

FEBRUARY 2021

CURRENT AFFAIR



Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
January 30	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	
February 1	45th Raising Day of Indian Coast Guard	
February 2	World Wetlands Day	Theme- Wetlands and Water
February 4	International Day of Human Fraternity	Theme- The Pathway to the future
February 4	World Cancer Day	Theme- I Am and I Will
February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	
February 9(Second day of the Second week of February)	Safer Internet Day	Theme- Together for a better internet
February 10	World Pulses Day	Theme- Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future
February 10	National Deworming Day	
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Theme- Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19
February 11	World Unani Day	celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of great Unani scholar and social reformer Hakim Ajmal Khan
February 11	National Inventors' Day	
February 8(2nd Monday of February)	International Epilepsy Day	
February 12	National Productivity Day	
February 13	National Women's Day of India	To honor the contributions of Sarojini Naidu
February 13	World Radio Day	Theme- New World, New Radio
February 15	International Childhood Cancer Day	Theme- Better Access to Care for Children and Adolescents Everywhere
February 19	Soil Health Card Day	
February 20(Third Saturday of February)	World Pangolin Day	
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	Theme- A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy
February 21	International Mother Language Day	Theme- Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society
February 22	World Thinking Day	Theme- Stand together for Peace
February 24	Central Excise Day	
February 27	World NGO Day	
February 27	National Protein Day	Theme- Powering with Plant Protein
February 28(Last day of February)	Rare Disease Day (RDD)	Theme- Telehealth
February 28	National Science Day	Theme- Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work This day recalls the notable invention "Raman Effect" by India's greatest scientist C V Raman

MOU/Agreement Countries

- India and Bahrain have agreed to forge deeper engagement in the field of renewable energy.
- Haryana and Switzerland have agreed to share their expertise in fields of tourism, dairying and skill development training.
- India and Afghanistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) virtually for the construction of the

Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam in Afghanistan as part of the new development partnership between the two nations.

- India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the reconstruction of six secondary schools in the Himalayan nation.
- India and Ethiopia signed two agreements related to visa facilitation and leather technology.
- India and Mauritius have signed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA).
- With a focus on better coordination on Indo-Pacific, a trilateral meet was held among India, France, and Australia at the senior officials' level.

MOU Industry/States/Others

- Serum Institute of India (SII) and UNICEF have entered into a long-term supply agreement for the AstraZeneca/Oxford and the Novavax vaccines.
- Spear UAV, Israel-based developers and suppliers of unique Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) solutions for defence and Homeland Security (HLS) applications — signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Paras Aerospace, a subsidiary of Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited, to introduce the unique encapsulated Ninox 40 system to the Indian market for use by military forces, paramilitary, internal security, and law enforcement agencies.
- Zomato has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to onboard 300 food street vendors on its platform.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has signed a contract to deliver a fast patrol vessel (FPV) to Seychelles.
- IIT Kharagpur has inked an MoU with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to develop a framework for universal city planning inclusive for all sections of the society.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Union Territory of Ladakh and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, to develop the country's first geothermal field development project.
- In order to promote wooden toys, local artifacts, handicrafts Maharashtra Small Industries Development Corporation and Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Flipkart.
- Meghalaya government signed two MoUs with the State Bank of India as a part of an initiative towards migrating government transactions to digital mode.
- Furthering the relationship between Indian Navy and IIT Delhi on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed.
- Union Territory of J&K is joining hands with the UK Space Agency's programme for collaborative projects on 'Impact Based Flood Forecasting using Earth Observation (EO) based Information'.
- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Central government and Uttarakhand government for setting up of ₹173 crore science city in Dehradun.
- Bihar government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for climate resilience and low carbon development strategy formulation.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO) and the Government of Karnataka for working closely to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the state
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs have signed an MoU for exchange of data for enhancing ease of doing business in India and improve overall regulatory enforcement.

Appointments and Resignations

Name	Post	Other Info
Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan	Additional charge as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry	
Hima Das	Deputy Superintendent of Police in Assam Police	
Jay Shah	President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).	Replaces Najmul Hasan Papon
Ram Sewak Sharma	Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Authority (NHA)	
Sridhar Vembu	Member of National Security Advisory board (NSAB)	
GS Bedi AVSM VMVSM	Director General (Inspection & Safety) at Air Head Quarters	

Rama Mohan Rao Amara	MD and CEO of SBI Card	
Matam Venkata Rao	Managing Director & CEO of Central Bank of India	
Sharad Goklani	President & CTO at AU Small Finance Bank	
Satishwar Balakrishnan	MD, CEO of Aegon Life Insurance	
Bikram Singh Bedi	Managing Director for India business of Google Cloud	will succeed Karan Bajwa
Anish Shah	Chairman of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services	
Shantanu Mitra	CEO and MD of Fullerton India Credit Company	
A Sakthivel	President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)	
Dushyant Chautala	President of Table Tennis Federation of India	
Gautam Thakar	Global CEO of OLX Autos	
Praveen Sinha	Interim Director Of CBI	
SN Subrahmanyam	Chairman of National Safety Council	
Vijay Sampla	Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes	
Ajay Singh	President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI)	
Rana Daggubati	Brand Ambassador of CEAT	
Sachin Tendulkar	Investor, Brand Ambassador of Unacademy	
Deepika Padukone	Brand Ambassador of Levi's®	
Darshan Toogudeepa	Agriculture Ambassador by Karnataka Govt	
Dr. Ajay Mathur	Director General of International Solar Alliance (ISA)	
Woochong Um	Managing Director General of Asian Development Bank	
Nihar N Jambusaria	President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for 2021-22	
Siddharth Chatterjee	United Nations Resident Coordinator in China	
Preeti Sinha	Executive Secretary of UN Capital Development Fund	
Usha Rao-Monari	Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the UNDP	
Ajai Malhotra	Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council	First Indian to be.
Marc Llistosella	MD, CEO of Tata Motors	
Henry Moniz	Chief Compliance Officer of Facebook	
Andy Jassy	New CEO of Amazon	
Nguyen Phu Trong	President of Vietnam	
Jean-Michel Sama	Prime Minister of Congo	
Mario Draghi	Prime Minister of Italy	
Irakli Garibashvili	Prime Minister of Georgia	
Abdul Hamid Dbeibah	Interim Prime Minister of Libya	
Mohamed Bazoum	President of Niger	
Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria)	WTO's first female leader	
Natalia Vodionova	United Nations goodwill ambassador	
Michael Bloomberg	United Nations Climate Envoy	
Ligia Noronha	Assistant Secretary-General of UN	
Resignations		
Dr. Kiran Bedi has been removed from the post of Puducherry Lieutenant Governor.		
Puducherry chief minister V Narayanasamy resigned ahead of a floor test to prove his majority weeks before assembly elections are due in the Union Territory.		
The prime minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba has resigned.		
Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia announced his resignation		

- Myanmar's military seized power in a bloodless coup detaining democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and imposing a one-year state of emergency.

Awards and Recognitions

Award Name	Person/Institution	Extra Knowledge
VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020	Manasa Varanasi	
'ALERT Being ICON' award	A R Rahman	
Wildlife Photographer of the Year	Robert Irwin	for his image titled Bushfire
Audience Award At Sundance Film Festival	Indian Documentary 'Writing With Fire'	an Indian film chronicling the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India's only newspaper run by Dalit women
Tamil Semmal award	Muthalankurichi Kamarasu	
Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award	Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	
CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award	Narendra Modi	
Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award, 2020	Theodore Baskaran	
Best Service Provider in 29th Global HRD Congress Awards	Union Bank of India	
Award of Appreciation in the 18th CSI SIG E- Governance Awards 2020	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	
Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer' Award	Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)	
Award for fastest implementation of Pradhan mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana	Uttar Pradesh	
PM Kisan National Award	Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh	
Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020	Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)	
'Swachh Hotel' award as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021	ITC Grand Chola Hotel, Guindy	
Tiger Award for best film at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR)	Pebbles	Director- Vinodhraj PS

Recognitions

Ayesha Aziz, the 25 -year-old from Kashmir who is the youngest female pilot in the country acts as a source of inspiration and a beacon of empowerment for numerous Kashmiri women.

Five Indian-origin personalities, including Twitter's top lawyer Vijaya Gadde and UK's finance minister Rishi Sunak, and an Indian activist feature in TIME magazine's annual list of 100 emerging leaders who are shaping the future".

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation have recognized Hyderabad as a 2020 Tree City of World, for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests.

A 21-year-old swimming teacher Jasmine Harrison, from Thirsk in North Yorkshire has become the youngest woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

14th International Children's Film Festival of Bangladesh (ICFFB)

- Best International Feature Film Award- Jackie and Oopjen (Dutch Film)
- Best Director- Ani Oganessian for his film Stork's Nest
- The Young Talent Award – Maati (Bangladeshi Film)

List of 2021 Australian Cricket Awards:

1. Belinda Clark Award: Beth Mooney.
2. Allan Border Medal: Steve Smith.
3. Men's Test Player of the Year: Pat Cummins.
4. Women's One Day International Player of the Year: Rachel Haynes.
5. Male One Day International Player of the Year: Steve Smith.
6. Female International Twenty20 Player of the Year: Beth Mooney.
7. Male International Twenty20 Player of the Year: Ashton Agar.
8. Female Domestic Player of the Year: Elyse Villani.
9. Male Domestic Player of the Year: Shaun Marsh.
10. Betty Wilson Young Cricketer of the Year: Hannah Darlington.
11. Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year: Will Sutherland.
12. Community Impact Award: Joshua Lalor.
13. Hall of Fame inductions: Johnny Mullagh, Merv Hughes, Lisa Sthalekar.

List of winners of SERB Women Excellence Award 2021

1. Dr. Shobhna Kapoor, Assistant Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
2. Dr. Antara Banerjee, Scientist B National Institute For Research In Reproductive Health, Mumbai, Maharashtra
3. Dr. Sonu Gandhi Scientist D from National Institute Of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad
4. Dr. Ritu Gupta, Assistant Professor at Indian Institute Of Technology Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards for the year 2019

1. Best Novel- S. Hareesh's Meesha (Moustache)
2. Best poetry- Rathri Pandrandarayk oru Tharattu written by P. Raman
3. Best short story- Ramachi by Vinoy Thomas
4. Akademi award for her contribution in the drama Arangile Matsyagandhikal- Sajitha Madathil

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021

- Best Actor (Female) – Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak
- Best Actor (Male) – Akshay Kumar, Laxmii.
- Critic's Best Actress – Kiara Advani, Guilty
- Critic's Best Actor – Sushant Singh Rajput
- Best Film – Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
- Best International Feature Film – Parasite
- Most Versatile Actor – Kay Kay Menon
- Best Director – Anurag Basu, Ludo
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role – Vikrant Massey, Chhapaak
- Best Actress in Supporting Role – Radhika Madan
- Best Actor in Comic Role – Kunal Kemmu, Lootcase
- Best Actor (Web Series) – Bobby Deol, Aashram
- Best Actress (Web Series) – Sushmita Sen, Aarya
- Best Web Series – Scam: 1992
- Album of the Year – Titliyaan
- Best Television Series – Kundali Bhagya
- Photographer of the Year – Daboo Ratnani
- Style Diva of the Year – Divya Khosla Kumar
- Best Actress in Television Series – Surbhi Chandna
- Best Actor in Television Series – Dheeraj Dhoopar
- Performer of the Year – Nora Fatehi
- Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry – Dharemendra
- Outstanding Contribution to Literature in Indian Cinema – Chetan Bhagat

Conference and Summits

Summit	Place	Extra Knowledge
Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave	India	Theme- 'Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean'
National Horticulture Fair 2021	Bengaluru	
18 th Edition BioAsia 2021	Hyderabad	Theme- Move the Needle
7-day Annual Cultural Festival 'Utsavam 2021'	Kerala	
11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit	New Delhi	
International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium	New Delhi	Theme- Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins
17th India International Mega Trade Fair and Home Décor exhibition	Odisha	
World Sustainable Development Summit 2021	India	Theme- Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all
Workshop on 'COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward'	India	
First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies	India	
6th edition of International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device	India	Pharma Theme- Indian Pharma Industry: "Future is Now Medical Device Theme- India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance

- Indian Army National Seminar-cum-Webinar, named as Divya-Drishti 202 on Multi-Domain Operations: Future of Conflicts was organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies, CLAWS.

International News

- In accordance with the latest United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO) "World Tourism Barometer", the year 2020 was the "worst year on record" as global tourism suffered adversely due to international travel bans implemented to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. International arrivals dropped by 74% with an estimated US\$1.3 trillion revenue loss.
- Denmark has reached a landmark agreement to build what is claimed to be the 'world's first' energy island in the North Sea.
- A \$43 billion deal was signed to build what the South Korean government said will be the world's biggest offshore wind power complex, as it seeks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- International Energy Agency (IEA) has forecast India overtaking the European Union as the world's third-largest energy consumer by 2030.
- India to make up a quarter of global demand growth 2019-2040.
- The first day of the spring called 'Pahela Phagun' was celebrated in Dhaka despite the continued shadow of Corona pandemic in the country.
- The United States has extended the New START nuclear disarmament treaty with Russia for five years.
- With only 1 per cent of the world's vehicles, India accounts for 11 per cent of the global death in road accidents, the highest in the world, according to a report by the World Bank.
- United States has officially rejoined the Paris Agreement informed by Secretary of State Antony Blinken.
- Israel has launched a coronavirus "green pass" system, which allows people who have been vaccinated to access public facilities that would otherwise be off limits.
- China is celebrating its traditional Lantern festival. Celebrated on the 15th day of the first Chinese lunar month, the Lantern Festival traditionally marks the end of the Chinese New Year also known as 'Spring Festival' period.
- India has sent a warship to Abu Dhabi to participate in two naval defence exhibitions, in reflection of its gradual expansion of military cooperation with the United Arab Emirates.

National News

- Aatmanirbharta' implying self-reliance has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020.
- The government will provide ₹ 1 lakh crore additional income to farmers that will be generated by converting waste into energy.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave in-principle approval for 100 percent divestment of Centre's stake in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL).
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will, from now on, also look after the development of ropeways and alternate mobility solutions.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a postage stamp dedicated to mark the beginning of centenary celebrations of the Chauri Chaura incident in Uttar Pradesh, via video conferencing.
- The Ministry of Education has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha of the Ministry as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools or hostels.
- Four more states Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have been granted permission to raise additional five thousand 34 crore rupees through Open Market Borrowings.
- To address the challenge of unemployability and the skill gap among Goan youth, the state government inked an agreement with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to operate the model career centre on a public-private partnership basis.
- Ministry of Finance has released the monthly Post Devolution Revenue Deficit, PDRD Grant of over 6 thousand 1 hundred 95 crore rupees to the States. This was the 11th instalment of the PDRD grant released to the States.
- As per Union Budget 2021-22, The Agriculture Credit target for 2021-22 has been enhanced to ₹16.5 lakh crore, an increase of 10 per cent over the previous year's ₹15 lakh crore. Similarly, the corpus for micro-irrigation has been doubled to ₹10,000 crore from ₹5,000 crore.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has started organising KRITAGYA- a National level hackathon to promote innovation in agriculture and allied sectors in the country.
- The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, has launched 'PGI Amputee Clinic', the first in India.
- Centre has notified the 'Start-up India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)' with a corpus of ₹945 crore to provide financial assistance to start-ups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation.
- Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched the ASEAN India Hackathon 2021.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified prohibition regulations called the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Second Amendment Regulations, 2021 to limit the content of trans fat in all food items.
- Indian Army has laid the foundation stone of the tallest 'Iconic National Flag' at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir.
- India's first-ever diesel tractor converted to CNG formally launched by the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has given its nod to a proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for Grant-in-aid of Rs 100 crore to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup in Assam to sustain operations of its urea manufacturing units.
- Government has launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)' and it has committed resources in this regard with a budgetary provision of Rs 6,865 crore.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated more than 57,000 water structures constructed in Madhya Pradesh under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign from New Delhi.
- Union government has allocated ₹16,000 crores for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the fiscal year 2021-22 to boost the safety of farmers' crops and to ensure that maximum benefit of crop insurance reaches farmers.
- Museum of Illusions, New Delhi, a mind-bending "edutainment" experience where guests enter the fascinating world of mental deception, has opened to the public.
- Finance Ministry will infuse Rs 3,000 crore capital into state-owned general insurance companies during the current quarter in a bid to improve their financial health.
- In a bid to bring 'ease of living' to the family members of deceased government employees, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has decided to raise the upper ceiling of family pensions from ₹45,000 to ₹1.25 lakh per month.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched Mahatma Gandhi National

Fellowship (MGNF) 2021-23 in partnership with nine IIMs.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the party MPs on the occasion of 'Samarpan Diwas' to commemorate the contributions of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his death anniversary.
- Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen Hassen arrived in New Delhi on a four-day official visit to India.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan under Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban, JJM-U.
- Jal Jeevan Mission has reached a new milestone by providing three crore 53 lakh rural household tap water connections.
- Food Processing Industries Ministry has approved proposals worth over 363 crore rupees to increase the level of processing and value addition of horticultural and agricultural produce.
- The Union Cabinet approved a production-linked incentive scheme for the telecom sector.
- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation of key projects of the oil and gas sector in Tamil Nadu via video conferencing.
- Prime Minister dedicated the Ramanathapuram – Thoothukudi natural gas pipeline and Gasoline Desulphurisation Unit at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Manali.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the Atal Paryavaran Bhavan at Lakshadweep.
- Central Government launched the Go Electric campaign to boost the adoption of electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances to ensure energy security in the country.
- As many as 25 cities from across the country including Agartala, Bengaluru and Coimbatore among others have been selected for the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge cohort.
- Centre has reconstituted the governing council of the NITI Aayog with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairperson.
- India has become the first country in the world to identify the need for action for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease.
- Government has sanctioned over 56 thousand more houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- China topped India's list of trading partners in 2020.
- The 'National Urban Digital Mission' was launched by union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri and minister of electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad during a virtual event.

State News

Andhra Pradesh

- State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar launched 'e-Watch', a mobile application and a callcentre to help curb malpractices during the gram panchayat elections.
- Andhra Pradesh government approved a scheme titled 'EBC Nestham', under which it would grant Rs 15,000 each to economically-backward women among dominant castes.

Assam

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched two schemes Pragyan Bharati and Bhasha Gourab to provide monetary assistance to college students and literary bodies of the state.
- To develop tourism infrastructure and attract foreign tourists, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated state's 1st Heliport and a Guest House in Majuli, the first river district of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Asom Mala' programme in Dhekiajuli of Sonitpur district with an aim to boost the state's road infrastructure and contribute to the state's economic progress and improve connectivity.
- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation of the first skill university of eastern India in Darrang district.

Delhi

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate Aadi Mahotsav, a National Tribal Festival at DilliHaat in INA in the National Capital.
- To promote the use of electric vehicles in the Capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a 'Switch Delhi' campaign.
- Delhi cabinet approved 'Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha' in which Rs 5,000 will be provided to Rs 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship.

Goa

- Goa has become the 6th State in the country to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies reforms.
- Goa will be developed into the first fisheries hub of the country, and that the Centre is investing Rs 400 crore in the project.

Gujarat

- In Gujarat, the State Government has asked the Tata group to start the work on setting up Indian Institute of Skills- IIS.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Gujarat High Court. The prime minister also virtually released a commemorative postage stamp on Gujarat High Court, as part of the institution's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the newly constructed world's largest Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh has become first State in the country to make the end to end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing e-cabinet application.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched 'e-Parivahan Vyavstha' of the State Transport Department.

Jammu & Kashmir

- The ancient Kanchoth festival, a symbol of ancient Nag culture, was observed with religious fervour and gaiety across Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Government has announced a new Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir. The scheme is approved with a total outlay of 28 thousand 400 crore rupees.
- Jammu and Kashmir formally rolled out e-Kuber payments system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Jharkhand

- In Jharkhand, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME wing of the Government of India will cooperate in setting up industries up to 20 crore rupees in Dhanbad.

Karnataka

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Gen. Thimayya Memorial Museum at Madikeri in Kodagu district, Karnataka.
- State government issued a notification demarcating boundaries of the newly-formed Vijayanagara district. This is the 31st district of the State.
- Horticulture Department of Karnataka and the International Flower Auction Bangalore- IFAB will collaborate to set up a flower processing centre in order to convert unsold flowers into various forms of useful products.
- Foxconn of toy world will set up India's first toy cluster in Koppal in Karnataka.

Kerala

- The State's first human milk bank was inaugurated at the Ernakulam General Hospital by Health Minister K.K. Shylaja.
- Prime Minister inaugurated the country's first full-fledged international cruise terminal, Sagarika at Cochin Port and Marine Engineering Training Institute of Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
- A team of scientists, nature lovers and doctors have come up with a mobile application 'Snakepedia' on snakes in Kerala to help the public as well as doctors to treat snake bites.
- Kerala took a major step forward in its progress towards a knowledge society with the inauguration of the country's first Digital University, based in Technocity at Mangalapuram near.

Ladakh

- Leh is all set for a near 100 crore rupees holistic development.

Madhya Pradesh

- The health department in Madhya Pradesh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully ('SAANS') campaign with the aim of reducing infant mortality due to pneumonia.

- In Madhya Pradesh, the three-day Mandu Festival began at Mandu in the historic town of Dhar district.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Hoshangabad city in the state would be renamed as Narmadapuram.

Maharashtra

- In a bid to boost the startup ecosystem in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray launched a scheme aimed at providing financial assistance to innovative startups to file for IT patents.
- Maharashtra Cabinet approved the implementation of Chief Minister Water Conservation Programme, costing ₹1,340.75 crore.

Manipur

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched a new range of packaged organic products and LoumiConnect App under MOVCDNER apart from distributing Bolero Camper vehicles and nurseries to seven Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) in Imphal.
- In Manipur, the State Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme.

Odisha

- Odisha's Balasore will get the country's first thunderstorm research testbed.
- The state cabinet has approved a proposal to implement 'Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD)' project.
- In order to recognize the sacrifice and services rendered by the Covid warriors who lost their lives fighting the pandemic, the Odisha government has decided to construct a Covid Warrior Memorial in Odisha.

Punjab

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh virtually launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission as part of the government's campaign to accomplish the goal of 100 per cent potable piped water supply in all rural households by March next year.
- Punjab's first 'Central Water Treatment Plant' has started supply of clean drinking water in 85 villages of Moga district. The plant was setup at village Daudhar of Moga.
- Punjab Cabinet approved implementation of mission 'Lal Lakir' aimed at facilitating villagers to monetise property rights and availing benefits provided by government departments, institutions and banks in all villages across the state.

Puducherry

- Union Cabinet approved a proposal by the Home Ministry to dissolve the Puducherry Assembly and impose President's rule in the Union Territory.

Sikkim

- Sikkim Chief Minister P. S. Tamang launched the 'Free Gift Milk to Girl Students of Sikkim' initiative at Gangtok last week.

Uttarakhand

- A first of its kind arboretum conserving over 210 species of trees found in the Shivalik range of Himalayas was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Nainital district.
- Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar electricity project on Yamuna river.

Uttar Pradesh

- Lucknow Metro has become the first metro in the country to use ultraviolet (UV) rays to sanitise train coaches.
- Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing.
- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Abhyudaya scheme via video conferencing.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training at Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh through virtual mode.
- Kushinagar Airport has been granted the licence to operate international flights and has now become the

third such airport in Uttar Pradesh after Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow, and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi.

Tamilnadu

- India on February 2, got its first specialised institution – Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) – in Chennai .
- Tamil Nadu government passed an order for creating the fifth tiger reserve Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve in the state and the 51st in the country.
- Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several developmental projects worth over 8000 crore rupees at Chennai in Tamil Nadu.
- Asia's biggest cattle park – Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences (AIIRLAS) – spread over 1,600 acres and constructed at the cost of Rs 1,023 crore on Koot Road near Thalaivasal in Salem district.

Uttar Pradesh

- Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh has topped in the ranking of aspirational districts by government thinktank Niti Aayog in December 2020.
- Uttar Pradesh government plans to develop Jewar Airport as Asia's biggest airport with six runways.

West Bengal

- Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched “Maa” canteens for providing subsidised cooked meals for the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of ₹5.

Finance and Banking News

- RBI has cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank.
- SEBI has released guidelines for setting up of limited purpose clearing corporation (LPCC) by asset management companies, making it obligatory for them to contribute towards the share capital of such entities.
- Federal Bank has announced the launch of FedFirst, a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years of age.
- 2.3 billion transactions worth Rs 4.2 trillion were recorded through Unified Payment Interface in the month of January this year.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep key lending rates unchanged for fourth time in a row, in its February policy review meeting. While, it projected gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at a rate of 10.5 per cent for the financial year 2021-22.
- 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 unique campaign 'Salute to Caregivers-EkNayaNazariyaCampaign' to support cancer survivors in the battle against the killer disease.
- ICICI Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with Japan's MUFG Bank for collaboration towards catering to the banking requirements of Japanese corporates present in India.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an expert committee on Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) involving all stakeholders in order to provide a medium-term road map to strengthen the sector, enable faster rehabilitation/resolution of UCBs, as well as examine other critical aspects relating to these entities.
- In an attempt to check frauds, the Punjab National Bank (PNB) has taken a giant step and won't allow its customers to withdraw money from non-EMV automated teller machines (ATMs) from 1 February 2021.
- PhonePe has partnered with Axis Bank on a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) multi-bank model.
- Bank of Maharashtra has entered into a co-lending agreement with Pune-based non-banking financial company LoanTap Credit Products for MSME loans.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it purchased government securities worth ₹20,000 crore through open market operations (OMOs) on 10 February 2021 in a bid to cap yields of treasury bonds and support an expanded government borrowing programme.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) organised the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) for the year 2021. The literacy week started from February 8 and it will conclude on February 12, 2021. This year, the Financial Literacy week will focus on 'Developing the credit discipline and encouraging availing of the credit from the formal financial institutions as it is required'.
- CCI approved Bank of India's acquisition of 49 per cent stake each in BOI AXA Investment Managers and BOI AXA Trustee Services.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), along with the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs

of India (COWE), has launched a campaign to give a fillip to the governments Stand Up India (SUI) scheme.

- Star Health and Allied Insurance, a leading standalone health Insurance company in India, announced the launch of its Arogya Sanjeevani policy on PhonePe – a popular Indian digital payments platform.
- ICICI Lombard launches 'Corporate India Risk Index' to help businesses navigate the post-pandemic world by addressing a myriad of issues across the operation, supply-chains, cyber threats, falling revenue, hybrid working, among others.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has inked a pact with Indian Oil Corporation to provide up to ₹2 crore to the oil company's dealers.
- Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Payments and Postal Bank (IPPB) to facilitate opening of bank accounts for construction workers.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a new goal based savings product – 'ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow' (GIFT), which provides guaranteed income to policyholders to help them achieve their long-term financial goals.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a FASTag powered truck terminal at Khalapur, in Maharashtra.
- Sri Lanka has settled a USD 400 million currency swap facility with India.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank launched its outward forex remittance service, Kotak Remit, hence allowing its users to directly send money abroad from their phones.
- Bank credit growth in FY21 so far (up to January 29) has reached about 90 per cent of the year-ago level, going by the Reserve Bank of India's data on Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a Rs 100 crore debt financing agreement with Global Health Private Ltd (Medanta) to provide essential health care services and medical equipment to help combat the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.
- Bank of Maharashtra has entered into a strategic partnership with Vayana Network, India's largest Supply Chain Financing (SCF) platform to offer financial support to MSME sector.
- RBI Ropes in Punjabi Rapper Viruss to Drive its Public Awareness Campaigns.
- Kerala Bank has launched ATM demonstration vans to promote digital transactions.
- Reserve Bank of India came out with a slew of directions related to maintenance of liquidity coverage ratio, risk management, asset classification and loan-to-value ratio, among others, for housing finance companies.
- The government has decided to infuse Rs 1,500 crore capital into state-owned Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) in the next financial year.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings plan called Bima Jyoti.
- Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in India need to plan for an effective Inter Bank Offered Rate (IBOR) transition, as majority of LIBOR rates are likely to be phased out by the end of 2021.
- ICICI Bank partnered with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) for the launch of the Namma Chennai Smart Card.
- Stellapps has tied up with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to digitise the milk procurement value chain and promote banking facilities at milk collection centres.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that the current inflation target of 4 per cent with a +/-2 per cent tolerance band is appropriate for the next five years.
- Reserve Bank permitted resident individuals to make remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country.
- State Bank of India has tied up with JPMorgan to use the US bank's blockchain technology to speed up overseas transactions.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced that UPI AutoPay has now gone live on Gaana.
- IRDAI has formed a committee to review its information and security guidelines due to exponential increase in cyber-attacks across the globe in the wake of Covid-19.

Business News

- Singapore-based neobanking startup StashFin and SBM Bank India announced the launch of their co-branded contactless prepaid cards.
- BSE has set up an "innovation sandbox" web portal where fintech firms and individuals may use the environment for offline testing of their applications in a test environment.
- Ford Motor Co will tap into software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing offered by Alphabet Inc's Google to develop new consumer services and modernize internal operations.
- Reliance Industries Ltd has sourced the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from the US as it

looks to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035.

- Paypal will stop offering domestic payment services within India from 1 April.
- Defence ministry signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to procure a software- defined radio tactical ship-borne system worth over Rs 1,000 crore.
- Wipro 3D and Engine Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) have collaborated for the development, manufacturing and air worthiness certification of a critical aero-engine component operating in the hot zone, using metal 3D printing.
- Siemens has signed pacts with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) establish first-of-its-kind digital transformation lab.
- State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd has acquired five per cent stake of the IEX in its arm Indian Gas Exchange (IGX).
- Bharti AXA General Insurance has rolled out a new health insurance plan, Health Advant EDGE, that provides holistic protection against mounting expenses related to medical exigencies and other healthcare services.
- The government will sell 20% of its stake in National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) through an offer for sale.
- Hewlett Packard (HP) India and National Skill Development Corporation inked a partnership to provide worksheets and content to facilitate home learning and early skill development of students across India.
- Indian Space Research Organisation and location and navigation technology solutions provider MapmyIndia announced an initiative to partner together to offer India's best, and fully indigenous, mapping portal and geospatial services.
- BHEL has bagged an order from the Indian Navy for supplying two Super Rapid Gun Mounts (SRGM), main guns standardised for all warships of the Indian Navy.
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry has informed that more than one crore two lakh MSMEs were registered in the country within five years.
- In a big leap taken by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to ensure better accessibility of medical facilities for its beneficiaries, the corporation has joined hands with the National Health Authority (NHA) to leverage the medical infrastructure available under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in the state of Maharashtra.
- Amazon is setting up its first device manufacturing line in India to make Fire TV sticks locally and has partnered with Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, to begin producing the device at its Chennai plant later this year.
- Mastercard announced the launch of its flagship Priceless program in India.
- HCL Technologies announced it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity.
- Tata Communications announced partnership with Google Cloud to drive cloud adoption and transform Indian businesses.
- Mastercard and Razorpay have launched a strategic partnership to drive digital payments acceptance by small businesses and startups in India.
- Flipkart has partnered with ICICI Lombard to offer 'Group SafeGuard' insurance, a group insurance policy to its consumers.
- Tata group will acquire 68% stake in online grocery platform BigBasket for about ₹9,500 crore.
- Indian Bank has entered into an MOU with Society for Innovation and Development (SID), an initiative of Indian Institute of Science, for extending exclusive credit facilities to Start-ups and MSMEs.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cleared the Rs 34,250-crore acquisition of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) by the Piramal group.
- Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd, a coal bed methane producer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration with IIT (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad.
- China last year overtook the United States as the EU's biggest trading partner.
- The FDI inflow from the UK to India has increased from \$898 million in 2015- 16 to \$1,422 million in 2019- 20.
- IKEA to set up its first store in the state, and the largest in the country, UP Government signed an MoU with the company for a Rs 5,500 crore investment.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has signed a Statement of Intent with Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Greenstat Norway, to set up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen.
- TCS will invest an estimated ₹1,200-₹1,500 crore to expand operations in Kerala and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Technopark for leasing 97 acres of land at its Technocity campus to set up a digital hub for engineering, product development and IT services across manufacturing, defence and aerospace sectors with a focus on new generation technologies.
- Online e-ticketing platform AbhiBus announced its partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide bus ticket facility to the latter's customers.

- HDFC Bank executed an agreement for subscribing to 4,995 equity shares of the face value of ₹10 each fully paid up issued by Ferbine Private Limited for a consideration of ₹10 per equity share.
- Indian automotive and rail parts maker Omega Seiki announced plans to invest 100 crore rupees to set up a plant near Dhaka to manufacture electric vehicles.
- Social Alpha and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have partnered up to set up the Swavalamban Divyangjan Assistive Tech Market Access (ATMA) fund, an inclusion fund offering financial grants to Social Alpha-incubated startups working in the Assistive Technology sector.

Economy News

- The statistics office revised the growth rate for India's gross domestic product (GDP) for fiscal 2020 to 4% from 4.2% earlier.
- The GDP growth rate in Bangladesh fell to 0.5 percent in the calendar year 2020 as compared to 8.4 percent in the year 2019 due to the impact of Covid 19 pandemic according to the report 'World Economic Situation and prospects 2021' released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- According to Fitch Ratings, India's fiscal deficit target in the near-term is higher than expected and medium-term consolidation is at a more gradual pace than anticipated.
- Moody's projected India's nominal growth at 17% for the coming fiscal, a mark up from the 14.3% earlier.
- SBI Research revised its contraction forecast for the current fiscal year to 7 per cent.
- The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by 4.85 billion US Dollars to touch a record high of 590.18 billion dollars in the week ended January 29.
- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) estimates India's gross domestic product (GDP) to bounce back to 10.4 per cent growth in FY22.
- The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by a massive \$ 6.24 billion to reach \$ 583.945 billion in the week ended February 5.
- Salaries in India are projected to rise by an average of 6.4 per cent in 2021, marginally higher than the average actual increase of 5.9 per cent in 2020, according to a Willis Towers Watson survey.
- The aggregate fiscal deficit of states is likely to be at 4.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021-22 compared to 4.6 per cent in 2020-21 according to India Ratings and Research.
- GDP will grow at 13.5 per cent in FY22 according to Nomura.
- Oxford Economics revised India's economic growth projection for 2021 to 10.2 per cent from the earlier 8.8 per cent.
- S&P Global Ratings has said that India will be one of the fastest growing emerging market economies with a 10 per cent growth in the next fiscal.
- According to RBI, The country's foreign exchange reserves fell by USD 249 million to USD 583.697 billion in the week ended February 12.
- As regards India HSBC has raised their development forecasts from 9 per cent to 11.2 per cent for the approaching fiscal 12 months 2021-22 (FY22).
- Moody's upped India's growth projection for the next financial year beginning April 1, to 13.7 per cent, from 10.8 per cent estimated earlier.
- ICRA has projected the Indian economy to contract 7 percent in the current fiscal (FY21)..
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has reiterated that the central bank has projected the country's growth forecast of 10.5 per cent for the next year.
- India's GDP grew at 0.4% in Q3 of FY21 between October-December 2020, the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) announced.

Science & Technology

- Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft (IN FAC) T-81 of the Super Dvora MK II class, was decommissioned on 28 January 2021 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai after having served the nation successfully for more than 20 years.
- Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) is expected to launch a satellite Named SriShakthiSat, that could perform all Internet of Things (IoT) along with two other satellites built by JPR Institute of Technology in Chennai and GH Raison College of Engineering at Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, through PSLV-C51 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on February 28.
- In a first-of-its-kind, students of KLE Technological University (KLETU) have developed a humanoid robot, specifically aimed at extending a helping hand to banking customers.
- Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile named Ghaznavi which can strike targets up to 290 kilometres.
- The Indian Navy's Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft Ilyushin 38SD successfully fired Combat

Kh35E anti-ship missiles during the ongoing Theatre level Readiness and Operational Exercise 2021 (TROPEX-21).

- Indian Navy received three “made in India” Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) from the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).
- United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced the selection of Elon Musk’s Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) to provide launch services for its SPHEREx mission.
- Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council held its maiden meeting and approved the establishment of the world’s largest radio telescope.
- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Animal Husbandry Minister Giriraj Singh, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria jointly launched a unified web portal for monitoring the progress of GOBARDHAN activities across the nation.
- Skyroot Aerospace and Bellatrix Aerospace have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to use the Orbital Transfer Vehicle being developed by Bellatrix Aerospace in the upper stage of Vikram series of launch vehicles being developed by Skyroot.
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) made history as its first-ever interplanetary Hope Probe mission successfully entered orbit around Mars.
- Pakistan’s military successfully test-fired a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Babur capable of hitting land and sea targets with ‘high precision’ up to 490 kilometers (about 280 miles) away.
- SpaceX has announced the launch of its first all civilian mission to space.
- India’s Covid-19 tracing app Aarogya Setu has been integrated with the vaccine registration app CoWIN.
- Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), think-tank under the Department of Science and Technology has launched a job portal Saksham that will conduct skills mapping exercises of workers as per requirements of MSMEs.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has decided to open up its ‘space’ to the private sector after being a closed government organisation for over 50 years.
- Chinese spacecraft Tianwen-1 successfully entered orbit around Mars after a 6-1/2-month journey from Earth.
- Indian astronomers have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding super massive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae.
- The Prime Minister said India has undertaken massive effort to become self-reliant in the defence sector. The Prime Minister also handed over the indigenously designed and manufactured Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Army.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched e-Chhawani portal.
- The Indian Navy has got its third Scorpene-class submarine, which will be commissioned as INS Karanj.
- Bangladesh Supreme Court launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI) based translation software ‘Amar Vasha’ through a virtual event.
- Hyundai Motor Group has revealed TIGER (Transforming Intelligent Ground Excursion Robot), its second ultimate mobility vehicle (UMV).
- IIT Madras-incubated startup Pi Beam Electric has launched an electric two-wheeler, which it says comes with a range of 50 km on a single charge.
- National Informatics Centre (NIC) of India has launched an instant messaging app just like WhatsApp for government employees called Sandes.
- India successfully test fired indigenously-developed anti-tank guided missile systems ‘Helina’ and ‘Dhruvastra’, paving their induction into the Army and the Indian Air Force respectively.
- NASA successfully landed its fifth rover ‘Perseverance’ on Mars in a deep crater near the planet’s equator called Jezero.
- Army Chief Gen Manoj Naravane flagged off the 100th K9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzer built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its armoured system complex at Hazira in Gujarat.
- Israel has begun developing a long-range ballistic missile interceptor, named Arrow-4, together with the US.
- The External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar unveiled India’s BRICS 2021 website www.brics2021.gov.in in New Delhi.
- Indian Coast Guard has got a new interceptor boat ICGS C-453. It was commissioned in Chennai.
- A spacecraft named for the famed NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson has arrived at the International Space Station with about 8,000 pounds of cargo in tow.
- Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual.
- Indian-American scientist Swati Mohan is leading NASA’s Mars 2020 mission.

- E-Daakhil portal for Consumer grievance redressal is now operational in 15 States and Union Territories.

Environment

- In Assam, the Kaziranga national park has recorded a total of 93 thousand 491 birds as per the latest census.

Defence News

- India plans to spend 130 billion dollars on military modernisation in the next 7-8 years to strengthen its security apparatus.
- India-US joint military exercise “Yudh Abhyas 20” commenced in Mahajan Field Firing Range of Bikaner district in Rajasthan.
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for the first time inducted 34 women commandos into its specialised Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) unit.
- Indian Navy is carrying out a mega war game Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) involving almost all operational assets like warships, submarines and aircraft over a vast geographical expanse in the Indian Ocean Region to test the force’s combat readiness in a complex multi-dimensional scenario.
- India has joined Iran and Russia in a two-day navy exercise dubbed “Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021” in the northern part of the Indian Ocean.
- Indian and Indonesian navies carried out a military exercise Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Arabian sea to enhance operational interoperability and overall cooperation.

Sports News

Tournament	Winner	Other news
82nd National Table Tennis Championship(Womens’ Singles)	Manika Batra	Beat Reeth Rishya
WTA 250 doubles title	Ankita Raina with Russia’s Kamilla Rakhimova	
9th Australian Open(Mens’Singles)	Novak Djokovic	beat Daniil Medvedev
Australian Open 2021(Womens’ Singles)	Naomi Osaka	beat Jennifer Brady
Women’s Doubles title of Australian Open 2021	Elise Mertens and Aryna Sabalenka	
Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy	Tamil Nadu	Beat Baroda
13th CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship	Drass Red	Beat Hockey Club Chiktan
1st Lieutenant Governor Ice Hockey Cup(Mens)	Ladakh Scouts Regiment Centre (LSRC)	Held in Leh
1st Lieutenant Governor Ice Hockey Cup	Kharu Women	Held in Leh

Sports

- India’s 24-member shooting contingent topped the medals tally in the first Asian Online Shooting Championship. The two-day competition was organised by the Kuwait Shooting Federation. India’s gold winners were Saurabh Chaudhary in the men’s 10m air pistol, Divyansh Singh Panwar in the men’s 10m air rifle, Kynan Chenai in men’s trap and Rajeshwari Kumari in women’s trap.
- In Boxing, Arundhati Choudhary in 69 kilogram category and Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu 51 kilogram category won gold medals as India’s women contingent ended the 30th Adriatic Pearl tournament in Budva, Montenegro.
- Kings XI Punjab have been renamed as ‘Punjab Kings’ as a part of the franchise’s rebranding strategy ahead of the IPL 2021 auction in Chennai.
- Rishabh Pant won the ICC Men’s Player of the Month for January 2021. South Africa’s Shabnim Ismail was named the ICC Women’s Player of the Month for January 2021.
- Ishant Sharma became the sixth Indian and third pacer from the country to take 300 wickets in Test cricket, joining legendary former India captains Kapil Dev and Anil Kumble after a “roller-coaster” ride.
- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that the second Khelo India University Games will be hosted by Karnataka.
- In Cricket, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen.

- Ashok Dinda announced retirement from all forms of cricket .
- Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Yusuf Pathan has announced his retirement from all formats of the game.
- Former India cricketer and Karnataka captain R. Vinay Kumar announced his retirement from international and first-class cricket.
- South Africa batsman Faf du Plessis retired from Test cricket.
- Veteran Sri Lanka opener Upul Tharanga announced his retirement from international cricket.
- Former pacer Merv Hughes has been inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame, the country's board (CA).
- Sri Lanka fast bowler Dhammika Prasad has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.
- Joe Root became the first batsman to score a double hundred in his 100th Test.
- International Cricket Council (ICC) announced BYJU'S, India's largest EdTech company as their global partner from 2021 to 2023.

Committee

Head of Committee	Purpose
TP Rajendran	to review industry's objections to the proposed ban on 27 widely used pesticides
N S Vishwanathan(By RBI)	to draw a vision document for strengthening urban co-operative banks (UCBs) and exploring the potential of consolidation in the sector
IDRBT Chairman D. Janakiram	to review its information and security guidelines due to exponential increase in cyber-attacks across the globe in the wake of Covid-19

- The High-Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah approved Additional Central Assistance of over one thousand seven hundred 51 crore rupees under the National Disaster Response Fund, NDRF to five states, which were affected by floods, landslides during South-West Monsoon-2020 and hailstorm during Rabi 2019-20.
- A committee set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of
- India (IRDAI) has recommended the introduction of index-linked insurance policies (ILIPs).

Rankings

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
EIU's Democracy Index 2020	53rd	Top- Norway

- India will emerge as the most resilient economy after Germany in 2021 exhibiting a strong economic resurgence to the global economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a report released by industry body PHDCCI. Germany ranks first in the PHDCCI International Economic Resilience(IER) Rank followed by India and South Korea at second and third positions, respectively.

Loans from Banks/Countries

From	To	Amount	Purpose
World Bank	India	500-million USDollar	Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Programme (STARS) to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	India	USD 304 million	Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the State of Assam
Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)	Maldives	\$400 million	to fund Greater Male Connectivity Project
Export-Import Bank of India [Exim Bank]	Sierra Leone	USD 15.00 million	for the purpose of expansion of the ongoing projects for rehabilitation of existing potable water facilities in four communities in the Borrower's Country
World Bank	India, Nagaland	68 million dollar	Improve the Quality of Education in Nagaland
India	Nepal	Nepalese Rupees(NR) 142million	for the restoration and conservation of threecultural heritage sites in the Kathmandu Valley
India	Maldives	50 million dollar	in defence sector with the Maldives

- New Development Bank (NDB), the multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states, has announced a commitment of \$100 million into the NIIF Fund of Funds (FoF).
- Government of India, the Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank signed a \$100 million project to develop sustainable production systems that allow tribal households in remote areas of Chhattisgarh to practice round-the-year production of diversified and nutritious food.
- Google is teaming up with the European Investment Fund (EIF) and two other organisations in Latin America and Asia to provide \$75 million in funding to small- and medium-sized companies suffering from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Deadlines/ Important Dates

- South Korea seeks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The human spaceflight module of Gaganyaan will be launched after the second unmanned mission planned in 2022-23
- Indian pharmaceutical industry is expected to reach a size of \$130 billion by 2030.
- By 2023, Mumbai will be home to India's first undersea tunnel, part of the city's Rs 12,000 crore Coastal Road project.

Books

Book	Author	Other Info
Yearbook	Seth Rogen	
Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor	Pavan C. Lall	
This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad (From Kannada to English)	Srinath Perur	
The Little Book of Encouragement	Dalai Lama	
Beautiful Things	Hunter Biden	son of President Joe Biden
'Whereabouts'	Jhumpa Lahiri	
Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan	Dr K.N. Bhandari	
Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World	Sangeet Paul Choudary	
By Many a Happy Accident : Recollections of a Life	Hamid Ansari	
Mapping Love	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari	
Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy	RP Gupta	
The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News	Meghna Pant	
Tipane Kashmirchi (notes on Kashmir), untold stories	Arun Karmarkar	
Indian Economy's Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead	Arun Kumar	
Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love	Ashis Ghatak	
The Epic Battle of Longewala	Air Marshal Bharat Kumar	
Sarasvati's Gift	Kavita Kane	
Fractured Mosaic	Sabarna Roy	
Leadership Lessons from 22 Yards	Srikanth Ram	
Agriculture Acts 2020	Justice A.K. Rajan	
Stories I Must Tell: An Actor's Emotional Journey	Kabir Bedi	
Because India Comes First	Ram Madhav	
The Last Queen	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni	
#Me Too	Karan Puri	
Bride of the Forest: the Untold Story of Yayati's Daughter	Madhavi S Mahadevan	
India: A Scamster Born Every Minute	Snigdha Poonam	
Bare Necessities: How to Live a Zero Waste Life	Sahar Mansoor and Tim DeRidder	
The Last Light of Glory Days: Stories from Nagaland	Avinuo Kire	
Kamala's Way	Dan Morain	a new biography of Kamala Harris

Unfinished: A Memoir	Priyanka Chopra Jonas	
Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive	Peter Mukerjea	
ASOCA: A Sutra	Irwin Allan Sealys	
Runway to Skilled India	Dr Darlie O Koshy	
The Lost Soul	Olga Tokarczuk	

- Home Minister Amit Shah released a book 'Rashtra Pratham – 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha(Nation First – The Golden Story of 82 Years)' in New Delhi.

Obituaries

Name	Profession
M Rama Jois	Former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand
Satish Sharma	Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister
Bansi Kaul	Noted colourist and theatre director
Issac Thomas Kottukapally	Music Director
Rajiv Kapoor	Bollywood actor
Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri	Malayalam poet
Rahul Khullar	Former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
Basant Kumar Mahapatra	Indo-Pak War veteran
Akhtar Ali	Indian Tennis legend
Paul J. Crutzen	Nobel Prize-winning chemist
Cloris Leachman	Oscar and Emmy-winning actress
Christopher Plummer	Oscar-winning actor
Cicely Tyson	Pioneering US actress
Tony Trabert	10-time tennis Grand Slam champion
Bruce Taylor	Former New Zealand all-rounder
Ezra Moseley	Former West Indies pacer
Carlos Menem	Argentina's former President
Michael Somare	Papua New Guinea's first Prime Minister
Leon Spinks	Former heavyweight champion
Hilton Valentine	Guitarist

THANK YOU