

# Weekly Current Affairs

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **1. Saras Aajeevika Mela, bringing rural women SHGs under one platform, opened at Noida Haat**

- The Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 is underway at Noida Haat. The fair was inaugurated by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. It will continue till 14th March. The fair remains open from 11 AM to 8 PM daily. More than 300 rural self-help groups and craftsmen from 27 states are participating in the Mela which is being by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Addressing the gathering, Mr. Tomar said that the Ministry of Rural Development is working to include more women in Self Help Groups (SHGs). He said these SHGs played a vital role in increasing family income and improving quality of life.
- Speaking about Prime Minister's call for self-reliant India, the minister said Atmanirbharta can't be achieved only by Government's schemes and efforts. He urged the empowered SHGs to come forward and help other SHGs to become Atmanirbhar.

### **2. Principal Scientific Adviser to GOI launched Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship**

- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its Waste to Wealth Mission has launched the Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship to recognize students, community workers or Self-Help Groups, SHGs and municipal or sanitary workers who are engaged in tackling the enormous challenge of waste management, scientifically and sustainably.
- The Waste to Wealth Mission is one of the nine national missions of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council, PM-STIAC.
- Targeted to encourage community participation, the Swachhta Saarthi Fellowships invites applications from students and community workers who have done previous work or are currently engaged in waste management activities, including awareness campaigns, surveys and studies.

### **3. Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV merged into Sansad TV**

- After much deliberations the two dedicated channels — Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV — that air the parliamentary proceedings, have been merged into a single entity called the 'Sansad TV'.
- But, despite the merger, the two channels are likely to continue to be operational but under the banner of Sansad TV for the live telecast of proceedings of the two houses.
- The decision was jointly taken by the Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

- Former bureaucrat Ravi Capoor has also been appointed as the CEO of Sansad TV, for a period of one year, with immediate effect and will be spearheading the merger process.

#### **4.Haryana to Reserve 75% Jobs In Private Sector for Locals**

- The Haryana Governor had approved a bill that reserves 75 percent of the private sector jobs with gross salary upto Rs. 50,000 per month for the people of the state, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala informed. The legislation was passed by the state assembly last year.
- Reservation in the private sector for locals was the main election promise of Mr. Chautala's Jannayak Janta Party, which had formed a government in the state in alliance with the BJP after winning 10 of the 90 seats.

#### **5.Uttarakhand CM launched 'Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam Scheme from Nainital**

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched "Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam" (daughter's name is a home's identity) program and development schemes worth Rs. 42 crore in Nainital.
- Initially, the scheme has been launched in Nainital and will be extended to entire Uttarakhand in the coming weeks.
- The government has allocated Rs. 42 crore for this scheme.
- This scheme is in line with the effort of the state government towards promoting women empowerment.
- Around 32,000 women groups of the state are being linked with self-employment to make them self-reliant.

#### **6.Bengaluru topped list of cities in ease of living, Shimla best among small cities**

- Bengaluru had emerged as the best city on ease of living parameters among 49 million-plus cities in 2020, pushing the earlier top ranker Pune to number two.
- Among 62 cities having less than one million population, Shimla has topped the list followed by Bhubaneswar, according to the Union housing and urban development ministry.
- Unlike the first ease of living index (EoLI) report of 2018, the latest ranking of cities in 2020 has put 111 cities in two categories, million-plus and cities having population less than a million.

### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

#### **1.Xi Jinping claimed complete victory in eradicating absolute poverty in China**

- President Xi Jinping declared that China has achieved a "complete victory" in its fight against absolute poverty by lifting over 770 million people out of it in the last four decades, calling it another "miracle" created by the world's most populated country.
- Absolute poverty has been eradicated in China, Xi announced while addressing a gathering held here to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honour its model poverty fighters.
- Xi said that all poor people in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty.
- With this, China, which has a population of around 1.4 billion, has achieved the UN goal of poverty eradication 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline, he said.

## **2.China celebrated traditional ‘Lantern Festival’**

- 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.
- In 2021, China ushered into Lunar New Year - the ‘Year of the Ox’ on 12th February.
- The Lantern Festival is also the first full moon night in the Chinese calendar, marking the return of spring and symbolizing the reunion of family.

## **3.Pakistan to remain on FATF ‘greylist’**

- Global money laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to keep Pakistan on its terrorism financing “grey list”.
- In an online press briefing from Paris, FATF President Marcus Pleyer said Islamabad had made progress but was yet to complete its action plan to overcome deficiencies in its combating of money laundering and terrorism financing.
- FATF said Islamabad should demonstrate effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions against all 1267 and 1373 designated terrorists.
- It said Pakistan must demonstrate in taking action against UN-designated terrorists and their associates.

## **4.Israel officially received first ever UAE ambassador**

- Israel's president formally received the first-ever ambassador from the United Arab Emirates, following last year's historic agreement between the countries to normalise ties. UAE envoy Mohamed Al Khaja delivered his credentials to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at a ceremony in Jerusalem yesterday. The UAE was the first country to agree to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state under the Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by former US president Donald Trump.

- Khaja met Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi in Jerusalem, who wished him success in his historic mission.
- Israel opened its UAE embassy in January, with veteran diplomat Eitan Na'eh heading the Abu Dhabi mission. Israel and the UAE have already signed treaties on direct flights and visa-free travel, along with accords on investment protection, science and technology.

### 5.NHAI created world record by constructing 25.54 km highway in 18 hours

- The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) completed a single lane of the four-lane stretch of 25.54 km being developed between Solapur-Vijayapur highway in 18 hours. The highway is a part of the Bengaluru-Vijayapura-Aurangabad-Gwalior corridor and this would reduce the time of travellers significantly.
- This record will be recorded in the 'Limca Book of Records'.
- About 500 contractual workers worked hard for the project.
- Currently 110 km of Solapur-Vijayapur highway is in progress which will be completed by October 2021.

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### 6.Australia building world's first platypus sanctuary

- Australian conservationists unveiled plans to build the world's first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction due to climate change.
- The Taronga Conservation Society Australia and the New South Wales State government said they would build the specialist facility, mostly ponds and burrows for the semi-aquatic creatures, at a zoo 391 km (243 miles) from Sydney, by 2022, which could house up to 65 platypuses.
- Concerns about the platypus going extinct have been heightened since once-in-a-generation wildfires devastated 12.6 million hectares (31 million acres) of bush, nearly the size of Greece, in late 2019 and early 2020.
- Scientists estimate nearly three billion animals died in what the Prime Minister called the country's "black summer". A government inquiry found bushfires would likely occur more often because of warming temperatures.

## **7.UNGA adopted India-led resolution to declare 2023 as International Year of Millets**

- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and their suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions.
- The resolution titled ‘International Year of Millets 2023’ was initiated by India with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia and Senegal and was co-sponsored by over 70 nations.
- The 193-member General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS**

### **1.Sharad Goklani appointed as new President & CTO of AU Small Finance Bank**

- AU Small Finance Bank had appointed Sharad Goklani as President & CTO. He will be based out of Jaipur and will report to the company’s CIO, Ankur Tripathi.
- In his new role, Goklani would be responsible for ensuring technology deployment and adoption across the bank.
- “Moreover, given the diverse personas of our customer base, as a CTO of a tech-first Bank, Mr. Goklani would be responsible for creating technology interfaces, which are adaptable are flexible enabling tailor-made services for our unique set of customers,” the company told ETCIO.

### **2.Maharashtra Shiv Sena Minister Sanjay Rathod resigned**

- Amid furious Opposition clamour, Maharashtra Forest Minister and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Rathod on Sunday resigned from the Maharashtra cabinet for his alleged connection with the Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Rathod from the nomadic Banjara community in Pune.
- Mr. Rathod, who has been under fire from the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for nearly three weeks following the incident, tendered his resignation to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday.
- While Mr. Thackeray said that he had accepted the Minister’s resignation, he criticised the Opposition for attempting to lynch Mr. Rathod before the completion of an impartial probe.
- Stating that the affair was “a ploy” to defame him, Mr. Rathod said that he would assist in the police investigation even as former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP’s Leader of Opposition in the Legislative

Assembly, hit out at the Maharashtra Police and Mr. Thackeray's handling of the affair.

### **3. Former France President Nicolas Sarkozy convicted of corruption**

- In France, Former President Nicolas Sarkozy had been convicted of corruption.
- Judges found Sarkozy guilty of trying to bribe a judge and of influence-peddling today and sentenced him to three years in jail, with two years suspended.
- Sarkozy, who led France from 2007 to 2012, has denied any wrong-doing, saying he was the victim of a witch-hunt by financial prosecutors. He has 10 days to appeal the ruling.

### **4. Manpreet Vohra appointed India's High Commissioner to Australia**

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

### **5. Neera Tanden withdraws nomination to lead budget office**

- The Biden administration will stop pursuing the nomination of Indian American Neera Tanden for Director of the powerful Office of Management & Budget (OMB), after Ms. Tanden wrote to the President withdrawing her nomination.
- It had increasingly become clear that Ms. Tanden could not win enough support in an evenly divided Senate. Her strongly worded tweets were central to the opposition to her candidacy from Senators on both sides of the aisle, as was her work at the Centre for American Progress, a liberal think tank that Ms. Tanden has led.
- Had she won the nomination, Ms. Tanden would have become the first person of colour to lead the White House budget office, which decides funding priorities and ensures that agency rules and proposed legislation are in sync with the administration's policies and budget.

### **6. Elon Musk topped Hurun Global Rich List, Mukesh Ambani ranked eighth**

- In the Hurun Global Rich List published, Mukesh Ambani ranked eighth, while Tesla CEO Elon Musk is on the top. The list ranked 3,228 billionaires from 68 countries.

- Bloomberg Billionaires Index reported that in 2020, Ambani's wealth increased to \$83 billion. He is also the richest person in Asia since China's Zhong Shanshan lost \$22 billion last week.
- India now has 209 billionaires, of which 177 reside in the country. Mumbai alone houses 60 billionaires. Meanwhile, 40 billionaires call Delhi home, whereas Bengaluru has another 22.

### **7.Mary Kom appointed as Chairperson of AIBA's champions & veterans committee**

- Six-time world champion pugilist Mary Kom had been appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee.
- AIBA President Umar Kremlyov said this in a letter to the 2012 Olympic bronze-medalist. Mary Kom was elected by the Board of Directors of AIBA.
- The Committee, formed in December last year, consists of most respected worldwide boxing veterans and champions who have achieved significant results and who are ready to share their experience.
- Mary Kom thanked AIBA President and said she will give her best at the position.

## **BANKING**

### **1.FM Nirmala Sitharaman virtually attended G20 Central Bank Governors' meet**

- Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had participated virtually in the First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Italian Presidency to discuss policy actions for transformative and equitable recovery.
- The other issues on the agenda included global economic outlook, financial sector issues, financial inclusion and sustainable finance.
- Sitharaman spoke about India's policy response to the pandemic. She said that India's domestic policies have been based broadly on supporting citizens through measures such as credit guarantees, direct transfers, food guarantees, economic stimulus packages and accelerating structural reform.

### **2.Matam Venkata Rao assumed Charge as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India**

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



- His appointment is for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after March 1, 2021, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, Central Bank of India said in a regulatory filing.
- Born on July 3, 1965, Venkata Rao is a post graduate in agriculture from Sri Venkateshwara Agriculture College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- He is a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers.
- As the Executive Director of Canara Bank for more than three years, he played a pivotal role in the bank's progress and in amalgamation of Syndicate Bank with Canara Bank.



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### 3. Jaideep Bhatnagar took over as Principal DG, PIB

- Mr. Jaideep Bhatnagar has taken over as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau.
- Mr. Bhatnagar is an Officer of the Indian Information Service belonging to 1986 Batch.
- He has earlier served in Doordarshan as Head of the Commercial, Sales and Marketing Division.
- He also served as Prasar Bharati Special Correspondent in West Asia.
- He later went on to head the News Services Division of All India Radio.
- Mr. Bhatnagar takes over from Mr. Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia who has superannuated.

### 4. Govt amends Insurance Ombudsman Rules, Strengthens Mechanism to Protect Policyholders' Interests

- The government (2 March) notified comprehensive amendments to the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017 with a view to improve the working of the Insurance Ombudsman mechanism to facilitate resolution of complaints regarding deficiencies in insurance services in a timely, cost-effective and impartial manner.
- The amended rules have enlarged the scope of complaints to Ombudsmen from only disputes earlier to deficiencies in service on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries.

## **5. World Bank to launch \$100 million guarantee scheme for solar rooftop projects**

- The World Bank plans to introduce a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme, which has not gained enough traction.
- The scheme will allow micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units, said two people aware of the development requesting anonymity.
- The World Bank scheme, along with State Bank of India (SBI) and the MSME ministry to accelerate adoption of rooftop solar units, will help MSMEs access credit of around \$1 billion.
- This assumes significance given that India added around 4 gigawatts (GW) of rooftop solar capacity out of its 40GW target by 2022. Rooftop solar installations are part of India's renewable energy target of 175GW to help reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35% from the 2005 levels, as part of global climate change transition commitments adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. Indian company to set up electric vehicle plant in Bangladesh**

- An Indian company Omega Seiki will set up an electric vehicle plant in Bangladesh. The manufacturing unit will be set up near Dhaka with an investment of Rs. 100 crore. It is the first project of any Indian company producing Electrical vehicles in the international market. The project will be a modern greenfield facility and will focus on manufacturing two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and electric bicycles.
- The Chairman of the Omega Seiki mobility Uday Narang said that Bangladesh does not have a policy on Electrical Vehicles as yet but it may change fast. According to a press release issued by the Omega Seiki, the company will focus on coming out with best in class vehicles and quality service experience for the buyers.
- The company plans to contribute in reducing traffic jam and pollution with the use of electrical vehicles powered by the Li-Ion batteries and power trains built in Bangladesh with technology transfer from India.

### **2. DGCA allowed airlines to offer fare discount to customers with no baggage**

- Aviation regulator DGCA allowed airlines to provide concessions in air fares to customers travelling with no check-in baggage.
- The move comes days after the Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) provided greater flexibility to domestic carriers on fixing ticket prices by increasing the minimum fare band on domestic flights tickets.

- As part of airline baggage policy, scheduled airlines will be allowed to offer free baggage allowance as well as zero baggage/ no check-in baggage fares.

### **3.Inland Waterways Authority inks pact with world's largest gas carrier MOL**

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) inked a pact with the world's largest gas carrier MOL to facilitate transportation of LNG through Inland Waterways, the government said.
- MOL Group is World's largest gas carrier company and will invest in the construction and operation of dedicated LPG barges under the Make-in-India initiative of the Government of India.
- "A Memorandum of Understanding is signed between IWAI and MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte. Ltd for transportation of LPG (Liquified Natural Gas) through barges on National Waterways-1 and National Waterways-2, in the presence of Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Mansukh Mandaviya," Ministry of Ports, Waterways and Shipping said in a statement.

### **4.India places Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite, 18 others in orbit**

- Brazil is looking to deepen cooperation with India in space technologies, including payload and platform development.
- The statement came on a day when India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) launched the earth observation satellite, the Amazonia-1, which was developed by Brazil.
- The launch of the 637kg Amazonia-1 was the first by India of a Brazilian satellite. On Sunday, PSLV-C51, which also carried 18 Indian satellites, is the first dedicated commercial mission of New Space India Ltd (NSIL), the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) commercial arm set up in 2019.

### **5.Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command**

- Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Western Naval Command on 28 February 2021 at Mumbai. He succeeds Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, who retires upon superannuation, after an illustrious career, spanning forty years, in the Indian Navy.
- At a ceremony held at the Command Post of Headquarters, Western Naval Command, the outgoing and incoming Commanders-in-Chief were accorded a Guard of Honour after which the formal handing-taking over took place with the handing over of the baton to the new Commander-in-Chief. On assuming command Vice Admiral Hari Kumar laid a wreath at the Gaurav Stambh monument.

## **6.Russia launched first Arctic-monitoring satellite to track climate changes**

- Russia has successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment, the country's space corporation Roscosmos said in a statement.
- A Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket with the "Arktika-M" satellite on board blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 9.55 a.m. on Sunday, Roscosmos said.
- The Arktika-M spacecraft was delivered to the orbit at 12.14 p.m., Xinhua news agency quoted the space corporation as further saying in the statement.
- The creation of a satellite system in highly elliptical orbits is necessary for information collection to solve operational meteorology and hydrology problems, and monitoring the climate and environment in the Arctic region, it said.

## **7.Sri Lanka develop WCT at Colombo Port with India, Japan**

- Sri Lanka will develop the West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Colombo Port with India's and Japan's assistance, almost a month after saying the two countries could not build the East Container Terminal because of opposition by workers' unions against "foreign involvement".
- The Sri Lankan cabinet on Monday gave the green signal to the development of WCT by "parties nominated" by the two countries. India's Adani Ports was one of the partners to develop the ECT.

## **8.IAF to participate in multinational exercise with ten countries including US, France in UAE**

- The Indian Air Force is all set to take part in the multinational exercise Desert Flag along with France and the United States in the United Arab Emirates.
- Six IAF Su-30-MKI fighters will take off for the United Arab Emirates on March 3, 2021 to participate in the multinational exercise. IAF's two C-17s will also join the Indian team for the exercise to help them induct and de-induct from there.
- The Indian Air Force had recently carried out an exercise codenamed 'Desert Knight 2021' with France over Jodhpur involving their and own Rafale fighter jets.

## **9.Bharat Petroleum Corporation Board approved sale of its 61.65 % stake in Numaligarh Refinery**

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Board has approved sale of its 61.65 percent stake in Numaligarh Refinery for 9,875 crore rupees. Oil India Limited, Engineers India Ltd and Assam Government will be picking up the stake.

- Government has also received Multiple Expressions of Interest for privatisation of Shipping Corporation of India Limited. The transaction will now move to the second stage.

## 10.US imposed fresh sanctions against Russia over Navalny issue

- The United States has slapped sanctions on Russian individuals and entities over the near-fatal poisoning of prominent opposition figure Alexei Navalny with a nerve agent.
- These sanctions mark the first of several steps by the Biden administration to respond to a number of destabilizing actions. The sanctions are the first against Russia by the Biden administration. Meanwhile, Russia has condemned moves to impose sanctions. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said those who continue to depend on these measures should probably give it some thought. Vladimir Chizov, Russia's envoy to the EU, said Moscow would respond to the latest round of EU sanctions imposed.



## 11.Union Cabinet apprised of the signing of MoU between India, French Republic in field of renewable energy cooperation

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and French Republic in the field of renewable energy cooperation. The MoU was signed in January this year.
- The objective of the MoU is to establish the basis for promotion of bilateral cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity. It covers technologies relating to solar, wind, hydrogen and biomass energy.
- The MoU entails exchange and training of scientific and technical personnel; exchange of scientific and technological information and data; organization of workshops and seminars; transfer of equipment, know-how and technology and development of joint research and technological projects.

## 12.Entire rail network in the country will be fully electrified by 2023

- The entire rail network in the country will be fully electrified by 2023 while all rail networks will run on renewable energy by 2030. This was stated by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal while addressing the Maritime India Summit-2021.
- The Minister said, integration of Road, Rail and Waterways can truly make India 'One Nation, One Market, One Supply'. Mr. Goyal added that upgrade, create and dedicate are the three Mantras of the government for the infrastructure sector. He said, the capacity of India's major ports has almost doubled in the six years.

### **13.SpaceX successfully tests Starship SN10 rocket after 2 failed attempts**

- SpaceX successfully tested its Starship SN10 prototype rocket after two recent failed attempts.
- The rocket prototype was launched to an altitude of 10,000 kilometers and then landed back on the ground. However, the rocket exploded about six minutes after landing.
- The test launch is deemed successful because the goal was to gather information on how the flaps work to control the rocket when it is horizontal as it is falling back to earth.

### **14.India inks deal with Philippines for sale of 'defence equipment' including BrahMos cruise missiles**

- India signed a key pact with the Philippines for the sale of "defence material and equipment", which are likely to include BrahMos cruise missiles.
- Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was also present at the pact's signing ceremony in Manila, has reportedly said that his country is buying BrahMos missiles.
- The BrahMos missile is produced by an India-Russian joint venture "BrahMos Aerospace" and it can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms.
- It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.
- Currently the missile is used only by India, however several countries including Philippines, Vietnam, South Africa, Egypt, Oman, Chile and Brunei have expressed interest in the procurement of the missile.

## **BOOKS AND AWARDS**

### **1.39th Agartala International Book fair begun in Tripura**

- The 39th Agartala International Book Fair with the theme "Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura" has begun at Agartala.
- State Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated the fair in presence of Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner Md. Jobayed Hossain and other state cabinet ministers and MLAs.

- While addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said a book fair helps in building a positive mindset among people and that ensures a positive approach for overall progress in society.
- Cultural troops coming from Bangladesh, Northeastern States including Sikkim will be performing various cultural events on each day as part of the fair.

## **2.Nominations for the 78th Golden Globe Awards (2021) Announced**

- The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) had announced the nominees for the 78th Annual Golden Globe Awards. Sarah Jessica Parker, six-time Golden Globe winner, and Taraji P. Henson, Golden Globe winner, disclosed the nominees.
- For the first time in the history of the Golden Globes, the nominations were announced virtually, following the current safety measures during the COVID pandemic.
- The 78th Golden Globes was took place on February 28, coast to coast from 5 pm to 8 pm PT/8-11 ET on NBC. The event will be hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, returning for the fourth time, after hosting in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Fey and Poehler will share duties from their respective cities, with Fey on the East Coast and Poehler on the West Coast. Fey will be live from New York's Rainbow Room, Poehler will be live from the Beverly Hilton, in Beverly Hills, and nominees, from various locations around the world.

## **3.Mumbai's CSMT became first railway station to get IGBC Gold Certification**

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Railway Station of Central Railway is the first railway station in Maharashtra to be awarded with Gold certification as per CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) ratings.
- Central Railway has implemented various green initiatives across its zone, with plantation creating green areas, installation of solar panels, customer-friendly initiatives at many stations, LED bulbs and lights etc.
- Amidst that, the Mumbai Division of Central Railway has put in concerted efforts in implementing many Green & passenger-friendly initiatives across its stations, especially at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus.
- The rating system gives impetus to the national priorities like energy efficiency, water conservation, handling of waste measures and motivates the adoption of green standards for buildings and its environment.

## **4.Udaipur Science Centre inaugurated at Udaipur , Tripura**

- The Udaipur Science Centre, at Udaipur, Tripura was dedicated to the people by the Governor of Tripura, Shri Ramesh Bais on 28th February 2021. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism,

Govt. of India Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, and the Minister for Agriculture, Transport and Tourism of Tripura Shri Pranajit Singha Roy, was the Guests of Honour.

- Speaking on the occasion, the Governor apprised the audience on the importance of National Science Day, which is celebrated every year on the 28th of February. He also highlighted that Science Centres play a vital role in developing a scientific temper in the society and inculcating a culture of Innovation among masses, particularly among students. He also appreciated the role of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) and Ministry of Culture for the spread of scientific awareness.

### **5.WAN-IFRA named The Hindu Group ‘Champion Publisher of the Year 2020’**

- The Hindu Group received two golds and two silvers at WAN IFRA’s South Asian Digital Media Awards, culminating in being named ‘Champion Publisher of the Year’, owing to the best tally on the factors desk.
- The awards are introduced in recognition of excellent work achieved by information publishers, in digital media. The winners had been honoured nearly on the Digital Media India 2021 Conference held.

### **6.PM Modi to receive CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award on 5<sup>th</sup> march**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be conferred with the CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award on 5<sup>th</sup> march.
- PM Modi will also deliver the keynote address at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week (CERAWeek) 2021 around 7 pm via video conferencing.
- CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award was instituted in 2016.

## **SPORTS**

### **1.Indian men's skeet team wins bronze in ISSF World Cup**

- The Indian trio of Mairaj Ahmed Khan, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Gurjoat Khangura won the bronze medal in men’s skeet team event at the International Shooting Sport Federation tournament (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup in Cairo.
- The Indians defeated the Kazakhstan team of David Pochivalov, Eduard Yechshenko and Alexandr Mukhamediyev 6-2 in the bronze medal match on the third competition day of the International Shooting Sport Federation tournament.



## **2.R Vinay Kumar announced retirement from all forms of cricket**

- R Vinay Kumar, a pace bowler who has represented India in all formats and has led Karnataka to consecutive Ranji Trophy titles, announced his retirement from cricket.
- The 37-year-old pace bowler, Vinay Kumar has represented India in all formats, playing single Test, 31 ODIs and 9 T20Is for India between 2010 and 2013.
- He has led Karnataka to consecutive Ranji Trophy titles, in his 17-year domestic career.

## **3.Vinesh Phogat bagged Gold in Ukraine wrestling event**

- Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat had won the gold medal in the women's 53-kg category at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine. Vinesh Phogat defeated world number seven Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus in the finals to win the gold medal and make a winning return to her first competitive outing since the Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medalist had defeated Romania's Ana A by fall in the semi-final to reach the summit clash. Vinesh has already booked a place in the Tokyo Olympics for the 53kg category. Since the coronavirus halted all competitions last year, it was the first competition for Vinesh, who is the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games. The 26 year old will be seen in action in the season's first ranking tournament from March 4-7 in Rome.

## **4.Deepak Kumar won silver at Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria**

- Deepak Kumar (52kg) won the silver medal at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria after losing the final face-off in a split decision against Bulgaria's Daniel Asenov in the men's flyweight.
- The Boxing Federation of India in its tweet said "The result may not be in favour of Deepak Kumar but the Indian boxer surely won the hearts with his attacking game. A beautiful mix of the uppercut, left jabs and feet movement, a SILVER medal and a dream run at the 72nd Strandja Cup. India is proud of you".

## **5.Indian Women's League 2020-21 to be hosted in Odisha**

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirmed Odisha as the venue for the forthcoming Indian Women's League (IWL) 2020-21 edition.
- The dates for the tournament will be announced soon. AIFF appreciated Odisha Government's longstanding partnership with Indian Football wherein the latter have been providing its stadia and state of the art training

facilities to national teams across various age groups and genders - all in an effort to take Indian Football forward together.

## **6. Virat Kohli became first cricketer to cross 100 million followers on Instagram**

- India captain Virat Kohli had recorded another century, albeit not on the pitch this time, as he became the first cricketer in the world to have 100 million followers on social media platform Instagram.
- The 32-year-old Kohli is also the first person in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the feat.
- Kohli is also the fourth most followed sportsperson on Instagram.
- Portugal football star Cristiano Ronaldo tops the chart with 265 million followers, ahead of Argentina football captain and FC Barcelona legend Lionel Messi and Brazil's Neymar, who are second and third in the list with 186 million and 147 million followers respectively.
- The others in 100 million club are Hollywood actor and former pro-wrestler Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, American singer-songwriter Beyonce, and Ariana Grande.

## **7. Second ODI National Zone Cricket Championship League for Deaf begins**

- The Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) affiliated & recognized by the Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC) are the organizers for this tournament. The 50-over tournament will witness deaf cricketing talent from across the country competing for the championship title. Besides the silverware after victory, the tournament will also be of extreme importance to the players as their performance during this tournament will also get them a chance to be part of the Deaf ICC World Cup 2022.
- The tournament will also hand over handsome prize money for various categories of awards. The 'Champion Winner' team will get a cash reward of INR 1,00,001 while the 'Runner-up' team will be given a cash prize of INR 50,001. There are additional prizes for The Man of the Series, the Best Bowler, and best Batsmen of the series and the Man of the Match for every match.

## **8. Indian shuttlers Varun, Malvika win Uganda International titles**

- Indian shuttlers Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod registered hard-fought wins to clinch the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2021 Uganda International in Kampala.
- Varun had to sweat it out to get the better of seventh seeded Sankar Muthusamy
- 21-18 16-21 21-17 in the men's singles final, while second seed Malvika notched up a come-from-behind 17-21 25-23 21-10 victory over compatriot Anupama Upadhyaya in the women singles summit clash.

- The junior world no. 2 Varun, who has been a consistent performer on the junior circuit and clinched his sixth title earlier this year, won the first game convincingly before losing the second.

### **9.Kieron Pollard became third man to hit 6 Sixes in an Over in International Cricket**

- West Indies white-ball captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday became only the third man to hit 6 sixes in an international match during the opening T20I against Sri Lanka. Pollard followed in the footsteps of South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs (2007 World Cup against Netherlands) and India's Yuvraj Singh (2007 T20 World Cup against England) to achieve the rare feat.
- Akila Dananjaya was the bowler who was the recipient of the onslaught, as Pollard took him apart with consummate ease. Pollard was on 4 runs off 4 balls when he decided to launch the attack on Dananjaya, who interestingly in his previous over had claimed a hat-trick that had put the hosts on the back foot.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1.Papua New Guinea's first PM Michael Somare dead**

- Michael Somare, a pivotal figure in Papua New Guinea's independence and the South Pacific island nation's first Prime Minister, had died. He was 84.
- Mr. Somare was Papua New Guinea's longest-serving leader after it became independent of Australia in 1975. He was Prime Minister for 17 years during four separate periods.
- He died February 26 after being diagnosed with a late-stage pancreatic cancer and admitted to a hospital on February 19, his daughter Betha Somare said.

### **2.BJP MP Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan passed away**

- Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, died at a hospital in Gurugram, family sources said on Tuesday. He was 69.
- The six-term MP, who was suffering from COVID-19 and was airlifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram last month in a serious condition.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1.National Science Day 2021: 28 February**

- The National Science Day is celebrated on 28 February each year in India to spread the message about the importance of science in the daily life of the people.
- Theme for 2021 – “Future of STI: Impact on Education, Skills and Work”.
- Purpose – To commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect.
- Indian physicist Sir C V Raman discovered the Raman Effect on 28 February 1928 and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for it.

## **2. Zero Discrimination Day 2021: 01 March**

- Zero Discrimination Day 2021 aims at highlighting the urgent need to take action to end the inequalities surrounding income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity and religion that are prevalent around the world.
- Zero Discrimination Day 2021 aims at ending inequalities, discrimination existing in the world, especially after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can be a part of ending discrimination by participating in this year's Zero Discrimination Day by shining a light on inequalities and doing your part in helping to address them.
- The United Nations has been promoting the day by organizing various campaigns and activities to celebrate an individual's right to live life with dignity and honour irrespective of their age, sex, religion, caste, colour, nationality, height, weight and profession.

## **3. World Wildlife Day 2021: 03 March**

- On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March – the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973 – as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.
- The UNGA resolution also designated the CITES Secretariat as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the UN calendar. World Wildlife Day has now become the most important global annual event dedicated to wildlife.
- World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2021 under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

## **4. National Security Day 2021: 04 March**

- The day was celebrated in 1972 to mark the foundation day of the autonomous body namely National Security Council. It is a non-profit, self-financing and tripartite apex body at the national level.
- In 1965, the government for the first time organised a conference on Industrial Safety in the presence of the then President Sarvepalli

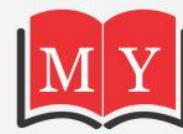
Radhakrishnan. On this day, the need for Safety Councils on national and state levels was agreed upon.

- In 1966, the proposal for a National Safety Council was accepted in the 24th Session of the Standing Labour Committee. The Council has been set up on 4 March 1965 in order to raise awareness among people and bring them together for a voluntary movement on Safety, Health, and Environment.

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