

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest



February 2021

**BANK
EXAMS
Today**

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NATIONAL NEWS

MoE, DEA and World Bank Signed Agreement for STARS Project

- The funds allotted for this project is **Rs 5,718 crore**.
- World Bank to offer financial support of **Rs 3700 crore** and the rest of the funds will be raised by the states for the period of **5 years**.

'Gender Park' --Kerala

- The **Government of Kerala** is set to launch this three-tower Gender Park in February 2021.
- It is built with funds of **Rs 300 crore** and it is **first of its kind in the nation**.

Young Readers' Boat Library in Kolkata, West Bengal

- The moto being this unique library is **to enjoy reading books while appreciating the beauty of Kolkata**.
- The boat library will cruise on the **Hooghly river of Kolkata** and will offer a **3 hours trip**.

'Aadi Mahotsav'

- The 'Aadi Mahotsav' is the **National Tribal Festival** which promotes tribal arts, crafts, medicines, cuisine etc.
- It also promotes **tribal folk dance forms and tribal artists** from around 20 Indian states.

India's First Centre for CWCM to be Setup in Chennai

- The announcement for the same was made by **Minister of the State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Babul Supriyo**.
- The centre for CWCM will be established in **Chennai's National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)**.

Ford Motor Co. Partnered Alphabet Inc's Google

- They have collaborated to **work in the areas of Software, Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics** and Cloud Computing in order to modernize the driving experience.
- Ford Motor Co. will make use of Google's AI technology in its **vehicles, supply chain and manufacturing processes**.

5th Tiger Reserve to be Setup in Tamil Nadu

- The Tiger Reserve of the state will surround the **Meghamalai and the Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuaries** within it.
- The tiger reserve will help in the **protection of wildlife**.

PM Modi Dedicated 4 Projects to West Bengal

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated 4 major projects to West Bengal during his visit to Haldia in West Bengal.
- The total costing of the **projects is Rs 4700 crore**.

Goa to Become Fisheries Hub of India

- The **Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh** announced to invest funds in Goa in order to make Goa a fisheries hub of India.
- In this regards, he announced to make an **investment of Rs 400 crore in the fisheries sector of Goa**.

BOM signed Co-Lending Agreement with LoanTap Credit Products

- The co-lending agreement was signed with an **aim to offer credit support to MSME loans**.
- Under this co-lending agreement, the bank will have an exposure of **up to 80% and the rest will be borne by the LoanTap**.

National Horticulture Fair 2021

- It is organised by **Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR)** at the Institute's Hessarghatta campus on the outskirts of Bengaluru city.

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- The theme for the National Horticulture Fair 2021: '**Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India**'.

Defence Minister inaugurated 57000 Water Structures in MP

- The water structures were inaugurated with an aim to **conserve water and to have a water management strategy**.
- The **57000 water structures** are built at a cost of Rs 2,000 crores.

GOI, Chhattisgarh Gov. and World Bank signed \$100 Million Project

- They have signed the amount for the project called **CHIRAAG (Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth)**.
- The project aims to **develop a sustainable production system which will help the tribal community of the state to produce nutritious food**.

NSDC Collaborated with Hewlett Packard (HP)

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** collaborated with Hewlett Packard (HP).
- Under this partnership, NSDC will host **content from HP's Print Learn Center (HP -PLC) on its digital skilling platform called 'eSkill India'**.

India's First Diesel Converted CNG Tractor

- **Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari** launched India's first CNG tractor.
- The first ever Diesel CNG Tractor will help **the farmers to save Rs 1 lakhs annually on fuel costs**.

ESFBL partnered with MSRDC and Ocean Highway Facilities and Solutions

- The terminal will help to **support and provide ease in management issues which are currently being faced by terminal operators**.
- The partnership will also **support truck owners and fleet owners by enabling ease in cashless transactions**.

11th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

- The Mahotsav was held at **Cooch Behar Palace in West Bengal**.
- The Mahotsav is a flagship programme of **Ministry of Culture, which was organised under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative**.

ESIC & NHA to upgrade Health Infra under AB PM-JAY

- They have collaborated to **upgrade health infrastructure under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in Maharashtra**.
- The partnership will provide medical care to **the insured beneficiaries of ESIC under ESI Act 1958**.

Mastercard partnered with Razorpay

- Mastercard has entered into a partnership with **fintech organisation, Razorpay**.

- The partnership will provide the **digital transformation of payment transaction processes to small businesses.**

PM inaugurated and laid Foundation Stone for Projects in Kerala

- PM Modi also inaugurated **50MW Kasaragod Solar Power Project.** It is developed under National Solar Energy Mission. The total cost required to build this project is Rs 280 crore.
- He also inaugurated the **750 MLD Water Treatment Plant** at Aruvikkara. It is developed under AMRUT Mission.

25 Cities Selected for 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' Cohort

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs(MoHUA)** announced the names of 25 Indian cities which are selected for Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge cohort.
- The **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge cohort is hosted by Smart Cities Mission of MoHUA in partnership** with Benard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and World Resources Institute (WRI) India being the technical partner.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated Atal Paryavaran Bhavan

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated Atal Paryavaran Bhavan at Lakshadweep.
- He also participated in various **official programmes at Suheli, Kadmat and Bangaram islands.**

Gov of Kerala to Build 'Smart' Anganwadis

- This work will be done by the **state government under the Smart Anganwadi scheme.**
- Under this scheme, the **Department of Women and Child Development** has approved to upgrade 48 anganwadis to 'smart' anganwadis.

PM Modi visited West Bengal & Assam to Dedicate Various Projects

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited West Bengal and Assam** with an aim to dedicate various projects to the nation.
- PM Modi dedicated important projects related **to the oil and gas sector at the event held in Assam.**

GOI and AIIB to improve Assam Power Transmission Network

- The loan agreement is signed **for Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project.**
- The total cost of this **project is \$365 million.** The AIIB will be providing \$304 million and the remaining funds will be granted by the state government.

BANKING

Union Budget 2021-22

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- The Union Budget 2021-22 was presented by **Union Finance Minister (FM), Nirmala Sitharaman** on 1st Feb 2021.
- The total COVID-19 support measures amount to 13% of GDP. Also, total COVID-19 support measures by **GOI and RBI amounts to Rs 27.1 lakh crore.**

Union Budget 2021-22 (Part B)

- It describes the **Tax Administration, Litigation Management and eases the compliance of Direct Tax Administration.** It also mentions about custom duty rationalization as well as rationalization of procedures and easing of compliance. The following are the details for same.

FedFirst – Children Saving Account

- The FedFirst Saving Account will help children to **know the money management process and the importance of money.**
- The bank also offers a **contactless debit card to the account holders of FedFirst account.**

Guidelines for LPCC by AMCs—By SEBI

- The guidelines illustrate that AMCs are supposed to **contribute Rs 150 crore towards the share capital of LPCC.**
- The LPCC is an entity which undertakes the activity of **clearing and settlement of repo transactions.**

External Professional IT Firms to Audit IT Infra of HDFC—RBI

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed an external professional IT firm to conduct a special audit of the IT infrastructure of HDFC Bank.
- The special audit will be conducted at the **cost of the bank under 30 (1-C) of Banking Regulation Act 1949.**

RBI Monetary Policy

- The **RBI's Monetary Policy Committee** headed by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** in their latest announcements stated to keep policy rates unchanged.
- Also, RBI has projected **India's GDP growth rate at 10.5% for FY 2021-22**-in the range of 26.2% to 8.3% in the first half and 6% in the third quarter.

RBI announced to Setup Committee for Urban Co-operative Banks

- The committee will be **comprised of stakeholders who will help in framing the roadmap** to strengthen the UCBs sector.
- The committee will also be responsible to **enable faster resolution and rehabilitation of UCBs.**

RBI to Conduct OMO of Rs 20,000 Crore

- RBI announced that it will purchase **4 government securities (G-Secs) which cost to Rs 20,000 crore.**
- The RBI will be **purchasing long-term security maturing** in 2024, 2028, 2030 and 2034.

IRDAI Panel suggests Introduction of ILIP

- The **working group committee** examined the need for ILIP in India.
- Thus after the introduction of ILIP, a new product will be added to the other two insurance categories namely, **Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) and Traditional Plans.**

Health AdvantEDGE Product of Bharti AXA General Insurance

- The Health AdvantEDGE comes up with **sum insured from Rs 2 lakhs to Rs 3 crore.**
- It provides cover from **pre-hospitalization which is 60 days** to post-hospitalization which is 90 days.

RBI's Restrictions on Independence Co-operative Bank Limited, Nashik

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed **restrictions on withdrawals from Independence Co-operative Bank Limited, Nashik.**
- The restrictions are imposed because of the **lender's present liquidity position.**

India's GDP to Contract by 7% for FY21

- As per the report, **India's GDP to contract by 7% for the fiscal year 2021.**
- Earlier it had estimated the **GDP contraction at 7.4%.**

EXIM Bank to Grant USD 400 Million to Maldives

- The financial assistance will be **provided through Line of Credit (LoC), which will be effective from 28th Jan 2021.**
- The **terminal utilisation period is 60 months** after the scheduled completion date of the project.

India's GDP to Grow at 10.4% in FY2022

- The India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has estimated that **India's economic growth will bounce to 10.4% in FY 2022.**
- As per the rating agency, the **GDP growth for Q1 to Q3 was negative**, and it predicts the growth to be positive in Q4 at 0.3%.

GOI to Infuse Rs 3000 cr. into State Owned General Insurance Companies

- The **Ministry of Finance, GOI has announced to infuse Rs 3000 crore** into state-owned general insurance companies in the current quarter.
- This will lead to **improving the financial status of these general insurance companies.**

Outward Forex Remittance Service of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- India's one of the leading private sector bank, **Kotak Mahindra Bank launched its outward forex remittance** service called 'Kotak Remit'.
- This service will allow the customers to directly send money **to their loved ones living abroad from their phones.**

RBI sets up Expert Panel to Strengthen UCBs

- The **expert committee will examine the issues and will generate** a roadmap to strengthen the UCBs sector.
- In this regards, the RBI has decided **to form an eight-member committee which will be headed by former RBI Deputy Governor NS Vishwanathan.**

India's GDP to Grow at 13.5%-- Nomura

- As per **Japanese brokerage Nomura**, India's GDP will grow at 13.5% in FY22.
- Also, Nomura estimated that real GDP **to contract by 6.7% in FY21 and for FY22 it will grow by 13.5%.**

RBI permitted Residents to Make Remittances under LRS to IFSCs

- The Reserve Bank of India permitted resident individuals **to make remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs).
- This will help **to strengthen the financial markets in the IFSCs and will enable an opportunity** for resident individuals to diversify their portfolios.

RBI issues Directions for Housing Finance Companies

- The issued directions will be applicable **to all the housing finance companies registered** under section 29A of the National Housing Bank Act 1987.
- The issued directions are related **to maintenance of liquidity coverage ratio, risk management, asset classification and loan-to-value ratio, among others, for housing finance companies (HFCs).**

HSBC raises India's GDP Forecast for FY 2021-22

- As per HSBC, **India's GDP to be at 11.2% for FY 2021-22.**
- Initially, it had an estimated **GDP forecast of 9% for India.**

RBI caps Withdrawal Limit from Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank

- The RBI has barred Deccan **Urban Co-operative Bank from granting new loans and accepting deposits** because of its poor liquidity position.
- These impositions will remain for **six months, as per RBI.**

'Namma Chennai Smart Card'

- ICICI Bank has launched this **smart card system in partnership with Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)** and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL).
- The 'Namma Chennai Smart Card' will help **the user to have a one-stop solution for making all kinds of payment transactions.**

SEBI introduces Pre-expiry Margins to Restrain Negative Price Scenarios

- The pre-expiry margins will be imposed during the **last 5 trading days which will be prior to the expiry date so that they will raise by 5% daily.**

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- This will result in encouraging a significant **reduction of open interest as the contract comes near to the expiry date.**

Indian Economy to Contract by 8% in 2020-21—By NSO

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has estimated that **India's GDP to contract by 8% in FY 2020-21.**
- Initially, it has **projected GDP contraction to 7.7%** for FY 2020-21.

India's GDP to Contract by 7% in FY21—Moody's Rating Agency

- Moody's Rating Agency has projected that **India's economy to contract by 7% for FY 2020-21.**
- Also, the rating agency has projected that the **Indian economy will grow to 13.7% for FY 2022 as compared to its previous estimation of 10.8%.**

Exim Bank Extended LoC to Nicaragua

- It has extended the **LoC of USD 7.35 million to the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua.**
- The LoC was extended **to have the replacement and supply of equipment of the High Technology Centre of Hospital Antonio Lenin Fonseca, Nicaragua.**

SBI Partnered with JPMorgan

- The **State Bank of India (SBI) has entered into a partnership with JPMorgan** to use its blockchain network technology.
- JPMorgan's **new blockchain-based interbank data network, called 'Liink' is joined by SBI.**

INDEX AND RANKING

Democracy Index 2020

- As per the index, **India is at 53rd rank position** with a score of 6.61 among 167 countries.
- The index is topped by **Norway with a score of 9.81.**

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
R S Sharma	CEO of Ayushman Bharat Scheme
Jay Shah	President of Asian Cricket Council
Rama Mohan Rao Amara	MD and CEO of SBI Card
Bhavya Lal	Acting Chief of Staff of NASA
Henry Moniz	First Chief Compliance Officer of Facebook
Rajeev Ranjan	Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu
Anish Shah	Chairman of the board of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services (Mahindra Finance)
Andy Jassy	CEO of Amazon

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Praveen Sinha	Interim Director of CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation)
Ajay Singh	President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI)
Ayesha Aziz	India's Youngest Female Pilot
SN Subrahmanyam	Chairman of National Safety Council (NSC) by Ministry of Labour and Employment
Sridhar Vembu	National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
Bikram Singh	MD of Google Cloud's Business in India
Michael Bloomberg	United Nations Climate Envoy
Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala	First Female DG of World Trade Organisation (WTO)
TP Rajendran	To head an expert committee which will review the objections of the industry to the proposed ban on 27 pesticides, which are harmful to animals and humans
Nagraj Kashyap	Japan based Softbank Group's Vision Fund as their Managing Partner
Tomoaki Takeuchi	Country Head and MD for Japan by Wipro Limited
Michael Seiger	Country Head and MD for Germany and Austria by Wipro Limited
VP Joy	Chief Secretary of Kerala
Satishwar Balakrishnan	MD and CEO of Aegon Life Insurance
Mario Draghi	Prime Minister of Italy
Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar	Chief Justice of Manipur High Court
Marc Llistosella	MD and CEO of Tata Motors Limited
Karim Khan	Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
Rashmi Samant	President of Oxford Student's Union
Rana Daggubati	Brand Ambassador of CEAT
Ajay Mathur	Director-General of International Solar Alliance (ISA)
Preeti Sinha	Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala	Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
Jean Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge	Prime Minister of Congo
Darshan	Agriculture Ambassador of the Department of Karnataka by the state government
Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan	Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry
Hima Das	Deputy Superintendent of Police by Assam Government
Usha Rao Monari	Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Seiko Hashimoto	Tokyo Olympic President
Ajai Malhotra	Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council

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Mohammad Younes Menfi	Interim Head of Presidential Council of Libya
Abdul Hamid Dbeibah	Interim Prime Minister of Libya
PM Narendra Modi	Chairperson of the governing council of NITI Aayog set up by the Central Government
Viruss (Punjabi Singer and Rapper)	Drive the public awareness campaign on cyber frauds by the Reserve Bank of India
Vijay Sampla	Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
Woochong Um	Managing Director General of Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Dr A Sakthivel	President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)
Sachin Tendulkar	Brand Ambassador of Unacademy
Irakli Garibashvili	Prime Minister of Georgia
Mohamed Bazoum	President of Niger
Natalia Vodianova	Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Dushyant Chautala	President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)
Prof Janakiram	to head the committee set up by IRDAI to review its information and security guidelines
Subhash Chandra Khuntia	Chairman of IRDAI
Gautam Thakar	Global CEO of OLX Autos
Deepika Padukone	Brand Ambassador for Levi's

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awards	Awardee
4th edition of Alert Being Icon Awards	AR Rahman (Music Composer) and Saidapet Hari Krishnan (Social Activist)
1st prize in Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award Contest	Robert Irwin
50th International Film Festival Rotterdam 2021	'Koozhangal'
Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer' award	Bangalore International Airport Limited's (Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru)
Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Women Excellence Award 2021	Dr Shobhna Kapoor, Dr Antara Banerjee, Dr Sonu Gandhi and Dr Ritu Gupta
Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020 by Sanctuary Nature Foundation	S. Theodore Baskaran
Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
5th Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020 under the Innovation category by UNEP	Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
International Anticorruption Champions Award	Anjali Bhardwaj

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'Best Service Provider' in HR and 'Best Institution' for 'Excellence in Learning and Development' at the 29th Global HRD Congress Awards	Union Bank of India
'CERA Week Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award'	PM Narendra Modi

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 st February 2021	Indian Coast Guard Day	--
2 nd February 2021	World Wetlands Day	Theme: Wetlands and Water
4 th February 2021	World Cancer Day	Theme: 'I am and I will'
4 th February 2021	International Day of Human Fraternity	Theme: 'A Pathway to the Future'
6 th February 2021	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female	Theme: No Time for Global Inaction: Unite, Fund and act to end Female Genital Mutilation
8 th February to 12 th February 2021	Financial Literacy Week	Theme: Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions
10 th February 2021	World Pulses Day	Theme: 'Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future'
11 th February 2021	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Theme: 'Women Scientist at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19'
11 th February 2021	World Unani Day	--
12 th February 2021	National Productivity Day	--
13 th February 2021	World Radio Day	Theme: New World, New Radio
13 th February 2021	National Women's Day	--
19 th February 2021	Soil Health Card Day	--
20 th February 2021	World Day of Social Justice	Theme: 'A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy'
20 th February 2021	World Pangolin Day	--
21 st February 2021	International Mother Language Day	Theme: 'Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society'
22 nd February 2021	World Thinking Day	--
24 th February 2021	Central Excise Day	--
27 th February 2021	World NGO Day	--
27 th February 2021	National Protein Day	Theme: 'Powering with Plant Protein'
28 th February 2021	National Science Day	Theme: ' Future of STI: Impact on Education and Work'
28 th February 2021	Rare Disease Day	--

MOUS SIGNED

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Signed MoU with Zomato

- The MoU aims to bring street food vendors on the **food-tech platform of Zomato**.
- The MoU was signed **to frame a pilot program between both entities** by on-boarding 300 vendors.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways signed MoU with IIT-BHU

- The **Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways** has signed **MoU** with Indian Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU).
- The ministry has signed MoU with an aim **to upgrade the roads of India in a scientific manner**.

HAL signed MoU with MIDHANI

- They have collaborated **for the purpose of development and production of composite raw materials** which are used in aerospace.
- They signed the MoU during **Aero India 2021** which was held in Bengaluru.

Gov. of Goa signed MoU with CII

- They have signed MoU **to set up a Model Career Centre in Goa**.
- This partnership will help in **creating jobs and will increase the livelihood** of the youths of Goa.

ICICI Bank signed MoU with MUFG Bank Ltd, Japan

- The MoU is signed **to fulfil banking requirements of Japan's corporates** which are present in India.
- The MoU is signed **to develop a framework between all the banks in order to fulfil domains like trade, investment, treasury, and retail banking solutions**.

Triton Electric Vehicle signed MoU with BEL

- The Triton Electric Vehicle signed MoU with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.
- They signed MoU **to enhance cooperation in energy storage systems and electric vehicles (EV) development**.

India and Afghanistan Signed MoU to Construct Shahtoot Dam

- The MoU was signed by **Union Foreign Minister S Jaishankar** and his counterpart Hanif Atmar.
- The Shahtoot Dam will be constructed on a **tributary of the Kabul River in Afghanistan**.

Defence Ministry signed Pact with BEL

- The pact was signed to procure a **Software-Defined Radio Tactical (SDR-Tac) ship-borne system**, which is worth Rs 1000 crore.
- This procurement deal of **SDR-Tac will result in strategic depth in armed forces**.

Siemens Ltd signed Two MoUs with IISc and CMTI

- They have entered into **MoU to setup first-of-its-kind digital transformation labs.**
- The labs will provide a platform **to enhance the expertise of researchers of IISc.**

Skyroot Aerospace signed MoU with Bellatrix Aerospace

- The Spacetech startups namely **Skyroot Aerospace and Bellatrix Aerospace** have entered into MoU.
- Both the Spacetech startups aim **to launch their first mission of a Vikram launcher with an Orbital Transfer Vehicle by 2023.**

Meghalaya Police Signed MoU with SBI

- They have entered into MoU **to implement the e-challan in the jurisdiction of the Shillong Traffic Police (STP).**
- The e-challan system will be a **digital traffic enforcement solution** which will be used to impose penalties on violators of traffic rules and to generate challan in a digital manner.

Bihar signed MoU with UNEP

- The MoU was signed **to have climate resilience and low carbon development in Bihar by 2040.**
- With this, **Bihar has become the first Indian state to enter into such an agreement.**

HCL signed MoU with IIT Kanpur

- HCL will be **collaborately working with C3iHub**, which is the cybersecurity research centre of IIT Kanpur.
- Both HCL and IIT Kanpur will **develop advanced solutions and security framework for cybersecurity.**

WHO SEARO signed Pact with Ministry of AYUSH

- The **World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO SEARO)** has entered into a Letter of Exchange (LoE) with Ministry of AYUSH.
- The LoE was signed with an aim of **deputation of an expert of AYUSH to WHO's regional traditional medicine programme in New Delhi.**

India and Australia Signed MoU for Space Collaboration

- **India signed MoU with Australia to boost partnership in Civil Space Activities.** In this regards, MoU was signed between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Australian Space Agency.
- The MoU is **basically an amendment** of the '2012 India Australia Inter-Governmental MoU for Cooperation in Civil Space Science, Technology and Education.

Essar Oil and Gas Signed MoU with IIT Dhanbad

- The **Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd** will provide a list of research topics and industrial experts to IIT Dhanbad.
- The advanced training **to the experts will be provided by IIT Dhanbad.**

Indian Bank signed MoU with Society for Innovation and Development

- They have signed MoU to grant credit facilities to startups and MSMEs.
- The MoU was signed under Indian Bank's initiative called 'Ind SpringBoard for financing Startups'.

CSIR signed MoU with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- They have entered into an agreement to uplift the health development activities and promote health research in India.
- Both organisations will work to identify scientific and technological opportunities which can be used in the health sector.

India and Ethiopia signed Two Agreements

- India and Ethiopia signed two agreements on visa facilitation and leather technology.
- The MoU for leather technology was signed between CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) from India and Wollo University of Ethiopia.

India and Maldives signed Various Agreements

- India and Maldives have signed multiple agreements in various areas to boost the bilateral cooperation between them.
- The EXIM Bank of India and Fahi Dhiriulhun Corporation signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for financing 2,000 social housing units in Hulhumale.

TERI signed MoU with POSOCO

- The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) has signed an MoU with the Power System Corporation of India (POSOCO).
- They have entered into MoU to enhance capacity building, strengthen research activity and knowledge sharing related to the domestic power sector.

MPEDA signed MoU with NCDC

- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has signed MoU with National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- They will be organising programmes which will promote marine products, the culture of the fisheries sector and allied services.

GOI and World Bank to Improve School Education in Nagaland

- The agreement is signed for the project called 'Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project'.
- This project aims to improve teaching methods and the learning environment in the state.

MCA signed MoU with CBIC

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has signed an MoU with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- The MoU is signed **for having an Exchange of Data between both entities.**

IWAI signed MoU with MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte. Ltd

- The MoU is signed **for having transportation of LPG through barges on National Waterways-1 and National Waterways-2.**
- Under this MoU, the MOL will perform **investment for constructing and operating dedicated LPG barges.**

SIDBI signed MoU with Andhra Pradesh Gov.

- The PMU will help **to frame schemes and programmes to uplift the MSME ecosystem in the state.**
- The schemes and programmes will be in **areas like equity support, interest subvention, resolution of stressed MSMEs, supporting MSME entrepreneurs** and facilitate other need-based intervention.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' Mission-- Punjab

- The **Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amarinder Singh**, launched 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission.
- The 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission aims **to the portable water supply to every rural house of the state by March 2022.**

Switch Delhi Campaign

- The campaign is launched **to promote usage of electric vehicles and encourage a community of Delhi to purchase electric vehicles.**
- The more number of usage of **electric vehicles will help to reduce air pollution in the capital.**

Asom Mala Programme

- **India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the 'Asom Mala' programme in Dhekiajuli of Sonitpur district of Assam.
- The programme is launched **to boost the road infrastructure and enhance the economic progress of the state.**

'Swavalamban Sashakt-Mega Campaign'

- The **'Swavalamban Sashakt- Mega Campaign'** will deliver the 20 webinar series which will promote the importance of SUI Scheme.
- The webinar series will be held on every **Wednesday at 3 pm.**

REWARD Project

- The significance of REWARD is '**Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development**'.
- The total sanctioned amount for this project is **Rs 500 crore**.

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) Programme

- The programme was rolled out by **Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mahendra Nath Pandey**.
- The fellowship programme was rolled out during the event of '**Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships under SANKALP**'.

'Pey Jal Survekshan'—By MoHUA

- The '**Pey Jal Survekshan**' aims to have a distribution of water and reuse of wastewater.
- It aims to have **qualitatively and quantitatively mapping of water bodies**.

'Maa Scheme'--- West Bengal

- The total funds allotted for '**Maa Scheme**' by the state government is **Rs 100 crores**.
- The state government will bear the **subsidy of Rs 15 a per plate of meal**.

E-Chhawani Portal and Mobile App

- The E-Chhawani' and Mobile App is launched with an aim to **provide online civic services to the residents of Contentment Boards across India**.
- It is developed by **eGov Foundation, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), and National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

PM Modi Launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' Programme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched '**Mahabahu-Brahmaputra**' programme. He also laid foundation stone of the Dhubri Phulbari bridge and Majuli-Jorhat bridge in Assam.
- About '**Mahabahu-Brahmaputra**' Programme: The programme is launched to strengthen water connectivity in Assam and adjoining region by using water of River Brahmaputra and Barak.

Instant Messaging Platform 'Sandesh'

- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched **an instant messaging platform called 'Sandesh'**. It is similar to WhatsApp.
- The app can be used **for all types of communication by anyone** having either a mobile number or an email address.

'Go Electric Campaign'

- The campaign is launched to **promote awareness and importance of EV charging infrastructure** and e-mobility as well as electric cooking in India.

- The campaign will promote **environmental-friendly, cost-effective, and indigenous electric products.**

National Urban Digital Mission

- The Central Government launched '**National Urban Digital Mission**'.
- It was launched by **Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** and **Union Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad.**

DEFENCE

16th Yudh Abhyas

- The Indo-US joint military exercise is being held at the **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges of Bikaner district of Rajasthan.**
- **Around 250 military soldiers** from both nations will be participating in the exercise.

TROPEX-21

- The significance of TROPEX is **Theatre level Operational Readiness Exercise.**
- The exercise aims **to observe the operational units of the Indian Navy, Indian Army, Coast Guard, and Indian Air Force.**

Indian Navy joined 'Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021' Naval Ex.

- The aim of this naval exercise is **to boost international maritime trade security, combat maritime terrorism** and enhance partnership among nations to share information with each other.
- The drill covered an **area of 17,000 sq. km. by performing shooting at sea and air targets.** The navies liberated hijacked ships and conducted search and rescue operations.

India Successfully Test Fired 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra'

- The testing trials were conducted from the **Advanced Light Helicopter at Pokhran deserts of Rajasthan.**
- Both the ATGM systems are having the **all-weather day-and-night capability.** They can defeat battle tanks with a conventional armour and explosive reactive armour.

India and Indonesia conducted 'PASSEX Exercise'

- **Indian Navy's INS Talwar** and **Indonesian Navy's multirole corvette KRI Bung Tomo** participated in the naval exercise.
- The main aim behind PASSEX is **to enhance interoperability and strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation.**

DRDO successfully Launched VL-SRSAM

- The VL-SRSAM is developed by **DRDO** and was launched for the **Indian Navy.**

- It has a **strike range of 40-50 km** and provides defence against aerial and water targets.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

The Davos Agenda 2021

- The Davos Agenda 2021, which is the 51st **World Economic Forum Meet** was held recently.
- He mentioned that WEF focused on '**Fourth Industrial Revolution-using technology for the good of humanity**'.

ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021

- The **Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) and Ministry of Education** launched the ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021.
- The inaugural session for same was addressed by **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**.

India & Qatar held 4th Foreign Office Consultations

- The Indian side was represented by **Sanjay Bhattacharyya**. He is Secretary of Consular, Passport and Visa and OIA in Ministry of External Affairs.
- Qatar's side was represented by **Dr Ahmad Hassen Al-Hammadi**. He is Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Chief of Air Staff (CAS) Conclave

- The conclave was inaugurated by **Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh** at **Air Force Station Yelahanka** in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The theme for the CAS Conclave: '**Leveraging Aerospace Power for Security and Stability**'.

India- Bahrain held First Joint Working Group Meeting

- India was represented by **Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale** and the Ambassador of India to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava.
- Bahrain was represented by **President of Sustainable Energy Authority Dr Abdul Hussain Bin Ali Mirza**.

Indian Ocean Region Defence Minister's Conclave

- The **Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Minister's Conclave** was hosted by India on the sidelines of Aero India 2021.
- The conclave was held **to have discussions at an institutional, economical and cooperative environmental level** in order to have peace, stability and prosperity in Indian Ocean Region.

First India-European Union High-Level Dialogue

- The Indian delegation was represented by **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal**.
- And EU's delegation was represented by **European Union Executive Vice-President & Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis**.

World Sustainable Development Summit 2021

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021.
- The summit is organised by The **Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI)**.

2nd International Conference on Gender Equality

- The 2nd edition of the **International Conference of Gender Equality (ICGE-II)** was held in Kerala.
- The ICGE-II was hosted by **Gender Park in partnership with United Nations Women**.

29th NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum

- The event was organised by **NASSCOM with Maharashtra as state partner and Microsoft** was the technology partner.
- The forum was held to **build a roadmap for the future to enhance technology usage and to build the trust of people in technology**.

11th World Petro Coal Congress & World Future Fuel Summit 2021

- **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan** addressed the joint conference.
- The **Energy and Environment Foundation** organised both conferences.

India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)

- The I-ACE was organised by **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, India and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia**.
- The hackathon observed the participation of **more 200 participants in 39 teams from India** and 33 teams from Australia.

18th BioAsia 2021

- The 18th BioAsia 2021 was held in **Hyderabad**. It is Asia's largest Life Sciences and Biotechnology and Healthcare forum.
- The 18th edition of the **forum focused on COVID-19, Health, Pharma and MedTech sectors**.

26th Hunar Haat

- The event observed the participation of **around 600 artisans and craftsmen** from various states and UTs.
- The Hunar Haat event is organised **to provide job opportunities to artisans and craftsmen**.

India, Australia and France held Trilateral Dialogue

- The senior officers from **India, Australia and France** participated to conduct trilateral dialogue among **the three nations**.
- All three nations reviewed the progress activities and assured to **maintain peace and prosperity** in the Indo-Pacific region.

India held Sherpas' Meeting

- The Sherpas meeting was chaired by **Sanjay Bhattacharya, Secretary of Consular Passport and Visa (CPV) and Overseas Indian Affairs (OIA)**.
- The meeting also observed the participation of **P Harish, Additional Secretary of Economic Relations** as India's BRICS Sherpa and Sous Sherpa.

