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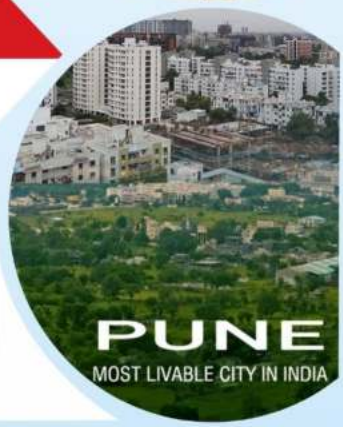


LSTV लोक सभा

RSTV RAJYA SABHA

Sansad TV





NITI Ayog Vision 2035

World Happiness Index

Sikkim became the first Indian state to ban plastic bags

67th National Film Awards

Merger of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha TV into Sansad TV

Rajnish Seth takes additional charge as Maharashtra DGP

Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle To Be Honoured With Maharashtra Bhushan Award

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The Officers Times®

Current Affairs April 2021

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The Reliable Publication, Pune

1. APPOINTMENTS

❖ Tenure of PC Mody as CBDT Chairman extended for 3 months



- The re-appointment of Pramod Chandra Mody as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has been extended for a further period of three months. He is a 1982-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, was appointed as the CBDT chief in February 2019.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved an extension for a period of three months with effect from March 1, 2021, to May 31, 2021.
- Earlier, Mr Mody's tenure was last extended in August last year for six months.

❖ Jaideep Bhatnagar takes over as Principal Director General of PIB

- The former head of the News Services Division of All India Radio, Jaideep Bhatnagar, took over as Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau.



- Prior to his current charge as head of the organisation, Bhatnagar has worked in PIB for six years in different capacities. He will take over from Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, who superannuated on February 28, 2021.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh takes over as ENC chief



- Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).
- He replaces Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain.
- Atul Kumar Jain has been transferred to New Delhi to assume charge as the Vice Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).
- Vice Admiral A.B. Singh inspected the ceremonial guard and reviewed platoons of naval personnel drawn from various ships and establishments of the ENC. He was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2011 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2016.

❖ Israel officially receives first-ever UAE ambassador



- Israel's president has formally received the first-ever ambassador from the United Arab Emirates, following last year's historic agreement between the countries to normalise ties.
- UAE envoy Mohamed Al Khaja, who arrived in Israel, delivered his credentials to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at a ceremony in Jerusalem.
- The UAE was the first country to agree to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state under the Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by former US President Donald Trump.
- The agreement made the UAE only the third majority Arab country to form official ties with Israel, following Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994. Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan have subsequently joined the Abraham Accords.
- The agreements broke with the longstanding Arab consensus that there should be no normalisation with Israel until it reaches a comprehensive peace deal with the Palestinians.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Matam Venkata Rao assumes Charge as MD & CEO of Central Bank Of India



- Matam Venkata Rao has taken charge as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Central Bank Of India.
- Rao till now held the position of Executive Director at Canara Bank.

- His appointment is for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after March 1, 2021, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Rao is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers. He is a post-graduate in agriculture from Sri Venkateshwara Agriculture College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

❖ Kuldiep Singh takes additional charge as CRPF DG

- IPS officer Kuldiep Singh has given an additional charge of CRPF director general (DG) after incumbent chief A P Maheshwari retires.
- Kuldiep Singh is working as the special DG of its central zone, will hold the additional charge of the CRPF head till "the appointment and joining of the successor or until further orders.



- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the country's largest paramilitary with an estimated strength of about 3.25 lakh personnel.
- It is designated as the lead internal security force with its main operational theatres being Left Wing Extremism affected states, counter-terrorist combat in the Kashmir valley and counter-insurgency operations in the northeast.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Manpreet Vohra Appointed India's High Commissioner To Australia



- Senior diplomat, Manpreet Vohra has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Australia. Vohra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently Ambassador of India to Mexico.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly. Mr Vohra's appointment comes at a time India-Australia ties are at an upswing and the two countries are stepping up cooperation particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

❖ Mary Kom appointed chairperson of AIBA's champions and veterans committee



- Six-time world champion boxer Mary Kom has been appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) Champions and Veterans Committee.
- The 37-year-old was voted to the post by AIBA's board of directors on March 03, 2021.
- The Committee was formed in December 2020. It consists of the most respected worldwide boxing veterans and champions who have achieved significant results and who are ready to share their experience.

❖ Ligia Noronha appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General



- UN chief Antonio Guterres has appointed leading Indian economist Ligia Noronha as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- Prior to joining the UNEP, Noronha worked at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi as Executive Director (Research Coordination) and as Director of the Division on Resources, Regulation and Global Security.

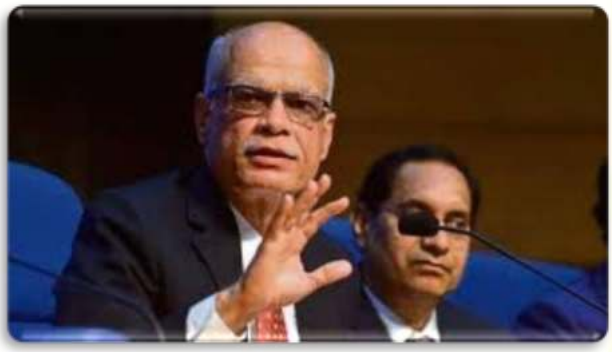
❖ NeoGrowth appoints Ajinkya Rahane as brand ambassador



- NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd, a lender to small businesses, has announced the appointment of cricketer Ajinkya Rahane as its brand ambassador.
- The agreement is for a year which can be extended further.
- Rahane will feature in a campaign slated to be released in the first week of April, which will talk about the ease of procuring loans through NeoGrowth for small businesses.
- The campaign "Keeping it simple" will show the day-to-day struggles of small businesses while scaling up and how NeoGrowth can help them overcome them.

❖ Tarun Bajaj to take additional charge of Revenue Secretary

- Department of economic affairs secretary, Tarun Bajaj has been given the additional charge of revenue secretary.
- Present revenue secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey retires on February 28.



- The Centre has decided to not grant an extension to finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey who was also holding additional charge of the revenue department in the finance ministry.
- Tarun Bajaj, an old hand at the Finance Ministry, assumed charge as Economic Affairs secretary last May, at a time when India saw the worst growth contraction in history on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Naureen Hassan appointed as 1st VP & COO of Federal Reserve Bank



- Indian-origin Naureen Hassan has been appointed as the first Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the New York-based Federal Reserve Bank, by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
- Hassan, whose parents had immigrated from India, is a 25-year veteran of the financial services industry with expertise in strategy, digital transformation, cybersecurity and regulatory/risk management.
- With this new role, Hassan will become the second-highest-ranking officer of the New York Fed as well as an alternate voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee.
- Prior to this, she was the Chief Digital Officer for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management (MSWM). She will take over the new role with effect from March 15, 2021.

❖ NABARD"s Chintala takes charge as chairman of APRACA



- NABARD chairman, G R Chintala has assumed charge as the chairman of APRACA (Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association). He has taken over from DPK Gunasekera, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Ceylon.
- Chintala, in his address as APRACA Chairman, appreciated the role of the members of APRACA in promoting the development of rural finance in Asia Pacific.
- APRACA, established in 1977, is an association of institutions involved in agricultural, rural and microfinance policy and development, representing 21 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Advisor P K Sinha resigns



- Former Cabinet Secretary and Principal Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) P.K. Sinha has relinquished his high-profile position on personal grounds.
- He was appointed in the PMO first as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) briefly and then as Principal Advisor, a specially created position for him, in September 2019 after the 2019 parliamentary polls.
- Besides him, two senior officials are serving as Advisors in the PMO: Bhaskar Khulbe and Amarjit Sinha, both 1983 batch retired IAS officials. Mr. Sinha is a retired 1977 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre and served in various capacities during the UPA and the NDA regimes.
- His is the second high profile exit from the PMO after PM's Principal Secretary Nripendra Misra had resigned after the last Lok Sabha polls. Earlier, he was Secretary, Ministry of Power in the government of India and served as Cabinet Secretary for four years from 2015.

❖ Anish Shah to take over as M&M's Managing Director, CEO



- Anish Shah who is set to take over as the managing director and CEO of Mahindra and Mahindra from 2 April will become the first professional executive to oversee the entire business of the $19.4 billion Mahindra Group.
- Pawan Goenka will retire as MD and CEO and member of the board effective April 2.
- Group chairman Anand Mahindra will be taking on a non-executive role. The markets regulator Sebi has mandated that from April 2022 the chairperson of the board of top 500 listed entities must be a non-executive director and not be related to the MD or CEO.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Lt Gen DP Pandey takes over as new commander of 15-Corps



- Lt General DP Pandey has taken over the command of strategic Kashmir-based 15 Corps from Lt Gen BS Raju, who has been appointed as the new Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, General Pandey was commissioned into the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment in December 1985 from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

❖ M. A. Ganapathy appointed Director General of National Security Guard



- Senior IPS officer, M. A. Ganapathy was on March 16, 2021, appointed Director-General of the National Security Guard.
- Ganapathy, a 1986 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, is currently Director-General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- He has been appointed the Director-General, National Security Guard (NSG), from the date of joining the post and up to February 29, 2024, i.e. date of his superannuation.

❖ Sanjeev Kumar appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India



- IAS Sanjeev Kumar has appointed as Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Kumar is a 1993-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Jay Mathur takes over as Director-General of International Solar Alliance



- Dr Ajay Mathur has assumed office as the Director-General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) with effect from March 15, 2021. He has been appointed for a period of four years which can be renewed for an additional term.
- Dr Ajay Mathur has replaced Upendra Tripathy, who completed his term on March 15, after serving as the Director-General since 2017.
- Mathur brings a wealth of leadership and expertise across all key areas of the energy transition, from policy, research, and technology commercialisation to financing, international cooperation and institutional development.
- He is a member of the Prime Minister's Council on climate change.
- He had also served as the Director-General of TERI and also a key Indian climate-change negotiator. He was also the spokesperson for India during the 2015 climate negotiations in Paris.

❖ Arindam Bagchi takes charge as MEA spokesperson



- Arindam Bagchi, an officer of the 1995 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), has assumed charge as the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA). He is replacing Anurag Srivastava, an officer of the 1999 batch of IFS.
- Before this, Bagchi was serving as the joint secretary (north) at the MEA headquarters. He was an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 1995 batch.
- In past, he has served as India's ambassador to Croatia from November 2018 to June 2020. He was also India's deputy high commissioner to Sri Lanka.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Dr Harsh Vardhan appointed as chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board'



- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan has been appointed as the Chairman of the international body Stop TB Partnership Board.

- He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis from India by 2025.
- He will serve a three-year term, commencing from July this year.
- The Stop TB Partnership is a unique international body with the power to align actors all over the world in the fight against TB.
- The participation of a wide range of constituencies gives this global body the credibility and the broad range of medical, social and financial expertise needed to defeat TB.
- The Partnership's vision is a TB-free world.
- The appointment of Dr Harsh Vardhan as the Chair of this prestigious global body is a proud recognition of India's political commitment to the eradication of TB.
- Established in the year 2000, the 'Stop TB Partnership' is mandated to eliminate Tuberculosis as a public health problem.

❖ Union Minister Anurag Thakur promoted as Captain in Territorial Army



- Union Minister Anurag Thakur has become the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army. Thakur has been promoted to the rank of Captain at 124 Infantry Battalion Territorial Army (Sikh).

- The four-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant by then Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dalbir S Suhag TA in July 2016.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Indian-American Doctor Vivek Murthy appointed as US Surgeon General



- The US Senate has voted, 57-43, to confirm the appointment of Indian-American doctor Vivek Murthy as the Surgeon General under US President Biden's administration.
- The 43-year-old Dr Murthy would occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time.
- Prior to this, Dr Murthy was appointed as surgeon general under the Obama administration in 2011 but was fired by former President Trump in 2017.

❖ World Bank economist Deepak Mishra appointed as director of ICRIER

- Deepak Mishra, Practice Manager in the World Bank's Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice, has been appointed as the next director and chief executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).



- He will take the charge of Rajat Kathuria who has been the director and chief executive of ICRIER since 1st September 2012.
- Mishra has held various positions at the World Bank, including co-director of the World Development Report 2016 (Digital Dividends), country economist for Ethiopia, Pakistan, Sudan, and Vietnam.

2. AWARDS

❖ Golden Globe Awards 2021 announced



- The Golden Globe Awards 2021 was held to recognise excellence in film, both American and international, and American television.
- This was the 78th edition of the annual event, which honoured the best in American television, as well as film in 2020 and early 2021, as chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.
- American TV series "The Crown" won the most awards for the ceremony with four awards. Late American actor Chadwick Boseman won the Golden Globe award for Best Actor in Drama category, posthumously, for his portrayal of Levee Green in Ma Rainey's Black Bottom.

- Winners in the Film category:
- Best Film – Drama: Nomadland
- Best Film – Musical/Comedy: Borat Subsequent Movie film
- Best Director: Chloe Zhao for Nomadland
- Best Actress – Drama: Andra Day for The United States vs. Billie Holiday
- Best Actor – Drama: Chadwick Boseman for Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
- Best Actress – Musical/Comedy: Rosamund Pike for I Care A Lot
- Best Actor – Musical/Comedy: Sacha Baron Cohen for Borat Subsequent Movie film
- Best Supporting Actress: Jodie Foster for The Mauritanian
- Best Supporting Actor: Daniel Kaluuya for Judas And The Black Messiah
- Best Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin for The Trial of the Chicago 7
- Best Foreign Language Film: Minari
- Best Animated Feature: Soul

- Best Original Score: Soul
- Best Original Song: 'Io Si (Seen)' from The Life Ahead
- Winners in the Television category:

- Best TV Series – Drama: The Crown
- Best TV Series – Musical/Comedy: Schitt's Creek
- Best Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film: The Queen's Gambit
- Best Actress – Drama: Emma Corrin for The Crown
- Best Actor – Drama: Josh O'Connor for The Crown
- Best Actress – Musical/Comedy: Catherine O'Hara for Schitt's Creek
- Best Actor – Musical/Comedy: Jason Sudeikis for Ted Lasso
- Best Supporting Actress: Gillian Anderson for The Crown
- Best Supporting Actor: John Boyega for Small Axe
- Best Actress (Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film): Anya Taylor-Joy for The Queen's Gambit
- Best Actor (Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film): Mark Ruffalo for I Know This Much Is True

❖ WAN-IFRA names The Hindu Group 'Champion Publisher of the Year 2020'



- The Hindu Group won two golds and two silvers at South Asian Digital Media Awards given by WAN IFRA (World Association of News Publishers), culminating in being named 'Champion Publisher of the Year', owing to the highest tally on the points table.
- The awards are presented in recognition of outstanding work done by news publishers, in digital media. The winners were honoured virtually at the Digital Media India 2021 Conference held on March 3, 2021.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Asha Bhosle to be honored with 'Maharashtra Bhushan'



- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle will be honoured with the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award for the year 2020. A committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to select Ms Bhosle for the award for the year 2020.
- Ms Bhosle, whose sister Lata Mangeshkar won the award for 1997, said she got to know from Mr Thackeray that she has been selected for the award for 2020. Ms Bhosle received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2000.
- The award, instituted in 1996 by the State government to recognise distinguished work and achievements of eminent persons from the State, representing different walks of life, carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.
- The first Maharashtra Bhushan awardee was Marathi writer P.L. Deshpande and the last winner of this award was historian Babasaheb Purandare who got it for the year 2015.

❖ 66th Filmfare Awards 2021



- The awards for the 66th annual Filmfare awards were announced.
- The event was hosted by actors Rajkummar Rao and Riteish Deshmukh. Despite the difficulties the film industry faced during 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Filmfare decided it was important to commemorate the best of Indian cinema.
- Among the winners was the late Irrfan Khan, who won the award for best actor in a leading role (male) category, while Amitabh Bachchan bagged the best actor (critics) Award.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Ashwin, Beaumont Win ICC Player of Month Awards for February



- India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was awarded the ICC Player of the Month award for February, the International Cricket Council (ICC). Ashwin beat England captain Joe Root and West Indies' Kyle Mayers to the award.
- Ashwin played a crucial role with bat and ball as India raced to a 2-1 lead over England in their four-match Test series in February before eventually winning the series 3-1 in March. He was the highest wicket-taker in the series with 32 scalps and scored a century in the second Test in Chennai.
- Meanwhile, England opener Tammy Beaumont won the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February. Beaumont was the overwhelming winner after she played three ODIs in February against New Zealand where she passed fifty in each of these, totalling 231 runs. She beat her teammate Natalie Sciver and New Zealand's Brooke Halliday to the award.

❖ Gowsalya Shankar honoured with International Woman of Courage 2021



- The U.S. Consulate honoured Tamil Nadu-based anti-caste activist and human rights defender Gowsalya Shankar with a nomination for the International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award.
- The IWOC Award Certificate of Nomination was handed over to her by U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin at an event 'Courageous Women Inspire a Better World' held in the city.
- Ms Gowsalya was U.S. Mission India's nominee for the 2021 U.S. Secretary of State's IWOC Award, which honours women who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership in acting to improve the lives of others.

❖ Grammy Awards 2021 Announced



- The 63rd edition of the annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles on March 14, 2021.
- The 2021 Grammy awards recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year, between September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020.
- The award is presented by The Recording Academy to recognize achievements in the American music industry. Beyonce received the most nominations with nine, as well as the most awards with four.

❖ Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 announced

- Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 20 languages. Seven books of poetry, four of the novel, Five short stories, two plays, and one each of memoirs and epic poetry in 20 Indian languages.



- The awards for Malayalam, Nepali, Odia and Rajasthani will be announced later. Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India. It is a dream for all Indian writers to look forward to one of the prestigious literary awards.
- The political-writer M Veerappa Moily, poet Arundhathi Subramaniam will be bestowed with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2020.
- Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 winners will be bestowed with the award in the form of a casket, containing the engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and a cash amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- at the Sahitya Akademi Award Presentation function.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ President Ram Nath Kovind presents Baton of Honor to Kiran Bedi



- President Ram Nath Kovind has presented a baton of honour and a letter of appreciation to former Puducherry lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The former Puducherry lieutenant governor received a Baton of Honor decorated with the emblem of the Indian Republic and the appreciation letter recognizing her service in the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- Kiran Bedi was removed as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry on February 16 by the President of India and Tamilisai Soundararajan took additional charge as the Lieutenant Governor on February 18.

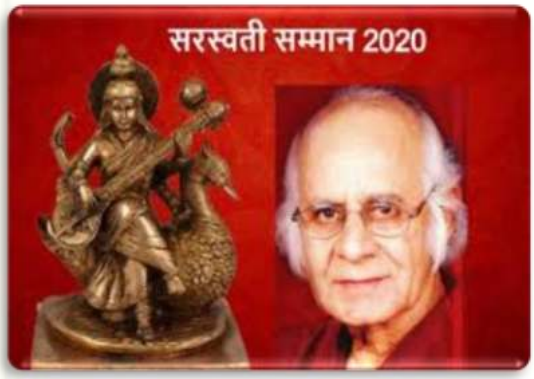
❖ Gandhi Peace Prize for the Year 2019 & 2020 announced



- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 is being conferred on (Late) His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman.
- Gandhi Peace Prize recognizes the unparalleled vision and leadership of the Late H.M. Sultan Qaboos Bin Said in strengthening relations between India and Oman, and his efforts to promote peace and non-violence in the Gulf region.
- On the other hand, Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Committee selected the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.
- The award carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/ handloom item.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Dr Sharankumar Limbale to receive Saraswati Samman 2020



- Noted Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale will receive Saraswati Samman, 2020 for his book Sanatan.
- The award carries fifteen lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.
- Dr Limbale's Sanatan has been published in 2018. Sanatan is an important social and historical document of the Dalit struggle.
- Speaking first to All India Radio, Dr Limbale was overjoyed with emotion as he started his career with the public broadcaster.

❖ Amitabh Bachchan to be honoured with 2021 FIAF Award

- Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with an award by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF).



- The veteran actor will be the first Indian cinema personality to be bestowed with the FIAF Award for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world's film heritage.
- Amitabh Bachchan was nominated for the award by the FIAF affiliate Film Heritage Foundation which is a not-for-profit organisation founded by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur a filmmaker & archivist.
- This foundation is dedicated to preserve, restore, document, exhibit and study the film heritage of India.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ 67th National Film Awards Announced



- The 67th National Film Awards are currently being announced in New Delhi. The awards are for films from the year 2019.
- The event is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The ceremony was supposed to be held in May last year but was delayed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ Hindi Writer Prof. Sharad Pagare Selected for Vyas Samman 2020



- Well known Hindi writer, Prof. Sharad Pagare will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman – 2020.
- He will be awarded the 31st Vyas Samman for his novel "Patliputru Ki Samragi".
- The Vyas Samman started in 1991, is given by KK Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.
- It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.

❖ Koneru Humpy is BBC's Indian sportswoman of the year



- World rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year award. BBC director-general Tim Davie, hosting the virtual awards ceremony.
- The Lifetime Achievement award went to veteran athlete Anju Bobby George.

Appointment And Resignation

- English cricket star Ben Stokes announced the 19-year-old Indian Shooter, Manu Bhaker as the winner of the Emerging Player-of-the-Year award category. Bhaker, won two golds at the ISSF World Cup in 2018, followed by gold at the Youth Olympics and a Commonwealth Games gold with a record to boot.

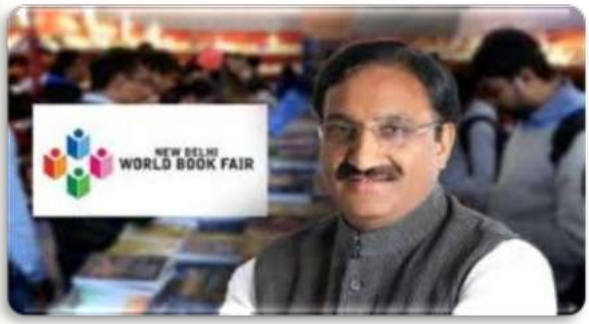
❖ Girish Murmu re-appointed Chairman of UN Panel of External Auditors



- Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil) has announced the appointment of Pallav Mohapatra as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. Prior to the appointment, Mohapatra was the MD and CEO of the Central Bank of India.
- Before being elevated as MD and CEO of CBoI, he was Deputy Managing Director, Stressed Assets Management Group, State Bank of India.
- Vinayak Bahuguna headed Arcil as MD and CEO for five years till June 2020. Arcil, which was set up in 2002, currently has assets under management (in non-performing loans) of ₹12,000 crore.

3. BOOK

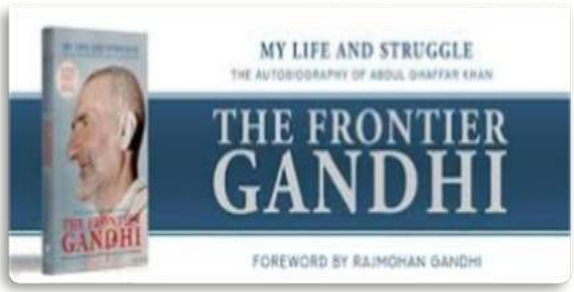
❖ Ramesh Pokhriyal Inaugurates New Delhi World Book Fair 2021



- The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has inaugurated the New Delhi World Book Fair 2021-Virtual Edition, through video-conferencing. The program has been organized by the National Book Trust (NBT).
- The New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 is the 29th edition of the annual event and for the first time, the fair will be held virtually due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
- The theme of the 2021 New Delhi World Book Fair is 'National Education Policy-2020'. The NEP 2020 was passed by the Union Cabinet last year, which proposes several significant changes in the existing education policy.

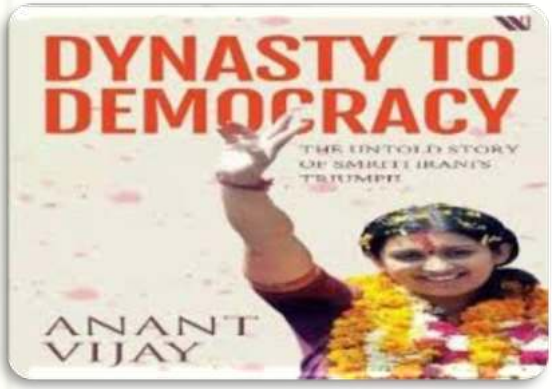
❖ Frontier Gandhi's autobiography released in English

- The autobiography of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as the "Frontier Gandhi", titled "The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle" is set to be published in English by the publishing house Roli Books.



- This will be his first autobiography in English. The book was translated into English by Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, the former Pakistani civil servant and author.
- The book by Ghaffar Khan brings out the life events and personalities of the independence movement.
- The book accounts for the sacrifices and efforts that resulted in the Independence of India.

❖ A book on Smriti Irani's victory in Amethi released



- The English translation of journalist-author Anant Vijay's book "Amethi Sangram: Aitihasik Jeet Ankahi Dastan" will be released on March 15.
- The book, titled "Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani's Triumph", traces Union Minister Irani's journey from her defeat in 2014 to her victory in the Congress stronghold of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.
- The Hindi book was published in December 2020. The book can also be seen as a study of the RSS's working style, its strategies and exemplary execution that backed Smriti Irani's efforts from 2014 to 2019.

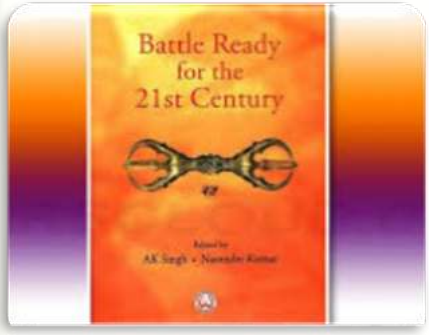
❖ Maharashtra Governor releases e-book titled Dawn Under The Dome

- The Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari released a digital e-book titled Dawn Under The Dome.
- The digital book depicts the history of the Mumbai General Post Office building.



- It has been authored by Post Master General of Mumbai Swati Pandey in collaboration with Orchida Mukherjee.
- The book says that three types of Indian stones were used in the construction of the building: the grey basalt with buff trachyte and the Yellowstone from Mumbai's Kurla and Malad respectively and the white stone from Dharandhra.

❖ A Book 'Battle Ready for 21st Century' released



- A book titled "Battle Ready for 21st Century" co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh, Distinguished Fellow CLAWS and Brig Narender Kumar, Visiting Fellow CLAWS was released by Gen Bipin Rawat.

- The book lays down the conceptual framework for the strategic management of future conflicts.
- The book "Battle Ready for the 21st Century" has endeavoured to postulate and define emerging areas of conflict, desired capabilities and doctrinal issues that need careful examination.

4. BANKING /ECONOMY

❖ GST collections up by 7 % to Rs 1.13 lakh cr in February



- The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of February 2021 is ₹ 1,13,143 crore of which CGST is ₹ 21,092 crore, SGST is ₹ 27,273 crore, IGST is ₹ 55,253 crore (including ₹ 24,382 crores collected on import of goods).
- Cess is ₹ 9,525 crore (including ₹ 660 crores collected on import of goods).
- Revenues for February are 7% higher than the GST revenues of February 2019.
- Revenues from the import of goods were 15% higher than Feb '19.

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

- The World Bank plans to introduce a $100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme, which has not gained enough traction.
- The scheme will allow micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units.



- The World Bank scheme, along with the State Bank of India (SBI) and the MSME ministry to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar units, will help MSMEs access credit of around $1 billion.
- The arrangement will be beneficial for the firms that often do not meet the lending criteria of banks and other financial institutions, with their financial woes been exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ SBI Mutual Funds Launches First Overseas Fund

- The State Bank of India (SBI) Mutual Funds has launched its first overseas offering on 1 March 2021.
- The fund titled SBI International Access — US Equity FOF is an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in a mutual fund scheme/ETFs that invest in US markets, which are domiciled overseas.
- The scheme will invest 95-100 per cent of its net assets generally in Amundi Funds – US Pioneer Fund (including ETFs), which invest predominantly in the US markets.
- The customers interested in the scheme are required to invest at least Rs 5,000 for the first time. However, for additional purchase, the minimum application amount is Rs 1,000.
- There is no upper cap for the investment in this fund.

❖ HDFC ERGO launches Business Kisht Suraksha cover

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance has launched the "Business Kisht Suraksha" cover.
- It is a unique cover that was launched with the aim of protecting the balance sheet of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), financial institutions and banks if any catastrophe or a natural disaster occurs.
- This was launched with the aim of limiting the impacts on the balance sheet of financial institutions which occurs because of non-payment of EMIs by borrowers or because of several calamities like earthquakes, floods, cyclones.
- The Business Kisht can be customised as per the needs of the individual MFI or financial institution (FI). It can also be tailor-made based on the geographical presence of the borrower, MFI or any FIs.
- The MFIs or FIs would also be given the option to select the number of EMIs which might need insurance coverage.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Axis Securities' new platform to make an investment in bond



- Axis Securities has announced the launch of 'YIELD' – an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market.
- By offering competitive rates and technical know-how, YIELD would empower the investors to make the right investment decision.
- The trades and settlement of transactions executed will be reported on the BSE NDS (new debt segment) platform.
- "YIELD is the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows retail investors direct access to the debt instruments," the brokerage house said in a statement.
- This new tool will remove the hassle of filling up physical forms or the need for separate KYC with the bond institutions, it added.
- To facilitate transactions only insecure options, it aggregates only 'AAA' to 'A' rated quality debt instruments available for investment in the secondary market.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ MeitY released the list of "Digital Payment Scorecard"

- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has released the list of "Digital Payment Scorecard".
- In the list, the State Bank of India (SBI) has topped for the third consecutive months.



- The digital payment scorecard tracks the performance of the Commercial Banks on several digital parameters. SBI maintained the top remitter bank by recording the highest UPI transaction volume which accounted for nearly Rupees 640 million.
- SBI has also emerged as the largest issuer of debit cards. It issued over 290 million debit cards with a 30% market share with respect to card spends and 29% share with respect to transaction volume. Bank has also made steady progress with respect to increasing payment acceptance infrastructure.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ RBI: Image-based Cheque Truncation System in all branches by Sep 30



- The Reserve Bank of India has asked banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by September 30 this year.
- The move is aimed at faster settlement of cheques resulting better customer service.
- The Apex bank said that to leverage the availability of CTS and provide a uniform customer experience irrespective of the location of her/his bank branch, it has been decided to extend CTS across all bank branches in the country.
- To facilitate this, banks will have to ensure that all their branches participate in image-based CTS under respective grids by September 30.
- A cheque truncation system is an arrangement that facilitates the electronic processing of a cheque with the use of Magnetic Ink Character Reader (MICR) data and the scanned image of the instrument without involving any physical exchange or movement of the financial instrument.

❖ RBI removes PCA restrictions on IDBI Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has removed IDBI Bank from its enhanced regulatory supervision or Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.



- It was noted that as per published results for the quarter ending December 31, 2020, the bank is not in breach of the PCA parameters on regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio.
- The bank has also provided a written commitment that it would comply with the norms of minimum regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis and has apprised the RBI of the structural and systemic improvements that it has put in place which would help the bank in continuing to meet these commitments.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Kotak Mahindra Bank tie-up with Indian army to handle salary accounts

- Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank will handle the salary account of the Indian army personnel. The bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army here for a salary account.
- The MoU enables Kotak to offer its salary account proposition, combined with exclusive benefits for the Indian Army, to all army personnel – both active and retired.
- The salary account will cover other benefits such as a bespoke salary account for the army personnel, enhanced complimentary personal accident insurance cover – for both on-duty and off-duty incidents.
- It covers accidental death for total or partial permanent disability. It will also offer special education benefit for children and additional girl child benefit by covering dependent children of up to 22 years in the event of an accident claim by the salary account holder.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Sebi cancels Sahara India Financial Corp's registration as sub-broker



- Markets regulator Sebi has cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfil the "fit and proper" criteria.
- The regulator had appointed a designated authority in 2018 to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of Intermediaries Regulations.
- According to the designated authority's report, considering the antecedents of Subrata Roy Sahara and the various judicial pronouncements against him and other group companies of Sahara, it is determined that Sahara India Financial (noticee) is not a "fit and proper person" to continue as a sub-broker in the securities market.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Alliance Insurance launches insurance portal 'SMEInsure'

- Alliance Insurance has launched the insurance portal 'SMEInsure' in order to provide financial security to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), small shop and business owners Alliance.
- It is a portal to insure 5 crores Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the insurance category.
- Notably, the portal will provide insurance services in a phygital formate. physical, through individual personal assistance and digital insurance through the portal.
- The target of Alliance Insurance is to reach more than 5 crore SMEs in the first year and expect revenue of Rs 10 crore.
- Approximately 97% of the SMEs in India are not insured.

❖ HDFC Bank launches SmartUp Unnati programme

- HDFC Bank on the occasion of International Women' Day has announced the launch of a dedicated programme named "SmartUp Unnati" for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank.
- Under the SmartUp Unnati programme, over the next one year, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank will mentor women entrepreneurs in helping them achieve their goals.
- This programme is available only to exist customers and will initially target more than 3,000 women entrepreneurs associated with the bank's SmartUp programme.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ OECD interim economic outlook pegs India's GDP growth at 12.6% in FY22

- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) interim economic outlook has pegged India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound to 12.6% in FY22, which will be the fastest in the world, followed by China at 7.8% growth.
- India's GDP is expected to grow at 5.4% in the following financial year, owing to the faster rebound of several large emerging-market economies.

❖ NPCI launches UPI-Help on BHIM app for Grievance Redressal

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella entity for digital payments in India, has launched a new application named "UPI-Help" on BHIM UPI, which will act as a grievance redressal mechanism for the users of the BHIM application.



- Initially, UPI-Help has been made live on the BHIM app for the customers of State Bank of India, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank.
- Users of other banks participating in UPI will also be added to UPI-Help soon.

4. SCIENCE /TECHNOLOGY

❖ Russia launches first Arctic-monitoring Satellite 'Arktika-M'



- The Russian space corporation Roscosmos successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment.
- The satellite called "Arktika-M", was launched on February 28, 2021, onboard Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- This satellite will help to collect information to solve operational meteorology and hydrology problems, and monitoring the climate and environment in the Arctic region.

❖ Indian Air Force to Participate in EX Desert FLAG VI

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Desert Flag-VI, which has been organised from March 03 to 27, 2021 at Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE.



- The purpose of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to the participating forces, train them to undertake simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment, provides an opportunity to enhance their operational capabilities along with the mutual exchange of best practices.
- Ex Desert Flag is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force.
- The exercise will also see the air forces of the United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.
- The IAF is participating with six Su-30 MKI, two C-17 and one IL-78 tanker aircraft.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Indigenously developed "Spectrograph" commissioned in Nainital



- Indian Scientists at Aryabhatta Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have indigenously designed and developed a low-cost optical Spectrograph named as Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC).
- It has been commissioned on the 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT), in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
- The ADFOSC spectroscope is the largest of its kind among the existing astronomical spectrographs in India.

❖ India inks pact with the Philippines for sale of 'defence equipment

- India has signed a key pact with the Philippines called "implementing arrangement" for "procurement of defence material and equipment", as per which the country will buy the BrahMos cruise missiles from India.



- Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was also present at the pact's signing ceremony in Manila.
- The BrahMos missile is produced by an India-Russian joint venture "BrahMos Aerospace" and it can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms.
- It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.
- Currently, the missile is used only by India, however, several countries including the Philippines, Vietnam, South Africa, Egypt, Oman, Chile and Brunei have expressed interest in the procurement of the missile.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ SpaceX successfully tests Starship SN10 prototype rocket



- Elon Musk owned private rocket company, SpaceX successfully tested its Starship prototype rocket "SN10 " after two recent failed attempts.
- SpaceX launched the rocket prototype, to an altitude of 10,000 kilometres and then landed back on the ground.
- However, the rocket exploded about six minutes after landing. The SN10 is an early prototype of the Starship Mars rocket of SpaceX which aims to get people and payloads to the moon, Mars and other distant destinations.
- This rocket is also a part of the company's strategy to phase out its other flight hardware including, the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets and Dragon cargo and crew capsules, and let Starship shoulder the entire load.

❖ Indian Armed Forces 4th Strongest in the World



- China has the strongest military force in the world while India stands at number four, according to a study released by defence website Military Direct.
- China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index.
- The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58.
- The U.K. just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9th place with a score of 43.
- The study said the "ultimate military strength index" was calculated after taking into consideration various factors including budgets, number of inactive and active military personnel, total air, sea, land and nuclear resources, average salaries, and weight of equipment.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Odisha Farmer's Solar Car Gets Thumbs-Up Online



- Sushil Aggarwal from Odisha's Mayurbhanj district had built a four-wheeler powered by an 850 Watts motor and 100 Ah/54 Volts of battery.
- After fully charged the vehicle can travel up to 300 km.

- He told that he had built this car inside a workshop at his home during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- All the work on his vehicle including motor winding, electrical fitting and chassis work were done in my workshop with the help of two other mechanics and a friend who advised me on electric works.
- They are powered by electricity through the use of solar energy. Sun's energy is directly converted into electrical energy by the Photovoltaic (PV) cells.

❖ INS Jalashwa Arrives at Port Anjouan as part of Mission Sagar-IV

- As part of Mission Sagar-IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice. An official ceremony for handing over the food aid from the Government of India to the Government of Comoros.



- INS Jalashwa, the largest amphibious ship of the Indian Navy, has been specially sent to Comoros due to its large carrying capacity.
- This consignment of 1000 metric tonnes of rice as food assistance was flagged off to Comoros in the light of a promise made by the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu during his brief visit to Comoros in the month of October 2019. This is the second visit of an Indian Navy ship to the island country within a span of one year.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ KRAS releases the First batch of MRSAM Missiles



- The Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS), which is a joint venture between the Kalyani Group of India and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems of Israel, have released the first batch of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kits.
- The missile was released for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. The release of the MRSAM Missile also marked the KRAS' commitment to delivering more than 1000 MRSAM missile kits to India in near future.
- These missile sections will then be sent for further and future integration to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). The Kalyani Group has infused the "State-of-the-art technology with engineering excellence in the company.

❖ China and Russia Inks MoU to jointly build Lunar Space Station



- The space agencies of China and Russia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of their national governments, to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries.
- The MoU was officially signed between the Chinese space agency, China National Space Administration (CNSA) and the Russian space agency Roscosmos, on March 09, 2021.
- Dubbed as the "International Scientific Lunar Station (ISLS)", the centre will be a "complex of experimental and research facilities" created on the moon's surface and/or in orbit of the moon.
- The goal of setting up ISLS is strengthening research cooperation and promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes in the interests of all mankind.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Defence Ministry deal with BDL to acquire 4,690 anti-tank guided missiles



- The Defence Ministry has sealed a deal with the public sector undertaking Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to acquire 4,960 MILAN-2T anti-tank guided missiles at a cost of ₹ 1,188 crores for the Indian Army.
- The missiles, having a range of 1,850 metres, are being produced by BDL under license from French defence major MBDA Missile Systems. These missiles can be fired from the ground as well as vehicle-based launchers and can be deployed in the anti-tank role for both offensive and defensive tasks.

❖ Indian Navy undertakes exercise PASSEX with Royal Bahrain Naval Force



- Indian Navy on 18th March undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Bahrain Naval Force Corvette Al Muharraq in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp.
- PASSEXs are conducted regularly by the Indian Navy with units of friendly foreign navies,
- whilst visiting each other's ports or during a rendezvous at sea.
- The exercises are aimed at fostering interoperability and reflecting the commitments of both, India and Bahrain, to build cooperative partnerships in meeting emergent maritime challenges.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ ISRO launches sounding rocket RH-560 to study attitudinal variations



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the sounding rocket (RH-560) to study attitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics, at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range (SHAR).
- ISRO has developed a series of sounding rockets called Rohini series, important among them being RH-200, RH-300 and RH-560, number in the name indicating the diameter of the rocket in mm, according to the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.
- Sounding rockets are one or two-stage solid propellant rockets used for probing the upper atmospheric regions and for space research. They also serve as easily affordable platforms to test or prove prototypes of new components or subsystems intended for use in launch vehicles and satellites.

❖ DRDO successfully flight test SFDR technology



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the integrated test range (ITR), Chandipur, off Odisha coast.
- The SFDR technology will help DRDO with the technological advantage to develop long-range air-to-air missiles (AAMs). DRDO began developing SFDR first in 2017 and had conducted successful tests in 2018 and 2019 as well.
- The SFDR is a missile propulsion system being developed primarily by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ ISRO Develops Joint Earth Observation Satellite Mission Radar With NASA



- ISRO has completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission with the US space agency NASA.
- NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is a joint collaboration for a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for earth observation. NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimetre across.
- The mission is targeted to launch in early 2022 from ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, about 100 km north of Chennai.

❖ Google Launched "Women Will" Web Platform



- Google has launched a new web platform 'Women Will' on March 8, 2021, on the occasion of "International Women's Day".
- This platform will provide its support to 1 million rural women in India in order for them to become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship.
- This web portal can be accessed in English and Hindi languages. It will offer guidance to the aspiring women in villages to turn their interest or a hobby like beauty services, tailoring, home tuition, food processing, etc. into the business.
- It will also be providing guidance to manage and promote the business. The Women Will platform is designed for women aspiring to explore entrepreneurship.
- To begin with, Google will work with 2,000 'Internet Saathis' to help other women with this resource to start their entrepreneurial journey.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Russia Launches 38 Satellites From 18 Countries Into Space



- Russian space agency 'Roscosmos' successfully launched 38 foreign satellites into orbit, onboard Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- The 38 satellites belonged to 18 countries including South Korea, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy and Brazil. One of these satellites named 'Challenge-1' was the first-ever satellite made completely in Tunisia, which was created by the Telnet telecommunications group.
- In 2018, a Soyuz rocket carrying a Russian cosmonaut and a NASA astronaut failed mid-flight, forcing the crew to carry out an emergency landing. Both survived without injuries.

❖ Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021: India, Pakistan and China to hold anti-terror exercise



- The eight-member bloc said that the decision to hold the joint exercise 'Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021' was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, including India, Pakistan and China, will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise this year.
- "Decisions have been made to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the SCO member states in identifying and suppressing channels that finance terrorist activities.
- Delegations of the competent authorities of India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the RATS Executive Committee attended the meeting.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Samsung sets up Innovation Lab at Delhi Technological University



- Samsung India has announced that it has inaugurated a Samsung Innovation Lab at Delhi Technological University (DTU) to focus on collaborative research and training.
- It has set up the innovation lab under the Samsung Innovation Campus initiative as part of its new #PoweringDigitalIndia vision.
- With this addition, Samsung now has eight technical labs spread across the country as part of its Samsung Innovation Campus initiative, which was earlier called Samsung Digital Academy.
- As part of the lab, engineers at Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-N) will work with students and faculty at DTU on collaborative research projects on smartphone domains.

❖ Rajnath Singh Attends 3-day Combined Commanders' Conference



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the integrated test range (ITR), Chandipur, off Odisha coast.
- Defence minister Rajnath Singh has attended the three-day Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) along with top defence officials at Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Theaterisation of armed forces, self-reliance in the defence sector and evolving threats in the region will be the focus. It is a premier brainstorming event of the Military Commanders from the three Services.
- Defense Minister, Rajnath Singh held deliberations on Day 2. In a first, valedictory session on the third and final day chaired by PM Narendra Modi. The last CCC was held in 2018 at the Air Force Station, Jodhpur.

❖ DoT Launches Online Certificate Course on 5G Technology



- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched a new online certificate course on 5G technology to be conducted by the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), which is the training institute of DoT.
- The course, which will be conducted from 9 March 2021 onwards, is 36 hours long and will be conducted over a period of 12 weeks every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Participants will also be allowed to record the session if they happen to miss it.

❖ Indian Navy's 'silent killer' INS Karanj commissioned

- The Indian Navy got its third Scorpene submarine, commissioned as INS Karanj, of Project P-75 in Mumbai. With the delivery of Karanj, India further cemented its position as a submarine-building nation.



- Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL), one of India's leading shipyards with the capacity and the capability to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Indian Navy.
- Before Karanj, INS Kalvari and INS Khanderi have been commissioned in the Indian Navy in 2017 and 2019, respectively.
- Karanj is seen as a small submarine having a length of 60 metres.
- Weapon package includes sufficient wire-guided torpedoes and sub-surface to surface missiles to neutralise a large enemy fleet. For self-defence, it has a state-of-the-art torpedo-decoy system.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ World's first Ship Tunnel to be built in Norway



- The Norwegian Coastal Administration has received the green signal to start working on the construction of the world's first tunnel, being built exclusively for ships.
- The tunnel is dubbed as "Stad Ship Tunnel" and would be built under the mountainous Stadhavet peninsula in northwestern Norway.
- The 1.7 km tunnel will be able to handle ships of up to 16,000 tonnes and give ships a safer passage through the treacherous Stadhavet Sea.
- The tunnel will be 49 metres (161 ft) high and 36 metres (118 ft) wide.
- It is estimated to cost at least 2.8 billion Norwegian kroner (NZ$460 million) the construction of this ship tunnel.
- The construction would begin in 2022 and would take three to four years to complete.

❖ India conducts a first-ever joint patrol in Madagascar EEZ



- In a first, the navies of India and Madagascar undertook joint patrolling of Madagascar's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX).
- The first-ever joint patrol between the navies reflects the growing defence ties between the two Indian Ocean neighbours aimed at the common objective of ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Indian Naval Ship INS Shardul made a port call at Antsiranana, Madagascar as part of the First Training Squadron's (1TS) Overseas Deployment. INS Shardul and Malagasy Navy ship MNS Trozona carried out a Passage Exercise (PASSEX).
- The Joint exercise bears testimony to the growing bonds between the maritime forces of both the nations and aimed at common objectives of ensuring maritime security by India and Madagascar and interoperability between the two navies.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commences in Ranikhet



- The India – Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II has commenced in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.
- This is the Second Edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies.
- It will continue till the 19th of this month. The first edition of the exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.
- 45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and the Indian Army are participating in the exercise.

❖ Nokia to Develop New 5G Radio Solutions



- The Finnish telecom equipment maker, Nokia has announced on March 16 that it has partnered with Microsoft, Amazon web services and Google so as to develop a new cloud-based 5G radio solution.
- This solution will be developed with its radio access network (RNA) technology.
- This partnership was gone with the objective of developing new business cases.
- RAN is part of a mobile telecommunication system. This system implements radio access technology. RAN resides between a device like a computer, mobile phone or any remotely controlled machine. It also provides a connection with the core network.
- Based on the standard mobile phones and other wireless connected devices are called user equipment, terminal equipment or mobile station etc. The functionality of RAN is typically provided by the silicon chip which resides in both the core network and the user equipment.

- The single handset or phone can be connected to multiple radio access networks simultaneously.
- The Handsets which are capable of this feature are called dual-mode handsets. For example, a handset can commonly support both GSM and UMTS or "3G" radio access technologies. Such devices also transfer the ongoing call across different radio access networks without any disruption to users.

❖ ISRO Demonstrates India's First Free-Space Quantum Communication

Appointment And Resignation



- In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully demonstrated free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300 metres, with several technologies developed within the country.
- The demonstration included live video conferencing using quantum-key-encrypted signals, at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, between two line-of-sight buildings within the campus.
- The experiment was done at night to ensure that there is no interference from the direct sunlight.
- This is a major milestone achievement for unconditionally secured satellite data-communication using quantum technologies.

5. DAYS

❖ Zero Discrimination Day: 01 March



- Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated on 1 March each year by the United Nations and other international organisations. Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated to promote and celebrate everyone's right, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, skin colour, etc.
- Zero Discrimination Day aims to raise the voice for the right to live life with dignity, despite one's choices, beliefs, profession, education, disability or even illness.
- The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2021: "End Inequalities".

❖ 45th Civil Accounts Day celebrated on 01 March 2021

- The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) observes the "Civil Accounts Day" every year on March 01, 2021, since its inception in 1976.
- The year 2021 marks the 45th Civil Accounts Day celebrations.



- ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.
- Initially, the ICAS was carved out from the Indian Audit & Accounts Service (IA & AS), through the promulgation of an Ordinance amending the C & AG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1976.

❖ World Wildlife Day observed globally on 3rd March



- World Wildlife Day is observed globally on the 3rd of March every year to celebrate the beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora present on earth.
- World Wildlife Day also raise awareness about the benefits that the conservation of wild fauna and flora provides to people living on earth.
- The day also reminds us of the need to fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species causing various wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.
- World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2021 under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally, and particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and forest-adjacent areas.

❖ World Hearing Day: 3 March

- World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.



- The theme of World Hearing Day 2021 is Hearing care for ALL!: Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate.
- World Hearing Day 2021 will mark the launch of the first-ever World Report on Hearing.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ World Meteorological Day observed globally on 23 March



- The World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on 23 March to commemorate the date of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization in 23 March 1950.
- The day also highlights the contribution that the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services make to the safety and well-being of society.
- The World Meteorological Day theme is "The ocean, our climate and weather" celebrates WMO's focus in connecting the ocean, climate and weather within the Earth System. It also marks the starting year of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

❖ Shaheed Diwas Observed On 23 March



- Every year, March 23 is observed as Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day) to pay tribute on the death anniversary of the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who laid their lives for the freedom of India.
- It was on March 23 in 1931, in Lahore (Pakistan), that these three were hanged to death for assassinating John Saunders, a British police officer in 1928.
- They had mistaken him for British police superintendent James Scott, who had ordered lathi-charge, which eventually led to the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ PM Modi addresses 'Janaushadhi Diwas' celebrations



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed 'Janaushadhi Diwas' celebrations through video conference.
- He dedicated to the nation the 7500th Janaushadhi Kendra at NEIGRIHMS, Shillong during the event.
- He interacts with beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana and also gives awards to stakeholders by recognizing their excellent work.
- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers will also be present on the occasion.
- 1st March to 7th March is celebrated as 'Janaushadhi Week' across the nation with the theme of "Jan Aushadhi – Seva Bhi, Rozgar Bhi" for creating awareness about the use of generic medicines.
- Various functions across the country are organized like health checkup camps, Jan Aushadhi Paricharcha, Teach Them Young, panel discussions with doctors, etc. this week.

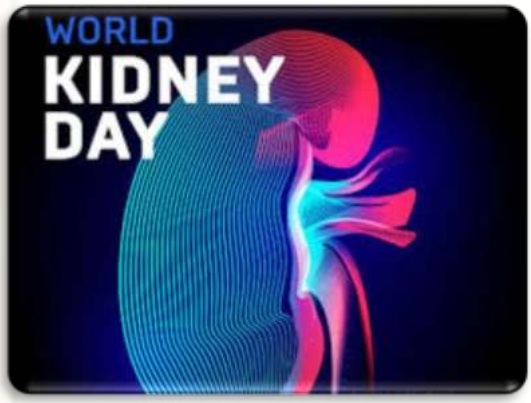
❖ World Consumer Rights Day 2021



- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs,and protect consumers across the globe against market abuses.
- The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2021 is "Tackling Plastic Pollution.".
- The day highlights the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace for everyone.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ World Kidney Day observed globally on 11th March 2021



- World Kidney Day is observed globally on the second Thursday of March every year.
- This year World Kidney Day is observed on 11th March 2021.
- The theme of the 2021 World Kidney day is "Living Well with Kidney Disease".

- World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.
- World Kidney Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

❖ National Vaccination Day: March 16

- The National Vaccination Day, (also called the National Immunization Day), is celebrated every year on March 16 in India, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.



- The prime purpose behind the celebration of National Vaccination Day is to make all people aware of arming against polio and eradicating it completely from the world.
- In 2021, the National Vaccination Day is important as the country has started its biggest Covid-19 immunization programme.
- The day was first observed in the year 1995. It was in 1995 that India started the Pulse Polio Programme and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- According to the World Health Organization, immunization is a process through which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against foreign harm causing agent.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Global Recycling Day 2021: 18 March



- Global Recycling Day is observed every year on March 18 to create awareness among the masses about the rapid pace at which our natural resources are being used.
- The day also promotes the concept and practice of recycling.
- Every year, events are organised by environmentalist and activists to promote the cause.
- In 2021, the theme of Global Recycling Day is "Recycling Heroes". Its main aim is to recognise the people, places and activities that showcase the importance of recycling in preserving natural resources.
- Recycling has helped in reducing carbon emissions by over 700 million tonnes every year. Notably, over 1.6 million people are employed around the world in the recycling industry. In this decade, the yearly contribution of recycling will increase up to $400 billion.

❖ UN French Language Day Observed Globally on 20 March

- The UN French Language Day is observed annually on 20 March. The day was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010, to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.



- March 20 was chosen as the date for the French language since it coincides with the 40th anniversary of the International Organization of La Francophonie, representing countries and regions where French is a customary language.
- The date of French Language Day was chosen symbolically in reference to March 20, 1970, which marks the creation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), which became the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF).

❖ World Oral Health Day is observed on 20 March



- World Oral Health Day is observed every year on 20th March.
- It focuses on highlighting the benefits of good oral health, spreads awareness about oral diseases and promotes maintenance of oral hygiene.
- The theme for the next three years, 2021-2023 is: Be Proud Of Your Mouth.
- The day is an initiative of FDI World Dental Federation; an organization that brings together the world of dentistry with the aim of achieving optimal oral health for everyone.
- Oral health is as important as general health. It helps you maintain a healthy mouth, teeth and gums.
- It also helps to improve your appearance.
- Poor oral health can not only lead to oral diseases but also major health problems like heart disease, diabetes mellitus, stroke, respiratory problems and premature births in pregnant women.

❖ International Day of Happiness: 20 March

- International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20 to promote happiness as a fundamental human right for all human beings across the world. The 2021 International Day of Happiness campaign theme is 'Keep Calm.



- Stay Wise. Be Kind'. Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the International Day of Happiness as a way to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 June 2012.

❖ World Sparrow Day: 20 March



- World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20 to raise awareness about the House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations. The theme of 2021 World Sparrow Day "I LOVE Sparrows".
- The day was initiated by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world. The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010.
- The sparrows are known to live in the backyards and green patches in urban areas but "in the last two decades, their population is on the decline in almost every city," according to the wwfindia.org. On this World Sparrow Day let's encourage children and others around us to respect spaces for sparrows.

❖ World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March



- World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- The theme of World TB Day 2021 – 'The Clock is Ticking' –conveys the sense that the world is running out of time to act on the commitments to end TB made by global leaders.
- This is especially critical in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic that has put End TB progress at risk, and to ensure equitable access to prevention and care in line with WHO's drive towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.

❖ World Theatre Day: 27 March



- World Theatre Day is observed globally on 27th March every year. World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), France.
- It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.
- This day is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form "theatre", and acts as a wake-up-call for governments, politicians and institutions which have not yet recognised its value to the people and to the individual and have not yet realised its potential for economic growth.
- Every year the Executive Council of ITI chooses an outstanding theatre personality to write the message for World Theatre Day. The author of the Message of World Theatre Day 2021 is Helen MIRREN, United Kingdom. The first World Theatre Day Message was written by Jean Cocteau in 1962.

❖ Earth Hour 2021: 27 March



- Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March month to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2021 is being marked on March 27, 2021.
- The Earth Hour 2021 theme will focus on "Climate Change to Save Earth."
- The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), encouraging individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 to raise awareness for energy consumption and its effects on the environment.

❖ International Transgender Day of Visibility: 31st March



- International Transgender Day of Visibility observed globally on 31st March every year.
- The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

- The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009.
- As a reaction to the lack of LGBT recognition of transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centred day was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the murders of transgender people but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.

6. NATIONAL

❖ Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates Global Bio India 2021



- The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the second edition of Global Bio-India-2021 in New Delhi through virtual mode.
- The three-day event will be held from March 01 to 03, 2021, on a digital platform.
- The purpose of the event is to showcase the strength and opportunities of the biotechnology sector of India at the national as well as international level. The Government of India has a target of building a USD 150 billion bio-economy by 2025.
- The theme of Global Bio-India-2021: "Transforming lives" with the tag line "Biosciences to Bio-economy".
- The event is co-organised by the Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science & Technology along with its Public Sector Undertaking, and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in partnership with industry association Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) and Invest India.

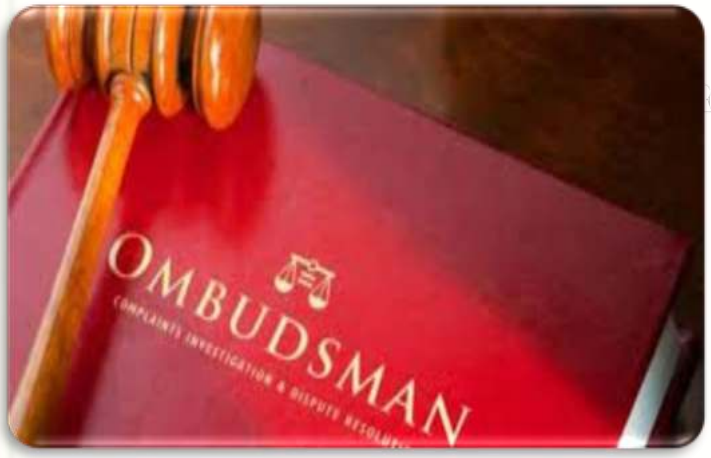
❖ Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV merged into Sansad TV

- The Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Television channels that broadcast the proceedings of the upper and lower Houses of Parliament, respectively, have been merged into a single entity.
- The new channel has been named the 'Sansad Television'. This change is effective from March 01, 2021.



- Ravi Capoor, a retired IAS officer of the 1986 batch, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV for one year.
- The decision to change the name was jointly taken by Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

❖ Government amends Insurance Ombudsman Rules 2017



- The Government of India has notified comprehensive amendments to the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017, for better resolution of policyholders' complaints regarding insurance service deficiencies, in a timely, cost-effective and impartial manner.
- This will help in facilitating the resolution of the complaints with respect to the deficiencies in insurance services in a cost-effective and impartial manner on time.
- The Ombudsman mechanism was administered by the Executive Council of Insurers. This has now been renamed as the Council for Insurance Ombudsmen.
- Earlier, the scope of complaints to Ombudsmen was limited to only disputes, but now it has been enlarged to include deficiencies in service on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries.
- The insurance brokers have also been brought within the ambit of the Ombudsman mechanism. The Ombudsmen has been empowered to pass awards against insurance brokers as well.
- To strengthen the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the mechanism, policyholders will now be enabled for making complaints electronically to the Ombudsman.
- A complaints management system will be created to enable policyholders to track the status of their complaints online.
- The rules also provide that, the ombudsman can use video-conferencing to hear the cases.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ UNGA adopts India-led resolution declaring 2023 as Int'l Year of Millets



- The UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- The International Year of Millets is aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and its suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions.
- India's Permanent Mission to the UN also distributed savoury millet snack murukku to all UN Member States.
- The 193-member General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- The resolution titled International Year of Millets 2023′ was initiated by India with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia and Senegal and was co-sponsored by over 70 nations.
- The resolution considers the urgent need to raise awareness of the climate-resilient and nutritional benefits of millets and to advocate for diversified, balanced and healthy diets through the increased sustainable production and consumption of millets.

❖ CJI SA Bobde recommends Justice NV Ramana as his successor



- Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde has recommended Justice NV Ramana's name as his successor after he retires next month. CJI Bobde is set to retire on 23 April.
- In a letter to the Law Ministry, CJI SA Bobde recommended Justice Ramana as his successor.
- Justice NV Ramana is the most senior judge in the apex court after CJI Bobde.
- On appointment, Justice NV Ramana will be the 48th Chief Justice of India and he will have a long tenure as CJI for over 16 months.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ India-Finland Virtual Summit 2021



- The India-Finland Virtual Summit was held on March 16, 2021, with the participation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland Ms Sanna Marin.
- The virtual summit was organised to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral issues as well as other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.
- The two leaders reviewed the ongoing bilateral engagements and committed to further expand and diversify the relationship across sectors such as trade and investment, innovation, education, emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, 5G/6G, and quantum computing.
- The two leaders also discussed the Covid-19 situation including their respective vaccination drives and emphasized the importance of global efforts for urgent and affordable access to vaccines across all nations.

❖ India ranks 40th on International Intellectual Property Index

- India ranked 40 among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released.



- The US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC), the Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.
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Appointment And Resignation

❖ New Delhi Ranked as World's most polluted capital city



- New Delhi has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city for the third straight year in the 2020 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir. Globally, New Delhi is ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world.
- The topmost polluted city in the world is Xinjiang in China. This is followed by nine Indian cities as the most polluted cities in the world, which are Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Bisrakh Jalalpur, Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow and Bhiwari.
- The IQAir report measures air quality levels based on the concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles known as PM 2.5, which is measured by ground-based monitoring stations.

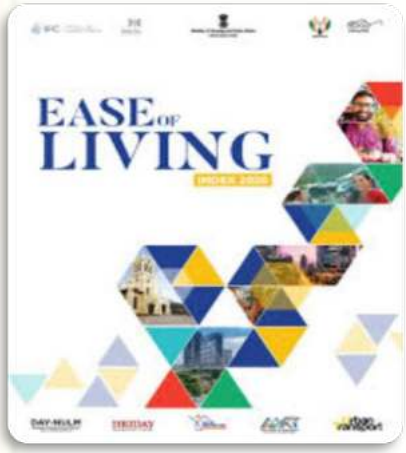
❖ J&K Govt approves setting up of JVC "Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation"



- The Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved the incorporation of a joint venture company (JVC) under the name "Ratle Hydro-electric Power Corporation".
- To implement the 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) on river Chenab in the Kishtwar district of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- The JV company has been incorporated between the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and J&K State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC).
- The equity contributions of NHPC will be 51 per cent and for JKSPDC will be 49 per cent.
- The proposed JVC will have an authorised capital of Rs 1,600 crore with initial paid-up capital of Rs 100 crore.
- The 850 MW Ratle HEP will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 5,281.94 crore.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Ease of Living Index 2020 released



- Bengaluru emerged as the top city on the government's Ease of Living Index 2020 that was released by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Pune was second and Ahmedabad was ranked third among 111 cities.
- A total of 111 cities under the Smart Cities Program, participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted in 2020.
- Million+ category
- Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in this category.
- This was followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai respectively.
- Less than Million category
- In this group, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living.
- This was followed by Bhubaneshwar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

❖ Hurun India Wealth Report 2020 announced



- The Hurun India Wealth Report, 2020 was released on March 16, 2020.
- The report identifies a novel household category in India called the 'New Middle Class' which accounts for an average savings of Rs 20-lakh per annum.
- The report highlights that these households have a major allocation towards physical assets like primary residential property and automobiles. As per the report, the total number of such cumulative households in India stands at 633,000.
- The report further states that there are around 4,12,000 dollar-millionaire households or affluent households across India which are having a net worth of Rs 7 crore. As per the report, the Hurun Rich Listers comprise a wealth of Rs 1,000 crore.

Appointment And Resignation

- This category of the report comprises 3000 number of cumulative households in India. The 'Indian middle class' has earnings of over Rs 2.5-lakh per annum while they have a net worth of less than Rs 7 crore. The 'Indian Middle Class' category accounts for 56400,000 families in India.

❖ Deepika Padukone joins WEF list of Young Global Leader



- Actor Deepika Padukone has joined the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum. The list also includes several Indian citizens and India-origin persons.
- They join a group of Nobel Prize recipients, Pulitzer winners, heads of state and chief executive officers committed to improving the state of the world.
- The Forum of Young Global Leaders was founded in 2005 by Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, to create a world where leaders take responsibility for a sustainable future while meeting increasingly complex and interrelated challenges.

❖ Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou wins Africa's top prize



- Mahamadou Issoufou, the incumbent President of Niger has won the "2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership", the world's largest leadership prize, worth $5 million.
- He is the sixth winner of the Ibrahim Prize since it was introduced in 2006, by Sudanese billionaire Mo Ibrahim's foundation to promote good governance in the world's poorest continent.
- The 69-year-old Issoufou is stepping down as president of Niger in April 2021, after serving two terms in office.
- He first took office in 2011 and was then re-elected in 2016.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Govt announces new scheme for tourist vehicle operators



- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a new scheme for tourist vehicle operators, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an "All India tourist authorization and permit" through online mode.
- The new set of rules will be known as "All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021". This will come into effect from April 01, 2021.
- The new rules for permits are aimed at promoting tourism across the states in our country, while simultaneously, helping to grow the revenue of state Governments.
- The permits will be issued, after relevant documents are submitted and fees deposited, within 30 days of submission of such applications.
- The authorization/permit will be granted, for a period of three months or its multiples thereof, not exceeding three years at a time.

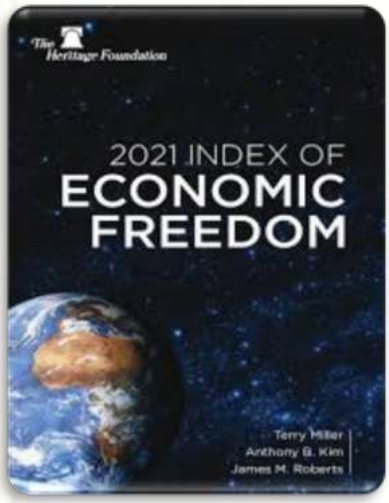
❖ Supreme Court seeks govt.'s response on plea against Places of Worship Act



- The Supreme Court has asked the government to respond to a plea challenging the Places of Worship Act enacted in 1991.
- A notice is issued by a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde to the Union Ministries of Home, Law and Culture on a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay against various provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991.
- The petition said Sections of the Act that dealt with the bar on legal claims were against the principles of secularism.
- The religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on 15 August 1947.
- No person shall convert any sort of place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Economic Freedom Index 2021 announced



- The Heritage Foundation, a US Conservative think-tank, recently launched the "Economic Freedom Index".
- The index was prepared by covering 184 countries this time for the period of July 2019 to June 2020.
- This is the first time the index has been published since the COVID-19 pandemic overturned lives as well as global economies and the scoring reflects a small extent how governments have responded to the health crisis.
- In the index, Singapore has topped the global ranking for the second consecutive year.
- In the 2021 Index, India came in around the middle of the pack among Asia-Pacific countries ranking 26th out of 40 countries, scoring 56.5 points. Globally, the Foundation rates India's economy as the 121st freest. Although its overall score is unchanged, improvements were made in business freedom. This was offset by declines in judicial effectiveness and other scores.

❖ India downgraded 'free' to 'partly free' in democracy report

- India's status as a democracy and free society has been downgraded to "partly free" in the latest annual report on global political rights and liberties by Freedom House, a US government-funded NGO that studies political freedom around the world.



- The report titled "Freedom in the World 2021 – Democracy under Siege". India's fall "from the upper ranks of free nations could have a particularly damaging impact on global democratic standards".
- India had been rated as "free" in Freedom House's reports for 2018, 2019 and 2020, though its scores on a scale of 100 had declined this period from 77 to 71. In the latest report, India had a score of 67 out of 100.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ 11th QS World University Rankings 2021 released

- The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings was released on March 04, 2021. The QS World University Rankings 2021 ranks the top 1,000 universities from around the world, covering 80 different locations. There are 47 new entrants on the list.
- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the United States has retained its top position as the best university for the ninth year in a row.
- Stanford University, the United States and the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom are the second and third best University globally in QS World University Rankings 2021.
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay has emerged as the best institution. It is placed at 172 positions. No institute in India is in the top 100.

❖ Digital platform 'Jagrut Tripura' launched by CM to boost e-governance



- The Tripura government has come up with a digital platform 'Jagrut Tripura' to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state government.
- At least 102 schemes of various departments of both governments are available on the platform.
- The 'Jagrut Tripura' will empower citizens of the northeastern state. The digital platform is one of the many proactive initiatives undertaken by the state government to spur a technology-led innovation ecosystem to make 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) Tripura.
- The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura. "With 'Jagrut', we want to empower people to get the benefits they deserve, and the focus is on building a family-centric, progressive model having 'one data one source' and privacy at the core.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Indore and NDMC tops Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020



- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has released the final rankings of the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020.
- The ranking has classified municipalities into two categories based on their population which are: million-plus category and the less than million categories.
- The Municipal Performance Index will help Municipalities in better planning and management, filling the gaps in city administration, and improving the liveability of cities for its citizens.
- Million plus population category
- Indore has topped this list, followed by Surat and Bhopal.
- Less than a million category
- New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

❖ PM Modi Virtually Attends First Quad Summit 2021

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga come together for the first QUAD Summit.



- The meeting was ///Indo-Pacific region, COVID-19, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security, and climate change.
- The forum is maintained by semi-regular summits, military drills and information between member countries.
- The idea of QUAD was first brought up by the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe back in 2007.
- Since then the representatives from the member countries have met regularly and worked together.
- However, this was the first-ever meeting between the national heads of the QUAD countries.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Cabinet Approves Amendments in Insurance Act 1938



- The Union Cabinet has given its nod for amendments in the Insurance Act, paving way for 74 per cent foreign direct investment in the sector.
- Currently, the permissible FDI limit in life and general insurance stands at 49 per cent with ownership and management control with Indian.
- According to sources, the Cabinet in its meeting has approval for amendments in the Insurance Act, 1938. It was in 2015 when the government hiked the FDI cap in the insurance sector from 26 per cent to 49 per cent.
- The majority of directors on the board and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50 per cent of directors being independent directors, and a specified percentage of profits being retained as a general reserve.
- An increase in FDI will help improve life insurance penetration in the country. Life insurance premium as a percentage of GDP is 3.6 per cent in the country, way below the global average of 7.13 per cent, and in the case of general insurance, it is even worse at 0.94 per cent of GDP, as against the world average of 2.88 per cent.
- The government has earlier allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment in insurance intermediaries.

❖ Union Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN), as a single non-lapsable reserve fund.
- This has been approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess which is levied under the Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.



Appointment And Resignation

- This is a non-lapsable reserve fund for the Health in the Public Account. This fund will comprise of the proceeds from the share of health in the Health and Education Cess.
- This revenue in the fund will be used for the flagship schemes of the Health Ministry including the National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres, Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and for the emergency & disaster preparedness and responses in cases of health emergencies.

❖ India-Sweden Virtual Summit 2021



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in the virtual India-Sweden summit, with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Stefan Lofven.
- The virtual summit was organised to exchange views on regional and global issues and to discuss the bilateral relations between the two countries.
- This was the fifth interaction between the two leaders since 2015.
- Both the leaders underlined that the longstanding close relations between India and Sweden were based on shared values of democracy, rule of law, pluralism, equality, freedom of speech, and respect for human rights.
- Prime Minister Modi welcomed Sweden's decision to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

❖ India's first 'Transgender Community Desk' opens in Telangana

- The Cyberabad Police has launched India's first-ever Transgender Community Desk' at the Gachibowli Police Station in Hyderabad, Telangana. This desk is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiatives in the country.



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

❖ India's first forest healing centre inaugurated in Uttrakand's Ranikhet



- The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Kalika Uttarakhand.
- The forest healing centre has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department after research on the healing properties of the forests and its revitalizing impact on overall health and well being. It is spread over an area of around 13 acres.
- This healing centre has been established in a pine-dominated forest as it has been found in various studies that coniferous like Pine trees emit certain oil compounds to safeguard themselves from various microbes and pathogens, which are called phytoncides.
- It has been found in various researches that these compounds help to multiply natural killer (NK) cells in our blood, which help in fighting infections and cancerous growth and enhance overall immunity.
- It has been found that because of typical molecular vibration patterns of trees, tree-hugging has a beneficial impact on the increase in the level of feel-good hormones like oxytocin, serotonin and dopamine, creating the pleasant effect.

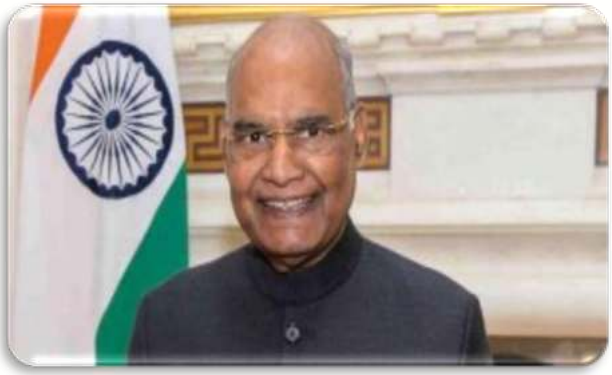
- In countries like Iceland forest department has been making efforts to facilitate this activity for benefit of health purpose of local citizens.

❖ UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2021



- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP released the Food Waste Index Report 2021 and highlights that food wastes by different countries in 2019.
- As per the report, Over 931 million tonnes of food were wasted globally in 2019.
- In India, the household food waste estimate is 50 kg per capita per year, or 68,760,163 tonnes a year.
- The household food waste estimate in the US is 59 kg per capita per year, or 19,359,951 tonnes a year.
- China these estimates are 64 kg per capita per year or 91,646,213 tonnes a year.

❖ President of India Inaugurates conservation works at Singorgarh Fort in MP



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

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Delhi govt presents Rs 69000 Cr 'Deshbhakti' Budget



- The Delhi government presented a Rs 69,000-crore budget themed on 'patriotism' or 'Deshbhakti' for the financial year 2021-22. The budget was presented by the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia.
- While presenting the budget, he announced that the government has decided to celebrate the 75th Independence Day of India. The Delhi government will hold programmes from March 12, 2021, which will last for 75 weeks.
- The government has proposed to allocate Rupees 45 crores in order to install high masts so as to hoist the national flag at 500 places in Delhi.
- An outlay of Rs 50 crores made under 'Aam Aadmi Nishulk COVID Vaccine Yojana. It announced free Covid-19 vaccination to all in its hospitals in the coming phases of the ongoing inoculation drive.

❖ IBM signs MoU with U'khand Government to introduce STEM for Girls



- IBM has announced a collaboration with Samagra Sikhsha Uttarakhand, the Government of Uttarakhand's education mission, to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across five districts in the state.
- The collaboration is part of a three-year program between IBM and Uttarakhand State Government with the American India Foundation as the implementation partner to increase the participation of girls and women in STEM careers.
- The program will advance the skills and careers of close to 25,600 students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.
- The 'IBM STEM for Girls' program features a comprehensive approach that builds technical capabilities as well as life and self-actualization skills.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Himachal CM inaugurates Swarnim International Shivratri Fair



- The famous Swarnim International Shivratri Fair has begun with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur formally launching it at the historic Paddal ground, Himachal Pradesh.
- Thousands of people dressed in their traditional attire participated in the procession carrying their local deities dancing all the way up to Paddal ground.
- Over 150 deities participated in the 'Jaleb', the traditional Shobha Yatra from almost all parts of the district. Earlier, the Chief Minister participated in the Pagri Ceremony and performed Puja at Shri Raj Madhav Rai Temple.
- Chief Minister felicitated the people of the State on the auspicious occasion of International Shivratri festival, which was being celebrated this year as Swarnim International Shivratri Fair to mark glorious fifty years of Statehood.

❖ India Chaired the First Meeting Of BRICS CGETI

- Under the chairship of India, the First Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was held from 9th March 2021 to 11th March 2021.

- The 2021 theme of the BRICS is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus".
- India presented the calendar of events for BRICS CGETI 2021, this includes the priority areas for deliverables, schedule and scope of the MSME roundtable conference workshop on Services Statistics, and the BRICS Trade Fair. A series of presentations on the proposed deliverables during India's chairship under the BRICS CGETI track was made in a separate session by the concerned departments of the government of India.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum held Virtually

- The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually. The Forum discussed key issues that contribute towards the transformation of women's lives.
- At the end of the conference, a joint declaration was also issued highlighting the shared IBSA goals and commitments for achieving gender equality in all spheres of life.
- The India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum is a unique platform that brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents.
- The meeting was led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- IBSA is committed to inclusive sustainable development, in pursuit of the well-being of its citizens and those from other developing nations.
- The principles, norms and values underpinning the IBSA Dialogue Forum are participatory democracy, respect for human rights, the Rule of Law and the strengthening of multilateralism. IBSA lays efforts in South-South cooperation beyond the conventional areas of exchange of experts and training.

❖ PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' bridge between India and Bangladesh through a video conference, to strengthen the connectivity between both countries and especially with the north-eastern region of India.



Appointment And Resignation

- Maitri bridge will also make Tripura the 'Gateway of North East' with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, which is just 80 km from the Sabroom.
- The Maitri Setu bridge has been built on the Feni river, which lies between the Indian boundary in Tripura and Bangladesh.
- The 1.9 Kilometres long bridge will connect Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- The bridge has been constructed by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited at a project cost of around Rs. 133 Crore.

❖ Tirath Singh Rawat becomes new Chief Minister of U'khand



- The Bharatiya Janata Party's member of Parliament from Pauri Garhwal, Tirath Singh Rawat, will be the next chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- This was announced by outgoing chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, who resigned.

- Tirath Singh Rawat will be sworn in as the new chief minister of Uttrakhand.
- Tirath Singh Rawat was the chief of the party in Uttarakhand in 2013-15 and also an MLA from the state in the past. His name was picked over prominent candidates including Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Uttarakhand Minister Dhan Singh Rawat.

7. INTERNATIONAL

❖ India describes Sri Lanka 'Priority One' partner in defence



- Indian High Commission in Colombo has described the island nation of Sri Lanka as its "Priority One" partner in the defence sphere and reiterated the assurance of fullest cooperation in the field of defence and security.
- The assertion comes at a time when the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) is gearing up for the celebration of its 70th anniversary on 2 March.
- The SLAF is celebrating its 70th Anniversary on March 2 and to commemorate the historical event, a Fly Past and an Aerobatic Display are being organised for the first time in the country at a grand scale.
- A total of 23 Indian Air force (IAF) and Indian Navy aircraft will also partake in the event. Indian High Commission has called the participation indicative of the growing cooperation, camaraderie and friendship between the armed forces of the two nations.

❖ Ghana becomes the world's first nation to receive COVAX vaccines



- Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative with a delivery of 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India.
- Ghana is among 92 low-and middle-income countries that are receiving vaccines for free through COVAX. Another 90 countries and eight territories have agreed to pay if they choose to receive vaccines through COVAX.
- The vaccines, delivered by UNICEF, arrived at Accra's international airport and are part of the first wave of Covid-19 vaccines being sent by COVAX.

- The basic aim of this visit is to pay homage to the Bangladeshi and Indian combatants and citizens who laid down their lives during the Liberation War of 1971 against Pakistan.
- The ships will take part in the ongoing Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations to commemorate 50 years of the Liberation War of 1971 and reiterating the historic Indo-Bangladeshi friendship.

❖ WHO declares El Salvador malaria-free



- El Salvador is the first country in Central America to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization.
- WHO grants a certification of malaria elimination when a country proves "beyond a reasonable doubt" that there has been no indigenous transmission of the disease nationwide for the previous three consecutive years.
- El Salvador hasn't had a malaria outbreak since 1996 and has reported no indigenous cases since 2017. In 1990, the country had 9,000 cases per year, a figure that declined to 26 by 2010.
- WHO credited El Salvador's sustained domestic funding for malaria prevention, detection, and treatment for success.

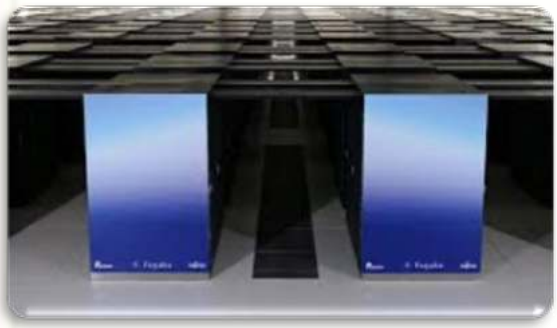
❖ Italy signs International Solar Alliance amended Framework Agreement

- Italy has signed the amended Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) with India.
- The framework agreement was signed by the Italian Ambassador to India Vincenzo De Luca.
- ISA is an alliance of over 121 nations that have been initiated by India.



- The European country signed the ISA framework agreement after an amendment to the Framework Agreement of the ISA entered into force on January 08, 2021, opening its membership to all member states of the UN. The amendments of the ISA framework agreement allows all the member states of the United Nations to join the ISA grouping, including those lying beyond the tropics.

❖ World's Most Powerful Supercomputer Fugaku is ready for use



- The Japanese scientific research institute called RIKEN and Fujitsu started developing the "Fugaku" six years ago.
- It is the world's most powerful supercomputers. Fugaku has been named after an alternative name for Mount Fuji.
- Now, this supercomputer is fully ready and developed in Japan and is now available for research use. This supercomputer has been developed with the aim of making the device core of the computing infrastructure of Japan.
- The computer comprises 100 times the application performance of the K supercomputer.
- It has been developed to implement high-resolution, large-scale and long-duration simulation.
- It started development in the year 2014 as the successor to the K computer. It is built with the Fujitsu A64FX microprocessor.

❖ World's Largest Floating Solar Farms being built in Singapore

- The largest floating solar farm in the world is being built in Singapore.
- The country has resorted to set up energy plants off the coasts and reservoirs across it.



- This floating solar farm is being set up in the light that despite being one of the smallest countries across the world, it is one of the biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in India.
- Thus, to cater to the issue of climate change and to cut the greenhouse gas emission it is building the floating solar farm. This project is being built by Sembcorp Industries.

❖ WEF honours ReNew Power named as Global Lighthouse Network

- ReNew Power has been named to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network, which recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community supportive, profitable growth.
- ReNew Power is an Indian renewable energy company. It has an asset base of over 8 GW, with around 5 GW operational. ReNew Power is one of the two Indian companies to be recognised by the Global Lighthouse Network this year.

❖ Switzerland votes to ban full-face coverings in public places

- Switzerland has voted in favour of a proposal banning full facial coverings including the burqa and niqab in almost all public places. In the public referendum, around 51.21 per cent of voters voted in support of the controversial proposal.



- The vote means that full facial covering will be banned in all publicly accessible places in Switzerland including on the streets, public transport, in public offices such as restaurants, shops and in the countryside.
- The full-face covering will be allowed in places of worship and other sacred sites. It will also be allowed for health and safety reasons and in situations where it is a local custom such as carnivals.

- According to the proposal by the Swiss Federal Government, there will be no additional exceptions such as for tourists.
- France was the first European nation to ban burqas and niqabs in public places in 2011. The European Court of Human Rights had upheld the ban in 2014.

❖ World Bank Releases "World Development Report 2021"



- The "World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives" was released by the World Bank.
- The World Development Report focuses on how data can improve the lives of poor people and advance development objectives, to ensure no one is left behind.
- It highlights the tremendous potential of the changing data landscape to improve the lives of poor people, at the same time acknowledging its potential to open back doors that can harm individuals, businesses, and societies.
- Through this report, World Bank aims to support its client countries by identifying where public and private sector investments are the most critical, defining a rich program for policy reform and technical assistance, and highlighting areas in which global initiatives can help to convene and facilitate cross-border cooperation.

❖ India, Japan agree for greater cooperation in patent verification



- India and Japan have agreed to recognize each other's offices to act mutually as competent International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) for any international patent application filed with them.

- This memorandum of cooperation on the industrial property was arrived at during the 4th review meeting between DPIIT and Japan Patent Office. India had approved an MoC between the Indian Patent Office (IPO) and the JPO for entering into a PPH on a pilot basis for three years. This is a reciprocal arrangement, so the JPO will also be able to accelerate the prosecution of a Japanese application using positive examination results received from the IPO.
- The IPO will only offer acceleration for patent applications in certain technical fields such as physics, computer science, IT, electronics, metallurgy and automobiles.

❖ Global Wind Report 2021: 2020 was Best Year for Wind Industry

- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2020 was the best year in history for the global wind industry as this sector installed 93GW of new capacity in 2020, according to a new report titled 'Global Wind Report 2021, released by the Global Wind Energy Council.



- This is the 16th annual flagship report, released by GWEC on March 25, 2021. The 93GW represents a 53% year-on-year increase.

8. Gov Schemes

❖ Jammu and Kashmir launches Super-75 Scholarship Scheme



- The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched "Super-75" scholarship schemes for meritorious girls, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021.
- The basic aim of this scholarship scheme is to facilitate the education and entrepreneurship of women.
- The super-75 scholarship scheme will support the education of meritorious girls from poor families, so that they can excel in streams like medicine, engineering, ITI (Industrial training institutes) and humanity and contribute to nation-building.
- Apart from this, Lt Governor Sinha also announced a new scheme named 'Tejaswini'. This scheme has been launched under 'Mission Youth-J&K'.
- Under Tejaswini, financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs will be provided to the girls between the age group of 18 to 35 years to start their business.

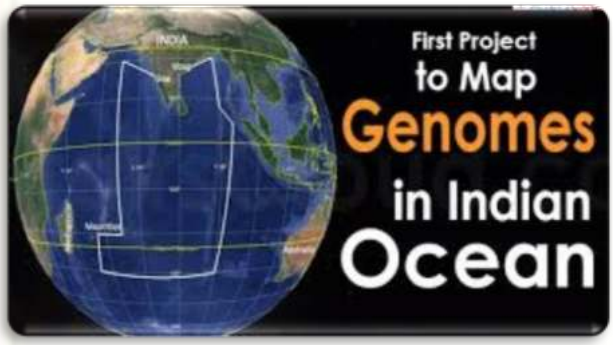
❖ UP and MP sign agreement with Jal Shakti Ministry for 'Ken-Betwa Link' project



- On the occasion of World Water Day, the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh signed an agreement with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to implement the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project.
- The main purpose of this project is to carry water from surplus regions to drought-prone and water-scarce region through the interlinking of rivers.
- The surplus water will be transferred from the Ken river in Panna district in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa river in Uttar Pradesh.
- The project will benefit the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, by resolving the water scarcity and thus bring prosperity to this region.
- The water will be transferred through the construction of the Dhaudan Dam and a 221 km-long canal.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ First project Genome Mapping in Indian Ocean will be launched



- In the Indian Ocean, the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) will launch the first-of-its-kind project of Genome Mapping.
- Indian Ocean covers about 20% of the Earths's water surface and so is the third largest water bocy in the world.
- Its objective is to bather samples of genome mapping of microorganisms in the Indian Ocean.
- It is also necessary to understand the biochemistry and the response of the Ocean to climate change, nutrient stress and increasing pollution.
- The cost of the project and duration is Rs 25 crore and will take around three years to complete.

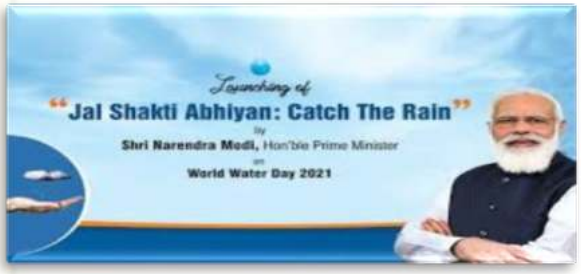
❖ Govt to launch "Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra Portal"



- The commerce and industry ministry has stated that the central government is working to develop a portal called "Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra Portal" for information dissemination, hand-holding, and facilitation of domestic investors.
- The portal Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra is currently is in the testing phase. It will be launched by May 1, 2021. The ministry is also working on a webpage which will be available in regional languages and mobile app.
- This portal is being developed in order to strengthen efforts to promote domestic investments. It is being developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The portal will help in providing daily updates on several things including the policies and new initiatives by the central and state governments, information regarding the approvals, licenses, clearances several schemes & incentives.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ PM Modi launches 'Catch the Rain' campaign



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign on March 22, 2021, on the occasion of World Water Day for conserving water.
- PM urged that every penny of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) funds be spent on rainwater conservation till the monsoon arrives.
- The 'Catch the Rain' campaign will be implemented across the country, in both rural and urban areas from March 22 to November 30, 2021 (the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country).
- The main aim of the campaign is to take water conservation at the grass-root level through people's participation and urge stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.

❖ GoI launched "Gram Ujala Scheme" for Rural Areas



- The government of India has launched the "Gram Ujala Scheme" to provide the cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas.
- The scheme was launched by the Union power and new and renewable energy minister, Raj Kumar Singh.
- In the first phase, the scheme was launched from Arrah district in Bihar. In this phase, around 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed in the villages of Arrah (Bihar), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and western Gujarat.
- The Gram Ujala Scheme is an ambitious scheme that offers the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas. This is the first such scheme in India. It provides the LED Bulbs in these areas at a mere ₹10.
- This scheme also furthers its climate change strategy and strengthen the self-reliance credentials. The scheme does not come with the government's support or subsidy.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Jharkhand launches 'SAAMAR' campaign to fight malnutrition



- The state government of Jharkhand has launched a campaign called SAAMAR to tackle malnutrition in the state.
- SAAMAR stands for Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction.
- The campaign has been launched with a 1000 days target, where annual surveys will be conducted to track the progress.
- The campaign will bring together various departments to identify anaemic women and malnourished children to effectively deal with the problem in a state where malnutrition has been a major problem.
- Most importantly, the campaign, as per the note, also tries to target Primarily Vulnerable Tribal Groups. Stating that there is no research-based information available on their food and nutritional habits, it encourages research and proposes fellowships on the nutritional behaviour of these groups for effective implementation.

❖ Andhra Pradesh to launch India's first Govt-Run Animal Ambulance Network



- The state government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up "India's first government-run ambulance network" for animals. This decision was taken in order to further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state.
- Ambulance network as one of its main missions in order to help in reaching out to the distressed animals to provide them with proper animal healthcare. The Animal Husbandry Department was directed to set up one Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic at each of the assembly constituency.
- A total of 175 mobile ambulances (veterinary) clinics will be placed at Assembly Constituency Level on the lines of 108 Services for providing Veterinary services at the doorstep.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ GoI forms experts committee for Startup India Seed Fund Scheme



- The government has constituted an experts advisory committee for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme. The committee would be chaired by H K Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology.
- The other representatives of the committee would include members from DPIIT, the department of biotechnology, science and technology, electronics and IT, Niti Aayog, and expert members from the startup ecosystem.
- Committee will evaluate and select incubators for allotment of funds under the scheme, monitor progress and take all necessary measures for efficient utilisation of funds towards the fulfilment of objectives of the scheme.

❖ Govt launches Mera Ration Mobile App



- In order to facilitate the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' system in the country, the government has launched 'Mera Ration' mobile app to benefit citizens in identifying the nearest fair price shop.
- This app will benefit especially those ration card holders who move to new areas for livelihoods.
- The app is developed by the government in association with NIC "to facilitate various "One Nation-One Ration Card" related services among the National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, fair price shop dealers and other relevant stakeholders.
- With the help of the app, the beneficiaries can easily check details of food grain entitlement, recent transactions and the Status of their Aadhaar seeding.
- The migrant beneficiaries can also register their migration details with the help of the application. Beneficiaries can also enter their suggestions or feedback.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ PM Narendra Modi Launches Kindle Version Of Bhagavad Gita



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Kindle version of Swami Chidbhavananda's 'Bhagavad Gita' via video conferencing. The event has been organised to commemorate the sale of over 5 lakh copies of the Swami Chidbhavanandaji's Bhagavad Gita.
- Swami Chidbhavanandaji is the founder of Sri Ramakrishna Tapovanam Ashram at Thirupparaithurai, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. Chidbhavananda Ji was devoted to India's regeneration. He noted that Swami Vivekananda's Madras lectures inspired Swami Chidbhavananda Ji to put the nation above everything else and serve the people.

❖ J&K LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates project "Awaam Ki Baat"

- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, initiated the project "Awaam Ki Baat" – a Radio program by launching its website at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.



- The half-an-hour long Radio program to be aired every third Sunday of the month (to start from April), is one of the many sequential steps of a broader program aimed at disseminating the progressive steps taken by the government and providing the public with a platform to speak, write and interact with the administration, thereby voicing their suggestions, ideas and creative proposals.
- Awaam Ki Baat is the novel initiative of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir which aims at disseminating the progressive steps taken by the administration and seeks public feedback to make the process interactive, participative and people-centric. The platform appreciates the heterogeneity of our Union Territory.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Nagaland Health Minister launches 'i-Learn' for Community Health Officers



- Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister, S Pangnyu Phom has launched i-Learn, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers, CHOs in the state at his office chamber in Kohima.
- The state government launched the i-Learn application in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiego which will cater across the 189 Health & wellness centres in the state.
- i-Learn is a learning management system for CHOs with self-facilitated learning for improving and learning new skills in clinical and non-clinical areas.
- The state is committed to defeating the pandemic and as such it has rolled out several interventions including digital technology like the Naga Telehealth services.

❖ Nirmala Sitharaman launches Central Scrutiny Centre and IEPFA mobile App



- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) and Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority's (IEPFA) Mobile App.
- The two tech-enabled initiatives have been launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to leverage digital solutions to achieve the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digitally empowered India.
- The Mobile App will focus on financial literacy by spreading investors' awareness, education, and protection among investors.
- The Mobile App has been developed for citizen engagement and information dissemination to promote awareness among investors.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Uttarakhand CM launches ”Gharoki Pechan, Chelik Naam” scheme



- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched “Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam” (daughter”s name is a home”s identity) programme and development schemes worth Rs 42 crore in Nainital.
- Initially, the scheme has been launched in Nainital and later is set to be extended to the entire Uttarakhand.
- The government is working towards women empowerment and 32,000 women groups of the state are being linked with self-employment to make them self-reliant. The state government is also set to implement many public welfare schemes for the benefit of the youth.

❖ Thaawarchand Gehlot launches “Sugamya Bharat App”

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched the “Sugamya Bharat App”, through a video conference in New Delhi.
- The minister also launched a handbook entitled “Access – The Photo Digest”.



- The App and the handbook have been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application to enable people with disabilities and even the elderly to register accessibility-related problems
- The aim of the app is to sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign which includes the built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.
- This handbook is a collection of photographs from across different States and UTs, to act as a tool and guide for stakeholders, to sensitise them about 10 basic features of accessibility and related good-bad practices in easy to understand pictorial form.

9. SPORTS

❖ Vinesh Phogat wins gold in Ukraine wrestling event



- Star Indian wrestler, Vinesh Phogat has defeated 2017 world champion Vanesa Kaladzinskay of Belarus to win a gold medal at the XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament, held in Kiev, Ukraine.
- Haryana's Bhiwani-based Vinesh won in the 53kg bout with a 10-8 lead.
- She is the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics Games in the 53 kg category.

❖ Mumbai City FC win ISL League Football Winners Shield

- Mumbai City FC has scripted a 2-0 triumph over ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) at the GMC Stadium in Goa to bag the ISL League Winners Shield and the coveted AFC Champions League spot that comes with it.



- Mumbai and ATKMB finished level on 40 points, but the former claimed first place with a better head-to-head record.
- Mumbai City FC became the second-ever Indian club to qualify to the group stages of the AFC Champions League.

❖ Indian shuttlers Varun, Malvika win Uganda International titles



- India's Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2021 Uganda International Badminton tournament in Kampala.
- Varun beat compatriot Sankar Muthusamy 21-18, 16-21, 21-17 in the men's singles final.
- Malvika beat compatriot Anupama Upadhyaya in the women singles summit clash 17-21, 25-23, 21-10.

❖ Kieron Pollard becomes 3rd Man to Hit 6 Sixes in an over

- Kieron Pollard hit six sixes in an over to guide West Indies to a comprehensive four-wicket win against Sri Lanka in the first game of their three-match T20 series.



- Pollard joins former India batsman Yuvraj Singh as the only other player to hit six sixes in an over in T20 cricket, and just the third man to hit six sixes in an international match, emulating Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa) and Yuvraj Singh (India).
- Pollard achieved the feat when he hit Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya out of the park 6 times in the 6th over of West Indies' successful chase in the first T20I at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.
- Sri Lanka leg-spinner Akila Dananjaya (3-62) was the unfortunate bowler, pummelled in all directions by Pollard, and this coming after he had taken a hat-trick in his previous over.

❖ J&K tops medals tally at Khelo India Winter National Games



- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir topped the medals tally in the second edition of the Khelo India Winter National Games.
- J&K won 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals.

- The five-day mega sports event which began on the 26th of February concluded in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.
- The event was e-inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The second edition of the Khelo India winter games is a major step towards making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of the winter games.
- In the event, more than 1,000 athletes from 27 states and union territories took part.
- The event was organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

❖ Athlete Avinash Sable Sets New National Record In Men's 3000m Steeplechase



- The Indian athlete Avinash Sable set a new national record in the men's 3000m steeplechase event in the ongoing Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala, with timing of 8:20.20.
- With this, the 26-year-old Avinash broke his own record of 8:21.37 which he set in 2019, after finishing 13th in the final of the World Athletics Championships in Doha.
- The army man from the arid Beed district of Maharashtra broke the national record for the fifth time in his career.

❖ Virat Kohli becomes the first player to score 3000 runs in men's T20I



- Indian captain Virat Kohli has breached the 3000-run mark in Twenty20 Internationals with his last shot in the second T20I against England. Kohli's knock of 73 runs, which came off 49 balls, also helped India to level the five-match T20I series.
- He also became the third captain in international cricket to score 12000 runs as a captain. He joined legendary captains Ricky Ponting and Graeme Smith in the elite list.

❖ Mumbai City FC beat ATK Mohun Bagan to win their maiden ISL title



- Mumbai City FC has defeated ATK Mohun Bagan 2-1 in the ISL 2020-21 final to lift yet another trophy this year.
- Mumbai had earlier secured the ISL Shield along with a spot in the AFC Champions League group stage by finishing first in the standings in the regular season.
- Related Awards

- Golden Ball Award (Best Player of ISL 2020-21): ATK Mohun Bagan forward Roy Krishna.
- Emerging Indian Player of the Year: NorthEast United midfielder Lalengmawia.
- Golden Boot Award (Top goal-scorer): FC Goa striker Igor Angulo for 14 goals.
- Golden Glove Award (Best Goalkeeper): ATK Mohun Bagan custodian Arindam Bhattacharya for ten clean sheets.

❖ Dhanalakshmi beats Dutee Chand to win Federation Cup gold



- Sprinter S Dhanalakshmi beat national record holder Dutee Chand to win women's 100m sprint final in the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala.
- The 22-year-old Dhanalakshmi of Tamil Nadu clocked 11.39 seconds to become the fastest woman of the championships. Odisha-based Dutee clocked 11.58 seconds to be placed in second place.
- Another Tamil Nadu runner Archana Suseendran was third in 11.76 seconds. Hima Das was disqualified after a false start. In men's 100m final category, Gurindervir Singh of Punjab won gold in 10.32 seconds, while Elakkiyadasan Kannada of Tamil Nadu (10.43) and Maharashtra's Satish Krishnakumar (10.56) were second and third respectively.

❖ Bajrang Punia bags gold in Matteo Pellicon World ranking series



- In wrestling, the World Championship bronze medallist Bajrang Punia won a gold medal at the Matteo Pallicone ranking series held in Rome, Italy.
- He defeated Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir 2-2 by criteria in the 65kg freestyle event final.
- It is the second successive gold medal for 27 years Haryana wrestler, who had won the previous gold at this competition in 2020 by beating Jordan Oliver of the USA in the final.
- Apart from this, the ace India woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the 53kg title. The 26-year-old Vinesh beat Canada's Diana Weicker 4-0.

❖ Bhavani Devi becomes first ever Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics



- Bhavani Devi became the first-ever Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics.
- The sabre fencer secured an Olympic spot due to events in the ongoing Fencing World Cup.
- Hosts Hungary lost in the quarterfinals of the team event, allowing Korea to progress to the semis.
- Therefore, Bhavani Devi qualifies through the Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) Method. Currently, she is ranked 45th in the world. In 2017 She won India's 1st international gold medal in fencing.

❖ UAE's Mohammad Naveed, Shaiman Anwar banned for 8 years from all cricket

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has imposed eight years ban on former UAE players Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt from all cricket, for trying to fix matches during the T20 World Cup qualifiers in 2019.



- The ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal had found them guilty of breaching the Anti-Corruption Code in January 2021.
- The bans are backdated to 16 October 2019, when they were provisionally suspended for attempting to corrupt matches of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019 in the UAE. Naveed was the captain and leading wicket-taker. Anwar was the opening bat. Both had long international careers and were well versed in the threat from match-fixers.

❖ Mithali Raj becomes 1st Indian woman cricketer to score 10K Int'l runs



- The veteran Indian women's cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman cricketer that has completed 10,000 international runs in all the cricket formats.
- She also becomes the second woman cricketer at the international level to complete 10000 runs.
- She achieved the milestone of 10,000 after she hit a boundary off the Anne Bosch in 28th over of Indian innings in the ongoing third ODI match against South Africa.
- She won the Arjuna Award in the year 2003 and Padma Shri in the year 2015.

❖ India-New Zealand World Test Championship final in Southampton



- India will play their inaugural World Test Championship final against New Zealand at Southampton's Ageas Bowl Stadium, England from June 18-22.
- Initially, the final was supposed to be h with a five-star facility inside the stadiu ICC and the England and Wales Cricket Board to create a bio-bubble for the two teams.

❖ India qualify for ICC World Test Championship Final



- Indian Cricket Team have qualified for the inaugural ICC World Test Championship final after beating England in an innings and 25 runs in the fourth and final Test in Ahmedabad on 6th March.
- New Zealand had already qualified for the WTC final with 420 points from 11 Tests with 7 wins and 4 losses. The World Test Championship final will be played at the Lord's Cricket Ground in London from June 18.

❖ PV Sindhu wins silver in BWF Swiss Open Super 300



- India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu has won a silver medal in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300 in the final of the women's singles event held at Basel, Switzerland.
- The World No. 7 Sindhu lost to World No. 3 and reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin.
- Winners List of Swiss Open 2021

- Men's Singles : Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) beat Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand).
- Women's Singles: Carolina Marin (Spain) beat PV Sindhu (India).
- Men's Doubles: Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (Denmark) beat Mark Lamsfuss-Marvin Seidel (Germany).
- Mixed Doubles: Thom Gicquel-Delphine Delrue (France) beat Denmark pair, Mathias Christiansen-Alexandra Boje.

❖ India tops the medals tally with 15 gold at Delhi ISSF Shooting World Cup



- India finished at the top of the medals table at the 2021 ISSF World Cup New Delhi, held from 18 to 29 March 2021 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.
- India secured 30 medals which included 15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze.
- The USA came second with eight medals including four gold, three silver and one bronze.
- Gold Medal Winners

- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar: Men's 50-metre rifle three positions
- Saurabh Chaudhary, Shahzar Rizvi and Abhishek Verma: Men's 10-metre air pistol team event
- Swapnil Kusale, Chain Singh and Neeraj Kumar: Men's 50-metre rifle three positions team event
- Gurjoat Khangura, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Mairaj Ahmad Khan: Men's Skeet team event
- Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Toidaiman, Lakshay: Men's Trap team event
- Chinki Yadav: Women's 25-metre pistol
- Yashaswini Singh Deswal: Women's 10-metre air pistol
- Yashaswini Singh Deswal, Manu Bhaker, Shri Nivetha Paramanantham: Women's 10-metre air pistol team
- Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker, Chinki Yadav: Women's 25-metre pistol event
- Rajeshwari Kumar, Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer: Women's Trap event
- Saurabh Chaudhary/Manu Bhaker: 10-metre air pistol Mixed Team event
- Divyansh Singh Panwar/Elavenil Valarivan: 10-metre air rifle Mixed Team
- Tejaswini/Vijayveer Sidhu: 25-metre rapid-fire Pistol Mixed Team
- Sanjeev Rajput/Tejaswini Sawant: 50-metre rifle three positions Mixed Team
- Angad Vir Singh Bajwa/Ganemat Sekhon: Trap Mixed Team

❖ India's Singhraj wins gold in Para Shooting World Cup 2021

- Indian para-athlete Singhraj won the gold medal in the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE.
- He defeated Uzbekistan's Server Ibragimov to get the top honour in the P1 – Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.
- Singhraj pipped Rio 2016 bronze medallist Ibragimov by a thin margin of 2.8 points. The final score read 236.8-234.
- Turkey's former Paralympic champion Muharrem Korhan Yamaç took the bronze with 214.4 points.
- With this, India has moved to third place in the medals table. India has now two medals on its list – one gold and one bronze.

❖ ISSF World Cup: India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar Wins Gold



- India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won gold in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.
- The 20-year-old became the youngest in history to win a shooting World Cup gold in the 3 Positions event.
- The two other Indian shooters in the final, Sanjeev Rajput finishing sixth and Niraj Kumar came at the last position.
- This was India's 8th gold medal in the ongoing World Cup. India continues to dominate the medal tally with 15 so far. India has won three silver medals and four bronze to go with the eight gold medals.

10. DEATH

❖ Lok Sabha MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan passes away



- Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, has passed away.
- He was a six-term MP, who was elected as the Lok Sabha MP for the first time in 1996 and got re-elected in 1998, 1999, 2004, 2014 and 2019.

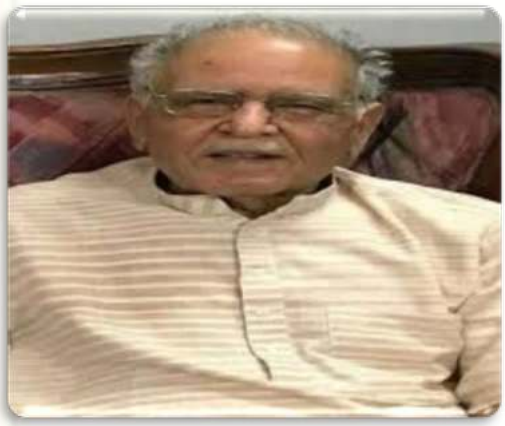
❖ Dhyan Chand Awardee Veteran Indian Athlete Ishar Singh Deol passes away



- Dhyan Chand National Sports Award-winning veteran Indian athlete Ishar Singh Deol, has passed away.
- Punjab-based Deol won the Dhyan Chand National Award in 2009 for his lifelong contribution towards sports.
- He was specialised in the field sports of discus and shot put.
- He had competed in the first three Asian Games and won a bronze medal in the second Asian Games held in Manila, the Philippines in 1954.

Appointment And Resignation

❖ Former Rajasthan Governor Anshuman Singh Passes Away



- Justice Shri Anshuman Singh, the former Governor of Rajasthan & Gujarat, has passed away.
- Anshuman Singh was a retired Justice who served as the Governor of Rajasthan from January 1999 till 2003. Prior to that, he was appointed as the Governor of Gujarat state in 1998.

❖ Ivory Coast Prime Minister Hamed Bakayoko passes away



- The incumbent Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, Hamed Bakayok has passed away due to cancer. H was named prime minister in Ju 2020 following the sudden dea of his predecessor, Amadou Gc Coulibaly.

- President of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara, has named Patrick Achi as interim prime minister in place of Bakayoko. Patrick Achi was serving as the chief of defence staff of the country.

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आनंद यशवंते
पोलिस उपनिरीक्षक (PSI) 2019



राहुल ससाणे
पोलिस उपनिरीक्षक (PSI) 2019



योगिता बांडे
पोलिस उपनिरीक्षक (PSI) 2019



दामिनी नन्नावरे
पोलिस उपनिरीक्षक (PSI) 2019



अनिल घायवट
पोलिस उपनिरीक्षक (PSI)



सुवर्णा चालके
पोलिस उपनिरीक्षक (PSI)



दिव्या महाले
राज्यकर निरीक्षक (STI)
11th in Maharashtra (OBC)



आरती चव्हाण
राज्यकर निरीक्षक (STI)
4th in Maharashtra (ST)



स्वाती गजानन पाटील
वित्तीकर निरीक्षक (STI) 2017
महाराष्ट्र मुलींमध्ये प्रथम (ST)



शितल डाफळे
वित्तीकर निरीक्षक (STI) 2016
महाराष्ट्र मुलींमध्ये प्रथम (ST)



सुरेश चव्हाण
सहायक कक्ष अधिकारी (ASO)
1st in Maharashtra (DT-A)



मनिषा कांबळे
Excise Sub Inspector (2017)



नियंका मातुसरे
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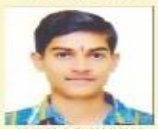

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