

FundaMakers

JANUARY 2021 **CURRENT AFFAIR**



Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
January 4	World Braille Day	This is the birthday of Braille inventor, Louis Braille.
January 6	Marathi Journalism Day	On 6th January 1832, Balshastri Jambhekar, who is known as the Father of Marathi Journalism, started the first newspaper "Darpan".
January 6	World Day of War Orphans	
January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)	Theme- Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat
January 10	World Hindi Day	
January 12	National Youth Day	Theme- YUVAAH – Utsah Naye Bharat Ka
January 14	Armed Forces Veterans Day	This year is being celebrated as Swarnim Vijay Varsh. It marks 50th Anniversary of 1971 Indo-Pak War.
January 15	Army Day	
January 17	National Immunisation Day (NID)	Commonly known as the Pulse Polio Immunisation programme. This year due to Covid-19 vaccination drive, the National Polio Immunisation Programme, as part of which children in the age group of 0-5 years are administered polio drops, has rescheduled to January 31.
January 19	National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day	
January 23	PARAKRAM DIWAS	to celebrate the 125th Birth Anniversary year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
January 24	International Day of Education	Theme- Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation
January 24	National Girl Child Day	
January 25	National Voters' Day	Theme- Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed
January 25	National Tourism Day	Theme- Dekho Apna Desh
January 26	International Customs Day (ICD)	Theme- Customs bolstering recovery, renewal and resilience
January 27	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	Theme- Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust
January 30	73rd Martyrs' Day	to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
January 31 (Last Sunday of January)	World Leprosy Day	Theme- Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and Advocate for Mental Well-Being

MOU/Agreement Countries

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between Indian and Japan on a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to 'Specified Skilled Worker'.
- India and Japan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), including 5G standardisation.
- India and Japan have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on a basic partnership framework for operation of the 'specified skilled worker' (SSW) system under which the Japanese government accepts foreign nationals who have a certain level of expertise and skill.
- India and Singapore signed the implementing agreement on submarine rescue support and cooperation between the two Navies.
- Union Cabinet was apprised of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of Solar Energy.
- India and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to design, make, and launch a satellite fabricated by students from both countries.

- India and International Energy Agency members have signed the framework for Strategic Partnership to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation and enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability.

MOU Industry/States/Others

- Oakridge Energy has signed agreements with the Delhi government and screw Vidyalaya Sangathan to solarise schools in Delhi.
- To promote the state's horticulture produce and take it to the global market, the Jammu and Kashmir government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).
- Tata Power announced its partnership with SIDBI to provide a finance scheme to the MSME players in the rooftop solar segment.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Cambridge and the Urban Development Department of Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Air Force and Institute of Defence Studies and Research – IDSR- an autonomous Institution of Gujarat University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) .
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute for Road Traffic Education (IRTE), and Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh (IDC), to promote road safety and collaborate in the areas of traffic management.
- WE HUB, India's first state-led incubator to foster and promote women entrepreneurship set up by Telangana Government, has announced its partnership with i-Hub of Gujarat, to encourage and support startups in raising capital.
- 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.
- Power Grid Corporation has signed an agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd. (HPSEBL) in Shimla (H.P.) to improve telecom connectivity in hilly areas.
- Madhya Pradesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kerala for replicating the latter's pioneering Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative.
- Textiles Committee of the Ministry of Textiles has signed a Memorandum of Understanding- MoU with Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan to boost export of Textile and Apparel to Japanese market.
- To address nutritional challenges leading to stunting, underweight and anemia amongst children and women US food major Cargill, in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Delhi based Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), have launched a program to improve nutrition status in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Amazon India signed an agreement with the Karnataka industries and commerce department to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) operating in the state to increase their exports on its global selling platform.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the union territory of Ladakh recently signed an agreement for the development of the Union Territory through Science and Technology (S&T) interventions.

Appointments and Resignations

Name	Post	Other Info
Suneet Sharma	Railway Board Chairman, CEO	
Upendra Prasad Singh	Secretary, Ministry of Textiles	
Umesh Sinha	Deputy Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India	
Justice Hima Kohli	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court	
Pankaj Mithal	Chief Justice of the common court of the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh	
Shrishti Goswami	One-day CM of Uttarakhand	On 24 th January
Gita Mittal	Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)	
Narendra Modi	Chairman of Somnath Temple Trust	
Soma Mondal	Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	replaces Anil Kumar Chaudhary
PK Purwar	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of MTNL	

Siddhartha Mohanty	Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)	
Swaminathan Janakiraman and Ashwini Kumar Tewari	MDs of SBI	
Vishwavir Ahuja	MD, CEO of RBL Bank	
J K Shivan	MD, CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank	
Sanjeev Kumar	Chairman and Managing Director of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL)	
Bihar's Bicycle Girl Jyoti Kumari	Brand Ambassador for Anti-drug Abuse Programme	
Pradipt Kapoor	Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Bharti Airtel	
Rajiv Lochan	MD of Sundaram Finance	
Abhishek Yadav	Deputy General Secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF)	
Karan Bajwa	Head of Google Cloud in Asia Pacific	
Lt Gen Shantanu Dayal	Deputy Chief of Army Staff	
Lieutenant General Chandi Prasad Mohanty	Next Vice-chief of Army Staff	
Subodh Kumar Jaiswal	Director General, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)	
Ashish Pethe	New Chairman OF All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)	
Sanjay Kapoor	President of the All India Chess Federation (AICF)	
Sandeep Aggarwal	Chairman of the Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)	
Bharat Singh Chauhan	Secretary of All India Chess Federation (AICF)	
Jay Shah	Representative of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meetings	
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	One of US-India Business Council's vice-chair	
Jayant N Khobragade	Next Ambassador of India to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat	
Pat Gelsinger	CEO of Intel	
Pablo Cesar of Argentina	Head of International Jury for 51st edition of International Film Festival of India	
Nazhat Shameem Khan	President of UN Human Rights Council	He is Fiji's ambassador
Sadyr Japarov	President of Kyrgyzstan	
Yoweri Museveni	President of Uganda	
Joe Biden	46th President of the United States	
Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa	President of Portugal	
Kaja Kallas	First Female Prime Minister of Estonia	

Resignations

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Dushyant Dave resigned from his post.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his entire Cabinet resigned to take political responsibility for a scandal involving investigations into child welfare payments that wrongly labeled thousands of parents as fraudsters.

Jüri Ratas resigned as Prime Minister of Estonia.

Mongolia's Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa submitted his resignation to parliament.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte tendered his resignation following widespread criticism of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the country.

Mongolia's prime minister Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh has resigned following a protest over a hospital's treatment of a new mother who tested positive for the coronavirus.

- Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh is among 20 prominent personalities appointed by the United Nations to a high-level advisory board that will provide recommendations for the U.N. Secretary-General to respond to the current and future socio-economic challenges in the post-COVID-19 world.

Awards and Recognitions

Award Name	Person/Institution	Extra Knowledge
Tansen Samman- 2020	Pt. Satish Vyas	
Kayakalp Award	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar	for promoting cleanliness, hygiene and creating sustainable practices in public health facilities
Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar	Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society and. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari	for their excellent work in DisasterManagement
SKOCH Challenger Award	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	for its IT-led initiatives and other transformational initiatives leadingto outcome-based performance improvement
Lifetime Achievement Award at the 51 edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa	Vittorio Storaro	
'Indian Personality of the Year' award at IFFI	Biswajit Chatterjee	
Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2019-20	Shyam Srinivasan	MD, CEO of of Federal Bank
Humanitarian Activist Influencer Award	Ravi Gaikwad	
Canada's Hindi Writers Guild	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	
Sahitya Gaurav Samman	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	
National Award for Best Electoral Practices 2020	Meghalaya	
2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize	Nikhil Srivastava, Adam Marcus,	
	Daniel Alan Spielman	
Quaide Milleth Award	Bilkis Dadi and Harsh Mander	
Romain Rolland Book Prize	Tamil translation of French novel 'Le mariage de plaisir'	

Recognitions

Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru now has a CAT IIIB compliant South runway that can be used by aircraft even during inclement weather and foggy conditions.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has recognised four tea producing sites spanning across three countries as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). All the four sites chosen by the FAO are in the Asian continent and include two tea production sites from China (Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem and Fuzhou Jasmine tea site) – the world's largest producer- and one each from Korea (Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem Korea) and Japan (Traditional Tree Grass system in Shizuoka).

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has been replaced as Asia's richest person by Chinese private billionaire Zhong Shanshan. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos topped the charts with a net worth of \$201 billion. Tesla CEO and founder Elon Musk (\$145 billion) moved into the second position.

Bajaj Auto announced that it becomes the first two-wheeler company globally to cross a market capitalization of INR one trillion.

Well-known breast cancer surgeon from Hyderabad Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti has been named in the New Year's Honours list of Queen Elizabeth II.

Elon Musk surpassed Amazon.com Inc's top boss Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest man, Bloomberg News reported.

Flight lieutenant Bhawana Kanth is set to become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade.

Pakistan felicitated a team of 10 Nepali climbers for making history by becoming the first to scale in winter the world's second highest mountain K2.

President has approved awards of 455 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others. These include one Mahavir Chakra, 5 Kirti Chakras, 5 Vir Chakras, 7 Shaurya Chakras, 4 Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 130 Sena Medal (Gallantry), one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), 4 Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry), 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, 4 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 51 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 11 Yudh

Seva Medal, 3 Bar to Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 43 Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty) including 2 COVID Warriors, 8 Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 14 Vayu Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 3 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) including one COVID Warrior and 131 Vishisht Seva Medal including 12 COVID Warriors.
Colonel B Santosh Babu, the Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar Regiment, who lost his life during the Galwan Valley clash last year, will be posthumously awarded with Maha Vir Chakra.
Subedar Sanjiv Kumar of 4th Battalion Parachute Regiment, CRPF Inspector Pintu Kumar Singh, CRPF Head Constable Shyam Narayan Singh Yadav, CRPF Constable Vinod Kumar will be posthumously awarded with Kirti Chakra. Deputy Commandant CRPF Rahul Mathur will be awarded Kirti Chakra.
Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren of 16 Bihar Regiment, Havildar K Palani of 81 Field Regiment, Naik Deepak Singh of Army Medical Corps 16 Bihar Regiment and Sepoy Gurtej Singh of 3rd Battalion Punjab Regiment will be awarded Vir Chakra posthumously. Havildar Tejinder Singh of 3 Medium Regiment will be awarded Vir Chakra.
Major Anuj Sood of 21st Battalion Rashtriya Rifles, Jammu and Kashmir police inspector Arshad Khan, J&K police Selection Grade Constable GH Mustafa Barah, J&K police Constable Naseer Ahmed Kolie and J&K Special Police Officer Bilal Ahmed Magray will be posthumously awarded with Shaurya Chakra.
Uttar Pradesh's Republic Day tableau, which showcased a replica of the Ram Temple along with Ayodhya's 'Deepotsav', was adjudged the best among 32 tableaux that participated in the parade.

51st edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

The winners list of 51st IFFI:

- Golden Peacock Award – Into the Darkness (Danish film based on World War II – Director: Anders Refn)
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor – Male – Tzu-Chuan Liu, The Silent Forest
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor – Female – Zofia Stafiej, I Never Cry
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Director – Chen-Nien Ko, The Silent Forest
- Best Debut Director Award – Cássio Pereira dos Santos, Valentina
- Special Mention Award – Kripal Kalita, Bridge
- Special Jury Award – Kamin Kalev, February
- ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Award – Ameen Nayfeh's 200 Meters
- Indian Personality of the Year Award – Biswajit Chatterjee

Padma Awards 2021

The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards.

Padma Vibhushan Awards List

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 Award list		
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
Padma Shri Award list		
Shri Gulfam Ahmed	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Ms. P. Anitha	Sports	Tamil Nadu

Shri Rama Swamy Annavarapu	Art	Andhra Pradesh
Shri Subbu Arumugam	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri Prakasarao Asavadi	Literature and Education	Andhra Pradesh
Ms. Bhuri Bai	Art	Madhya Pradesh
Shri Radhe Shyam Barle	Art	Chhattisgarh
Shri Dharma Narayan Barma	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Ms. Lakhimi Baruah	Social Work	Assam
Shri Biren Kumar Basak	Art	West Bengal
Ms. Rajni Bector	Trade and Industry	Punjab
Shri Peter Brook	Art	United Kingdom
Ms. Sangkhumi Bualchhuak	Social Work	Mizoram
Shri Gopiram Bargayn Burabhakat	Art	Assam
Ms. Bijoya Chakravarty	Public Affairs	Assam
Shri Sujit Chattopadhyay	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Jagdish Chaudhary (Posthumous)	Social Work	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Tsultrim Chonjor	Social Work	Ladakh
Ms. Mouma Das	Sports	West Bengal
Shri Srikant Datar	Literature and Education	United States of America
Shri Narayan Debnath	Art	West Bengal
Ms. Chutni Devi	Social Work	Jharkhand
Ms. Dulari Devi	Art	Bihar
Ms. Radhe Devi	Art	Manipur
Ms. Shanti Devi	Social Work	Odisha
Shri Wayan Dibia	Art	Indonesia
Shri Dadudan Gadhavi	Literature & Education	Gujarat
Shri Parshuram Atmaram Gangavane	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Jai Bhagwan Goyal	Literature and Education	Haryana
Shri Jagadish Chandra Halder	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Mangal Singh Hazowary	Literature and Education	Assam
Ms. Anshu Jamsenpa	Sports	Arunachal Pradesh
Ms. Purnamasi Jani	Art	Odisha
Matha B. Manjamma Jogati	Art	Karnataka
Shri Damodaran Kaithapram	Art	Kerala
Shri Namdeo C Kamble	Literature and Education	Maharashtra
Shri Maheshbhai & Shri Nareshbhai Kanodia (Duo) * (Posthumous)	Art	Gujarat
Shri Rajat Kumar Kar	Literature and Education	Odisha Shri Rangasami Lakshminarayana Kashyap
Shri Nicholas Kazanas	Literature and Education	Greece
Shri K Kesavasamy	Art	Puducherry
Shri Ghulam Rasool Khan	Art	Jammu and Kashmir
Shri Lakha Khan	Art	Rajasthan
Ms. Sanjida Khatun	Art	Bangladesh
Shri Vinayak Vishnu Khedekar	Art	Goa
Shri Rajat Kumar Kar	Literature and Education	Odisha Shri Rangasami Lakshminarayana Kashyap
Shri Nicholas Kazanas	Literature and Education	Greece
Shri K Kesavasamy	Art	Puducherry
Shri Ghulam Rasool Khan	Art	Jammu and Kashmir
Shri Lakha Khan	Art	Rajasthan
Ms. Sanjida Khatun	Art	Bangladesh
Shri Vinayak Vishnu Khedekar	Art	Goa
Ms. Niru Kumar	Social Work	Delhi
Ms. Lajwanti	Art	Punjab
Shri Rattan Lal	Science and Engineering	United States of America
Shri Ali Manikfan	Others-Grassroots Innovation	Lakshadweep
Shri Ramachandra Manjhi	Art	Bihar

Shri Dulal Manki	Art	Assam
Shri Nanadro B Marak	Others- Agriculture	Meghalaya
Shri Rewben Mashangva	Art	Manipur
Shri Chandrakant Mehta	Literature and Education	Gujarat
Dr. Rattan Lal Mittal	Medicine	Punjab
Shri Madhavan Nambiar	Sports	Kerala
Shri Shyam Sundar Paliwal	Social Work	Rajasthan
Dr. Chandrakant Sambhaji Pandav	Medicine	Delhi
Dr. J N Pande(Posthumous)	Medicine	Delhi
Shri Solomon Pappaiah	Literature and Education- Journalism	Tamil Nadu
Ms. Pappammal	Others- Agriculture	Tamil Nadu
Dr. Krishna Mohan Pathi	Medicine	Odisha
Ms. Jaswantiben Jamnadas Popat	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Shri Girish Prabhune	Social Work	Maharashtra
Shri Nanda Prusty	Literature and Education	Odisha
Shri K K Ramachandra Pulavar	Art	Kerala
Shri Balan Putheri	Literature and Education	Kerala
Ms. Birubala Rabha	Social Work	Assam
Shri Kanaka Raju	Art	Telangana
Ms. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri Satyaram Reang	Art	Tripura
Dr. Dhananjay Diwakar Sagdeo	Medicine	Kerala
Shri Ashok Kumar Sahu	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Singh Sanjay	Medicine	Uttarakhand
Ms. Sindhutai Sapkal	Social Work	Maharashtra
Shri Chaman Lal Sapru (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Jammu and Kashmir
Shri Roman Sarmah	Literature and Education- Journalism	Assam
Shri Imran Shah	Literature and Education	Assam
Shri Prem Chand Sharma	Others- Agriculture	Uttarakhand
Shri Arjun Singh Shekhawat	Literature and Education	Rajasthan
Shri Ram Yatna Shukla	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Jitender Singh Shunty	Social Work	Delhi
Shri Kartar Paras Ram Singh	Art	Himachal Pradesh
Shri Kartar Singh	Art	Punjab
Dr. Dilip Kumar Singh	Medicine	Bihar
Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh	Others-Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Sudha Hari Narayan Singh	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Virender Singh	Sports	Haryana
Ms. Mridula Sinha (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Bihar
Shri K C Sivasankar (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
Guru Maa Kamali Soren	Social Work	West Bengal
Shri Marachi Subburaman	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
Shri P Subramanian (Posthumous)	Trade and Industry	Tamil Nadu
Ms. Nidumolu Sumathi	Art	Andhra Pradesh
Shri Kapil Tiwari	Literature and Education	Madhya Pradesh
Father Vallés (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Spain
Dr. Thiruvengadam Veeraraghavan (Posthumous)	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
Shri Sridhar Vembu	Trade and Industry	Tamil Nadu
Shri K Y Venkatesh	Sports	Karnataka
Ms. Usha Yadav	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
Col Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir	Public Affairs	Bangladesh

Conference and Summits

Summit	Place	Extra Knowledge
Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2021)	Kerala	will be held from March 12 to 19
Start-Up India International Summit 'Prarambh'	New Delhi	
69th Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council	Shillong	
4th One Planet Summit	France	Theme- Let's act together for nature!
International Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021	Netherlands	
17th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)	Turkey	
Future Investment Initiative (FII) Summit	Saudi Arabia	Theme- The Neo-Renaissance

- Union Education Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the two-day Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020' through a video the conferencing platform.
- The two-days 15th edition of India Digital Summit 2021, one of the biggest conference for the digital industry, was organised through virtual platform. The theme of the 2021 Summit was 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Start of New Decade'.
- Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (I/C) chaired three-day Ports Review Meeting named 'Chintan Baithak' at Dhordo, Kutch, Gujarat.

International News

- India is beginning its two-year tenure as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council, UNSC.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) said that it has become an associate member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
- World Health Organization says it has cleared the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine for emergency use.
- Australia has changed one word in its national anthem to reflect what the prime minister called the spirit of unity and the country's Indigenous population.
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva has awarded the status of 'centennial observing station' to the Patna meteorological observatory in recognition to its long-term meteorological observation exceeding over 100 years.
- India provided a grant assistance of 30.66 crore Nepalese Rupees (nearly INR 19.21 crore) to Nepal as part of its commitment towards reconstruction of educational institutions damaged during the 2015 earthquake.
- India took a tacit swipe at Pakistan for backing cross-border terrorism as it announced it would be chairing three key UN sanctions committees, including Taliban Sanctions Committee, Counterterrorism Committee and the Libyan Sanctions Committee during 2021-22.
- Bangladesh is the focus country at the 51th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) this year.
- Germany's Cabinet approved legislation requiring some larger companies to ensure that at least one woman serves on their management boards.
- A Sriwijaya Air plane Boeing 737-500 crashed into the sea minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital Jakarta on a domestic flight with 62 people on board.
- The four leading international health and humanitarian organizations World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced the establishment of a global Ebola vaccine stockpile to ensure outbreak response.
- United States has designated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain as its major strategic partners.
- Pakistan recently issued special permits to Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and five other members of their family to hunt Houbara Bustard during the 2020-21 hunting season.
- Over a thousand large dams in India will be roughly 50-years-old in 2025 and such aging structures across the world pose a growing threat, according to a United Nations (UN) report which notes that by 2050, most people on Earth will live downstream of tens of thousands of dams built in the 20th century by The report, titled 'Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk' and compiled by United Nations University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health.
- UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution to promote a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard

religious sites all across the world.

- India has announced a pledge of \$150,000 to activities of the Peacebuilding Fund this year and said that 2021 provides the international community with an opportunity to look at peace-building in a more focused manner, especially in the context of the Covid pandemic.

National News

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of six Light House Projects (LHPs) under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India). The six states are Tripura, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National Atomic Timescale and Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya Pranali to the nation and laid the foundation stone of the National Environmental Standards Laboratory through video conference.
- India launched the 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. This Indian expedition marks four decades of the country's scientific endeavour to the southern white continent.
- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated a migrant worker cell of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) at Udhna based iLab in Surat.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the 450-km Kochi-Koottanad-Mangaluru LNG (liquefied natural gas) pipeline through video conferencing.
- The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund Trust is allocating 201.58 crore rupees for installation of additional 162 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants inside public health facilities in the country.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that the Centre has approved new National Highway projects worth Rs 5,801 crore rupees for Maharashtra under the Annual Plan.
- Centre has sanctioned Rs 37.87 crore for the facelift of Parshuram Kund pilgrimage site in Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit district.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched an innovative new paint "Khadi Prakritik Paint" developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is spending over Rs 1,200 crore to create dedicated corridors that would enable safe passage of wild animals crossing highways that pass through green belts.
- Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to the Memorandum of Understanding on scientific and technical cooperation between National Centre of Meteorology of the United Arab Emirates and Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off eight trains connecting different parts of the country to Kevadia in Gujarat, via video conferencing.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of Rs 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund' at the 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit' to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas.
- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry launched month-long mass awareness campaign 'SAKSHAM' in New Delhi to spread awareness about green and clean energy.
- Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali arrived in India on a three-day visit during which he attended the 6th meeting of Nepal-India Joint Commission and discussed the entire gamut of relations, including COVID-19 cooperation and border disputes, with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.
- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has been temporarily assigned the charge of the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Indian Railways renamed the Howrah-Kalka Mail as the 'Netaji Express' ahead of iconic freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary.
- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge in Ahmedabad city of Gujarat through video conferencing.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released financial assistance of Rs 2,691 crore to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana via video conference.
- Indian Railways' South Eastern Central Railway (SECR) zone has created another record when it operated the longest freight train on the Indian Railways network. SECR Raipur division for the first time amalgamated five rakes of freight coaches from Bhilai D Cabin till Korba which falls under the Bilaspur division.
- "AYU SAMVAD" (My Health My Responsibility) is one of the largest public awareness campaign program on AYURVEDA and COVID 19 PANDEMIC, organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda New Delhi, as envisioned & supported by Ministry of AYUSH.
- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated the Chennai

Bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

- Department of Expenditure of Ministry of Finance has released an amount of over Rs 12,351 crore to 18 States for providing grants to the Rural Local Bodies. This amount is the 2nd instalment of basic grants released in this financial year.

State News

Assam

- In Assam, the Magh or Bhogali Bihu is celebrated across the state with traditional fervor and gaiety.

Bihar

- Bihar's first state-level bird festival 'Kalrav' held at the world famous Nagi-Nakti bird sanctuaries in the Jamui district from January 15.

Delhi

- Department of Art, Culture and Language of the Delhi government set up a Tamil academy to promote the South Indian language and culture in the Capital.
- A stretch of road in Andrews Ganj in south Delhi will soon be named after the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput as the area's civic body has cleared a proposal for it.
- NITI Aayog has appreciated the "landmark transformation" of the government schools as they have secured the top score in the think tank's India Innovation Index 2020. Delhi has reported the highest National Achievement Survey (NAS) score of 44.73.

Gujarat

- Dragon fruit will be known as 'Kamalam' in Gujarat.
- In Gujarat, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced the 'Horticulture Development Mission' (BagayatVikas Mission).
- India's largest multi-model logistic park will come up at Virochan Nagar near Sanand in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat.

Haryana

- Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated India's first air taxi services from Chandigarh to Hisar under the UDAN scheme of the Central Government.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched Himachal Pradesh's first online youth radio station 'Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil'.

Jammu & Kashmir

- North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala (Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India) and Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages are jointly organizing five days 'National Folk Dance Festival' from December 26.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, LG, Manoj Sinha launched Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers Portal of J&K Anti Corruption Bureau at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre has merged J&K cadre for all India Services Viz; IAS, IPS and IFS officers with that of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT), also called the Union Territory cadre, through an ordinance.
- Cabinet has given its approval for the investment of over 5200 crore rupees for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jharkhand

- Jharkhand launches its own crop relief scheme to replace the Prime Minister's insurance scheme.

Karnataka

- In Karnataka, Chief Minister B. 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.
- Karnataka govt launched a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country to automatically select beneficiaries for old-age pensions that will be paid through the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode.

Kerala

- Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan has launched Vedhik Erudite Foundation's ambitious scheme 'One School One IAS' to provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students across the State.
- The country's first Labour Movement Museum, showcasing the history of world labour movement, would be launched in Kerala's houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha, Kerala.

Ladakh

- In Leh, the first ever Ice climbing festival was celebrated in Nubra valley.

Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, 'Launch Pad Scheme' is being started for boys and girls coming out of child care institutions and having completed 18 years of age.
- Madhya Pradesh has become the first State to give electricity subsidy through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- In 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 finance ministry has allocated an additional Rs 660 crore to Madhya Pradesh for capital expenditure to undertake citizen-centric reforms. Madhya Pradesh, WIPRO group is all set to act as knowledge partner of the State Government.
- On the occasion of National Girl Child Day, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'PANKH Abhiyan' under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme in order to aid in empowerment and growth of the girl child.

Maharashtra

- In a bid to help the women, residing in congested slums, during their menstruation days, a 'period room' has been set up at a public toilet in Maharashtra's Thane city.
- Maharashtra government has renamed Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur as 'Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park'.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray launched a 'jail tourism' initiative of the state government from Pune's Yerawada prison, in a move to help students learn about historical experiences.
- In Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray formally launched the Agriculture Pump Power Connection Policy.
- Maharashtra ranks first in the second edition of the India Justice Report (IJR) 2020, that judges states on delivery of justice to people.

Manipur

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched mPension Manipur App, an online platform through which pensioners can do self-updation without visiting Treasury Offices.
- In Manipur, the Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held at Senapati district marking the beginning of pink season in the district.

Meghalaya

- Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma inaugurated India's longest road arch bridge, the Wahrew Bridge at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district.

Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 'Fire Park', a first of its kind initiative in the country, to bring awareness on fire safety measures.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 15th edition of Toshali National Crafts Mela in Bhubaneswar.
- Directorate of Teacher Education and SCERT in collaboration with UNICEF, Odisha and technical support from SDRC, has launched the Teacher Education Dashboard named Prashikhyak for Teacher Education Institutes to monitor progress against the annual academic calendar and improve the quality of teacher training along with reliable data linking with the professional profile of teachers.

Punjab

- To bring in more automation and efficacy in the functioning of the state Public Relations department, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh virtually launched a mobile application 'DigiNest', to give people digital access to the state government's directory.

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced a slew of welfare schemes, including free sanitary pads for girls studying in high school and colleges in the state.
- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh virtually kicked off a state-wide scheme for allotment of 7,219 fair price shops (FPS) under his government's flagship 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar te Karobaar Mission'.

Rajasthan

- A new scheme has been initiated in Sirohi district, Rajasthan to make people aware about importance of nourishment of pregnant women and children. The scheme called Ek Paudha Suposhit Beti Ke Naam or A plant on the name of well nourished daughter' has been started under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme of the union government.

Uttar Pradesh

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

Telangana

- In Telangana, people are celebrating Kanuma, the festival of cattle, on the third day of Sankranti festival.

Tripura

- Tripura observed the 42nd anniversary of the recognition of Kokborok dialect as an official language of the state with a series of programs and colourful events.

Tamilnadu

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy inaugurated Jayalalithaa Memorial at Chennai.

Uttar Pradesh

- With the completion of the construction of the 3,300-metre-long airstrip near Kurebhar on Purvanchal Expressway, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country with two airstrips on expressways to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
- Uttar Pradesh government will establish the first leather park of the country in Kanpur district.

West Bengal

- In a first, a bird festival is being organised at the Mahananda wildlife sanctuary in West Bengal to provide an opportunity to enthusiasts to explore the forest and watch different birds.
- The Darjeeling Wildlife Division will be organising the 1st Mahananda Bird Festival from February 20 to 23.
- The West Bengal Transport Corporation in collaboration with a heritage book store here has launched a children's library on a boat, the first of its kind initiative.

Finance and Banking News

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said that transaction through Unified Payment Interface platform would continue to be free.
- India Post expects to make the Post Office Savings Bank interoperable with other bank accounts by April and will focus on enhancing digitisation of all services in 2021.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced that RuPay has partnered with RBL Bank to launch an innovative payment solution for Indian merchants – RuPay PoS in association with Pay Nearby.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constructed a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.
- IDBI Bank announced the launch of video KYC account opening (VAO) facility for savings bank accounts.
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has in association with Jammu & Kashmir Government launched the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT for all the residents of the Union territory.
- Reserve Bank of India announced the operationalization of the Payment Investment Development Fund (PIDF) with an initial corpus of Rs 345 crore for three years – extendable up to an additional two more years.
- Bandhan Bank has signed an agreement with the Indian Army to provide banking services to the personnel of the force.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for all

payment transactions of value ₹50 crore and above undertaken by entities (non-individuals) using the Reserve Bank-run Centralised Payment Systems with effect from April 1.

- PhonePe, India's leading digital payments platform, announced the launch of Term Life Insurance plans on its platform, in association with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to support MSME enterprises through a web-based platform called 'Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs (ARM-MSME)' for submission of their loan restructuring proposal.
- Reserve Bank of India has set-up a College of Supervision (CoS) in order to further the strengthening of supervision over regulated entities.
- State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched a co-branded contactless RuPay debit card.
- Central Bank of India and NABFOUNDATION a subsidiary of NABARD, have signed an MOU for providing working capital finance to woman SHGs for making sanitary pads under the MY PAD MY RIGHT project.
- IDFC Mutual Fund announced the launch of its latest pan-India investor awareness campaign #PaisanKoRokoMat, nudging savers to become investors.
- Punjab National Bank announced an alliance with IIT Kanpur and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (FIRST) for establishing an innovation centre at the institute's campus.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 11.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 'Jai Kisan' (a rural-focused fintech platform of Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Pvt Ltd) to expand access to financial services to individuals and businesses in Karnataka.
- FSS (Financial Software and Systems), a leading payment processor and provider of integrated payment products, has partnered with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments.
- Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd has signed an MoU with SBI for faster home loan approvals as well as to offer special discounts to customers and employees of both the companies.
- YES Bank has teamed up with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited to launch 'YES BANK Wellness' and 'YES BANK Wellness Plus' credit cards.
- ICICI Bank has tied up with Niyo, a new age fintech, to issue prepaid cards to workers of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has become a signatory to Climate Action 100+, which drives focus on clean energy transition and helps achieve the Paris Agreement's goals.
- YES Bank has launched the YES MSME initiative aimed at providing speedy and easy access to funds to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector of India.
- YES Bank has teamed up with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited to launch 'YES BANK Wellness' and 'YES BANK Wellness Plus' credit cards, which aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that 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'.
- ICICI Bank announced the launch of a new mobile application for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get 'ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card' swiftly called 'InstaFX'.
- Airtel Payments Bank has launched 'Airtel Safe Pay', a safe mode for making digital payments, to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds.
- IIFL Home Finance and Standard Chartered Bank entered into a co-lending arrangement for extending credit to MSME loans (loan against property).
- Axis Bank announced the launch of 'AURA', a credit exclusively loaded with several health and wellness benefits for its users.
- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), in partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank, is going to facilitate fixed-deposit services to its account holders.
- Punjab National Bank, one of the leading nationalised banks of the country, established in 1895, completed 126 years of banking service. On the occasion, the Bank's Zonal Manager, Ashutosh Choudhury, visited Vijayawada circle and participated in the Corporate Social Responsibility activities.
- Germany's current account surplus shrank for the fifth year in a row in 2020 as China overtook Europe's biggest economy during the COVID-19 pandemic to run the world's largest current account surplus.
- Bharti AXA General Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, launched its new app 'Krishi Sakha' to

cater to the specific needs of the farmers in the country and guide them in adopting best farming practices and enhancing productivity.

- Overseas investment by domestic companies fell by over 42 per cent to \$1.45 billion in December 2020, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- HSBC inaugurated its International Banking Unit (IBU) branch at GIFT City near Gandhinagar city in Gujarat.

Business News

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com. Over 50,000 products, ranging from apparel to home decor, will be available on its newly launched platform.
- Indian Army has inked a contract with Goa Shipyard Limited for 12 fast patrol boats for surveillance and patrol of large water bodies, including those in high altitude areas. Their delivery will commence from May 2021.
- The government is implementing a Rs 320-crore project for five major ports in order to provide a digital port ecosystem, according to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) will start its banking operations from April 2021. It has received the commercial banking license from banking regulator Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Dell Technologies in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Tata Trusts announced they have developed a mobile application for the management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the government primary health centres (PHCs) across the country.
- Flipkart, e-commerce marketplace company, has signed an memorandum of understanding with the Logistics Skill Sector Council (LSC), an organisation set up by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through National Skill Development Corporation of India (NSDC) and Karnataka Skill Development Centre (KSDC).
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) gave its approval to Manipal Health Enterprises Pvt Ltd (MHEPL) for the acquisition of 100% shareholding in Columbia Asia Hospitals Pvt Ltd.
- Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited ties up with Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation.
- In an effort to enhance community experience for women entrepreneurs in India, e-commerce marketplace Flipkart and NITI Aayog have come together to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- Bharat Biotech has signed an agreement with Precisa Medicamentos for supplying COVAXIN to Brazil.
- Bharti Airtel announced its partnership with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to accelerate the digital transformation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
- Tesla has opened a fully-owned subsidiary in India with its offices in Bengaluru. The company has been registered with an authorised capital of ₹15 lakh and a paid-up capital of ₹1 lakh.
- Total 11 private Indian firms have made it to the list of 500 most valuable companies across the world, and the country is ranked 10th on the chart. The total value of these 11 companies grew 14 per cent and has been pegged at \$805 billion or nearly a third of the Indian GDP.
- Tech Mahindra will acquire Payments Technology Services Ltd (PTSL), a step-down subsidiary of fintech firm FIS, for USD 9 million (about Rs 66 crore).
- Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) paid a final dividend of Rs 215.48 crore to the Government of India for 2019-20.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced a collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to develop a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in the country.
- JSW Sports has signed an exclusive talent management contract with Rishabh Pant.
- Infosys has been accredited with the Google Cloud Partner Specialisation in the data and analytics space.
- BSE signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of Maharashtra to create awareness about benefits of listing among SMEs of the state.
- Mastercard has launched the Digital Acceleration for Small Businesses microsite throughout most of its Asia Pacific web sites with data and assets on digitalize and run companies extra effectively.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the ₹1,500-crore Flipkart-Aditya Birla Fashion deal.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has given its approval for the takeover deal between Kishore Biyani's Future Group and Reliance Retail, part of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).
- Government has decided to set up a National Faceless Penalty Centre to have an unbiased and transparent digital faceless mechanism for imposing penalties on tax defaulters.

- National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) remained the world's largest derivatives exchange for the second consecutive year in 2020 in terms of number of contracts traded, according to the Futures Industry Association (FIA).
- Indian startups are estimated to have received \$10.14 billion in funding across more than 1,200 deals in 2020 despite the COVID crisis, a report by consulting firm HexGn said. This is the third year in a row that India has kept its number four position globally after the US, China and the UK.
- Indian billionaires increased their wealth by 35% during the lockdown to ₹ 3 trillion, ranking India after U.S., China, Germany, Russia and France.
- Bharti Airtel is now 5G ready and successfully demonstrated live 5G service over a commercial network in Hyderabad.
- Microsoft announced the launch of its new India Development Center (IDC) facility in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, which will serve as a premier center of engineering and innovation.

Economy News

- India's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 10.75 lakh crore at the end of November, 35% higher than the budget estimate for FY21, mainly on account of low realisation of revenue due to disruption in business activities amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), plans to reduce the level of trans fats in food items from the permissible limit of 5 per cent to 3 per cent by 2021, and to 2 per cent by 2022 is under process.
- World Bank predicted India's economy to contract by 9.6% in 2020-'21 financial year and recover to 5.4% in the next fiscal.
- The economy is expected to contract 7.7 per cent in 2020-21, according to the first advance estimate (AE) released by the Government.
- The global economy is expected to expand by 4 per cent in 2021, assuming an initial COVID-19 vaccine rollout becomes widespread throughout the year.
- According to HIS Markit, Indian economy is likely to rebound with an 8.9 per cent growth in the fiscal year beginning April 2021 after economic activity showed significant improvement in the last quarter.
- World Trade Organisation (WTO) lauded India for clocking 7.4% economic growth in the past five years.
- Domestic rating agency ICRA Ratings said that the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) to grow by 10.1 per cent in FY2022.
- Banks' gross non-performing assets may rise to 13.5 per cent by September 2021, from 7.5 per cent in September 2020 under the baseline scenario, according to Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Retail inflation fell sharply to 4.59% in December from 6.93% in November.
- The country's real gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to expand by 11 per cent in the next financial year from the estimated contraction of 7 per cent to 7.5 per cent in FY21.
- Nomura also revised up wits FY21 GDP forecast to a contraction of 6.7 per cent, as against the official estimate of a 7.7 per cent.
- CARE Ratings has revised downwards its projection of the Centre's fiscal deficit to 7.8 per cent of GDP during FY21.
- Indian economy is likely to contract in the range of 5-7.5 per cent this fiscal but will see a growth of 9 to 11 per cent in FY 2021-22.
- India collected just 10 per cent of the electronic waste (e-waste) estimated to have been generated in the country 2018-19 and 3.5 per cent of that in the generated in 2017-18, said a recent report by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- The combined fiscal deficit of the states will hit a peak of Rs 8.7 lakh crore or 4.7 per cent of their GDP this fiscal on the back of steep fall in tax collections due to disruptions inflicted by the pandemic.
- A United Nations report has projected that India's economy will contract by 9.6 per cent in 2020 and a 7.3 per cent growth in 2021.
- The global economy, ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic, is projected to grow at 5.5 per cent in 2021 and 4.2 per cent in 2022, the IMF said.
- 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.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised upwards the growth forecast for Indian economy to 11.5 per cent in 2021.
- Global public debt is estimated to touch 98 per cent of GDP at the end of 2020, International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its latest fiscal monitor update.

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India increased by 37 per cent to USD 43.85 billion during April-November 2020.

Science & Technology

- Department of Science and Technology has sanctioned ₹135 crore to IIT Hyderabad under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems.
- Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) has successfully delivered the last of eight LCUs manufactured for the Indian Navy.
- Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria launched an e-governance portal for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in order to promote a paperless office.
- Japan's Sumitomo Forestry company and Kyoto University aims to launch the world's first wood-based space satellite to combat the problem of space junk.
- India and Israel have successfully tested a Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) defence system jointly developed by the two countries.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Government of India's premier research agency and Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MAHA –METRO), a joint venture company of the GoI and Government of Maharashtra are working together to conserve water and protect the environment.
- Pakistan successfully conducted the test-flight of an indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System named Fatah-1, capable of delivering conventional warheads, with a maximum range of 140 km.
- Union Minister for Ocean Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated Sagar Anveshika a coastal research vessel to the Nation at the Chennai Port Trust.
- The National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI has announced that it will offer a free Internationalized Domain Name, IDN in any of the preferred 22 official Indian language along with every IN domain booked by the registrant.
- Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Awangbow Newmai launched website for the Community-based Sustainable Forest Management for Water Resource Conservation in Manipur (COSFOM) www.cosfom.mn.gov.in at the main conference hall, Forest Headquarters, Sanjenthong.
- Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO will adopt one hundred Atal Tinkering Labs across the country to promote education in the field of Space Education and Space Technology related innovations for school students.
- National Informatics Centre (NIC) along with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are jointly launching CollabCAD software, a collaborative network, computer-enabled software system, providing a total engineering solution from 2D drafting and detailing to 3D product design for students and faculty of engineering graphics curriculum.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the country's first indigenously designed and developed Driverless Metro Car at the BEML manufacturing facility in Bengaluru .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army's Mhow-based Infantry School have jointly developed India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol named 'Asmi'.
- Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan commissioned two of the ten indigenously built Doppler weather radars which will closely monitor the weather changes over the Himalayas.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is looking to carry out the eighth and final test in its "Green Run" test series.
- Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi-based DRDO laboratory, handed over Rakshita, a bike-based casualty transport emergency vehicle to CRPF in a ceremony held at CRPF Head Office in New Delhi.
- The government is set to procure 21 MiG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft from Russia.
- DRDO successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon SAAW from Indian Hawk-Mk132 of HAL off the Odisha coast.
- The Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda launched the 'ShramShakti' portal virtually to collect data related to the tribal migrant workers and will also link them to the existing welfare schemes.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited successfully test fired a Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from the Hawk-i aircraft off the coast of Odisha.
- SpaceX has created a new record by launching 143 satellites into space on. The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.
- Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted the successful maiden launch of Akash-NG (New Generation) Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha.

- Election Commission rolled out the electronic version of the voters' photo identity card e-EPIC (Elector Photo Identity Cards) which can be stored on mobile phones and downloaded on personal computers.
- IT and Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched virtual intelligence tool Tejas and "Work from Anywhere" portal at an event.

Environment

- India will be the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for 3 years.
- The Centre has notified an area to an extent varying from zero to one km around the boundary of Mathikettan Shola National Park in Kerala's Idukki district as an Eco-sensitive Zone considering the unique nature of the Shola forest and its importance as an elephant strip.
- Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art, a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia.

Defence News

- Indian Navy kick-started a two-day multi-agency military exercise 'Sea Vigil' covering India's 7,516 km-long coastline, involving 13 coastal States and Union Territories, to further bolster maritime security and surveillance.
- Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force are conducting a bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 in Jodhpur.
- Indian Navy conducts exercise AMPHEX – 21 with Army and Air Force in Andaman.
- Border Security Force (BSF) launched "Operation Sard Hawa" under which it aims to increase security on the borders in Jaisalmer.

Sports News

Tournament	Winner	Other news
Yonex Thailand Open badminton tournament 2021	Carolina Marin	Beat Tai Tzu-ying
Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)'s 10th National Ice Hockey Championship Trophy	Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	Beat Ladakh UT team
Border-Gavaskar Trophy	India	Beat Australia by 2-1

Sports

- In Kargil Ladakh, Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament is being organised at Chiktan by Zonal Physical Education Officer Chiktan.
- Goa's 14-year-old Leon Mendonca has become India's 67th chess Grandmaster .
- Jigmet Dolma from India secured fourth position in the Dhaka Marathon 2021 .
- Australia's Claire Polosak is set to become the first female match official in a men's Test match when she takes up the fourth umpire's role in the third Test between India and Australia.
- 2022 Women's Asian Cup, to be hosted by India, will be held from January 20 to February 6.
- In Dubai, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the introduction of the ICC Player of the Month awards. The award will recognise and celebrate the best performances of both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.

Committee

Head of Committee	Purpose
Ram Vinay Shahi	to help build a South Asia-focused energy security architecture
G Kishan Reddy	to protect language, culture & land of Ladakh
RS Sharma	for administration of Covid-19 vaccine
Preeti Pant	to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5
Subhash Chandra Khuntia(By IRDAI)	to examine the availability of health insurance products in the country
Jayant Kumar Dash(By RBI)	to study digital lending activities of the regulated and unregulated players

Rankings

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
"Break Out Economies" in 2020 in Digital Evolution	4 th	Top- China
Scorecard		
Henley and Partners PassportIndex of 2021	85 th	Top- Japan
Global Firepower DefenseReview	4 th	Top- USA
Global Climate Risk Index2021	7 th	
Covid-19 Performance Index	86 th	Top- New Zealand.
Corruption Perception Index2020(By Transparency International)	86 th	Top- New Zealand and DenmarkBottom- Somalia, South Sudan
Asia-Pacific PersonalisedHealth Index	10 th	Top- Singapore

- The Indian diaspora, one of the most "vibrant and dynamic", is the largest in the world, with 18 million people from the country living outside their homeland in 2020, UN said in its report, 'International Migration 2020 Highlights'. Other countries with a large diaspora included Mexico and Russia (11 million each), China (10 million) and Syria (8 million).
- NITI Aayog released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020. Karnataka retained its first position in the Major States category. In the North East and Hill States category, Himachal Pradesh stands at first position. Delhi stands at the first position in the Union Territories and small States category.
- The World Economic Forum(WEF) recently released the 16th edition of the Global Risks Report, 2021. The report describes that the top 3 risks by likelihood are extreme weather, climate action failures and human environmental damage. This is very likely to happen in the next 10 years. And the top 3 risks by impact are infectious diseases, climate action failures and weapon of mass destruction.
- China climbed to the No.1 ranking globally attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$163 billion in 2020 amid a raging global pandemic, according to the UN's latest report on global investment.
- India has seen an exponential increase in the number of scientific publications over the last 10 years and is in the third position globally after China and the US.

Loans from Banks/Countries

From	To	Amount	Purpose
Asian DevelopmentBank (ADB)	India	USD 231 million	to augment electricity generation capacity in the State of Assam through construction of a 120 MegaWatts hydroelectric power plant that will enhance availability of electricity for households
Asian DevelopmentBank (ADB)	India	USD 10 million	to help finance piloting activities and design and capacity building for an ensuing project that aims to expand horticulture production and farm household income in Himachal Pradesh
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$100 million	to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system to enhance the quality and reliability of electricity supply in Bengaluru city in the state of Karnataka
World Bank	India	\$105 million	to improve the inland water transport infrastructure in Kolkata, West Bengal

- Finance ministry has provided additional financial assistance worth Rs 1,004 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for capital expenditure after they completed three of the four citizen-centric reforms.
- Indian government signed a loan agreement of Rs 2,113 crore with Japan for funding India's efforts to provide social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deadlines/ Important Dates

- The world's largest floating 600 MW solar energy project to be constructed at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh will begin power generation by year 2022-23.
- New Foreign Trade Policy-FTP will come into effect from 1st April 2021 for a period of five years.

Rankings (Persons,Cities,Organisations and Others)

- Ramgarh in Jharkhand has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by the government think tank Niti Aayog in November 2020. Yadgir (Karnataka), Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) have been placed at the second and third positions, respectively.
- Bengaluru has emerged as the world's fastest-growing mature tech ecosystem in the world since 2016, followed by the European cities of London, Munich, Berlin and Paris, with India's financial centre of Mumbai in sixth place, according to new research released in London.
- Snapdeal, one of India's largest e-commerce platforms, along with four Indian shopping complexes, two of them in New Delhi alone, have figured in the latest 2020 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy issued by the Office of the US Trade Representative. The four Indian markets that have found mention in the list are Heera Panna in Mumbai, Kidderpore in Kolkata and Palika Bazaar and Tank Road in Delhi.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been ranked third most-valued IT services brand globally, after Accenture and IBM, according to a report by Brand Finance.
- Reliance Jio is the fifth strongest brand in the world with the Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 91.7 out of 100, shows the 'Brand Finance Global 500 2021' report.

Books

Book	Author	Other Info
Sabarimala Vijnaanakosham	KS Vijayanath	Released by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan
India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia	R Kaushik	Launched by Former Indian all-rounder and current head coach Ravi Shastri
Right Under our Nose	RBI officer Giridharan	
Making of a General – A Himalayan Echo	Konsam Himalay Singh	Released by Manipur Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla
Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China	Romila Thapar	
The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India	S Y Quraishi	
Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema	Vidhu Vinod Chopra	
The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind	Ramachandra Guha	
Abdul Kalam- Ninaivugalukku Maranamilla	A P J M Nazema Maraikayar	
Manohar Parrikar – Off the Record	Subha Prabhu	
The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India	S Y Quraishi	
A Textbook of Urban Planning and Geography	Dr. Sameer Sharma	
India 2030: The Rise of a Rajasic Nation	Gautam Chikermane	
Flying Blind: India's Quest For Global Leadership	Mohamed Zeeshan	
Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World	Fareed Zakaria	
SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE A Life in Cinema, Theatre, Poetry & Painting	Arjun Sengupta and Partha Mukherjee	
Vahana Masterclass	Alfredo Covelli	for children and Young Audience
Andre De Grasse	Race With Me!	a picture book for children aged 6-10 years

- The book, titled "Modi India Calling – 2021" was released by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta at the Press Club of India on the eve of the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD).

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession	Other Info
Buta Singh	Former Union minister and senior Congress leader	
Vilas Patil Undalkar	Veteran Congressman and former Maharashtra Minister	
Gajendra Singh Shaktawat	Rajasthan Congress MLA	
Madhavsinh Solanki	Former Chief Minister of Gujarat and former Union Minister	
Mata Prasad	Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor	
K K Ramachandran	Former Minister and veteran Congress leader	
Kamal Morarka	Former Union minister and noted businessman	
B S Gnanadesikan	TMC vice-president and former MP	
K.G. Shankar	Puducherry MLA	
Indira Joseph Venniyoor	Renowned broadcaster, All India Radio veteran	
Dr V Shanta	Renowned oncologist, medical pioneer	
Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre	Renowned astrophysicist Professor	
Chitra Ghosh	Veteran Professor	She is the youngest daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose and niece of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
Shaibal Gupta	Social scientist, economist	
Satya Paul	Veteran Indian Fashion Designer	
Narendra Luther	Well-known poet, historian, author and retired bureaucrat	
Turlapati Kutumba Rao	Senior Journalist, noted orator and Padma Shri recipient	
Ved Mehta	Indian-American novelist	
Neil Sheehan	Pulitzer Prize-winning author	
Anil Panachooran	Malayalam poet and lyricist	
Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan	Legendary Indian classical musician	
Narendra Chanchal	Popular Bhajan singer	
Phil Spector	Famed music producer and murderer	
A Madhavan	Tamil writer	
Narendra 'Bull' Kumar	Ace mountaineer	
D Prakash Rao	Noted social activist and Padma Shri awardee	
Michael Kindo	Legendary Indian Hockey Player	
Prasanta Dora	Former Indian Goalkeeper	
Rabi Mishra	Veteran Odia actor	
Unnikrishnan Namboothiri	Malayalam actor	
Taran Kootenayoo	Canadian actor	
Larry King	American radio and television host	
Bob Brett	Legendary tennis coach	
John Fulton Reid	New Zealand Test Batsman	
Alan Burgess	World's oldest living first-class cricketer	
Modibo Keita	Mali's former prime minister	

THANK YOU

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