana Caputova

2. The second edition of the “Khelo India Winter Games” is set to be held in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir from February 11, 2021. The Winter Games will be organised by the Winter Games Association of J&K. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd edition of “Khelo India Winter Games” – to be held in Gulmarg, J & K (in Feb, 2021)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

3. “Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament” has begun at Chiktan in Kargil district of UT Ladakh. For the first time two Women Teams of Chiktan also participated in the Khelo India Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament – begun at Chiktan, Kargil, Ladakh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

4. On January 4, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju has launched the Assam Rifles Public School (ARPS) in Shillong, Meghalaya as first Khelo India Sports School from North-East. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – launched the first Khelo India Sports School from North-East – in Shillong, Meghalaya
- Assam Rifles Public School – the first Khelo India Sports School from North-East – located in Shillong
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijiju (Constituency – Arunachal West)

5. Agnes Keleti, the oldest living Olympic champion, has turned 100 on January 9, 2021. She is the Holocaust survivor and winner of 10 Olympic medals in Gymnastics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agnes Keleti (Gymnast) – the oldest living Olympic champion – turned 100 on January 9, 2021

6. Young shuttlers Varun Kapur and Samiya Imad Farooqui have attained career-best second spots in their respective categories in the latest BWF's Junior World Rankings, which features 6 Indians in the top-10. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Varun Kapur (Badminton) – ranked 2nd in BWF's Junior World Rankings (Men's)
- Samiya Imad Farooqui (Badminton) – ranked 2nd in BWF's Junior World Rankings (Women's)

7. On January 17, Carolina Marin has beaten Tai Tzu-ying to claim the “Yonex Thailand Open 2021” title in Bangkok. The Thailand Open is the first of three consecutive tournaments in Bangkok culminating in the World Tour Finals from January 27. And Viktor Axelsen has won the Men’s title Thailand Open 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carolina Marin (Spain - Badminton) – won the “Yonex Thailand Open 2021” title in Bangkok (women’s)
- Viktor Axelsen (Denmark - Badminton) – won the “Yonex Thailand Open 2021” title in Bangkok (men’s)
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro](#) | [PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

8. In a bid to boost winter sports in the Kashmir region, the Snowshoe Federation of India organized a ‘Snowshoe Run cum Interaction Programme’ in Srinagar for the first time amid the heavy snowfall season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Snowshoe Run cum Interaction Programme’ – was organized in Srinagar for the 1st time
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar](#) | [Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

9. New Zealand has grabbed the No. 1 position in the ICC Test rankings for the first time in history after decimating Pakistan by an innings and 176 runs in the second Test in Christchurch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – grabbed the No. 1 position in the ICC Test rankings
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\)](#) | [PM – Jacinda Ardern](#)

10. Pacer Thangarasu Natarajan has become the first Indian cricketer to make his international debut across all 3 formats during the same tour. The 29-year-old player is from Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thangarasu Natarajan – became the 1st Indian cricketer to make his international debut across all 3 formats

11. Ravichandran Ashwin has surpassed Muttiah Muralitharan in the list of most number of wickets in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen. R. Ashwin has dismissed 192 left-handers in his Test career so far. Earlier, Muttiah Muralitharan held the record with 191 wickets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravichandran Ashwin (India-Cricket) – most number of wickets in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen
- He surpassed – Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka-Cricket)

12. On January 19, India has beaten Australia by 3 wickets to retain “Border-Gavaskar Trophy” held at the Gabba, Brisbane. Australia was defeated for the first time at the Gabba in its history. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has beaten Australia by 3 wickets to retain “Border-Gavaskar Trophy” held at the Gabba, Brisbane, Australia
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Scott Morrison](#)

13. JSW Sports has signed an exclusive talent management contract with Rishabh Pant who became the fastest Indian wicketkeeper-batsman to clock 1,000 runs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JSW Sports signed an exclusive talent management contract with – Rishabh Pant
- HQs of JSW Sports – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mustafa Ghouse

14. One of the greatest bowling sensations of IPL and for Mumbai Indians, Lasith Malinga has decided to retire from franchise cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka – Cricket) – decided to retire from franchise Cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

15. On January 21, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has won the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) 10th National Ice Hockey Championship trophy after a win over Ladakh in the finals in Gulmarg, J & K. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITBP – won the IHAI 10th National Ice Hockey Championship trophy – in Gulmarg, J & K
- HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | DG – Surjeet Singh Deswal | ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat
- HQs of IHAI – New Delhi | President – Surinder Mohan Bali

16. On January 28, the Asian Football Confederation has announced that the “2022 Women’s Asian Cup” will be hosted by India from January 20 to February 6. The tournament will feature 12 teams, expanded from 8 in the previous edition. Maymol Rocky is the first female and present head coach of India women's National Football Team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AFC’s “2022 Women’s Asian Cup” – to be hosted by India from January 20 to February 6
- Present Head Coach of India women's National Football Team – Maymol Rocky (also 1st female)
- HQs of AFC – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

17. Two Russian tennis players - Alija Merdeeva & Sofia Dmitrieva were banned for life time by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) from the sport for life on January 27 for match-fixing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alija Merdeeva & Sofia Dmitrieva (Russia - Tennis) – banned life time by ITIA ([London, UK](#))
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

18. On January 28, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched Anti-Doping Reference Material (RM), jointly developed by the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati to strengthen the capacity of the anti-doping in India. NDTL and NIPER-G had signed an MoU in August 2020 to develop 20 rare RMs over 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – launched Anti-Doping Reference Material (RM)
- It is jointly developed by = NDTL ([New Delhi](#)) + NIPER ([Guwahati, Assam](#))
- [Sports Minister – Kiren Rijiju](#) | [Constituency – Arunachal West](#)

19. For the first time in 87 years or since its inception in 1934-35, the Ranji Trophy - the premier First Class cricket tournament in India, is suspended for a season, owing to the pandemic. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed its affiliates that the truncated season would comprise the Vijay Hazare Trophy, senior women's one-day tournament and the Vinoo Mankad Trophy for under-19 boys. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- For the 1st time, “Ranji Trophy” is suspended by BCCI for a season due to pandemic | 1st edition – 1934 (87 years)
- [Ranji Trophy + Vijay Hazare Trophy + Vinoo Mankad Trophy](#) = associated with Cricket
- [HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Chairman – Sourav Ganguly](#) | [Ethics Officer – D K Jain](#)

20. On January 31, Tamil Nadu has won the 12th Edition of the “Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2020-21”. This was Tamil Nadu's second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph. Baroda team was the runners-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu team – won the 12th Edition of the “Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2020-21”
- Runners-up – Baroda team
- [“Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy”](#) – associated with Cricket



Important Days & Dates

1. "Global Family Day" is celebrated each year on 1st January. It was first observed in the year 2000, when the United Nations (UN) decided to keep the first day of the millennium year, i.e. 2000, as 'One Day of Peace'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 1 – "Global Family Day" – since 2000

2. On January 1, the DRDO has observed the 63rd Foundation Day of its establishment. DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in Defence sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 1 – 63rd Foundation Day of DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

3. The 3rd edition of "World Braille Day" was observed on January 4 to raise awareness about how Braille plays a significant role in the complete realization of human rights in the lives of blind and partially sighted people. The day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 4 – 3rd edition of "World Braille Day" – since 2019 (birth anniversary of – Louis Braille)

4. "War Orphans Day" or "World Day of War Orphans" is observed annually on January 6 to educate and address people about the need to care for children living in traumatic conditions in war-torn areas around the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 6 – "War Orphans Day" or "World Day of War Orphans"

5. On January 6, "Marathi Journalism Day" is celebrated across Maharashtra. On 6th January 1832, Balshastri Jambhekar, known as the father of Marathi journalism started the first newspaper 'Darpan' and since then this day is being celebrated as the Marathi Journalism day in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 6 – "Marathi Journalism Day" – celebrated across Maharashtra
- Father of Marathi journalism – Balshastri Jambhekar (He started the first newspaper 'Darpan')
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

6. The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was organized on January 9. This one day virtual convention was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This year, the theme was "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 9 – 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas | Theme – "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat"

7. The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce & Industry and Railways Shri Piyush Goyal has attended the 74th foundation day celebration of Bureau of Indian Standards on 6th January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 6 – 74th foundation day of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari

8. “World Hindi Day 2020” is observed on January 10. The day commemorates the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur of January 10, 1975. The day was first celebrated in 2006. And ‘Hindi Diwas’ or ‘National Hindi Day’ is celebrated every year on September 14. As per the Article 343(1) of the Indian Constitution, Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the Official Language of the Union. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 10 – 15th anniversary of “World Hindi Day” – since 2006
- September 14 – “Hindi Diwas” or “National Hindi Day”
- As per the Article 343(1) of the IC – Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the Official Language of the Union
- Hindi is spoken in – Suriname, Fiji, Nepal, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Mauritius (Not as an official language)

9. “National Youth Day” was celebrated on January 12 in India to honor the 158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 24th National Youth Festival is being held in virtual mode. The theme of this year’s festival is “YUVAAH - Utsah Naye Bharat Ka”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 12 – “National Youth Day” – since 1985 (158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)
- 24th “National Youth Festival-2021” | Theme – “YUVAAH - Utsah Naye Bharat Ka”

10. On January 11, According to an official notification by the Government of India, Ministry of Transport and Highways has decided to observe “Road Safety Month” from January 18 to February 17, 2021 instead of ‘National Road Safety Week’ which is observed from January 11 to 17 every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 18 to February 17 – “Road Safety Month” – being observed by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

11. Indian Armed Forces has celebrated the 5th Veterans Day on 14th of January to honour services rendered by veterans of the Army. This year marks 50th Anniversary of 1971 Indo-Pak War & it is celebrated as Swarnim Vijay Varsh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 14 – 5th Veterans Day – by Indian Armed Forces (50th Anniversary of 1971 Indo-Pak War)
- Chief of Defence Staff – General Bipin Rawat

12. The 73rd Army Day was celebrated on January 15, 2021 in India as it is on this historic day that General KM Cariappa became the first Indian to take charge of the Indian Army in 1949. The Indian Army also organised “Vijay Run” a marathon to commemorate the celebration of India’s victory against Pakistan in 1971. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 15 – 73rd Army Day
- General KM Cariappa became the first Indian to take charge of the Indian Army – on January 15, 1949

13. “Thiruvalluvar Day” was first celebrated on May 17 and 18 in 1935. In the present time, it is usually observed either on January 15 or 16 in Tamil Nadu and is a part of Pongal celebrations. In 2020, Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated on January 15 to honour the Saint Poet Thiruvalluvar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 15 – “Thiruvalluvar Day” celebrated in Tamil Nadu – since 1935
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

14. Shri Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the newly constructed building of Divisional Office, Mysuru on the occasion of 57th Foundation day of Food Corporation of India (FCI) on 14th January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – inaugurated the newly constructed building of Divisional Office – in Mysuru, Karnataka
- January 14 – 57th Foundation day of Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- HQs of FCI – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Sanjiv Kumar

15. On January 15, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has celebrated its 146th Foundation Day. It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences established in 1875. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 15 – 146th Foundation Day of IMD
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

16. On January 11, “Missionary Day” is celebrated by Mizos in Mizoram with gratitude every year across the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 11 – “Missionary Day” celebrated by Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

17. On January 17, PM Narendra Modi has paid tribute to AIADMK founder and former Chief Minister M G Ramachandran on his 104th birth anniversary. He was awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ posthumously in 1988. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 17 – 104th birth anniversary of M G Ramachandran – paid tribute by PM Modi
- Founder of - AIADMK party | Former CM of - Tamil Nadu | ‘Bharat Ratna’ posthumously - in 1988

18. The Union Culture Ministry has announced that birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose would be celebrated as “Parakram Diwas” (Day of Courage) every year on January 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture – to celebrate the Birth Anni. of Subhas Chandra Bose as “Parakram Diwas” – on January 23

19. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day is celebrated on January 19 to mark its formation. This year, the NDRF observed its 16th NDRF Raising Day. The NDRF came into existence on January 19, 2006. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 19 – 16th Raising Day of NDRF
- HQs of NDRF – New Delhi | DG – SN Pradhan | Founded in – 2006

20. On January 19, Tripura has observed the 42nd anniversary of “Kokborok Day” for the recognition of Kokborok dialect as an official language of the state with a series of programs and colourful events. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 19 – 42nd anniversary of “Kokborok Day” – observed by Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

21. India Smart Grid Forum is organising the 7th edition of their annual flagship event - India Smart Utility Week (ISUW 2021) from March 2 to 5, 2021. It is an International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Smart Mobility for Smarter Cities on Digital Platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 2 to 5 – the 7th edition of “India Smart Utility Week-2021” – to be organised by India Smart Grid Forum
- HQs of ISGF – New Delhi | Executive Director – Reena Suri

22. On January 20, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti was celebrated. It marked the 354th birth anniversary of the 10th Guru of Sikhism- Guru Gobind Singh and is considered as one of the most auspicious festivals among Sikhs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 20 – 354th Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti (10th Guru of Sikhism- Guru Gobind Singh)

23. Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura have celebrated their 49th Statehood Day on January 21. Tripura and Manipur, the former princely states were blended into the Indian Union in October 1949 and became full states on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya, which was part of Assam, also received its own full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Re-Organisation) Act, 1971. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 21 – 49th Statehood Day of Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

24. India has celebrated the 13th National Girl Child Day this year on January 24. The initiative was started by the ministry of women and child development in 2008. Punjab has announced January 2021 to be the 'Month of the Girl Child'. The scheme "Dheeyan Di Lohri" has also been launched. Madhya Pradesh will celebrate National Girl Child Day with the theme of "Aware girl child, Able Madhya Pradesh". This day will also mark the 6th anniversary of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme which was launched in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 24 – 13th National Girl Child Day – since 2008
- Punjab announced January 2021 as – 'Month of the Girl Child'
- Punjab launched – 'Dheeyan Di Lohri' scheme
- Madhya Pradesh launched – 'PANKH' (Protection Awareness Nutrition Knowledge Health) Abhiyan – under BBBP
- Rajasthan launched – 'Ek Paudha Suposhit Beti Ke Naam' – under BBBP scheme
- 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme – launched in 2015 by PM Modi
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

25. On January 24, Home Minister Amit Shah has attended the first BTR (Bodoland Territorial Region) Accord Day celebration at Kokrajhar in Assam. Mr. Shah has assured that the Bodo language and culture and political rights of Bodo people will be preserved. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 24 – 1st edition of BTR Accord Day – celebrated at Kokrajhar, Assam
- Bodo – an associate official language of Assam
- Total official languages listed in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution – 22 languages
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

26. Every year, January 25 is observed as National Tourism Day in India. This year, the theme of National Tourism Day is "Dekho Apna Desh". From January 21 to February 22, the Ministry of Tourism has been organizing seminars pertaining to the theme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 25 – National Tourism Day | Theme – "Dekho Apna Desh"

27. The 11th National Voters' Day was observed on 25 January in order to encourage more young voters to take part in the polling process. The day has been observed on January 25 every year since 2011 to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India. This year, the theme is 'Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 25 – 11th National Voters' Day – by ECI since 2011
- Theme – "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed"
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sunil Arora (23rd) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

28. Every year, 24 January is celebrated as International Day of Education. This year, the theme is "Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation". The pandemic also fast-tracked dropout rates in India. The Annual State of Education Report (ASER) by NGO Pratham has indicated that from 1.8% children not enrolling in schools in rural India in 2018, the number peaked to 5.3% in 2020. Article 21-A of the Indian Constitution provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years as a Fundamental Right. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 24 – 3rd International Day of Education – by the UN
- Theme – “Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation”
- As per ASER by NGO Pratham: 5.3% children are not enrolling in schools in rural India in 2020
- ‘National Education Day’ – was observed on November 11

29. On 25 January, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has unveiled the Golden Jubilee Plaque to mark the 50th Statehood day. He stated that new schemes such as Jan Manch, Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline, Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana, Himcare and Sahara have been successful. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 25 – Golden Jubilee or 50th Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh
- Schemes: Jan Manch, Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline, Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana, Himcare & Sahara
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya](#)

30. January 26 is celebrated as the International Customs Day (ICD). It is the day designated to honour the custom officials and agencies for their function in taking care of the flow of goods across the world borders. International Customs Day was created by CCC in 1983. The theme is “Customs bolstering recovery, renewal and resilience”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 26 – International Customs Day (since 1983)
- Theme – “Customs bolstering recovery, renewal and resilience”
- [HQs of World Customs Organization – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Kunio Mikuriya](#)

31. Every year January 27 is observed as the “International Holocaust Remembrance Day” to pay tribute to the victims of the Jewish holocaust at the hands of Hitler's Nazis in Europe during the Second World War. The UNGA officially designated the day in November 2005. This year the theme is “Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day (since 2005)
- Theme – “Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust”

32. National Informatics Centre services Incorporated (NICSI) has celebrated its Silver Jubilee or 25 years of its establishment on 28 January 2021. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Communications and Law and Justice has honoured the event as Chief Guest. He launched “Tejas” - a Virtual Intelligence tool, e-Auction India, Work from Anywhere Portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NICSI ([New Delhi](#)) – celebrated its ‘Silver Jubilee’ or 25 years of its establishment on January 28
- Chief Guest of the event – Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad | [NICSI was established in – 1995](#)
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – “Tejas” - a Virtual Intelligence tool + e-Auction India + Work from Anywhere Portal

33. January 28, 2021 has marked the 155th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai. Lala Lajpat Rai (28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928) was one of India's most celebrated freedom fighters. His ideology of nationalism and zealous patriotism earned him the title, 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'. He was born on 28 January 1865 in Dhudike, Punjab. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 28 – 155th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai (also known as 'Punjab Kesari' & 'Lion of Punjab')
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

34. Uttar Pradesh has held several programmes on the occasion of 2nd edition of World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day observed across the country on January 30. NTDs are a group of preventable diseases which include Lymphatic Filariasis (Hathipaon), Visceral Leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar), leprosy (Kusht-Rog), dengue, chikungunya, snakebite, rabies etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 30 – 2nd edition of World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day
- Uttar Pradesh held several programmes on the occasion of NTD Day
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

35. January 30 is observed as the "Martyrs' Day" or "Shaheed Diwas" every year across the country to mark the death anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi or Bapu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 30 – "Martyrs' Day" or "Shaheed Diwas" – to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

36. The "World Leprosy Day" is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. This year, it was observed on January 31 to raise public awareness of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. World Leprosy Day was established in 1954. The theme this year is "Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and Advocate for Mental Well-Being". According to the World Health Organisation, India has the highest number of new cases of leprosy in the world annually, followed by Brazil and Indonesia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 31 (last Sunday of January) – World Leprosy Day (since – 1954)
- Theme – "Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and Advocate for Mental Well-Being"
- India has the highest number of new cases of leprosy in the world – according to the WHO

37. On January 31, PM Narendra Modi has addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata', a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order. Its publication was started from Chennai (erstwhile Madras), where it continued to be published for 2 years, after which it was published from Uttarakhand's Almora. The 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal was started by Swami Vivekananda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi has addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal on January 31
- Swami Vivekananda – started the 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the "Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020" in New Delhi. The hackathon will happen in 3 elimination rounds and the final 24 winners will get a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated the "Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020" in New Delhi
- [Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development – Narendra Singh Tomar \(Morena, MP\)](#)

2. PM Narendra Modi has addressed the "National Metrology Conclave 2021" recently in January. Theme of the Conclave is "Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation". He has dedicated the 'National Atomic Timescale' and the 'Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya Pranali' to the nation and laid the foundation stone of the National Environmental Standards Laboratory in New Delhi. National Atomic Timescale was released to measure the time in nano second range. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the "National Metrology Conclave 2021"
- Theme of the Conclave – "Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation"
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of "National Environmental Standards Laboratory" – in New Delhi

3. The first meeting of the High Level project monitoring committee to review the progress of projects funded by the Indian Line of Credit (LOC) in Bangladesh has decided to take steps to ease the tendering process to speed up the implementation of the projects. The virtual meeting was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st meeting of the High Level project monitoring committee – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- It was held to review the progress of projects funded by India in Bangladesh
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

4. On January 7, India and France have held their "Annual Strategic Dialogue-2021" in Delhi. National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval has led the Indian delegation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + France = held their "Annual Strategic Dialogue-2021" in Delhi
- Indian delegation led by – Ajit Doval (NSA)
- [France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex](#)

5. On January 7, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has inaugurated the 2-day Virtual International Akhand Conference "EDUCON 2020" through a video-conference platform to promote use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Higher Education sector. The conference is being organised by Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA). The focal theme of the conference was "Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Realize Global Peace". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – inaugurated the 2-day Virtual International Akhand Conference “EDUCON 2020”
- The conference is being organised by = Central University of Punjab ([Bathinda](#)) + GERA
- Focal theme – “Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Realize Global Peace”

6. On January 12, the Prince of Wales has recently appeared virtually at the 4th Edition of One Planet Summit-2021 which was organised by France. The theme of the Summit was “Let’s act together for nature!” [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Edition of One Planet Summit-2021 – organised by France
- Theme – “Let’s act together for nature!”
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [New PM – Jean Castex](#)

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed “Prarambh: Startup India International Summit” on January 16. The summit was organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). This event marks the 5th anniversary of the Startup India initiative which was launched on 16 January in 2016. The BIMSTEC countries had participated in the inaugural event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed “Prarambh: Startup India International Summit” – organised by DPIIT
- The summit marks the 5th anniversary of the Startup India initiative (launched on 16 January, 2016)
- [HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi](#) | [Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra](#)

8. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has chaired a virtual meeting with Vietnamese Deputy Defence Minister Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh during the 13th India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue in New Delhi on January 12, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 13th India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue – chaired by Ajay Kumar
- [Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong](#) | [PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc](#)

9. On January 18, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has digitally chaired the 148th session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) through video conference. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – digitally chaired the 148th session of the Executive Board of the WHO
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#)

10. IIT Guwahati has hosted its 13th “Annual Entrepreneurship Summit Udgam 2021” from 15th to 24th of January, 2021. UDAM is the Annual Entrepreneurship Summit of IIT Guwahati where people interested in entrepreneurship meet, discuss, explore, share, debate, and have fun to spread the idea and spirit of entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati – hosted its 13th “Annual Entrepreneurship Summit Udgam 2021” – from 15th to 24th of January

11. The 1st India-EU IPR dialogue between the European Union (EU) Commission and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) was held on January 14 through a virtual platform. The India Co-Chair provided an overview of various Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) developments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st India-EU IPR dialogue was held between = EU + DPIIT (India)
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

12. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa have reviewed the preparations for “Aero India -2021” in Bengaluru from February 3 to 5. Aero India 2021 will be held simultaneously as a physical exhibition and a virtual exhibition. The theme of the event is “Runway to a Billion Opportunities”. Rajnath Singh also launched an application for “Aero India-2021” developed by EventEdge. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh + B S Yediyurappa = reviewed the preparations for “Aero India-2021” to be held in Bengaluru
- Theme – “Runway to a Billion Opportunities”

13. On January 20, India and Singapore have signed the implementing agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and cooperation between the two Navies. This was signed at the 5th Defence Ministers Dialogue held virtually between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Singapore counterpart Dr. Ng Eng Hen who virtually participated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th Defence Ministers Dialogue – between India & Singapore
- India + Singapore = signed the implementing agreement on Submarine Rescue Support
- Defense Minister of Singapore – Dr. Ng Eng Hen
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

14. On January 22, “India-Africa Trade Council” was inaugurated in Hotel Crowne Plaza, Chennai to build up business relations between both the countries of India and African Region. India Africa Trade council will open 13 Trade offices in Major Metro cities of India to facilitate Indian Businessmen wanting to do Trade in African countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India-Africa Trade Council” – inaugurated in Hotel Crowne Plaza, Chennai
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

15. The 15th India Digital Summit, the flagship event of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) was scheduled on January 19 and 20, 2021. It was inaugurated by Ravi Shankar Prasad. The theme for this year's summit is 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat - Start of New Decade'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the 15th India Digital Summit – organised by IMAI
- Theme of the Summit – “Aatmanirbhar Bharat - Start of New Decade”
- [HQs of IMAI – New Delhi | President – Subho Ray](#)

16. The 19th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on “India-Bangladesh Cooperation in the Energy Sector” was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting also discussed the status of 1320 MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Project at Rampal. Indian delegation was led by the Power Secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th meeting of the JSC on “India-Bangladesh Cooperation in the Energy Sector” – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Indian delegation was led by – Sanjiv Nandan Sahai (Power Secretary)
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

17. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has chaired the 69th plenary meeting of the North Eastern Council (NEC) at Shillong, Meghalaya on January 23 and 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah chaired the 69th plenary meeting of the North Eastern Council (NEC) at Shillong, Meghalaya
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik](#)
- [Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)

18. The 17th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) under the theme, “The New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism” was held on 21 January 2021 virtually. Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs represented India at the meeting. At the end of the Meeting, ‘Ankara Declaration’ was adopted by all the ACD countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ms. Riva Ganguly Das – represented India at the 17th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue
- Theme – “The New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism”
- ‘Ankara Declaration’ was adopted by all the ACD countries in the Meeting

19. On January 25, PM Narendra Modi has addressed the online international Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 (CAS-21) that was hosted by the Netherlands and has convened global leaders and local stakeholders. India's target is to have 450 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030 and to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi addressed the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 (CAS-21) – hosted by Netherlands
- India's target to have 450 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030

- India's target to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte](#)

20. The 14th meeting of the India-United Kingdom Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held virtually on 21-22 January, 2021. Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism in the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 14th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism – held between India & UK
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson](#)

21. On January 27, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has chaired the meeting of 35th edition of PRAGATI, the ICT based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Central and State governments. During the interaction, the Prime Minister also reviewed the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan-aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi chaired the 35th edition of “PRAGATI” meeting
- PM Narendra Modi also reviewed the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan-aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

22. India and Japan held the 5th joint meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum (AEF) on 28 January 2021 in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, and H.E. Mr. Suzuki Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India. During the meeting, Japan has finalised its Sustainable Development of the Northeast Region of India initiative with India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Japan held the 5th joint meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum (AEF) – in New Delhi
- The meeting was co-chaired by – Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla (Foreign Secretary)
- Ambassador of Japan to India – Mr. Suzuki Satoshi
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga](#)

23. The 2nd India-Bangladesh Consular Dialogue was held on 28 January 2021 in New Delhi. Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA) led the Indian delegation, while the delegation from Bangladesh was led by Amb. Mashfee Binte Shams, Secretary (East), MOFA. Consular dialogue mechanism between the two countries was instituted in 2017 to discuss issues related to consular, visa, and mutual legal assistance matters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd India-Bangladesh Consular Dialogue was held on 28 January 2021 in New Delhi
- Indian delegation – Sanjay Bhattacharyya | Consular dialogue mechanism instituted in – 2017
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

24. On January 27, Saudi Arabia has hosted the 4th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) Forum 2021 from Riyadh. Around 100 speakers had participated virtually from FII hubs in New York, Paris, Beijing and Mumbai and 50 attended the conference in-person in Riyadh. The summit is dubbed “Davos in the desert”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saudi Arabia hosted the 4th edition of the “FII Forum 2021” (dubbed as “Davos in the desert”) from Riyadh
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman

25. The 51st World Economic Forum annual meeting called “Davos Agenda” was kickstarted on January 25 and continued till January 29. There were 15 special addresses from G20 heads of state and government and international organisations during the summit from January 24-29. PM Narendra Modi addressed the meeting virtually on January 28. Theme of Davos Agenda was “A Crucial Year to Rebuild Trust”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 51st World Economic Forum annual meeting called “Davos Agenda” – held during January 25 to 29
- Theme – “A Crucial Year to Rebuild Trust”
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

26. Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) India Forum-2021 was organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in a virtual format, with live sessions on January 14, 21 and 28, 2021. The NCAVES Project, funded by EU, has been jointly implemented by the UNSD, UNEP & Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). India is one of the five countries taking part in this project - the other countries being Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “NCAVES India Forum-2021” – organised by the Ministry of MoSPI
- NCAVES Project – is funded by the European Union
- MoS I/C for Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation – Rao Inderjit Singh

Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. Kolam, a traditional Indian art form of drawing geometric patterns on the floors as a sign of welcome, was part of the virtual kick-off ceremony of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kolam” a traditional Indian art – marks kickoff of Biden-Harris inauguration ceremony
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris

2. Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has promoted the traditional ‘Risa’ - a handwoven cloth used by the state’s indigenous communities, as a signature identity of the state. The Risa is set to be a national brand under the India Handloom Brand. The traditional Tripuri female attire comprises 3 parts - Risa, Rignai and Rikutu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Biplab Kumar Deb – has promoted the traditional ‘Risa’ - a handwoven cloth
- Risa, Rignai and Rikutu – the parts of the traditional female attire of Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. PM Narendra Modi has given annual “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Awards-2019” for excellence in 6 categories. Puducherry has bagged the award for the “Best Performing Union Territory” in India for Implementing the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana). Uttar Pradesh has bagged the award for the “Best Performing State” followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – gave “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Awards-2019” for excellence in 6 categories
- “Best Performing Union Territory” in India for Implementing the PMAY – Puducherry
- “Best Performing State” in India for Implementing the PMAY – Uttar Pradesh

2. Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has held extensive talks with his South Korean counterpart, Gen Nam Yeong Shin to boost bilateral military ties. He has received a ‘Guard of Honour’ from the Army of South Korea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. M. Naravane – received a ‘Guard of Honour’ from the Army of South Korea
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

3. Well-known breast cancer surgeon from Hyderabad Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti has been named in the New Year's Honours list of Queen Elizabeth II. He would be accorded with an “OBE - Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire”, in recognition of his services towards improving breast cancer care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti (Hyderabad) – named in the New Year's Honours list of Queen Elizabeth II
- He will receive – “OBE-Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire” – for his services in Breast cancer

4. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva has awarded the status of “Centennial Observing Station” to the Patna meteorological observatory in recognition to its long-term meteorological observation exceeding over 100 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Patna meteorological observatory – awarded with the status of “Centennial Observing Station” – by the WMO
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas
- Location of Patna meteorological observatory – Bihar | Established in – 1867

5. Bangalore-based Centum Electronics Ltd is awarded the prestigious “Defence Technology Absorption Award” by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization) at a ceremony hosted at the DRDO HQ recently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centum Electronics Ltd – awarded the “Defence Technology Absorption Award” by DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- HQs of Centum Electronics Ltd – Bangalore, Karnataka | CMD – Apparao V Mallavarapu

6. Aryan Jain, a student of Suncity School, Gurugram (Haryana), is among the 6-member winning team of “Artemis Next-Gen STEM – Moon to Mars App Development Challenge” organised by NASA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aryan Jain (Haryana) – among winners of “Artemis Next-Gen STEM – Moon to Mars App Development Challenge”
- This App Development Challenge was organised by – NASA
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

7. The 30th National Energy Conservation awards were presented virtually on January 11, 2021. Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation (TSREDCO) has bagged the National Energy Conservation award in the ‘State Designated Agencies’ category for implementing and promoting various energy conservation programmes. The award was instituted jointly by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Ministry of Power. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 30th National Energy Conservation awards – presented virtually on January 11
- Telangana – won the “National Energy Conservation” award – in ‘State Designated Agencies’ category
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

8. On January 12, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has inaugurated the 5th “National Kayakalp Awards”. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) had launched a National Initiative ‘Kayakalp’ on 15th May 2015 to ensure hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness in Public Health Facilities in India. The District Hospital Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded the first prize of Rs 50 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the 5th “National Kayakalp Awards”
- District Hospital Reasi (J&K) – awarded the first prize of Rs 50 lakh
- MoHFW – launched a National Initiative ‘Kayakalp’ on 15th May 2015 – under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

9. Indian physicist and Padma Shri awardee Rohini Godbole has been conferred with the “Ordre National du Merite” (National Order of Merit of France), one of the highest distinctions granted by France to honour eminent persons. She is a professor at the Centre for High Energy Physics in the IISc – Bangalore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rohini Godbole – conferred with the “Ordre National du Merite” (National Order of Merit of France)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

10. On January 15, Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs has virtually received “SKOCH Challenger Award” conferred to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for e-Governance for its IT-led initiative. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has received SKOCH Challenger Award for the Transparency in governance [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Minister of Tribal Affairs – received “SKOCH Challenger Award” for e-Governance
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj – received “SKOCH Challenger Award” for the Transparency in governance
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

11. 21 private companies in India have received UN Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Awards for their exemplary company policies to promote gender equality amid the COVID-19 threat. The first-place winners in each of the 6 categories qualify for the Asia-Pacific regional awards ceremony to be held on 15 December in Bangkok. IKEA India Pvt Ltd was placed 1st in the Gender-Responsive Workplace category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 21 private companies in India – received UN Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Awards
- IKEA India – placed 1st in the ‘Gender-Responsive Workplace category’
- HQs of IKEA India – Navi Mumbai, MH | CEO – Peter Betzel

12. On January 17, Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) & announced a new ‘Indian Personality of the Year’ award which was conferred upon veteran actor, director and singer Biswajit Chatterjee. The ‘Lifetime Achievement’ this year was given to Italian cinematographer Vittorio Storaro. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – inaugurated the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
- Biswajit Chatterjee – received ‘Indian Personality of the Year’ award – at the 51st IFFI
- Vittorio Storaro – received ‘Lifetime Achievement’ award – at the 51st IFFI

13. ITC Limited has been adjudged ‘Best Governed Company’ at the 20th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, 2020 in the ‘Listed Segment: Large Category’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITC Ltd – adjudged ‘Best Governed Company’ at the 20th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance
- HQs of ITC Limited – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Sanjiv Puri

14. On January 16, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has been honoured with the “Sahitya Gaurav Samman” by the Hindi Writers Guild, Canada for his literary work. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – honoured with the “Sahitya Gaurav Samman” by the Hindi Writers Guild (Canada)
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

15. On January 15, Incumbent Chief Controller Amresh Kumar Chaudhary has been awarded the prestigious “Chief of Army Staff Commendation” for his outstanding contribution to the Armed Forces during the critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic and its various operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amresh Kumar Chaudhary – awarded the prestigious “Chief of Army Staff Commendation”

16. Ravi Gaikwad is a multifaceted personality known for paving his way through all walks of life. Just recently, he got awarded the “Nelson Mandela” World Humanitarian Award for his absolute spirit and professionalism. Ravi Gaikwad is a go-getter academician, sportsperson and philanthropist, born in Pune City. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Gaikwad – received the “Nelson Mandela” World Humanitarian Award

17. On January 21, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) of Coal India Ltd (CIL) & also assured CIL for full government support. Coal India accounts for over 80% of domestic coal output. ERP in Coal India will be implemented in two phases. Pralhad Joshi has also presented “Coal Minister's Award-2020” to 3 coal companies of Coal India Ltd - Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL), Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) and Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pralhad Joshi launched Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) of CIL
- CIL – accounts for over 80% of domestic coal output
- “Coal Minister's Award-2020” to = Northern Coalfields Ltd + Central Coalfields Ltd + Western Coalfields Ltd
- [Pralhad Joshi – Minister of Coal, Minister of Mines \(Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka\)](#)

18. Nikhil Srivastava, a young Indian mathematician, has been named winner of the prestigious “2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize” along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison-Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs. The prize consists of a medal and \$1,00,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikhil Srivastava (mathematician) – winner of the prestigious “2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize”
- The prize consists of – \$1,00,000

19. On January 23, “Subhash Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar” is announced every year on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. For the year 2021, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS - in the institutional category) and Rajendra Kumar Bhandari (in the individual category) have been selected for the Prize for their excellent work in disaster management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Subhash Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2021” – announced in 2 categories
- Institutional Category: Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (₹51 lakh + Certificate)
- Individual Category: Rajendra Kumar Bhandari (₹5 lakh + Certificate)

20. The awards have been announced at the closing ceremony of the 1st ever hybrid version of the IFFI held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa on January 24, 2021. The “IFFI 51 Special Jury Award” for a film goes to Bulgarian Director Kamin Kalev for his 2020 film ‘February’. The Awards have been decided by the ‘IFFI 51 International Jury’ comprising eminent filmmakers from across the world, with Argentine Director Pablo Cesar as Chairman. This year, Bangladesh was the focus country in the 51st IFFI. The rest of the awards are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st ever hybrid version of the 51st IFFI – held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium (in Panaji, Goa)
- Chairman of ‘IFFI 51 International Jury’ – Pablo Cesar ([Argentina](#))
- Focus country in the 51st IFFI – Bangladesh
- The awards were given as below:

Name	Award	Film
Kamin Kalev (Bulgaria)	IFFI 51 Special Jury Award (for film ‘February’)	–
Kripal Kalita (India)	IFFI 51 Special Mention Award – for film ‘Bridge’)	–
Zofia Stafiej (Poland)	The Silver Peacock for Best Actor (female)	I Never Cry
Tzu-Chuan Liu (Taiwan)	The Silver Peacock for Best Actor (male)	The Silent Forest
Chen-Nien Ko (Taiwan)	The Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Best Director)	The Silent Forest
‘Into the Darkness’ movie (Denmark)	The Golden Peacock Award	–
Biswajit Chatterjee (India)	Indian Personality of the Year Award	–
Vittorio Storaro (Italy)	Lifetime Achievement Award	–

21. Galwan martyr Colonel Bikumalla Santosh Babu has been posthumously awarded with ‘Maha Vir Chakra’. This is the second-highest military decoration, announced posthumously by the government on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day. He led his troops against the ‘vicious’ Chinese attack in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June, 2020. Four other soldiers have been named for ‘Vir Chakra’ awards posthumously. The other Chakra awardees are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The list of Chakra awardees announced posthumously by the government on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day:

Name	Award
Colonel Bikumalla Santosh Babu	Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumously)
Hav K Palani	Vir Chakra (Posthumously)
Nk Deepak Singh	Vir Chakra (Posthumously)
Sep Gurtej Singh	Vir Chakra (Posthumously)
Nb Sub Nuduram Soren	Vir Chakra (Posthumously)
Hav Tejinder Singh	Vir Chakra
Sub Sanjiv Kumar	Kirti Chakra (Posthumously)
Maj Anuj Sood	Shaurya Chakra (Posthumously)
PTR Sonam Tshering Tamang	Shaurya Chakra
Rfn Pranab Jyoti Das	Shaurya Chakra

22. Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in 3 categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The “Padma Awards 2021” have been announced recently on January 25. 7 people were awarded the Padma Vibhushan, 10 named for the Padma Bhushan and 102 named for Padma Shri. 29 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 16 Posthumous awardees and 1 transgender awardee. The awards were given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The “Padma Awards 2021”: Padma Vibhushan – 7 | Padma Bhushan – 10 | Padma Shri – 102
- Women awardees – 29 | Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI – 10 | Posthumous – 16 | Transgender – 1

Padma Vibhushan – 7	
Name	Field
Shinzo Abe (Japan)	Public Affairs
Dr. Belle Monappa Hegde (Karnataka)	Medicine
B. B. Lal (Delhi)	Archaeology (others)
Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (Delhi)	Spiritualism (others)
Sudarshan Sahoo (Odisha)	Art
S P Balasubramaniam (Tamil Nadu)	Art (Posthumous)
Narinder Singh Kapany (USA)	Science and Engineering (Posthumous)

Padma Bhushan – 10	
Name	Field
Nripendra Misra (Uttar Pradesh)	Civil Service
Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra (Kerala)	Art
Chandrashekhar Kambara (Karnataka)	Literature & Education
Rajnikant Devidas Shroff (Maharashtra)	Trade & Industry
Sumitra Mahajan (Madhya Pradesh)	Public Affairs
Tarlochan Singh (Haryana)	Public Affairs
Tarun Gogoi (Assam)	Public Affairs (Posthumous)
Ram Vilas Paswan (Bihar)	Public Affairs (Posthumous)
Keshubhai Patel (Gujarat)	Public Affairs (Posthumous)
Kalbe Sadiq (Uttar Pradesh)	Others - Spiritualism (Posthumous)

23. On January 24, Thirty-two children have been awarded the “Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar” this year for their exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments in 6 fields - innovation, scholastics, sports, art & culture, social service and bravery. 7 awards have been given in the field of Art and Culture, 9 for Innovation and 5 for Scholastic Achievements, 7 for Sports category, 3 for Bravery and 1 child has been honoured for her efforts in the field of Social Service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 32 children – awarded the “Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar-2021”

24. In Dubai, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced the “ICC Player of the Month awards”. The award will recognise and celebrate the best performances of both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC – introduced the “ICC Player of the Month awards” – in Dubai, UAE
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney

25. The Tamil translation of French novel “Le mariage de plaisir” won the ‘Romain Rolland Book Prize-2021’ at the 3-day Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival which ended in Kolkata on January 24. The winners of the prize are translator Dr S A Vengada Soupraya Nayagar and publisher Amutharasan Paulraj of Thadagam Publishers for the Tamil translation of the book (with a title ‘Ullasa Thirumanam’), authored by Tahar Ben Jelloun. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil translation of French novel “Le mariage de plaisir” won the ‘Romain Rolland Book Prize-2021’
- Author – Tahar Ben Jelloun | Translator – S A Vengada Soupraya Nayagar | Publisher – Amutharasan Paulraj

26. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Meghalaya was selected for a Special Award for Information Technology applications in Elections by the Election Commission of India (ECI), in the “National Best Electoral Practices Awards-2020”. And New Delhi has received the Best Electoral Practices Award 2020 under the ‘Accessible Election’ category. Delhi also achieved error-free electoral roll and number of third gender electors had also increased. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – won a Special Award for IT applications in Elections in “National Best Electoral Practices Awards-2020”
- New Delhi received “Best Electoral Practices Award 2020” under the ‘Accessible Election’ category
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sunil Arora (23rd) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

27. Anshu Jamsenpa is the world's first woman to climb Mount Everest twice in 5 days. She hails from Arunachal Pradesh and has scaled the world's tallest mountain - Mt. Everest for total 5 times. Recognising her feats, the Union government has awarded her the “Padma Shri-2021”, the country's fourth-highest civilian award - on the eve of this year's Republic Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anshu Jamsenpa (Arunachal Pradesh) – Indian mountaineer – received “Padma Shri-2021”
- She is the 1st woman to climb Mount Everest twice in 5 days

28. Shyam Srinivasan, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Federal Bank, is the Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2019-20 for his bank's consistent healthy performance at a time when most of its peers witnessed large stress on asset quality, registered losses, or even invited regulatory actions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shyam Srinivasan – received the “Business Standard Banker of the year award for 2019-20”
- [HQs Federal Bank – Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan](#)

29. The Jat Regimental Centre marching contingent has been adjudged as the best one among the 3 Services and the Delhi Police marching unit chosen as the best among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and other auxiliary forces during the Republic Day parade of 2021. Among the tableaux of States and UTs, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Uttarakhand were chosen 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Mount Abu Public School and Vidya Bharti School Rohini, Delhi won the best cultural performance award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jat Regimental Centre marching contingent – adjudged as the best one among the 3 Services
- Delhi Police marching unit – adjudged as the best among the CAPF and other auxiliary forces
- Uttar Pradesh – adjudged as the best among the tableaux of States & UTs | 2nd – Tripura | 3rd – Uttarakhand
- Mount Abu Public School & Vidya Bharti School Rohini (Delhi) – the best cultural Performance Award



Appointments & Resignations

1. Soma Mondal has taken over the charge as Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) from January 1. She was the Director (Commercial) of SAIL prior to this. She has replaced Anil Kumar Chaudhary. She has become the 1st woman Chairperson of SAIL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Soma Mondal – took charge as Chairman of SAIL from January 1 (by replacing - Anil Kumar Chaudhary)
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal

2. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet cleared the extension in the term of reemployment of Umesh Sinha as Deputy Election Commissioner on contract basis for a period of 6 months beyond December 31, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Umesh Sinha – extended as Deputy Election Commissioner – for 6 months (till June 30, 2021)
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sunil Arora (23rd)

3. Major General Gautam Chauhan has taken over as the first Additional Director General-ADG of the Indian Army's Human Rights Cell at its headquarters in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Chauhan – appointed as the 1st ADG of Indian Army's Human Rights Cell (New Delhi)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

4. Sanjay Kapoor was elected as President of the All India Chess Federation (AICF) while Bharat Singh Chauhan retained the secretary's post. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Kapoor – elected as President of the All India Chess Federation (AICF)
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan

5. President Faustin-Archange Touadera has won Central African Republic's presidential election by securing more than 53% of votes in the first round. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Faustin-Archange Touadera – became the President of – Central African Republic
- Central African Republic – Bangui – CFA Franc | President – Faustin-Archange Touadera

6. On January 5, Former India striker Abhishek Yadav has been appointed as the first Deputy General Secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF) after the sports body decided to create a new post in its hierarchy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhishek Yadav – appointed as the 1st Deputy General Secretary of – All India Football Federation (AIFF)
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel | Deputy Gen. Secretary – Abhishek Yadav

7. On January 4, The All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) has appointed Ashish Pethe as chairman and Saiyam Mehra as its vice chairman for a period of two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashish Pethe – appointed as Chairman of All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council ([Mumbai](#))
- Saiyam Mehra – appointed as Vice Chairman of All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council ([Mumbai](#))

8. The RBI's College of Supervisors (CoS), which was functioning in a limited way in virtual mode since May 2020, is now being fully operationalised with full-time director supported by an Academic Advisory Council (AAC). The 6-member Academic Advisory Council (AAC), chaired by RBI former Deputy Governor N S Viswanathan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N S Viswanathan – appointed as the 1st full-time Director of RBI's the College of Supervisors (CoS)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)
- Total Deputy Governors – 4 – Mukesh Kumar Jain | B P Kanungo | Michael D Patra | M Rajeshwar Rao

9. On January 7, Maharishi Ayurveda has roped in 'Ironman' of India and 'Unstoppable' - Milind Soman as brand ambassador for its product Maharishi Amrit Kalash. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Milind Soman – appointed as Brand Ambassador of – Maharishi Ayurveda (for Maharishi Amrit Kalash)

10. On January 5, Alex Ellis, a British strategic expert, will take charge as the new UK high commissioner to India. He will succeed Sir Philip Barton. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alex Ellis – appointed as the new British High Commissioner to India

11. On January 7, Virander Kumar Paul has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Somalia, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Currently, he was serving as High Commissioner of India to Kenya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virander Kumar Paul – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Somalia
- Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling | New PM – Mohamed Hussein Roble | President – Md Abdullahi

12. On January 5, Google Cloud has announced the elevation of Karan Bajwa as its new leader for Asia Pacific. He currently leads Google Cloud in India. Bajwa is currently based in Gurgaon, but will relocate to Singapore in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karan Bajwa – became the head of the Google Cloud for Asia Pacific region

13. On January 7, Australia's Claire Polosak has become the first woman to officiate at a men's Test match. She was the fourth umpire in the third Test between India and Australia in Sydney. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Claire Polosak (Australia) – became the first woman to officiate at a men's Test match
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

14. On January 7, Joe Biden has formally selected Merrick Garland as his Attorney General. Garland's 2016 supreme court nomination was blocked by Senate Republicans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Biden – formally selected “Merrick Garland” as his Attorney General
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

15. On January 7, Indian-American Dr. Raj Iyer has taken over as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020. Dr. Raj Iyer is originally a native of Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Raj Iyer – took over as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

16. On January 8, the Biden-Harris transition team has announced the appointment of Indian American Sumona Guha to the role of Senior Director for South Asia at the National Security Council. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumona Guha – appointed by Joe Biden as Senior Director for South Asia
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

17. Indian-American Sabrina Singh would serve as Deputy Press Secretary to the Vice President in the White House, according to an announcement made by the Biden-Harris Transition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sabrina Singh – named as the White House Deputy Press Secretary
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

18. On January 11, Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov has recently got elected as the President of Kyrgyzstan. He has won 79% of votes cast. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sadyr Japarov – got elected as the President of Kyrgyzstan
- [Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som | President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov](#)

19. On January 8, Alok Sharma is appointed as full-time President of “UN COP26 Climate Conference” scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November. He was appointed to the cabinet role of Business secretary in the Boris Johnson government after the December 2019 election. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alok Sharma – appointed as full-time President of “UN COP26 Climate Conference” – to be held in Glasgow, Scotland
- [Scotland – Edinburgh – Pound sterling](#)

20. On January 9, Former Maharashtra DGP Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has taken over as the 28th chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Mr. Jaiswal is set to retire from service in September, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Subodh Kumar Jaiswal – took over as the 28th chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- [HQs of CISF – New Delhi | Director – Subodh Kumar Jaiswal](#)

21. On January 7, J Venkatramu has taken charge as the MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He is former senior executive of Equitas Small Finance Bank. His appointment is effective from October 29, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J Venkatramu – took charge as the MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)
- [HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018](#)

22. On January 13, Estonia's Prime Minister Juri Ratas has resigned over corruption scandal investigated by the police and prosecutors in his Center Party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Juri Ratas – resigned from the Post of Prime Minister of – Estonia
- [Estonia – Tallinn – Euro | President – Kersti Kaljulaid](#)

23. The 89th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was held to appoint the Indian board's representative on the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meetings. Jay Shah will be on the ICC Board as BCCI representative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jay Shah – will be on the ICC Board as BCCI representative
- [HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Ethics Officer – D K Jain](#)
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Interim Chairman – Imran Khwaja | CEO – Manu Sawhney](#)

24. The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has appointed Sandeep Aggarwal as the new Chairman. Aggarwal, the MD and Promoter of Delhi-based Paramount Communications will replace Shyamal Ghosh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sandeep Aggarwal – appointed as Chairman of Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)
- [HQs of TEPC – New Delhi | Chairman – Sandeep Aggarwal](#)

25. On January 13, VMware Inc CEO Pat Gelsinger has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Intel by replacing Robert (Bob) H. Swan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pat Gelsinger – appointed as the CEO of Intel (by replacing - Bob Swan)
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Pat Gelsinger

26. US President-elect Joe Biden has nominated former US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power as administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samantha Power – nominated as Administrator/Chief of the USAID
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Samantha Power

27. On January 15, the UN Human Rights Council has elected Fiji's ambassador Nazahat Shameen Khan as its president in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nazahat Shameen Khan – elected as the President of UN Human Rights Council
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan

28. On January 14, Kiran mazumdar-Shaw (Executive Chairperson of Biocon) has been selected as one of the Vice Chairs of 2021 Global Board of Directors of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran mazumdar-Shaw – selected as one of the Vice Chairs of US-India Business Council (USIBC)
- HQs of USIBC – Washington, D.C., USA | Chairman – Nisha Desai Biswal | VC- Kiran mazumdar-Shaw

29. Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra Priyanka Chaturvedi has been nominated as a board member of the stakeholder panel, Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub for a two-year term beginning January 14. She is the deputy leader and National Spokesperson of Shiv Sena. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Priyanka Chaturvedi – nominated as a board member of 'Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub'
- Priyanka Chaturvedi – RS MP from Maharashtra | National Spokesperson of – Shiv Sena Political party

30. On January 15, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved the appointment of Belarus' Nikolai Snegarev as the middle and long distance coach of the Indian athletics team. He has been appointed till the end of September, a period which will include the Tokyo Olympics scheduled to take place in July-August. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikolai Snegarev (Belarus) – appointed as a Coach of Indian Athletics Team – for middle & long-distance Runners
- Belarus – Minsk – Ruble | PM – Siarhiey Rumas
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | Director General – Sandip Pradhan

31. On January 13, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has again extended the tenure of Justice Bansi Lal Bhat as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) till his attaining the age of 67 years or till further orders, whichever is earlier. This is his 4th extension since he was appointed as the officiating Chairperson of the NCLAT on March 15, 2020 for 3 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bansi Lal Bhat – tenure extended as Chairperson of NCLAT (4th extension – till his age of 67 years)

32. Uganda's long-time President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has been re-elected recently in January 2021. Mr Museveni won almost 59% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yoweri Museveni – re-elected as President of Uganda
- [Uganda – Kampala – Ugandan shilling | President – Yoweri Museveni](#)

33. On January 18, PM Narendra Modi was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the trust which manages the world famous Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district, becoming the second PM to hold the post. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – chosen as the new Chairman of the famous “Somnath Temple” – at Prabhas Patan, Gujarat
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

34. On January 18, the board of directors of RBL Bank has approved the re-appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank for 3 years with effect from June 30, 2021 to June 29, 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank – approved the re-appointment of “Vishwavir Ahuja” as the MD & CEO – for 3 years
- [HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja](#)

35. The government has appointed KIC Housing Finance CEO Siddhartha Mohanty as the managing director of Life Insurance Corp. (LIC) with effect from February 1. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Mohanty till his superannuation on June 30, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Siddhartha Mohanty – appointed as new MD of LIC
- [HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M R Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956](#)

36. On January 20, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has been temporarily assigned the additional charge of the Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of AYUSH. The move was necessitated as Shripad Yesso Naik was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Goa after he met with an accident. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – assigned the additional charge of the Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of AYUSH
- [MoS for AYUSH – Kiren Rijiju \(addi. Charge\) | Constituency – Arunachal West](#)

37. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his entire Cabinet have resigned to take political responsibility for a scandal involving investigations into child welfare payments that wrongly labeled thousands of parents as fraudsters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mark Rutte & his entire Cabinet – resigned to take political responsibility
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte](#)

38. On January 20, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were sworn-in as the 46th President and 49th Vice President of the United States of America, respectively. Joe Biden (78) is the oldest person to assume US presidency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Biden & Kamala Harris – sworn-in as the 46th President and 49th Vice President of the USA
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris](#)

39. On January 19, Lt General Chandi Prasad Mohanty, presently serving as General Officer Commanding in chief of Southern Command, has been appointed as the 42nd Vice Chief of Army Staff. Lt General Mohanty is the first Odia officer to be appointed the Vice Chief of Army, second only to the Chief of Army Staff. He will take over from Lt S K Saini after he retires on January 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandi Prasad Mohanty – appointed as 42nd Vice Chief of Army Staff (1st Odia officer on this Post)
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

40. Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Md. Shahriar Alam has received the newly appointed Secretary General of BIMSTEC Tenzin Lekphell. Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Md. Shahriar Alam received the newly appointed Secretary General of BIMSTEC Tenzin Lekphell. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh – received the newly appointed Secretary General of BIMSTEC ‘Tenzin Lekphell’
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)
- [BIMSTEC member countries: 7 – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand](#)

41. On January 20, Mongolia's Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa has submitted his resignation to parliament after protests in the capital Ulaanbaatar over the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Khurelsukh Ukhnaa – PM of Mongolia – submitted his resignation
- [Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar – Mongolian Togrog | President – Khaltmaagiin Battulga](#)

42. On January 21, Jayant N. Khobragade, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1995 batch, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jayant N. Khobragade – appointed as India's next Ambassador to ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei](#) | [Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia](#) | [Members – 10](#)

43. The board of Sundaram Finance has named Rajiv Lochan (director Strategy) as Managing Director with effect from April 1. The current managing director T. T. Srinivasaraghavan will be retiring on March 31, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Lochan – appointed as MD of Sundaram Finance – from April 1
- [HQs of Sundaram Finance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#) | [Current MD – T. T. Srinivasaraghavan](#)

44. On January 23, Indian Broadcasting Foundation has appointed former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court Justice Gita Mittal as the new Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC). Mittal succeeds former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Vikramajit Sen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gita Mittal – appointed as new Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)

45. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has been re-elected to a second term in office as President of Portugal. He has secured 61 per cent of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa – re-elected as President of Portugal (2nd term)
- [Portugal – Lisbon – Euro](#) | [President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa](#)

46. Estonia's new Prime Minister Kaja Kallas has sworn in as the first female Prime Minister in the Baltic country since it regained independence in 1991. She is a 43-year-old lawyer and a former European Parliament lawmaker. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kaja Kallas has sworn in as the 1st female Prime Minister of Estonia
- [Estonia – Tallinn – Euro](#) | [President – Kersti Kaljulaid](#) | [New PM – Kaja Kallas](#)

47. On January 27, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Swaminathan Janakiraman & Ashwini Kumar Tewari as Managing Directors of State Bank of India for 3 years. SBI is the country's largest commercial bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Swaminathan Janakiraman & Ashwini Kumar Tewari – appointed as MDs of SBI
- [HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara](#)
- [MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty](#) | [Ashwani Bhatia](#) | [Ashwini Kumar Tewari](#) | [Swaminathan Janakiraman](#)

48. Shri Ajit Vinayak Gupte (IFS:1991), presently Ambassador of India to Denmark, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Arab Republic of Egypt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Vinayak Gupte – appointed as next Ambassador of India to Egypt
- [Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi](#)

49. Ms. Shubhdarshini Tripathi (IFS:1994), presently Deputy Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Kazakhstan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ms. Shubhdarshini Tripathi – appointed as next Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan
- [Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](#)

50. On January 27, Dhanlaxmi Bank has appointed J. K. Shivan as Managing Director and CEO. The bank Board had moved a resolution on December 26 & it was passed with an overwhelming majority of 99.81%. The bank is currently managed by a committee of directors (COD). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J. K. Shivan – appointed as MD & CEO of – Dhanlaxmi Bank
- [HQs of Dhanlaxmi Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – J. K. Shivan](#)

51. Italy Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has resigned due to his government's effectiveness in the middle of the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giuseppe Conte – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Italy
- [Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella](#)

52. Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh is among 20 prominent personalities appointed by the United Nations to a High-level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Economic and Social Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jayati Ghosh – named among 20 prominent personalities appointed by the UN to a High-level Advisory Board
- UN-HLAB was established in – June, 2018
- [HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres](#)

53. On January 28, Ms. Pooja Kapur (IFS:1996), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Denmark. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pooja Kapur – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Denmark
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

54. On January 28, Shri Palaniswamy Subramanyan Karthigeyan (IFS:2004), presently Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Canberra, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Palaniswamy Subramanyan Karthigeyan – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Fiji
- [Fiji – Suva – Fijian Dollar | President – Jioji Konrote](#)

55. On January 26, Antony John Blinken has sworn in as the U. S. Secretary of State after his 78 to 22 confirmation at the Senate. The new Secretary was sworn in ceremonially by Vice-President Kamala Harris. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Antony Blinken – sworn in as the U. S. Secretary of State
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

56. On January 29, Democratic Republic of the Congo's Prime Minister, Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba has resigned. The dismissal came after the majority of the lawmakers passed a vote of no-confidence to the Premier alleging his inability in the management of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Congo
- [Congo – Kinshasa – Franc | President – Felix Tshisekedi](#)

57. On January 30, SBI Card, the country's largest pure play credit card issuer, has appointed Rama Mohan Rao Amara as a new Managing Director and CEO for 2 years. He has come in the place of Ashwini Kumar Tewari, who was recently appointed as Managing Director of SBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rama Mohan Rao Amara – appointed as a new MD & CEO for 2 years
- [HQs of SBI Card – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara](#)
- [HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara](#)
- [MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman](#)
- [CFO of SBI – Charanjit Singh Attra | MD & CEO of SBI General Ins. – Prakash Chandra Kandpal](#)

58. The National Health Authority (NHA) has appointed Ram Sewak Sharma as the new Chief Executive to head its health insurance scheme – Ayushman Bharat or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) - a flagship programme of the government. RS Sharma will be replacing Indu Bhushan. Sharma is the former Chairman of the TRAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA appointed R. S. Sharma as the new CEO of NHA or 'Ayushman Bharat' or 'PMJAY' scheme
- [HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma](#)

59. On January 30, BCCI secretary Jay Shah was unanimously elected as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). He will replace Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief Najmul Hasan Papon. The 2020 edition of the Asia Cup was postponed to June this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jay Shah – elected as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)
- [HQs of ACC – Colombo, Sri Lanka | New President – Jay Shah](#)

60. On January 31, the Tamil Nadu government has named senior IAS officer Rajeev Ranjan as Chief Secretary. His predecessor is K. Shanmugam. He has done Ph.D. in management from the Anna University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – named senior IAS officer Rajeev Ranjan as Chief Secretary (by replacing - K. Shanmugam)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)



Amount & Agreement

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a loan agreement for \$231 million to augment electricity generation capacity in Assam through construction of a 120-megawatt (MW) hydroelectric power plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + India = signed a loan agreement for \$231-million – to enhance power generation capacity in Assam
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

2. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$10 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) to expand horticulture production and farm household income in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + India = \$10 million PRF to expand horticulture production in Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

3. The ADB and the Government of India have signed a \$100 million loan agreement to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system to enhance the quality and reliability of electricity supply in Bengaluru. Beside the \$100 million sovereign loan, ADB will provide a \$90 million loan without sovereign guarantee for the project to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (BESCOM). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + ADB = signed \$100 million loan agreement to upgrade the power distribution system in Bangalore
- \$100 million sovereign loan + \$90 million loan without sovereign guarantee = Total \$190 million loan
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

4. On January 6, West Bengal and the World Bank have signed a \$105 million project to improve the inland water transport infrastructure in Kolkata, West Bengal. The project will cover the 5 most populous districts of southern West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal + World Bank = \$105 million project to improve the inland water transport infrastructure in Kolkata
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

5. On January 6, the Government of India, Andhra Pradesh government and the New Development Bank (NDB) have signed a loan agreement for 2 road projects of up to \$323 million each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh + NDB = signed a loan agreement for 2 road projects of up to \$323 million each
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo
- NDB established by – BRICS Countries – In 2014
- BRICS Countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

6. On January 7, the Centre has approved Rs 8,528 Cr for National Highway projects in Maharashtra. Besides, projects worth Rs 5,801 Cr of Surat-Bangalore highway are in the pipeline. It will help decongest the traffic and reduce pollution levels between Mumbai and Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centre approved Rs 8,528 Cr for National Highway projects in – Maharashtra
- Projects worth Rs 5,801 Cr of Surat-Bangalore highway are in the pipeline

7. On January 5, the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund Trust has allocated Rs 201.58 Cr for installation of additional 162 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants inside public health facilities in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM CARES Fund Trust allocated Rs 201.58 Cr for installation of 162 PSA Medical Oxygen Generation Plants

8. On January 6, the Government of Japan has committed Official Development Assistance loan of an amount of JPY 30 billion (approx. Rs. 2,113 Cr) for a programme loan to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – committed Official Development Assistance loan of JPY 30 billion (approx. Rs. 2,113 Cr) – to India
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

9. On January 13, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has inked a definitive agreement for takeover of 120 MW Rangit-IV hydro power project of Jalpower Corporation Ltd (JPCL) in Sikkim. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC – to take over 120 MW Rangit-IV project – in Sikkim
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

10. On January 14, the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has signed a USD 12.7-million contract to build an ocean-going vessel for the government of Guyana in the Caribbean region in South America. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GRSE + Guyana = USD 12.7-million contract to build an ocean-going vessel
- Guyana – Georgetown – Guyanese Dollar | President – Irfaan Ali
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena

11. On January 16, the Indian Army has signed a \$20-million contract with ideaForge to procure undisclosed quantities of a High-altitude variant of “SWITCH UAV” - an indigenous system used in surveillance operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + ideaForge = \$20-million contract to procure High-altitude variant of “SWITCH UAV”
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of ideaForge Tech. Pvt Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ankit Mehta

12. On January 12, India has decided to set up \$1 million facility for academic collaboration with the Arab World. This was decided at third Senior Officials Meeting of the Arab-India Cooperation Forum held via video conference. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – decided to set up \$1 million facility for academic collaboration with the Arab World

13. On January 24, the finance ministry has allocated an additional ₹660 Cr to Madhya Pradesh for capital expenditure to undertake citizen-centric reforms under the ‘Special Assistance to States for capital expenditure’ scheme was announced by the Centre in October, 2020. 50% amount has been released to the state as first installment for the projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance ministry – allocated an additional ₹660 Cr to Madhya Pradesh (1st state) for capital expenditure
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

14. On January 27, India has announced a pledge of USD 150,000 to activities of the Peacebuilding Fund for 2021. As a part of its 2020-24 strategy, the Peacebuilding Fund has put forth a comprehensive scenario covering a horizon of 5 years. The Fund's 2020-2024 Strategy which set a target of USD 1.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India announced a pledge of \$150,000 to activities of the ‘Peacebuilding Fund’ for 2021
- The target of Fund's 2020-2024 Strategy – \$1.5 billion

15. On January 29, Agreement for the financial support of the implementation of “Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)” project of Ministry of Education was signed between Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and World Bank along with Ministry of Education. The total project cost of STARS project is Rs 5718 Cr with the financial support of World Bank amounting to \$500 million (approx Rs. 3700 Cr) and rest coming as State share from the participating States, over a period of 5 years. The project covers 6 States - Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank + Dept of Economic Affairs + Ministry of Education = an agreement for “STARS project”
- STARS – Strengthening Teaching-Learning And Results for States
- “STARS project” – belongs to Ministry of Education | Total Cost of the project – Rs 5718 Cr
- Financial assistance from World Bank for this project – \$500 million (approx Rs. 3700 Cr)
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. Mukesh Ambani recently has dropped down to 12th position in the “Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021” after reaching the fourth spot earlier this year. Amazon boss Jeff Bezos and Tesla's Elon Musk top the chart. Zhong Shanshan also known as “Lone Wolf” has replaced Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani as Asia's richest person on December 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World’s Richest Persons List” – as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index (as on January 2, 2021)
- 1st – Jeff Bezos (\$190 Billion) | 2nd – Elon Musk (\$170 Billion) | 3rd – Bill Gates (\$132 Billion)
- “Asia’s richest man” – Zhong Shanshan (Lone Wolf) | Mukesh Ambani – 12th

2. On January 1, Bajaj Auto has become the first two-wheeler company globally to cross market capitalization of Rs 1 lakh Cr. The stock closed at Rs 3479 per share on NSE that day making its market capitalization Rs 100,670.76 Cr at this price. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Auto – become the first two-wheeler company globally to cross market capitalization of Rs 1 lakh Cr
- HQs of Bajaj Auto – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajiv Bajaj

3. The RBI has launched the January 2021 round of the “Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)” and “Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS)” to capture inflation expectations and consumer confidence, which provide useful inputs for its monetary policy. The Annual Growth in all-India House Price Index (HPI) has remained moderate at 1.1% in Q2 of FY21 (July-Sep 2020). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI launched “Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)” & “Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS)”
- The Annual Growth in all-India House Price Index (HPI) in Q2 of FY21 = 1.1%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

4. Dr Harsh Vardhan has released the report “Action Agenda for an Atma Nirbhar Bharat” (AAAN) prepared by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) in New Delhi. The comprehensive report AAAN is a consequential follow-up of the TIFAC’s White Paper on Focused Interventions for ‘Make in India’: post COVID -19 which was released earlier in July, 2020 by Dr Harsh Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – released a report titled “Action Agenda for an Atma Nirbhar Bharat” (AAAN)
- The report is prepared by – TIFAC ([New Delhi](#))

5. On January 5, the two-day “Asian Waterbird Census-2020” has been commenced in Andhra Pradesh under the aegis of experts from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). At least 2 dozen sites are covered, including Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolleru Lake and Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2-day “Asian Waterbird Census-2020” – commenced in Andhra Pradesh
- Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary + Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary + Kolleru Lake = located in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

6. According to the “Statement on Climate of India during 2020” issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the year 2020 was the 8th warmest year on record since nation-wide records commenced in 1901. The previous highest warming recorded in 2016. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh recorded the maximum number of deaths due to adverse weather conditions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to IMD – the year 2020 was the 8th warmest year since nation-wide records commenced in – 1901
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

7. Unemployment in urban areas rose to 9.1% in January-March 2020 from 7.9% in October-December 2019, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in the quarterly bulletin of the “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)”. Urban unemployment in the age group 15-29 years was 21.1%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)” – by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Unemployment in urban areas rose to 9.1% in January-March 2020
- MoS I/C for Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation – Rao Inderjit Singh

8. On January 7, there will be over 319 million elderly by 2050, threefold the number identified by the Census in 2011, according to the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1 report. Elderly population is currently growing at around 3% annually. The report was commissioned by the Health Ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to “LASI Wave-1 report” – 319 million elderly by 2050 | Current annual growth rate – 3%

9. On January 6, India has suffered the biggest economic impact in the world in 2020 due to Internet shutdowns, adding up to 8,927 hours and \$2.8 billion losses, as per a report by the UK-based privacy and security research firm ‘Top10VPN’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Top10VPN’ : India suffered the biggest economic impact in the world in 2020 due to Internet shutdowns

10. On January 8, Elon Musk has overtaken Amazon's CEO, Jeff Bezos, to become the wealthiest person in the world, according to the valuation by Bloomberg's Billionaire Index - a list of the top 500 richest people in the world. His total net worth is \$188 billion. Jeff Bezos now currently sits second at a net value of \$187 billion. Elon Musk currently holds 20% stake in Tesla. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “List of the top 500 richest people in the world” – by Bloomberg's Billionaire Index
- 1st – Elon Musk (\$188 billion) | 2nd – Jeff Bezos (\$187 billion)
- Elon Musk – the CEO of Tesla & SpaceX (Currently he holds 20% stake in Tesla)

11. On January 6, India's 7th Trade Policy Review (TPR) has begun at the World Trade Organization (WTO). India's last TPR took place in 2015. A comprehensive report issued by the WTO Secretariat stated that India's strong economic growth remained at 7.4% during the period of 2015-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 7th Trade Policy Review (TPR) began at the WTO – on January 6 (Last TPR took place in 2015)
- As per the WTO's report – India's GDP during 2015-20 remained at 7.4%
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Roberto Azevedo | Member Countries – 164 & Observer – 25

12. On January 11, In "Digital Evolution Scorecard", India is among top "Break Out Economies" in 2020. The 3rd edition of the "Digital Evolution Scorecard" is developed by Tufts University's Fletcher School in partnership with Mastercard. India is ranked 4th in the list which was topped by China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3rd edition of the "Digital Evolution Scorecard" – by Tufts University's Fletcher School + Mastercard
- 1st – China | 2nd – Azerbaijan | 3rd – Indonesia | 4th – India

13. On January 10, India has become the 2nd largest manufacturer of PPE kits and suits in the world in record 3 months' time during the coronavirus induced lockdown in March 2020. China is the leading manufacturer in this. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – became the 2nd largest manufacturer of PPE kits and suits (1st – China)

14. On January 11, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India, saying 70% of global tiger population and over 60% of leopard population in India is a certificate of its thriving biodiversity. As per the MEE report, rankings of the top 5 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are as follow. According to report, 5% of the total geographic area of India is occupied by the Protected Areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of 146 NP & WS
- 1st – Tirthan WS & Great Himalayan NP (Himachal Pradesh)
- 2nd – Sainj WS (Himachal Pradesh) | 3rd – Raiganj WS (West Bengal) | 4th – Jaldapara NP (West Bengal)
- 5% of the total Geographic Area of India is occupied by the Protected Areas

15. On January 12, the Henley Passport Index has revealed the latest list of world's most powerful passports. As per the "Henley Passport Index: Q1 2021 Global Ranking", Japan has held the top spot followed by Singapore. India has ranked 85th in the most powerful passport report with a visa-free score of 58. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Henley Passport Index: Q1 2021 Global Ranking" = India – 85th | 1st – Japan & 2nd – Singapore
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

16. On January 12, with a networth of \$2.1 trillion, Apple is the most valuable company in the world, followed by Microsoft and Amazon with \$1.6 trillion each and Alphabet \$1.2 trillion, according to the “2020 Hurun Global 500 ranking”. There were 11 Indian companies in the list, led by Reliance Industries (54th), Tata Consultancy Services (73rd) and HDFC Bank (105th). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2020 Hurun Global 500 ranking” – as on January 12, 2021
- Globally: 1st – Apple (\$2.1 trillion) | 2nd – Amazon + Microsoft (\$1.6 trillion) | 3rd – Alphabet (\$1.2 trillion)
- In India: 1st – Reliance (\$169 billion) | 2nd – Tata Consultancy (\$139 billion) | 3rd – HDFC Bank (\$108 billion)

17. The report “International Migration 2020 Highlights”, is released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on January 15. India has the largest diaspora population in the world (majority in UAE & Saudi Arabia) with 18 million people from the country living outside their homeland in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The report “International Migration 2020 Highlights” – released by UNDESA
- HQs of UNDESA – New York, USA | Head – Liu Zhenmin

18. The annual cost of adaptation to the effects of climate change for developing countries is estimated to increase at least 4 times by 2050, according to the 5th edition of “United Nations Adaptation Gap Report-2020” released by the UNEP. The current annual adaptation costs in developing countries are around \$70 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of “UN Adaptation Gap Report-2020” – released by the UNEP
- Annual cost of adaptation to the effects of climate change expected to increase 4 times – by 2050
- Current annual adaptation costs in developing countries – \$70 billion
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

19. India has collected just 10% of the electronic waste (e-waste) estimated to have been generated in the country in 2018-19 and 3.5% of that in the generated in 2017-18, as per the report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – collected just 10% of the electronic waste (e-waste) generated in 2018-19 in India
- HQs of CPCB – New Delhi | Chairman – Shri Shiv Das Meena

20. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a report titled “Working from home: From invisibility to Decent Work” on January 13, 2021. The report has focused on 3 types of home-based workers: Artisanal ones like beedi workers, teleworkers and digital worker. The report has highlighted the need to adopt Global Labour Standards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Working from home: From invisibility to Decent Work” – released by ILO
- 3 types of home-based workers are focused: Industrial home-based workers, Teleworkers, Digital workers
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder

21. Karnataka has retained its leadership position in the major States category in the 2nd edition of “India Innovation Index” released by NITI Aayog on January 20. It was followed by Maharashtra. Delhi topped among Union Territories, and Himachal Pradesh among North-Eastern and Hill States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “India Innovation Index” – released by Niti Aayog
- Major States: 1st – Karnataka | 2nd – Maharashtra | 3rd – Tamil Nadu
- UTs: 1st – Delhi
- North-Eastern and Hill States: 1st – Himachal Pradesh

22. The 16th edition of the “Global Risks Report-2021” which is released virtually by World Economic Forum (WEF) on January 19 has added 12 new risks to the previous list. Five of the top 10 global risks in terms of impact and likelihood remain from the environmental category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 16th edition of the “Global Risks Report-2021” – released by WEF
- The report has added 12 new risks to the previous list
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

23. India has stood the 4th in the Global Firepower defense review, as per the “Military Strength Ranking-2021” released on January 19. There are currently 138 countries considered for the Global Firepower (GFP) annual defense review. India is preceded by USA, Russia & China. India has 542 combat aircraft, 37 attack helicopters, 17 submarines, and 4,730 tanks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – stood the 4th in the Global Firepower defense review – as per the “Military Strength Ranking-2021”
- 1st – USA | 2nd – Russia | 3rd – China | 4th – India | 5th – Japan

24. Around 3 billion people across the world cannot afford a healthy diet and 1.9 billion of them are in the Asia-Pacific region, according to a report titled “Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020: Maternal and Child Diets at the Heart of Improving Nutrition” jointly published by the FAO, UNICEF, WFP & the WHO on January 20. At the same time, an estimated 14.5 million children under 5 were overweight or obese in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020: Maternal and Child Diets at the Heart of Improving Nutrition” report – jointly published by FAO + UNICEF + WFP + WHO
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

25. The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) has remained the world's largest derivatives exchange for the second consecutive year in 2020 in terms of number of contracts traded, according to the Futures Industry Association (FIA). In addition, it has been ranked fourth in the world in cash equities by number of trades by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for calendar year 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE – remained the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2020 – according to the Futures Industry Association
- NSE – 4th in the world in cash equities by number of trades by the World Federation of Exchanges
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye

26. According to data from the US agency, the National Science Foundation (NSF), India is currently in third place, only behind China and the United States, with 1,35,788 scientific publications in the year 2018. The NSF database shows that India's growth rate of scientific publication was 12.9%, as against the world average of 4.9%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – currently at the 3rd place in scientific publications | 1st – China | 2nd – USA
- HQs of NSF – Virginia, US | Director – Sethuraman “Panch” Panchanathan

27. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani has moved up to the 11th spot with a total net worth of \$79.2 billion (around Rs 5.78 lakh Cr). Tesla CEO Elon Musk remained the richest man in the world with a net worth of \$202 billion. Close behind him is Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos with a net worth of \$192 billion and Microsoft founder Bill Gates with net worth of \$133 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World’s Richest Persons List” – as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index (as on January 22, 2021)
- 1st – Elon Musk (\$202 Billion) | 2nd – Jeff Bezos (\$192 Billion) | 3rd – Bill Gates (\$133 Billion)
- Mukesh Ambani – 11th

28. The report, titled “Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk” and compiled by United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), says most of the 58,700 large dams worldwide were constructed between 1930 and 1970 with a design life of 50 to 100 years. By 2050, most people on Earth will live downstream of tens of thousands of large dams built in the 20th century. The report said that 32,716 large dams (55% of the world's total) are found in just 4 Asian countries: China, India, Japan and South Korea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk” report – released by UNU-INWEH ([Canada](#))
- The average life expectancy of a dam as per the report is – around 50 years
- 55% of the world's total large dams are found in – China, India, Japan & South Korea

29. Bengaluru has emerged as the world’s fastest-growing mature Tech Ecosystem in the world since 2016, followed by the European cities of London, Munich, Berlin, Paris and Mumbai according to the Dealroom.co data analysed by London & Partners. Bengaluru is also ranked 6th for the world’s Tech Venture Capitalist (VC) investments, on a global list topped by Beijing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bengaluru – emerged as the world’s fastest-growing mature Tech Ecosystem in the world since 2016
- The world’s Tech Venture Capitalist (VC) investments: 1st – Beijing | Bangalore – 6th

30. Indian Sundarbans, which is part of the largest mangrove forest in the world, is home to 428 species of birds, as per the recent publication “Birds of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve” by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The publication has been compiled by 3 scientists - Kaliash Chandra, Gopinathan Maheshwaran and Amitava Majumdar. Sundarbans is home to about 96 Royal Bengal Tigers (as per last census in 2020). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Sundarbans’ is home to 428 species of birds – as per the recent publication by ZSI
- ‘Sundarbans’ is home to about 96 Royal Bengal Tigers (as per last census in 2020)
- Sundarbans – spans from the Hooghly River (West Bengal) to Baleswar River (Bangladesh)

31. Indian billionaires increased their wealth by 35% during the lockdown to ₹ 3 trillion, ranking India after U.S., China, Germany, Russia and France, according to Oxfam’s ‘Inequality Virus Report’ released on the opening day of the World Economic Forum in Davos. Mukesh Ambani has earned ₹90 Cr an hour during pandemic when around 24% of people in India were earning under ₹3,000 a month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Inequality Virus Report” – released by Oxfam (HQs - Nairobi, Kenya) | India – 6th | 1st – USA
- Indian billionaires increased their wealth by 35% during the lockdown to ₹ 3 trillion
- Mukesh Ambani earned ₹90 Cr an hour during pandemic

32. As per the 38th “Investment Trends Monitor” issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), China is the largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2020 with the Chinese economy having brought in \$163 billion in inflows. China's GDP grew 2.3% in 2020. China is the world's second-largest economy. Overall, global FDI has collapsed by 42% to an estimated \$859 billion in 2020. However, FDI in India rose by 13%, boosted by investments in the digital sector. China is followed by the USA with an inflow of \$134 billion in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 38th “Investment Trends Monitor” – issued by UNCTAD
- China – became the largest recipient of FDI in 2020 (2020 – \$163 billion | 2019 – \$140 billion)
- USA – the 2nd largest recipient of FDI in 2020 (2020 – \$134 billion | 2019 – \$251 billion)
- Global FDI – collapsed by 42% in 2020 | FDI in India rose by 13% in 2020
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary General – Mukhisa Kituyi
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

33. India was ranked the seventh worst-hit country in 2019 in the “Global Climate Risk Index 2021”, released by environmental think tank and sustainable development lobbyist Germanwatch published on January 25. Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Bahamas were the worst-affected countries in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Climate Risk Index 2021” – released by lobbyist Germanwatch | India – 7th
- [HQs of Germanwatch – Bonn, Germany](#)

34. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has presided over the foundation day celebrations and launched the decadal year of the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (ICMR-NCDIR), Bengaluru. The 1st of its kind “National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Monitoring Survey (NNMS) 2017-18” was conducted. The results show that, average daily intake of salt was 8 gm and 6.2% adolescents were overweight or obese. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh Vardhan attended the Foundation day celebrations & launched Decadal year of the ICMR-NCDIR (Bengaluru)
- Average daily intake of salt was 8 gm – as per the 1st “National NCD Monitoring Survey 2017-18”
- [HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911](#)

35. On January 28, India's rank has slipped 6 places to 86th with a score of 40 among 180 countries in “Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020” released by Transparency International (TI). A country with a higher score has a higher rank. In 2019, India's score was 41 & ranked at 80th position. This year, New Zealand and Denmark rank at first position with scores of 88. Somalia and South Sudan rank lowest at 179th position with scores of 12. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020” released by Transparency International (TI)
- India – 86th (Score – 40) | Top – New Zealand & Denmark (Score – 88) | Lowest – Somalia & South Sudan (12)
- [HQs of TI – Berlin, Germany | Chairperson – Delia Ferreira Rubio](#)

36. According to the Brand Finance ‘IT Services 25 2021’ report, Accenture has retained the title of world's most valuable and strongest IT services brand with a record brand value of \$26 billion, while IBM continued at the second place with brand value of \$16.1 billion. And Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is now the world's third most-valued IT services brand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Brand Finance ‘IT Services 25 2021’ report: 1st Accenture | 2nd – IBM | 3rd – TCS
- [HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland | CEO – Julie Sweet | MD \(in India\) – Rekha Menon](#)
- [HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna](#)
- [HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan](#)

37. According to a report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), as many as 450 infrastructure projects, each worth Rs 150 Cr or more, have been hit by cost overruns totalling more than Rs 4.28 trillion. Of the 1,687 such projects, 450 reported cost overruns and 558 were delayed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to MoSPI – 450 infrastructure projects, each worth Rs 150 Cr or more, have been hit by cost overruns
- [MoS I/C for Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation – Rao Inderjit Singh](#)

38. On January 28, Maharashtra has ranked first in the 2nd edition of the “India Justice Report (IJR) 2020” released by Tata Trusts. The report judges states on delivery of justice to people. Maharashtra retained its number one position among 18 large and mid-sized states, each with a population of over 1 Cr, followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana. In the small states, with less than 1 Cr population, Tripura has best justice delivery system. Moreover, Telangana has the highest share of women judges at 46.2%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of the “India Justice Report (IJR) 2020” released by Tata Trusts
- Large and mid-sized states: 1st – Maharashtra, 2nd – Tamil Nadu, 3rd – Telangana | Worst – Uttar Pradesh
- Small states: 1st – Tripura | Worst – Meghalaya
- Telangana – the highest share of women judges at 46.2%

39. Almost two-thirds of over 1.2 million people surveyed worldwide have said that climate change is a ‘Global Emergency’, as per the results of “People’s Climate Report” released by the UNDP on January 27. The survey covered 50 countries with over half the world's population. The poll was the world's biggest survey ever of public opinion on climate change. There were 4 Popular Climate Policies among the respondents for tackling Climate Change - Conservation of Forests & Land, Investing more in green businesses & jobs, Solar, Wind & Renewable Power and Climate-friendly farming techniques. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The results of “People’s Climate Report” released by the UNDP
- 4 Popular Climate Policies were among the respondents for tackling Climate Change
- [HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner](#)

40. On January 28, New Zealand and Vietnam were ranked the best performing countries in their response to the pandemic according to the “COVID-19 Performance Index”, released by the Lowy Institute, an Australian think-tank. The index was based on 6 different indicators. India ranked 86 out of 98 countries, while the United States placed 94 and Brazil at the bottom of the index. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “COVID-19 Performance Index” – released by the Lowy Institute ([Australia](#))
- 1st New Zealand & 2nd – Vietnam | India – 86th

41. India ranked 10th out of 11 Asia Pacific countries in a newly-launched “Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index” by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) to measure the progress towards personalised healthcare. The ‘Personalised Health Index’ measures performance against 27 different indicators of personalised health across 4 categories called 'Vital Signs'. These include Policy Context, Health Information, Personalised Technologies and Health Services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index” – launched by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- India – 10th | 1st – Singapore | 2nd – Taiwan | 3rd – Japan
- Health Information category: India – 10th (Score – 41)
- Health Services category: India – 11th (Score – 24)
- Personalised Technologies category: India – 9th (Score – 30)
- Policy Context category: India – 5th (Score – 48)
- HQs of EIU – London, UK | MD & CEO – Robin Bew

42. The “Global Climate Litigation Report: 2020 Status Review” released by the UNEP, provides an overview of the current state of climate change litigation globally, as well as an assessment of global climate change litigation trends. It finds that a rapid increase in climate litigation has occurred around the world. The report also outlines how cases are forcing greater climate disclosures and ending “corporate greenwashing” on the subject of climate change and the energy transition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Climate Litigation Report: 2020 Status Review” – released by the UNEP
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

43. On January 28, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has launched the “Global AI Action Alliance (GAIA)”, an initiative to accelerate the adoption of inclusive, transparent and trusted artificial intelligence. It brings together over 100 leading companies, governments, international organisations, non-profits and academics united in their commitment to maximising AI's societal benefits while minimising its risks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WEF – launched the “Global AI Action Alliance (GAIA)”
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

44. On January 29, Reliance Jio has entered the ranking for the first time this year and claiming the title of the world's 5th strongest brand, as per the “Brand Finance Global 500” 2021 Ranking with a BSI score of 91.7 out of 100 and the elite AAA+ brand strength rating. Despite only being founded in 2016, Jio has quickly become the largest mobile network operator in India and the third largest mobile network operator in the world, with almost 400 million subscribers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Jio – claimed the title of the world's 5th strongest brand as per the “Brand Finance Global 500” 2021 Ranking
- HQs of Reliance Jio – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Pravir Kumar

45. Global tourism has suffered its ‘Worst Year On Record’ in 2020, with international arrivals dropping by 74% and destinations worldwide welcomed 1 billion fewer international arrivals than in the previous year (2019), according to the latest “World Tourism Barometer” by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Tourism Barometer” released by UNWTO – has listed the year 2020 as ‘Worst Year On Record’
- International arrivals dropped by – 74%
- HQs of UNWTO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary-General – Zurab Pololikashvili

46. On January 31, India will emerge as the most resilient economy after Germany in 2021 exhibiting a strong ‘economic resurgence’ to the global economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Germany ranks first in the “PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank - 2021” followed by India and South Korea at second and third positions, respectively, according to the report released by industry body PHDCCI (PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to emerge as the most resilient economy after Germany in 2021
- “PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank”: 1st – Germany | 2nd – India | 3rd – South Korea

47. As per the report, “Upskilling for Shared Prosperity” released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Investment in upskilling has potential to boost the global GDP by \$6.5 trillion by 2030, including by \$570 billion (over Rs 40 lakh Cr) in India alone - the third highest after China and the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Upskilling for Shared Prosperity” report – released by WEF
- Investment in upskilling has potential to boost the global GDP by \$6.5 trillion by 2030 (\$570 billion in India)
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

48. On January 30, NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) has released the report “Mobilising Finance for EVs (Electric Vehicle) in India”. The report highlights the role of finance in the India's transition to EVs and analyses that the transition will require a cumulative capital investment of \$266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh Cr) in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries over the next decade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mobilising Finance for EVs (Electric Vehicle) in India” report – released by NITI Aayog + Rocky Mountain Institute
- India's transition to EVs will require a cumulative capital investment of – \$266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh Cr)
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Rocky Mountain Institute – Colorado, USA | CEO – Jules Kortenhorst

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. SBI Mutual Fund has increased its stake in the CSB bank to over 5.01% from 4.96%. The acquisition was done through open market purchase on January 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Mutual Fund – increased its stake in the CSB bank to over 5.01%
- HQs of SBI Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vinay M. Tonse
- HQs of CSB bank – Thrissur, Kerala | CEO – C. V. Rajendran

2. On January 8, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the 100% acquisition of Columbia Asia Hospitals by Manipal Health Enterprises. The acquisition will be for Rs 2,100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the 100% acquisition (Rs 2,100 Cr) of Columbia Asia Hospitals – by Manipal Health Enterprises
- HQs of Manipal Health Enterprises – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Dilip Jose

3. Migsun Group has announced acquisition of HDFC and Ansal's stake in Ansal IT City Park (SEZ) Tech Zone, Greater Noida. Migsun Group will have 100% stake after acquiring HDFC's 37% stake and the rest of Ansal API. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Migsun Group – acquired 100% stake in “Ansal IT City Park (SEZ) Tech Zone” (37% HDFC + 63% of Ansal API)
- HQs of Migsun Group – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | CMD – Sunil Miglani

4. On January 8, Sipadan Investments (Mauritius) Ltd has sold its remaining 5.46% stake in IDFC Ltd in the open market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sipadan Investments (Mauritius) – sold its remaining 5.46% stake in IDFC Ltd
- HQs of IDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vikram Limaye

5. On January 9, Reliance Infrastructure has successfully sold its entire 74% stake in Parbati Koldam Transmission Company Limited (PKTCL) to India Grid Trust (IndiGrid) for an enterprise value of around Rs 900 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Infrastructure – sold its entire 74% stake in PKTCL – to IndiGrid for Rs 900 Cr
- HQs of Reliance Infrastructure – Navi Mumbai, MH | CEO – Punit Garg
- HQs of IndiGrid – New Delhi | CEO – Harsh Shah

6. On January 11, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of minority stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) by Total Renewables SAS, a wholly owned subsidiary of international energy major Total SE. Meanwhile, the CCI has also approved the acquisition of stake in Ecom by PG Esmeralda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved acquisition of minority stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) – by Total Renewables SAS (Total SE)
- CCI – approved acquisition of Ecom – by PG Esmeralda
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Adani Green Energy – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain
- HQs of Total SE – Paris, France | CEO – Patrick Pouyanne

7. On January 13, Tech Mahindra has agreed to acquire 100% shareholding of Hong Kong based Payments Technology Services, a subsidiary of Fidelity Information Services (FIS) for a cash consideration of \$9 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra agreed to acquire 100% stake (\$9 million) of – Payments Technology Services (Hong Kong)
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

8. Singapore-based Investment Opportunities V Pte Ltd has raised its share holdings in PNB Housing Finance to 9.92% from 8.19% during the quarter ending December 2020. V Pte Ltd now holds 1.67 Cr equity shares in PNB Housing Finance at the end of December. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V Pte Ltd (Singapore) – raised its share holdings in PNB Housing Finance to 9.92% (from 8.19%)
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tag Line – Ghar Ki Baat

9. On January 14, Government of India has decided to sell 10% stake of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) for Rs 2,600 Cr. The government has decided to sell up to 5% of total equity of SAIL through the OFS (Offer for Sale) & has also kept the option to sell another 5% if the issue is oversubscribed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Gov – to sell 10% stake of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) for Rs 2,600 Cr
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal

10. On January 19, Total SE of France has decided to acquire 20% stake in Adani Green Energy (AGEL) and 50% stake in a 2.35 GW portfolio of operating Solar Assets owned by AGEL for \$2.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Total SE – to acquire 20% stake in Adani Green Energy & 50% stake in its operating Solar Assets (for \$2.5 billion)
- HQs of Total SE – Paris, France | CEO – Patrick Pouyanne
- HQs of Adani Green Energy – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain

11. On January 19, J&K Bank has given in-principle approval to transfer 8.23% stake to UT of Ladakh. It is to be noted that the state was divided into UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. So, this 8.23% was held by J & K government which will be transferred to Ladakh government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K Bank – gave in-principle approval to transfer 8.23% stake to UT of Ladakh
- HQs of J&K Bank – Sri Nagar | CEO – R K Chhibber
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

12. Google has finally completed its acquisition of Fitbit, in a huge boost for the tech giant in its attempt to enter the wearable devices market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – completed its acquisition of Fitbit
- HQs of Fitbit – California, USA | CEO – James Park
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

13. On January 21, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved acquisition of Future Group's retail assets by Reliance Retail. Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) is acquiring the retail and wholesale business and the logistics and warehousing business from the Future Group for ₹24,713 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – approved the acquisition for ₹24,713 Cr of Future Group's retail assets – by Reliance Retail
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | ED – G P Garg
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam
- HQs of Future Group Business – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Kishore Biyani

14. On January 21, Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved up-to 20% stake acquisition in Max Life Insurance Company by Axis Bank, Axis Capital and Axis Securities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved up-to 20% stake acquisition in Max Life Insurance – by Axis Bank, Axis Capital and Axis Securities
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

15. On January 21, Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd has planned to sell 24.48% stake in Good Host Spaces Pvt. Ltd for a cash consideration of ₹232.81 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd – to sell 24.48% stake in Good Host Spaces Pvt. Ltd – for a cash consideration of ₹232.81 Cr
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | CEO – Keki Mistry

16. UBS Principal Capital Asia Ltd has sold nearly 40 lakh shares of IndusInd Bank Ltd worth over Rs 366.56 Cr through an open market transaction. The shares of IndusInd Bank were purchased by BofA Securities Europe SA at the same price. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBS Principal Capital Asia Ltd – sold nearly 40 lakh shares of IndusInd Bank Ltd (worth over Rs 366.56 Cr)
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – "We Make You Feel Richer"

17. Adani Total Gas and Torrent Gas have each bought 5% stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). The IGX is India's first gas exchange, which until now was wholly-owned by the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX). Total 10% stake has been valued at ₹7.38 Cr. IGX is an automated trading platform for imported liquefied natural gas (LNG). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Total Gas & Torrent Gas – bought 5% each stake in Indian Gas Exchange (for total ₹7.38 Cr)
- HQs of Adani Total Gas – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Suresh P Manglani
- HQs of Torrent Gas – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Executive Director – Narendra Kumar
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Head – Deepak Mehta

18. On January 29, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Indo Gulf Fertilisers by Indorama India Private Limited (IIPL) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. Indo Gulf Fertilisers is a fertiliser division of Grasim Industries Limited (GIL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved the acquisition of 'Indo Gulf Fertilisers' – by Indorama India Private Limited (IIPL)
- Acquisition approved under – Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Indo Gulf Fertilisers – Mumbai, MH | Director – Rajesh Jain
- HQs of Indorama India Pvt. Ltd – Haldia, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Ashvini Hiran

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. Jammu and Kashmir has signed an MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) for promoting Horticulture produce. After signing of the MoU, NAFED will cover 5,500 Hectares at a cost of Rs 1,700 Cr in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + NAFED = an MoU for promoting Horticulture produce
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh

2. The Indian Army has inked a contract worth Rs. 65 Cr with Goa Shipyard Limited for 12 fast patrol boats for surveillance and patrol of large water bodies, including those in high altitude areas. Their delivery will commence from May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + Goa Shipyard = Rs. 65 Cr contract for 12 fast patrol boats
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal

3. The TRIFED has tied up with Deen Dayal Antyodaya - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) to undertake economic support programmes that helps boost livelihoods especially that of the SHG women, including those from tribal populations of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + DAY-NRLM = tie up to boost livelihoods of Tribal populations especially that of SHG women
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Ministry of Rural Development – Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, Madhya Pradesh)

4. The MoUs were signed among Power Development Department (PDD), NHPC and Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation to make J&K a power surplus region in the country. It will attract Rs 35,000 crore investments besides ensuring 24-hour power supply in the UT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + NHPC + PDD = MoUs to make J&K a power surplus region in India
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh

5. In an effort to bring about reforms in the Information Technology (IT) sector in Jammu and Kashmir, an MoU was signed between National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) and JK IT Infrastructure Development Company for establishing IT towers in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NBCC + JK IT Infrastructure Development = an MoU to establish IT towers in the cities of Jammu & Srinagar
- HQs of NBCC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Shri P K Gupta

6. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has tied-up with the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir to launch “Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT” for the citizens of J&K. The scheme will cover the entire population of J&K irrespective of their economic strata. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz + J & K = to launch “Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT”
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Life – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tarun Chugh
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

7. On January 6, the Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on a basic framework for partnership for proper operation of the system pertaining to “specified skilled worker”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = an MoC on partnership in “Specified Skilled Worker” sector
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

8. On January 5, in order to address this challenge, Tata Power has partnered with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide easy financing scheme for MSME customers in rooftop solar segment with financial aid without any collateral at an interest of less than 10%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power + SIDBI = to provide easy financing scheme for MSME customers in rooftop solar segment
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | CEO – Praveer Sinha
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990

9. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has signed an MoU with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) worth over Rs 8.73 Cr for procurement of 1,71,520 cotton ‘khadi durries’ or mats for various central paramilitary forces. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITBP + KVIC = signed an MoU worth over Rs 8.73 Cr for procurement of 1,71,520 cotton ‘khadi durries’ or mats
- HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | DG – Surjeet Singh Deswal | ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

10. On January 6, the Indian Air Force has signed an MoU with the Institute of Defence Studies and Research (IDSR) that would enable IAF officers to undertake doctoral research and post-graduate programmes in various areas as part of Project Akashdeep. The IDSR is an autonomous institution of Gujarat University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF + IDSR = an MoU to enable IAF officers to undertake doctoral research – under ‘Project Akashdeep’
- IDSR is an autonomous institution of – Gujarat University ([Ahmedabad](#))
- [HQs of IAF – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria](#)

11. On January 6, PhonePe in association with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has announced the launch of ‘Term Life Insurance’ plans starting at Rs 149 on its platform. PhonePe’s users aged 18 to 50 years and earning Rs 1 lakh per annum or above can avail this policy instantly on the platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe + ICICI Prudential Life Ins. = to launch ‘Term Life Insurance’ plans starting at Rs 149
- Criteria to avail this policy: Age – 18 to 50 years | Income – Rs 1 lakh or above per annum
- [HQs of PhonePE – Bangalore, Karnataka](#) | [MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam](#)
- [HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan](#)

12. On January 5, Dell Technologies in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Tata Trusts have developed a mobile application for the management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) at the government Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dell Technologies + MoHFW + Tata Trusts = developed a mobile application for the management of NCDs at PHCs
- [HQs of Dell Tech. – Texas, USA](#) | [CEO – Michael S. Dell](#)

13. As per the MoU signed, University of Cambridge , renowned research institution in the UK, will provide training to teachers and students belonging to government schools in various municipalities in Andhra Pradesh in order to improve their English language proficiency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cambridge University – to train teachers and students of ‘Andhra Pradesh’ schools in English language proficiency
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

14. On January 8, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has signed an agreement with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) to provide its technical expertise in setting up renewable energy (RE) projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC + IREDA = an agreement to provide technical expertise in setting up renewable energy (RE) projects
- [HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana](#) | [MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh](#)
- [HQs of IREDA – New Delhi](#) | [Director – Girish Kumar](#)

15. On January 7, Flipkart has signed an MoU with the Logistics Skill Sector Council (LSC) to set up its 1st Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru to build a skilled and trained workforce for the fast-growing e-commerce industry in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + LSC = an MoU to set up its 1st Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- LSC – an organisation set up by MSDE + NSDC + KSDC

16. On January 8, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed an MoU with National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to establish various clean and energy efficiency interventions at NHAI structures. EESL and NHAI agreed to implement energy efficient, renewable energy projects and e-mobility services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EESL + NHAI = an MoU to establish various clean and energy efficiency interventions
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajeev Sharma
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

17. On January 8, Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Ltd has tied up with Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation to initiate comprehensive insurance covers. It plays a pioneering role in boosting industrial climate in the UTs by providing financial assistance to various Small and Medium Enterprises besides others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Universal Sampo Gen. Ins. + J&K and Ladakh Finance Corporation – tie up for comprehensive insurance covers
- HQs of Universal Sampo Gen. Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sharad Mathur
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

18. Strengthening the India-Israel scientific collaboration, Indian multinational corporation Wipro has signed an MoU with Israel's Tel Aviv University for research and analysis in Quantum Science & Technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro + Tel Aviv (Israel) = an MoU for research and analysis in Quantum Science & Technology
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte

19. On January 11, Telecom company Bharti Airtel and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) have signed an MoU to drive the digital transformation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + NSIC = an MoU to drive the digital transformation MSMEs in India
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of NSIC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vijayendra

20. On January 11, In an effort to enhance the community experience for women entrepreneurs in India, NITI Aayog and Flipkart have come together to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + Flipkart = came together to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

21. On January 13, Jammu and Kashmir & the North-East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) have signed an MoU to set up 3 bamboo clusters in the Jammu region's 3 districts, with the aim of generating employment for 25,000 people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K + NECBDC = an MoU to set up 3 bamboo clusters in the Jammu region
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

22. On January 13, the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) have signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia's V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute for collaboration on the field of marine sciences and technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIO + NGRI + V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute (Russia) = collaboration on marine sciences and technology
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Goa | HQs of CSIR-NGRI – Hyderabad

23. On January 13, the Union Cabinet has approved an MoU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Ministry of Earth Sciences (India) and the National Centre of Meteorology of the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved an MoU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation – between India & UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & MoES – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

24. India and Japan have signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), including 5G standardisation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = an MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

25. Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has become a signatory to Climate Action 100+, which drives focus on clean energy transition and helps achieve the Paris Agreement's goals. Climate Action 100+ is an investor-led initiative to ensure the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters take necessary action on climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra AMC – became a signatory to Climate Action 100+
- HQs of Kotak Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & President – Nilesh Shah

26. On January 14, Madhya Pradesh has signed an MoU with Kerala for replicating Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative. It is a joint declaration under which Kerala will extend a series of services under a 16-point programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh + Kerala = an MoU for Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

27. On January 15, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and UK based Thales have signed a 'Teaming Agreement' to work in partnership on the "STARStreak Air Defence System" with the support of both the Governments of India and the United Kingdom. The system is to be developed under the 'Make in India' programmes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BDL + Thales (UK) = signed a Teaming Agreement to develop "STARStreak Air Defence System" in India
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra

28. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with the Institute for Road Traffic Education (IRTE) and Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh (IDC), to promote road safety and collaborate in the areas of traffic management. Titled as 'Capacity building of Road Safety Management through the Safe Systems Approach Programme,' this arrangement will be effective for two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHAI + IRTE + IDC (Chandigarh) – an MoU to promote road safety
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- HQs of IRTE – New Delhi | President – Rohit Baluja

29. On January 18, "WE Hub" India's first state-led incubator set up by Telangana Government has partnered with "i-Hub" of Gujarat, to encourage women entrepreneurs and support startups in raising capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WE Hub (Telangana) + i-Hub (Gujarat) = partnership to support Women Entrepreneurs
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

30. On January 18, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd (IFFDC) have signed an MoU to work together for Tribal Livelihood Generation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + IFFDC = an MoU to work together for Tribal Livelihood Generation
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- HQs of IFFDC – Gurgaon, Haryana

31. On January 19, BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government to create awareness about benefits of listing among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) of the state. BSE had launched its SME platform in March, 2012. So far 331 companies got listed on the platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE + Maharashtra = an MoU to create awareness about benefits of listing among SMEs of the state
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

32. On January 21, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed an MoU with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to strengthen collaboration in the field of Technical Exchange and co-operation on sustainable Geo-hazard Management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO + MoRTH = an MoU for Technical Exchange & Geo-Hazard Management
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

33. On January 19, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the establishment of a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS). The move will give select researchers, scientists access to Amazon's Braket cloud-based quantum computing service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon Web Services + MeitY = partnership to set up the World's 1st Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos

34. In the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the department of Skill Development has inked an MoU with IIT Jammu to enhance skill and employment of students and staff with exposure to latest technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K dept of Skill Development + IIT Jammu = an MoU to enhance skill and employment of students and staff
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

35. On January 20, Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) Ltd has signed an agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for utilisation of 500 km of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) telecom network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PGCIL + Himachal Pradesh = an agreement for utilisation of 500 km of Optical Ground Wire telecom network
- HQs of PGCIL – Gurgaon, Haryana | CMD – Kandikuppa Sreekant
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

36. On January 20, the Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in solar energy. The main area of work is to identify research, demonstration and pilot projects between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the International Solar Energy Institute (ISEI), Uzbekistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the signing of MoU between India & Uzbekistan for cooperation in Solar Energy
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

37. On January 22, a tripartite agreement is signed among Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL), Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Ltd (RSMML) and the Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) of Rajasthan for taking up feasibility studies of solution mining of potash in Rajasthan. Rajasthan has huge potash and halite resources spread across 50,000 sq kms in the Nagaur - Ganganagar basin in the northwest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MECL + RSMML + DMG = a Tripartite Agreement for solution mining of Potash in Rajasthan
- HQs of MECL – Nagpur, Maharashtra | CMD – Dr. Ranjit Rath
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

38. On January 21, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) to offer over 200 free e-learning courses through eSkillIndia platform of NSDC for skill seekers in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSDC + California State University = partnership to offer over 200 free e-learning courses
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

39. On January 23, the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has signed an MoU with IIT Roorkee for continuation of MoRTH Professorial Chair focusing on research and development, teaching and training in the area of Development of Highway Infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRTH + IIT Roorkee = for continuation of MoRTH Professorial Chair
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

40. On January 22, Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation has entered into an MoU with IIM-Indore for 3 years with intent to introduce effective policy improvements aimed at developing an ecosystem for industries and businesses in the state. It is a move towards the roadmap of achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh + IIM-Indore = an MoU for 3 years for the roadmap of achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh'
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

41. The Framework for Strategic Partnership between the International Energy Agency (IEA) members and the Government of India was signed on 27th January, 2021 to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation & enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability. The MoU was signed by Power Secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai and IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEA + India = a strategic partnership agreement to strengthen Mutual Trust & enhance Global Energy Security
- Power Secretary – Sanjiv Nandan Sahai
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

42. Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles has signed an MoU with M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre (Japan) to boost export of Textile and Apparel to Japanese market. The Cabinet had given the approval for this MoU on 2nd September, 2020. India and Japan have already signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2011 which facilitates import of garments from India to Japan at zero duty. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Textiles (India) + M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre (Japan) = an MoU to boost export of Textile
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women & Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Amethi, Uttar Pradesh)

43. On the eve of India's 72nd Republic Day, India and Bangladesh have signed an MoU to design, make and launch a Student Satellite TV for PC to be developed by students from both countries. The Indian side was represented by the Chennai-based Space Kidz India (SKI) & Bangladesh side was represented by Global Law Thinkers Society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Bangladesh = an MoU to design, make and launch a Student Satellite TV for PC
- HQs of Space Kidz India – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Srimathy Kesan
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

44. On January 29, an agreement was signed between CSIR and Ladakh UT to accelerate its development through Science & Technology(S&T) interventions. The MoU was signed by Dr. D. Srinivas Reddy (Director of CSIR-IIIM). The MoU is aimed at development in the areas such as bioresource utilization endemic to Ladakh, introduction of cash crops in the region and exploration of natural resources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR + Ladakh – an MoU to accelerate its development through S&T interventions
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande
- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

45. Karnataka has signed an MoU with global e-commerce giant Amazon India to help drive e-commerce exports from the state. Under the MoU, Amazon will train and onboard MSMEs from the State on Amazon Global Selling, its Exports Program, enabling them to sell their unique Made in India products globally to millions of Amazon customers across 200 plus countries and territories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka + Amazon = an MoU to help drive e-commerce exports
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos



Books & Authors

1. On January 6, a book titled “India’s 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia” was launched. The book, a Bradman Museum initiative, is authored by senior cricket scribe R. Kaushik. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India’s 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia” book – authored by R. Kaushik

2. The RBI officer R. Giridharan has penned a novel titled “Right Under our Nose”. A general manager at RBI, Giridharan said that his job had an influence on his debut book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Right Under our Nose” a novel – authored by R. Giridharan

3. On January 8, Manipur Governor Dr Najma Heptulla has released a book titled “Making of a General - A Himalayan Echo” authored by (Redt) Lt. Gen. Konsam Himalay Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – released a book titled “Making of a General - A Himalayan Echo”
- The book is authored by – Konsam Himalay Singh

4. Rapper Lil Nas X has launched a picture book, titled “C is for Country” that will take the readers from ages 3 to 7 on an alphabetical journey. The Grammy winner, whose real name is Montero Lamar Hill, officially released the book on January 5. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “C is for Country” picture book – written by Lil Nas X (Montero Lamar Hill)

5. “Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China” by Romila Thapar is her diary of several months spent in China in 1957 studying the remarkable murals and sculpture at Dunhuang and Maijishan on the Silk Routes. The book “Power Shift: India-China Relations in a Multipolar World” by Zorawar Daulet Singh examines India-China relations in the current geopolitical context and should be on every India-China watcher’s list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China” – written by Romila Thapar
- “Power Shift: India-China Relations in a Multipolar World” – written by Zorawar Daulet Singh

6. On January 11, a book titled “Unscripted” on conversations on life and cinema is written by leading filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra and award-winning writer Abhijat Joshi. The book is published by Penguin house. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Unscripted” book – authored by Vidhu Vinod Chopra & Abhijat Joshi

7. A coffee table book titled “Modi India Calling – 2021” filled with over hundreds of photographs of PM Narendra Modi from his 107 overseas and bilateral visits was released on the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 8. The book is the brainchild of senior BJP leader Vijay Jolly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A coffee table book titled “Modi India Calling – 2021” – launched on 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- The book is authored by – Vijay Jolly

8. On January 12, the 17th Chief Election Commissioner of India Shahabuddin Yaqoob Quraishi (S Y Quraishi) will come out with a book title “The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India” on February 15. The book evaluates India's demographics from a religious perspective. The book delves into the Quran and the Hadith to show how Islam might have been one of the first religions in the world to actually advocate smaller families. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India” book – authored by S Y Quraishi

9. In his latest book “Ten Lessons For a Post-Pandemic World”, Fareed Zakaria writes about how the world is set to undergo significant behavioural changes in the aftermath of Pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Ten Lessons For a Post-Pandemic World” book – authored by Fareed Zakaria

10. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has recently released a book “Manohar Parrikar – Off the Record” written by journalist and author Waman Prabhu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Manohar Parrikar – Off the Record” book – authored by Waman Prabhu | released by – Pramod Sawant
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji](#) | [CM – Pramod Sawant](#) | [Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari](#)

11. The book “Abdul Kalam-Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai” (Immortal Memories) has been penned by A P J M Nazema Maraikayar, the niece of the former President of India, Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The book has been released by M. Venkaiah Naidu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Abdul Kalam-Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai” book – written by Dr. A. P. J. M. Nazema Maraikayar
- The book is released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

12. On January 16, Historian-author Audrey Truschke's new book “The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Muslim Pasts” will analyse a hitherto overlooked group of histories on Indo-Muslim or Indo-Persian political events through a few dozen Sanskrit texts that date from the 1190s until 1721. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Muslim Pasts” book – Audrey Truschke

13. On January 20, the Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a book titled “A textbook of Urban Planning and Geography” written by Dr. Sameer Sharma, Director General and CEO of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released a book titled “A textbook of Urban Planning and Geography”
- The book is written by – Dr. Sameer Sharma

14. On January 17, the story of Aadhaar, as narrated in “The Making of Aadhaar: World’s Largest Identity Platform”, sounds like the story of the average startup. The author of this book is Ram Sewak Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Making of Aadhaar: World’s Largest Identity Platform” book – authored Ram Sewak Sharma

15. A new book titled “Flying Blind: India’s Quest for Global Leadership” by foreign affairs consultant Mohamed Zeeshan argues that India needs a more coherent strategy for its relations with the outside world in order to fulfil its domestic development needs and global leadership aspirations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Flying Blind: India's Quest for Global Leadership” book – authored by Mohamed Zeeshan

16. “India 2030: The Rise of a Rajasic Nation” is a collection of essays authored & edited by Observer Research Foundation vice president Gautam Chikermane. These are 20 forecasts by 20 thought leaders on 20 themes. The book was published by Penguin Random House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India 2030: The Rise of a Rajasic Nation” book – edited & authored by Gautam Chikermane

17. On January 24, Justice N. V. Ramana has virtually launched a book “The Law of Emergency Powers: Comparative Common Law Perspectives” co-authored by senior advocate A. M. Singhvi. The book makes an in-depth analysis on provisions of ‘Article 356’ of the Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justice N. V. Ramana – launched a book “The Law of Emergency Powers: Comparative Common Law Perspectives”
- The books is co-authored by – A.M. Singhvi

18. Journalist Mihir Dalal’s book “Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story” was announced as the winner of the “Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2020”. With a purse of Rs 15 lakh for the winner, it is the biggest business book prize in the country. The book recounts how the Bansals built Flipkart into a multi-billion-dollar company and redefined India’s e-commerce. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story” book – authored by Mihir Dalal
- The book has won – “Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2020” | Prize – Rs 15 lakh (the biggest business book prize)

19. “Soumitra Chatterjee: A Life in Cinema, Theatre, Poetry & Painting”, a book written by Arjun Sengupta and Partha Mukherjee and published by Niyogi Books was recently released virtually on 19th January 2021, the 86th birth anniversary of Soumitra Chatterjee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Soumitra Chatterjee: A Life in Cinema, Theatre, Poetry & Painting” – written by Arjun Sengupta & Partha Mukherjee
- Published by – Niyogi Books on 86th birth anniversary of Soumitra Chatterjee

20. Canadian Olympian sprinter Andre De Grasse is writing a picture book for children aged 6-10 years. Titled “Race With Me!”, the motivational book is expected to be out in July 2021. The picture book is co-authored by De Grasse and Robert Budd, and it is illustrated by Joseph Osei Bonsu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Race With Me!” motivational book – authored by Andre De Grasse ([Canada - Sprinter](#))
- Co-authored by – Robert Budd | illustrated by – Joseph Osei Bonsu
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar](#) | [PM – Justin Trudeau](#)

21. Priyanka Chopra has giggled excitedly when she got first copy of memoir “Unfinished”. The book will be released on February 9, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Unfinished” memoir of – Priyanka Chopra Jonas (to be released on 9th Feb)

22. A Canadian-American actor-writer Seth Rogen is set to make his book debut with “Yearbook”, which will be released on May 11. Billed as a collection of “true stories and essays”, the book is published by Penguin Random House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Yearbook” a book – written by Seth Rogen (Canadian-American)

23. Pavan C Lall’s “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor” is an attempt to trace Kapoor’s rise and quell some of this curiosity, especially for readers who may not be well versed with the myriad twists that led to the bank’s troubles, and his own. Rana Kapoor is the co-founder and former Managing Director and CEO of YES Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor” book – authored by Pavan C Lall
- [Rana Kapoor – is the co-founder & former MD and CEO of YES Bank](#)
- [HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar](#) | [Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”](#)

Obituaries

1. India's 1975 Hockey World Cup-winning and 1972 Olympics bronze winning team member Michael Kindo has passed away. He was 73. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Michael Kindo – a Hockey Player – passed away
- Winner of: India's 1975 Hockey World Cup & 1972 Olympics bronze

2. Senior Congress leader and former Home Minister Buta Singh has passed away recently on January 2. A prominent Dalit leader in the Congress, he was convener of the All India Congress Committee's (AICC) Harijan cell in 1973-74, after which he became the AICC general secretary in 1978. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Buta Singh – a Politician (Congress) – passed away (Former Home Minister)

3. Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar, a highly decorated Army officer and a 'death-defying' mountaineer has passed away recently. He was 84. He was the first to scale Mount Nanda Devi in 1964. In 1965, Col Kumar was awarded Padma Shri and later Arjuna Award for the Everest expedition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar – an Army officer & a Mountaineer – passed away (Padma Shri – 1965)
- He was the first to scale – Mount Nanda Devi (1964)

4. On January 2, Former-Malian prime minister 'Modibo Keita' has passed away at the age of 78. He headed the government in 2002 and from January 2015 to April 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Modibo Keita – Former PM of Mali – passed away
- [Mali – Bamako – CFA franc | President – Bah Ndaw](#)

5. On January 3, Poet and lyricist Anil Panachooran has passed away. He was 55. He continued to write lyrics consistently for Malayalam films. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Panachooran – Malayalam Poet and lyricist – passed away

6. On January 4, Veteran Congressman and former Maharashtra Minister Vilas Patil Undalkar, a seven-time MLA from Karad, has passed away. He was 82. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vilas Patil Undalkar – a Politician (INC) – passed away (7-time MLA from Karad, Maharashtra)

7. On January 6, Bob Brett has passed away. He was 67. He was an Australian Tennis Coach whose players included Grand Slam champions Boris Becker, Goran Ivanisevic and Marin Cilic. Brett received the ATP's Tim Gullickson Career Coach award in November. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bob Brett (Australia) – a Tennis Coach of Australia's team – passed away (ATP's Tim Gullickson Career Coach award)

8. Colin Bell, one of Manchester City's greatest Football players, has passed away recently on January 5. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Colin Bell – a Football player – passed away

9. Canadian indigenous actor Taran Kootenayoo, best known for the 2018 indie film Bella Ciao, has passed away recently at the age of 27. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taran Kootenayoo (Canada) – an Actor – passed away
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau](#)

10. On January 5, Tamil writer and Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award recipient A. Madhavan has passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 87. He was selected for the 'Kendra Sahitya Akademi' award in 2015 for his collection of essays Ilakkiya Chuvadukal. He was also a recipient of 'Kalai Mamani Award' in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A. Madhavan – Tamil writer – passed away ('Kendra Sahitya Akademi' award in 2015)
- "Kalai Mamani Award" – the highest recognition bestowed on writers and artists – by Tamil Nadu Government
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

11. On January 7, Popular fashion designer Satya Paul has passed away. He was 79 years old. Born in 1942, Paul founded the eponymous label 'Satya Paul' in 1985. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satya Paul – a Fashion designer – passed away

12. On January 7, the world's oldest living first-class cricketer Alan Burgess has passed away at the age of 100. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alan Burgess (New Zealand) – a Cricketer – passed away
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | PM – Jacinda Ardern](#)

13. Veteran Congress leader Madhavsingh Solanki has passed away recently on January 9. He served as the chief minister of Gujarat four times and also as a Union Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhavsingh Solanki – a Politician (Congress) – passed away (4 times CM of Gujarat)
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

14. Neil Sheehan (Cornelius Mahoney Sheehan), an American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author has passed away recently. He was 84. Mr. Sheehan, who covered the war from 1962 to 1966 for United Press International and The Times, was also the author of “A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam” which won a National Book Award and a Pulitzer in 1989. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neil Sheehan – an American Journalist – passed away (Pulitzer Prize in 1989)
- “A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam” book – authored by Neil Sheehan

15. Chitra Ghosh, the youngest daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose and niece of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, has passed away on January 7, 2021. Ghosh authored many books too. These include Mother of my Heart: The Story of Bivabati Bose, Women Movement Politics in Bengal and Opening the Closed Windows. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chitra Ghosh – a Professor – passed away
- She was the youngest daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose & niece of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

16. On January 11, Veteran journalist, writer and Padma Shri awardee Turlapati Kutumba Rao has passed away. He was 89-years old. He worked as editor and editorial writer of Telugu newspaper Andhra Jyothi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Turlapati Kutumba Rao – Telugu Journalist & Writer – passed away (Padma Shri in 2002)

17. On January 11, Renowned Astrophysicist Professor Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre has passed away recently at the age of 84. He was a recipient of Padma Bhushan and was a stalwart of the Indian astronomy community, particularly solar physics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre – Astrophysics Professor – passed away

18. Noted Social Activist D. Prakash Rao has passed away in Cuttack, Odisha. He was 63. Rao was a Padma Shri awardee & known for his contribution towards imparting education to slum and orphan children in Cuttack. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D. Prakash Rao ([Odisha](#)) – a Social Activist – passed away
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

19. On January 9, Indian-American novelist Ved Mehta has passed away at the age of 86. He overcame blindness and became widely known as the 20th century writer most responsible for introducing American readers to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ved Mehta – Indian-American Writer – passed away

20. Former Union minister and businessman Kamal Mahavirprasad Morarka has passed away recently in January, 2021. He was 74. He was a Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office in the Chandra Sekhar-led government between 1990 and 1991. He was also a Rajya Sabha MP, nominated by the JD (S) from Rajasthan, between 1988 and 1994. He was incumbent president of Samajwadi Janata Party (Chandra Shekhar). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kamal Mahavirprasad Morarka – a Politician (SJP) & a renowned Businessman – passed away
- MoS in the Prime Minister's Office – between 1990 and 1991 | Rajya Sabha MP – from Rajasthan
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

21. On January 15, former Member of Parliament and vice-president of Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC) party, BS Gnanadesikan has passed away in Chennai. He was 71. One of the seasoned politicians in Tamil Nadu, Gnanadesikan was elected to the Rajya Sabha twice from 2001-2007 and from 2007-2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BS Gnanadesikan (Tamil Nadu) – a Politician – passed away (Party – TMC | 2 times RS member from TN)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

22. On January 18, Legendary Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan has passed away recently. He was 89. He was born on March 3, 1931 in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, followed by Padma Bhushan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan – Indian classical musician – passed away
- Padma Shri – 1991 | Padma Bhushan – 2006 | Padma Vibhushan – 2018

23. On January 19, Senior Oncologist and chairperson of the Adyar Cancer Institute Dr V Shanta has passed away. She was 93. She received Padma Shri (1986) and Padma Bhushan (2006). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr V Shanta – Oncologist & Chairperson of the Adyar Cancer Institute – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri (1986) & Padma Bhushan (2006)

24. On January 19, Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and senior Congress leader Mata Prasad has passed away due to multiple organ failure. He represented the party as an MLA from Shahganj (reserved) seat for five terms (1957-1974) and was a member of the legislative council from 1980 to 1992. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mata Prasad – a Politician – passed away (Party – Congress | Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh)
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra](#)

25. On January 20, Veteran actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri has passed away in Kannur, Kerala. He was 98. He had tested positive for COVID-19 recently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Unnikrishnan Namboothiri (Kerala) – a Malayalam Actor – passed away
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

26. On January 22, Popular Bhajan singer Narendra Chanchal has passed away. He was best known for his songs "Chalo bulawa aaya hai" and "Tune mujhe bulaya sherawaliye". In 2009, Chanchal had released his autobiography "Midnight Singer". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Chanchal – a Bhajan singer – passed away
- Autobiography of Narendra Chanchal – "Midnight Singer" (in 2009)

27. On January 23, Iconic TV & radio interviewer Larry King from America has passed away. He won an 'Emmy award for Lifetime Achievement' in 2011. In 1978, he started a nightly coast-to-coast radio talk show on the Mutual Radio Network, called "The Larry King Show". He was known for hosting CNN's popular show "Larry King Live". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Larry King (USA) – Iconic TV & radio interviewer – passed away
- He won 'Emmy award for Lifetime Achievement' in 2011
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

28. Well-known poet, historian, author and retired bureaucrat Narendra Luther has passed away. He was 88. Born in Hoshiarpur in Punjab in 1932, he began his stint in Indian administrative service in Kurnool in 1956 and was posted to Hyderabad in 1959. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Luther – Poet, Historian, Author & Retired Bureaucrat – passed away

29. On January 27, Oscar-winning American actress & comedian Cloris Leachman has passed away at the age of 94. She received Oscar in 1971 for her portrayal of a lonely housewife in 'The Last Picture Show'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cloris Leachman (USA) – Actress & Comedian – passed away (Oscar in 1971)
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

30. Former India goalkeeper Prasanta Dora, who also played for the big 3 clubs of Kolkata football, has passed away recently on January 26. He was 45. Prasanta made his national debut in 1999 against Thailand in the Olympic qualifiers. He also represented Bengal in the Santosh Trophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasanta Dora – a Football Player – passed away

31. On January 28, Patna-based Social Scientist and popular Economist Shaibal Gupta has passed away. Mr. Gupta founded the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) in 1991 and was member-secretary of it since the beginning. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaibal Gupta ([Bihar](#)) – Social Scientist & popular Economist – passed away
- [HQs of ADRI – Patna, Bihar | Founder – Shaibal Gupta](#)

32. Paul Jozef Crutzen has passed away on January 28. He was 87. He received a Nobel in Chemistry and revealed threats to the ozone layer and also developed the concept of “Nuclear Winter”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paul J. Crutzen (Netherlands) – a Meteorologist and atmospheric Chemist – passed away



Person in News

1. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has set up a 7-member committee to consider the issue of holding Common Entrance Test (CET) at undergraduate level only from the next academic year in central universities to provide a single platform for admission. The committee is headed by Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab Raghavendra P. Tiwari. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UGC – set up a 7-member committee to consider the issue of holding CET exam at undergraduate level
- The committee is headed by – R. P. Tiwari (Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab)
- [HQs of UGC – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Prof D. P. Singh](#) | [Founded in – 1956](#)

2. The Finance Ministry has stated that Benefit of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme will be extended to all export goods from January 1, 2021. India's exports fell 8.74% in November, steeper than 5.12% dip in October at \$23.52 billion. The RoDTEP rates, conditions and exclusions would be specified by the department of commerce, based on recommendation of the GK Pillai committee that are expected soon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A committee chaired by GK Pillai – made recommendations on “RoDTEP” scheme
- RoDTEP – Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products
- India's exports fell 8.74% in November

3. Ministry of External Affairs has set up a high-level group named the “South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)” headed by former Union power secretary Ram Vinay Shahi to build a South Asia-focused energy security architecture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of External Affairs – set up “South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)” – headed by Ram Vinay Shahi
- [Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar](#) | [Constituency – Gujarat](#)

4. On January 6, a 10-member committee has been constituted under Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy to find an appropriate solution to the issues related to language, culture and conservation of land in the Union Territory of Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A committee is constituted to protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh – headed by G. Kishan Reddy
- [MoS for Home Affairs – G. Kishan Reddy](#)

5. Argentine filmmaker Pablo Cesar is named as Chairman of the international jury of the 51st edition of “International Film Festival of India” (IFFI) to be held in Goa. Bangladesh will be the focus country at the 51st IFFI starting at Goa on January 16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pablo Cesar ([Argentina](#)) – will head international jury of the 51st edition of IFFI ([Goa](#))

- Focus country at the 51st IFFI – Bangladesh
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez

6. On January 10, the central government has appointed former TRAI chief RS Sharma as the chairperson of a 10-member empowered committee for administration of Covid-19 vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RS Sharma – appointed as Chairperson of a 10-member committee for administration of Covid-19 vaccine
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P D Vaghela

7. On January 7, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has reached Colombo for a 3-day visit during which he held discussions with Sri Lanka's top leadership on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. It is his first foreign visit of the year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S Jaishankar – visited Colombo, Sri Lanka for a 3-day visit (His 1st foreign visit of 2021)
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

8. On January 7, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has set up a Technical Expert Group to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5). The committee is chaired by Joint Secretary Preeti Pant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHFW set up – a Technical Expert Group to examine the adverse findings from NFHS-5
- The committee is chaired by – Preeti Pant
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

9. After UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called-off his India visit, the Indian-origin President of Republic of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi is likely to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day parade on January 26, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandrikapersad Santokhi (Suriname) – to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day parade on January 26, 2021
- Suriname – Paramaribo – Dollar | President – Chandrikapersad (Chan) Santokhi

10. On January 13, Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a Health Insurance advisory committee to examine the availability of products and to improve the product quality & coverage of the health insurance. The 10-member committee will be chaired by Subhash Chandra Khuntia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – constituted a Health Insurance advisory committee – chaired by Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

11. On January 15, Google has showcased a doodle celebrating the legacy of Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian-American physical educator, professor, doctor and coach, who invented the Basketball game. He invented the basketball game in 1891. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google showcased a doodle celebrating the legacy of Dr. James Naismith (Canada) – inventor of Basketball (1891)

12. Kamala Harris made history by becoming the first female, first Indian American and first Black vice president-elect of the US. Her husband, Douglas Emhoff has also made history by becoming the first-ever second gentleman of the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Douglas Emhoff – made history by becoming the first-ever second gentleman of the US
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris](#)

13. Flight lieutenant Bhawana Kanth is set to become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade. She will be a part of the Indian Air Force's (IAF's) tableau. Along with Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh, Kanth was inducted into the IAF as the first women fighter pilots in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhawana Kanth – to become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade

14. To mark the National Girl Child Day, Haridwar teenager Srishti Goswami has taken charge as the chief minister of Uttarakhand for one day on January 24. Goswami, a student of BSc Agriculture, lives in Daulatpur village of the district. The one-day chief minister will administer from Gairsain, the summer capital of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Srishti Goswami – took charge as the CM of Uttarakhand for one day on January 24
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

Science & Technology

1. NASA has approved two heliophysics missions to explore the Sun and space weather near Earth. The 2 approved missions are Extreme Ultraviolet High-Throughput Spectroscopic Telescope Epsilon Mission (EUVST) and Electrospect Zeeman Imaging Explorer (EZIE). The EUVST Mission is led by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), in partnership with other international organisations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – approved 2 heliophysics missions to explore the Sun and Earth’s Aurora – “EUVST” & “EZIE”
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine](#)

2. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given nod to 2 Coronavirus vaccines, “Covishield” developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and the other is “Covaxin” developed by Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DCGI – approved 2 Coronavirus vaccines “Covishield” (by AstraZeneca) & “Covaxin” (by Bharat Biotech)
- [The Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\) – V G Somani](#)

3. Using Low Frequency Array (LOFAR), a radio telescope, in the Netherlands, a team of researchers from Cornell University has discovered emission bursts from the ‘Tau Bootes’ exoplanet system, 51 light-years away from the earth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “LOFAR” a radio telescope in Netherlands discovered the 1st ever radio signal 51 light years away from the Earth
- The signals were detected from the – ‘Tau Bootes’ - a Star System
- LOFAR – Low Frequency Array
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#)

4. Google has announced the launch of its new ‘Insight Tools’ for the travel industry in India. Travel Insights with Google will provide “demand trends to sector participants” in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – to launch its new ‘Insight Tools’ for the travel industry in India
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)

5. On January 8, the Pakistan military has conducted a test flight of a guided multi-launch rocket system (GMLRS) - “Fatah-1”. The indigenously developed weapon system is designed to be able to carry a conventional warhead up to a range of 140km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan military – conducted a test flight of “Fatah-1” a guided multi-launch rocket system (GMLRS)
- Strike range of “Fatah-1” – 140 km
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi](#)

6. The ISRO has outlined plans to develop reusable and heavy lift launchers, advanced propulsion and foster private space activities across the 2020s. The Aditya-L1 solar mission and a first Indian Data Relay Satellite are also expected in 2021 or early 2022. A first, uncrewed flight for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight project is planned for late 2021 or early in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya-L1 (1st Solar Mission of ISRO) + Gaganyaan-3 (3rd Solar Mission of ISRO) + Data Relay Satellite + Gaganyaan project (India's 1st unmanned flight) = to be launched by late in 2021 or early in 2022
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

7. On January 9, Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) “Sagar Anveshika” at Chennai Port Trust. It is a coastal research vessel for strengthening scientific research about various issues inside the ocean. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) - “Sagar Anveshika” – at Chennai Port Trust
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi)

8. Microsoft Teams has announced a new feature “Virtual Breakout Rooms” to allow you to divide your meeting into smaller groups for discussions and brainstorming. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched a ‘Virtual Breakout Rooms’ feature
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella

9. On January 9, A new species of fruit fly ‘Euphranta siruvani’ discovered from Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu is named after Siruvani, an ecological hotspot in the Western Ghats. The discovery has been published in the Zootaxa journal recently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new species of fruit fly “Euphranta siruvani” – discovered in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- The discovery is published in – ‘Zootaxa’ journal
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

10. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has targeted the final test of ‘world’s most powerful rocket’ called “Hot Fire” on January 17. This is the final test of an 8-part ‘Green Run’ test series which will gradually bring together the core stage of the agency’s Space Launch System (SLS) to life for the very first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – targeted the final test of ‘world’s most powerful rocket’ called “Hot Fire”
- HQs of NASA – Washington, D.C., United States | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

11. On January 11, ISRO will adopt 100 'Atal Tinkering Labs' across India to promote scientific temperament among students and encourage them for space education and space technology related innovations. This decision was taken by ISRO and Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO will adopt 100 'Atal Tinkering Labs' across India – to promote scientific temperament among students
- The decision was taken by = ISRO + AIM (Niti Aayog)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

12. On January 12, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has announced to launch its new flagship rocket "H3" for paving the way for next-generation transportation technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JAXA – to launch its new flagship rocket "H3"
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | Administrator – Hiroshi Yamakawa

13. On January 12, the 4 leading organisations have announced the establishment of a 'Global Ebola Vaccine' stockpile to ensure outbreak response. The 4 organisation include - WHO, UNICEF, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). The injectable single-dose Ebola vaccine is manufactured by Merck, Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Corp. Ebola was first discovered in 1976 in Congo. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO + UNICEF + IFRC + MSF = collaborated to establish a 'Global Ebola Vaccine' stockpile
- Ebola was first discovered – in 1976 in Congo
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of IFRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Francesco Rocca
- HQs of MSF – Geneva, Switzerland

14. On January 14, Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art, a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Archaeologists discovered the world's oldest known cave art (a picture of a wild pig) – in Indonesia
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

15. On January 17, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has entered into Technology Transfer Agreements with the Pune-based Biorad Medisys for 2 biomedical implants - an Atrial Septal Defect Occluder and an Intracranial Flow Diverter Stent. India's 1st Indigenous stent has been developed by the institute in collaboration with National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, using superelastic Nitinol alloys. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SCTIMST + Biorad Medisys (Pune) = for Atrial Septal Defect Occluder & Intracranial Flow Diverter Stent

- India's 1st Indigenous Intracranial Flow Diverter Stent – developed by National Aerospace Laboratories (Bangalore)
- HQs of SCTIMST – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | Director – Asha Kishore

16. On January 20, Pakistan has successfully test-fired “Shaheen-III”, a Nuclear-capable Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile which can strike targets up to 2,750 kilometres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired “Shaheen-III” - a Nuclear-capable Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile
- Strike range of this missile – 2,750 km
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

17. Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit has reached space for the first time with a successful test of its air-launched rocket namely a modified 'Boeing 747' nicknamed “Cosmic Girl” delivering 10 NASA satellites to orbit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virgin Orbit's modified 'Boeing 747' (nickname: Cosmic Girl) air-launched delivering 10 NASA satellites to orbit
- HQs of Virgin Orbit – California, USA | President & CEO – Dan Hart | Founder – Richard Branson

18. On January 19, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid foundation stone of 'Science City' at Tepesia for popularising science and technology at the grassroots with an expenditure of Rs 184 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam laid foundation stone of 'Science City' at Tepesia, in Guwahati, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

19. On January 23, two new species of a rare ant genus have been discovered in Kerala and Tamil Nadu by a team of scientists from Punjabi University. One of the two species found in the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala has been named 'Ooceraea Joshii' in honour of professor Amitabh Joshi. The other named 'Ooceraea decamera' was discovered from Alagarkoil in Madurai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2 new species of Ant – discovered in Kerala and Tamil Nadu by a team of scientists from Punjabi University
- Periyar Tiger Reserve – Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

20. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) will launch its new flagship “H3 rocket” which is intended to fully replace the older, active “H-IIA rocket” after 2023. The cost is aimed at about 5 billion yen (\$48.2 million). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JAXA – to launch its new flagship “H3 rocket” | It will replace “H-IIA rocket” after 2023
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | Administrator – Hiroshi Yamakawa

21. On January 26, Elon Musk’s SpaceX has managed to break the world record of the most number of satellites carried by a single rocket as Falcon 9 carried as many as 143 payloads into space. The launch was part of SpaceX’s SmallSat Rideshare Program mission. Previously, the record was 104 satellites being deployed on a single mission, achieved by the ISRO in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – broke the world record of the most number of satellites carried by a single rocket
- SpaceX’s ‘Falcon 9 rocket’ carried as many as 143 satellites (‘Falcon 9’ is World’s 1st Orbital-class reusable rocket)
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

22. On January 23, CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) Durgapur has unveiled ‘Aqua Rejuv’, the first-ever Waste Water Treatment Technology Model which purifies Waste Water for Irrigation/Farming purposes. Aqua Rejuvenation Plant (ARP) is an Integrated Waste Water Rejuvenation Model which has Six-Stage purification profile. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-CMERI (Durgapur) – unveiled ‘Aqua Rejuv’ - the 1st ever Waste Water Treatment Technology Model
- ARP – Aqua Rejuvenation Plant
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

23. NASA has shared pictures of a huge cluster of galaxies called “Abell 370”. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope shared this image on its official Instagram account on January 19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – shared pictures of a huge cluster of galaxies called “Abell 370”
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

24. On January 25, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the maiden test of the New Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG) from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha. It is a new generation Surface to Air Missile meant for use by Indian Air Force with an aim of intercepting high maneuvering low RCS (Radar Cross Section) aerial threats. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – tested “New Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG)” off the coast of Odisha (Surface to Air Missile)
- RCS – Radar Cross Section
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

25. 12 students of Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology with support from faculty have developed the satellite namely “Sri Shakti Sat” which the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch on February 28. The satellite weighed around 500 gm was developed at the cost of ₹2 Cr and would be pushed into orbit by ISRO’s PSLV C-51. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO will launch “Sri Shakti Sat” on February 28 (to be launched by ISRO’s PSLV C-51)
- “Sri Shakti Sat” is a Nano satellite designed by 12 college students | Cost: ₹2 Cr | Weight: 500 gm
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

26. Scientists boring more than a mile deep into Antarctic ice have unearthed a yellow-brown mineral, called “Jarosite” which is rarely seen on the Earth but found in abundance on Mars. The Opportunity rover first discovered Jarosite on Mars in 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists in Antarctica have unearthed a yellow-brown mineral called “Jarosite”
- “Jarosite” is rarely seen on Earth but found in abundance on Mars (It was first discovered on Mars in 2004)



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. The U.S. Congress has passed the “Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act” which will expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women to receive higher education under a merit and needs-based programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – passed the “Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act” – to avail scholarships to Pakistani women
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

2. On January 7, the Centre has promulgated an ordinance namely “The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance 2021” to merge the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre of All India Services Officers such as the IAS, IPS and the Indian Forest Service (IFoS) with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centre promulgated an ordinance to merge the J&K cadre of All India Services Officers – with AGMUT cadre
- AGMUT – Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

3. On January 1, President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to “The Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Bill - 2020”. The Gujarat Assembly had passed the Bill on September 22, 2020, which makes it easier for industrial units to layoff or retrench workers. As per the “Industrial Disputes Act - 1947”, establishments having 100 or more workers were required to seek prior permission of the state government before effecting layoff, retrenchment, or closure. Under The Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Act, 2020, the number of workers has been increased to 300. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the “Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Bill - 2020”
- As per the “Industrial Disputes Act - 1947” – 100 or more workers – to seek prior permission
- As per the “Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Bill - 2020” – 300 or more workers – to seek prior permission
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

4. On January 13, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved structural reforms in the mining sector through legislative amendments to the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. India has liberalised the mineral sector paving way for large private investments through auction of nearly 500 leases, doubling production in the next 4-5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved structural reforms in – ‘Mining sector’
- Cabinet approved amendments in – Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

5. On January 27, Democratic Senator Tom Carper of Delaware has introduced a bill to make Washington, D.C. as the 51st state, continuing the years-long campaign to grant statehood to the nation's capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA introduced a bill to make Washington, D.C. as the 51st state
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris





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