

National News

28 non-official members nominated to startup council

- The government has nominated **28 non-official members** on the **National Startup Advisory Council**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** had set up the National Startup Advisory Council a year back to advise the government on measures needed to build an ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.
- The term of the non-official members of the council is for a period of two years.

The Nominated members:

- Byju Raveendran (Founder of Byju's)
- Lizzie Chapman (ZestMoney Co-founder)
- Kris Gopalkrishnan (Axilor Ventures founder)

About DPIIT :

- Founded : 1995
- Comes Under Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Niti Aayog Releases Report On Faecal Sludge And Septage Management In Urban Areas

- **NITI Aayog** released a book on **faecal sludge and septage management** in urban areas.
- It is Jointly developed with **National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM)**
- The book presents **27 case studies across 10 states** and various service and business models adopted by Indian cities while implementing faecal sludge and septage management (FSSM) initiatives.
- The book was released by NITI Aayog CEO Mr Amitabh Kant, MoHUA Secretary Mr Durga Shankar Mishra, and NITI Aayog Additional Secretary Dr K. Rajeswara Rao in a virtual event.
- The target of open-defecation-free, India has now moved towards becoming ODF+ and ODF++
- This book provides a timely repository of FSSM best practices that can be adapted and replicated appropriately across the country.

About NITI Aayog :

- Formed : 1 January 2015
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Narendra Modi
- CEO : Mr Amitabh Kant
- Additional Secretary : Dr K Rajeswara Rao

DRDO and Road Transport and Highways Ministry sign MoU for technical exchange on sustainable geo-hazard management

- **Road Transport and Highways Ministry and Defence Research and Development Organisation**, DRDO signed a Memorandum of **Understanding to strengthen collaboration** in the field of technical exchange and co-operation on sustainable geo-hazard management.
- The MoU was signed by Secretary Ministry of Road and Transport **Giridhar Aramane** and Secretary DRDO Dr **Satieesh Reddy**.
- It has been agreed that both will cooperate in the areas of mutual benefit including, conceptual planning of integrated avalanche and landslide protection schemes for all weather connectivity in snow bound areas of the country.
- This initiative will ensure safety of road users on National Highways in the country and safeguard them from the adverse effects of landslides and other natural calamities.

About Ministry of Road Transport and Highways :

- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Founded : July 1942
- Minister of State : Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- Union Minister : Nitin Gadkari

About DRDO :

- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi

Cabinet approval – Ratle Hydro Power Project in J&K

- The Cabinet has given its approval for the investment of over **Rs.5200 crore** for **850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar** in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This will be a new Joint Venture Company (JVC) of **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC)** with equity contribution of 51 per cent and 49 per cent respectively.
- The construction activities of the Project will provide direct and indirect employment to around **4000 persons** and will contribute immensely in the overall socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

About Jammu & Kashmir:

- **Capital:** Jammu (winter), Srinagar (summer)
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Manoj Sinha

PM Modi releases financial assistance for UP under PMAY-G

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released financial assistance of around **Rs 2,691 crore** to over six lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)**, through video conferencing.
- The financial assistance includes release of first installment to 5.30 lakh beneficiaries and second installment to **80 thousand beneficiaries** who have already availed first installment of assistance under PMAY-G.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna** has moved rapidly under the present government and has helped the poorest of the poor in Uttar Pradesh.
- He stressed on the aspect of **women empowerment** in the scheme as these units are mostly in the name of women of the family.

About Uttar Pradesh:

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

Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura observes Statehood Day

- **President, Vice President and Prime Minister** have greeted the people of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura on the occasion of their Statehood Day on January 21, 2021.
- President Ram Nath Kovind said, blessed with immense natural beauty, rich history and vibrant culture, these states are fascinating.
- He extended his warm wishes as they continue to move ahead on the path of multi-faceted development.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, the **culture and warm-hearted nature** of the people of Tripura is admired across India.
- The state has achieved outstanding progress in various fields.
- He said, India is proud of Manipur's contribution to national development.
- Manipur is a powerhouse of innovation and sporting talent.
- Mr Modi said, Meghalaya is known for its remarkable kindness and spirit of brotherhood.
- Youngsters from Meghalaya are creative and enterprising.

About Meghalaya:

- **Capital:** Shillong
- **Governor:** Satya Pal Malik
- **Chief minister:** Conrad Sangma

About Manipur:

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

About Tripura:

- **Capital:**Agartala
- **Governor:**Ramesh Bais
- **Chief Minister:** Biplab Kumar Deb

Indian Railways renames iconic Howrah-Kalka Mail as 'Netaji Express'

- **Indian Railways** in a tribute to freedom fighter **Subhas Chandra Bose** who is also known as 'Netaji' has decided to **rename the Howrah-Kalka Mail as 'Netaji Express'**
- The train first operated in the year **1866** and it has been in service of the nation for more than 150 years.
- The Howrah-Kalka Mail is one of the **oldest running trains** at present in the Indian Railways network.
- The Howrah-Kalka Mail runs between Howrah (Eastern Railway) and Kalka (Northern Railway) via Delhi.

About Indian Railways :

- Founded : 16 April 1853
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Comes Under Ministry of Railways
- Railway Minister : Piyush Goyal

India's longest Road Arch Bridge inaugurated in Meghalaya

- Meghalaya chief minister **Conrad K Sangma** inaugurated **India's longest road arch bridge, the Wahrew Bridge at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district.**
- The bridge has been constructed at a cost of **Rs 49.395 crore** under **Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) of the DoNER ministry.**
- The bridge connects Bholaganj and Sohbar to Nongjri in East Khasi Hills, bordering Bangladesh.
- The 169 metre Wahrew suspension bridge connects Bholaganj and Sohbar to Nongjri. The project was sanctioned in 2013 while work started the following year and was completed in December, 2018.

About Meghalaya :

- Capital : Shillong
- Governor : Satya Pal Malik
- CM : Conrad Sangma

SC upholds IBC's Section 32A

- The **Supreme Court** held that the successful bidders for a corporate debtor under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** would be immune from any investigations being conducted either by any investigating agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) or other statutory bodies such as Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Successful bidders for corporate debtors under IBC would be immune from any investigations being conducted by any investigating agencies or Enforcement Directorate (ED).

DPIIT launches regulatory compliance portal

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has launched a **regulatory compliance portal** that will act as a **bridge between citizens, industries** and the government to minimise burdensome compliances.
- It will also act as a first-of-its-kind **central online repository** of all central and state-level compliances
- **Objective** : The objective of this portal is to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and the Government in order to minimize burdensome compliances.

About Regulatory Compliance Portal :

- The Regulatory Compliance Portal will be instrumental in achieving the vision of a truly Atmanirbhar Bharat and help usher ease of doing business for industry and ease of living for Indian citizens.

About DPIIT :

- Founded : 1995
- Comes Under Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge in Ahmedabad

- **The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge, in Ahmedabad city of Gujarat through video conferencing from New Delhi.**
- **It has been built at a cost of Rs 55 crore.**
- **Several dignitaries including Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Shri Nitin Patel were present at the programme**

About Ahmedabad :

- Founder : Ahmad Shah I

CM Rawat inaugurates Uttarakhand's first child-friendly police station

- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated the state's **first child friendly police station** describing it as a major reformative step by the police.
- **Purpose** : It is a new initiative and a major reformative step towards protection of children by the state police, Rawat said after inaugurating the Bal Mitra police station in Dalanwala area here.
- The child friendly police unit has been set up in the **Dalanwala police station** with a budget of about Rs five lakhs on the recommendation of the Child Protection Committee of Uttarakhand.
- According to the chairperson of **State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) Usha Negi**, the children who are either victims or need proper counselling or visit police stations due to other reasons should be provided with a comfortable and intimidating environment rather than keeping them in a dull and scary atmosphere.

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- To keep children at ease, the walls are painted in bright colours and cartoons and the police personnel will also be dressed in casual clothes rather than their uniforms.

About Uttarakhand :

- Founded : 9 November 2000
- Chief Minister : Trivendra Singh Rawat
- Governor : Baby Rani Maurya

Modi address the inaugural function of Parakram Diwas in Kolkata

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit West Bengal to address the inaugural function of the '**Parakram Diwas**' celebrations at Victoria Memorial in Kolkata.
- The Prime Minister said, among the various programmes being organised across the nation, one special programme is being held at Haripura in Gujarat.
- He said, Haripura has a special relation with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- It was at the historic Haripura Session of 1938 that Netaji Bose took up the Presidentship of the Congress Party.

About West Bengal:

- Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar
- Capital: Kolkata
- Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee

PM interact with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will interact with **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees** through video conferencing.
- **32 children** have been awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this year.
- Women and Child Development Minister **Smriti Irani** will also be present on the occasion.
- The Government has been conferring the Bal Shakti Puraskar under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to the **children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievement** in the fields of **innovation, sports, arts and culture, social service and bravery**.
- The awardees are from 32 districts of 21 States and Union territories.

Center extends Ayushman Bharat health scheme to CAPF

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has launched the Ayushman CAPF health scheme in Guwahati for about **28 lakh Central Armed Police Forces** and their families in all the states where Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is operational.
- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, MoS Home Nityananda Rai, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla were also present on this occasion.
- Shah paid tributes to **Netaji Subhash Bose**.
- He said it was a great occasion coinciding with the **Parakram Diwas to start Ayushman Bharat scheme for the Central Armed Police Forces**.

Amit Shah attends first BTR Accord Day celebration

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has said that due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new era of development and peace has prevailed in **Bodoland Territorial Region**.
- Addressing the the opening ceremony of the **1st BTR (Bodoland Territorial Region) Accord Day** celebration at **Kokrajhar in Assam**.
- Modi is committed for the development of North East and also did all measures to put an end to the era of violence in the region.
- He said that a peaceful region is required for development.
- The Home Minister mentioned that Mr. Modi took step to step terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.
- He said that **500 crore** have been sanctioned for the road development in BTR .

Home Minister Chair the Plenary session of North Eastern Council Meeting

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** is visiting Shillong to chair the **69th Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council (NEC)**.
- The meeting would be attended by the **MoS (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) and Vice-Chairman, Dr Jitender Singh and members of the NEC comprising Governors and Chief Ministers of the eight north-eastern States**.
- Senior officials from north-eastern States and Central Government Ministries are also expected to be present.
- **Shah will also launch the Ayushman Bharat programme** for central armed police forces at Guwahati in Assam this evening.
- **Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan** will also attend the programme.
- Mr Shah will also attend the opening ceremony of the first anniversary of the **BTR Accord** at Kokrajhar.

UP becomes first state to have 2 airstrips on expressways for landing, take-off of fighter planes

- **In UP, a new 3300 meter long airstrip** has been constructed near **Kurebhar On Purvanchal Expressway**.
- Uttar Pradesh has become the **first state** in the country with **two airstrips on expressways** to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
- Airstrips on expressways are designed to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
- One airstrip is on **Lucknow-Agra Expressway** while the other is on **Purvanchal Expressway**.

About UP :

- Founded : 24 January 1950
- Capital : Lucknow
- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : You Adityanath

Indian Railways' longest freight train 'Vasuki' sets a new record

- **Indian Railways' South Eastern Central Railway (SECR)** zone has created another record when it operated the longest freight train on the Indian Railways network.
- The total length of the freight train was around **5 kilometers** after joining the five rakes and it was named 'Vasuki'.
- The distance between Bhilai to Korba is 224 kilometers and the long-haul freight train named 'Vasuki' covered the whole distance with **five rakes of a freight train**.
- SECR on 22 January operated the long haul rake of five freight trains named 'Vasuki' With the help of one loco pilot, one assistant loco pilot, and one guard.
- The train took around seven hours to cover the distance from Bhilai D cabin to Korba railway station.
- The Vasuki, comprising 300 wagons of long haul rakes of five goods trains, ran with the help of one pilot, one assistant Loco pilot and a guard.

About Indian Railways :

- Founded : 16 April, 1853
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Comes Under Ministry of Railways

About South Eastern Central Railway :

- Founded : 20 September 1998
- Headquarters : Bilaspur Junction

Odisha's famous 'Toshali National Crafts Mela' begins

- The **15th edition** of the famous '**Toshali National Crafts Mela**' began in **Odisha's Bhubaneswar on January 21**.
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated the grand mela through video conferencing.
- This year, around 250 stalls have been opened at the mela.
- Mela has become one of the most popular handlooms and handicrafts fairs in Eastern India.
- On the occasion, the Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Padmini Dian felicitated three artisans with State Handicrafts Award- 2019.
- Three winners are **Dilip Kumar Swain (palm leaf engraving), Divyajyoti Dehera (stone sculpting), and Priyanka Patra (terracotta)**.

About Odisha :

- CM : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- Governor : Ganeshi Lal

In UP Yogi Adityanath launches Udyam Sarathi app for youth to explore self-employment

- For the **71st foundation day of Uttar Pradesh**, Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** launched '**Udyam Sarathi**' app to help youth to explore self-employment opportunities.

About the app :

- This application will provide all information related to **self-employment** and the job industry at one click.
- The app, prepared under the **ODOP scheme** and considered to be a master-key for exploring self-employment opportunities to the youth.
- Through the Udyam Sarathi app, **youth would easily be able to get a varied range of business** opportunities in different departments and sectors of the state and the Central government.
- Under the vision of '**Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas**', this App is poised to benefit the women and farmers looking for avenues of self-employment.
- It has been launched under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.
- The Uttar Pradesh Day celebration will run from **24 January to 26 January, 2021**.
- The theme of Uttar Pradesh Day 2021 is 'Respect for self-reliant Uttar Pradesh, women young farmers, development of all'.
- Uttar Pradesh was recognised as a state of India on January 24, 1950.

About UP :

- Capital : Lucknow
- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- CM : Yogi Adityanath

20-year-old Shrishti Goswami is Uttarakhand CM for a day

- To mark the **National Girl Child Day**, **Haridwar teenager Srishti Goswami** will take charge as the chief minister of Uttarakhand for one day.
- She will take part in the child assembly session in
- Goswami, a student of **BSc Agriculture**, lives in Daulatpur village of the district.
- For the **first time** in the history of Uttarakhand, a girl will become the state's chief minister.
- It has received a nod from the incumbent chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.
- The one-day chief minister will administer from Gairsain, the summer capital of the state, and will review various schemes run by the state government that include Atal Ayushman Scheme, Smart City project, Homestay Scheme by the tourism department, and other development projects.

About Uttarakhand :

- Chief Minister : Trivendra Singh Rawat
- Governor : Baby Rani Maurya

Ladakh administration organises Opening Ceremony of Archery Competition

- Archery has always been a part of every Ladakhi society.
- Nowadays, Ladakhi youth are seen focusing more on modern archery along with traditional one.
- **Under the Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games**, the Union Territory Administration has organised the Opening Ceremony of Archery Competition at Leh.
- **Union Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated the competition.
- In the Leh district of UT of Ladakh, Union Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Kiren Rijiju inaugurated Archery Competition-2021 under **First Khelo India** Ladakh Winter Games at NDS Sports Stadium.

About Ladakh:

- Capitals: Leh, Kargil
- Lieutenant Governor: Shri Radha Krishna Mathur

Golden jubilee statehood day celebrated by Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh** is celebrating its golden jubilee statehood day (Jan 25th) with full zeal across the state.
- It was on this day in 1971 **Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.**
- **Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** stated that the 'golden jubilee' of the statehood of Himachal Pradesh would be celebrated round the year by organizing **51 programs** in various parts of the state.
- **'Swarnim Rath Yatra'** will also be carried out to showcase the development journey of the hill state as a part of golden jubilee celebrations during the year.
- A special **postal stamp** would also be released to mark the occasion.

About Himachal Pradesh:

- **Capitals:** Shimla (summer), Dharamshala (winter)
- **Chief Minister:** Jai Ram Thakur
- **Governor:** Bandaru Dattatreya

New scheme initiated in Rajasthan

- A new scheme has been initiated in Sirohi district, Rajasthan to make people aware about the importance of **nourishment of pregnant women and children.**
- The **scheme** called **Ek Paudha Suposhit Beti Ke Naam** or **A plant on the name of a well nourished daughter'** has been started under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme of the union government.
- Under this Scheme on the birth of a girl child a **drumstick plant** is being distributed by district administration this nutritional plant is taken care of by **family members of girl child.**

Tourism Minister inaugurates IISM branch in Kargil

- In Kargil of Ladakh Union territory, the Union Tourism Minister **Mr Prahlad Singh Patel** has inaugurated a branch of **Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM)**.
- The Minister participated in various events to celebrate the National Tourism Day with **National Events of Adventure Tourism, (NEAT)** in Kargil district.
- Minister Prahlad Singh said, the Union Government is taking all measures to encourage adventure sports and snow based winter games in the region.
- He said, till now outside **sportspersons** who are using the natural advantages are supporting local talent.

About Ladakh:

- **Capitals:** Leh, Kargil
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Shri Radha Krishna Mathur

Madhya Pradesh – first state to get additional funds for capital projects

- Madhya Pradesh has become the **first state to get additional funds** for capital projects for successfully carrying out reforms in various citizen-centric areas.
- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has allocated additional **660 crore** to the state for capital expenditure for undertaking the **One Nation, One Ration Card Reforms, Ease of Doing Business Reforms, and Urban Local Bodies Reforms**.
- The scheme of “**Special Assistance to States for capital expenditure**” was announced by the Finance Minister on 12th October last year under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat package.

About Madhya Pradesh:

- **Capital:** Bhopal
- **Chief minister:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan

WIPRO group – knowledge partner of Madhya Pradesh govt.

- In Madhya Pradesh, **WIPRO group is all set to act as knowledge partner of the State Government**.
- Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, while holding a discussion with **Mr Azim Premji of WIPRO** through video conference, informed that the company has taken initiative for establishment of a university in the State.
- For this purpose, the State Government will extend all possible support to the Foundation.
- The Wipro Group will also set up a **Software Development Centre in Bhopal**.
- The Chief Minister said, such centers will go a long way in providing more opportunities to the youth in the **Information Technology sector**.

Gujarat govt. announces to set up new industrial estates

- In Gujarat, the State Government has announced to set up new industrial estates under the Gujarat **Industrial Development Corporation-GIDC**.
- It will be set up over **987 hectares of land across eight districts**.

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- Among these new estates, **Jalotra in Banaskantha district** will cover the **marble cutting and polishing industry**.
- Shekhpat in Jamnagar district will house brass and ceramic units, while Kadjodra in Gandhinagar district will cover food and agro industry.
- Patan will have auto ancillary units, while Nagalpar in Rajkot district will cover the medical devices industry.
- Anand and Mahisagar districts will have industrial estates for engineering industries.
- According to official sources, the new GIDC estates will provide **2,570 plots of 500 to 2,000 square meters** to the **MSME sector** and **337 plots of 10,000 to 50,000 square metres to large industries**.
- The new GIDC estates will generate nearly **20,000 employments** after its complete set up.

About Gujarat:

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Vijay Rupani

Tamil Nadu: Union Minister Giriraj Singh disburses subsidy amount

- In Tamil Nadu, Union Minister for fisheries **Giriraj Singh** disbursed subsidy amounts to three boat building yards for construction of deep sea fishing boats scheme worth
- **One crore 64 lakhs** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sambadha Yojana at Kunthakkal Harbour Ramanathapuram**.
- The Minister said that the Government has invested **20 thousand fifty crore for fisheries development throughout the Country**.
- He said that the Centre would take up the fishermen issues with the neighbouring Srilankan Government which will provide a solution to make their livelihood a success.

Gujarat govt to renames dragon fruit as kamalam

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** has proposed to **rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam**.
- The dragon fruit has been renamed Kamalam because of the **shape of the fruit**.
- This was announced at the launch of the Chief Minister Horticulture Development Mission.
- The Horticulture Development Mission, a new scheme to promote horticulture in the State's unproductive land parcels.

About Dragon Fruit :

- Dragon fruit is the fruit of a species of wild cactus indigenous to South and Central America, where it is called pitaya or pitahaya.
- The world's largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit is Vietnam, where the plant was brought by the French in the 19th century.
- Dragon fruit is also cultivated in apart from its native Latin America Thailand, Taiwan, China, Australia, Israel, and Sri Lanka.

About Gujarat :

- Capital : Gandhinagar

- Governor : Acharya Devvrat
- CM : Vijay Rupani

CM Thakur launches HP's first online youth radio station

- Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched Himachal Pradesh's **first online youth radio station "Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil**.
- The chief minister appreciated the efforts of the young entrepreneurs and said the online radio station would go a long way in promoting culture and traditions of the state besides providing an opportunity to the youth to exhibit their talents.
- Deepika and Saurabh, co-founders of the online radio station, informed Thakur that it would also be available on Apple and Android mobile phones.
- Developers of the online radio station Karan, Radio Jockeys Palak, Rahul and Nidhi were also present on the occasion.
- The online radio would go a long way in promoting the culture and traditions of the state, besides providing an opportunity to the youth to exhibit their talents.

Andhra Pradesh CM flagged off Door to door Delivery Vehicles

- In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister **S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** flagged off Mobile Dispensing Units/ **Door to door Delivery Vehicles in Vijayawada**.
- As many as **9,260 of such vehicles** will supply ration with quality rice at the door steps of ration card beneficiaries across the state.
- The State Government has come forward with the door delivery programme with a view to supply quality rice and also other essential commodities.
- As promised in his Padayatra, Mr Reddy has taken up this initiative to supply quality rice to the BPL people.
- The mobile vehicles were purchased at a cost of **Rs 539 crore** and these vehicles were provided by the government at **60% subsidy** to eligible beneficiaries through various corporations under the Employment Guarantee Scheme for unemployed youth.
- The value of each vehicle is **Rs 5,81,000, of which Rs 3,48,600** was provided as subsidy from various Corporations and Civil Supplies Corporation.

About Andhra Pradesh:

- **Governor:**Biswabhusan Harichandan
- **Chief minister:** YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- **Capitals:**
- **Amaravati** is the legislative Capital
- **Visakhapatnam** is the executive capital
- **Kurnool** is the judicial capital

Ministry of Minority Affairs organise Hunar Haat in Lucknow

- Ministry of Minority Affairs will organise the 24th **Hunar Haat** at Avadh Shilpgram, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from **22nd January to 4th February** with the theme of Vocal for Local.
- Artisans and craftsmen from **31 States and Union Territories** of the country will participate in the Hunar Haat.

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- About **500 artisans**, craftsmen and culinary experts from different States including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Chattisgarh, Jammu-Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal will display and sell their exquisite **handmade products**.
- The Ministry said, renowned artists of the country will perform cultural events on the theme of Atma Nirbhar Bharat every day at Hunar Haat.

Karnataka CM launches Avalokana software

- In Karnataka, Chief Minister **S. Yediyurappa** launched Avolokana software that will enable the government to access data on sanctions and expenditures incurred by **39 departments on 1,800 programmes** implemented by them.
- **District Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister** also unveiled Karnataka statistics on Development programmes for the year 2019-20.

About Karnataka:

- **Capital:** Bengaluru
- **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala
- **Chief minister:** B. S. Yediyurappa

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India and EU virtually held first maritime security dialogue

- **India and the EU** have held their **first maritime security dialogue in a virtual format**.
- The consultations involved exchanges on developments in maritime security environment, regional cooperation activities, developments of mutual interest and opportunities for cooperation between India and the EU.
- The EU-India Maritime Dialogue was chaired by Director **Joanneke Balfoort** on the European Union External Action Service side and Joint Secretary Sandeep Arya on the Indian side.
- It seeks to develop mutual understanding and cooperation opportunities between India and the EU in the maritime security domain as another factor of the strategic partnership between the two sides consistent with the India-EU Roadmap to 2025.

About EU :

- Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- Founded : 1 November 1993, Netherlands

Republic Day parade – 122 Bangladesh Armed Forces personnel participate

- For the first time ever, a **122 member** strong contingent of the Bangladesh Armed Forces will participate in the Republic Day parade.
- Sources said the contingent will be **led by contingent commander Lieutenant Colonel Abu Mohammed Shahnur Shawon and his deputies Lieutenant Farhan Ishraq and Flight Lieutenant Sibat Rahman**.

- The contingent comprises soldiers of the Bangladesh Army, sailors of the Bangladesh Navy and air warriors of the Bangladesh Air Force.
- This year **India and Bangladesh celebrate 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties** and Bangladesh celebrates 50 years of its independence.
- Both sides have agreed to hold commemorative events in several other countries and also jointly organize events throughout the year.

About Bangladesh:

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

India- Bangladesh: Joint Steering Committee meeting

- **19th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee** on India Bangladesh cooperation in the energy sector was held in **Dhaka**.
- The steering committee took stock of the progress of implementation of the decisions taken during the last meeting of the **Joint Working Group (JWG)** and Joint Steering Committee (JSC).
- According to the press release issued by the High Commission of India in Dhaka, the meeting also discussed the status of **1320 MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Project at Rampal**.
- Detailed discussions were held on power trade between **India and Bangladesh** through various interconnections.
- The meeting discussed ways for further enhancing the cooperation in the energy sector.
- Indian delegation was led by the Power Secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai while Power Secretary **Habibur Rahman** represented the Bangladesh side at the meeting.

Dhaka International Film Festival concluded

- The **19th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF)**
- During the **9-day long festival** which started on 16 January, **226 films from 73 countries** were shown.
- Kyrgyz film **'The Road to Eden'** jointly directed by Bakyt Mukul and Dastan Zhapar won the best film award at the festival.
- The film tells the struggle of an old writer who wishes to promote literature to bring enlightenment to his people.
- In the Asian competition section, the **Best Director** award was given to Ksenia Langutina for the film Farida.
- The film is jointly produced by Azerbaijan and Russia.
- Masud Hasan Ujjal won the **Best Film Award** in the Bangladesh Panorama section for his film **'Unponchash Batash'**.
- The **Best Audience award** was won by the film 'Gondi' directed by the Bangladeshi director Arefeen Khan.
- Information Minister of Bangladesh **Hasan Mehmud** was the **Chief Guest** at the closing ceremony.
- The State Minister for **Foreign Affairs and Chief Patron of the Dhaka International Film Festival** expressed happiness at the successful organising of the festival.

- The Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) had introduced a new section this year on the **'World Leaders who changed society'** under which films on Mahatma Gandhi, Lenin, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were shown during the festival.
- The DIFF 2021 was dedicated to the centenary year of **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.

[Austin wins Senate confirmation as America's first Black Pentagon chief](#)

- **Lloyd J. Austin**, a West Point graduate who rose to the Army's elite ranks and marched through racial barriers in a 41-year career, won Senate confirmation to become the **nation's first Black secretary of defense**.
- The 93-2 vote gave President Joe Biden his second Cabinet member.
- **Avril Haines was confirmed as the first woman to serve as director of national intelligence**.
- Biden is expected to win approval for others on his national security team in coming days, including Antony Blinken as secretary of state.

About United States:

- President: Joe Biden
- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Currency: US Dollars

[China overtakes Germany with largest current account surplus-Ifo](#)

- **China** overtook **Germany** to become the country with the **world's largest current account surplus** in the year 2020, as per a survey by the **Munich-based Ifo institute**.

About Ifo :

- **Ifo (Information and Forschung)** is a Institute for **Economic Research** is a research institution based in Munich, Germany, which analyses economic policy .
- China's current account surplus, which measures the flow of goods, services and investments, more than doubled to \$310 billion last year.
- While the current account surplus of Germany shrank for the fifth year in a row in 2020 to \$261 billion.
- Germany's current account surplus shrank to \$261 billion in 2020 as demand for cars, machinery and equipment fell in many of its key export markets, the survey showed.
- Japan came in third with a current account surplus of \$158 billion.

[Mongolia PM Khurelsukh Ukhnaa Quits, blames president over Covid protests](#)

- **Mongolia's** Prime Minister **Khurelsukh Ukhnaa** submitted his **resignation** to parliament after protests in the capital **Ulaanbaatar** over the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, the state news agency Montsame reported.
- The 52-year-old served as the Prime Minister of Mongolia from 4 October 2017 to 21 January 2021.

- Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa submitted his resignation and a proposal to dissolve his government Thursday after hundreds gathered outside the parliament building to demonstrate against the policies.
- Parliament, which is controlled by Khurelsukh's Mongolian People's Party, voted overwhelmingly Thursday to accept his resignation.

About Mongolia :

- Capital : Ulaanbaatar
- President : Khaltmaagiin Battulga
- Currency : Mongolian Togrog

SpaceX breaks India's record by launching 143 satellites on a single rocket

- On 24 Jan 2021, **SpaceX** created a unique world record of launching **143 satellites on a single vehicle**.
- The firm broke the record previously held by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, which launched 104 satellites in 2017.
- In this launch, SpaceX broke the record set by ISRO in February 2017 for deploying **104 satellites onboard PSLV in a single mission**.
- The US-based space company launched 143 satellites through its **Falcon 9 rocket**.
- The launch vehicle for the SpaceX record-breaking flight was the Falcon 9 and the mission was designated as Transporter-1.
- With these satellites, SpaceX aims to provide near-global broadband internet coverage all over the world by 2021.
- The 143 satellites included 133 commercial and government satellites and 10 Starlink satellites of SpaceX

China beat US as largest recipient of FDI, received \$163 billion in 2020

- **China** climbed to the **1 ranking globally** attracting **foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$163 billion in 2020**.
- The report was released by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.
- China's \$163 billion in inflows last year, compared to \$134 billion attracted by the United States.
- In 2019, the United States had received \$251 billion in inflows and China received \$140 billion.
- China's gross domestic product grew 2.3% in 2020, official data showed last week, making China the only major economy in the world to avoid a contraction last year.
- The world's second-largest economy has surprised many with the speed of its recovery from the coronavirus jolt, especially as policymakers have also had to navigate tense U.S.-China relations on trade and other fronts.
- Overall, global FDI had collapsed in 2020, falling by 42% to an estimated \$859 billion, from \$1.5 trillion in 2019.

About China :

- Capital : Beijing

- President : Xi Jinping
- Currency : Renminbi

About the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development :

- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Head : Mukhisa Kituyi
- Founded : 30 December 1964

CURRENT AFFAIRS : BANKING NEWS

Airtel Payments Bank launches 'safe pay'

- **Airtel Payments Bank** launched a **mode of safe digital transactions to protect customers from online frauds.**

About Airtel Safe Pay :

- Airtel Safe Pay is an additional wall that will prevent online frauds when customers transact through **UPI (unified payment interface)** or net-banking using the Airtel Payments Bank.
- The new payment gateway, which is **free of cost**, will offer protection against phishing, stolen credentials or passwords, and phone cloning.
- Airtel Safe Pay leverages Airtel's telecom exclusive strength of network intelligence to provide an additional layer of payment validation compared to the industry norm of two-factor authentication.
- Airtel Safe Pay will allow customers of the payments bank to conduct digital transactions across merchants, online retailers, and transfer money.
- Customers can open an Airtel Payments Bank account through a video call using the Airtel Thanks application.

About Airtel Payments Bank :

- CEO : Anubrata Biswas
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Founded : 2017

Bank of Baroda desire to be part of Andhra Pradesh's economic growth

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) Executive Director **Vikramaditya Singh Khichi** called on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the CM's camp office in Tadepalli.
- Vikramaditya Singh said that the BoB wants to be a part of AP's economic growth, adding that they are **funding various development activities in the State.**

Punjab National Bank donates books to children

- Punjab National Bank, one of the leading nationalized banks of the country, **established in 1895, and completed 126 years of banking service.**

SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- On the occasion, the Bank's Zonal Manager, Ashutosh Choudhury, visited Vijayawada circle and participated in the **Corporate Social Responsibility activities**.
- **An industrial jumbo air cooler was donated to Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam.**
- **Bank officials distributed bags, uniforms, books and pens to orphans and needy children at SKCV Children's trust.**
- The bank has also donated the **Armed Forces Flag Fund to the Directorate of Sainik Welfare Association, Vijayawada.**
- Further, a customer meet of all local branches was conducted and **many customers were honoured.**

Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank bags first prize

- The **Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (APCOB), Vijayawada** was awarded the first prize for the overall best performance for the year 2018-19, among all the state cooperative banks in the country, by the **National Federation of State Cooperative Banks, Mumbai**, taking into consideration its share capital of **Rs 1,600 crore, business turnover of Rs 13,300 crore and Rs 145 crore profit.**

RBI imposes Rs.2 crore penalty on Standard Chartered Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **2 crore** on **Standard Chartered Bank-India for delays in reporting of frauds.**
- The penalty has been imposed on the bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it contained in the 'Reserve Bank of India (Frauds – Classification and Reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) Directions 2016'.
- A notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for such non-compliance with the directions.
- After considering the bank's reply to the notice and oral submissions made in the personal hearing, the RBI concluded that the charge of non-compliance with the aforesaid RBI directions was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty.
- This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

About RBI :

- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Founder : British Raj
- Founded : 1 April 1935, Kolkata

About Standard Chartered Bank :

- CEO : Bill Winters
- Headquarters : London, United kingdom
- Founded : 1969

CCI approves Flipkart's 7.8% acquisition of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves acquisition of a minority stake in **Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited (ABFRL)** by **Flipkart Investments Private Limited (FIPL)**.

About FIPL :

- FIPL is a newly incorporated company and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Flipkart Private Limited (FPL). FPL belongs to the Walmart Group, which comprises Walmart Inc. (Walmart) and its affiliates.
- The Walmart Group undertakes various business activities in India, such as wholesale trading of products, providing e-commerce marketplace services and digital payments services.
- The proposed combination relates to acquisition by FIPL of a minority shareholding of 7.8%, on a fully diluted basis in ABFRL, by way of subscription equity shares.

About ABFRL :

- ABFRL is a public limited company incorporated in India and is part of the Aditya Birla conglomerate.
- ABFRL (including through its subsidiaries) is engaged in the business of manufacturing and retailing branded apparels, footwear and accessories, through its retail stores, multi-brand outlets, departmental stores, online retail platforms and e-commerce marketplaces, across India.

SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain systemically important banks

- The **RBI state-owned SBI**, along with private sector lenders **ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank** continue to be **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** or institutions which are 'too big to fail'.
- SIBs are subjected to higher levels of supervision so as to prevent disruption in financial services in the event of any failure.
- The Reserve Bank had issued the framework for dealing with D-SIBs in **July 2014**.
- SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as in the 2018 list of D-SIBs.
- The D-SIB framework requires the central to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these lenders in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).
- The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for D-SIBs was phased-in from April 1, 2016 and became fully effective from April 1, 2019. The additional CET1 requirement will be in addition to the capital conservation buffer.
- SIBs are seen as 'too big to fail (TBTF)', creating expectations of government support for them in times of financial distress. These banks also enjoy certain advantages in funding markets.

About SBI Bank :

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

About ICICI Bank :

- CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Founded : June 1994, Vadodara

About HDFC Bank :

- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- Founded : August 1994

Axis Bank unveils Aura Credit Card with health, wellness solutions

- **Axis Bank** has unveiled a credit 'AURA' exclusively loaded with **several health and wellness benefits for its users at an affordable price.**
- The bank has also tied up with **Decathlon**. As part of the welcome benefit, cardholders get a Decathlon voucher of Rs750.
- It also offers up to four free online interactive fitness sessions per month powered by Fitternity, a health and fitness platform. Cardholders also get access to 16 recorded training sessions per month and can choose from various sessions such as yoga and cross-functional training programmes.
- According to the bank's website, the joining and annual fee for the card is Rs749. The finance charges will be 3.4% a month or 49.36% a year.

About AXIS Bank :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Established : 1994

IMF revises India growth forecast, sees GDP shrinking at sharper 8% in FY21

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has pegged contraction in India's economy at **8 percent** in the current financial year, higher than the 7.7-per cent decline projected by the government's advance estimates.
- However, the international organisation expects a growth rate of 11.5 per cent in the next financial year.
- The IMF projected the global growth to contract at 3.5 percent in 2020.
- The global economy is projected to grow 5.5 per cent in 2021 and 4.2 per cent in 2022.

About IMF :

- Founded : 27 December 1945 United States

- Founders : John Maynard Keynes

Dhanlaxmi Bank approves appointment of Shivan as MD and CEO

- Board of Directors of Kerala-based **Dhanlaxmi Bank** have given approval to appoint **J K Shivan** as **managing director and CEO** of the Bank.
- It may be recalled that the shareholders of the Kerala-based company had voted against MD & CEO Sunil Gurbaxani On September 30, 2020.
- Then, in December that year, the lender appointed Shivan as the new MD & CEO.

About Dhanalaxmi bank :

- Founded : 1927
- Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala

Indian economy estimated to contract by 9.6% in 2020, grow at 7.3% in 2021: UN

- **India's economy** is projected to grow at **3% in 2021**, even as it is estimated to **contract by 9.6% in 2020**.
- The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, produced by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**.
- The global economy shrank by 4.3% last year, over two-and-a-half times more than during the global financial crisis of 2009.
- The modest recovery of 4.7% expected in 2021 would barely offset the losses of 2020.

About UN DESA :

- Headquarters : New York , United States
- Head : Liu Zhenmin
- Founded : 1948

India's GDP to contract 8% in fiscal year 2021, - FICCI

- **India's gross domestic product (GDP)** is expected to **contract by 8 per cent in 2020-21**, according to the latest round of **FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey**.
- In addition to that, FICCI expects the economy to perform much better in the financial year 2021-22 with GDP growth rate of 9.6 percent in FY22.

About FICCI :

- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- Founded : 1927
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Secretary General : Dilip Chenoy

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCHEMES

Union Cabinet approves MoU between India, Uzbekistan

- The Union Cabinet was apprised of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Uzbekistan for **cooperation in the field of Solar Energy**.
- The **main area** of work under the MoU is to identify research, demonstration and initiation of pilot projects between the **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India and the International Solar Energy Institute, Uzbekistan**.
- The research and cooperation will primarily focus in the areas of **Solar Photovoltaic, Storage Technologies and Transfer of Technologies**.
- Based on mutual agreement, both parties would work for implementation and deployment of pilot projects in **International Solar Alliance (ISA) member countries**.

About Uzbekistan:

- **Capital:** Tashkent
- **President:**Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- **Currency:**Uzbekistani som

Road Transport and Highways Ministry signed MOU with DRDO

- Road Transport and Highways Ministry and Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration **in the field of technical exchange and co-operation on sustainable geo-hazard management**.
- The MoU was signed by **Secretary Ministry of Road and Transport Giridhar Aramane and Secretary DRDO Dr Satheesh Reddy**.
- It has been agreed that both will cooperate in the areas of mutual benefit including, conceptual planning of integrated avalanche and **landslide protection schemes** for all weather connectivity in snow bound areas of the country.

POWERGRID signs MoU with HPSEBL to improve telecom connectivity in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh

- To improve telecom connectivity in hilly areas, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), the PSU under Ministry of Power, has recently signed an agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited. (HPSEBL) in Shimla (H.P.)
- This total 850 Kms long telecom network will enable POWERGRID Telecom to reach remote areas of Kangra, Una, Mandi, Kullu, Bilaspur, Sirmour, Palampur, Sundernagar, Banikhet, Amb, Paonta Sahib, Nahan etc.
- Through this OPGW Network, Telecom Service providers will be able to provide uninterrupted mobile/Internet services to the people of the state.
- OPGW: an optical fiber composite overhead ground wire.

About POWERGRID :

- POWERGRID, a 'Maharatna' CPSE under the Ministry of Power, Government of India and Central Transmission Utility (CTU) of India, is India's principal power transmission company and also one of the largest power transmission utilities in the world.

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- POWERGRID's vast transmission network comprises ~168,140 circuit kilometers of transmission lines, 252 EHVAC & HVDC substations with transformation capacity of about 420,630 MVA, spread across the country.
- This network has been consistently maintained at an average availability of >99%. The Company's shares are listed on the BSE and the NSE and are a part of S&P BSE SENSEX and NIFTY.

About HP :

- Governor : Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Minister of HP: Jairam Thakur

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways signed MOU with IIT Roorkee

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Roorkee signed an MoU in New Delhi** for continuation of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Professorial Chair focusing on research and development, teaching and training in the area of Development of Highway Infrastructure.
- The MoU was signed by **Indresh Kumar Pandey**, Special Secretary and Director General Road Development and **Manoranjan Parida**, Deputy Director and Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT Roorkee.
- Secretary in the Ministry Giridhar Aramane presided over the MoU signing ceremony.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs Virtually Launches "Shramshakti"

- The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs **Shri Arjun Munda** virtually through a Video Conference launched "**ShramShakti**", a National Migration Support Portal at a programme held at **Panjim, Goa**.
- It would effectively help in the smooth formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers.
- He also launched a tribal migration cell, a tribal museum at Goa and "ShramSaathi", a training manual for migrant workers.
- This portal will address the data gap and empower migrant workers who generally migrate in search of employment and income generation.
- The government would also be able to link the migrant population with the existing welfare scheme under Atam Nirbhar Bharat.
- This in turn was preventing them from formulating effective strategies and policy decisions for the welfare of migrant workers.
- The data collected through the portal will include demographic profile, livelihood options, skill-mapping and migration pattern.

About Goa :

- Governor : Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Capital : Panaji

Government extends Ayushman Bharat health scheme to Central Armed Police Forces

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has launched the Ayushman **CAPF health scheme in Guwahati** for about 28 lakh Central Armed Police Forces and their families in all the states where **Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is operational**.
- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, MoS Home Nityananda Rai, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla were also present on this occasion.
- Centre is committed for the welfare of the security forces and their family members and the government decided to launch Ayushman Bharat CAPF for them.

Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the 7th Edition of MASCRAGE 2021 organized by FICCI

- Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family welfare today inaugurated the **7th Edition of "MASCRAGE 2021"**- Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade
- The aim of MASCRAGE 2021 is to foster a healthy discussion on newer and practical strategies to mitigate the challenges of counterfeiting and smuggling especially in a post COVID era.
- **The two-day programme was organized by FICCI CASCADE** (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy).
- It provided a platform to deliberate and discuss actionable, innovative policy solutions that can reverse the rising incidences of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products, causing significant damage to the economy of the nation

APPOINTMENTS

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About HP :

- Governor : Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Minister of HP: Jairam Thakur

Government appoints Siddhartha Mohanty as managing director of LIC from Feb 1

- The government appointed **Siddhartha Mohanty**, currently serving as the **managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO)** of LIC Housing Finance, as the MD of **India's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) from February 1 onwards**.
- He will serve as the MD of LIC till his superannuation on **June 30, 2023. Mohanty will be replacing TC Suseel Kumar**, who is set to retire on January 31, 2021.
- LIC has four MDs and one chairman. Currently, MR Kumar is serving as the chairman of the corporation and TC Suseel Kumar, Vipin Anand, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, and Raj Kumar are serving as the MDs of LIC.
- Mohanty was the chief operating officer of LIC Housing Finance before he was appointed the CEO of the housing finance company. Prior to that, he was with the executive director in LIC, handling the legal department.

About LIC :

- Chairperson : M R Kumar
- Founded : 1 September 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai

ACC appoints MTNL Director Sanjeev Kumar as new CMD of TCIL

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Sanjeev Kumar** as the **new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)**.
- According to an order from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Kumar has been appointed to the post for a period of five years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post, or till the age of superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He is currently serving as Director (Technical) in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

About TCIL :

- Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) is a Miniratna PSU under the administrative control of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications. TCIL, a premier telecommunication consultancy and engineering company is making available its vast and varied telecom expertise to friendly developing countries.

- CIL has extended its telecom consultancy and turnkey project execution services to telecom operators, bulk users and others in India and 80 other countries in the Middle East, Africa, South & South East Asia.
- Founded : 1978
- Headquarters : New Delhi

Sundaram Finance names Rajiv Lochan as Managing Director

- Chennai headquartered Non-Banking Finance Company **Sundaram Finance** has announced that Managing Director TT Srinivasaraghavan will retire on March 31, 2021 and **Rajiv Lochan will become the next Managing Director from April 1.**
- TT Srinivasaraghavan, the current MD, completes his term on March 31 and is retiring from service after 38 years with the company, the last 18 years being the MD.
- Harsha Viji, deputy MD, will assume the office of executive vice chairman, and take responsibility for the overall strategy and direction of Sundaram Finance and other group companies in financial services.

About Sundaram Finance :

- Founded : 1954
- Founder : T.S.Santhanam
- Headquarters : Chennai

Portugal President Rebelo de Sousa wins landslide reelection

- **Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa** won a **landslide reelection.**
- Results showed the incumbent president winning around **61% percent of the vote.**
- The lead is enough for Rebelo de Sousa to secure another 5-year term and avoid a runoff election.
- Rebelo de Sousa, a 72-year-old former television personality and law professor.
- Sousa has served as the President of the country since 9 March 2016, and would start his second term on March 9, 2021.

About Portugal :

- President : Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
- Capital : Lisbon
- Currency : Euro

A L Jarhad IAS appointed as secretary of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray

- **Maharashtra government** has appointed A L Jarhad IAS as secretary to the chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- Jarhad was transferred from **BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** and was waiting for the new posting.

About Maharashtra:

- **Capital:** Mumbai

- **Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- **Chief minister:** Uddhav Thackeray

CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

Five day Indo-French Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 begins in Jodhpur

- **Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force** are conducting a **bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 in Jodhpur** . The exercise marks an **important milestone** in the series of engagements between the two Air forces.
- It is unique as it includes fielding of Rafale aircraft by both sides and is indicative of the growing interaction between the two premier Air Forces.
- The French side will participate with Rafale, **Airbus A-330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport, A-400M** Tactical Transport aircraft and approximately 175 personnel.
- The Indian Air Force aircraft participating in the exercise will include Rafale, Mirage 2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI among other aircraft.

About France :

- President : Emmanuel Macron
- Capital : Paris
- Currency : Euro

DRDO's successful flight test of Smart Anti Airfield Weapon

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a successful trial of the indigenously developed **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** off the **Odisha coast from the Hawk-I jet of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The smart weapon was successfully test fired from **Indian Hawk-Mk132 of HAL**.
- It was a text book launch, which met all mission objectives.
- This was the ninth successful test of the system conducted over the last five years.
- SAAW is indigenously designed and developed by **DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) Hyderabad**.
- This is a 125-kilogram class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways, up to a range of 100 kilometres.

About DRDO :

- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi

DRDO conducts maiden launch of Akash missile at integrated test range in Odisha

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the **maiden launch** of the new generation of **surface-to-air Akash missile** from integrated test range off the coast of Odisha.
- The new generation missile is designed for use by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** in order to intercept high maneuvering aerial threats.

- The test launch at Odisha was carried off in presence of DRDO, BDL (Bharat Dynamics Ltd), the ammunition and missile system manufacturer and BEL (Bharat Electronics Ltd.), the public aerospace company. Representatives from the IAF were also present at the test launch site.

About Akash missile :

- Akash-NG is a new generation Surface to Air Missile meant for use by Indian Air Force with an aim of intercepting high maneuvering aerial threats.

About Indian Air Force :

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

BSF launches Operation 'Sard Hawa' at Rajasthan border

- **Border Security Force (BSF) launched Operation Sard Hawa on the western international border of Rajasthan.**
- It aims to **increase security on the borders in Jaisalmer.**
- This operation will continue till January 27 with an aim that there is no intrusion.
- It was launched on 21 January 2021, and will continue till 27 January 2021, keeping in view Republic Day of India.

About BSF :

- Director General : Rakesh Asthana
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Founded : 1 December 1965
- Founder : Khusro Faramurz Rustamji

About Rajasthan :

- Capital : Jaipur
- Chief Minister : Ashok Gehlot
- Governor : Kalraj Mishra

Indian Navy conducts exercise AMPHEX – 21 with Army and Air Force

- A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise **AMPHEX – 21** was conducted in the **Andaman & Nicobar group of islands from 21 – 25 Jan 2021.**
- The exercise involved participation of **Naval ships**, amphibious troops of the Army and different types of aircraft from the Air force.
- The exercise was aimed at **validating India's capabilities to safeguard the territorial integrity of it's island territories.**
- It also sought to enhance operational synergy and joint warfighting capabilities amongst the three Services.

- The exercise involved multi-faceted maritime operations by synergised employment of amphibious assault ships, surveillance platforms, execution of maritime air strikes and complex manoeuvres at sea.
- Airborne insertion of Marine Commandos of Navy and Special Forces of the Army, naval gunfire support, amphibious landing of forces and follow-on operations also formed part of the exercise.
- Ex KAVACH for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands formed a part of AMPHEX – 21.

About Indian Navy :

- Founded : 26 January 1950
- Vice Chief of the Naval Staff : Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar
- Chief of the Naval Staff : Admiral Karambir Singh
- Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff : M.S.Pawar
- Commander in Chief : Ram Nath Kovind

Andaman and Nicobar Command to conduct Indian Armed forces' joint military exercise 'Kavach'

- A large-scale joint military exercise '**Excercise Kavach**' will be conducted in the coming week under the aegis of **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)**, the only Joint Forces Command of India.
- The joint military exercise Kavach will involve the **Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard**.
- **Aim** : The tri-services exercise aims to fine-tune joint war-fighting capabilities and SOPs towards enhancing operational synergy.
- During the exercise, the joint force will implement high-density offensive and defensive measures in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. In addition, they will carry out amphibious landing operations, with helicopters transporting maritime special forces, and finally tactical follow-up operations on land.
- In addition to the Kavach exercise, a joint intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) exercise will also be held. ISR will verify the intelligence gathering capabilities. In addition, it will verify information sharing capabilities from space, land, air and sea.

About Indian Army :

- Founded : 1 April, 1895
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Commander in Chief : Ram Nath Kovind

CURRENT AFFAIRS : RANKING

The Global Risks Report 2021, 16th Edition

- Infectious diseases topped the global risks chart, displacing climate change, in a report by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- In the Global Risks Report 2021, we share the results of the latest **Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS)**, followed by analysis of growing social, economic and

industrial divisions, their interconnections, and their implications on our ability to resolve major global risks requiring societal cohesion and global cooperation.

- The report is being released before WEF upcoming virtual Davos Agenda scheduled to be held between **January 25 to 29, 2021**.
- The Main objective behind the publishing of the report is to enable better preparation by Government & other International Communities during the times of crisis.

About the Report :

- The 2021 report centres around the 'risks and consequences' of 'widening inequalities and societal fragmentation', to determine the future.
- The key findings of the survey and the analysis says that environmental risks continue to threaten and they remain top risks by 'likelihood and impact' in this year's survey.
- Highest likelihood risks of the next ten years are extreme weather, climate action failure and human-led environmental damage; as well as digital power concentration, digital inequality and cybersecurity failure.
- Highest impact risks of the next decade, infectious diseases are in the top spot, followed by climate action failure and other environmental risks; as well as weapons of mass destruction, livelihood crises, debt crises and IT infrastructure breakdown.
- Further, the report has divided the risks into three types of threats, which are:
- short term (0-2 years) threats: infectious diseases, livelihood crises, digital inequality and youth disillusionment
- medium term (3-5 years) threats : asset bubble bursts, IT infrastructure breakdown, price instability and debt crises
- long term (5-10 years) threats : weapons of mass destruction, state collapse, biodiversity loss and adverse technological advances

About World Economic Forum :

- Headquarters : Coligny, Switzerland
- Founder : Klaus Schwab
- Founded : January 1971

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MeITY and AWS announced Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has announced the establishment of a **Quantum Computing Applications Lab** in partnership with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**.
- The move will give select researchers, scientists access to Amazon's Braket cloud-based quantum computing service.
- The Quantum Computing Application Lab in collaboration with AWS is the first lab on AWS that's aligned to a government mission.
- It is to be implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology** operating under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The MeitY Quantum Computing Applications Lab will provide quantum computing as a service to government ministries and departments, researchers, scientists, academia, and

developers, to enable advances in areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and aerospace engineering.

- The Union Budget 2020-21 had proposed to spend Rs. 8000 crores on the National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications.

About Amazon Web Services :

- CEO : Andy Jassy
- Founded : 2006
- Headquarters : Seattle, Washington, United States

About MeitY :

- Minister of state : Surinderjeet Singh Ahluwalia
- Founded : 19 July 2006
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Minister Responsible : Ravi Shankar Prasad

CURRENT AFFAIRS : AWARD NEWS

Karuna Sagar IPS bags Bharat Gaurav Award

- **Karuna Sagar, a 1991 batch IPS officer of the TN cadre, has bagged the prestigious Bharat Gaurav Award for the year 2020 under the public service category.**
- The award ceremony, held at the national capital, was presided over by **Union Minister Mansukh L Mandaviya and Minister of State Faggan Singh Kulaste.**
- The awards are given out annually to citizens who make exemplary contributions in their fields or go beyond the call of duty in service to society.
- Previous winners of the awards include **Padma Shri awardees Kalpana Saroj and A Muruganatham aka 'PadMan'.**

Indian mathematician Nikhil Srivastava named joint winner of Michael and Sheila Held Prize

- **Nikhil Srivastava, a young Indian mathematician, has been named winner of the prestigious 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison-Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs.**
- **Srivastava from the University of California, Berkeley, Adam Marcus, the Ecole polytechnique federale de Lausanne (EPFL) and Daniel Alan Spielman from Yale University will receive the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize.**
- The prize consists of a medal and **USD 100,000.**
- The Michael and Sheila Held Prize is presented annually and honours outstanding, innovative, creative, and influential research in the areas of combinatorial and discrete optimisation, or related parts of computer science, such as the design and analysis of algorithms and complexity theory.
- The prize was established in 2017 by the bequest of Michael And Sheila Held.

51st IFFI concludes with grand closing ceremony

- The closing ceremony of the **51st edition of the International Film Festival** of India was held in the **Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Stadium in Goa**.
 - Due to the COVID-19 the festival was held in hybrid mode, there was physical and virtual screening of **50 films out of 224 films across various categories**.
 - Bangladesh was the country focus of the festival. Four films of Bangladesh were included in the 'country of focus' section.
 - The winners of the IFFI awards are listed below
1. Golden Peacock Award for Best Film– Into the Darkness
 2. Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor – Male – Tzu-Chuan Liu, The Silent Forest
 3. Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor – Female – Zofia Stafiej, I Never Cry
 4. Silver Peacock Award for Best Director – Chen-Nien Ko, The Silent Forest
 5. Best Debut Director Award – Cássio Pereira dos Santos, Valentina
 6. Special Mention Award – Kripal Kalita, Bridge
 7. Special Jury Award – Kamin Kalev, February
 8. ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Award – Ameen Nayfeh's 200 Meters
 9. Indian Personality of the Year Award – Biswajit Chatterjee
 10. Lifetime Achievement – Vittorio Storaro (Italian cinematographer)

Govt announces Subhash Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021

- **Rajendra Kumar Bhandari**, who laid the foundation of scientific studies on geo hazards, was selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for 2021** for his work in **disaster management**.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs said while Bhandari has been selected in the individual category of the award, the **Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)** has been picked for the award in the institutional category for the year.
- The award is announced every year on January 23, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of ₹51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and ₹five lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.
- The award is given to recognise and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management by the central government

About Ministry of Home Affairs :

- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Founded : 15 August 1947
- Ministry Executive : Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- Minister : Amit Shah

Federal Bank's Shyam Srinivasan is Business Standard Banker of the Year

- **Shyam Srinivasan**, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of **Federal Bank**, is the **Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2019-20**.

SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- This award was given mainly for his bank's consistent healthy performance at a time when most of its peers witnessed large stress on asset quality, registered losses, or even invited regulatory actions.
- The unanimous decision was taken by a high-profile jury of five, chaired by former RBI deputy governor S S Mundra. He was chosen for his bank's consistent healthy performance at a time when most of its peers witnessed losses or other issues.

About Federal Bank :

- Headquarters : Aluva
- CEO : Shyam Srinivasan
- Founder : K.P.Hormis
- Founded : 23 April, 1931

Padma Awards 2021 announced

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced the Padma Awards 2021 – one of the highest civilian Awards of the country – on the eve of 72nd Republic Day.**
- These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.
- This year the President has approved the conferment of **119 Padma Awards.**
- The list comprises **7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards.**
- 29 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 16 Posthumous awardees and one transgender awardee.
- Former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe and singer SP Balasubramaniam were among the Padma Vibhushan recipients.

Padma Vibhushan (7)

Name	Field	State/Country
Shri Shinzo Abe	Public Affairs	Japan
Shri S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
Dr. Belle Monappa Hegde	Medicine	Karnataka
Shri Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous)	Science and Engineering	United States of America
Maulana Wahiduddin Khan	Others- Spiritualism	Delhi
Shri B. B. Lal	Others- Archaeology	Delhi
Shri Sudarshan Sahoo	Art	Odisha

Padma Bhushan (10)

Ms. Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra	Art	Kerala
Shri Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Assam
Shri Chandrashekhar Kambara	Literature and Education	Karnataka
Ms. Sumitra Mahajan	Public Affairs	Madhya Pradesh
Shri Nripendra Misra	Civil Service	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
Shri Keshubhai Patel (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Gujarat
Shri Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous)	Others-Spiritualism	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Rajnikant Devidas Shroff	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Shri Tarlochan Singh	Public Affairs	Haryana

Bihar cops, including three IPS officers won national awards

- Three officers of Indian Police Service (IPS), besides three junior cops, have been selected this year also to be awarded with the Internal Security Service Medals and the Home Minister's Medals respectively for outstanding services in duty.
- **Rakesh Rathi**, The Inspector General of Police of Magadh range, present Lakhisarai **SP Sushil Kumar** and Jamui ASP (operation) **Sudhansu Kumar** are the IPS officers, who would be awarded with the Internal Security Service Medals.
- The other **three policemen** selected for the **Home Minister Medal** this year for outstanding services are havaldar Bhogendra Mishra of Police Academy at **Rajgir** and constables **Anuranjan Kumar and Vipin Kumar Singh** of CTC at Nathnagar in Bhagalpur.

About Bihar:

- **Governor:** Phagu Chauhan
- **Chief minister:** Nitish Kumar
- **Capital:** Patna

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SPORTS NEWS

ITBP wins IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship in Gulmarg

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has won the **10th National Ice Hockey Championship** organised by the **Ice Hockey Association of India**, after defeating Ladakh with **five goals to one**.
- The match was held at **Gulmarg Ice Rink**.
- On behalf of ITBP, Uryyan and Tashi scored two goals each while Punchuk scored one goal.
- The championship, which concluded on Friday, was held at an altitude of 8,694-feet and temperatures below freezing point.
- Top eight teams of ice hockey in India participated in the event.
- Ladakh has been considered as the capital of ice hockey in India where local men and women play this game with great enthusiasm.

About ITBP :

- Founded : 24 October 1962
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Director General : S S Deswal

About Ice Hockey Association of India :

- President : K L Kumar
- Membership : 27 April 1989

CURRENT AFFAIRS : DAYS

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti –observed on Jan 23

- **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti** or **Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday** is celebrated on **23rd January** every year to remember and honour Netaji's vigour as one the greatest freedom fighters of India.
- It will mark his **125th birth anniversary**.
- **"Give me your blood, and I shall give you freedom"**—the quote by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose inspired thousands of Indian youths to join the struggle for independence from the British colonial rule.

National Girl Child Day: Observed on Jan 24, 2021

- The National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on **January 24**.
- It was started by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** and the Government of India in 2008, with the purpose to spread awareness among people about all the inequalities girls face in the Indian society.
- National Girl Child day 2021 is being celebrated across the country with the objective of raising awareness on the issue of declining **Child Sex Ratio (CSR)**.
- The celebrations will also mark the anniversary of **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme.

National Voters' Day: Observed on Jan 25, 2021-01-25

- In order to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process, the Government of India has decided to celebrate January 25 every year as “**National Voters' Day**”.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** will be the **Chief Guest** at the national function being organized in New Delhi.
- The **theme** for this year's NVD, '**Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and informed**', envisages active and participative voters during elections.
- It has been started from January 26, 2011 to mark the Commission's foundation day.
- The **National Voters' Day** has been celebrated on January 25 every year since 2011, all across the country to mark the foundation day of Election Commission of India, i.e. **25th January 1950**.
- The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize enrolment, especially for the new voters.

National Tourism Day 2021: Celebrated On Jan 25

- Every year, **January 25** is observed as **National Tourism Day** in the country.

Significance of the day :

- Owing to the diversity and the multiculturalism India has to offer, this day is to highlight the importance of tourism having a positive impact on the country's economy.
- It is to highlight the prominence of tourism in the country and how it impacts India's economic prospects.
- **Theme** of this year is '**Dekho Apna Desh**'.
- This time, this day will be observed virtually. From January 21 to February 22, the Ministry of Tourism has been organizing seminars pertaining to the theme. With that, they want to showcase the diverse culture of our country.

About Ministry of Tourism :

- Officeholder: Prahlad Singh Patel
- Founded: 1967
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Uttar Pradesh celebrates its statehood day

- Uttar Pradesh is celebrating its foundation day on **Jan 24**.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the **Sthapna Diwas** at a gala at Awadh Shilpgram in capital city Lucknow.
- The programmes of foundation day programme will continue for next three days.
- The **theme** of Uttar Pradesh Divas is '**Self-reliant Uttar Pradesh: Women, youths, Farmers: Development of all, Honour to All.**' **Sabka Vikas Sabka Samman** '.
- **A huge exhibition on the theme of 'One District One Product'** is also being displayed at Gautam Budh Nagar in NCR.
- **An app** of MSME department '**Udhyam Sarthi** ' was launched on this occasion.

- This app is said to be a master key for youths that, on a Click, will provide all detailed information regarding employment.
- Chief Minister Sri Yogi distributed prizes to the winners in different fields including Sports, Agriculture, Dairy, Industry and culture.
- **Advanced Tool kits** were given to the artisans under ODOP scheme in state.

About Uttar Pradesh:

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

International Day of Education 2021 Observed On Jan 24

- On January 24, 2018, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a resolution proclaiming this day as **International Day of Education** in celebration of **the role of education for peace and development**.
- The theme for International Education Day is **Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation.**

About History of International Education Day 2021:

- On January 24, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming this day as International Day of Education on December 3, 2018.
- This day is also celebrated to promote the role of education and thus the International Day of Education came into existence.

About United Nations General Assembly :

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

International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2021 Observed On Jan 27

- The **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** is an international memorial day observed on **January 27 every year**.
- The day commemorates the **tragedy of the Holocaust during the Second World War**.
- The day was officially proclaimed in **November 2005** as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of million Jews and 11 million others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.
- **Aim** : The day aims to address the residual trauma, maintain effective remembrance policies and promoting education, documentation and research about the genocide to help prevent future acts of genocide.
- The theme of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2021 is **“Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust”**

International Customs Day: 26 January

- Every year on **26th January, International Customs Day (ICD)** is celebrated **worldwide**.
- To commemorate the very first official conference of the Customs Co-operation Council which means the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** which was established in the year 1952 comprising 182 custom administration members and is called as the only intergovernmental organization which solely features the customs matters.
- Theme of 2021 is “**Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience**”.
- In 1994 the CCC was renamed World Customs Organization (WCO).
- The day is observed for recognizing the role of custom officials and agencies in maintaining border security across the globe by focusing on the challenges and the working conditions that are faced by the customs officials.

About WCO :

- Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- Founded : 26 January 1952
- Secretary General : Kunio Mikuriya

India is Celebrating 72nd Republic Day on 26 January 2021

- **India** is Celebrating the **72nd Republic Day** on 26 January 2021, with celebrations at the **majestic Rajpath in New Delhi**.
- To commemorate the day the Government of India Act (1935) set by the **British Raj** was replaced by the **Indian Constitution** as the governing document of India.
- This Day marks the date on which the **Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950**.
- On Republic Day, the President of India distributes **Padma Awards** to the civilians of India.
- Padma Awards are given in three categories – **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

Former India and Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Prasanta Dora Passed away

- Former **India and Mohun Bagan**, East Bengal goalkeeper **Prasanta Dora** died aged 44.
- Having made debut in the group IX Olympic qualifier home match against Thailand in 1999, Prasanta went on to represent India at the SAFF Cup, SAF Games later and made five appearances.
- Prasanta was also adjudged **Best Goalkeeper** in Bengal's successive Santosh Trophy triumphs in 1997-98 and 99.
- At club-level, Prasanta started his career at the Tollygunge Agragami before moving to Calcutta Port Trust, Mohammedan Sporting, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.
- At national level, Dora made five appearances in competitions such as SAFF Cup and SAF Games.

Historian Narendra Luther, chronicler of Hyderabad history, dies at 89

- **Civil servant, historian, author, poet and chronicler Narendra Luther** passed away. He was 89.
- A 1955 batch IAS officer who served in various positions, Luther later wrote several books about the history and culture of Hyderabad.
- In 1991, he was Chief Secretary of undivided **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Luther wrote several books about the history and culture of Hyderabad. Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the Founder of Hyderabad is one of the books he is well-known for. For those looking to learn more about the history of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, Luther's well-researched books are a goldmine of information.

Larry King, legendary talk show host, dies at 87

- **Larry King**, the **longtime CNN host** who became an icon through his interviews with countless newsmakers and his sartorial sensibilities, has died. He was 87.
- King hosted "**Larry King Live**" on CNN for over **25 years**, interviewing presidential candidates, celebrities, athletes, movie stars and everyday people.
- He retired in 2010 after taping more than 6,000 episodes of the show.
- His show was one of the prime attractions on the television as it was a mix of interviews, political discussions, current event debates and phone calls from viewers

Popular Singer, Narendra Chanchal, passes away at 80

- Popular **bhajan singer Narendra Chanchal** passed away in New Delhi. He was 80.
- Chanchal was known for his religious songs and bhajan.
- Chanchal's songs like "Chalo Bulava Aaya Hai" from Avtaar and "Beshak Mandir Masjid Todo" from Bobby became immensely popular.
- Besides several bhajans, Chanchal had also given voice in several Hindi films as well.
- He won the **Filmfare Award for Best Male Singer for Bobby**

Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mata Prasad Dies At 95

- Former **Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mata Prasad** He was 95 years old.
- Mata Prasad served as minister in the **Congress government in Uttar Pradesh** in 1988-89 and was appointed as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 1993.

Malayalam actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri passes away

- Veteran actor **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri** passed away in Kannur. He was 98.
- Unnikrishnan made his acting debut with Desadanam 1996. However, he became a household name among the Malayalam film audience for his performance as a witty grandfather in Kalyanaraman (2002).
- He had also played a pivotal role in Kamal Haasan's hit comedy-drama, Pammal K Sambandam (2002).
- Unnikrishnan Namboothiri was known for movies like Kaikudunna Nilavu (1998), Kaliyattam (1997), Sadanandante Samayam (2003), Madhuranombarakattu (2000), Rappakal (2005), and Pokkiri Raja (2010).

Gajendra Singh Shaktawat, Congress MLA from Vallabh Nagar, passes away

- Congress legislator from **Udaipur's Vallabh Nagar constituency Gajendra Singh Shaktawat** He was 48.
- He is the **fourth legislator** of the current Rajasthan assembly to have died of illness in past six months



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