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# NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

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## UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET 2021-22



## Preface

Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other.

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity.

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 31th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st Feb to 28th Feb) will benefit our beloved readers.

Current affairs data will be useless if it couldn't originate any competitive exam questions. E-Dristi has been very successful in that direction. Almost all the questions from UPPCS and other examinations have been asked from our materials. You can verify that by matching the question papers and e-Dristi contents from yourselves.

## National

### Uttar Pradesh Budget, 2021-22

**Question – Consider the following statements related to the Uttar Pradesh budget presented on 22 February ,2021 –**

**(i) Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh Satish Mahana presented the budget for the financial year 2021-22 in the Vidhan Sabha.**

**(ii) The size of the budget presented is Rs 5,50,270.78 crore.**

**(iii) This budget is the largest budget in the history of Uttar Pradesh.**

**(iv) This is the first paperless budget of the state.**

**Which of the statements given above is / are correct?**



(a) Only (i) ,(ii) and (iv) (b) Only (ii), (iii) and (iv)

(c) Only (i) and (iv) (d) Only (iii) and (iv)

**Answer – (b)**

**Related facts**

- On February 22, 2021, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented the budget for the financial year 2021-22 in the Assembly.
- The size of the budget is Rs. 5,50,270.78 crores.
- This is 37.410 thousand crores more than the previous budget.
- This is the largest budget in the history of UP.
- This is also the first paperless budget of the state.
- New schemes worth Rs 27, 598.40 crore have been included in the budget.
- The total expenditure in the budget is approved at Rs 5,50.270.78 crore.
- Other major features of the budget are as follows —
- Agriculture
- Under the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi” scheme, more than Rs 27 thousand 123 crore has been paid to 2 crore 40 lakh farmers in the state.
- A budget provision of Rs 600 crore is proposed under the Chief Minister Farmer Accident Welfare Scheme.
- 700 crores is proposed for the facility of free water to farmers from canals and government tube wells.
- Women related shemes
- The ‘Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana’ has been implemented by the state government with effect from 01 April 2019 for the empowerment of women, whose main objective is to promote the health and education of the girl child and to develop positive thinking in the society towards the birth of the girl child.
- Under this, the eligible girls are being provided assistance of Rs 15,000 in 06 different categories. A provision of Rs. 1,200 crore for the scheme is proposed in the budget.

- To tackle the problem of malnutrition in women and children, a new scheme 'Mukhyamantri Saksham Suposhan Yojana' will be implemented from the financial year 2021-2022.
- A provision of Rs. 4094 crore for nutritional program and Rs. 415 crore for national nutrition campaign is proposed in the budget.
- Ram temple : Ayodhya
- A total of Rs 140 crore will be provided for the all-round development of the city of Ayodhya including the development of Suryakund in Ayodhya.
- Kanpur metro
- The approved cost of the Kanpur Metro Rail project is Rs 11,076 crore. A provision of Rs 597 crore is proposed for the project in the budget of the financial year 2021-2022.
- Housing projects
- Rs 10,029 crore have been proposed for housing, Rs 2,200cr for Amrit Yojna, Rs 2,000 cr for Smart City project, Rs 1,000cr for Mukhya Mantri Samagra Sampada Vikas Yojna, Rs 7,000cr for PM Awas Gramin, Rs 5,000cr for PM Sadak Yojna

**Link:**

<http://budget.up.nic.in/budgetsaar.html>

## Inauguration of newly constructed road connecting Indo-Nepal border

**Question – Recently, with which neighboring country has India built 108 km long road?**

- (a) Bhutan (b) Myanmar  
(c) China (d) Nepal

**Answer – (d)**

**Related facts**



- In February 2021, India and Nepal jointly inaugurated the newly constructed 108 km long road.
- This road connects the Indian border with several areas of the Himalayan nation.
- Role of India
- Built with Indian grant assistance, the blacktopped road from the Indian border Laxmipur-Balara to Gadhaiya in Sarlahi district, Nepal was jointly inaugurated by Indo-Nepal officials.
- The Indian grant assistance of Rs 44.48 million was utilised for the construction of the road.
- High impact community development project
- The road was taken up as a high impact community development project under an agreement between the governments of India and Nepal.
- The newly-built road connecting the Indo-Nepal border is expected to ease the movement of daily commuters across the border.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/nepal-india-jointly-inaugurate-road-link-connecting-indo-nepal-border/articleshow/80726678.cms>

## Government announces new social media rules to curb its misuse

**Question: On 25th February 2021, centre has notified “Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021”. What is the purpose of this guideline?**

- a) To provide ethical codes for TV news channels
- b) To provide guidelines for print media
- c) To provide guidelines on social media regulations to curb its misuse
- d) None of the above

**Ans: c)**

**Context**

- The Central government has notified the new guidelines on social media regulations called “Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021” on February 25, 2021.
- Facts
  - Aim of the new guideline is to regulate social media and OTT platforms.
  - These rules are “soft-touch oversight” mechanism to deal with issues such as persistent spread of fake news, abuse of social media platforms to share morphed images of women and contents related to revenge porn or to settle corporate rivalries.
  - It will compel social media intermediaries, platforms such as WhatsApp to aid in identifying the “originator” of “unlawful” messages.
  - It will also require the likes of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to take down such messages within a specific time-frame, set up grievance redressal mechanisms as well as assist government agencies in investigation.
  - The new guidelines on social media were framed in accordance with the section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
  - These guidelines were released after having an elaborate consultation with the public as well as the stakeholders. They were consulted to negate the concerns regarding accountability, transparency, and rights related to digital media.
  - This code also covers Over the top apps and streaming apps like amazon prime etc.
  - Guidelines for OTT platforms, digital media
- Government has brought in detailed guidelines for digital content on both digital media and Over the Top (OTT) platforms, while giving overriding powers to the government to step in.



- The rules call for a three-tier regulation mechanism for over-the-top (OTT) platforms like Netflix, YouTube, etc and require them to self-classify their content into five categories based on age suitability. OTT platforms will have to self-classify content into five age-based categories — U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult).

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1700749>

## There's no link between deaths and Covid vaccination in India: NAEFI panel

**Question: The National Adverse Event Following Immunisation (NAEFI) committee was made for what reason?**

- To look into Covid immunization schedules in states
- To monitor Covid testing standards in the country
- To assess the adverse event post Covid vaccination in Indian population
- None of these

**Ans: c)  
Context**

- The National Adverse Event Following Immunisation (NAEFI) committee has said that it has not found any link between the deaths and vaccination in the cases that it has investigated so far.
- Facts
  - There have been so far confirmed reports of 39 total deaths after Covid vaccination in India.
  - Out of 39 total deaths, the NAEFI has reviewed 12 cases and has found that the deaths were “unrelated” with no link to the vaccine.
  - The National Adverse Event Following Immunisation (NAEFI) committee is set up to look into the adverse event post Covid vaccination in Indian population.



**Reference:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/deaths-unrelated-to-vaccination-panel/articleshow/81178219.cms>

## Country's first medical education student insurance scheme

**Question – In which state the country's first medical education student insurance scheme will be launched?**

- Andhra Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh

**Answer – (c)**  
**Related facts**

- The country's first medical education student insurance scheme will be launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- This announcement is made in February 2021.
- Under this scheme, medical students studying in government / autonomous medical, dentistry, nursing colleges and government paramedicals will be provided health insurance and personal accident insurance cover during their studies.
- Medical students of the age group of 18 to 35 years will be provided the benefit of health insurance and personal accident insurance during their studies.
- Under the scheme, students will receive a mediclaim of Rs 2 lakh.
- In case of permanent disability and death, a mediclaim (cashless card) of Rs 10 lakh will be provided under personal accident insurance.
- A temporary disability cover of Rs 5 lakh is also included under the scheme.
- Under this scheme, thousands of students studying in government / autonomous government colleges under the Medical Education Department of the state will be benefited.



**Link:**

<https://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20210205N16&LocID=1>

### Inauguration of 'Kerala Knowledge Mission'

**Question: In February 2021, which mission has been launched by the Government of Kerala to transform the state into a knowledge-based economy?**

- (a) Kerala Knowledge Mission (b) Kerala Digital Mission  
(c) Kerala Education Mission (d) None of these

**Answer – (a)**  
**Related facts**

- On 9 February 2021, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched 'Kerala Gyan Mission' as a part of skill improvement among the educated youth.
- The mission will promote innovative ideas, coordinate knowledge initiatives and equip young people with updated skills.
- At the heart of the initiative is a comprehensive digital platform for educated youngsters which help them upskill, enhance knowledge and empower to face the challenges of ever-changing job market.
- The chief minister said this digital platform will create a great opportunity for those who took a break from work and jobless to connect with global employers.



- Implementation
- Job aspirants and educated unemployed youth can register at HYPERLINK “<http://www.knowledgmission.kerala.gov.in>” nwww.knowledgmission.kerala.gov.in which will act as digital workforce management system.
- The “first of its kind” massive digital platform is expected to create 20 lakh jobs in next five years by connecting trained youth with global job market and leading private sector enterprises.
- Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC), a strategic thinktank and advisory body set up by the state government, is spearheading the mission.
- The digital platform was developed in collaboration with the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (formerly IIITM-K).
- The project is also supported by Kerala Startup Mission and ICT Academy.PTI RRT BN ADMINISTRATOR BN ADMINISTRATOR

**Link:**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/kerala-cm-launches-knowledge-mission/2026554>

## Democracy Index ,2020

**Question – Consider the following statements related to ‘Democracy Index’ 2020 released by ‘Economic Intelligence Unit’ on 2 February 2021-**

- (i) Iceland has topped the index.**
- (ii) India is ranked 53 in this index.**
- (iii) North Korea has got the lowest position in this index.**

**Which of the statements given above is / are correct?**

- (a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii) (c) Only (ii) and (iii)
- (d) All of the above

**Answer – (c)**

**Related facts**

- On 2 February 2021, the ‘Democracy Index’, 2020 was released by the Economic Intelligence Unit of Britain’s Media Institute ‘The Economist’ Group.
- This index has been prepared on the basis of 5 parameters from groups of 60 indicators in 165 independent countries and 2 territories.
- The top 5 ranking countries in this index are as follows:

- (i) Norway (score -9.81)
- (ii) Iceland (Score-9.37)
- (iii) Sweden (score-9.26)
- (iv) New Zealand (Score-9.25)
- (v) Canada (score -9.24)

- The countries achieving the lowest 5 positions in this index are as follows:

- (i) North Korea (167th place)
- (ii) Congo (166th place)
- (iii) Central African Republic (165th place)
- (iv) Syria (164th place)
- (v) Chad (163rd place)

- India is ranked 53rd in this index with a score of 6.61.
- Whereas last year India was ranked 51 in this index.
- In this index, India is placed in the category of flawed democracy.
- Among India's neighbors, Sri Lanka is ranked 68th, Bangladesh 76th, Nepal 92nd, Pakistan 105th and China 151st.
- Among other major countries of the world, the UK was 16th, Japan 21st, USA 25th and Germany 14th.

**Link:**

[https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2020/#mktoForm\\_anchor](https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2020/#mktoForm_anchor)

## COVID Warrior Memorial

**Question – In which state will the Covid-19 Warrior Memorial be constructed ?**

- (a) Haryana (b) Odisha
- (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh



**Answer – (b)**  
**Related facts**

- On 8 February 2021, the Department of Health and Family Welfare of Odisha announced that the government would build the 'Covid-19 Warrior Memorial' in Bhubaneswar.
- This memorial will be established in Biju Patnaik Park.
- The purpose of the construction of this memorial is to recognize and honor the sacrifice and selfless service of the frontline health workers who lost their lives fighting the pandemic.
- This memorial will be inaugurated on 15 August 2021.

**Link:**

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/Odisha-to-construct-COVID-Warrior-Memorial-/08-02-2021-375271/>

## Ministry of Railways 'Iron Ore Policy-2021'

**Question: Regarding the 'Iron Ore Policy' 2021 'of the Ministry of Railways, which of the following is false?**

- (a) The new policy will be effective from 1 February 2021.
- (b) According to the new policy ,CRIS will change the allocation system of rakes.
- (c) Till now EDRM office Kolkata has been planning iron ore transportation program

but the new policy has abolished its regulatory role for freight.

(d) Transport of pellets and sinter will also be placed under priority list 'D'.

**Answer – (a)**

**Related facts**

- Ministry of Railways has recently rolled out a new iron ore policy governing allocation of rakes and transportation of iron ore.
- It is a landmark policy decision to help Iron and steel industry.
- Objective
- The Policy aims to attune it to the present day needs of customers and to meet the complete requirement of transportation of iron ore customers and provide total logistics support to steel industry to meet the competitive challenges
- Highlights of the policy
- The new policy has been named 'Iron-Ore Policy 2021' and is effective from 10.02.2021.
- According to the new policy ,CRIS will change the allocation system of rakes.
- Till now EDRM office Kolkata has been planning iron ore transportation program but the new policy has abolished its regulatory role for freight.
- Transport of pellets and sinter will also be placed under priority list 'D'.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1689035>

## Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship ,2021-2023

**Question: The two-year Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship 2021-2023 has been started by which ministry?**

- (a) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (b) Ministry of Education
- (c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (d) Ministry of Culture

**Answer – (a)**

**Related facts**

- The Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship(MSDE) Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey chaired a function 'Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships under SANKALP' and rolling out of the MGNF and other initiatives today(13 February 2021).
- SANKALP stands for — Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion.
- It is a World Bank loan assisted programme to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).
- The two-year academic programme(MGNF) comes with an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.

- MSDE has launched MGNF with nine IIMs as academic partners.
- Additionally, MSDE has partnered with Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to conduct capacity building programmes for District officials from the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep.
- IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur have been included as evaluation partners for DSDPs(District Skill Development Plans) awards.
- The fellows under MGNF(Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship) will acquire academic expertise and technical competency in understanding the overall skill ecosystem along with being attached to DSCs and help them manage the skill development planning at district level through the mechanism of formulating District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs).
- With the successful launch of MGNF in the first pilot (MGNF) which had 69 fellows working across 69 districts, the Ministry is now expanding MGNF to all remaining districts in the country.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1697737>

### India, World Bank sign \$68 mn project

**Question: On February 23, 2021, India and world Bank has signed \$68 mn project for improving education in Nagaland. What is the name of project?**

- a) STARS b) NISTHA
- c) Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project
- d) None of the above

**Ans: c)**

**Facts**

- Indian government, Government of Nagaland and the World Bank on February 23, 2021 signed the \$68 million “Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project” .
- Project is to enhance the governance of schools across Nagaland as well as to improve teaching practices and learning environments in select schools.
- It will improve classroom instruction and will create opportunities for the professional development of teachers.
- It will also build technology systems to provide students and teachers with more access to blended and online learning as well as allow better monitoring of policies and programs.



**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-world-bank-ink-68-mn-project-for-improving-education-in-nagaland-121022300534\\_1.html#:~:text=Indian%20government%2C%20Government%20of%20Nagaland,learning%20environments%20in%20select%20schools.](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-world-bank-ink-68-mn-project-for-improving-education-in-nagaland-121022300534_1.html#:~:text=Indian%20government%2C%20Government%20of%20Nagaland,learning%20environments%20in%20select%20schools.)

## Draft National Policy on Migrant Workers

**Question: Who has recently released Draft National Policy on Migrant Workers?**

- a) Ministry of labour b) NITI Aayog  
c) PMO d) none of the above

**Ans: b)**

### Facts

- The draft migrant workers policy describes two approaches regarding the policy design.
- The first approach focusses on cash transfers, special quotas, and reservations for the labours.
- The other approach seeks to enhance the agency and capability of community. Thus, in turn removes any of the aspects coming in the way of natural ability of the individual to prosper.
- The policy further rejects the handout approach and opts for a rights-based framework.
- Policy also seeks to remove the restrictions on true agency and potential of the migrant workers.
- The policy was formulated with the goal of “not providing any temporary or permanent economic aids as well as the social aids”.
- The policy was prepared in association with the working subgroup of officials and members of civil society.



**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/niti-aayog-migrant-workers-policy-covid-lockdown-7201753/>

## National Urban Digital Mission

**Question: On 23rd February 2021, National Urban Digital Mission was launched in New Delhi. It is launched by which ministry/ministries?**

- a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
c) Ministry of Human Resource d) Telecom ministry

**Ans: a and b**

### Context

- The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) was launched by the Union Housing & Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri and Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad on 23rd February 2021 in New Delhi.
- Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar was present at the event virtually.
- Facts

- The National Urban Digital Mission will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022 and across all cities and towns in the country by 2024.
- NUDM will create a shared digital infrastructure that can consolidate and cross-leverage the various digital initiatives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, enabling cities and towns across India to benefit from holistic and diverse forms of support, in keeping with their needs and local challenges.
- Other digital initiatives of the Ministry that were also launched in the event include India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) .



### India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)

- IUDX has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- IUDX is an open-source software platform which facilitates secure, authenticated, and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms, third party authenticated and authorised applications, and other sources.
- It serves as a seamless interface for data providers and data users, including ULBs, to share, request, and access datasets related to cities, urban governance, and urban service delivery.

### Smart Code

- It is a platform that enables all ecosystem stakeholders to contribute to a repository of open-source code for various solutions and applications for urban governance.

**By kameshwar shukla**

**Reference:** <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/centre-launches-national-urban-digital-mission-for-creating-digital-infrastructure-for-cities-2377235>

## World's largest Cricket stadium at Motera inaugurated

**Question: Who inaugurated the World's largest Cricket stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad on 24 February 2021?**

- (a) Narendra Modi (b) Ram Nath kovind  
(c) Amit Shah (d) Kiren Rijiju

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 24 February 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the newly constructed world's largest Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad.
- The stadium has been inaugurated ahead of the third India vs England Test on February 24 2021.
- It has a capacity of 1,10,000, making it the largest in the world.
- The stadium spreads over 63 acres and has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 800 crore.
- The world's largest stadium has been designed by Australian firm Populous and built by Larsen & Toubro(L & T) Limited.
- President ram Nath Kovind also laid the foundation stone of 236 acre Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave at newly-built Cricket Stadium.
- The proposed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave has been envisioned to make Ahmedabad a sports city capable of organizing the mega sports events like Asian Games, Commonwealth Games,Olympics.
- The enclave will have infrastructure for 50 sports to be built according the world class standards.

#### Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/motera-renamed-narendra-modi-stadium-7202589/>

## Kushinagar gets international airport license

**Question: Which is the third airport in Uttar Pradesh to get International license for global operations?**

- (a) Lucknow (b) Varanasi  
(c) Kushinagar (d) Agra

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 23 February 2021, Kushinagar Airport got International license from the regulatory body DGCA(Directorate General of Civil Aviation).
- Kushinagar became the third airport of Uttar Pradesh to had license for International operations.
- Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport,Varanasi currently operates globally.
- Kushinagar airport will provide enhanced regional connectivity making tourists feasible to visit the Buddhist sites all across.This will promote tourism and boost the economy.
- Currently there are 7 airports operatinal in Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow, Varanasi,Agra,Gorakhpur,Kanpur,Prayagraj and Hindon.
- The 8th airport in Bareilly is scheduled to commence operations from March 8,2021.



**Links:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/kushinagar-airport-in-up-gets-international-airport-license-from-dgca/north/news/2326832.html>

## NITI Aayog's Sixth Governing Council Meeting 2021

**Question – On February 20, 2021, under whose chairmanship, the Sixth Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog was concluded through video conference?**

- (a) Home Minister (b) Prime Minister  
(c) Finance Minister (d) Deputy Chairman NITI Aayog

**Answer – (b)**  
**Related facts**



- On February 20, 2021, the sixth meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council was held through video conference.
- It was presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The main points which have been said by PM under the meeting are —
  1. Cooperative Federalism – The Prime Minister said that Cooperative Federalism is the foundation of India's progress. Cooperative and Competitive Federalism should be made more effective and taken to the district level.
  2. Lives of poor – Several concerted steps have been taken to empower the poor and bring about a noticeable change in their lives. Since 2014, more than 2 crore 40 lakh houses have been constructed in both cities and villages. Similarly, over 3.5 lakh rural houses have been provided with piped drinking water within 18 months of the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission.
  3. The Bharat Net Scheme for internet connectivity in villages is bringing about transformational change.
  4. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan – The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan is a step towards providing opportunities to everyone—to fulfil not only our own needs but also cater to the global demand for goods and services.

The Agenda for the Sixth Council Meeting comprised the following items:

1. Making India a Manufacturing Powerhouse
2. Reimagining Agriculture
3. Improving Physical Infrastructure
4. Accelerating Human Resources Development
5. Improving Service Delivery at Grassroots Level
6. Health and Nutrition

About governing council meeting

- The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Prime Minister of India, Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with Legislature, Lt Governors of other UTs, Ex-Officio Members and Special Invitees.
- It is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in shaping the development narrative. Including this, a total of Six meetings have been held so far.
- The Governing Council Meeting seeks to build on the strength of every State so that everyone can learn from each other's best practices. The Council members deliberated on strengthening institutions for skilling, reskilling, and upskilling of workforce.
- Focus was also laid on improving service delivery at the grassroots level, by ensuring digital infrastructure for the rural regions.
- Various Chief Ministers presented best practices from their respective States that can serve as templates for replication across the country.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1699697>

## Karnataka to host Khelo India University Games 2021

**Question: Second Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will be hosted by which state later this year?**

- a) Harayana b) Karnataka  
c) Tellangana d) None of the above

**Ans: b)**

**Fact**



- The Khelo India University Games be held in the Jain University, Bengaluru and other venues of the state of Karnataka.
- Jain University will organise the games in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

### **Khelo India University Games (KIUG)**

- It is a national level multi-sport, largest University game in India.
- The event observes the participation of athletes from universities across the country who compete with each other in different sport disciplines.
- It is organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities, Indian Olympic Association and National Sports Federation.
- First edition of the event was organised in the Bhubaneswar.
- In the 2021 edition Yogasana and Mallakhamb have also been added to list of games. It was done with the objective of preserving and promoting the century-old sporting disciplines of India.

**Reference:** <https://www.ndtv.com/education/karnataka-host-khelo-india-university-games-2021>

## Congress Government in Puducherry falls

**Question: V Narayanasamy was the chief minister of which state/UT?**

- a) Delhi
- b) Dadra nagar and haveli and daman and diu
- c) Andaman and Nicobar
- d) Puducherry

**Ans: d**

### Facts

- Congress government of Union Territory of Puducherry has lost the confidence of the legislative floor.
- Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and his cabinet colleagues in the Union Territory have resigned.
- The government, led by Narayanasamy, lost the confidence vote sought by him in the face of its depleted strength of 11 against the opposition's 14 in the 33-member Assembly.



**Reference:** <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/congress-puducherry-election-narayanasamy-resign-losing-confidence-vote-1771801-2021-02-22>

## Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation (BMGF) to support health research in India

**Question: Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation (BMGF) recently join hands with which of the following agency in India to support health research in India?**

- a) IISc
- b) CSIR
- c) AIIMS
- d) None of these

**Answer: (b)**

### Related Facts:

- On 19 February, 2019 CSIR and Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation (BMGF) signed a MoU for promotion of health research in India.
- Council of scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has planned to support development, conduct & promotion of health research in India with the cooperation from BMGF.
- Gates Foundation and CSIR will work together to identify opportunities to initiate scientific and technological collaborations.
- They will focus on developing and testing new preventions, therapies and interventions.
- They are optimistic that their joint effort can



help to solve major health concerns that affect India and other developing countries.

- According to the MoU, areas of research collaboration would include-
- Genetic diseases that impact infant and neonatal mortality;
- New diagnostics and devices for infectious disease and environmental surveillance; Development of cost-effective processes for drug.
- Vaccines,
- Biologics,
- Diagnostics manufacturing;
- Novel micro-biome-directed foods.
- Socio-Economic impact of science and technological tools.
- Other areas of health and development.
- The MoU was signed by Hari Menon, from BMGF and G N Dayananda, Head, Technology Management Directorate – Industry Interface, CSIR.

**Links:**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/csir-and-bill-melinda-gates-foundation-sign-mou-in-area-of-health-research/2033043>

## Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurates Atal Paryavaran Bhavan

**Question: On 19th February 2021, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the Atal Paryavaran Bhavan. Where it is situated?**

- a) Delhi b) Mumbai  
c) Goa d) Lakshadweep

**Ans: d)**

**Facts**

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the Atal Paryavaran Bhavan at Lakshadweep on 19th February 2021.
- As per the ministry Lakshadweep will undergo a comprehensive development, without compromising its commitment to nature.
- Ministry is evaluating major innovative initiatives of the Union Territory's Forest and Environment Department.



**Reference:** <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=410208#:~:text=Environment%20Minister%20Prakash%20Javadekar%20inaugurates%20Atal%20Paryavaran%20Bhavan,-%40PrakashJavdekar&text=Union%20Minister%20for%20Environment%2C%20Forest,compromising%20it's%20commitment>

## Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 Launched

**Question: which of the following statement are correct?**

- a) The Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0.
- b) It will be conducted in two rounds starting from February 22 and March 22 across 250 districts/urban areas identified in 29 States/Union Territories.
- c) It launched by central government in order to provide immunization to the pregnant women and children free of cost in India.

- i) a b) b,c
- c) all of above d) none of the above

**Answer : (c)**

**Context**

- On 19th February 2021, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 .



**Facts**

- It will be conducted in two rounds starting from February 22 and March 22 across 250 districts/urban areas identified in 29 States/Union Territories.
- Minister also launched the IMI 3.0 portal and released Operational Guidelines for it.
- He also launched the awareness material or IEC package developed under the campaign.
- The IMI 3.0 initiative was launched by central government in order to provide immunization to the pregnant women and children free of cost in India to strengthen and re-energize immunization programme.
- It will help in achieve full immunization coverage for children and pregnant women rapidly.
- This mission also aims to reach the unreached population. It will reach to them with all the available vaccines under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

**Mission Indradhanush**

- This Mission was launched in December 2014 with the aim of fully immunizing unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children under UIP.
- The scheme targets children aged under 2 years and pregnant women for immunization.

**Reference:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/health/harsh-varadhan-launches-intensified-mission-indradhanush-30-101613779143920.html#:~:text=Union%20Health%20Minister%20Dr%20Harsh,in%2029%20States%2FUnion%20Territories.>

## Road accident statistics

**Question :** World Bank released road accident statistics in India on February 13, 2021. How much India's share in global death in road accidents ?

- (a) 11 percent (b) 21 percent  
(c) 06 percent (d) 31 percent

**Ans.(a)**

### Related facts

- World Bank released road accident statistics in India on February 13, 2021.
- The report titled — 'Traffic Crash Injuries And Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society', prepared in association with Save Life Foundation reveals statistics of Indian road accidents.
- Highlights
- Highlights of the report are given below —
- (a)India
- India tops the world in road crash deaths (WHO,2018), with more than 400 fatalities per day.
- India has 1% of the world's vehicles but accounts for 11% of all road accident deaths and 6% of total road crashes(MoRTH, 2018).
- In the last decade alone, road crashes have killed 1.3 million and injured over 5 million in India.
- (b)Global scenario
- Globally, road crashes kill 1.35 million people and injured 50 million people every year; or more than 3000 persons every day.
- Road Traffic Injuries (RTIs) are the 8th leading cause of death globally and leading cause of death among children and young adults aged 5-29.
- There is ample evidence to suggest that RTIs affect the working age population most severely.
- SaveLIFE Foundation
- It is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to improving road safety and emergency medical care across India.



### Link:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/02/13/road-crashes-in-india-increase-household-poverty-and-debt>

## Solar-based water supply project initiated in Punjab

**Question:** In which of the following district of Punjab first-of-its's-kind solar-based water supply project has been setup?

- a) Faridkot b) Barnala  
c) Gurdaspur d) Jalandhar

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 16 February 2021; Punjab's water supply and sanitation department announced that, it has set up first-of-its-kind solar-based water supply project in Jalandhar.
- This solar-based water supply project has been set up at Jagrawan-Muradpur and Talwara villages of the Jalandhar district.
- State Water supply department informed that under this project 150-metre deep tube-wells installed with 25,000 litres capacity water tanks.
- It will be able to provide piped water supply to every household in these villages.
- The solar-based pilot projects were commissioned at a cost of Rs 67.71 lakh.
- It should be noted that the Panchayats of these villages are now not paying any electricity bill for water supply projects.
- The same amount, which was earlier spent for paying electricity bills, is being utilised for development works of the villages.
- Jagrawan village Sarpanch Harjit Kaur said the panchayat and residents of the village felt relieved as electricity bills have come down to zero.
- Similarly, clean water supply has started reaching every household of Talwara and Muradpur villages.
- With the successful commissioning of these projects, 141 households of Jagrawan and Muradpur and 102 households of Talwara village have benefited.



**Links:-**

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/north/water-punjab-project/2320281.html>

### Prime Minister to launch 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative

**Question: In which state PM launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative on 18 February 2021?**

- a) Assam b) Meghalaya  
c) Arunanchal Pradesh d) Tripura

**Ans: a)**

**Context**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Mahabahu-Brahmaputra, lay the foundation stone of Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge and perform Bhoomi Poojan for construction of Majuli Bridge in Assam on 18 February 2021 through video conferencing.

Facts

Mahabahu-Brahmaputra initiative

- Launch of the Mahabahu-Brahmaputra initiative is going to be marked with the inauguration of the Ro-Pax vessel operations.
- The Ro-Pax vessel operations will be launched in between the Neamatighat & Majuli, Dhubri-Hatsingimari and North-South Guwahati.
- This initiative also includes the inauguration of the Inland Water Transport Terminal at Jogighopa.
- This initiative is being started with the aim to provide a seamless connectivity to Eastern Parts of India.
- It also comprises of various development activities for people living across the Barak and Brahmaputra rivers.

**Reference:** <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=410070>

## 2nd MARITIME INDIA SUMMIT- 2021

**Question – Consider the following statements related to the second Maritime India Summit-**

**(i) This conference will be held through video conference between 2-4 March 2021.**

**(ii) Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate this conference.**

**Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?**

- (a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii)  
 (c) Both (i) and (ii) (d) None of the above

**Answer – (a)**  
**Related facts**

- The second Maritime India Summit will be held from March 2 to March 4, 2021.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the conference on 2 March.
- The event has been organized by the Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways with FICCI as the industrial partner and EY (Ernst & Young) as the knowledge partner.
- Around 20,000 delegates from 24 partner countries will participate in this summit.
- Also, more than 400 projects will be showcased in it.
- This conference will provide a strong platform for international cooperation and bring partner countries together for mutual exchange of knowledge and opportunities.



**Link:**

<http://ficci.in/ficci-in-news-page.asp?nid=28869>

<https://www.ibef.org/news/24-countries-set-to-participate-in-the-2nd-maritime-india-summit-2021-which-starts-from-2nd-march>

## Madhya Pradesh : Progress of Jal Jeevan Mission

**Question :** How much amount of grant has been approved by the Government of India, as the first tranche of the second installment to Madhya Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission?

- (a) More than rs 320 crore (b) More than rs 420 crore  
(c) More than rs 520 crore (d) More than rs 620 crore

**Ans.(a)**

### Related facts

- Central government has recently(February 2021) approved more than rs 320 crore, as the first tranche of the second installment to Madhya Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- The state Government is sanctioned a grant of Rs. 163 crore 81 lakh 80 thousand under general programme and Rs. 156 crore 21 lakh 33 thousand for SC-ST area.
- Madhya Pradesh is the first in the seven major states of the country to receive the grant for the first tranche of the second installment from the Government of India.
- States have set their targets under the National Jal Jeevan Mission in the financial year 2021.
- Against these goals, grant is approved by the Government of India based on the progress and expenditure incurred.



**Link:**

<https://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20210212N10&LocID=1>

## India's first Diesel-converted CNG Tractor

**Question: Who launched India's first diesel converted CNG tractor on February 12, 2021?**

- (a) Piyush Goyal (b) Nitin Gadkari  
(c) Narendra Modi (d) Nirmala Sitharaman

**Answer – (b)**

### Related facts

- On 12 February 2021, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched India's first diesel converted CNG tractor.
- The diesel-converted CNG tractor, done jointly by Rawmatt Techno Solutions and Tomasetto Achille India, is currently an experimental pilot project, and this would happen in due course.



- Benefit
- A farmer could save more than one lakh rupees annually only on fuel costs.
- CNG is a Clean Fuel, as it has the lowest content of carbon and other pollutants.
- It is economical as it has zero lead and is non-corrosive, non-dilutive and non-contaminating which helps in increasing the life of the engine and it requires less regular maintenance.

**Link:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697555>

## PM lays foundation stone for memorial of King Suheldev

**Question: On February 16, 2021 PM Modi has laid the foundation stone for memorial of King Suheldev via video conferencing. In which city of India this memorial will come up?**

- a) Lucknow b) Baharaich  
c) Delhi d) Kanpur

**Ans: b)  
Context**

- Prime Minister Modi on 16, 2021, virtually laid the foundation stone for Maharaja Suheldev Memorial in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh.



**Facts**

- The event marked the 112th birth anniversary celebration of Maharaja Suheldev.
- He also inaugurated the medical College building named after Maharaja Suheldev.
- Development work of Chittaura Lake in Bahraich was also started.
- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also present on the occasion.

**Maharaja Suheldev**

- Maharaja Suheldev of Shravasti had defeated and killed the Ghaznavid general Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud in a battle on the banks of the Chittaura lake in Bahraich in 1033. He is considered as an icon of Hindus and specially Rajbhar community.

**Reference:** <https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/pm-modi-virtually-lays-the-foundation-stone-for-maharaja-suheldev-memorial-in-up-1613450928-1>

## Dr. Kiran Bedi removed as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry

**Question: Who has been appointed as new Lt. Governor of Puducherry recently?**

- a) Kiran Bedi b) Anandi ben Patel  
c) Tamilisai Soundararajan d) None of the above

**Ans: c)**

**Context**



- Kiran Bedi was removed as Puducherry Lieutenant Governor late on 16th February 2021.

**Facts**

- The President has directed that Dr. Kiran Bedi shall cease to hold the office of the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry and has given Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana, additional charge of Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry.
- Dr. Bedi is country's first woman IPS officer and BJP's Chief Ministerial candidate in Delhi in 2015. She was appointed LG on May 28, 2016.

**Reference:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kiran-bedi-removed-as-lt-gen-thanks-centre-for-lifetime-experience-101613535264465.html>

## Government launches pilot survey on drinking water in 10 cities

**Question : Which among the following cities are included in the first phase of pilot survey on on Pey Jal Survekshan under Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban?**

- a) Agara b) Lucknow  
c) Kanpur d) Prayagraj

**Ans; a)**

**Context**



- A Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan under Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on February 16, 2021.
- First phase will include following 10 cities: Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.

**Facts**

- During the survey Data on drinking water, wastewater management, non-revenue water and condition of three water bodies in the city will be collected.
- Based on the learnings of the pilot, this survey will be extended to all the AMRUT cities.
- The mission will be monitored through a technology-based platform on which beneficiary response will be monitored along with progress and output-outcome.

- The mission aims to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all 4,378 statutory towns. The total outlay proposed for it is Rs 2,87,000 crore.

**Reference:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/feb/17/government-launches-pilot-survey-on-drinking-water-in-10-cities-2265086.html>

## New Edition of Indian Sign Language dictionary to be released

**Question: Which entity will release the Third Edition of Indian Sign Language dictionary?**

- a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- b) Ministry of Human Resource
- c) Ministry of Law and Justice
- d) none of the above

**Ans: a)**

**Context**

- The ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will release the third edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary on February 17, 2021.



**Facts**

- New edition will have 10,000 terms of daily use as well as academic, legal, administrative, medical, technical and agricultural terms.
- The dictionary also contains regional signs used in different parts of the country.
- Dictionary has been brought out by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous institute under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

**Background**

- The second edition of the Indian Sign language was released in the year 2019. It comprised of 6,000 terms while its first edition was released in the year 2018 with 3,000 terms.

**Importance of dictionary**

- The launch of the ISL dictionary is a step towards fulfilling needs of hearing and speech impaired in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016.
- It also complies with the initiative by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) called "Accessible Digital Textbooks for all".

## Indian Sign Language

- It is India specific sign language which has its own grammar, syntax and regional dialects. It comprises of different gestures for same word or sentiment. The sign language is a recognized official language in many countries including USA.

**Reference:** <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/third-edition-of-indian-sign-language-dictionary-with-10000-terms-to-be-released-on-wednesday/2030952>

## ‘Maa’ scheme to provide meal at Rs 5 to poor people

**Question: Which state government has launched Maa scheme on 15th February 2021?**

- a) West Bengal b) UP
- c) MP b) Harayana

**Ans: a)**  
**Context**

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on February 15, 2021 launched the ‘Maa’ scheme.
- Facts
- Government will provide a meal at a nominal cost of Rs 5 to poor people.
- They will get a platter of rice, dal, a vegetable and egg curry for Rs 5. The state government will bear a subsidy of Rs 15 per plate.
- Self-help groups will operate the kitchens from 1 pm to 3 pm every day and such kitchens will be set up everywhere in the state gradually.

**Reference:** <https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/west-bengal-elections-meals-at-rs-5-for-poor-under-new-scheme-launched-by-mamata-banerjee-in-run-up-to-polls/2195578/>

## Kochi Water Metro project

**Question: Which Indian state has become the first Indian state to have a water metro project?**

- a) Kerala b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Maharashtra d) Karnataka

**Ans: a)**  
**Context**

- On 15th February 2021, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the first route and terminal buildings of the Kochi Water Metro project.



**Facts**

- This project is for connecting the islands around the city using state-of-the-art boats.
- Water Metro project, which is funded partly by the state government and the German financing agency KfW, will have a total of 16 routes, connecting 38 terminals using 78 AC and non-AC boats.
- 1st route which was inaugurated by CM, connects Vyttila which is one of the busiest traffic hubs in Kerala to Kakkanad which is a IT hub.
- The first phase of the Kochi Water Metro project is 520 km long.
- Commercial operations of the metro will start in March 2021 after it gets the statutory clearance certificate.
- He also launched the Integrated Urban Regeneration and Water Transport System (IURWT) project. IURWT project will renew and rejuvenate the six major canals of 34 km in Kochi.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/kerala/kerala-cm-unveils-route-terminal-buildings-of-kochi-water-metro-project-7189827/>

## ‘Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on India Society’ Report

**Question: Who has released ‘Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on India Society Report?’**

- a) WHO b) GOI c) World Bank  
d) none of the above

**Ans: c)**

**Context**

- On February 13, 2021 World Bank report on ‘Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on India Society’ was released by Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- Report is prepared in association with Save Life Foundation.

**Facts**

- The report highlights the disproportionate impact of a road crash on poor households that pushes them into a vicious cycle of poverty and debt.
- Report explains the links between road crashes, poverty, inequality, and vulnerable road users in India.
- As per the Report more than 75% of poor households in India reported a decline in their income as a result of a road traffic crash.
- The financial loss for the poor amounted to more than seven month’s household income, while it was equivalent to less than one month’s household income for rich households.
- Women have to bear the burden of crashes across poor and rich households; They have to take up extra work, assuming greater responsibilities, and performing care giving activities after a crash.

- Lower Income Household (LIH) reported twice the numbers of deaths post-crash vis-à-vis High Income Household (HIH).
- The decline in total household income was sharper among LIH (75%) than HIH (54%).
- Report will help ministry formulate policies to protect the interest of the poor and embark on several reformative steps.

**Reference:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/burden-of-road-crashes-borne-by-poor-suffer-higher-post-crash-fatality-report-101613222006656.html>

## FASTag compulsory at all Toll Plazas from February 15, 2021

**Question: From 15th February 2021 what amount of toll a vehicle has to pay if they do not have FASTag on their vehicle when they pass through any national highway?**

- Half the amount of charged
- Double the amount of charged
- Same of amount as charged
- none of the above

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**



- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) recently issued orders to make FASTag compulsory at all toll plazas in effect from February 15, 2021 all across India.

**Facts**

- Any vehicle that passes through national highway toll plazas after February 15 must pay twice the charges if it does not have a FASTag.

**FASTag**

- It is an electronic toll collection system which is operated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in India. It uses the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to make the toll payments.
- The payments are deducted directly from the prepaid or savings account of the toll owner through the barcode of the RFID Tag affixed on the windscreen of vehicles.
- It enables to cross the toll plazas without stopping for transactions.
- It can be purchased from official Tag issuers or participating Banks.

**Reference:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/double-toll-charge-without-fastag-from-midnight-of-15-16-february/articleshow/80908072.cms>

## J&K-UK Space Agency- joined hands for Flood Forecasting

**Question: Under which programme J&K administration has joined hands with UK based space agency for flood forecasting?**

- a) India –UK joint strategic partnership
- b) India –UK science innovation foundation
- c) National space innovation programme (NSIP)
- d) none of the above



**Ans: c)**

**Context**

- The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and a United Kingdom based space agency have joined hands to work on a collaborative project on the impact-based flood forecasting.

**Facts**

- This project is for “Impact Based Flood Forecasting using Earth Observation (EO) based Information”.
- The mechanism will predict impacts to people, their houses, crops, livestock, and transport routes, thereby mitigating many of the challenges people face during flood events.
- The project is supported by the national space innovation programme (NSIP).
- The NSIP programme is undertaken by HR Wallingford in association with the Oxford University, D-orbit and Sayers & Partners (SPL).

**Reference:** <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/j-k-uk-space-agency-join-hands-on-impact-based-flood-forecasts-2369457>

## Police Museum on Chambal Dacoits

**Question: Which state has decided to set up a Police Museum on Chambal Dacoits ?**

- a) MP b)UP c) Chhattisgarh
- d) None of the above

**Ans: a)**

**Facts**

- The state of Madhya Pradesh has launched a Police Museum at the police headquarters in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh themed on the dacoits to showcase their stories.
- The museum will display crimes of dacoits and has not been built to praise and pay respect to the dacoits.



- It will showcase around 2,000 digitised police records and material that have been compiled in past five decades recording the crimes of murder, loot and kidnapping by these bandits.
- It will also showcase the sacrifices made by the police officers during combating these dacoits.

**Reference:** <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/police-museum-in-madhya-pradesh-to-showcase-stories-of-notorious-dacoits-1768435-2021-02-12#:~:text=A%20unique%20museum%20themed%20on,more%2C%20reported%20The%20Indian%20Express.>

### ‘Jalabhishekam’ campaign

**Question: On 11th February 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated more than 57,000 water structures constructed under ‘Jalabhishekam’ campaign. In which state these water structure were made?**

- a) UP b) MP c) Harayana  
d) Himanchal Pradesh

**Ans: b)**

#### Facts

- On 11th February 2021 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated more than 57,000 water structures in MP under ‘Jalabhishekam’ campaign.
- These water structures were created during COVID era by linking the work with the MNREGA scheme.
- Intention behind ‘Jalabhishekam’ Campaign is to fulfill the intention of ‘water for every farm and work for every hand’.
- ‘Jalabhishekam’ campaign is MP government scheme for water conservation.

**Reference:** <https://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20210211N13&LocID=1>

### Odisha Cabinet approved a proposal to implement REWARD project

**Question: For which purpose the Odisha Cabinet has recently approved a proposal to implement REWARD project?**

- a) Improvement in sports b) Improvement in Girls education  
c) Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience  
d) None of these

**Answer: (c)**

#### Related Facts:

- The Odisha Cabinet approved a proposal to implement Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) project.



- REWARD envisages an expenditure of Rs 500.00 crore on science based watershed management for a period of six years starting from April, 2021.
- Out of this, World Bank will provide a loan assistance amounting Rs 350.00 crore.
- The project will be implemented by the Directorate of Soil Conservation & Watershed Development under Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department.

**Links:-**

<https://orissadiary.com/odisha-cabinet-approved-proposal-reward-officials-use-odia-official-language/>

## SAANS campaign

**Question: Which state has launched the SAANS campaign to reduce infant mortality due to pneumonia?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan  
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar



**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 6 February 2021, Health department of Madhya Pradesh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully ('SAANS') campaign.
- The campaign aims to reduce infant mortality due to pneumonia.
- Around 4000 Health and Wellness Centres have been set up in Madhya Pradesh for this purpose.
- Training will be imparted at the community and primary health centres.
- State government has also developed training modules in partnership with PGIMER, Chandigarh, and UNICEF, which will be used to enhance the skills of health workers, including doctors and paramedical staff.
- About 3 crore kids suffer from pneumonia in the country and 23 lakh of them are from Madhya Pradesh.

**Links:**

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Madhya-Pradesh-launches-%26%2339%3BSAANS%26%2339%3B-campaign-to-reduce-infant-mortality&id=409336>

## Himachal Pradesh first implements e-cabinet

**Question: Which amongst the following became the first state in the country to implement e-cabinet?**

- (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand  
(c) Kerala (d) Tripura

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 5th February 2021, Himachal Pradesh inaugurated the first e-cabinet at Shimla.
- With this, 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.
- The entire process from initiation of a cabinet memo, approval of the cabinet memo through concerned Secretary, Chief Secretary, concerned Minister and finally by Chief Minister to place in the cabinet has been made online.
- It will also be possible to monitor the status of implementation of cabinet decision more effectively through this application.
- The date of cabinet meeting will also be notified through this system after the approval of Chief Minister.
- The cabinet proceedings and recording of the cabinet decisions on respective agenda items and further issuance of advice to the concerned departments will also be done through the e-cabinet application.



**Links:**

<http://himachalpr.gov.in/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=1&ID=20728#:~:text=Chief%20Minister%20Jai%20Ram%20Thakur,by%20implementing%20e%2Dcabinet%20application.>

## First heliport of Assam inaugurated

**Question: Where did the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurate first heliport of Assam?**

- (a) Barpeta (b) Chirang  
(c) Darrang (d) Majuli

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 4 February 2021, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the first heliport of the state in Majuli district.
- The heliport has facility for simultaneous landing of three helicopters.
- It was constructed at an expenditure of Rs 50 lakh.
- Majuli is the world's largest river island situated on the Brahmaputra River.
- The heliport will push the efforts of government to boost tourism in Majuli.



**Links:**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=409239>

## Shipping ministry & 'Neptune Declaration'

**Question : On Which date maritime body MUI urged Indian shipping ministry to take cognisance of 'Neptune Declaration' ?**

- (A) Jan 31, 2021 (B) Jan 28, 2021  
(C) Jan 26, 2021 (D) None of the above



**Ans.(A)**  
**Related facts**

- On Jan 31, 2021 maritime body MUI urged Indian shipping ministry to take cognisance of 'Neptune Declaration'.
- This urgency is necessary for the Implementation of of Maritime India Vision 2030.

### **Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change**

- The Neptune declaration primarily focuses on recognising seafarers as key workers by all governments worldwide.

### **Maritime India Vision 2030**

- A 10-year action plan 'Maritime India Vision-2030', aimed at bringing about a comprehensive change in the Indian maritime sector, will be implemented soon.

### **MUI**

- The Maritime Union of India (MUI) represents Merchant Navy Officers who are its members.
- The MUI, which is the oldest union of merchant navy officers, said since seafarers are the frontline workers of the maritime industry carrying 90 per cent of global trade, it is extremely important to take care of their mental and physical well-being during unusual circumstances and crises such as pandemic, war, etc.

### **Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/maritime-body-mui-urges-indian-shipping-ministry-to-take-cognisance-of-neptune-declaration/articleshow/80610526.cms>

## Odisha repromulgates ordinance on APMCs

**Question: Which state government has repromulgated an ordinance to provide for private APMCs recently?**

- a) Odisha b) MP c) UP d) Harayana

**Ans: a)**  
**Context**

- The Odisha State Cabinet on 9th February 2021 approved repromulgation of Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) for the third time.



**Facts**

- The Odisha government has proposed to set up and operate private market yards and farmer consumer market yards.
- This is in line with the Modal Act provided by Union Agricultural Ministry in 2017 .
- This law will promote competition among different markets and market players for the agricultural produce and hence provide for better price discovery for farmers in the state.
- The ordinance also proposes to abolish fragmentation of market within the State by removing the concept of notified market area for the purpose of enforcement of regulation by the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee is concerned.
- Government also aims to declare warehouses or silos or cold storages and other structures or space as market sub-yard to provide better market access and linkage to the farmers.

**Reference :** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/odisha-repromulgates-ordinance-on-apmcs/article33796206.ece#:~:text=will%20set%20up%20and%20operate%20private%20market%20yards%20to%20enhance%20competition,-The%20Odisha%20government&text=The%20ordinance%20proposes%20to%20abolish,Livestock%20Market%20Committee%20is%20concerned.>

## New central sector scheme for farmers

**Question: On 9th February Government announced a scheme to form Farmer Produce Organisation (FPOs) with a corpus of Rs 6865 cr. How many FPOs are envisaged to be formed under this scheme by government?**

- a) 5000 b) 10000  
c) 15000 d) none Of the above

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**

- Government of India has launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)”.



**Facts**

- Government has formed the scheme with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs in the country with budgetary provision of Rs 6865 crore.
- In this scheme funding will be done by Government of India.
- FPOs will be developed in produce clusters, where agricultural and horticultural produces are grown/ cultivated for leveraging economies of scale and improving market access for members.
- “One District One Product” cluster will be utilized to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding & export.
- Agriculture value chain organizations will be forming FPOs and facilitating 60% of market linkages for members’ produce.
- Formation & Promotion of FPOs are to be done through the Implementing Agencies (IAs). Presently 09 Implementing Agencies (IAs) have been finalized.
- These are :- Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC), Tamil Nadu-Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (TN-SFAC), Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium Haryana (SFACH), Watershed Development Department (WDD)- Karnataka & Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC)- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- Implementing Agencies (IAs) will engage Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to aggregate, registered & provide professional handholding support to each FPO for a period of 5 years.
- FPOs will be provided financial assistance upto Rs 18.00 lakh per FPO for a period of 03 years. In addition to this, equity grant upto Rs. 2,000 per farmer member of FPO with a limit of Rs. 15.00 lakh per FPO and a credit guarantee facility upto Rs. 2 crore of project loan per FPO from eligible lending institution to ensure institutional credit accessibility to FPOs.
- At district level, a District Level Monitoring Committee (D-MC) is constituted under the Chairmanship of District Collector/ CEO/ Zilla Parishad with representatives of different related departments and experts for overall coordination & monitoring the implementation of scheme in the district including the suggestion for potential produce cluster & development
- At National level, National Project Management Agency (NPMA) as a professional organization has been engaged for providing overall project guidance, coordination, compilation of information relating to FPOs, maintenance of MIS and monitoring purpose.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1696547>

## India Digital Summit 2021

**Question- When was the recent India Digital Summit ,2021 held through video conference?**

- (a) 17-18 January ,2021 (b) 15-17 January ,2021  
 (c) 14–15 January ,2021 (d) 19-20 January ,2021

**Answer – (d)**  
**Related facts**

- India Digital Summit ,2021 held through video conference between 19-20 January 2021.
- The theme of this two-day summit was ‘AATMANIRBHAR Bharat-Start of a New Decade’.
- It was organized by IAMAI (Internet And Mobile Association of India).
- It was attended by about 5000 representatives of the digital industry.



**Link:**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/iamai-india-digital-summit-watch-it-minister-ravi-shankar-prasad-speak-on-digital-atmanirbhar-bharat/2173470/>

## Aadi Mahotsav

**Question- Where is the National Tribal Festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ being organized between 1 – 15 February 2021?**

- (a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata  
(c) Ranchi (d) Bhubaneswar

**Answer – (a)**  
**Related facts**

- The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate “Aadi Mahotsav”, a National Tribal Festival being organized by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs at 6.30 PM on 1st February, 2021 at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.
- Aadi Mahotsav — It is A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Crafts, Cuisine and Commerce – is a successful annual initiative that was commenced in 2017.
- The festival was an attempt to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place.
- Trifed & tribal population in India
- Tribes constitute over 8% of our population however, they are among the disadvantaged sections of the society. Characterised by natural simplicity, their creations have a timeless appeal.
- The wide range of handicrafts which include hand-woven cotton, silk fabrics, wool, metal craft, terracotta, bead-work, all need to be preserved and promoted.
- TRIFED, as the nodal agency under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has been working to improve the income and livelihoods of the tribal people, while preserving their way of life and traditions.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1693601>

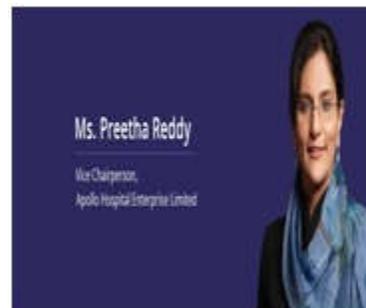
**Question : Ministry of Commerce & Industry released FDI statistics on January 27, 2021. What is the total amount of FDI inflows received during April to November, 2020 ?**

- (a) 58.37 billion dollar (b) 48.37 billion dollar  
(c) 38.37 billion dollar (d) 88.37 billion dollar

**Ans. (a)**

### Related facts

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry released FDI statistics on January 27, 2021.
- During April to November, 2020, total FDI inflow of US\$ 58.37 billion has been received.
- It is the highest ever for first 8 months of a financial year and 22% higher as compared to first 8 months of 2019-20 (US\$ 47.67 billion).
- FDI equity inflow received during F.Y. 2020-21 (April to November, 2020) is US\$ 43.85 billion.
- It is also the highest ever for first 8 months of a financial year and 37% more compared to first 8 months of 2019-20 (US\$ 32.11 billion).
- Significance of FDI
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a major driver of economic growth and an important source of non-debt finance for the economic development of India.
- It has been the endeavor of the Government to put in place an enabling and investor friendly FDI policy.
- The steps taken in this direction have borne fruit, as is evident from the ever-increasing volumes of FDI inflows being received into the country.
- Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1692697>

## Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021

**Question: J&K cadre has been merged with which cadre by recent bill passed by Rajya Sabha ?**

- a) HP cadre b) UP cadre  
c) AGMUT Cadre d) none of the above

**Ans: c)**

**Context**

- The Rajya Sabha have cleared The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 by voice vote on February 8, 2021.

## Facts

- Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021, replaces the ordinances promulgated in January for the same reason.
- Bill merges the Jammu and Kashmir cadre of civil service officers with Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre officers.
- Bill was passed with voice vote in the Rajya Sabha.



## Background

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been passed in the line of the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 in the Jammu & Kashmir after revocation of the Article 370 in the region. The act of 2019 had reconstituted the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories namely, the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, on 31 October 2019.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/bill-to-merge-jk-cadre-with-agmut-gets-rs-nod-opp-questions-intention-7180319/>

## First ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding First ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021:-**

- It was organised by The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council for Technical Education in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and ASEAN countries.
- The ASEAN-India Hackathon-2021 aims at enhancing the cooperation between India and ASEAN countries in science, tech and education.
- ASEAN-India Hackathon is well aligned with the vision of APASTI 2016-2025.

**Which of the above statement are correct**

- a,b
- a,b,c
- b,c
- none

**Answer: ii)**

**Context**

- Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Union Minister of External Affairs Shri Subrahmanyam Jaishankar attended the award ceremony of ASEAN- India Hackathon 2021 along with Ministers and dignitaries from ASEAN countries on 4th February 2021.



## Facts

- This was first such event ever organised by India and ASEAN nation.
- It aims at enhancing the cooperation between India and ASEAN countries in science, tech and education.
- All the ASEAN countries participated along with India under two broader categories of Blue Economy and Education.
- ASEAN-India Hackathon is well aligned with the vision of APASTI 2016-2025.
- The Hackathon involved more than 300 students, mentors, and officials participating from 10 ASEAN countries and India.

## APASTI 2016-2025

- ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 is joint policy initiative between India and ASEAN in the field of science, tech and education.
- It was adopted by the ASEAN Ministers for Science and Technology at the 9th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST) held on 29 October 2016 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1695404>

## Chauri Chaura' Centenary celebrations inaugurated

**Question: On February 4, 2021 PM Modi inaugurated centenary celebration of Chauri Chaura. At what place this inauguration was done?**

- a) New Delhi b) Patna, Bihar  
c) Gorakhpur, UP d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

### Context

- On 4th February 2021, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing.



## Related Facts

- 4th February 2021, marks 100 years of the 'Chauri Chaura' incident which is considered as a landmark event in the country's fight for independence.
- PM on the occasion has said that due acknowledgement has not been given to the martyr of Chauri Chaura in the history and this event is first such event remember them.
- A postage stamp dedicated to the Chauri Chaura incident that took place on February 4, 1922 was also released to mark the occasion.

- The UP government has planned a year of celebrations in all 75 districts of the state in the memory of the martyrs starting from Feb 4.

### About Chauri Chaura Incident

- The Chauri Chaura incident took place on 4 February 1922 at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province (modern Uttar Pradesh) in British India.
- A large group of protesters participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police who opened fire. In retaliation the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants. The incident led to the death of three civilians and 22 policemen.
- Mahatma Gandhi who was a firm believer of non-violence halted the non-cooperation movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/unity-of-country-is-our-priority-pm-modi-at-inauguration-of-chauri-chaura-centenary-celebrations-7174043/>

### Deposits of Lithium

**Question:** Recently in a survey conducted by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy, which state has shown reserves of Lithium?

- a) MP b) Karnataka  
c) Chhattisgarh d) Odisha

**Answer: b)**

Facts

- Preliminary surveys on surface and limited subsurface have shown presence of Lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes (inferred category) in the pegmatites of Marlagalla – Allapatna area, Mandya district, Karnataka.
- Survey has been conducted by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy GOI.
- Lithium is a very important metal in current days as it is used in Lithium ion batteries which are a primary source of power in almost all electronic devices.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1694796#:~:text=The%20Government%20today%20said%20that,in%20the%20pegmatites%20of%20Marlagalla%20%E2%80%93>



**Question: which Hindi word has been declared as Oxford Hindi word of 2020?**

- a) Aatmanirbharta b) Swayam
- c) Ayushman d) none of the above

**Answer: a)**

### Facts

- 'Aatmanirbharta' implying self-reliance has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020.
- The word was chosen by an advisory panel of language experts Kritika Agrawal, Poonam Nigam Sahay and Imogen Foxell.
- There was a massive increase in the usage of 'aatmanirbharta' following the Prime Minister's address, highlighting its increased prominence as a phrase and concept in the public lexicon of India.



**Reference:** <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/oxford-names-aatmanirbharta-as-word-of-the-year-for-hindi-in-2020-2361693>

## India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management

**Question: where has been India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management has been set up?**

- a) Delhi b) Lucknow
- c) Chennai d) Hyderabad

**Answer: c)**

### Context

- On the occasion of World Wetlands Day on February 2 Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Babul Supriyo announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, which is an institution under the Ministry.



### Facts

- India has nearly 4.6% of its land as wetlands, covering an area of 15.26 million hectares.
- India has 42 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), with a surface area of 1.08 million hectares.
- The dedicated Centre which is launched on 2nd February will address specific research needs and knowledge gaps and will aid in the application of

integrated approaches for conservation, management and wise use of the wetlands.

## Ramsar Convention

- The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement promoting the conservation of wetlands. The Convention was adopted at Ramsar in Iran in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- 2nd February is celebrated annually as World Wetlands Day.
- Year 2021 also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694463>

## Kerala to open India's first Gender Park

**Question: India's First Gender Park will be inaugurated in which State?**

- (a) Kerala (b) Uttar Pradesh  
(c) Maharashtra (d) Andhra Pradesh



**Answer: (a)**  
**Related facts:**

- In order to promote gender equality and empowerment in the state, Kerala government will inaugurate the first of its kind three-storeyed 'Gender Park' in Kozhikode.
- The park cost around Rs 300 crore and spreads over 24 acre land.
- The Park will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during the second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II), to be held from February 11 to 13, 2021.
- Along with the Gender Park, a Gender Museum, Gender Library, Convention Centre and an Amphitheatre will also be launched at the event.

**Links:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/travel-news/indias-first-gender-park-all-set-to-open-in-kerala/as80598489.cms>

## Uttar Pradesh adjudged best tableau among 32 tableaux that participated in Republic Day Parade

**Question: Which state tableau has been adjudged the best in the Republic Day Parade 2021?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand  
(c) Tripura (d) Odisha

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Uttar Pradesh was adjudged the best tableau among the 32 tableaux that participated in the Republic Day Parade this year.
- The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh.
- Tableau of Tripura was adjudged the second best, which depicted promotion of eco-friendly tradition for achieving self-reliance in socio-economic parameters.
- Among the nine tableaux from various Ministries, Departments and Paramilitary Forces, the Department of Biotechnology tableau won the top honour.



**Links:**

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Uttar-Pradesh-adjudged-best-tableau-on-Republic-Day-Parade&id=408800>

## UP govt to set up India's first leather park in Kanpur

**Question: Uttar Pradesh Government will setup India's first leather park in which district?**

- (a) Lucknow (b) Noida  
(c) Kanpur (d) Gorakhpur

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Uttar Pradesh government will establish the first leather park of the country in Kanpur district.
- The park is expected to provide employment to 50 thousand people directly and more than 1 lakh 50 thousand people indirectly.
- The leather park will also have an effluent treatment plant of 20 million litre per day capacity so that it will not pollute the Ganga river.
- With the establishment of leather park, Kanpur City will be able to strengthen its position among the 10 big leather manufacturing states of the country.
- More than 150 tanneries are expected to work here which will produce world class leather items including shoes, jackets and other accessories of export quality.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=UP-govt-to-set-up-India%26%2339%3Bs-first-leather-park-in-Kanpur&id=408833#:~:text=Uttar%20Pradesh%20government%20will%20establish,lakh%2050%20thousand%20people%20indirectly.>

## India-Japan Act East Forum

**Question: Which edition of India-Japan Act East Forum was organized in New Delhi on January 28 2021?**

- (a) Fifth (b) Second  
(c) Fourth (d) First

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 28 January 2021, India and Japan held the fifth joint meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum in New Delhi.
- The Act East Forum reviewed progress of ongoing projects in the North Eastern Region of India in various areas including connectivity, hydropower, sustainable development, harnessing of water resources, and skill development.
- They discussed several ongoing new projects under India-Japan bilateral cooperation and also exchanged views on cooperation in new areas such as healthcare, agro-industries and SMEs, bamboo value chain development, smart city, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.
- Act East Forum provides a platform for India-Japan collaboration in the North Eastern Region under India's 'Act East Policy' and Japan's vision for a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'.
- Act East Forum was established in 2017.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India%2C-Japan-hold-fifth-joint-meeting-of-Act-East-Forum-in-New-Delhi&id=408811>

## International

### The State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020

**Question: Which organization has launched “The State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020” Report on February 24, 2021?**

- a) World Bank b) Government of USA  
c) United Nation  
d) United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

**Ans: d)**  
**Context**



- The United Nations World Food Programmes (WFP) has released its report titled “The State of School Feeding Worldwide on February 24, 2021.
- Facts

- This Report by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) provides an analysis of the State of School Feeding Worldwide in 2020.
- It was first published by WFP in 2013.
- 2020 version seeks to analyse the direction and scale of change between 2013 and 2020, and to provide an update on advances in evidence and understanding of school feeding programmes.

### The State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020 Report

- This edition of report provides an analysis of the state of school feeding programmes before the COVID-19 pandemic; it describes the damage caused by the pandemic; and presents what can be done to restore this remarkable global safety net – not only to get back to where the world was in January 2020, but to build back better.
- As per the report, the COVID-19 pandemic risks have reversed the efforts that were made worldwide in a decade to provide nutritious food to the most vulnerable children across the globe.
- When the pandemic was at its peak around April 2020, 199 countries had closed their schools. Because of which, 370 million children were suddenly deprived of nutritious meal of the day.
- The report highlighted that, the lockdown threw spotlight on the critical role that school plays in feeding vulnerable children and protecting their futures.

### Recommendation

- Report proposes to strengthen the global action in order to get the coverage to the pre-pandemic levels.
- It also proposes to reach around 73 million vulnerable children who were not getting the nutritious meals even before the pandemic.

**Reference:** <https://www.wfp.org/publications/state-school-feeding-worldwide-2020>

## NASA launched the cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station

**Question: NASA's recently launched the cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station named after which of the following person?**

- a) S.S. Katherine Johnson
- b) John Glenn
- c) Neil Armstrong
- d) Kalpana Chawla

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 20 February 2021; NASA launched the cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station.
- The Northrop Grumman Antares rocket, with Cygnus resupply spacecraft aboard, launched from Pad-0A at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.



- It was Northrop Grumman's 15th contracted cargo resupply mission for NASA to the International Space Station.
- It will deliver about 8,000 pounds of science and research, crew supplies, and vehicle hardware to the orbital laboratory and its crew.
- This spacecraft has the honor of being named the S.S. Katherine Johnson.
- S.S. Katherine Johnson as a Black woman, overcome race and gender barriers and become a pivotal part of this USA's young space program in those days.
- the first American to orbit Earth Fifty-nine years ago Astronaut John Glenn in 1962, helped by Katherine Johnson, in verifying his Mercury missions' orbital trajectory calculations.
- The Cygnus spacecraft will remain at the space station until May before it disposes of several thousand pounds of trash through its destructive re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

**Links:-**

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-science-cargo-launches-on-15th-northrop-grumman-resupply-mission-to-space-station>

## UAE issued new citizenship policy

**Question :** Recently, the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced the grant of citizenship to foreign nationals. Consider the following statements.

- (i) Foreign nationals who have obtained UAE citizenship will lose citizenship of their country.
- (ii) UAE Cabinet ,Local Emiri courts and Executive Councils will nominate those eligible for citizenship under the criteria set for each category.
- (iii) Citizenship will also be granted to their families along with eligible foreign nationals.
- (iv) The UAE government extended its Golden Visa system in November 2020 to allow some professionals and special degree holders and others to stay in the Gulf country for 10 years.

**Which of the statements given above is / are correct?**

- (a) (i) and (ii) only (b) Only (ii) and (iii)
- (c) Only (i) and (iv) (d) Only (ii), (iii) and (iv)

**Answer – (d)**  
**Related facts**

- The United Arab Emirates has recently adopted amendments that would allow the Gulf state to grant citizenship to investors and other professionals including scientists, doctors and their families.
- It is notable that Foreigners in the UAE usually have renewable visas valid for only a few years tied to employment.



- An oil and gas producer, the UAE's economy has been hit by the coronavirus pandemic and low oil prices, prompting tens of thousands of expatriates to leave.
- Highlights of the amendments
- UAE Cabinet ,Local Emiri courts and Executive Councils will nominate those eligible for citizenship under the criteria set for each category.
- Citizenship will also be granted to their families along with eligible foreign nationals.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/uae/uae-adopts-amendments-to-grant-citizenship-to-investors-and-other-professionals/articleshow/80600064.cms>

## Guidelines on food systems and nutrition issued by World Food Security

**Question: Which is the first UN committee to issue voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition?**

- (a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (b) International Monetary Fund  
(c) Committee on World Food Safety (d) World Bank

**Answer – (c)**  
**Related facts**

- Guidelines on food systems and nutrition were issued for the first time by the United Nations 'World Food Safety Committee' in February ,2021.
- This guideline was issued during the meeting of the 47th session of the Committee on World Food Safety.



The guidelines have been developed to support countries in their efforts to eradicate all forms of hunger and malnutrition by utilising a comprehensive food systems approach, according to the document released on the occasion.

They are structured around seven focus areas:

- Transparent, democratic and accountable governance
- Sustainable food supply chains to achieve healthy diets in the context of economic, social and environmental sustainability and climate change
- Equal and equitable access to healthy diets through sustainable food systems
- Food safety across sustainable food systems
- People-centred nutrition knowledge, education and information
- Gender equality and women's empowerment across food systems
- Resilient food systems in humanitarian contexts

**Link:**

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/food/un-committee-for-world-food-security->

## UNDP : The Peoples' Climate Vote

**Question- With reference to The People's Climate Vote Result published on January 26, 2021, consider the following statements-**

- (a) Britain has the largest percentage of people who believe in a state of climate emergency.**
- (b) Among the survey participants, 59 percent of the people of India currently believe in a situation like climate emergency.**
- (c) Accordingly 'Conservation of forests and land' is at the top of all the 18 climate policies included in the survey.**

**Which of the statements given above is / are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All the above statements are correct

**Answer – (d)**  
**Related facts**

- The People's Climate Vote Result published on January 26, 2021.

Major findings of the Peoples' Climate Vote include:

- Britain has the largest percentage of people who believe in a state of climate emergency.
- Among the survey participants, 59 percent of the people of India currently believe in a situation like climate emergency.
- Accordingly 'Conservation of forests and land' is at the top of all the 18 climate policies included in the survey.
- Even though the survey was conducted during the COVID-19 crisis, there was still widespread recognition of climate change as a global emergency in every country surveyed. Over all 50 countries, 64% of people said that climate change was an emergency – presenting a clear and convincing call for decision-makers to step up on ambition.
- The highest level of support was in Small Island Developing States (74%), followed by high-income countries (72%), middle-income countries (62%), then Least Developed Countries (58%).
- Regionally, the proportion of people who said climate change is a global emergency had a high level of support everywhere – in Western Europe and North America (72%), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (65%), Arab States (64%), Latin America and Caribbean (63%), Asia and Pacific (63%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (61%).
- Of the people that said climate change is a global emergency, 59% said that the world should do everything necessary and urgently in response.

Meanwhile 20% said we should act slowly, while 10% percent of people thought the world is already doing enough.

Respondents were asked which policies – out of a total of 18 that covered energy, economy, transportation, food and farms, nature, and protecting people from climate impacts – that governments should enact to address the climate emergency.

Four climate policies emerged as the most popular globally:

1. Conservation of forests and land (54% public support);
  2. Solar, wind and renewable power (53%);
  3. Climate-friendly farming techniques (52%); and
  4. Investing more in green businesses and jobs (50%).
- Nine out of ten of the countries with the most urbanized populations backed clean transport. These include substantial majorities in Chile (58%), Japan (57%), and the United States (56%). Clean transportation was the fifth most popular climate policy overall.
  - While the gender gap was found to be small overall (4%), in some countries the gap was substantial. There was much stronger belief in the climate emergency among women and girls than men and boys (by more than 10 percentage points) in Australia, Canada, and the United States. But it was the other way around in other countries such as Vietnam and Nigeria where men and boys were more receptive to the idea.
  - Young people (under 18) are more likely to believe climate change is a global emergency than other age groups, but a substantial majority of older people still agreed with them.
  - Nearly 70% of under-18s said that climate change is a global emergency, compared to 65% of those aged 18-35, 66% aged 36-59 and 58% of those aged over 60.

**Link:**

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/climate-and-disaster-resilience-/The-Peoples-Climate-Vote-Results.html>

## South Korea to Build World's Largest Offshore Wind Farm

**Question: Which country has announced to build world's largest offshore wind farm?**

- (a) South Korea (b) France  
(c) Denmark (d) China

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- South Korea Government has approved a plan to build the world's largest wind power plant in the country by 2030.



- The project is a major component of President Moon Jae-in's Green New Deal to attain carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The Wind power Plant will be located in the southwestern coastal town of Sinan.
- The project costs 48.5 trillion won (\$43.2 billion).
- The plant will have maximum capacity of 8.2 gigawatts.
- Currently, the world's largest offshore wind farm is Hornsea 1 in Britain(capacity-1.12 GW).

**Links:**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-southkorea-energy-windfarm-idUSKBN2A512D>

## Nguyen Phu Trong re-elected to be Vietnam Communist Party General Secretary

**Question: Who has been elected the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam on January 31,2021?**

- (a) Nguyen Phu Trong (b) Truong Tan Sang  
(c) Nguyen Tan Dung (d) Nguyen Xuan Phuc



**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 31 January 2021, Nguyen Phu Trong has been re-elected the Secretary-general of the Communist Party of Vietnam.
- The re election was made at the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam held on 25 Jan 2021 – 2 Feb 2021.
- This is his third five year term as nations ruling party chief.He was first elected as secretary-general in January 2011 and re-elected again in January 2016.
- Nguyen Phu Trong(76) was granted an exception to party rules which say people over the age of 65 should retire.
- Vietnam is a Marxist–Leninist one-party state. The country does not have a paramount leader.
- The country is officially led by four “pillars”: the chief of its Communist Party, the most powerful post; a president; a prime minister; and the National Assembly chair.

**Links:**

<https://en.dangcongsan.vn/activities-of-the-party-and-state/mr-nguyen-phu-trong-re-elected-to-be-party-general-secretary-569004.html>

## US, Russia extends nuclear treaty for 5 more years

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (a) New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States

and the Russian Federation.

(b) The deal was negotiated by then US President Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev, the then Russia President in 2010.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2  
(c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The United States and Russia has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty for five years.
- Now the pact has been extended to 5th February 2026.

About the New START Treaty:

- The New START Treaty places verifiable limits on the Strategic Offensive Arms.
- The treaty limits U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals to 700 strategic launchers and 1,550 operational warheads.
- The deal was negotiated by then US President Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev, the then Russia President in 2010.
- It entered into force on 5th February, 2011.
- New START Treaty is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War).



**Links:**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/us-russia-extend-nuclear-treaty-for-5-more-years20210204033323/>

<https://www.state.gov/new-start/>

## Denmark to build World's First Energy Island

**Question: Which country will build World first Energy Island in the North Sea?**

- (a) Norway (b) Denmark  
(c) Germany (d) France

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The Government of Denmark has agreed to build an Energy island in the North Sea.
- The project will be world's first energy island that will produce and store enough green energy.

- It will meet the electricity needs of three million households in European countries.
- The power generated will also be used in shipping, aviation, industry and heavy transport.
- The first-of-its-kind giant island will be as big as 18 football pitches (120,000sq m).
- With an estimated cost of around 210bn kroner (\$34bn), it will be the biggest construction project in Danish history.
- The project will be a big push in reaching Denmark aim of carbon neutrality by 2050.



#### Links:

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/02/05/denmark-to-build-world-s-first-energy-island-in-the-north-sea>

### Lalandar (Shatoot) Dam

**Question: On 9th February 2021 PM Modi Inaugurated signing ceremony of anMoU for building a Lalandar (Shatoot) Dam. Where will this dam be build?**

- a) India b) Afghanistan  
c) Bangladesh d) None of the above

**Ans: b)**

#### Facts

- A signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the construction of the Lalandar (Shatoot) Dam in Afghanistan took place over VTC on 9 February 2021.
- The MoU was signed by EAM Dr. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Mr. Hanif Atmar, in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Afghanistan H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.
- It is 2nd Dam after India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam or Salma Dam that will be build in Afghanistan with the indian assistance.
- It is part of New Development Partnership between two nation.



**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1696486>

### GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK INDEX 2021

**Question- On 25 January 2021, 'Global Climate Risk Index, 2021' was released by Germanwatch. Consider the following statements related to this:**

**(a) Accordingly, between 2000-2019 Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti remained the most effective countries due to extreme weather events.**

**(b) Mozambique tops the countries most affected by extreme weather events in the year 2019.**

**(c) India ranked 7th in this list.**

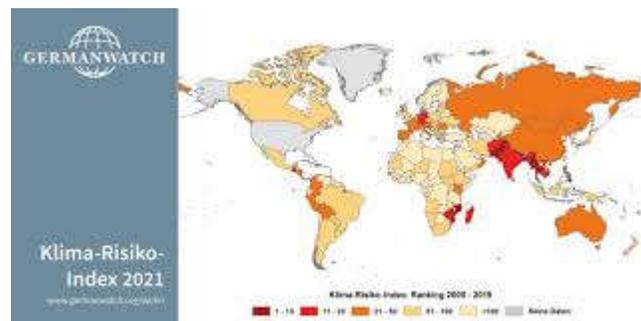
**Which of the statements given above is / are correct?**

- (a) (i) and (iii) only (b) Only (i) and (ii)  
(c) Only (iii) (d) All of the above

**Answer – (d)**

**Related facts**

- On 25 January 2021, the Global Climate Risk Index, 2021 was released by Germanwatch.
- This is the 16th edition of this index.
- This index describes the extent to which countries and regions have been affected by weather-related damage (hurricanes, floods, etc.).
- Two tables are given under this index, in which the first table gives the names of 10 countries affected by extreme weather events in the year 2019.
- Whereas in Table 2 (Long-Term Climate Risk Index), 10 countries affected by extreme seasonal events between the years 2000 and 2019 are named.
- Accordingly, between 2000-2019 Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti remained the most effective countries due to extreme weather events.
- Between 2000 and 2019, more than 4,75,000 people died and more than 11,00,000 people were affected by extreme weather events.
- There was a loss of 2.56 trillion during this period.
- Whereas in the year 2019, countries affected by extreme weather events, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Bahamas ranked first, second and third respectively.
- India ranked 7th on this list.



**Link:**

[https://germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021\\_1.pdf](https://germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_1.pdf)

## PHDCCI International Economic Resilience Rank

**Question : PHDCCI International Economic Resilience Rank released on January 31, 2021. What is the rank of India among the top ten leading economies (most resilient economies) ?**

- (A) Second (B) Third  
(C) Fourth (D) First

- **Ans.(A)**  
**Related facts**

- PHDCCI International Economic Resilience Rank released on January 31, 2021.
- Germany ranks 1st in the PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank followed by India and South Korea at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.
- The analysis of the leading economies conducted on the basis of the five leading macroeconomic parameters shows that India's International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank stands at 2nd among the top 10 leading economies, indicating strong resilience of the Indian Economy to the daunting pandemic of Covid-19.
- Five leading macroeconomic parameters
- Among the five economic indicators, India's rank is No. 1 in terms of Real GDP growth rate at 11.5% followed by China and France with their real GDP growth at 8.2% and 6.0% respectively.
- With India projected to be at first position in its merchandise export volume growth at 14.0%, this is followed by Canada and U.S.A. at 9.9% and 9.7% respectively.
- The Current Account Balance (% of GDP) is estimated to be the highest for Germany at 6.8% followed by South Korea at 3.4%.
- South Korea is projected to have No. 1 rank for the parameters of General government net lending/borrowing (% of GDP) and Gross Debt to GDP ratio.
- Indian gross debt to GDP ratio is projected to be the fourth lowest among the world leading economies in the year 2021
- Growth promising Sectors for the Indian economy
- The growth promising Sectors for the Indian economy in the new year 2021 include Agri & food processing, Real estate, Infrastructure, Automobiles, Information Technology, E-Commerce, Health, FMCG, Telecom, Over The Top (OTT) Market and Financial Technology (Fintech) industry.
- Greater facilitation of the agricultural and allied sector would help prevent adverse supply-side ripple effects of the pandemic, while further strengthening 'vocal for local'.
- Measures undertaken now to fortify the digital economy, accelerated growth in industry 4.0 would go a long way to mitigate the daunting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and hence refuel the growth vehicle for a journey to the US \$ 5 trillion economy.



**Link:**

[https://www.phdcci.in/press\\_releases/india-2nd-most-resilient-economy-among-the-top-ten-leading-economies-in-2021-phd-chamber/](https://www.phdcci.in/press_releases/india-2nd-most-resilient-economy-among-the-top-ten-leading-economies-in-2021-phd-chamber/)

## Corruption Perception Index 2020

**Question: What is the rank of India in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) prepared by Transparency International?**

(a) 56<sup>th</sup> (b) 49<sup>th</sup> (c) 89<sup>th</sup> (d) 86<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- India has been ranked 86th in Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020, released by Transparency International.
- India faced a downfall of 6 places in 2020 index. Earlier in 2019, India was ranked at 80th position.
- The report assesses 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.
- New Zealand and Denmark have jointly secured first position.
- Somalia and South Sudan rank lowest at 179th position.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-s-rank-slips-to-86th-in-corruption-perception-index-2020-121012801582\\_1.html#:~:text=Corruption%20Perception%20Index%202020%3A%20India%20slips%20six%20positions%20to%2086th%20rank,-Press%20Trust%20of&text=India's%20rank%20has%20slipped%20six,index%20\(CPI\)%20in%202020.&text=India's%20rank%20is%2086%20out,of%20180%20countries%20in%202019.](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-s-rank-slips-to-86th-in-corruption-perception-index-2020-121012801582_1.html#:~:text=Corruption%20Perception%20Index%202020%3A%20India%20slips%20six%20positions%20to%2086th%20rank,-Press%20Trust%20of&text=India's%20rank%20has%20slipped%20six,index%20(CPI)%20in%202020.&text=India's%20rank%20is%2086%20out,of%20180%20countries%20in%202019.)

## UK to join Asia-Pacific free-trade bloc

**Question: Which country is applying to join the Asia-Pacific free trade pact Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?**

(a) United Kingdom (b) USA  
(c) France (d) South Korea

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- United Kingdom is applying to join the Asia-Pacific free trade pact Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam.
- The CPTPP was signed by the 11 countries on 8 March 2018 in Santiago, Chile.

- CPTPP is an ambitious and high-standard free trade agreement covering virtually all aspects of trade and investment. The agreement features ambitious market-access commitments in trade in goods, services, investment, labour mobility and government procurement.
- CPTPP forms a trading bloc representing 500 million consumers and 13.5% of global GDP.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/uk-to-join-asia-pacific-free-trade-pact-cptpp/articleshow/80609443.cms>

## **Economics**

### **Launching of e-Kuber Payments System in J&K**

**Question : On which date Jammu and Kashmir formally rolled out e-Kuber payment system of RBI ?**

- (a) 18 February 2021 (b) 16 February 2021  
 (c) 14 February 2021 (d) 12 February 2021

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- On 18 February 2021 Jammu and Kashmir formally rolled out e-Kuber payment system of Reserve Bank of India.
- The new payments system of RBI would replace the existing system for the purpose of government payments.
- All types of government payments including employee’s salaries and pensioner’s pensions will be done through RBI’s e-Kuber.
- Initially, e-Kuber would be implemented in Civil Secretariat treasury on pilot basis and rollout of this system for other treasuries shall follow shortly.
- Benefits
- The system is capable of making 50,000 transactions at a time, while all government-related financial transactions would be dealt directly with RBI, without any intermediary bank.
- The system would also overcome payment delays and eliminate risk of paper vouchers being lost in transit.
- It is notable that J&K is the first Union Territory to implement version 2.9 of e-Kuber payments system.



**Link:**

<https://kashmirobsvr.net/2021/02/18/e-kuber-payments-system-launched-in-jk/>

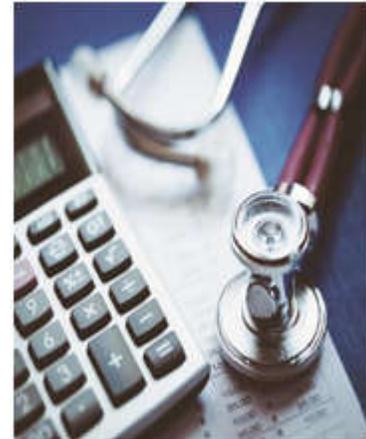
## Saral Suraksha Bima

**Question: Saral Suraksha Bima is a personal accident cover which has been launched recently. It is launched by which agency?**

- a) RBI b) IRDAI  
c) SBI d) None of the above

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has launched a standard personal accident cover called Saral Suraksha Bima.



**Facts**

- This accident cover will be mandatorily offered by the general and health insurers from April 1, 2021.
- It will have a maximum sum assured of Rs 1 crore and minimum Rs 2.5 lakh.
- Beyond this specified range, insurers can also offer the sum assured on their own. For such sum assured, same name for product can be given if all terms and conditions are same.
- The product will have a basic cover under which the entire sum assured will be paid by the insurance company on the death of the insured person due to an injury sustained in an accident, provided the death occurs within 12 months from the date of the accident.
- In the case of permanent total disablement, a similar benefit will be paid by the insurance firm. For partial disablement, depending on the severity, a benefit equal to the sum assured of up to 50 per cent will be paid.

**IRDAI**

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.
- It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India.
- The agency's headquarters are in Hyderabad, Telangana where it moved from Delhi in 2001.

**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/irdai-launches-standard-personal-accident-cover-maximum-rs-1-cr-assured-121022600055\\_1.html#:~:text=The%20insurance%20regulator%20has%20come,an d%20minimum%20Rs%202.5%20lakh.](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/irdai-launches-standard-personal-accident-cover-maximum-rs-1-cr-assured-121022600055_1.html#:~:text=The%20insurance%20regulator%20has%20come,an d%20minimum%20Rs%202.5%20lakh.)

## India and Mauritius Trade Agreement

**Question: Recently India has signed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with which country?**

- a) South Africa b) Japan  
c) Australia d) Mauritius

**Ans: d)**

**Context**

- On 17 February 2021, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius.



**Facts**

- India signed major trade and defence deals with Mauritius on 22nd February 2021 during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to the island nation.
- Two sides signed a free trade agreement (FTA) or CECPA which is first such pact with any African country.
- Deal will provide a timely boost for the revival of post-Covid economies of two nations and also enable Indian investors to use Mauritius as a launch-pad for business expansion into continental Africa helping the prospect of Mauritius emerging as a 'hub of Africa'.
- India and Mauritius also signed a \$100 million Defence Line of Credit, to facilitate the procurement of Indian defence equipment.

**Reference:** <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-mauritius-trade-defence-deal-1772012-2021-02-23>

## DAC approves Acquisition Proposals of Three Armed Forces

**Question: Recently Defence Acquisition Council has accepted procurement of which tank at the cost of 8,300 cr under the 'Buy [Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)]' category?**

- a) Bhism b) Abraham  
c) Arjun Mk-1A d) None of the above

**Ans: c)**

**Context**

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on 23rd February 2021 approved buying of defence equipment worth Rs 13,700 crore for the three armed forces, including 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks for the Army.



## • Facts

- The approval was given for 58-tonne weight DRDO-developed tanks.
- This move will be a boost for the indigenisation in defence sector.
- These tanks will be ready for delivery within the 30 months of signing the contract.
- Tanks have been fully designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with the Indian Army.
- 118 tanks would join the fleet of first batch of 124 Arjun tanks.
- Apart from that, the Defence Ministry also approved for the acquisition of indigenously-developed Nag anti-tank guided missile and Arudhra medium power radar.
- The DAC also accorded three Acceptance of Necessities (AoNs) at an overall cost of ₹13,700 crore.
- All these AoNs are in the highest priority category of acquisition- “Buy Indian-IDDM” where IDDM stands for Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured.

**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/dac-clears-defence-procurement-worth-rs-13-700-cr-for-armed-forces-121022301512\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/dac-clears-defence-procurement-worth-rs-13-700-cr-for-armed-forces-121022301512_1.html)

## Ayodhya airport to be named after Lord Ram

**Question: Where will be upcoming Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport will be situated?**

- a) Lucknow b) Prayagraj  
c) Ayodhya d) None of the above

**Ans:c)**

### Context

- On 22nd February 2021, a provision of Rs 101 crore has been made for the Ayodhya Airport in the budget presented in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.



## Facts

- The under-construction airport in Ayodhya will be named Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport, Ayodhya after Lord Ram.
- A provision of Rs 101 crore has been made for it in the budget.
- It is also proposed that the airport will subsequently be converted into international airport.
- Budget also provides for Rs 2,000 crore for increasing the number of airstrips at Jewar Airport from 2 to 6.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ayodhya-airport-lord-ram-up-7199790/>

## State-owned Life Insurance Corp launches new plan Bima Jyoti

**Question: Who has launched Bima Jyoti Scheme?**

- a) LIC b) National Insurance  
c) Kotak Mahindra Insurance d) none of the above

**Ans: a)**

**Fact**

- Life Insurance Corporation has introduced a new plan which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings plan.
- Plan offers a combination of protection and savings.
- Bima Jyoti provides a guaranteed lumpsum payment on maturity.
- It also provides financial support to the family in case of untimely death of the policyholder during the policy-term.
- The minimum basic sum assured is Rs 1 lakh with no upper limit and the policy can be taken for 15 to 20 years by a 90-day-old child to those under 60.



**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/state-owned-life-insurance-corp-launches-new-plan-bima-jyoti-121022201120\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/state-owned-life-insurance-corp-launches-new-plan-bima-jyoti-121022201120_1.html)

## Reserve Bank of India expanded the scope

**Question : RBI has recently(February 2021) expanded its scope. Which bank has brought under RBI's regulatory purview ?**

- (a) State Bank of Sikkim (b) State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur  
(c) State Bank of Travancore (d) State Bank of Saurashtra

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- RBI has recently(February 2021) expanded its scope.
- RBI has brought State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview.
- The bank, established five years before Sikkim acceded to India in 1973, provides treasury operations for the state government.
- It only operates within Sikkim and is wholly-owned by the state government.
- The bank currently has 42 branch offices and operates three revenue counters for government works.
- The bank's ownership structure will not change, but it will be regulated by the RBI on a par with other banks.



**Link:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/state-bank-of-sikkim-under-reserve-bank-of-india-s-regulatory-purview-121022100837\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/state-bank-of-sikkim-under-reserve-bank-of-india-s-regulatory-purview-121022100837_1.html)

## PM inaugurates Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) – Thrissur (Kerala) power transmission project

**Question :** On February 19, 2021 PM Modi inaugurated India's first HVDC (high voltage direct current) power transmission line? Which two state this line connects?

- a) UP, MP b) Punjab, Harayana  
c) Karnataka, Kerala d) Tamil Nadu, Kerala

**Ans: d)**

**Facts**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 320 kV 2000 MW Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) – Thrissur (Kerala) HVDC project through video conference on Friday, February 19.
- He also dedicated a 50 MW Kasaragod solar power project to the nation.
- Allocation for Kerala from the central sector is 2,266 MW but its peak drawl from the National Grid has already touched 3,100 MW, the maximum transfer capacity to Kerala.
- This project will enable the transfer of 2,000 MW of additional power to Kerala.
- This transmission line is a voltage source converter-based high voltage direct current system (HDVC), which is most modern system in the world
- It is also first of its kind in India.
- The system enables safe and faster transmission with reduced losses and also enables transmission through cables.

**Reference:** <https://www.ndtv.com/business/pugalur-tamil-nadu-thrissur-kerala-high-voltage-direct-current-hvdc-project-inaugurated-today-all-you-need-to-know-2374394>

## 'Go Electric' Campaign To Promote E-Mobility & E-Cooking

**Question:** On February 19, 2021 who has launched 'Go Electric' Campaign ?

- a) Environment ministry b) NDMC  
c) MoRTH d) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

**Ans: d)**

**Context**

- Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises launched the "Go Electric" Campaign on February 19, 2021 .

## Facts

- Campaign is launched to spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure as well as electric cooking in India.
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the aegis of the Ministry of Power has been mandated to undertake an awareness drive for promoting Public Charging, e-mobility & its ecosystem.
- Currently, India is using 94 million tonnes of oil and petroleum products for transportation only. It will double by 2030, if India keep on going along the same trajectory as it is going presently. Oil imports will double.
- To stop that from happening India need alternate sources as energy source for mobility. This campaign has been launched with an aim to push the country towards 100 percent e-mobility and clean and safe e-cooking.
- The main objective is to shift India's dependency on fossil fuel import towards Aatma Nirbhar Bharat in the sector of transport and cooking via the use of indigenous electric fuel.

**Reference:** <https://www.saurenergy.com/ev-storage/morth-launches-go-electric-campaign-to-promote-e-mobility-e-cooking#:~:text=Mobility%20%26%20E%2DCooking-.MoRTH%20Launches%20'Go%20Electric'%20Campaign%20To%20Promote,E%2DMobility%20%26%20E%2DCooking&text=Union%20Minis>

## Bank of Maharashtra – Vayana Network deal

**Question: Bank of Maharashtra has recently (February 2021) partnered with Vayana Network to offer —**

- (a) help MSMEs (b) help BPL families  
(c) help students (d) None of the above

**Answer- a**  
**Related facts**

- Bank of Maharashtra has recently (February, 2021) partnered with Vayana Network to offer help MSMEs.
- Vayana Network is a fintech company.
- It is India's largest supply chain financing platform offering financial support to MSMEs.
- Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme
- Through this partnership, Bank of Maharashtra has launched the Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme to provide short-term credit to meet funding requirement of dealers and vendors of corporates.



**Link:**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/bank-of-maharashtra-vayana-network-tie-up-for-channel-financing/2197689/>

## The FDI in flow from the UK to India

**Question :** The FDI inflow from the UK to India has increased from \$898 million in 2015- 16 to \$1,422 million in 2019-20, according to XYZ report released on Feb 17, 2021. What is actually XYZ report?

- (a) Grant Thornton Bharat's Britain Meets India report
- (b) Grant Thornton India's Britain Meets Bharat report
- (c) Grant Thornton Bharat's England Meets India report
- (d) None of the above

**Answer : (a)**  
**Related facts**



- The FDI inflow from the UK to India has increased from \$898 million in 2015-16 to \$1,422 million in 2019-20, according to Grant Thornton Bharat's Britain Meets India report released on Feb 17, 2021.
- Role of CII
- CII has a significant role in the preparation of this report.
- CII stands for — Confederation of Indian Industry.
- 572 UK companies
- Report identified 572 UK companies in India with a combined turnover of around Rs 3,390 billion, tax payment of around Rs 173 billion and they have employed 416,121 people directly.
- This reflects the important contribution made by the UK companies to the Indian economy as a key ally in India's growth story.
- The report has predicted the India-UK bilateral relations to touch a new high in the post-Covid world.
- Focus areas of UK companies & top investment destination for UK companies
- The UK companies have mainly focused on industrial and business services sectors.
- Maharashtra has come out as the top investment destination for UK companies, followed by Haryana, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka.

**Link:**

[https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-recorded-1422-mn-fdi-inflow-from-uk-in-2019-20-grant-thornton-report/amp\\_articleshow/81063285.cms](https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-recorded-1422-mn-fdi-inflow-from-uk-in-2019-20-grant-thornton-report/amp_articleshow/81063285.cms)

## Cabinet approves PLI scheme for telecom sector worth Rs 12,195 crore

**Question:** On February 17, 2021 cabinet has approved PLI scheme for which sector?

- a) Pharmaceuticals
- b) Telecom
- c) Food Processing
- d) None Of the above

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**

- The Union Cabinet on 17 February 2021, approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products such as switches, routers, radio access network, wireless equipment and other internet of things (IoT) access devices.



**Facts**

- Total corpus of the scheme is 12,195 crore.
- The eligibility for the scheme will be subject to achievement of a minimum threshold of cumulative incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods net of taxes.
- Financial Year 2019-20 will be treated as the Base Year for computation of cumulative incremental sales of manufactured goods net of taxes.
- The scheme will be operational from April 1, 2021.
- The main objective of bringing telecom and networking sector under this scheme is to offset the huge import of telecom equipment worth more than Rs 50,000 crore and reinforce it with 'Made in India' products, both for domestic markets and exports.
- With the inclusion of telecom equipment manufacturing under the ambit of PLI schemes, the total number of sectors under PLI schemes stands at 13.

**Reference:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/cabinet-approves-pli-scheme-for-telecom-sector-worth-rs-12195-crore-7192546/>

## PM inaugurates Ramanathapuram – Thoothukudi natural gas pipeline

**Question:** On February 17, 2021 PM Modi inaugurated Ramanathapuram – Thoothukudi natural gas pipeline. In which state it is located?

- a) Andhra Pradesh b) Tamil Nadu  
c) Kerala d) None of the above

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 February, 2021 laid the foundation stone for key oil and gas sector projects in Tamil Nadu via video conferencing.

**Facts**

- Ramanathapuram – Thoothukudi natural gas pipeline belongs to Indian Oil. This 143-km-long pipeline from Ramanathapuram to Thoothukudi which will monetise the gas from ONGC gas fields.

- This pipeline is a part of a larger national gas pipeline project being developed at a cost of ₹4,500 crore.
- It will benefit Ennore, Thiruvallur, Bengaluru, Puducherry, Nagapattinam, Madurai and Thoothukudi.
- PM also inaugurated Gasoline Desulphurisation Unit at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) on February 17, 2021.
- CPCL is a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation.
- He also laid the foundation stone of Cauvery Basin Refinery at Nagapattinam.

**Reference:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-inaugurates-oil-and-gas-sector-projects-in-tamil-nadu-101613564868199.html>

## 11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit organised

**Question :** Where was 11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit organised on February 16, 2021?

- a) Delhi b) Lucknow  
c) Mumbai d) none of the above

**Ans: a)**  
**Facts**



- The joint conferences of the 11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit was organised in New Delhi on February 16, 2021.
- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has said during the event that India's energy demand is going to increase in the future, and it has taken a number of concrete steps that are shaping India's energy transition pathways for a low carbon economy.
- He also highlighted increase in LPG coverage from 56 per cent to nearly 99.5 per cent in less than seven years.
- He also mentioned that to reduce vehicular pollution, the country leapfrogged from BS-4 to BS-6 emission standards from April 2020.

**Reference:** <https://www.psuconnect.in/news/indias-energy-demand-would-grow-at-about-3-percent-per-annum-till-2040/26696>

## Privatisation of PSBs: Govt to bring Two Amendments

**Question:** Apart from IDBI bank , how many other banks are proposed to be privatized in the financial year of 2021-22 as per the budget speech of finance minister?

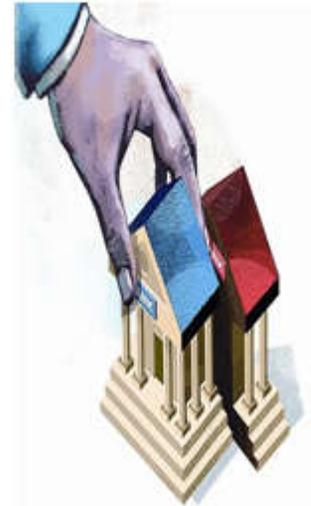
- a) 1 b) 2 c) 5 d) 6

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**

- The government will bring about amendments in the two acts in order to facilitate the privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs).
- In her budget speech finance minister has said that other than IDBI Bank, privatization of two Public Sector Banks and one General Insurance company in the year 2021-22 will be taken up.

## Facts

- Amendments will happen in two acts namely : Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 .
- These Acts led to nationalisation of banks in two phases and provisions of these laws have to be changed for privatization of banks.



## Banking Companies (Acquisition and transfer of undertakings) Act, 1970

- It provides for the acquisition and transfer of undertakings of certain banks with respect to their size, coverage, resources, and organization so as to control heights of the economy.

**Reference:** <https://www.gktoday.in/current-affairs/privatisation-of-psbs-govt-to-bring-two-amendments/>

## Funding for restoration of cultural heritage projects in Nepal

**Question :** India has recently(February 2021) committed 50 million dollar for restoration of different cultural heritage projects in Nepal. How much cultural heritage projects include under this funding scheme ?

- (a) Three (b) Four  
(c) Five (d) Eight

**Ans.(a)**

- India has recently(February 2021) committed 50 million dollar for restoration of different cultural heritage projects in Nepal.
- Three cultural heritage projects(situated in the Kathmandu Valley) include under this funding scheme.
- Implementation
- The projects are being implemented under USD 50 million grant assistance committed by India for post-earthquake reconstruction of the cultural heritage sites across eight districts of Nepal.
- Agreement & sites



- Representatives from the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu and various stakeholders in Nepal signed three contract agreements for the conservation and retrofitting of the three conservation sites.
- The agreements were signed by the Project Director of CLPIU(Building) of National Reconstruction Authority and Contractors for conservation and retrofitting of Seto Machindranath Temple, construction of Dharamshala at Budhaneelkantha and conservation and development of Kumari Home in Lalitpur district.
- Project management consultant
- Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage has been appointed as the project management consultant for supervising the conservation work.
- Earlier aid
- Earlier in November 2019, India also built Mathadish building for Budhanilkantha temple at a cost of NRs 21.8 million.

**Link:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-to-fund-usd-50m-for-restoration-of-3-cultural-heritage-projects-in-nepal-101613142218601.html>

## India Liberalised the Regulation on Geospatial Data

**Question: which of the following statement are correct:**

- a) India has liberalised its regulations on geospatial data starting from February 1, 2021.
- b) Earlier only Government can do the mapping activities in India

- i) only a ii) only b
- iii) both a and b iv) none of the above

**Ans: ii)  
Context**

- India has liberalised its regulations on geospatial data starting from February 15, 2021. Now even private entities are allowed to conduct surveying and mapping without getting government approvals in advance.



**Facts**

The new guidelines have been framed with the objectives of:

- Easing the process of collecting, using and sharing the geospatial data.
- Deregulating sector and allowing the private entities to survey and map all the physically accessible areas without approvals in advance.
- Sharing geospatial data collected by government agencies with the public and industries.

**About Policy**

- It restricts the terrestrial mapping and survey to public and private Indian entities only.
- Further data collected by government agencies like Survey of India and Indian Space Research Organisation will be made available to public and private companies.

**Reference:** <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/government-liberalises-rules-on-geospatial-data-issues-new-guidelines/story/431370.html>

## First corporate risk index launched by ICICI Lombard

**Question :** ICICI Lombard has recently(February 2021) launched first corporate risk index. How much sectors are the part of this index?

- (a)45 sectors (b)25 sectors  
(c)35 sectors (d)None of the above

**Answer : (d)**

### Related facts

- ICICI Lombard has recently (February2021) launched first corporate is kindex.
- This is intended to be a unified, standardised corporate risk index that spans industries and companies.
- This will help companies understand the level of risk that their business is facing and also assist in developing a successful risk aversion plan.
- Fro stand Sullivan
- It has worked with consulting firm Frost and Sullivan to develop the risk measurement tool.
- A total of 15 sectors including IT/ITeS, BFSI, automotive and ancillary, pharma and biotech, e-commerce, manufacturing, realty, FMCG/retail among others are part of this index.
- Significance
- This initiative will empower India Inc to gauge risks better, understand their level of preparedness and accordingly adopt effective risk management practices.
- The index showed that most of corporate India's risk management strategies are focused primarily on operational and natural hazard risks, influenced by COVID-19.
- It added that there is a scope for improvement in the way market, economic, technological and crime or security risks are being managed.
- Further, the index showed that most of these sectors handle operational and physical risks really well.
- Here, the exception is the chemicals and pharma sector where that risk category is an intrinsic risk.
- Overall, superior risk handling was found in four sectors namely healthcare, BFSI, media-telecom and IT/ITeS.



- Here, FSI is the only one with very high risk exposure than others but excels in risk management too.

**Link:**

[https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/ici-lombard-launches-corporate-india-risk-index-6494681.html/amp#aoh=16133251407790&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp\\_tf=From%20%251%24s](https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/ici-lombard-launches-corporate-india-risk-index-6494681.html/amp#aoh=16133251407790&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp_tf=From%20%251%24s)

## BRICS' New Development Bank commitment to NIIF Fund of Funds

**Question : Recently (February, 2021) BRICS' New Development Bank committed 100 mn dollar to NIIF Fund of Funds. What is actually NIIF ?**

- (a) India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund
- (b) An ETF
- (c) Both a & b
- (d) None of the above



**Ans (a)**

**Related facts**

- Recently (February, 2021) BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB) committed 100 mn dollar to NIIF Fund of Funds (FoF).
- NIIF is actually India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund.
- NIIF stands for — National Infrastructure and Investment Fund.
- While NDB is the multilateral development bank established by the BRICS countries.
- Commitment
- With NDB's investment, the FoF has secured 800 million dollar in commitments and joins the Government of India (GoI), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) as an investor in the FoF.
- NDB's first equity investment
- This investment marks NDB's first equity investment into India and its first ever investment in an FoF.
- Fund of Funds (FoF)
- The NIIF FoF was established in 2018 with the objective of providing homegrown Indian private equity fund managers access to an India-focused institutional investor that operates at scale.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/brics-new-development-bank-commits-100-mn-to-niif-fund-of-funds/article33808676.ece>

## Launching of a Global level Hackathon – ‘NPCI PayAuth Challenge’

**Question :** National Payments Corporation of India has recently (February 2021) announced the launch of a Global level Hackathon – ‘NPCI PayAuth Challenge’. A hackathon is an event, usually hosted by —

- (a) a tech company
- (b) a cottage industry
- (c) a defence manufacturer
- (d) an agri startup

**Answer : (a)**

### Related facts



- National Payments Corporation of India has recently (February, 2021) announced the launch of a Global level Hackathon-‘NPCI PayAuth Challenge’.
- A hackathon is an event, usually hosted by a tech company
- NPCI PayAuth Challenge
- The purpose of this hackathon is to find solution for alternatives for authorising UPI transaction through options like Biometrics.
- Sponsore
- This challenge is supported by the world’s first cross-border, open architecture API marketplace and sandbox platform – APIX.
- NPCI PayAuth Challenge is an open global contest for individuals and enterprises offering technology solutions in payments especially suited for startups with ready solutions that can be piloted with limited additional development and integration efforts.
- It intends to find alternate solutions including Biometric verification and similar innovations for authorising payments on the UPI platform.
- Award
- The challenge gives participants a chance to work with NPCI for developing a solution and win a prize money of USD20,000.
- The runner up will receive USD10,000 with other winning teams get an opportunity to work on a Proof of Concept (PoC) with NPCI.
- APIX
- “APIX is facilitating NPCI’s ingenious remote hackathon to identify solutions for payment authentication and authorization to benefit transaction users.

### Link:

<https://bfsi.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/fintech/npci-partners-with-apix-to-launch-global-hackathon-npci-payauth-challenge/80768039>

## Partnership between AGS Transact & Mastercard

**Question:** AGS Transact Technologies (AGSTTL) has recently (February, 2021) partnered with Mastercard to provide apan-India‘contactless’QRcode-based cash withdrawal at ATMs. QRcode is a type of matrix barcode first designed in 1994 for the automotive industry in—

- (a)Germany (b)France  
(c)USA (d)Japan

**Answer- d**

### Related facts

- AGS Transact Technologies (AGSTTL) has recently (February, 2021) partnered with Mastercard to provide apan-India 'contactless' QRcode – based cash withdrawal at ATMs.
- Under this partnership Mastercard cardholders will be able to withdraw cash by scanning a QR code displayed on the ATM screen of all participating banks using their banking app on the mobile phone.
- AGSTTL will enable 'contactless' QR-based cash withdrawals on all ATMs in its network in a phase-wise manner.



### AGSTTL

it provides end-to-end cash and digital payment solutions and automation technology.

### QR code

A QR code is a type of matrix barcode first designed in 1994 for the automotive industry in Japan.

QR stands for "Quick Response."

### Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/ags-transact-partners-mastercard-for-contactless-cash-withdrawals-at-atms/article33791669.ece>

## Constitution of an Expert Committee on Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks

**Question : On which date RBI has constituted an expert committee on Primary(Urban) Co-operative Banks ?**

- (A) Feb 05, 2021 (B) Feb 01, 2021  
(C) Jan 25, 2021 (D) Jan 31, 2021

**Ans.(A)**

### Related facts

- RBI has constituted an expert committee on Primary(Urban) Co-operative Banks on February 05,2021.
- Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks are an important segment of the credit structure.



- The provisions of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 are applicable to Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) with effect from June 26, 2020.
- The amendments have brought near parity in regulatory and supervisory powers between UCBs and commercial banks in respect of regulatory powers including those related to governance, audit and resolution. Consequently, a comprehensive review of regulatory/supervisory approach towards the sector is required in the light of these amendments.
- Accordingly, it has been decided to set up an Expert Committee on 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 to examine other critical aspects relating to these entities.
- The constitution of the Committee as well as the terms of reference will be notified separately.

**Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51078](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51078)

## Goa complete Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms

**Question: Which state has become the 6th state to complete urban local body reform?**

- a) Goa b) MP c) Rajasthan  
d) Telangana

**Ans: a**

**Context**

- Goa has become the 6th State in the country to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- Joins five other States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan and Telangana, who have completed ULB reforms.



**Facts**

- After completing the reforms stipulated by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance State become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs. 223 crore through Open Market Borrowings.
- This reforms are aimed aimed at financial strenghtening of ULBs in the States and to enable them to provide better public health and sanitation services to citizens.
- Better financial health of ULBs will also let them create good civic infrastructure.

**Reforms**

- The set of reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure are:
- The State will notify:
- Floor rates of property tax in ULBs which are in consonance with the prevailing circle rates (i.e. guideline rates for property transactions) and;
- Floor rates of user charges in respect of the provision of water-supply, drainage and sewerage which reflect current costs/past inflation.
- The State will put in place a system of periodic increase in floor rates of property tax/ user charges in line with price increases.
- Besides, the centre had identified four citizen centric areas for reforms. They are:
- Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System
- Ease of doing business reform
- Urban Local body/ utility reforms
- Power Sector reforms.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1697062#:~:text=Goa%20has%20become%20the%206,crore%20through%20Open%20Market%20Borrowings.>

## SAKSHAM (SHRAMIK SHAKTI MANCH)

**Question: Who has launched SAKSHAM portal?**

- a) MHRD b) ESIC  
c) TIFAC d) None of the above

**Ans: c)**

**Context**

- Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has launched SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch).



**Facts**

- It is a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of workers vis-à-vis requirements of MSMEs to directly connect Shramiks with MSMEs & facilitate placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs.
- It will help eliminate middlemen/ labour contractor as well as help identification of skill proficiency level and development of Skill Cards for Shramiks.
- The portal with the demand and supply data uses algorithm and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for geo spatial information on demand and availability of Shramiks, and also provide analysis on skill training programmes of Shramiks.
- The pilot portal originally initiated with two districts is now being launched as an all India portal.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1697085>

## Exim Bank to provide \$400 Million for Maldives project

**Question: Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide USD 400 million to Maldives project. For which project this loan will be provided to Maldives?**

- a) Greater Male Connectivity Project
- b) Maldives Coastal Development Project
- c) Air Force Base
- d) None of the Above

**Ans: a)**

**Context**



- Reserve Bank of India has announced that the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide USD 400 million to Maldives project. It will provide the fund for the Greater Male Connectivity Project.

**Facts**

- Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 400 million for undertaking the Greater Male Connectivity.
- The Greater Male Connectivity project is the Male to Thilafushi Link project in Maldives.
- The agreement under the Line of Credit is effective from January 28, 2021.
- The utilisation period of the terminal is 60 months after the completion date of the project.

**Greater Male Connectivity**

- The 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands – Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi.

**Reference:** <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/exim-bank-to-provide-400-mn-funding-for-maldives-project/2028172>

## Karnataka Digital Economy Mission office inaugurated

**Question: The Karnataka government recently inaugurated Digital Economy Mission office. Up to what percent the state wants increasing digital economy's contribution in the state economy?**

- a) 20% b) 12%
- c) 30% d) 15%

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**



- On 09 February, 2021; the office of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) was inaugurated in Bengaluru.
- This office has been opened with the objective of increasing digital economy's contribution by 30 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- At the same occasion, the "Beyond Bengaluru" report which facilitates to achieve this target was also launched.
- On this occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwatha Narayana informed that the government wanted KDEM to be more industry-friendly.
- To propagate the Digital Economy Mission smoothly the state government has allowed for 51 per cent stakes to industry associations while retaining a minority holding of 49 per cent for itself.
- The government wants to act rather as a facilitator than an authority.
- In order to strengthen the digital economy, the government will focus on improving connectivity even to remote parts, providing 24/7 electricity.
- Deputy CM also said that the State government will also try its best in reducing the rural-urban divide by establishing needed infrastructure.
- He said that, the KDEM aims to attract investments for the IT/ITeS sector in the state and to create 10 lakh jobs by 2025.
- It works to achieve the target by focusing on 5 verticals –

- I. IT products and services.
- II. Innovation and Startups.
- III. Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM).
- IV. Beyond Bengaluru
- V. Talent Accelerator.

- He expressed confidence that KDEM would help Karnataka to reach the goal of 150 billion dollars in IT exports and also to become a 300 billion dollars economy by 2025.
- He also highlighted that the industry sector is not showing interest to take up students for internships.
- He said this needs to be changed and the students should be encouraged to undergo internship as youth is the future of the country and talent needs to be nurtured.

**Links:-**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/karnataka-digital-economy-mission-office-inaugurated-101612927792129.html>

## Appointment of external firm to auditing HDFC Bank's IT infrastructure

**Question :** HDFC Bank on February 2, 2021 announced that RBI has appointed an external IT firm for carrying out a special audit of its IT infrastructure. What is the backdrop of this action ?

- (A) Repeated service disruption issues due to outage
- (B) Sandbox service disruption issues due to outage
- (C) Both A & B
- (D) None of the above

**Ans.(A)**

### **Related facts**

- HDFC Bank on February 2, 2021 announced that RBI has appointed an external IT firm for carrying out a special audit of its IT infrastructure.



### **Backdrop of the action**

- In December, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) temporarily barred HDFC Bank from launching new digital banking initiatives and issuing new credit cards after taking a serious view of service outages at the lender over the last two years.
- The bank has been penalised for two major outages, one in November 2018 and the other in December 2019.
- It is notable that HDFC Bank had already submitted a detailed plan of action to the RBI to address repeated service disruption issues due to outage, saying it was hopeful of improving its technology platform in three months.
- So that, RBI has appointed an external professional IT firm for carrying out a special audit of the entire IT infrastructure of the bank under Section 30 (1-B) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949..., at the cost of the Bank under Section 30 (1-C) of the Act.

### **Implementation of action plan**

- The action plan will take 10-12 weeks for implementation, and further time-frame will depend on the RBI's inspection. Based on the satisfaction level, the regulator will lift the ban, the official said at an analysts' meet.

### **Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/rbi-appoints-external-firm-to-audit-hdfc-banks-it-infrastructure/article33725136.ece>

## **Govt has decided to shut 2 pharma PSUs**

**Question: Consider the following statements:-**

- i) Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (IDPL) and Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (RDPL) will be closed .
- ii) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has five public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- iii) Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd (HAL), Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (BCPL), and Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceutical Ltd (KAPL) will be

**strategically divested.**  
**Which of the above are true**

- a) I, ii b) ii, iii,  
c) all of the above d) none of the above

**Ans: c)**  
**Facts**

- The government has decided to close two pharma public sector undertakings and disinvest the other three.
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals has five public sector undertakings (PSUs). Out of the five PSUs, the government has taken a decision to close two pharma PSUs, namely Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (IDPL) and Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (RDPL).
- The other three namely Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd (HAL), Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (BCPL), and Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceutical Ltd (KAPL) will be strategically divested.



**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-has-decided-to-shut-2-pharma-psus-disinvest-other-3-govt-tells-121020901689\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-has-decided-to-shut-2-pharma-psus-disinvest-other-3-govt-tells-121020901689_1.html)

## India to overtake EU as world's 3rd largest energy consumer by 2030: IEA

**Question: Who has released India Energy Outlook 2021?**

- a) NEERI b) TERI  
c) IEA d) none of the above

**Ans: c)**  
**Context**

- International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report recently titled India Energy Outlook 2021.



**Facts**

- As per the report India will overtake the European Union as the world's third-largest energy consumer behind China and the US by 2030.
- Report also says that India to make up a quarter of global demand growth during 2019-2040.
- It also says that Reliance on oil imports to rise above 90% by 2040.
- Gas import dependence to climb above 60% by 2040.

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-to-be-biggest-driver-of-global-energy-demand-growth-in-next-two-decades-ia/article33798308.ece>

## Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence

**Question: Who has won the Economic Times Businesswoman of the year Award which were announced on February 8, 2021?**

- a) Preetha Reddy b) Renuka Ramnath  
c) Indu Jain d) Roshini Nadar

**Ans: a)**  
**Context**

- The Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence were announced on February 8, 2021.

**Facts**

- Businesswoman of the year award was jointly won by Preetha Reddy, Vice-Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals and Suneeta Reddy, MD, Apollo Hospitals.
- Lifetime Achievement Award went to former HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri.
- Global Indian award was won by Piyush Gupta, CEO, DBS Group.
- Business reformer of the year award was won by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- Corporate citizen of the year award was won by Tata Consultancy Services.
- Business Leader of The Year award was won by Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Hero MotoCorp
- Entrepreneur of the year award was won by Adar Poonawalla Chief Executive Officer, Serum Institute of India.
- Emerging company of the year award went to ICICI Lombard General Insurance.

**Reference:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/aditya-puri-the-pioneer-who-took-private-banking-public/articleshow/80741948.cms>

## Asom Mala

**Question: On 7th February 2021 PM Modi launched Asom Mala scheme. Scheme is associated with which sector?**

- a) Tourism b) Education  
c) Highway construction d) none of the above

**Ans: c)**  
**Facts**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Asom Mala' programme in Dhekiajuli of Sonitpur district, Assam.
- This initiative will boost the state's road infrastructure and contribute to Assam's economic progress and improve connectivity.
- He also laid the foundation stone of two hospitals in the district.

**Reference:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modi-to-launch-asom-mala-lay-foundation-stone-of-two-hospitals-in-assam-today/articleshow/80730447.cms>

## RBI to conduct open market operations

**Question: what is the amount of the open market operations that the RBI will perform on 10th February 2021?**

- a) Rs 10000cr b) Rs 20000cr  
c) Rs 30000 cr d) none of the above

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday announced that it will purchase government securities worth ₹20,000 crore through open market operations (OMOs).

**Facts**

- It is done to to cap yields of treasury bonds and support an expanded government borrowing programme.

**Open Market Operations**

- Open Market Operations are the purchase and sale of the Government securities (G-Secs) by RBI from and to the market.
- It is conducted with the objective of adjusting the rupee liquidity conditions in the economy.
- When RBI sells the government security in the market banks have to purchase them because of which their ability to lend money to the industries, households and other commercial sector gets reduced. Following the reduced surplus cash, the liquidity of the rupee also contracts. This results into contraction of the credit creation or the credit supply.
- On the other hand, when the RBI purchases the securities, commercial banks find gets surplus cash and this in turn creates more credit in the system.
- Government securities are the debt instruments which are issued by the government to borrow money.

**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/rbi-announces-rs-20-000-crore-worth-of-government-bond-purchase-11612769876822.html>

## Uttar Pradesh: 16-Digit Unicode to Identify Landholdings

**Question: On 7th February 2021, UP government has launched a scheme of 16 digit Unicode for which purpose?**

- a) State identity card
- b) Identifying land holding
- c) Criminal records of people
- d) none of the above

**Ans: b)**  
**Context**



- The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode on February 7, 2020 for identifying all type of landholding in the state.

### Facts

- The Unicode number of the land will be 16 digits with the first six digits based on the population of the land, the next 4 digits determining the unique identity of the land. The digits from 11 to 14 will be the number of the division of the land. The last 2 digits will have the details of the category, through which, the agricultural, residential and commercial land will be identified.
- This allotment will be done by the revenue department of UP Government.
- This is done for following purpose:-
- The Unicode will help in checking the cases of land disputes.
- It would also people from falling into the trap of fraudsters.
- It would be issued for all kinds of agricultural, residential and commercial land.

**Reference:** <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/up-announces-16-digit-unicode-to-identify-landholdings-2365364>

## Budget 2021-2022

**Question : What is the estimated fiscal deficit for 2021-22 budget year?**

- a)3.5%
- b)4.5%
- c)6.5%
- d) 6.8%

**Answer: d)**

### Budget 2021-2022 summary

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented union budget for 2021-22 on 1st of February 2021. This budget was presented amid extraordinary situation of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Indian economy have reduced from 2.24 lakh crore nominal GDP to Rs 1.94 lakh crore since budget 2020 because of various restriction placed to contain covid - 19 pandemic.

The fiscal deficit for 2021-2022 was estimated to be 6.8% of the GDP.

## Six Pillars of Budget 2021-2022

This year Budget was presented with following 6 pillars as its base :-

- Health and Wellbeing
- Physical & Financial Capital, and Infrastructure
- Inclusive Development for Aspirational India
- Reinvigorating Human Capital
- Innovation and R&D
- Minimum Government and Maximum Governance

### EXPENDITURE, REVENUE & DEFICIT

- Estimates of Rs. 34.83 lakh crore budget estimates (BE) for expenditure in 2021-2022 including Rs. 5.54 lakh crore as capital expenditure, rest is revenue expenditure.
- To boost economy, provision for increase in capital expenditure is by 34.5% (Rs 1,42,151 crore) over BE 2020-21.
- Total Revenue is estimated to be 17.88 lakh crore for 2021-22.
- The fiscal deficit in BE 2021-2022 is estimated to be 6.8% of GDP. For previous financial year it is pegged at 9.55% of GDP. Revenue deficit has been revised for FY21 to 7.5% and for FY22 to 5.1%.
- **Health and well being**
- Health expenditure has been more than doubled by 137% over previous budget .
- The allocation has been increased from ₹ 94452 Cr to ₹ 2.23 lakh Cr (137% increase).
- **PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana**
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme and it will be launched with an outlay of about Rs 64,180 crore over 6 years.
- Objective of the Scheme is to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems.
- **Poshan 2.0**
- It will merge the **Supplementary Nutrition Programme and the Poshan Abhiyan**.
- Objective of the Poshan 2.0 is, improving the nutritional content, delivery, outreach, and outcome across 112 Aspirational Districts.
- **Water supply**
- Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) will be launched to provide water supply to all the 4378 Urban Local Bodies and 500 AMRUT cities.
- Will be implemented over 5 years with an outlay of ₹ 287000 Cr.
- **Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat**
- Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 will be launched for a period of 5 years from 2021-2026.
- **Scrappage policy**
- Voluntary scrappage policy has been announced.
- Vehicles older than 15 years and 20 years in case of commercial and personal vehicles respectively will be covered under this.

- It will promote the usage of fuel-efficient, environment-friendly vehicles.
- Budget proposes spending ₹ 35000 Cr for covid vaccines in FY22. Rollout of pneumococcal vaccines for pan India usage (available only in 5 states now) has been announced (it will avoid deaths of 50000 children).

### **Physical & Financial Capital, and Infrastructure**

- **PLI (Production Linked Incentives)**

- Rs 1.97 lakh Cr for five years from FY22.
- It already exist for 13 sectors.
- This scheme provides 4% to 6% incentive on incremental production to the eligible companies who are manufacturing goods for 5 years period.

- **Textiles**

- Mega Investment Textile Parks (MITRA) will be launched.
- Scheme aims to create world class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable create global champions in exports.
- MITRA will be launched in addition to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme(PLI).

- **Infrastructure**

- **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP):**

- NIP was announced in the last year budget to provide funding for various infrastructure project in the country.
- The total value of projects proposed under NIP is ₹ 111 lakh Cr (\$1.5 tn).
- Government has expanded projects under NIP to cover 7400 projects from earlier 6835 projects.
- In order to increase the spending, the govt proposed three steps:-
- **1.Creating an institutional structure-** National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID).It will be set up with a capital base of ₹ 20000 Cr and will have a lending target of ₹ 5 lakh Cr in three years
- **2.Asset monetization**
- A National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) of potential brownfield infrastructure assets will be launched.
- asset monetization dashboard
- NHA and PGCIL to set up infrastructure investment trust to attract global funds.
- Railway to monetize DFC assets after their completion.
- **3.A sharp increase in capital expenditure – ₹ 5.54 lakh crore for the FY22 (34.5% more than the budget estimate of FY21).**

- **Railways:**

- Indian Railways has prepared a National Rail Plan 2030.
- Reducing logistics cost is at the core of policy-Dedicated Freight corridor – DFC (Western and Eastern) will be commissioned by 2022.
- Future DFC will also be undertaken.
- 100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes will be completed by December, 2023.
- For passenger safety and convenience aesthetically designed Vista Dome LHB coach on tourist routes and indigenously developed automatic train protection system on the high density network of railway.

- **Urban Infrastructure:**

- A new scheme will be launched at a cost of 18,000 crores to support augmentation of public bus transport services.

- PPP models to promote private bus operators to operate and maintain 20000 buses in urban areas.
- Two new technologies – MetroLite and MetroNeo will be deployed to provide rail metro services at a much lower cost.
- **Power infrastructure:**
- Framework will be put in place to give consumers alternatives to choose from among more than one Distribution Company.
- Reforms-based result-linked power distribution sector scheme will be launched with an outlay of 3,05,984 crores over 5 years to help discoms.
- Hydro energy Mission 2021-22 for generating hydrogen from green power sources.
- **Ports, Shipping and Waterways:**
- 7 ports worth more than 2,000 crores will be offered to the private sector under PPP.
- Scheme to promote flagging of merchant ships in India with an amount of Rs 1624 crores will be provided over 5 years.
- India has implemented the Recycling of Ships Act 2019 and has acceded to Hong Kong International Convention. Read more on this convention in the article International Maritime Organization.
- **Petroleum and Natural Gas:**
- The number of beneficiaries under the UJJWALA Scheme has been increased from 8 Cr to 9 Cr (increased by 1 Cr).
- Will add 100 more districts under City Gas Distribution Network in the next 3 years.
- **Financial capital:**
- Proposed consolidation of SEBI Act, Depositories Act, Securities Contract Act and Govt securities Act into a single rationalized Securities Markets Code.
- World class Fin-Tech hub at the GIFT-IFSC.
- RBI will have to give up its powers of regulating the G-securities.
- Gold exchanges were announced in the budget of 2018-19. In this regard SEBI was notified as the regulator and Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority will be strengthened.
- FDI in the insurance sector has been increased from 49% to 74%.
- **Banking:**
- To further consolidate the financial capacity of PSBs, further recapitalization of 20,000 crores is proposed in 2021-22.
- **Stressed Asset Resolution by setting up a New Structure**
- An Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company would be set up to consolidate and take over the existing stressed debt and then manage and dispose of the assets to Alternate Investment Funds and other potential investors for eventual value realization.
- **Deposit Insurance**
- Deposit insurance cover has been increased from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh per individual
- Govt to allow withdrawal of deposits to the extent of deposit insurance cover in the troubled banks
- **Disinvestment**
- Policy features:
- Will cover CPSEs, PSBs and insurance companies.

- Sectors will be classified into strategic and non-strategic
- In the case of strategic sectors, the govt would be having a minimum presence. Remaining CPSEs will be privatized, merged, subsidized with other CPSEs or closed.
- In non-strategic sectors, these CPSEs will be privatized or shall be closed.
- Disinvestment of BPCL, Air India, Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, IDBI Bank, BEML, Pawan Hans, Neelachal Ispat Nigam limited among others would be completed in 2021-22. The proceeds from the disinvestments would be to finance social and developmental programmes of the govt.
- Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatization of two Public Sector Banks and one General Insurance company in the year 2021-22.
- The govt has set a disinvestment target of ₹ 1.75 lakh Cr (against ₹ 2.1 lakh Cr in the last fiscal, against this the govt has raised ₹ 19499 Cr so far).
- **Inclusive Development for Aspirational India**
- **Agriculture**
- SWAMITVA Scheme:
  - So far about 1.8 lakh property owners from 1241 villages have been issued with property cards. Scheme has been extended to cover all states/UTs.
  - Farm loans allocation has been increased to ₹ 16.5 tn from ₹ 15 tn in the last fiscal.
  - Proposed doubling of Micro Irrigation Fund, (corpus of Rs 5,000 crores) which has been created under NABARD.
  - 'Operation Green Scheme' that is presently applicable to tomatoes, onions, and potatoes, will be enlarged to include 22 perishable products.
  - 10% import tax on the import of this cotton to help farmers.
  - Govt has also raised the levy on raw silk and silk yarn from 10% to 15%.
  - 1000 more mandis will be integrated under e-NAM.
  - The Agriculture Infrastructure Development cess:
    - Govt has proposed cess on 25 products and basic customs duty has been reduced on these items so that the consumers do not end up paying a higher price. This has been done to improve farm infrastructure.
    - Govt has imposed this cess on petrol, diesel, gold. AIDC of ₹ 2.5 per litre has been imposed on petrol and ₹ 4 on diesel.
- **Migrant workers and labour**
- One Nation One Ration Card:-
  - So far being implemented by 32 states and UTs, reaching about 69 crores beneficiaries –total of 86% beneficiaries covered. The remaining 4 states and UTs will be integrated in the next few months.
  - Proposal to launch a new portal that will collect relevant information on gig, building and construction workers among others. This is expected to help in formulating schemes for the migrant workers.
  - The 4 labour codes will be implemented.
- **Reinvigorating Human Capital**
- More than 15,000 schools will be qualitatively strengthened to include all components of the National Education Policy.
- 100 new Sainik Schools will be opened in partnership with NGOs/private schools/states.

- An umbrella body called the Higher Education Commission of India to be set up.
- Govt has set up a target of setting up 750 Ekalavya model residential schools.
- **Innovation and R&D**
- To boost overall research ecosystem of the country with focus on identified national-priority thrust areas National Research Foundation (NRF) has been allocated Rs 50,000 crores, for next 5 years.
- Rs 1500 Cr allocated for a scheme to promote digital transactions.
- Deep Ocean Mission with an outlay of ₹ 4000 Cr over 5 years has been proposed.
- **Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**
- Proposal to set up a Conciliation Mechanism and mandate its use for quick resolution of contractual disputes.
- **Taxation in Budget**
- Senior citizens over 75 years of age with only pension and interest income are exempted from filing income tax returns.
- Presently, the tax assessments can be reopened up to 6 years and in serious tax frauds up to 10 years. This has been reduced to 3 years and in the case of serious tax frauds, up to 10 years but with approval from the Principal Chief Commissioner

**Reference:** [https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/Budget\\_Speech.pdf](https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/Budget_Speech.pdf)

## World economy's latest speculation

**Question :** World economy latest projection released on January 2021. Which one of the following is correct regarding this projection?

- (a) World economy expected to barely regain 2020 losses in 2021
- (b) World economy expected to barely regain 2020 losses till 2025
- (c) World economy expected to barely regain 2020 losses till 2026
- (d) World economy expected to barely regain 2020 losses till 2028

**Ans.(a)**

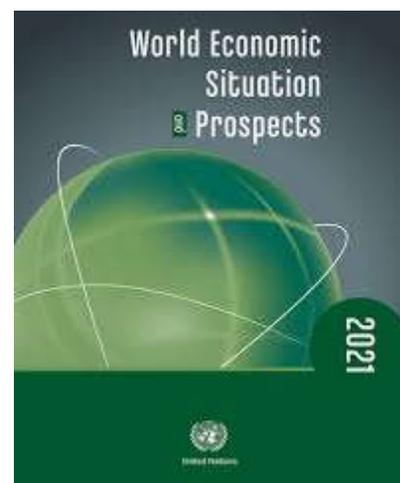
### Related facts

- World economy latest projection released on January 2021.
- This report titled “World Economic Situation and Prospects(WESP) 2021”.

Highlights of the report

World economy expected to barely regain 2020 losses in 2021.

1. Covid 19 –



The pandemic spread like a forest fire, reaching every corner of the world, infecting more than 90 million and killing close to 2 million people worldwide.

## 2. World economic growth –

World gross product fell by an estimated 4.3 percent in 2020—the sharpest contraction of global output since the Great Depression. In contrast, world output had shrunk by 1.7 per cent during the Great Recession in 2009.

World gdp would be grow at 4.7 and 3.4 percent in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

## 3. India's growth projection-

- India's gdp fell by an estimated 9.6 percent in 2020.
- Further it would be grow at 7.3 and 5.9 percent in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

### Link:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2021/>

## UN DESA : Indian & World economy growth estimates

**Question : UN DESA has recently(January 2021) estimated the growth of Indian & World economy. Which one of the following statement is correct regarding this estimate ?**

- (a) Indian economy estimated to contract by 9.6% in 2020
- (b) Indian economy estimated to contract by 7.6% in 2020
- (c) Indian economy estimated to contract by 8.6% in 2020
- (d) Indian economy estimated to contract by 11.6% in 2020

**Ans.(a)**

### Related facts

- UN DESA(United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) has recently(January 2021) estimated the growth of Indian & World economy.
- Indian economy estimated to contract by 9.6% in 2020.
- It will grow at 7.3 percent in 2021 & 5.9 percent in 2022.
- Similarly World economy estimated to contract by 4.3% in 2020.
- It will grow at 4.7 percent in 2021 & 3.4 percent in 2022.
- Other highlights of the report
- Other highlights of the report are given below —
- Developed economies estimated to contract by 5.6% in 2020.



- Developed economies shall grow at 4.0 percent in 2021 & 2.5 percent in 2022.
- Developing economies estimated to contract by -2.5% in 2020.
- Developing economies shall grow at 5.7 percent in 2021 & 4.6 percent in 2022.
- Chinese economy estimated to grow at 2.4 percent in 2020.
- It will grow at 7.2 percent in 2021 & 5.8 percent in 2022.

**Link:**

<https://www.un.org/en/desa>

## Oxfam report

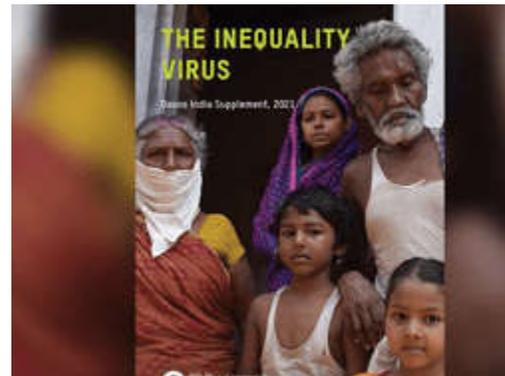
**Question : Oxfam India is a Registered Non-Profit Under Section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013. Its latest India supplement of the Oxfam report released on which date ?**

- (a) 22 January 2021 (b) 21 January 2021  
(c) 20 January 2021 (d) 19 January 2021

**Ans.(a)**

### Related facts

- The Coronavirus pandemic has been the world's worst public health crisis in a hundred years.
- It has triggered an economic crisis which is comparable in its scale only with the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- The contraction of GDP globally because of the pandemic is estimated by the World Bank to be 5.2 percent in 2020; the number of countries registering per capita contractions is the largest the world has seen since 1870.
- During the pandemic, many billionaires saw a rise in their wealth. Jeff Bezos, the world's richest man saw a rise to USD 185.5 billion and the wealth of Elon Musk increased to USD 179.2 billion, as of 18 January, 2021.
- Other tech giants like Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page and former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer saw their wealth surge by USD15 billion since March 2020.
- Eric Yuan, founder and CEO of Zoom, too saw a sharp rise in his wealth, which is reportedly worth USD 2.58 billion.
- Global billionaires' wealth rose by 19 percent during this time.
- The world's 500 richest people gained USD 809 billion this year, a 14 percent increase since January 2020 while 100 million people were pushed into poverty.
- The pandemic also risked the income of the world's poorest population which might potentially get reduced to USD 50 million a day in developing countries where millions of people live just above the poverty line.
- Wealth of Indian billionaires increased by 35% during lockdown.
- The report notes that billionaires such as Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, Shiv Nadar, Cyrus Poonawalla, Uday Kotak, Azim Premji, Sunil Mittal,



Radhakrishan Damani, Kumar Manglam Birla and Laxmi Mittal working in sectors like coal, oil, telecom, medicines, pharmaceuticals, education, and retails increased their wealth exponentially since March 2020 when India announced world's biggest COVID-19 lockdown and economy came to standstill.

- On the other hand, data has shown that 170,000 people lost their jobs every hour in the month of April 2020.

**Link:**

<https://www.oxfamindia.org/knowledgehub/workingpaper/inequality-virus-india-supplement-2021>

## HDFC Ltd entered into SPA

**Question : Good Host is a company engaged in the business of managing student housing facilities. On which date HDFC Ltd announced to sell 24.48 per cent stake in Good Host Spaces ?**

- (A) 20 January 2021 (B) 28 January 2021  
(C) 1 January 2021 (D) None of the above

**Ans.(A)**

**Related facts**

- Good Host is a company engaged in the business of managing student housing facilities.
- On January 20, 2021 HDFC Ltd announced to sell 24.48 per cent stake in Good Host Spaces
- For this purpose HDFC has entered into a share purchase agreement for sale of 47,75,241 equity shares of rupees 1 each, representing 24.48 per cent of the issued and paid-up share capital of Good Host.
- For the financial year ending on March 31, 2020, the consolidated revenue of Good Host aggregated to ₹ 112.60 crore and the balance sheet size was ₹1,765.13 crore.



**Link:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/hdfc-to-sell-2448-per-cent-stake-in-good-host-spaces/article33623481.ece>

## Global Investment Trend Monitor

**Question : Global Investment Trend Monitor is an UNCTAD report released on January 24, 2021. Which one of the following statement is correct regarding this report ?**

- (a) FDI in India rose by 13% in 2020  
(b) FDI in India rose by 10% in 2020

- (c) FDI in India rose by 9% in 2020
- (d) FDI in India rose by 5% in 2020

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- Global Investment Trend Monitor is an UNCTAD(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) report released on January 24, 2021.

Highlights of the report

- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) collapsed in 2020, falling by 42% to an estimated \$859 billion, from \$1.5 trillion in 2019 (figure 1). FDI finished 2020 more than 30% below the trough after the global financial crisis in 2009 and back at a level last seen in the 1990s.
- The decline was concentrated in developed countries, where FDI flows fell by 69% to an estimated \$229 billion. Flows to Europe dried up completely to -4 billion (including large negative flows in several countries). A sharp decrease was also recorded in the United States (-49%) to \$134 billion.
- The decline in developing economies was relatively measured at -12% to an estimated \$616 billion. The share of developing economies in global FDI reached 72% – the highest share on record. China topped the ranking of the largest FDI recipients.
- The fall in FDI flows across developing regions was uneven, with -37% in Latin America and the Caribbean, -18% in Africa and -4% in developing Asia. East Asia was the largest host region, accounting for one-third of global FDI in 2020. FDI to the transition economies declined by 77% to \$13 billion.



**Link:**

<https://unctad.org/webflyer/global-investment-trend-monitor-no-38>

**Execution of money market deals**

**Question : On which date SBI announced the execution of money market deals ?**

- (a) 20 January 2021
- (b) 10 January 2021
- (c) 15 January 2021
- (d) 18 January 2021

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- SBI on 20 January 2021 announced the execution of money market deals.
- These deals were executed by SBI through its Hong Kong branch.
- There were two inter-bank short term money market deals which executed with pricing linked to SOFR.



- SOFR stands for — Secured Overnight Financing Rate.
- SOFR is an identified replacement for USD LIBOR(London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) which is expected to be phased out at the end of 2021.

**Link:**

[https://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/sbi-executes-money-market-deals-linked-to-sofr-121012100322\\_1.html](https://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/sbi-executes-money-market-deals-linked-to-sofr-121012100322_1.html)

## PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (Budget 2021)

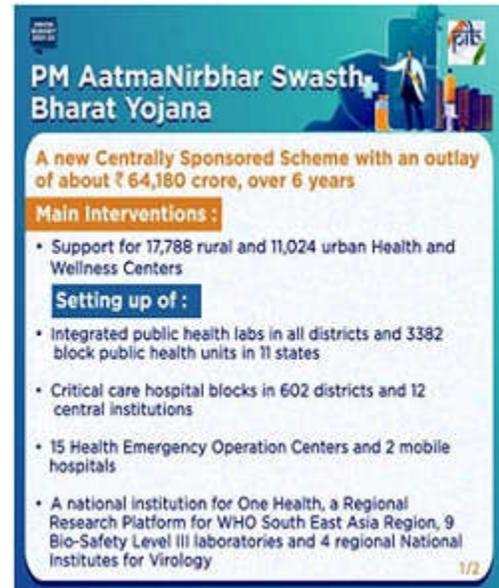
**Question: In her budget speech Finance Minister has announced PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana. What is the total corpus announced for the scheme?**

- a) 60,000 crore b) 64,180 crore  
c) 70,000 crore d) none of the above

**Answer: b)**

**Context**

- In her budget speech Finance Minister has announced PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana.



**Related Facts**

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme and it will be launched with an outlay of about Rs 64,180 crore over 6 years.
- Objective of the Scheme is to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems.
- It also aims to strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions, to cater to detection and cure of new and emerging diseases.
- This Scheme is in addition to national health mission.

**Primary Objectives**

- It aims to Support 17,788 rural and 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centers.
- Setting up integrated public health labs in all districts and 3382 block public health units in 11 states;
- Establishing critical care hospital blocks in 602 districts and 12 central institutions;
- It also proposed to strengthen National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), its 5 regional branches and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units.
- Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal to all States/UTs to connect all public health labs.
- Proposal of setting up of a national institution for One Health, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Bio-Safety Level III

laboratories and 4 regional National Institutes for Virology is one of the primary point of the scheme.

## Poshan 2.0

- Poshan 2.0 was also announced . It will merge the Supplementary Nutrition Programme and the Poshan Abhiyan.
- These will form the umbrella of Mission Poshan 2.0.
- Objective of the Poshan 2.0 is, improving the nutritional content, delivery, outreach, and outcome across 112 Aspirational Districts.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1693906>

## Sri Lanka settles currency swap facility with India

**Question: Recently Sri Lanka has settled currency swap facility with India. What is the amount that was settled?**

- a) \$300 million b) \$400 million  
c) \$150 Million d) None of the above

**Answer: b)**  
**Context**

- Sri Lanka has settled a USD 400 million currency swap facility with India on 5th February 2021.



## Related Facts

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) had concluded the USD 400 million currency swap agreement in July 2020 under the SAARC currency swap framework.
- The SAARC currency swap framework came into operation on November 15, 2012, to provide a backstop line of funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or short-term balance of payments stress till longer term arrangements are made. It is available to every member of SAARC.

## Currency Swap

- A currency swap involves the exchange of interest—and sometimes of principal—in one currency for the same in another currency.
- Companies doing business abroad often use currency swaps to get more favorable loan rates in the local currency than if they borrowed money from a local bank.
- Considered to be a foreign exchange transaction, currency swaps are not required by law to be shown on a company's balance sheet.

**Reference:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sri-lanka-settles-400-million-currency-swap-facility-with-india-121020501615\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sri-lanka-settles-400-million-currency-swap-facility-with-india-121020501615_1.html)

## RBI Monetary Policy

**Question:** RBI's six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) , on 5th February announced the monetary policy for this quarter.What is the current Repo Rate announced by Rbi?

- a) 3.75% b) 4%  
c) 4.25% d) None of the above

**Answer: b)**  
**Context**



- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has announced this quarter's monetary policy review on 5th February.

Summery of the Review

- Repo rate unchanged at 4%.
- Reverse repo rate unchanged at 3.35%.
- Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate at 4.25%.
- Bank rate at 4.25%.
- Projected GDP growth rate at 10.5% for the financial year beginning April 1.
- It says, the inflation rate will come down to 5.2% in January-March and will decline to 4.3% by the third quarter the fiscal 2021.

**Reference:** [indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/rbi-reserve-bank-of-india-monetary-policy-committee-february-2021-meeting-outcome-key-announcements-7175322/](https://www.indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/rbi-reserve-bank-of-india-monetary-policy-committee-february-2021-meeting-outcome-key-announcements-7175322/)

## RBI to adopt “One Nation One Ombudsman” approach

**Question:** consider the following statement about RBI's “One Nation One Ombudsman” approach:-

a) Currently there is different consumer grievance redressal system in the country for the banking, non-bank finance companies and for digital transactions.

b) Rbi has decided to integrate all the three ombudsman scheme in one.  
Which of the above two are correct?

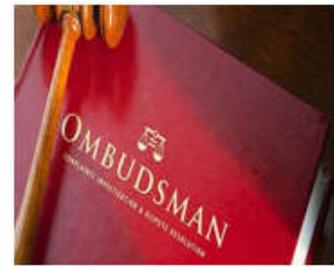
- i) a ii)b iii) a,b iv) none of the above

**Ans: iii)**  
**Context**

- On 5th February, The Reserve Bank of India has proposed the 'One Nation One Ombudsman' approach for grievance redressal.

## Facts

- Currently there is different consumer grievance redressal system in the country for the banking, non-bank finance companies and for digital transactions.
- This has made grievances redressal process cumbersome.
- RBI has proposed to integrate all three ombudsman into one in a move aimed at enhancing consumer protection.
- The e-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will be rolled out in June 2021.
- It will make process of redress of grievances easier by enabling the customers of the banks, NBFCs and non-bank issuers of PPIs to register their complaints under the integrated scheme, with one centralised reference point.



**Reference:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/one-nation-one-ombudsman-approach-for-grievance-redressal/article33760595.ece>

## Aura Credit Card

**Question :** Aura is an exclusively loaded credit card with affordable health and wellness solutions. On which date Axis Bank launched it ?

- (a) January 19, 2021 (b) January 14, 2021  
(c) January 12, 2021 (d) January 16, 2021

**Ans.(a)**

### Related facts

- Aura is an exclusively loaded credit card with affordable health and wellness solutions.
- Axis Bank launched it on January 19, 2021.
- Aimed at health conscious individuals, features of this credit card will be powered by Poshvine and other specialists such as Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG etc., to offer a complete and unique health & wellness solution.
- The curated and affordable health and wellness offering from Axis Bank has partners like IndusHealth Plus, a health check-up company and Practo, an online medical consultation platform.
- Cardholders will be eligible for discount on annual medical check-up via IndushealthPlus. With Practo, the Card will provide upto four free online video consultations per month, with 24\*7 access to doctors across all 21 specialties and not just limited to general physicians.
- List of specialties range from the most common ones like dermatology and cardiology to alternative medicine practices like ayurveda and homeopathy.



- Additionally, this proposition offers up to four free online interactive fitness sessions per month powered by Fitternity (a health and fitness platform).
- Cardholders also get access to 16 recorded training sessions per month and can choose from a wide array of sessions like Yoga, Cross Functional Training programs etc.

**Link:**

<https://www.axisbank.com/about-us/press-releases/axis-bank-launches-aura-a-credit-card-exclusively-loaded-with-affordable-health-and-wellness-solutions>

## Govt. launched KAPILA

**Question: What is KAPILA initiative of Government of India?**

- a) Milk production increase initiative
- b) Fodder development scheme for animals
- c) IP Literacy and patent awareness campaign
- d) None of the above



**Answer: c)**

**Context**

- On 4th February 2021, Union Minister for Education Ministry, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has told Rajya Sabha in a written reply about IP Literacy and patent awareness campaign.

**Facts**

- The Government has launched a campaign namely Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA) for Intellectual Property Literacy and creating patent awareness on 15th October, 2020.

**Objective of KAPILA are as follows:-**

- Creating awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- Enabling of IP protection of inventions originating from faculty and students of HEIs.
- Development of Credit Course on IPR.
- Training program on IPR for faculty and students of HEIs and sensitization and development of vibrant IP filing system.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695149#:~:text=The%20Government%20has%20launched%20a,on%2015th%20October%2C%202020.>

## Agreements/MoU signed on Feb 4 at Aero India 2021 in Bengaluru

**Question: Israeli Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and India's Bharat Dynamics Limited have signed an MoU at aero india 2021 to develop SHADE jointly. What is SHADE?**

- a) SAM missile system b) Anti Submarine Torpedo system  
c) Anti-torpedo defence system d) A electronic warfare system

**Answer: c)**

### Related Facts

- Several agreements/MoUs were signed on February 4 at the three-day Aero India 2021 in Bengaluru that will conclude on February 5.
- Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) are joining hands for the induction of an anti-torpedo defence system called 'SHADE' for the Indian Navy.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) received a Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Indian Air Force for 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft.
- HAL and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) have signed MoU for development and production of composite raw materials that are used in manufacture of aircrafts and are currently being imported.
- Israel's SpearUAV, developers and suppliers of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) solutions, has signed an MoU with Paras Aerospace to introduce encapsulated Ninox 40 system to the Indian market.
- Airbus has signed MoU with GMR group for various aviation sector initiative.



**Reference:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/rafael-bdl-to-jointly-induct-anti-torpedo-defence-system-for-indian-navy/articleshow/80690278.cms>

## YES MSME initiative

**Question : For which purpose Yes Bank has launched Yes Bank initiative on January 2020 ?**

- (a) To enable access to funding (b) To enable access to marketing  
(c) To enable access to different government schemes  
(d) None of the above

**Ans.(a)**

### Related facts

- YES BANK has recently(January 2021) rolled out YES MSME, a proposition with the aim to strengthen the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with speedy and easy access to funds



- YES BANK's digital banking suite includes the YES MSME solution which enables small business owners to view and take complete control of their business finances from a single place, even when they are on the move.
- YES MSME is an industry-first solution which provides a single interface for all multiple banking needs of MSMEs, including cash flow management, credit limits and utilisation, credit document submission, bulk payments etc.
- In addition to the usual banking transactions that MSMEs were able to earlier perform online, the new digital banking solution from YES BANK allows them to interact deeply with multiple banking solutions through a single interface right from accessing and transacting through Current & Savings Accounts at one place, getting a consolidated view of all loan relationships, tracking Bank Guarantees (BGs) and Letters of Credit(LCs), submitting Stock/debtor statements to raising service requests and managing Employees' Salaries.
- YES BANK's novel digital solution is a sophisticated yet simple to use application and takes care of MSMEs' everyday financial operations, with ease.

**Link:**

<https://www.yesbank.in/digital-banking/mobile-solutions/yes-msme-mobile>

## RBI-Digital Payments Index

**Question :** On January 1, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India introduced the RBI-Digital Payment Index (DPI), which of the following facts is not correct regarding RBI-DPI ?

- (a) The RBI-DPI comprises of 5 broad parameters
- (b) The RBI-DPI comprises of 4 broad parameters
- (c) The RBI-DPI comprises of 6 broad parameters
- (d) The RBI-DPI comprises of 7 broad parameters

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- As announced in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies as part of the Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20 dated February 06, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India has constructed a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.
- The RBI-DPI comprises of 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.
- Parameters  
These parameters are – (i) Payment Enablers (weight 25%), (ii) Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%), (iii) Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%), (iv) Payment Performance (45%) and (v) Consumer Centricity (5%).



- Each of these parameters have sub-parameters which, in turn, consist of various measurable indicators. The major sub-parameters under each parameter are available here.
- The RBI-DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period, i.e. DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100.
- The DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 work out to 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth.

**Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50901](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50901)

## List of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

**Question : On which date RBI released 2020 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks ?**

- (a) Jan 19, 2021 (b) Jan 14, 2021  
 (c) Jan 10, 2021 (d) Jan 16, 2021

**Answer (a)**

**Related facts**

- RBI released 2020 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks on Jan 19, 2021.
- SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as in the 2018 list of D-SIBs.
- The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for D-SIBs was phased-in from April 1, 2016 and became fully effective from April 1, 2019. The additional CET1 requirement will be in addition to the capital conservation buffer.

The list of D-SIBs is as follows:

<b>Bucket</b>	<b>Banks</b>	<b>Additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs)</b>
5	–	1%
4	–	0.80%
3	State Bank of India	0.60%

2	–	0.40%
1	ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank	0.20%

#### Background

- The Reserve Bank had issued the Framework for dealing with Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) on July 22, 2014.
- The D-SIB framework requires the Reserve Bank to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs). Based on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement has to be applied to it.
- In case a foreign bank having branch presence in India is a Global Systemically Important Bank (G-SIB), it has to maintain additional CET1 capital surcharge in India as applicable to it as a G-SIB, proportionate to its Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) in India, i.e., additional CET1 buffer prescribed by the home regulator (amount) multiplied by India RWA as per consolidated global Group books divided by total consolidated global Group RWA.
- Based on the methodology provided in the D-SIB framework and data collected from banks as on March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2016, the Reserve Bank had announced State Bank of India and ICICI Bank Ltd. as D-SIBs on August 31, 2015 and August 25, 2016, respectively.
- Based on data collected from banks as on March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2018, the Reserve Bank had announced State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd. and HDFC Bank Ltd. as D-SIBs on September 04, 2017 and March 14, 2019 respectively.
- Current update is based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2020.

#### Link:

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50995](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50995)

### ‘InstaFX’ mobile app

**Question : InstaFX mobile app is related to forex. On which date ICICI Bank launched ‘InstaFX’ mobile app ?**

- (a) January 20, 2021 (b) January 18, 2021  
(c) January 14, 2021 (d) January 19, 2021

#### Answer (a)

#### Related facts

- InstaFX mobile app is related to forex. ICICI Bank launched ‘InstaFX’ mobile app on January 20, 2021.

- It will help customers (forex partners) to obtain ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card swiftly.
- The app allows authorised money changers to complete KYC verification of new customers digitally
- All customers, even if they are not customers of ICICI Bank, can get the Bank's forex card swiftly
- ICICI bank is the first bank in the country to offer such facility

**Link:**

<https://www.icicibank.com/managed-assets/docs/about-us/2021/instafx-mobile-app-for-forex-partners-to-help-customers.pdf>

## GIASH includes four cultivation sites

### Question- Which countries' tea cultivation sites have been included in the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) ?

- (a) China ,Japan, India (b) South Korea ,China, India  
 (c) South Korea ,China, Japan (d) Japan ,India, Lanka

**Answer – (c)**  
**Related facts**



- The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) represent not only stunning natural landscapes but also agricultural practices that create livelihoods in rural areas while combining biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and tradition and innovation in a unique way.
- Four tea cultivation sites have recently been included in the globally important agricultural heritage systems recently released by FAO.

The four tea sites chosen by the FAO are as follows.

1. Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem in China which is also one of the largest production sites of the country. According to FAO, the site is also one of the most ancient sites and origins of tree based tea production.
2. Traditional Tree Grass system in Shizuoka, Japan was listed on the chosen list as tea planters on the site use Chagusaba technique in the production of tea which is considered to be very sustainable by nature.
3. Fuzhou Jasmine tea site in China was the second site from the country chosen by the FAO as one of the GIAHS sites. The tradition of tea plantation at this site goes back to more than 2000 years, according to the FAO website making it one of the most ancient sites of tea production.
4. Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem Korea is another GIAHS site that found the place on the FAO list as the tradition of tea cultivation goes back to at least 1200 years at the site.

**Link:**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/united-nations-fao-names-4-asian-tea-cultivation-sites-as-globally-important-agri-heritage-systems/2160865/>

## FITCH growth projection

**Question :** Which one of the following statement is correct regarding FITCH growth projections released on January 2021 ?

- (a) Fitch puts FY 23-26 growth at 6.5 percent
- (b) Fitch puts FY 23-26 growth at 6.5 percent
- (c) Fitch puts FY 23-26 growth at 6.5 percent
- (d) Fitch puts FY 23-26 growth at 6.5 percent



**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- FITCH growth projections released on January 2021. Fitch Ratings is a leading provider of credit ratings, commentary and research for global capital markets.

### India's growth projections

- After the initial rebound to 11% in FY22, as the economy suffers lasting damage from the pandemic.
- India would face medium-term slowdown.
- Fitch Ratings projected India's medium term growth to slow down to 6.5% from FY23 onward.
- Fitch puts FY 23-26 growth at 6.5 percent.
- This is well below pre-pandemic path even after crisis subsides.
- FY21 growth maintained at -9.4 percent, FY22 at 11 percent.
- It is notable that forecast of a 9.4% contraction in the ongoing fiscal, higher than the -7.7% growth projected by the government in its first advance estimates of GDP.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-medium-term-growth-to-slow-to-around-6-5-after-initial-rebound-fitch/articleshow/80263442.cms?from=mdr>

## Financial Stability Report

**Question-** Which issue of Financial Stability Report has Recently been released by Reserve Bank of India?

- (a) 15<sup>th</sup> (b) 18<sup>th</sup> (c) 20<sup>th</sup> (d) 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Answer – (d)**

**Related facts**

- On January 11, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India released the 22nd issue of the Financial Stability Report.
- Highlights of the issue are given below —
- In the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, policy actions were geared towards restoring normal functioning and mitigating stress; the focus is now being oriented towards supporting the recovery and preserving the solvency of businesses and households.
- Positive news on vaccine development has underpinned optimism on the outlook, though it is marred by second wave of the virus including more virulent strains.
- Policy measures by the regulators and the government have ensured the smooth functioning of domestic markets and financial institutions; managing market volatility amidst rising spillovers has become challenging especially when the movements in certain segments of the financial markets are not in sync with developments in the real sector.
- Bank credit growth has remained subdued, with the moderation being broad-based across bank groups.
- Performance parameters of banks have improved significantly, aided by regulatory dispensations extended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) improved to 15.8 per cent in September 2020 from 14.7 per cent in March 2020, while their gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declined to 7.5 per cent from 8.4 per cent, and the provision coverage ratio (PCR) improved to 72.4 per cent from 66.2 per cent over this period.
- Macro stress tests incorporating the first advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) for 2020-21 released on January 7, 2021 indicate that the GNPA ratio of all SCBs may increase from 7.5 per cent in September 2020 to 13.5 per cent by September 2021 under the baseline scenario; the ratio may escalate to 14.8 per cent under a severe stress scenario. This highlights the need for proactive building up of adequate capital to withstand possible asset quality deterioration.
- Network analysis reveals that total bilateral exposures among entities in the financial system increased marginally during the quarter-ended September 2020. With the inter-bank market continuing to shrink and with better capitalisation of banks, the contagion risk to the banking system under various scenarios declined as compared to March 2020.

**Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50949](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50949)

## Establishment of College of Supervisors

**Question : On January 6, 2021, under whose chairmanship did the Reserve Bank of India set up a ‘College of Supervisors’ as part of measures to further strengthen supervision over regulated entities ?**

- (a) Dr. R. N. Bhargav (b) Dr. Rabi Narayan Mishra  
(c) Arijit Basu (d) None of the above

**Answer – (d)**  
**Related facts**

- On January 6, 2021 RBI set up a 'College of Supervisors'(CoS) as part of measures to further strengthen supervision over regulated entities.
- The CoS was functioning in a limited way in virtual mode since May 2020, it is now being fully operationalised.
- The CoS will have a full-time Director supported by an Academic Advisory Council (AAC).
- The AAC will identify areas where skill building/up-skilling are required, plan and develop curricula of all programmes, benchmark the programmes with international standards/best practices, develop appropriate teaching methods, etc.
- The AAC has now been constituted with the following composition:

1	Shri N.S. Viswanathan, Former Deputy Governor, RBI	Chairperson
2	Shri Arijit Basu, Former MD, SBI	Member
3	Shri Paresh Sukthankar, Former DMD, HDFC Bank	Member
4	Prof. S. Raghunath, IIM Bangalore	Member
5	Prof. Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, IIM, Ahmedabad	Member
6	Prof. Subrata Sarkar, IGIDR, Mumbai	Member

- Dr. Rabi Narayan Mishra, former Executive Director, RBI has been appointed as the Director of CoS.
- The full-fledged operationalisation of the CoS will further contribute to effective oversight of the regulated entities by augmenting and ensuring a consistent quality of supervisory resources pool.

**Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50924](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50924)

## MCA amends the Definition of Small Companies (Budget 2021)

**Question: What is the new capital and turn over limit for small companies?**

- a) Capital of Rs 50 lakh and turnover of Rs 2 crores
- b) Capital of Rs 10 crore and Turnover of Rs 100 crore.
- c) Capital of Rs two crores and turnover of Rs twenty crores
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

### Context

- In her 2021 budget speech Finance Minister has announced changed conditions for Small Companies .
- The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) amended the Companies Rules to revise the definition of a small company and to allow non-resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate one person companies (OPCs) in India.



### Facts

- As per the new definition paid up capital and turnover of the small company shall not exceed rupees two crores and rupees twenty crores respectively.
- The companies act had mentioned a maximum paid up capital of Rs 50 lakh and turnover of Rs 2 crores which was amended in 2018.
- As per 2018 amendment paid up capital and turnover thresholds for small companies were increased respectively up to Rs 10 crore and Rs 100 crore.

### Amendments regarding the OPCs

- The changes, announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her budget speech will come into effect from April 1 2021
- Regarding OPCs amendments has substituted the words “whether resident in India or otherwise” in the clause. The rule earlier had the provision that only an Indian resident can incorporate an OPC.
- The latest notification also reduces the number of days a person has to stay in India so as to qualify as a resident as opposed to the earlier provision of 120 days.

**Reference:** <https://business-journal.in/small-biz/mca-amends-definition-of-small-companies-allows-nris-to-incorporate-one-person-companies-business-journal/>

## Udyog Manthan

**Question: Which ministry is organizing Udyog Manthan from 4th February 2021?**

- a) Ministry of Finance b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
c) Ministry of Defence d) none of the above

**Answer: b)**

### Facts

- Ministry of commerce and industry is organising Udyog Manthan from February 4.
- It is a series of webinars which are being conducted on about 45 sectors including pharma and electronics.
- It is focused on quality and productivity in all major sectors of manufacturing and services.



**Reference:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/udyog-manthan-to-focus-on-quality-productivity-commerce-ministry/articleshow/80663987.cms>

## MITRA scheme ( Budget 2021)

**Question: In her budget speech of 2021 , Finance Minister announced Mitra Scheme.The Scheme is related to which sector?**

- a) Automobile Industry b) Agriculture  
c) Textile Industry d) None of the above

**Ans: c)**

### Context

- Finance minister has proposed Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) for Textile sector in her budget speech of 2021.

### Facts

- The scheme will enable the textile industry to become globally competitive.
- It will also attract large investments, boost employment generation and exports.
- Scheme aims to create world class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable create global champions in exports.
- MITRA will be launched in addition to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme(PLI).



- Government also announced uniform deduction of the BCD rates on caprolactam, nylon chips and nylon fiber and yarn to 5 per cent.

## PLI Scheme

- It is a Central Sector scheme. The scheme was notified in April 2020 for the Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing.
- Initially launched for the domestic manufacturing of Mobile Phones and Specified Electronic Components, in the later phase, it was rolled out for the pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices also.
- This scheme provides 4% to 6% incentive on incremental production to the eligible companies who are manufacturing goods for 5 years period.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1694058#:~:text=The%20Government%20has%20proposed%20a,and%20Corporate%20Affairs%20Minister%20Smt.>

## Unified Web Portal for Monitoring Progress of GOBARDHAN Launched

**Question: Which ministry is implementing agency of GOBARDHAN scheme?**

- a) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- b) Ministry of housing and urban affairs
- c) Ministry of Agriculture and farmer welfare
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a)**

### Context

- On 3rd February 2021 Jal Shakti Ministry launched a unified portal on the 'Gobardhan' scheme.



### Facts

- The Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Animal Husbandry Minister Giriraj Singh have jointly launched a unified web portal for monitoring activities of Gobar-Dhan scheme.

### About GOBARDHAN scheme

- It was launched by Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation which is now known as Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The scheme GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) – DHAN scheme is being implemented as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- Primary objective of the scheme is to manage cattle and biodegradable waste and to help enhance farmers' income.

- The Jal Shakti Ministry is implementing the Swacch Bharat Mission –Gramin and hence GobarDhan is also being implemented by the ministry.

**Reference:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/jal-shakti-ministry-launches-portal-on-gobardhan-scheme/articleshow/80667908.cms>

## Economic Survey 2020-21

**Question :** On 29 January 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2020-21 in Parliament. Consider the following statements related to this —

- (1) As per the advance estimates, India's GDP is estimated to grow by (-) 7.7% in FY21
- (2) Economy will grow in 'W' shape due to Comprehensive Immunization Campaign, rapid improvement in service sector and rapid growth in consumption and investment.
- (3) In FY 2021-22, India's real GDP growth rate will be 11 percent and nominal GDP growth rate will be 15.4 percent.

- (a) Only (1) and (3) (b) Only(2) and (3)  
(c) Only(3) (d) All above

**Ans.(a)**

### Related facts

- On 29 January 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2020-21 in Parliament.



### Highlights

- Highlights of the ES(Economic Survey) is given below —  
As per the advance estimates, India's GDP is estimated to grow by (-) 7.7% in FY21.
- V-shaped recovery, as seen in 7.5% decline in GDP in Q2 and recovery across all key economic indicators vis-à-vis the 23.9% GDP contraction in Q1.
- Global economic output estimated to fall by 3.5% in 2020 (IMF January 2021 estimates)
- India's real GDP to record a 11.0% growth in FY2021-22 and nominal GDP to grow by 15.4% – the highest since independence:
- Rebound to be led by low base and continued normalization in economic activities as the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines gathers traction.
- Exports expected to decline by 5.8% and imports by 11.3% in the second half of FY21
- India expected to have a Current Account Surplus of 2% of GDP in FY21, a historic high after 17 years.
- On supply side, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth pegged at -7.2% in FY21 as against 3.9% in FY20:

Agriculture set to cushion the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Indian economy in FY21 with a growth of 3.4%  
Industry and services estimated to contract by 9.6% and 8.8% respectively during FY21.

- The share of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country at current prices is 17.8% for the year 2019-20 (CSO-Provisional Estimates of National Income, 29th May, 2020)
- Total food grain production in the country in the agriculture year 2019-20 (as per Fourth Advance Estimates), is 11.44 million tonnes more than than during 2018-19
- FDI equity inflows were US\$49.98 billion in FY20 as compared to US\$44.37 billion during FY19:
- It is US\$30.0 billion for FY21 (up to September-2020)
  
- Despite the disruptions being witnessed globally, FDI inflows into India's services sector grew robustly by 34% Y-o-Y during April-September 2020 to reach US\$ 23.6 billion
- India's services sector contracted by nearly 16 % during H1: FY2020-21, during the COVID-19 pandemic mandated lockdown, owing to its contact-intensive nature
- The services sector accounts for over 54 % of India's GVA and nearly four-fifths of total FDI inflow into India
- The sector's share in GVA exceeds 50% in 15 out of 33 States and UTs, and is particularly more pronounced (greater than 85%) in Delhi and Chandigarh
- Services sector accounts for 48% of total exports, outperforming goods exports in the recent years
- India's GNI per capita (2017 PPP \$) has increased from US\$ 6,427 in 2018 to US\$ 6,681 in 2019
- Life expectancy at birth improved from 69.4 years in 2018 to 69.7 years in 2019
- Gross Capital Formation (GCF) relative to GVA showing a fluctuating trend from 17.7 % in 2013-14 to 16.4 % in 2018-19, with a dip to 14.7 % in 2015-16

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693231>

## Protection of oceans to support the Blue Economy

**Question :** An International effort has recently(January 2020) been done to the aim of protect oceans, support the Blue Economy ? Which of the following party/parties involved in this effort ?

- (a)ADB & European Investment Bank
- (b)World Bank (c)IMF & International Maritime Organization
- (d)None of the above

**Answer (a)**

**Related facts**

- An International effort has recently(January 2021) been done to the aim of protect oceans, support the Blue Economy.
- ADB & EIB(European Investment Bank) involved in this effort.

## Formation

- For this purpose both parties formed a new Clean and Sustainable Ocean Partnership to support initiatives in Asia and the Pacific to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.
- The partnership will strengthen the capacity of ADB and EIB to support high-impact projects.
- Both institutions will finance activities aimed at promoting cleaner oceans through the reduction of land-based plastics and other pollutants discharged into the ocean, as well as projects to improve the sustainability of socioeconomic activities that take place in oceans or use ocean-based resources.
- The partnership will support projects that reduce marine plastic pollution including integrated solid waste management projects, such as recycling; circular economy principles, such as designing out plastic waste; and promoting clean rivers and waterways, including through improved wastewater management and inclusive sanitation.
- This partnership between ADB and EIB will launch a framework for cooperation on clean and sustainable oceans, helping us to expand our pipeline of ocean projects in the region and widen their impacts.



## Significance of oceans in the world economy

- Oceans play a vital role in the world economy and they are also the largest carbon sink on the planet, helping to regulate the global climate. But oceans are under enormous pressure, with implications for billions of people.
- The partnership will also focus on sustainable fisheries management and sustainable seafood supply chains; sustainable management, protection, and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources; integrated coastal protection activities; disaster risk preparedness; and green shipping, green ports, and maritime infrastructure, with a focus on increasing safety and environmental performance.

### Link:

<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-eib-join-forces-protect-oceans-support-blue-economy>

## Defense/Science Short Notes

### Tejas Mark II

**Question: Recently Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) Chairman R Madhavan announced that the more advanced version of India's Light Combat Aircraft Tejas will be launched in 2022. What will be the name of this new version?**

- a) Tejas B-2 b) Tejas Mark II  
c) Tejas-Mk II d) Tejas- Mark-IA

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Recently Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) Chairman R Madhavan announced that the Tejas Mark II, the more advanced version of India's Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, will be launched in 2022.



- In a statement Mr Madhavan declared that HAL is going to prepare more potent version of the indigenous Tejas multirole combat jet named as Tejas Mark II.
- This new version will be featuring a much powerful engine, greater load carrying capability, next-generation electronic warfare system.
- He said that Tejas Mark II will have an array of superior avionics is expected to be rolled out next year and its first high-speed trials will start in 2023.
- He said the structural package and other work on the Tejas Mark II is progressing well and its production is likely to start somewhere around 2025.
- The upgraded version of Tejas will have a bigger fuselage, longer range, better maintainability.
- Tejas mark II will also have greater load carrying capability, much stronger engine power and superior net-centric warfare systems.
- Madhavan said the new variant will, with increase in range and payload capability, be much superior to Tejas Mark-IA.
- It should known that big number of Tejas Mark-IA are already being procured by the Indian Air Force from the HAL under a Rs 48,000 crore deal that was approved by the government on January 13.
- Tejas Mark II is likely to roll out by August-September of 2022 after that the first flight will take some time.
- Madhavan told PTI that the first high-speed trial of the jet will start in 2023 and we expect the production to start somewhere around 2025.
- Madhavan said that the weapon package for Tejas Mark II will be decided at a later stage depending on requirement and changing dynamics.

- Tejas is a single engine and highly agile multi-role supersonic fighter manufactured by the state-run HAL.
- The aircraft is a potent platform for air combat and offensive air support with reconnaissance and anti-ship operations as its secondary roles.
- The Tejas Mk-1A will be equipped with active electronically scanned array radar, beyond visual range missile, electronic warfare suite and air-to-air refueling system.
- Mr Madhavan also informed on this occasion that India is working on the fifth-generation medium weight deep penetration fighter jet and the project is estimated to cost around USD 5 billion.
- The prototype of this fifth-generation fighter aircraft is likely to be ready by 2026 and its production could start by 2030.
- He added that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was working on the timelines for the project.
- It is still in the initial design stage. We are trying to get into a SPV route where HAL and DRDO will be partners and we will try to bring in some private players, at least two.
- We want them (private players) to have a slight majority (stakes) so that it does not become a government entity,” he said.
- Madhavan said that Tejas Mark 1A jet has superior performance levels compared to China’s JF-17 combat aircraft.
- Tejas Mark 1A has better engine, radar system, and electronic warfare suit besides having edge on the overall technology.

#### Links:-

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tejas-mark-ii-to-roll-out-next-year-high-speed-trials-in-2023-hal-chief-madhavan-121013100319\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tejas-mark-ii-to-roll-out-next-year-high-speed-trials-in-2023-hal-chief-madhavan-121013100319_1.html)

### UAE First-ever Mission reached orbit around Mars

**Question: On which of the following date, United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) first-ever spacecraft, Hope has successfully reached orbit around Mars?**

- a) 08 February 2021 b) 10 February 2021  
c) 09 February 2021 d) 10 February 2021

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 09 February 2021; United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) first-ever spacecraft, Hope has successfully reached orbit around Mars.
- UAE’s spacecraft Hope was launched in July 19, 2020, atop a Japanese H-IIA rocket.
- It took seven months trekking to the Red Planet and on Feb 09, 2021 Hope ultimately reached in the orbit mars orbit.
- Hope spacecraft needed half an hour straight to fire its thrusters to slow down (from 121,000 kph to 18,000 kph) and to slip into orbit around the Red Planet.



- With the successful Mars orbit insertion, the UAE becomes the fifth entity to reach the Red Planet, joining NASA, the Soviet Union, the European Space Agency and India.
- Mission personnel plan to relocate the spacecraft to its science orbit in May.
- That science orbit will see the spacecraft circling high over the planet's equator every 55 hours.
- It will be a new orbit for a Mars spacecraft that will give Hope a unique opportunity to study large-scale atmospheric phenomena on Mars.
- The Hope mission is scheduled to last for a full Martian year (687 Earth days).

**Links:-**

<https://www.space.com/uae-hope-mars-mission-orbit-insertion-success>

## Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen-1 Reached Mars Orbit

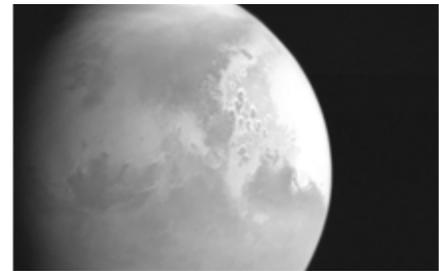
**Question: On which date Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen-1 Reached Mars Orbit?**

- a) 18 February 2021 b) 10 February 2021  
c) 09 February 2021 d) 10 February 2021

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 10 February 2021; an uncrewed Chinese spacecraft Tianwen-1 successfully entered orbit around the planet Mars.
- According to China's space agency after the journey of 6-1/2-month which begin from the Earth.
- Tianwen-1 is the China's first independent mission to the red planet.
- China National Space Administration informed that the robotic probe initiated and completed a 15-minute burn of its thrusters.
- 15-minute burning of thrusters opposite to the direction of motion of spacecraft slowed down it to a speed at which it could be captured by the pull of Mars' gravity.
- The orbiter will now orbit the mars for the coming months.
- In about next three months, the Tianwen-1 will attempt to send a landing capsule to the surface of mars.
- The capsule will carry with itself a 240-kilogram rover in a rapid seven-minute descent onto a massive plain in the northern hemisphere of Mars known as Utopia Planitia.
- If the landing is successful, the solar-powered rover will explore the Martian surface for 90 days.
- It will study its soil to seek the signs of ancient life, including any sub-surface water and ice using a ground-penetrating radar.



**Links:-**

<https://www.space.com/china-first-mars-mission-tianwen-1-enters-orbit>

## Discovery of a new and probably smallest species of Chameleon

**Question: from which of the following place scientists have recently discovered the tiny (probably smallest in the World) and new species of Chameleon?**

- a) Madagascar b) Sri Lanka  
c) Fiji d) Myanmar

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Scientists have discovered a tiny new species of chameleon in a patch of rainforest in northern Madagascar.
- This so-called nano-chameleon, officially known as *Brookesia nana*, or *B. nana* for short.
- The new species is so tiny it's thought to survive on a diet of mites and springtails, which it hunts down in leaf litter.
- The male *Brookesia nana*, or nano-chameleon, has a body of just 13.5mm, this makes it the smallest of about 11,500 known species of reptiles.
- According to the Bavarian State collection of Zoology in Munich
- Its length from top to tail is 22mm (0.86in).
- Andolalao Rakotoarison, a Malagasy herpetologist is the coauthor of this new study published in the journal *Nature*.
- It also highlights the astonishing—and highly threatened—biodiversity of Madagascar.
- Scientists suspect the chameleon will soon be listed as critically endangered.
- Like other chameleons, this tiny reptile possesses a projectile tongue which it uses to nab prey.
- The creatures have found a successful niche in their native habitat, hunting by day on the rainforest floor and retreating to the safety of grass blades at night.



**Links:-**

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/tiny-chameleon-smallest-reptile-discovered-madagascar>

## INS Karanj

**Question: Recently Indian Navy got its third Scorpene Submarine, INS Karanj. Which of the following shipbuilder company has constructed this submarine?**

- a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) b) Hindustan Shipyard Limited  
c) Cochin Shipyard Limited d) Naval Dockyard (Mumbai)

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 15 February the Indian Navy got its third Scorpene Submarine, which will be commissioned as INS Karanj.

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) delivered this Submarine to Indian Navy at Mumbai.
- MDL has constructed this submarine, which has been designed by the French company, in Mumbai under Project P-75.
- With the delivery of Karanj, India further cemented its position as a submarine building nation.
- It should be known that MDL has delivered three Scorpene submarines named Khanderi, Kalvari and now Karanj.
- It is the matter of pride for our country that MDL is one of the India's leading shipyards with the capacity and the capability to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Indian Navy.



#### Links:-

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/indian-navy-gets-third-scorpene-submarine-to-be-commissioned-as-ins-karanj-121021501077\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/indian-navy-gets-third-scorpene-submarine-to-be-commissioned-as-ins-karanj-121021501077_1.html)

### Science city to be set up in Dehradun

**Question: What will be the expenditure amount, according to the memorandum of understanding (MoU) which was signed recently between Central government and Uttarakhand government for setting up science city in Dehradun?**

- a) Rs 383 crore b) Rs 253 crore  
c) Rs 173 crore d) Rs 143 crore

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 05 February 2021; Central government and Uttarakhand government have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up of ₹173 crore science city in Dehradun.
- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat was present on this occasion.
- The MoU was signed between Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST) and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM).
- It should be known that National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) is an autonomous organisation under the Indian Ministry of Culture.
- The MoU was signed by Samarendra Kumar, director NCSM and managing director UCOST Rajendra Dobhal.
- The project will take four years to complete and the Centre will provide ₹88 crore while the state government will contribute ₹85 crore for the ambitious project.
- Rawat said special efforts are required to make the science city project a centre of attraction for all.



- Mr. Rawat said the project will prove to be an important step in pushing the scientific legacy of India.
- He said, efforts are being made to ensure that people see the uniqueness of Uttarakhand through such projects.
- He informed that the selection of land for the project will be made keeping in mind the ease for visitors and students.

**Links:-**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/dehradun-news>

## ISRO to provide indigenous mapping solution for India

**Question: recently with which of the following geospatial services provider ISRO has made an agreement to provide indigenous mapping solution for India?**

- a) Argis Solutions b) Google  
c) GIS Cloud d) MapmyIndia



**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- On 12 February 2021; an agreement has taken place between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and MapmyIndia, to offer an indigenous mapping solution for the country.
- ISRO MapmyIndia and the MapmyIndia (navigation solutions provider) came forward to take on Google Maps.
- Rohan Verma (MapmyIndia CEO and Executive Director), said that both the organisations would come with an India made mapping portal and geospatial services.
- He went on to add that the collaboration will boost Aatmanirbhar Bharat, which will mean that users in India in future can rely on a country made solution and not a service designed outside India.
- Mr Verma said that now there will be no need to depend on Goo\*le Maps/Earth any longer.
- On 12 February 2021; the Department of Space (DoS), under which ISRO comes, signed a MoU with CE Info Systems Pvt Ltd.
- CE Info Systems Pvt Ltd is a geospatial technology company which is owned by MapmyIndia.
- As part of the deal, ISRO and MapmyIndia would develop solutions by leveraging their geoportals and work on enhancing geospatial expertise.
- According to ISRO, the collaboration will enable them to jointly identify and build holistic geospatial solutions.
- For this purpose they will now be utilizing the earth observation datasets, NavIC, Web Services and APIs (application programming interface) available in MapmyIndia, Bhuvan, VEDAS and MOSDAC geoportals.

- The space agency confirmed that R Umamaheswaran, Scientific Secretary, ISRO, signed the MoU on behalf of DOS and Rakesh Verma, CMD, CE Info Systems Pvt Ltd signed from the company side.
- Through the combined partnership with ISRO, MapmyIndia end-user maps, apps and services will now integrate with ISRO's huge catalogue of satellite imagery.
- Through this joint effort, it would be a much better, more detailed and comprehensive, as well as privacy-centric, hyper-local and indigenous mapping solution for Indians, compared to foreign map apps and solutions.
- Users will be able to see in MapmyIndia's maps and services, all of India from a bird's eye point of view.
- Country's people will also benefit hugely from the various map-based analytics and insights about the weather, pollution, agricultural output, land-use changes, flood and landslide disasters etc.
- MapmyIndia maps and APIs will enrich ISRO's geoportals, empowering Indian scientists, academia, researchers and government organisations with the best of India's satellite imagery.
- It will provide them earth observation data and digital map data and advanced geospatial technologies.
- These all will be combined together in a fully indigenous Aatmanirbhar ISRO-MapmyIndia platform.

#### Links:-

<https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/isro-and-mapmyindia-collaborate-to-bring-india-made-rival-to-google-maps-1768677-2021-02-12>

### Square Kilometre Array, world's largest radio telescope

**Question: Square Kilometre Array, the world's largest radio telescope is being setup in which of the following pair of countries?**

- a) India- Australia b) Japan- India  
c) South Africa- Australia d) USA- UK

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**



- On 04 February 2021, SKAO Council in its maiden meeting has approved the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope.
- It should be known that the SKAO stands for the Square Kilometre Array Observatory.
- The Square Kilometer Array is an intergovernmental radio telescope project that is being built in Australia and South Africa.
- SKAO also represents a new intergovernmental organisation dedicated to radio astronomy and is headquartered in the UK.
- At the moment, organisations from ten countries are a part of the SKAO.
- These include Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK.

- Unlike optical telescopes, radio telescopes can detect invisible gas and, therefore, they can reveal areas of space that may be obscured by cosmic dust.
- It is to be noted that, the first radio signals from outer space were significantly, detected by physicist Karl Jansky in the 1930s.
- Since then Astronomers have used radio telescopes to detect radio waves emitted by different objects in the universe and explore it.
- According to NASA, the field of radio astronomy evolved after World War II and became one of the most important tools for making astronomical observations since.
- The Arecibo telescope in Puerto Rico, which was the second-largest single-dish radio telescope in the world, collapsed in December 2020.
- The Arecibo telescope was built in 1963 and because of its powerful radar; scientists employed it to observe planets, asteroids and the ionosphere.
- Scientists made several discoveries with Arecibo telescope over the decades, including finding prebiotic molecules in distant galaxies, the first exoplanets, and the first-millisecond pulsar.
- **About the SKA telescope:-**
- The Square Kilometer Array telescope proposed to be the largest radio telescope in the world.
- It will be located in Africa and Australia, and whose operation, maintenance and construction will be overseen by SKAO.
- The completion is expected to take nearly a decade at a cost of over £1.8 billion.
- The important information to be revealed using SKAO:-
- Some of the included questions that scientists hope to address using this telescope are-
  - How the universe began to form?
  - When and how the first stars were born?
  - The life-cycle of a galaxy.
  - Exploring the possibility of detecting technologically-active civilisations elsewhere in our galaxy.
  - Understanding where gravitational waves come from.

#### Links:-

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-square-kilometre-array-the-worlds-largest-radio-telescope-7174881/>

### Investor corner under Project Development Cell on MoPNG's revamped Website launched

**Question: Who, recently has launched the Investor corner under Project Development Cell on Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)'s revamped Website?**

- a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- b) Dharmendra Pradhan
- c) Prakash Jawdekar
- d) Rajnath Singh

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 09 February 2021 Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Investment Corner under project Development Cell (PDC).
- This Investment Corner has been launched on the revamped website of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- The Ministry has taken this initiative, to dedicate a section showcasing investible sectors and opportunities and an Investors' Corner.
- It will be shown prominently on the MoPNG's revamped webpage, as a means to channelize investors' interest to MOPNG PDC Team.
- On registering with the PDC, the investor can indicate her/his plans to invest in sector of preference in case of new investor; and seek facilitation in case of any issue/ challenge that may need resolution.
- This will enable the investor community to reach out to the Ministry.
- The Investor corner will enable the Ministry to effectively implement Union Cabinet's decision to set up Project Development Cells (PDC) in GoI Ministries/Departments.
- It will also help in enhancing the investment friendly ecosystem that supports and handholds investors for the grounding of investible projects.
- It will also provide support in coordination of issues with stakeholder agencies of Government of India and State Governments.



**Links:-**

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1696624>

## Joint Advanced Technology program centre of excellence (JTAP-CoE)

**Question: With which of the following institution the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently signed a MoU to establish Joint Advanced Technology program centre of excellence (JTAP-CoE)?**

- a) IISc b) CSIR  
c) NCERT d) Indian Military Academy



**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 8 February 2021; The DRDO and Institute of Science (IISc) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a centre of excellence to promote advanced research.
- According to the Defence Ministry this programme will be known as Joint Advanced Technology program centre of excellence (JTAP-CoE).
- The JTAP-Centre for Excellence would be located on the IISc premises at Bengaluru.

- This centre would expand the scope and objective of existing joint advanced technology program (JTAP) between the two institutions.
- The JATP-CoE will enable directed basic and applied research and engage with premier research institutes.
- It will do so, through the multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration.
- As per the MoU, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will support JATP in equipping it with advanced and unique research facilities.
- **The DRDO scientists and engineers will work with the academic research faculty and scholars in advanced areas as follows-**
  - Aerospace systems and materials,
  - High temperature materials,
  - Artificial intelligence and robotics.
  - Quantum technologies etc.

**Links:-**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/drdo-signs-mou-with-iisc-to-establish-centre-for-excellence-for-advanced-research/2025986>

## Bellatrix Aerospace to Develop a Space Taxi

**Question: Bellatrix Aerospace Company is based in which of the following country?**

- a) Belgium b) Sweden  
c) India d) Netherlands

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- Bellatrix Aerospace an Indian startup company based in Bengaluru is going to develop a space taxi.
- The space taxi is an orbital transfer vehicle (OTV) that will transport small satellites into multiple orbits.
- It is being considered as a pioneering break from convention.
- The OTV will be launched in 2023 on the upper stage of the Vikram rocket.
- It should be known that the Vikram Rocket is being developed by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace.
- The vehicle is expected to reduce the cost of access to space for communication and earth observation satellites.
- To get to space, small satellites are often tagged onto a bigger one.
- When the orbit of a small satellite is different from the larger satellite, they have to burn fuel to reach the intended orbit.
- An OTV can solve this problem because it is capable of working with multiple orbits.
- Bellatrix co-founder Yashas Karanam informed that the OTV is like a bigger satellite taking smaller ones to different orbits.



- Generally very small satellites normally go where the primary payload goes sometimes they don't get suitable orbit slots.
- The OTV will help place the satellite in a precise orbit while sharing a ride with other payloads.
- Bellatrix Aerospace CEO Rohan Muralidhar said that the increasing demand for timely satellite constellation deployment in different orbits needs proper technologies.
- Therefore rideshare missions has not only made OTVs attractive but also necessary.
- With its lab in the Indian Institute of Science, Bellatrix had signed a MoU with Dhruva Space to work on joint space missions.
- Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone had invested in Bellatrix through KA Enterprises.

**Links:-**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/startups/bellatrix-aerospace-is-building-a-space-taxi-for-satellites/articleshow/80740925.cms>

### NASA's SPHEREx Mission

**Question: NASA frecently announced to launch a SPHEREx Mission. Study of which of the following will be undertaken through this mission?**

- a) Mars b) Jupiter  
c) Galaxies and formation of Universe d) Comets

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has recently announced its new proposed mission SPHEREx.
- NASA for this purpose has made the selection of Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) to provide launch services.
- SPHEREx is short for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer (SPHEREx) spacecraft.
- SPHEREx is a planned two-year astrophysics mission to survey the sky in the near-infrared light, which, though not visible to the human eye.
- NASA through this mission aims to perform an all-sky survey to measure the near-infrared spectra of more than 300 million galaxies across the universe.
- This mission will also be used to study 100 million stars inside our own Milky Way galaxy.
- The small astrophysics spacecraft, SPHEREx, weighs 329-lb. (178 kilograms).
- It will be launched to space aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, in June 2024, from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.
- Scientists are expecting that the SPHEREx mission will serve as a powerful tool for answering cosmic questions involving the birth of the universe.



- Researchers are hopeful that this astrophysics mission will certainly provide us the understanding about subsequent development of galaxies
- The mission will also include search for essentials for the existence of life, i.e. water and organic molecules in regions where stars are born from gas and dust.
- It should be known that the birth of the new stars take place in stellar nurseries along with disks around stars where new planets could be forming.

**Links:-**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/nasa-picks-elon-musks-spacex-for-mission-to-study-history-of-the-universe/article33757734.ece>

## Indian Space research Organisation (ISRO) to launch the Satellite Amazonia-1.

**Question: Which of the following country is going to launch its satellite Amazonia-1 by taking the services of ISRO's PSLV-C51 rocket?**

- a) Sri Lanka b) Columbia  
c) Uruguay d) Brazil

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:-**



- On 28 February 2021; Indian Space research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch Brazil's satellite Amazonia-1.
- This foreign satellite will be launched through the ISRO's PSLV-C51 launch vehicle, which will also carry 20 Co-passenger satellites.
- The launch will take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.
- If all gone as per schedule, then the projection of PSLV-C51, will be the 53rd mission of PSLV.
- PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 is the first dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under Department of Space.
- NSIL is undertaking this mission under a commercial arrangement with Spaceflight Inc. USA.
- **Brazil's Amazonia-1 Satellite:-**
- Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE), Brazil.
- This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.
- **20 co-passenger satellites:-**
- The 20 co-passenger satellites include one from ISRO (INS-2TD), four from IN-SPACe (three UNITYsats from consortium of three Indian academic institutes and One Satish Dhawan Sat from Space Kidz India) and 15 from NSIL.

- Space kidz India is an organization dedicated, in designing innovative concepts for students in the field of education.
- It is an organisation creating Young scientists for the Country and spreading awareness among children for a borderless world.

#### Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/brazilian-indian-start-up-satellite-in-isros-first-mission-in-2021-on-feb-28/article33758821.ece> [https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c51-scheduled-to-launch-amazonia-1-and-20-co-passenger-satellites-february-28-2021#:~:text=Search-PSLV%2DC51%20is%20scheduled%20to%20launch%20Amazonia%2D1%20and%2020,\(SDSC\)%20SHAR%2C%20Sriharikota.](https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c51-scheduled-to-launch-amazonia-1-and-20-co-passenger-satellites-february-28-2021#:~:text=Search-PSLV%2DC51%20is%20scheduled%20to%20launch%20Amazonia%2D1%20and%2020,(SDSC)%20SHAR%2C%20Sriharikota.)

### Paras Aerospace partnered with SpearUAV to introduce Ninox 40 drone system

**Question: In which of the following country a drone making company SpearUAV, is located?**

- a) USA b) Japan  
c) France d) Israel

**Answer: (d)**

#### Related Facts:-



- Paras Aerospace has planned to introduce ninox 40 micro tactical UAV system into Indian market.
- In this regard Paras Aerospace Solutions of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the SpearUAV.
- SpearUAV is the Israel-based developers and suppliers of unique Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) solutions for defence and Homeland Security (HLS) applications.
- Paras Aerospace, a subsidiary of Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited based in Nerul, Navi Mumbai.
- The Indian company with the collaboration of Israel's SpearUAV going to introduce the unique encapsulated Ninox 40 system.
- It is being manufactured for the Indian market and to be used by military forces, paramilitary, internal security, and law enforcement agencies.
- Ninox 40 is a micro-tactical, cost-effective drone system, featuring an encapsulated drone and control unit.
- The defence sector in India faces challenges in surveillance of multiple international border area.
- It will also be used in dealing with extreme natural forces, such as monsoon storms, cyclones and earthquakes.
- These challenges apply to the Special Forces, army, navy, various internal security divisions, and national disaster response teams.

- This new UAV will address the needs of these forces, in order to give every person, officer and first responder an immediate ISTAR capability to complete their mission and save lives.
- Specifically designed for single-user operation, the Ninox 40 is a micro-tactical, cost-effective drone system.
- It is featuring an encapsulated drone and control unit and weighing under 250g.
- It is lightweight enough to be incorporated into the soldier's vest during combat.
- The Ninox 40 has a flight capacity of up to 40 minutes, extensive ISTAR capabilities.
- It is equipped with day and night camera for enhanced situational awareness and automatic tracking.
- It can be launched on the move even in harsh environmental conditions.
- Pankaj Akula, the CEO of Paras Aerospace, said that the Paras is a recognised and a well-known defence technology provider.
- He said that our company is catering to the Indian government organisations such as DRDO and Defence PSUs.
- He further said that Paras is also catering to the private sector across India and to companies from other Asian and Middle Eastern countries.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/spearuav-paras-aerospace-ink-pact-to-unveil-ninox-40-system-in-india/article33751021.ece>

## ISRO has entered into a Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Skyroot Aerospace

**Question: At which of the following place a private aerospace company Skyroot Aerospace is located?**

- a) California b) New York  
c) Bengaluru d) Hyderabad



**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:-**

- February 02, 2021 Department of Space of ISRO has entered into a Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with a startup company Skyroot Aerospace Pvt. Ltd.
- Skyroot Aerospace is a private company in Hyderabad building small satellite launch vehicles.
- The NDA will enable the company for accessing the facilities and technical expertise available in ISRO centers to proceed with their launch vehicle development program.
- Dr K Sivan, Secretary, DOS/ Chairman, ISRO assured all support to M/s Skyroot representatives for testing and qualifying their launch vehicle.
- Shri R Umamaheswaran, Scientific Secretary, ISRO, signed the agreement on behalf of DOS.

- On the other hand Mr Pawan Chandana, CEO, M/s Skyroot Aerospace signed the agreement from the company side.
- The NDA was signed in the presence of Shri S Somanath, Director, VSSC and other senior officials of ISRO/DOS.

**Links:-**

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/02-feb-2021/non-disclosure-agreement-signed-with-m-s-skyroot>

## NASA has captured the image of Lost Galaxy

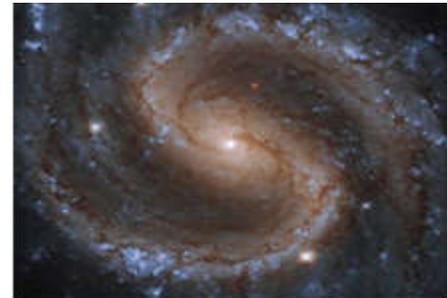
**Question: American space agency NASA has released the image of the Lost Galaxy. In which of the following constellation this galaxy is located?**

- a) Virgo b) Libra  
c) Aries d) Leo

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Recently America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has released the image of a galaxy popularly known as the Lost Galaxy.
- The image of this galaxy has been captured by NASA using The Hubble Space Telescope.
- Hubble obtained the stunning image of Lost Galaxy when it was focused in the direction of the Virgo constellation.
- The Lost Galaxy which is also known as NGC 4535 is the galaxy is one of the largest of the 2000 or so galaxies in the Virgo cluster.
- It is located about 50 million light-years from the Earth.
- This galaxy was studied as part of the Physics at High Angular resolution in Nearby Galaxies (PHANGS) survey
- PHANGS survey aims to clarify many of the links between cold gas clouds, star formation, and the overall shape and other properties of galaxies.
- NASA as a part of this survey, studying 38 such spiral galaxies, which are located within 75 million light-years of Earth.
- As per NASA, in the present times, The Lost Galaxy is not that difficult to find, specifically for the floating observatories like Hubble.
- The long and elegant arms of the galaxy make it a prime candidate for studying the structure of the spiral galaxies.
- **Discovery:-**
- In the 1950s, an amateur astronomer Leland S. Copeland first discovered this galaxy.
- **Shape and constituent Stars:-**
- The bright colors in this image aren't just beautiful to look at, as they actually tell us about the population of stars within this barred spiral galaxy.
- The bright blue-ish colors, seen nestled amongst NGC 4535's long, spiral arms, indicate the presence of a greater number of younger and hotter stars.



- The central area of this galaxy is populated with the stars which are older and cooler and this is indicated by yellower tones of this galaxy's bulge.
- In the terms of shape, the Lost Galaxy of Copeland not so different from our own Milky Way.
- Images captured by Hubble Telescope show the haze that clouded the lost galaxy of, vanishes to reveal a stunning vibrant sea of stars that is.
- Like our own Milky Way, the Lost Galaxy is a barred spiral galaxy. It is a vast swirl of stars with a distinct bar structure at its centre.
- Scientists in NASA have told that the colors of the stars present in the galaxy (NGC 4535) can present valuable information about the galaxy's history.

**Links:-**

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/goddard/2021/hubble-takes-portrait-of-the-lost-galaxy>

## Ladakh to be Developed on the line of Science and Technology

**Question: Which of the following organisation has signed a MoU with Ladakh (UT) to speed up Science & Technology oriented development in that region?**

- a) CSIR b) IISc  
c) DRDO d) IIT Delhi

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**



- On 29 January, 2021 Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed a MoU with Ladakh (UT) to speed up Science & Technology oriented development.
- It should be known that Ladakh is a recently formed Union territory, which came into being after the abrogation of article 370 of the Indian Constitution on August 05, 2019.
- CSIR has signed an agreement with the Ladakh Administration to accelerate the development by science and technology interventions through local bio-resource utilisation, introduction of cash crops in the region and exploration of natural resources.
- The focus of the collaboration would be on commercialization of endemic and other high-value medicinal, aromatic and nutraceutical plants.
- It will also include specific crops, bio-prospection of endemic microbial and plants diversity.
- Other areas of interest include geophysical mapping, eco-friendly leather processing as well as micro-biological and bio-technological research.
- Under this new agreement different CSIR institutes would initiate research and development, extension and societal projects based on their core competencies.
- In the first phase, extensive knowledge and technological support would be provided through the following six CSIR establishments-

- I. Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM),
- II. Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology,
- III. National Botanical Research Institute,
- IV. National Geophysical Research Institute,
- V. Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute
- VI. Central Leather Research Institute

- The Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine would be the nodal institution.
- Most importantly the CSIR has already made significant contributions to the region by setting up the Centre of Excellence for High Altitude Natural Sciences.
- CSIR also has played its valuable role in the establishment of experimental and demonstration farms of different medicinal, aromatic and nutraceutical plants and crops of Ladakh.

**Links:-**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1693148>

## Sports

### Cricket

#### Rishabh Pant won ICC Men's Player of the Month award

**Question: Which Indian cricketer has won the inaugural ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his outstanding performance in January 2021?**

- (a) Steve Smith
- (b) Rishabh Pant
- (c) Joe Root
- (d) Shubhman Gill



**Answer :(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 8 February 2021, International Cricket Council has announced the inaugural Player of the Month Award.
- The award recognizes and celebrates the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.
- Introduction of award was announced in January 2021.

**Awardee:**

- Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has won the inaugural ICC Men's Player of the Month award.

- He played two match-defining innings against Australia, scoring 97 in Sydney to ensure a draw before his unbeaten 89\* in Brisbane led India to a famous series(Border-Gavaskar Trophy, 2020/21) win.

**Links:**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/2020104>

## Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy

**Question: Which cricket team has won the 2020-21 Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Baroda  
(c) Rajasthan (d) Punjab

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- In cricket, Tamil Nadu beat Baroda in the final by 7 wickets to win the 2020-21 Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy for the first time in 13 years.
- This was the second title win for Tamil Nadu. Earlier in 2006-07, Tamil Nadu won their first title.
- Baroda had also won the title twice in 2011-12 and 2013-14.
- Manimaran Siddharth of Tamil Nadu has been named Player of the Match in the final.



**Links:**

<https://www.bcci.tv/articles/2021/news/148663/dominant-tamil-nadu-beat-baroda-by-7-wickets-to-lift-syed-mushtaq-ali-trophy>

## Sports Miscellaneous

### First Asian Online Shooting Championship

**Question: Which country contingent has topped the medals tally in the first Asian Online Shooting Championship?**

- (a) India (b) Vietnam  
(c) Indonesia (d) Japan

**Answer: (a)**

- The Indian shooting contingent has topped the medals tally in the first-ever Asian Online Shooting Championship.
- The championship was organised by Kuwait Shooting Federation on 29th and 30th January 2021.



- The 24-member Indian shooting contingent won total 11 medals, which included four gold medals, two silver and five bronze medals.
- The Championship witnessed 274 shooters from 22 Asian countries.

### Medal winners:

#### Gold

- Saurabh Chaudhary – men’s 10m air pistol
- Divyansh Singh Panwar- men’s 10m air rifle
- Kynan Chenai – men’s trap
- Rajeshwari Kumari – women’s trap

#### Silver

- Arjun Babuta – men’s 10m air rifle
- Shreyasi Singh – women’s trap

#### Bronze

- Manu Bhaker – women’s 10m air pistol
- Sarabjot Singh – men’s 10m air pistol
- Deepak Kumar – men’s 10m air rifle
- Prithviraj Tondaiman – men’s trap
- Manish Keer – women’s trap

### Links:

<http://asia-shooting.org/>

## Short Notes

### Personalities

#### Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes

**Question: Who assumed charge of the Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes on February 24,2021?**

- (a) Vijay Sampla (b) Arun Halder  
(c) Subhash Ramnath Pardhi  
(d) Thalloju Achary

**Answer: (a)**

#### Related facts:

- On 24 February 2021, Vijay Sampla assumed the charge of Chairman of sixth National Commission for Scheduled Castes(NCSC).



- He has been the former Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment from 2014-19.
- Arun Halder is the Vice-Chairman and Subhash Ramnath Pardhi is a Member of 6th NCSC.
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) is established under the Article 338(1) of Indian constitution to safeguard the interests of the scheduled castes in India.
- The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members appointed by the President.
- The first National Commission for Scheduled Castes was formed in 2004 under the chairmanship of Suraj Bhan.
- Dr Ram Shankar Katheria was the Chairperson of fifth NCSC.

**Links:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700445>

**Preeti Sinha**

**Question: Which of the following UN agency has recently appointed Preti Sinha as its executive secretary?**

- a) IFAD b) ITU  
c) UNCDF d) FAO

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**



- The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has appointed Preti Sinha as its executive secretary.
- She is an investment and development banker of Indian origin.
- She has been entrusted by the agency with a duty to focus on providing microfinance assistance for women and youth in underserved communities.
- UNCDF in the present times is focusing such assistance for the people of underserved communities, involved in small and medium-sized enterprises.
- The executive secretary is the highest level of leadership of UNCDF.
- Ms. Preeti will oversee the organization’s efforts to provide scalable impact in the international financial environment.
- She will put special emphasis on supporting the sustainable development of youth, women, small and medium enterprises and small farmers.
- After being appointed, she emphasized that her goal is to obtain a “C” in UNCDF (capital).
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF):-
- UNCDF was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 to promote economic development throughout the world.
- Its headquarters are in New York.

- The organization helps provide microfinance to least developed countries (LDCs).
- It also has the task of unlocking the full potential of public and private funds.
- The organization provides public and private financing services to the poor in 47 least developed countries (LDCs) in the world.
- **Least Developed Countries (LDC):-**
- Least Developed Countries (LDC) is a list of developing countries that show the lowest indicators of socio-economic development.
- The list is compiled by the United Nations.
- The countries with the lowest human development index scores in the world are classified as least developed countries.
- This concept originated in the 1960s.
- The United Nations listed the first group of least developed countries in Resolution 2768 (XXVI) adopted in 1971.

**Links:-**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/indian-origin-preeti-sinha-to-lead-united-nations-capital-development-fund-121021600346\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/indian-origin-preeti-sinha-to-lead-united-nations-capital-development-fund-121021600346_1.html)

## Candidacy for United Nations Secretary-General Post

**Question – Who has announced her candidacy for the post of UN Secretary-General in February 2021 ?**

- (a) Akanksha Arora (b) Asha Khemka  
(c) Priya Arora (d) Nirupama Rao



**Answer – (a)**

- On February 2021, Akanksha Arora, an Indian-origin aspirant, announced his candidacy for the post of UN Secretary-General.
- It is notable that ‘UN Secretary-General’ is the post of the world’s top diplomat and 34-year-old Akanksha Arora is already engaged with UN.
- She is the first woman to declare candidacy against current general secretary Antonio Guterres.
- Antonio Guterres has also submitted his candidature for his second term as UN chief.
- Significantly, his term will end on 31 December 2021.
- It is noteworthy that no woman has become its General Secretary in the 75-year history of the United Nations.
- [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/indian-origin-worker-at-un-announces-her-candidacy-for-secretary-general-121021301805\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/indian-origin-worker-at-un-announces-her-candidacy-for-secretary-general-121021301805_1.html)

**Link:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/indian-origin-at-united-nations-announces-her-candidacy-for-its-secretary-general-1769029-2021-02-14>

## S. N. Subrahmanyam

**Question: Who has been appointed Chairman of the National Safety Council on February 4, 2021?**

- (a) Ajit Doval (b) Lalit Gabhane  
(c) S. N. Subrahmanyam (d) Rajiv Kumar

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- S. N. Subrahmanyam has been appointed Chairman of the National Safety Council on February 4, 2021.
- His tenure will be of 3 years.
- He is Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of L&T Ltd(Larsen & Toubro),a giant Construction engineering company in India.
- His experience is likely to guide the National Safety Council which has a major role to play to ensure safety in work places under new Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code, 2020).

**About National Safety Council:**

- National Safety Council is an apex nonprofit making, tripartite body to generate, develop and sustain a voluntary movement on Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) at the national level.
- NSC was set up on 4th March, 1966 by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India.
- It was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and subsequently, as a Public Trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695721>

## Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

**Question: Who has been appointed the Director General of World Trade Organization?**

- (a) Roberto Azevedo (b) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala  
(c) David Walker (d) Yonov Frederick Agah

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, has been chosen as the next Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- She would be the first woman as well as the first African national to hold the position.
- Okonjo-Iweala has served twice as Nigeria's Finance Minister and also as Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- She will succeed Roberto Azevedo, who stepped down on 31st August 2020.
- World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.



**Links:**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-05/u-s-backs-okonjo-iweala-for-wto-now-set-for-first-female-chief>

## Ajay Singh

**Question: Who has been re-elected as President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on February 3 2021?**

- (a) Ajay Singh (b) Amit Panghal  
(c) Ashish Shelar (d) Mary Kom



**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 3 February 2021, Ajay Singh has been re-elected President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).
- Earlier, he was elected the President of BFI on 25 September, 2016
- He defeated former Maharashtra sports minister Ashish Shelar in the polls by 37-27.
- He will have a new secretary general by his side in Assam's Hemanta Kumar Kalita.
- Ajay Singh is the principal shareholder and Chairman and Managing Director of SpiceJet, India's second-largest airline.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/ajay-singh-boxing-federation-of-india-president-reelection-7173149/>

## Commission & Committee

### Ministry of Commerce & Industry : FDI statistics

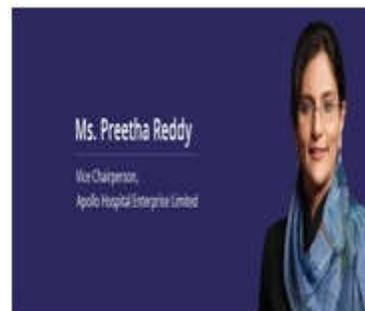
**Question : Ministry of Commerce & Industry released FDI statistics on January 27, 2021. What is the total amount of FDI inflows received during April to November, 2020 ?**

- (a) 58.37 billion dollar (b) 48.37 billion dollar  
(c) 38.37 billion dollar (d) 88.37 billion dollar

**Ans. (a)**

### **Related facts**

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry released FDI statistics on January 27, 2021.
- During April to November, 2020, total FDI inflow of US\$ 58.37 billion has been received.
- It is the highest ever for first 8 months of a financial year and 22% higher as compared to first 8 months of 2019-20 (US\$ 47.67 billion).
- FDI equity inflow received during F.Y. 2020-21 (April to November, 2020) is US\$ 43.85 billion.
- It is also the highest ever for first 8 months of a financial year and 37% more compared to first 8 months of 2019-20 (US\$ 32.11 billion).
- Significance of FDI
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a major driver of economic growth and an important source of non-debt finance for the economic development of India.
- It has been the endeavor of the Government to put in place an enabling and investor friendly FDI policy.
- The steps taken in this direction have borne fruit, as is evident from the ever-increasing volumes of FDI inflows being received into the country.
- Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1692697>

## **Planning & Project**

### **Lakhwar Electricity Project**

**Question – On February 4, 2021, the Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar power project on the Yamuna River. Which of the following facts is incorrect regarding this project ?**

- (a) Apart from electricity generation, 5 states will get irrigation and pure drinking water from this project.  
(b) Uttarakhand will get 572.54 million units of electricity annually from this project.  
(c) The total cost of this project is Rs 5747.17 crore.  
(d) This project will generate 300 MW of power.

**Answer – (a)**

### **Related facts**

- On February 4, 2021, the Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar power project on the Yamuna River.
- Important facts regarding this project are given below —
- Apart from electricity generation, six states will also get irrigation and pure drinking water from this project.
- Its construction will provide 330 metric cusec meters of additional water.
- Uttarakhand will get 572.54 million units of electricity annually from this project.
- The total cost of this project is Rs 5747.17 crore.
- This project will generate 300 MW of power.

### Link

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/Uttarakhand-Union-Environment-Ministry-approves-Lakhwar-electricity-project-/04-02-2021-373671/>

## India's first geothermal power project

**Question: Where will the country's first geothermal power project be set up?**

- (a) Puga village, Ladakh (b) In Nemo village, Himachal Pradesh  
(c) In Nyoma village, Manipur (d) In Khemi village, Uttarakhand

**Answer – (a)**

### Related facts

- India's first geothermal power project will be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh. Puga has been identified as the hotspot of geothermal energy in the country by the scientists.
- First phase
- In the first phase of the pilot project, one megawatt (MW) power generation capacity will be generated. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment and implementation of the first phase was signed on Saturday(6 February 2021).
- India's first ever geothermal power project, known as Geothermal Field Development Project is planned to commission by the end of 2022.
- The tripartite MOU was signed between ONGC Energy, LAHDC, Leh and the Power Department of UT Ladakh.
- Second & third phase
- The second Phase is proposed for deeper and lateral exploration of geothermal reservoirs by drilling optimal number of wells and setting up of a higher capacity demo plant in Ladakh.
- The second phase will be the Research and Development stage or demonstration of the project.
- In the third phase, it is planned to promote joint ventures and commercial projects. Puga is a place where it is uncovered with a potential of more than 100 mw of geothermal energies.



**Link:**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=409436#:~:text=8%3A01AM-.India's%20first%20geothermal%20power%20project%20to%20be,Puga%20village%20of%20eastern%20Ladakh&text=India's%20first%20geothermal%20power%20project%20will%20be%20established%20at%20Puga,the%20country%20by%20the%20scientists.>

## ‘Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha’ Scholarship Scheme

**Question:** Under the ‘ Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha ‘ scholarship scheme approved by Delhi Cabinet, how much amount will be provided as science scholarship to 1000 meritorious students of class 9 in Delhi schools?

- (a) 2000 rupees (b) Rs 5000  
(c) Rs 10000 (d) Rs. 12000

**Answer – (b)**  
**Related facts**

- On 5 February 2021, the Delhi Cabinet approved the ‘Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha’ scholarship scheme.
- Under this scheme, 1000 meritorious students of class 9 will be provided a science scholarship of Rs 5000 in Delhi schools.
- The objective of this scheme is to promote science education in secondary classes at school level.
- Under this scheme, students studying in schools in Delhi, who have secured more than 60 percent marks in the class, are eligible for the scholarship examination.
- Students belonging to SC,ST,PH(Divyang) or OBC category will be given a rebate of up to 5 percent.



**Link:**

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/Delhi-cabinet-approves-Mukhyamantri-Vigyan-Pratibha-Pariksha-scholarship-scheme/05-02-2021-374269/>

## Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme

**Question-** On January 30, 2021, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the new phase of the Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme. How much has the insurance cover previously provided under this scheme been increased?

- (a) Rs. 3.50 lakhs (b) 4 lakh rupees  
(c) Rs 4.5 lakhs (d) Rs 5 lakhs

**Answer – (d)**  
**Related facts**

आयुष्मान भारत महात्मा गांधी  
स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना  
राजस्थान



- Rajasthan CM has recently(30 January,2021) Launched New Version of Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- The insurance cover to the beneficiaries has been increased to Rs. 5 lakh from Rs. 3.30 lakh per family.
- The packages for the free treatment of various diseases in this scheme have been increased from 1401 to 1576. This scheme will benefit about 1.1 crore families of Rajasthan.

**Link:**

<http://www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/content/dipr/en/news-detail.224242.html#>

## Various projects in Kerala and Tamil Nadu

**Question- On February 14, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid and inaugurated various projects in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Which of the facts in the option is not correct in respect of this statement ?**

- (a) The Prime Minister dedicated the Propylene derivative petrochemical project of Kerala BPCL to the nation.
- (b) Inaugurated Marine Engineering Training Institute 'Adanya Sagar' of Kochi Shipyard Limited.
- (c) The Prime Minister inaugurated the expansion project of the first phase (9 km) of the Chennai Metro Rail.
- (d) The Prime Minister handed over the Arjuna Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the army in Chennai.

**Answer – (b)  
Related facts**



- On February 14, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid and inaugurated various projects in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Projects
- Following projects are laid/inaugurated —
- The Prime Minister dedicated the Propylene derivative petrochemical project of Kerala BPCL to the nation.
- Inaugurated Marine Engineering Training Institute 'Vigyana Sagar' of Kochi Shipyard Limited.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the expansion project of the first phase (9 km) of the Chennai Metro Rail.
- The Prime Minister handed over the Arjuna Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the army in Chennai.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-narendra-modi-in-chennai-tamil-nadu-kochi-kerala-february-14-2021/article33834154.ece>

## PM inaugurates Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) – Thrissur (Kerala) power transmission project

**Question :** On February 19, 2021 PM Modi inaugurated India's first HVDC (high voltage direct current) power transmission line? Which two state this line connects?

- a) UP, MP b) Punjab, Harayana
- c) Karnataka, Kerala d) Tamil Nadu, Kerala

**Ans: d)**

### Facts

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 320 kV 2000 MW Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) – Thrissur (Kerala) HVDC project through video conference on Friday, February 19.
- He also dedicated a 50 MW Kasaragod solar power project to the nation.
- Allocation for Kerala from the central sector is 2,266 MW but its peak drawl from the National Grid has already touched 3,100 MW, the maximum transfer capacity to Kerala.
- This project will enable the transfer of 2,000 MW of additional power to Kerala.
- This transmission line is a voltage source converter-based high voltage direct current system (HDVC), which is most modern system in the world
- It is also first of its kind in India.
- The system enables safe and faster transmission with reduced losses and also enables transmission through cables.

**Reference:** <https://www.ndtv.com/business/pugalur-tamil-nadu-thrissur-kerala-high-voltage-direct-current-hvdc-project-inaugurated-today-all-you-need-to-know-2374394>

## Kameng Hydro-Electric Project

**Question-** In which state is the Kameng Hydroelectric Project located?

- (a) Sikkim (b) Tripura
- (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer – (d)**

### Related facts

- State-run power producer NTPC has recently(February 2021) said the fourth 150 mega watt (MW) unit of Kameng Hydro-Electric Project of its subsidiary North Eastern Electric Power Corporation is commercially operational.
- About the project



- Consequent upon successful commissioning, unit-4 of 150 MW of Kameng Hydro-Electric Project (4×150 MW) of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary company of NTPC Ltd) has been declared on commercial operation with effect from February 12.
- With this, the commissioned and commercial capacity of NTPC group has become 64,075 MW.

**Link:**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/nptc-kameng-projects-4th-150-mw-unit-commercially-operational/2028343>

## National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA)

**Question :** How long has the ‘National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture’ been extended recently ?

- (a) up to 31.03.2021 (b) up to 31.03.2022  
(c) up to 31.05.2021 (d) None of the above



**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- NeGPA scheme has recently been extended up to 31.03.2021.
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA) was initially launched in 2010-11 in 7 pilot States, which aims to achieve rapid development in India through use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) for timely access to agriculture related information to the farmers.
- In 2014-15, the scheme was further extended for all the remaining States and 2 UTs.
- Under Phase-II of the scheme, funds were released to States for carrying out the activities viz. site preparation of offices for installation of hardware and establishment of computer training labs, procurement, installation and accounting of hardware/system software.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1697526>

## First Thunderstorm Research Testbed of India

**Question:** Where will be India’s First Thunderstorm Research Testbed will be established?

- a) Bengaluru b) Dehradun  
c) Balasore d) Lucknow

**Answer: c)**

**Related Facts**

- India’s First Thunderstorm Research Testbed



will be established at Balasore ,Odisha.

- It will be established with collaboration between the Ministry of Earth Sciences, IMD, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Objective of the testbed establishment is to minimalise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes.
- The testbed will conduct the studies on thunderstorms and will comprise of several observational networks, radar, auto-station, a full-fledged observatory, a wind profiler and a microwave radiometer.

**Reference:** <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/science/odishas-balasore-to-get-countrys-first-thunderstorm-research-testbed-imd/2188674/>

## Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai

**Question: Which State government has launched Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai scheme on 1st February 2021?**

- a) Punjab b) UP
- c) Harayana d) UK

**Answer: a)**

**Context**

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on 1st February 2021, virtually launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission.



**Facts**

- Mission aims to provide 100 per cent potable piped water supply in all rural households by March 2020.
- Scheme is being funded by the World Bank, Jal Jeevan Mission of Gol, NABARD, and State Budget.
- Government also launched Mega Surface Water Supply Scheme which will benefit more than 1.6 lakh residents from 155 villages in Amritsar, Tarn Taran, and Gurdaspur districts by helping replace groundwater with surface water supply for drinking, besides resolving the problem of arsenic affected habitations.

**Jal Jeevan Mission**

- The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019.
- The scheme was launched with the objective of providing the safe and adequate drinking water.
- The scheme seeks to provide tap water to the individual houses by 2024 in rural India. It is based on a community approach to water.

## Treaty & Agreements

### Agreement between Government of India, Government of Chhattisgarh and World Bank

**Question :** The Government of India, the Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank recently (February 2021) signed a 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. How much the size of this deal ?

- (a) 100 million dollar (b) 200 million dollar  
(c) 300 million dollar (d) 400 million dollar

**Ans.(a)**

- The Government of India, the Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank has recently (February 2021) signed a 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.
- The size of this deal is 100 million dollar.
- CHIRAAG
- It is the name of project belongs to above mentioned agreement.
- CHIRAAG stands for — Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth.
- This project will be implemented in the southern tribal-majority region of the state where a large population is undernourished and poor.
- The project will benefit over 180,000 households from about 1,000 villages in eight districts of Chhattisgarh.
- Significance
- Chhattisgarh's rich biodiversity and diverse agro-climatic zones provide an opportunity to focus on an alternative model of development allowing the tribal-dominated southern region to leverage its natural resources, diversify and grow resilient crops; and assure a production system that takes care of the nutritional needs of every household.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and associated response has disrupted access to economic opportunities, especially in rural and tribal areas.
- The project will help stabilize and restore the local food supply and production, secure livelihoods and expand income and job opportunities for people returning to their villages in pandemic-affected project areas.
- Maturity & Grace period



- The \$100 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 17.5 years, including a grace period of 5.5-years.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697427#:~:text=The%20Government%20of%20India%2C%20the,of%20diversified%20and%20nutritious%20food.>

## MoU between Triton EV and BEL

**Question: In which of the following country Triton Electric Vehicle Company is based?**

- a) UK b) India c) Japan d) US



**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:-**

- Recently US-based Triton Electric Vehicle (Triton) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- These companies have come together for developing electric vehicles and energy storage systems.
- As per the MoU, BEL will be the exclusive manufacturing partner to Triton in India for supply of the identified products.
- Triton will provide the know-how and technical documentation required for the manufacturing of these products.
- For requirements of Energy Storage System (ESS) in India, BEL will address the requirements as a prime contractor and Triton will provide the support as technology/team partner as per Make in India requirements.
- Himanshu B Patel, Managing Director of Triton EV stated that they are excited to see the market response from India.
- He further said that joining hands with BEL will definitely strengthen their commitment towards technology and clean energy driven EV and ESS market.
- He expressed that the whole world respects India's technical capabilities in various sectors; we wish to leverage this through building great products around ESS and EVs.
- He asserted that through this partnership the company aims to produce an innovative 'Make In India' product which will transform the Indian EV and ESS segment.

**Links:-**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/triton-electric-vehicle-links-mou-with-bel-for-development-of-evs-and-ess/articleshow/80742904.cms>

## Haryana and Switzerland have agreed to share their expertise in some fields

**Question: Recently Haryana and Switzerland have agreed to share their expertise in some fields. Which field is not included in this agreement?**

- a) Dairying b) Tourism
- c) Dairying and skill development training
- d) Defense



**Answer: (d)**

- On 05 February 2021; Swiss Ambassador Ralf Heckner called on Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- The result of this meeting culminated in the form that Haryana and Switzerland have agreed to share their expertise in fields of tourism, dairying and skill development training.
- Switzerland's Ambassador Heckner praised the state government for providing a conducive atmosphere to entrepreneurs in the state.
- Switzerland Ambassador Ralf Heckner evinced interest in making further investment in Haryana.
- There are the possibilities of signing MoUs for the teacher-student and cultural exchange programmes to further strengthen the bilateral ties between Switzerland and India, particularly with Haryana
- During his meeting with Khattar, Heckner said Haryana is one of the five states in India where the Swiss companies, including Nestle, have established their businesses.
- He said his country is looking forward to further expanding its business in Haryana in the times to come.
- At present, 34 Swiss firms have set up base in Haryana, providing employment to about 16,600 people, he added.
- The envoy said Haryana is a leading state in the country in many spheres.
- The state has also performed well in terms of the "ease of doing business" as it has been ranked ahead of many other states in India on this count, he added.
- Chief Minister Khattar told Heckner that Haryana has a unique locational advantage being adjacent to Delhi.
- The chief minister said the state's economy is growing at a rapid pace.
- The state government is offering adequate infrastructure, including electricity at cheaper rates, for industries to set up their units in Haryana.
- He also said that, the state government has given special emphasis on ensuring transparency in the allotment of land and approving building plans.
- He said besides being one of the largest food grains and milk producer states in India, Haryana is also giving special emphasis on providing skill training to youths to make them employable.
- He said the country's first Skill University has been set up at village Dudhola in Palwal district.

- He said as Switzerland has made remarkable progress in the field of skill development education.
- Therefore using knowledge base of Switzerland, possibilities could be explored for educational institutions of Haryana.
- It will be beneficial, Switzerland entering into an agreement for imparting skill development training to the youths of the state.
- Khattar further said Haryana has a number of Hotel Management Institutes and similar possibilities could be explored for imparting training to youths in the hotel industry.
- He said during the last six years, special emphasis has been given on the use of Information Technology (IT) to ensure transparency in the delivery of various services to the people of the state.

#### Links:-

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/haryana-cm-meets-ambassador-of-switzerland.html>

## Conference

### Inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting

**Question: Inauguration of inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting happened on 24th February 2021 in New Delhi. This event is part of which summit?**

- a) ASEAN summit b) SAARC summit  
c) BRICS summit d) G-20 summit

**Ans: c)**

#### Context

- India kicked off its BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Chairship with the inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting, on 24th February 2021.



#### Facts

- India has the chair of BRICS this year and will hold the summit later this year.
- 1st Sherpas' meeting was chaired by Secretary (CPV & OIA).
- He highlighted the themes, priorities, and calendar for the BRICS 2021.
- Earlier, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had launched India's BRICS 2021 website at Secretariat of BRICS at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan.
- President of China, Xi Jinping, might also visit India later for the BRICS summit.

#### BRICS

- RICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

- The respective government of the BRICS state meets at annual formal summits starting from 2009.
- The 12th BRICS Summit was held by the Russia on November 17, 2020 virtually amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- BRICS countries account for around 23% of gross world product (GWP).

**Reference:** <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/india-begins-brics-2021-chairship-with-3-day-long-sherpas-meeting-china-extends-support.html>

## Third Ministerial meeting between India, Australia, Japan & US

**Question – On February 18, 2021, the third Ministerial meeting between India-Australia-Japan-US concluded through a video conference. Who represented India in this meeting?**

- (a) Rajnath Singh (b) Harshvardhan Singh  
(c) S. Jaishankar (d) V. Muralitharan

**Answer – (c)**  
**Related facts**



- On February 18, 2021, the third Ministerial meeting between India-Australia-Japan-US concluded through a video conference.
- Foreign ministers of the respective countries participated in it.
- Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar represented India in this meeting.
- This meeting provided an opportunity to carry forward the ideas shared in the previous meeting.
- The last meeting was held on 6 October 2020.
- During this meeting, the Ministers exchanged views on regional and global issues.
- In which cooperation was discussed specifically to keep the Indo-Pacific sector independent, open and inclusive.
- The meeting also discussed efforts being made to tackle the covid-19 pandemic, global climate change and other issues of mutual interest.

**Link:**

[https://mea.gov.in/press-releases-hi.htm?dtl/33534/3rd\\_IndiaAustraliaJapanUSA\\_Ministerial\\_Meeting](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases-hi.htm?dtl/33534/3rd_IndiaAustraliaJapanUSA_Ministerial_Meeting)

## India Toy Fair – 2021

**Question: When will be India Toy Fair -2021 will be organised?**

- a) 20 February- 10 March b) 10 February -15 February  
c) 27th February- 2nd March d) none of the above

**Ans: c)**  
**Context**

- Government of India is organizing 'The India Toy Fair, 2021' from 27th February 2021 to 2nd March 2021 on a virtual platform.
- Facts
- The objective of fair is to provide an impetus to the underlying themes of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "vocal for local" campaigns, launched by the Government to promote indigenous industries.
- It also aims to leverage the potential of toys in making learning joyful across all ages in education.
- Fair will have virtual Exhibition with over 1000 virtual stalls, webinars by State Governments, knowledge sessions with engaging panel discussions/webinars on diverse topics by experts on areas including toy-based learning, craft demonstrations, competitions, quizzes, virtual tours, product launches, etc.
- Special emphasis is given to education sector in line with NEP 2020 for the development of toys for play-based and activity-based learning, indoor and outdoor play, use of puzzles and games to promote critical thinking and overall on how to make learning more engaging and enjoyable.
- It is a multi ministry event of government of India.

**Reference:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1697173>

### First ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding First ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021:-**

- a) It was organised by The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council for Technical Education in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and ASEAN countries.**
- b) The ASEAN-India Hackathon-2021 aims at enhancing the cooperation between India and ASEAN countries in science, tech and education.**
- c) ASEAN-India Hackathon is well aligned with the vision of APASTI 2016-2025.**

**Which of the above statement are correct**

- i) a,b**
- ii) a,b,c**
- iii) b,c**
- iv) none**

**Answer: ii)**  
**Context**

- Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Union Minister of External Affairs Shri Subrahmanyam Jaishankar attended the award ceremony of ASEAN- India Hackathon 2021 along with Ministers and dignitaries from ASEAN countries on 4th February 2021.



## Facts

- This was first such event ever organised by India and ASEAN nation.
- It aims at enhancing the cooperation between India and ASEAN countries in science, tech and education.
- All the ASEAN countries participated along with India under two broader categories of Blue Economy and Education.
- ASEAN-India Hackathon is well aligned with the vision of APASTI 2016-2025.
- The Hackathon involved more than 300 students, mentors, and officials participating from 10 ASEAN countries and India.

## APASTI 2016-2025

- ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 is joint policy initiative between India and ASEAN in the field of science, tech and education.
- It was adopted by the ASEAN Ministers for Science and Technology at the 9th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST) held on 29 October 2016 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

**Reference:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1695404>

## National Horticulture Fair 2021

**Question: Where National Horticulture Fair 2021 will be organised?**

- a) Chennai b) Bengaluru  
c) Lucknow d) None of the above

**Answer: b)**

### Context

- The ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru is organizing National Horticulture Fair-2021 during 8-12 February, 2021.



## Facts

- It is a five day event starting from February 8th.
- It will be organised jointly by IIHR Bengaluru, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, Society for Promotion of Horticulture, Bengaluru, BESST-HORT Technology Business Incubator, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology Trust, Bengaluru and National Horticulture Board, Gurugram.
- The theme of the National Horticulture Fair 2021 will be: 'Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India'.
- Theme is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among farmers.
- Event will be held online as well as offline.

- Farmers will also participate in the event with the help of 721 Krishi Vijnana Kendras and 11 Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes.
- People will participate in the events through training centres of state governments.
- Through the event, the farmers can also interact with the scientists.

**Reference:** <https://nhf2021.iahr.res.in/>

## Aero India 2021

**Question: 13th edition of Aero India is being organised from February 3 to February 5. In which city of India it is being organised?**

- a) Bengaluru b) Delhi  
c) Lucknow d) Hyderabad

**Ans: a)**

**Context**

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Aero India 2021 in Bengaluru on 3rd February 2021.



**Facts**

- Aero India is a biennial air show which was first held in 1996.
- It is held at the Yelahanka Air Force Station Bengaluru, India every two year since 1996.
- The Defence Ministry of India, Indian Air Force, Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO), Department of Space the Union Civil Aviation Ministry and other such organisations join hands to organise the Aero India show, making it the largest air show in Asia.

### **Aero India 2021**

- It is 13th edition of Aero India which is being organised amid covid pandemic.
- This year there is no public show, which means the show which is for three days from Feb 3 to Feb 5 will be all business days.
- Apart from the air display, there will be integrating seminars, Business to Business events, and product displays etc. at the show.
- There will also be a India Pavilion which is based on the theme of Rotary wings.
- The Karnataka government Department of Industrial Training and Employment (DITE), in collaboration with Tata Technologies will be showcasing their initiative – Transformation of 150 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Technological Hubs – during the show.
- Other conferences that will be organised during the show are Conclave of Defence Ministers of Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Conclave of Chiefs of Air

Staff from Feb 3-4 of 75 countries & India – Russia Military Industrial Conference.

**Reference:** <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/atmanirbhar-bharat-13th-aero-india-to-showcase-indias-cutting-edge-technology-and-capabilities-in-aerospace-sector/2186734/>

## 8th India International Silk Fair

**Question: Who is organizing 8th India International Silk Fair ?**

- a) Ministry of Textiles b) Indian Silk Export Promotion Council  
c) Ministry of commerce d) None of the above

**Answer: b)**

### Related Facts

- On 30th January 2021, Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the 8th India International Silk Fair on Virtual Portal.
- It is being held under one roof on Indian Silk Export Promotion Council's virtual platform.
- This fair is the biggest silk fair of India.
- Minister has informed that more than 200 overseas buyers have already registered and around 200 overseas representatives in India will interact with more than 100 renowned and big Indian companies who are engaged in manufacturing and trading the silk and silk blended products.
- India is 2nd largest producer of Silk in the world.
- India is the only country in the world which produces all the four major varieties of silk – Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga.



**Reference:** <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=408997>

## Law & Justice

### Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

(1) Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020 seeks to replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

(2) The Bill is aimed at reorienting the governance model in central ports to landlord port model.

**Of the above correct statement/s is/are:**

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2  
(c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 10 February 2021, Parliament passed the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020.
- The bill was introduced by Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- The bill seeks to replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
- The Bill will apply to the Major Ports of Chennai, Cochin, Deendayal (Kandla), Jawaharlal Nehru (Nhava Sheva), Kolkata, Mormugao, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Paradip, V.O. Chidambaranar (Tuticorin) and Visakhapatnam.



#### **Aim:**

- The bill aims at decentralizing decision making and to infuse professionalism in governance of major ports.
- The Bill is aimed at reorienting the governance model in central ports to landlord port model in line with the successful global practice.
- In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities.

#### **Key features:**

- The number of sections has been reduced to 76 from 134 by eliminating overlapping and obsolete Sections.
- The bill proposes composition of Board of Port Authority. These Boards will replace the existing Port Trusts under the 1963 Act. The Board will comprise of (a) a Chairperson; (b) a Deputy Chairperson (c) one Member each from the—  
– (i) concerned State Government in which the Major Port is situated; (ii) Ministry of Railways; (iii) Ministry of Defence; and (iv) Customs, Department of Revenue; (d) not less than two and not exceeding four Independent Members; (e) one Member not below the rank of Director nominated by the Central Government, ex officio; and (f) two Members representing the interests of the employees of the Major Port Authority.
- Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The Boards of Port Authority have been delegated full powers to enter into contracts, planning and development, fixing of tariff except in national interest, security and emergency arising out of inaction and default. In the present MPT Act, 1963 prior approval of the Central Government was required in 22 instances.
- The role of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) has been redefined. Port Authority has now been given powers to fix tariff which will act as a reference tariff for purposes of bidding for PPP projects. PPP operators will be free to fix tariff- based on market conditions. The Board of Port Authority has been delegated the power to fix the scale of rates for other port services and assets including land.

- An Adjudicatory Board has been proposed to be created to carry out the residual function of the erstwhile TAMP for Major Ports, to look into disputes between ports and PPP concessionaires, to review stressed PPP projects and suggest measures to review stressed PPP projects and suggest measures to revive such projects and to look into complaints regarding services rendered by the ports/ private operators operating within the ports.
- The Board of each Major Port shall be entitled to create specific master plan in respect of any development or infrastructure.
- Provisions of Corporate Social Responsibility & development of infrastructure by Port Authority have been introduced.

**Links:**

[http://164.100.47.4/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/Asintroduced/78%202020\\_LS\\_ENGLISH.pdf](http://164.100.47.4/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/Asintroduced/78%202020_LS_ENGLISH.pdf)

## Year, Day & Week

### World Pulses Day

**Question: When is the World Pulses Day observed?**

- (a) 4 February (b) 8 February (c) 31 January (d) 10 February

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Every year World Pulses Day is observed on 10 February.
- The day has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.
- The day was proclaimed by United nations General Assembly in 2019.
- World Pulses Day also seeks to maintain momentum gained during FAO's announcement of 2016 as the International Year of Pulses.
- 2021 Theme of the day is “#LovePulses”.



**Links:**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-pulses-day>

## World Cancer Day

**Question: When is the World Cancer Day observed?**

- (a) 4 February (b) 8 February  
(c) 31 January (d) 5 March

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Cancer Day is observed every year on 4 February.
- The day raises awareness and education about cancer, and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the disease.
- The day is observed by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
- Theme of the 2021 World Cancer Day is 'I Am and I Will'

### About Cancer:

- Cancer is a large group of diseases caused by uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells. It can start in almost any organ or tissue of the body, go beyond their usual boundaries to invade adjoining parts of the body and/or spread to other organs.
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for an estimated 9.6 million deaths, or one in six deaths, in 2018.
- National Cancer Awareness Day is observed in India on 7th November since 2014.



### Links:

<https://www.worldcancerday.org/>

## World Leprosy Day

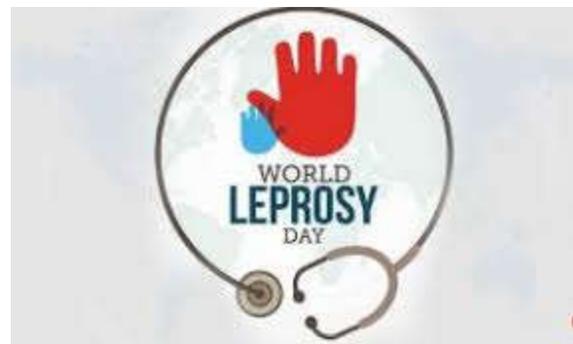
**Question: When was the World Leprosy Day 2021 observed?**

- (a) 30 January (b) 28 January  
(c) 10 January (d) 24 January

**Answer: (a)**

### Related facts:

- Leprosy Day is observed every year on January 30 in India.
- Across the world, the day is celebrated on the last Sunday of the first month of the year.
- In India, the day is observed as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and to raise awareness about leprosy.
- Leprosy is an infectious disease that is characterized by skin lesions, muscle weakness, numbness in your arms, feet, and legs. This chronic condition is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium leprae.
- Also known as Hansen's disease, leprosy leads to nerve damage, severe disfigurement, and skin ulcers.



### Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/world-leprosy-day-2021-quotes-theme-and-all-you-need-to-know-about-disease-1764216-2021-01-30>

## Books

### Book: By Many A Happy Accident

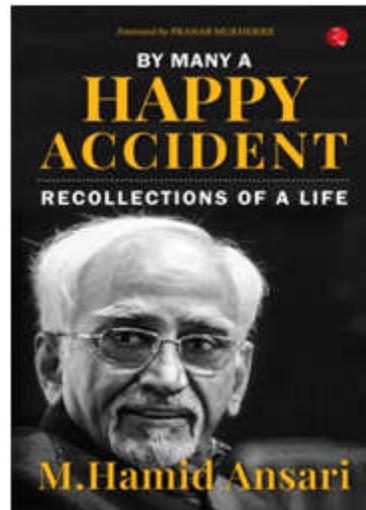
**Question: Who among the following is the writer of the recently released book 'By Many a Happy Accident'?**

- a) Narendra Modi b) Pranab Mukherjee  
c) Hamid Ansari d) Nirmala Sitharaman

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- Recently former vice president Hamid Ansari released his book titled as By Many a Happy Accident.
- It should be known that Mohammad Hamid Ansari was the vice president of India and chairman of the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 2007 to 2017.
- The book By Many a Happy Accident offers an informative and engaging account of the life and work of Hamid Ansari an outstanding public servant.
- This book is an account of a life of unplanned happenings that took M. Hamid Ansari away from his preferred fancy for academia to professional diplomacy.
- Ansari had written in this book his memoirs as recollections of a life when he shared an uneasy relationship with the Narendra Modi Government and the PM.
- He has written in the book in a very emotional way about his last day in office.
- He also highlights some of the important contemporary issues demanding urgent address to ensure good governance and inclusive growth and progress in our society.



**Links:-**

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/by-many-a-happy-accident-this-book-is-an-interesting-bold-and-rich-in-material/>

<https://rupapublications.co.in/books/by-many-a-happy-accident-recollections-of-a-life/>

## Miscellaneous

### Dino Adventure Park and Fossils Museum

**Question- Where is the Dino Adventure Park and Fossils Museum located ?**

- (a) Panna (b) Shahdol  
(c) Mandu (d) Khajuraho

## Answer – (c) Related facts

- On 13 February 2021, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Spirituality of Madhya Pradesh, Ms. Usha Thakur inaugurated the newly constructed Dino Adventure Park and Fossils Museum in Mandu.
- On this occasion, the Tourism Minister also performed a ground-worship of the Astro Park building built at a cost of 59 lakhs.
- About the Park
- It is noteworthy that Dinosaur Adventure Park is the first modern Fossils Park in the country.
- Tourists will be able to see 24 dinosaur eggs and other fossils kept in the park along with information related to the food and life of the dinosaurs.
- Dinosaur eggs and large stones are also placed in Fossil Park, also known as Bajna stone.



### Link:

<https://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20210213N19&LocID=1>

## Gudaf Tsegay

**Question: Who has set a new indoor world record in the 1500 meters race on February 9, 2021?**

- (a) Laura Moor (b) Melissa Courtney-Bryant  
(c) Gudaf Tsegay (d) Genjeba Diba



### Answer – (C).

- At the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold Meet held in northern France on 9 February 2021, Ethiopia runner Gudaf Tsegay set a new indoor world record in the 1500m race.
- Segay made this record by completing the 1500 meters in 3 minutes 53.09 seconds.
- Earlier, this record was in the name of GenjebaDiba of Ethiopia.

### Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/athletics/ethiopias-gudaf-tsegay-sets-new-world-indoor-record-in-1500-m/article33798770.ece>

## Draft guidelines on credit default swaps

**Question : On which date RBI issued Draft Guidelines on Credit Default Swaps ?**

- (a) Feb 16, 2021 (b) Feb 06, 2021  
 (c) Feb 11, 2021 (d) Feb 13, 2021

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- RBI issued Draft Guidelines on Credit Default Swaps on Feb 16, 2021.
- Guidelines are issued under Section 45 W of the RBI Act, 1934.
- Credit Default Swap(CDS)
- It is a financial derivative or contract that allows an investor to “swap” or offset his credit risk with that of another investor.
- Recent issued guidelines will standardize derivatives trading in the CDS in over-the-counter(OTC) markets and on recognised stock exchanges in the country.



**Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx)

**Libya : UN-led forum selects new interim leadership**

**Question: Who has been elected as the interim Prime Minister of Libya in February 2021 ?**

- (a) Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah (b) Mohammad Younes Menafi  
 (c) Musa al-Coni (d) Abdullah Hussain

**Answer – (a)**

**Related facts**

- Recently(February 2021) UN-led forum has selected new interim leadership in Libya.
- The 74-members of the UN-led Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) have selected an interim Prime Minister and President of its new executive council.
- The winning slate at talks in Geneva, saw Mohammad Younes Menfi, selected President of the Presidency of the Presidency Council, where he will serve with Mossa Al-Koni, and Abdullah Hussein Al-Lafi.
- Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah was chosen by majority vote to serve as Prime Minister designate.
- It is notable that Libya has descended into crises on multiple fronts, since the fall of former ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, with the country essentially divided between a UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) based in the capital Tripoli, and a rival administration, led by General Haftar, who commands the western-based self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA).



**Link:**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084022>

## Second phase of Vigyan Jyoti programme commenced

**Question: International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on-**

- a) February 14 b) February 11  
c) January 11 d) March 11

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**



- On February 11, 2021; the second phase of Vigyan Jyoti programme commenced.
- Vigyan Jyoti programme is a new initiative to encourage girls to take interest in science and build career, was launched by the Department of Science & technology.
- The programme has been commenced on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- This day has been chosen purposely to spread the programme for encouraging girls to take interest in science and build a career in STEM.
- The aim is to spread the programme to 50 more districts adding to the existing 50 districts across the country.
- Secretary, Department of science and Technology (DST) Prof Ashutosh Sharma, expressed hope that this programme would improve further comparatively to previous one.
- He said that it will expand to more and more districts of the country to empower women and help increase number of women in top science institutes.
- He said that under-representation of women is a multi-dimensional problem, and we need to see the problems from all angles and give a little push to get the desired result.
- The New Education Policy and the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy could remove the constraints.
- This programme will make use of the demographic dividend to progress long in short time to help increase number of women in science.
- He suggested that interaction with girls should increase with all sort of role models, especially women achievers.
- It had been running successfully in 50 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) since December 2019 and has now been expanded to 50 more JNVs for the year 2021-22.
- The programme addresses the under-representation of women in certain areas of STEM. A
- As a first step, the programme has been started at school level for meritorious girls of Class IX to Class XII to encourage and empower them to pursue STEM courses in reputed institutions of the country.

- Vigyan Jyoti activities include student-parent counseling, visit to labs and knowledge centres, partners role model interactions, science camps, academic support classes, resource material distribution and tinkering activities.
- Online academic support to students includes streaming of video classes, study materials, daily practice problems and doubt clearing sessions.

**Link:-**

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/vigyan-jyoti-programme-spreads-to-100-districts-in-2nd-phase/>

## Delhi-Dehradun-Expressway to be built with Elevated Wildlife Corridor

**Question: Recently the Union ministry of Road Transport and Highways announced about the initiation of construction of Delhi-Dehradun access-controlled expressway by March 2021.What will be its length?**

- a) 265Km b) 210Km c) 255Km d) 215Km

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- The central government has now come up with a plan to construct Delhi-Dehradun access-controlled expressway.
- The Ministry of Road Transport And Highways in this regard has made the plan to award contracts for construction of 210 kilometres of this expressway.
- Government is expecting that the construction work for Delhi-Dehradun access-controlled expressway will begin by March this year.
- The project will have a six-lane elevated wildlife corridor spanning 12 kilometres for preservation of the wildlife as the expressway alignment crosses wildlife areas. The government plans to complete the project in the next two years.
- The government has decided to execute the project on engineering procurement and construction (EPC) mode.
- Once completed, the Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun corridor will reduce the distance between the two cities from 235 kilometres at present to 210 kilometres.
- The project will cut the travel time from 6.5 hours currently to 2.5 hours.
- An official from the Road Transport Ministry informed that for the project land acquisition and environment impact assessment for the project is in the last phase.
- According to the ministry the entire length from Akshardham, which will be the starting point in Delhi, to Dehradun will be divided into four sections.
- Section one will have two packages. The first package of 14.75km, with 6.4km of elevated stretch, will be in Delhi.
- The second package of 16.85km, having 11.2km elevated section, will be in Uttar Pradesh.
- This section would start from Akshardham Temple near DME and pass through Geeta Colony, Khajurikhas and Mandola.
- This highway also aims to decongest the North East Delhi and also enhance the development potential of Tronica city, Mandola Vihar Yojana of UP Government.



- The second section is six-lane fully access controlled greenfield stretch passing through Baghat, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur.
- According to Road Transport Ministry the detailed project report is complete and tendering process has been initiated in four packages under the section.
- The third section starts from Saharanpur bypass and ends at Ganeshpur. The fourth section of the proposed expressway is a six-lane access-controlled corridor.
- This section primarily passes through reserve forest in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Out of 20km, 5km are brownfield expansion, and 15km are realignment comprising of elevated wildlife corridor (12 km) and approaches to tunnel.
- For the second and the fourth section, the ministry of road transport has targeted to award the contracts by March this year.

**Links:-**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/infra/delhi-dehradun-expressway-to-halve-travel-time-contract-award-by-march/story/431028.html>

**Country’s first full-fledged international cruise terminal, Sagarika**

**Question: At which of the following port India’s first full-fledged international cruise terminal, Sagarika, was recently inaugurated by PM?**

- a) Cochin Port b) Kandla Port  
c) Paradip Port d) Vishakhapatnam Port

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 14 February 2021; Prime Minister inaugurated the country’s first full-fledged international cruise terminal, Sagarika at Cochin Port.
- Sagarika is India’s first full-fledged international cruise terminal, it has turned into a major cruise destination across the globe.
- It is a dedicated terminal, which is fully air-conditioned and serving the cruise ship requirements, provides all statutory clearances, including Customs and Immigration, for cruise passengers.
- According to figures from the Cochin Port Trust, 44 cruise vessels called at the port during the financial year 2019-20.
- The numbers having remained near constant over the last decade during which the port and its facilities have turned popular among cruise vessels.
- It should be known that the cruise vessel handling facility, which is now being enhanced by the inauguration of Sagarika, started initially more than a decade ago



**Links:-**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=409871>

**Question: Recently a Nigerian woman Ngozi Okonjo Iweala has been appointed as the head of which of the following organisation?**

- a) IMF b) WTO  
c) FATF d) UNESCO

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- Ngozi Okonjo Iweala has been appointed as the head of the World Trade Organization.
- The appointment will take effect on March 1, 2021.
- She is an economist of Nigeria, and has become the first woman to hold this position.
- Iweala also became the first African to hold this position.
- She was appointed Director General by representatives of the 164 member states of the WTO.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization which is responsible for handling international trade between countries.
- It was established in January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement.
- The appointment of African women was made after US President Joe Biden approved the candidacy.
- It should be known that Former U.S. President Donald Trump had earlier blocked her candidacy.



**Links:-**

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news21\\_e/dgno\\_15feb21\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/dgno_15feb21_e.htm)

### India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon, 2021

**Question: On 11 February 2021 'India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon, 2021' started. It is related to which organization ?**

- (a) Department of Telecommunications (b) Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog  
(c) Department of Science and Technology (d) Department of Atomic Energy

**Answer – (b)**

**Related facts**

- On 11 February 2021 'India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon, 2021' started.
- The Hackathon is an effort to strengthen bi-lateral innovations in Circular Economy
- The organizers of the even are — NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission & Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

**Objectives**

1. to enable talented innovative students and start-ups from Australia and India to address common national issues through innovative technology solutions
2. Atal Innovation Mission and CSIRO are committed towards enabling the youth of their countries to further strengthen the circular economy in both India and Australia.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's national science agency and innovation catalyst, solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1697115>

## Annual program on Pharmaceuticals & Medical Device sector – ‘India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021’

**Question- When will the 6th ‘India Pharma and India Medical Device’ be organized ?**

- (a) 27-28 February & 1-3 March 2021
- (b) 25-26 February & 1-2 March ,2021
- (c) 1-3 March & 5-6 March ,2021
- (d) 15-16 February 2021 & 1-2 March 2021

**Answer – (b)**

**Related facts**

- The 6th ‘India Pharma and India Medical Devices’ 2021 conference will be held through video conference between 25-26 February and 1-2 March 2021.
- It is an annual programme.
- This program related to the pharmaceutical and medical equipment sector will be conducted by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in collaboration with FICCI and Invest India.
- This year's theme for India Pharma is “India Pharma Industry: Future is Now”.
- Whereas the theme for India medical device is – “India Medtech Future: Innovate and Make in India through Global Alliance”.

**Link:**

<http://ficci.in/ficci-in-news-page.asp?nid=28730>

## Nvidia's acquisition of Arm Ltd

**Question : In Feb 2021 Qualcomm stood firmly against Nvidia's acquisition of Arm Ltd. In last September, Nvidia had announced that it will purchase Arm from Soft Bank for \$40 billion. This became the largest-ever deal in which industry?**

- (a) Semiconductor industry
- (b) Automobile industry
- (c) Aviation industry
- (d) None of the above

**Answer : (a)**  
**Related facts**

- In Feb 2021 Qualcomm stood firmly against Nvidia's acquisition of Arm Ltd.
- In last September, Nvidia had announced that it will purchase Arm from Soft Bank for \$40 billion.
- This became the largest-ever deal in the semiconductor industry.
- Nvidia's acquisition of Arm Ltd has now come under scanner.
- Qualcomm has filed official concerns to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the European Commission (EC), the UK Competition and Markets Authority and the Chinese State Market Regulatory Administration.
- Nvidia Corporation is an American multinational technology company incorporated in Delaware and based in Santa Clara, California.
- Arm Ltd. is a British semiconductor and software design company based in Cambridge, England.
- Qualcomm is the world leader in 3G, 4G, and next-generation wireless technology innovations.



**Link:**

[https://www.gsmarena.com/qualcomm\\_stands\\_firmly\\_against\\_nvidias\\_acquisition\\_of\\_arm-news-47740.php](https://www.gsmarena.com/qualcomm_stands_firmly_against_nvidias_acquisition_of_arm-news-47740.php)

## Research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems

**Question: With which of the following institution, Indian Navy recently has signed a MoU to carry on the research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems?**

- a) IIT madras
- b) IIT Delhi
- c) IIT Kharagpur
- d) None of these

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**

- Recently Indian Navy and IIT Delhi enter into a MoU to carry on the research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems.
- This new MoU is just a Furthering of the relationship between Indian Navy and IIT Delhi on research mutually.
- The relationship between Indian Navy and IIT Delhi is quite old and it dates back to 1970s.
- Since then, the Centre for Applied Research in Electronics (CARE) at IIT Delhi developed the key technologies for Navy.
- The research carried out at IIT Delhi has played an important role in the technological advances made by the Indian Navy.



- Indian Navy in present times endeavours on development of major technology driven projects through IIT Delhi.
- Indian Navy is doing these activities In line with Prime Minister Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

**Links:-**

<https://indiannavy.nic.in/content/signing-mou-between-indian-navy-and-iit-delhi>

## Nodal Authority for framing the Approved Standardized Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels Design and Specifications (ASDDS)

**Question: Approved Standardized Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels Design and Specifications (ASDDS) will be prepared by which of the following agency?**

- a) Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) b) Mazagon dock limited  
c) Hindustan Shipyard Limited d) Goa Shipyard Limited

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- The Union government has set up a Nodal Authority in order to frame the Approved Standardized Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels Design and Specifications (ASDDS).
- This new authority will help the fisheries departments of states to implement the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- ASDDS will provide a framework of minimum basic design parameters.
- Prescribed framework will be used to construct the vessels for Deep Sea fishing.
- It will cover the basic design aspects including the Outline Specifications, Basic Calculation, General Arrangement and Basic Structural Drawings.
- ASDDS will be prepared by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL).
- It will function under the technical supervision of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT).
- The 'In Principle' approval will be given by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels (DSFV's) was also constructed in compliance with the ASDDS.
- DSFV was promulgated by the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways.
- DSFV will also be eligible for subsidy under the PMMSY scheme.
- It is a flagship scheme that focuses on the sustainable development of the fisheries sector. It will be implemented for a five-year period.
- The scheme was launched on April 1, 2020 in all States and Union Territories under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package.



**Links:-**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/govt-sets-up-nodal-authority-for-design-and-specifications-of-deep-sea-fishing-vessels/article33800237.ece>

**Question : “COVID-19: Missing More Than a Classroom” is an UNICEF & WFP report released on January 28, 2021. Which one of the following statement is incorrect regarding WFP ?**

- (a)WFP stands for — World Food Programme
- (b) It is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives
- (c) WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016
- (d)None of the above

**Ans. (c)**

### Related facts

“COVID-19: Missing More Than a Classroom” is an UNICEF & WFP report released on January 28, 2021.

Highlights of the report are given below —



1. 370 million children worldwide – many of whom are reliant on school meals as a key source of their daily nutrition – have missed 40 per cent of in-school meals, on average, since COVID-19 restrictions shuttered classrooms.
2. Latest estimates show that 24 million schoolchildren are at risk of dropping out of school due to the pandemic
3. During the pandemic, there has been a 30 per cent overall reduction in the coverage of essential nutrition services including school feeding, micronutrient supplementation, and nutrition promotion programmes in low- and middle-income countries, as well as programmes for the treatment of severe malnutrition in children.
4. Pre-pandemic survey data from 68 countries show that, before COVID-19 hit, around 50 per cent of children aged 13 to 17 years-old reported feelings of hunger.
5. Further data from 17 countries showed that, in some countries, up to two thirds of adolescents aged 15–19 were underweight.
6. And more than half of adolescent girls in South Asia were anaemic.
7. The report notes that more than 70 countries have delivered take-home rations, cash transfers or food vouchers, providing a valuable, interim solution for millions of children.
8. In the first 9 months of 2020, more than 13 million schoolchildren received WFP school-based support as compared to 17.3 million the previous year.
9. In 2020, nearly 25 million school-age children and adolescents benefitted from programmes for the prevention of anaemia.

### UNICEF & WFP

- UNICEF(United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund), is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.

- World Food Programme(WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives.
- WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

**Link:**

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/nutrition-crisis-looms-more-39-billion-school-meals-missed-start-pandemic-unicef-and>

## Second CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21

**Question : On which date “2nd CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21” inaugurated ?**

- (a) 03 FEB 2021 (b) 05 FEB 2021  
(c) 01 FEB 2021 (d) None of the above

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- “2nd CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21” of NCRB(National Crime Records Bureau) inaugurated on 03 Feb 2021.
- It was held in New Delhi.
- Objective
- This hackathon is in continuation to the Hackathon & Cyber Challenge which concluded in March 2020.
- The 2nd CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21 is to enhance analysis and deepen understanding of police personnel.
- Launching of mobile app
- “Locate Nearest Police Station” was also launched at the inauguration function.
- This App will help various users including women commuters, interstate travelers, domestic and foreign tourists etc. especially during any emergency and has the facility to dial 112.
- This can be downloaded from the master police portal, namely, digitalpolice.gov.in of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- This will add to other Central Citizen Services being provided by the NCRB such as “Missing Person Search”, “Generate Vehicle NOC”, “Proclaimed Offenders Information” and various other services being provided by the State Citizen Police Portals.
- This is another step towards improving accessibility of the police to the citizen.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1694909>

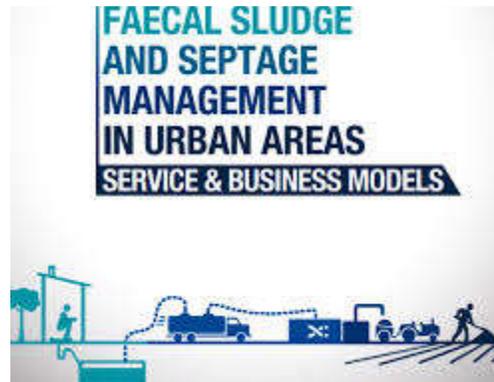
## Report on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management in Urban Areas

**Question: Which institute released a report on 'Faecal Sludge and septage management: Service and business model' on 17 January 2021?**

- (a) NITI Aayog (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
(c) Central pollution control (d) CSIR Board

**Answer – (a)**  
**Related facts**

- NITI Aayog released a report on 'Faecal Sludge and septage management: Service and business model' on 17 January 2021.
- It presents 27 case studies across 10 states and various service and business models adopted by Indian cities while implementing faecal sludge and septage management (FSSM) initiatives.
- The report mentions that about 60% of urban households rely on onsite sanitation systems, which require dedicated planning for management of waste collected in these systems' containment structures. Accordingly, FSSM planning prioritizes human excreta management, a waste stream with a high potential for spreading diseases.
- Universal access to toilets was achieved in urban India with the construction of 66 lakh household toilets and more than 6 lakh community and public toilets.
- After achieving the target of 'Open-Defecation-Free' (ODF), India has now moved towards becoming ODF+ and ODF++. These targets go beyond the concept of access to sanitation and aim for safely managed sanitation systems, with adequate treatment and safe disposal of toilet waste.



**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690414#:~:text=However%2C%2060%25%20of%20our%20urban,led%20models%20and%20community%20participation>

## Reliance Jio achieved new success

**Question : Brand Finance's latest study(January 2021) result shows that Reliance Jio becomes world's 5th strongest brand. India is one of the leading telecommunication market. The total subscriber base in the country stood at 1,167.81 million as of August 31, 2020. How much tele-density in this period ?**

- (a) 86.23 percent (b) 76.23 percent  
(c) 96.23 percent (d) 66.23 percent

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts**

- Brand Finance is the world's leading independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy.
- Brand Finance's latest study(January 2021) result shows that Reliance Jio becomes world's 5th strongest brand.
- BSI(Brand Strength Index) score of Reliance Jio
- Reliance Jio achieved this with a Brand Strength Index score of 91.7 out of 100 and the elite AAA+ brand strength rating.
- Apple, Amazon, Disney, Tencent, Alibaba, Nike, etc. are now behind of Reliance Jio.
- Jio scores highest in all metrics – consideration conversion, reputation, recommendation, word of mouth, innovation, customer service and value for money – compared to its telecom competitors in India.
- Reliance Jio
- RJio stated that despite only being founded in 2016, Jio has quickly become the largest mobile network operator in India and the third-largest mobile network operator in the world, with almost 400 million subscribers.
- The dominance of the brand across the nation is evident from the results from Brand Finance's original market research.
- Indian Telecom : Industry at a glance
- India is one of the leading telecommunication market.
- The total subscriber base in the country stood at 1,167.81 million with a tele-density of 86.23%, as of August 31, 2020.



**Link:**

[https://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/reliance-jio-becomes-world-s-5th-strongest-brand-121012800834\\_1.html](https://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/reliance-jio-becomes-world-s-5th-strongest-brand-121012800834_1.html)

## Pakistani Ballistic Missile

**Question : Pakistan on February successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile. Which one of the following is correct regarding this test fire ?**

- (a) Missile can strike targets up to 290 kilometers
- (b) Missile can strike targets up to 390 kilometers
- (c) Missile can strike targets up to 490 kilometers
- (d) Missile can strike targets up to 190 kilometers

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- India's neighbour country Pakistan on February successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile.

- The launching conducted under the Annual Field Training Exercise of Army Strategic Forces Command.
- This missile named as Ghaznavi. Missile can strike targets up to 290 kilometers.
- Missile is capable of delivering nuclear and conventional warheads.
- It is notable that Pakistan has previously test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-III which can strike targets up to 2,750 kilometres.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pak-test-fires-nuclear-capable-surface-to-surface-ballistic-missile/article33746298.ece>

## Launching of Airtel Safe Pay

**Question : The objective of ‘Airtel Safe Pay’ is to prevent digital payment frauds. It was launched on which date ?**

- (a)15 January 2021 (b)12 January 2021  
(c)10 January 2021 (d)None of the above

**Ans.(d)**

**Related facts**



- The objective of ‘Airtel Safe Pay’ is to prevent digital payment frauds. It was launched on Jan 20,2021.

**About Safe Pay**

- Safe Pay is a security feature that can be availed by Airtel Payments Bank Savings Account customers with an Airtel Mobile number linked to the account.
- It provides an additional real-time alert to the customers at the time of an UPI or Net banking transaction right before the debit of the customer’s account.
- The debit will only happen when the customer approves the transaction. It is the 3rd factor authentication along with the current process of 2 factor authentication.
- Safe Pay can be enabled by logging into Airtel Thanks app. In the Thanks app, customer need to go to either Home screen of Bank section or Payment Settings in the More section of Bank Home screen.
- In either of the sections, user/customer will find Secure Pay option. On clicking the same, user will land on the Secure Pay settings screen from where you can enable it.

**Alert**

User will be told about the amount getting debited and the name of the person to whom the payment is being made.

**Link:**

<https://www.airtel.in/bank/safe-pay>

## Unified web portal for monitoring the progress of GOBARDHAN

**Question: which of the following ministry has launched the GOBARDHAN Scheme?**

- a) Animal Husbandry
- b) Petroleum
- c) Agriculture
- d) Drinking Water & Sanitation

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:-**



- On 03 February 2021; unified web portal for monitoring the progress of GOBARDHAN activities across the nation, was launched.
- This portal has been launched by the ministers of different ministries of the union government including Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
- Other ministers, who were participated in this joint launching programme are 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.
- Gobardhan is an important component of Swachh Bharat Mission Phase-2 for organic solid waste management.
- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, at the rural level, earlier there was no way of proper disposal of cattle dung waste.
- He further said that after the introduction of Gobardhan programme, people will be able to provide proper disposal of dung and achieve the goal of ODF Plus.
- Animal Husbandry Minister Giriraj Singh said, Gobardhan pilot project will prove to be an important and useful step in cleanliness.
- He said, through this farmers will be able to get wealth from waste in a true sense.

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, through this important scheme of Gobardhan, we will get ethanol, bio-diesel and compressed bio-fuel in the coming years.

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar expressed confidence that the launch of unified portal of Gobardhan will further strengthen the rural economy.
- He said that now rural will get its strength through a convergent approach for various Biogas projects models and initiatives.
- He said, the ODF Plus goal outlined in the Phase 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin ) will depend on the performance of Gobardhan scheme to a great extent.
- It will not only effectively address the solid waste management challenge but will increase livelihood opportunities, and household earnings of farmers and people living in rural areas.
- He said, the country has attained the status of Open Defecation Free, ODF and now it is moving towards ODF Plus.
- He said, Gobardhan programme will prove to be a milestone for a Clean India.

Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Pankaj Kumar said, the Gobardhan scheme aims at supporting villages effectively to manage their cattle dung and other organic waste.

- He said, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation will work with all the other stakeholders to implement Gobardhan, a unified approach across village.
- GOBARDHAN Scheme:-
- Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has launched the GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) – DHAN scheme.
- The scheme is being implemented as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) comprises two main components for creating clean villages –

(i) Creating open defecation free (ODF) villages.

(ii) Managing solid and liquid waste in villages.

- With over 3.5 lakh villages, 374 districts and 16 States/UTs of the country being declared ODF, the stage is set for ODF-plus activities.
- ODF-plus activities will be done including measures to enhance Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).
- Purpose:-
- Purpose of the scheme is to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.
- The scheme also aims at creating new rural livelihood opportunities and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.

**Links:-**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=409148>

## US National Rifle Association

**Question : Why has the US National Rifle Association filed for bankruptcy?**

- (A) To avoid being investigated by New York's Attorney General
- (B) To avoid being investigated by California's Attorney General
- (C) To avoid being investigated by Arizona's Attorney General
- (D) To avoid being investigated by Florida's Attorney General

**Ans.(A)**

**Related facts**

- On 15th January 2021, the US National Rifle Association (NRA), the most powerful gun lobbyist in the USA, filed for bankruptcy in an effort to avoid being investigated by New York's Attorney General.
- Reincorporation

- NRA will now reincorporate in Texas, voluntarily filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code along with a subsidiary in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.
- NRA
- It is a non-profit organisation that was formed by two civil war veterans Col. William C. Church and Gen. George Wingate in 1871 in order to promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis.
- Reason of Investigation
- In August 2020, New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, sued the NRA based on allegations that the association's top executives diverted millions of dollars for their personal trips.
- Before this, the NRA sued the state of New York in April 2020 over its decision to deem gun retailers as non-essential businesses that were subject to closure during the Covid-19 induced lockdown.



**Link:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-has-the-us-national-rifle-association-filed-for-bankruptcy-7149178/>

### India E-waste statistics

**Question :** According to a recently released CPCB's report, how much India generated E-waste(electronic waste) in 2017-18 ?

- (a) 708,445 tonne (b) 508,445 tonne  
(c) 608,445 tonne (d) 408,445 tonne

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- CPCB(Central Pollution Control Board)has recently released e-waste generation statistics.
- According to the report, India generated 708,445 tonne e-waste in 2017-18 and 771,215 tonne the following fiscal, the report estimated.
- In 2019-20, the figure rose 32 percent to 1,014,961 tonnes.



**E-Waste(Electronic Waste) Management Rules, 2016**

- Above mentioned data belongs to 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment listed in the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016 on 23 March 2016 in supersession of the e-waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2011.
- E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016 was enacted on October 1, 2017.

- Over 21 products (Schedule-I) were included under the purview of the rule. These include discarded computer monitors, mobile phones, chargers, motherboards, headphones, television sets, among other appliances.
- **Targets & actual collection**
- The E-Waste collection targets for 2017-18 and 2018-19 based on the rules were 35,422 tonnes and 1,54,242 tonnes, respectively.
- The actual collection, however, was lower in both the years — 25,325 tonnes in 2017-18 and 78,281 tonnes in 2018-19.

**Link:**

<https://cpcb.nic.in/e-waste/>

## Doppler Weather Radars

**Question : At which place Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Doppler Weather Radars on January 2020 ?**

- (a) Mukteshwar & Kufri (b) Srinagar  
(c) Itanagar (d) Darjeeling

**Ans.(a)**

**Related facts**

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated its 146th Foundation Day on 15th January 2021.
- On this occasion Union Union Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Doppler Weather Radars.
- Radars were installed at Mukteshwar(Uttarakhand) & Kufri(Himachal Pradesh).
- Installation of state of art Doppler Weather Radars will provide valuable support to the disaster managers and to the pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage to Kailash Manasarovar and Char Dham yatra.



### Other launching/release

1. Multi-Mission Meteorological Data Receiving and Processing System(MMDRPS) in IMD in collaboration with ISRO (MMDRPS) also launched on this occasion.
  2. Report on Cyclone disturbances during 2020
  3. Hindi Patrika – ‘Mausam Manjusha’
  4. Official e-launched “Online Web Portal(<http://mausamjournal.imd.gov.in/index.php/MAUSAM/about/submissions>) of IMD Journal MAUSAM” in collaboration with CSIR-NISCAIR
  5. A special issue of Mausam on Tropical Cyclone
- It is notable that IMD(INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT) is one of the oldest, scientific service organizations in the country, in existence well before Independence.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1688891>