



**MONTHLY
ONE-
LINER GK
DIGEST:**



JANUARY

2021



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Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: January 2021

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act

- The act is passed **to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women** which will help them pursue higher education under a merit and needs-based programme.
- The bill was passed by the **United States Senate by a voice vote on 1st Jan** and now heads to the White House for US President Donald Trump to sign into law.

NATIONAL NEWS

UN's FAO Named 4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites as GIAHS

- The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has named **4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites across three countries** as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

PM Modi laid Foundation Stone for Light House Projects (LHPs)

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of **Light House Projects (LHPs)** for Six Indian states.
- The LHP will be constructed under the **Global Housing Technology Challenge of India**.

India to Co-Chair IUCN Supported APAP

- It is basically a **regional forum which conserves** the wildlife habitats.
- India is selected to co-chair this **forum for the tenure of 3 years i.e. till Nov 2023**.

TRIFED, DoNER and India Post to Promote North-East Tribal Products

- They will be promoting the products by **implementing and adopting marketing** and logistics strategies.
- They have partnered with an aim **to create a brand of products from NE region and to offer a global platform for products**.

Tamil Academy to be Setup in Delhi

- The decision and announcement for the same were made by the **Delhi government's Department of Art, Culture, and Language**.
- For this, the Delhi Gov. has appointed a **former councillor and member of Delhi Tamil, Sangam N Raja** as the Vice-Chairman of the academy.

Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline

- The Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline was constructed by **GAIL India Ltd with the funds of Rs 3000 crore**.
- The **pipeline will be carrying natural gas from LNG regasification terminal** at Kochi, Kerala to Mangaluru, Karnataka.

TATA Power Partnered with SIDBI

- India's largest integrated power company, **TATA Power** partnered with **SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India)**.
- They have partnered **to offer financial support to MSMEs who are associated with the rooftop solar segment**.

Krishi Sanjeevani Vans -- Karnataka

- The **Government of Karnataka** has **flagged off 40 Krishi Sanjeevani Vans** to test the quality of soil, water for farming purpose.
- The Krishi Sanjeevani Vans will also suggest remedies **for pest control in order to improve the productivity of farms**.

Rewari-Madar Section of WDFC Inaugurated by PM Modi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **306 km long Rewari-Madar** section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC).

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- Along with this, PM Modi also flagged off the world's first 1.5 km **long double-stack long haul container train between New Ateli in Haryana and New Kishangarh in Rajasthan.**

India and NDB Signed Loan Agreement to Upgrade Highways in Andhra Pradesh

- The total loan agreement signed between the entities is of **USD 646 million**. Each project costs USD 323 million.
- The main moto of the projects is **to improve transport efficiency, road safety, mobility and offer connectivity to socioeconomic centres.**

India to Chair Three Important UNSC Committees

- TS Tirumurti, who is the Permanent Representative of India **to the United Nations made an announcement that India will chair three vital committees of UN Security Council (UNSC)** as a non-permanent member of 15 nations UN body.

Japan Commits Financial Support for COVID Relief Efforts to India

- Japan has committed the **Official Development Assistance loan to India for COVID relief efforts.**
- Japan has committed to offering the loan of **30 billion Japanese Yen which is Rs 2113 crore** to India.

Khadi Prakritik Paint

- The '**Khadi Prakritik Paint**' is an **innovative new paint** which is eco-friendly and non-toxic. It is a first-of-its-kind paint having anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.
- It is developed by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** and is certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Single Window Clearance System for Coal Sector

- **Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah** launched the 'Single Window Clearance System' for coal mines.
- This single clearance system will **reduce the time required for various approvals.**

India's First Indigenously Developed Driverless Metro Car

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** unveiled India's first indigenously developed Driverless Metro Car.
- The country's first Driverless Metro Car is manufactured at Bengaluru's manufacturing facility of BEML for **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)'s MRS1 project.**

Dr.Harsh Vardhan Inaugurated the Doppler Weather Radars

- The Doppler Weather Radars were inaugurated in **Mukteshwar village of Uttarakhand and Kufri hill station in Himachal Pradesh.**
- Thus **due to this Uttarakhand** has got first of its kind Doppler Weather Radar.

PM Modi Flagged off 8 Trains Which Connect the Statue of Unity

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off 8 trains** connecting the Statue of Unity in Gujarat via video conference.
- These trains will connect different parts of India to **Kevadiya in Gujarat where the Statue of Unity is situated.**

WE Hub Partnered with i-Hub

- Both the entities will launch a pre-incubation program for **240 aspiring women entrepreneurs in the EdTech, MedTech and Fintech sectors.**
- After the pre-incubation program, around **20 women entrepreneurs** will be selected for the final virtual/physical co-incubation program.

24th National Youth Festival (NYF)

- The festival was held **to commemorate the birth anniversary** of Swami Vivekananda.
- The festival was attended by **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Services Scheme (NSS).**

Clean and Sustainable Ocean Partnership between ADB and EIB

- They have also partnered **to achieve climate goals under the Paris Agreement.**
- Both ADB and EIB will jointly work **to protect the oceans and support the sustainable blue economy.**

Startup India Seed Fund

- The 'Startup India Seed Fund' is launched **to form new startups and promote existing startups.**
- The fund will help **to advance the growth prospects of startups.**

MeitY Partnered with Amazon Web Services

- This **Quantum Computing Applications Lab** will be the first in the world to support the nation's government missions.
- Under this partnership, AWS will be providing **hosting, technical and programmatic support to the researchers.**

Maharashtra to Start 'Jail Tourism'

- The initiative will be inaugurated by **CM of the state in presence of Deputy CM on the occasion of Republic Day.**
- This 'jail tourism' initiative will be launched with an aim **to allow people to visit the historical prisons in the state** as memories of many freedom fighters imprisoned there have been preserved.

CAQM to Partner with Technical Institutions

- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has decided to enter into a partnership with technical institutions of India **to develop a Decision Support System (DSS).**

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- The experts from these technical institutes will provide an **expert technical solution to CAQM to develop DSS which will be based on AI technology.**

Bharat Parv-2021

- The annual event Bharat Parv-2021 was inaugurated by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on 26th Jan 2021.**
- The event was conducted to **observe and celebrate the spirit of India and showcase its cultural diversity.**

India Pledged USD 150,000 for UN Peacebuilding

- This fund amount will help to **offer support to the UN for its activities and programmes for 2021.**
- The funds will be particularly used for **peacebuilding with a broader context** and to tackle COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between India and IEA

- The MoU will enable cooperation in the **global energy security sector.**
- The MoU was signed between **Sanjiv Nadan Sahai, Secretary of Ministry of Power, GOI** and Executive Director of IEA, Dr Fatih Birol.

2021: Indo-French Year of the Environment

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar** along with French Minister for Ecological Transition, Barbara Pompili launched 2021 as the Indo-French Year of the Environment.

BANKING

ADB and GOI Signed Loan Agreement to Finance Horticulture in HP

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India** has entered into a loan agreement to support the horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- They have signed a **\$10 million project readiness financing (PRF) agreement** for same.

'RuPay PoS'—By RuPay and RBL Bank

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced that RuPay** has partnered with RBL Bank to launch 'RuPay PoS' in association with PayNearby.
- The 'RuPay PoS' is an **innovative payment solution for Indian merchants.**

RBI Digital Payment Index

- The DPI is based on 5 key parameters which are used to **measure deepening and penetration of digital payments** in the country over different time periods.

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- RBI has measured DPI for **March 2019 and March 2020** which came to **153.47 and 207.84** respectively which indicated an appreciable growth.

ADB Approved Loan to Upgrade Power Distribution System in Bangalore

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved the loan amount for India to upgrade the power distribution network in Bangalore city.
- Besides the **USD 100 million sovereign loans**, the ADB will also be providing to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (BESCOM).

World Bank, GOI and West Bengal Gov. Signed Loan Agreement

- The **World Bank, Government of India and Government of West Bengal** have entered into a loan agreement to improve waterways in West Bengal.
- For this purpose, a loan agreement of **\$105 million** was signed.

Indian Economy to Contract by 9.6% in FY 2020-21—World Bank

- The World Bank has predicted that India's economy to **contract by 9.6% in FY 2020-21**.
- The global economy is expected to **expand to 4% in 2021**.

Legal Entity Identifier for NEFT, RTGS Transaction above Rs 50 crore

- The LEI is a **20 digit number** which will be used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.
- This will lead to **improving the quality and accuracy of financial data systems** for better risk management post the global financial crisis.

Indian Economy to Contract by 7.7% in FY 2020-21--NSO

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has predicted that **India's GDP to contract by 7.7% for FY 2020-21**.
- NSO comes under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)**.

RBI Announced Operationalization of PIDF Scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced the operationalization of **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme**.
- The functioning of PIDF Scheme will be **managed by RBI's Deputy Governor, BP Kanungo**.

India's GDP to Contract at 7.5% for FY2020-21—UBS Investment Bank

- The UBS Investment Bank, which is a major Swiss brokerage has projected that **India's GDP to contract 7.5% for FY2020-21**.
- It has also made an estimation that the **economy will rebound at 11.5% in FY22**.

FSS Partnered with IPPB

- They have partnered to **boost the financial inclusion in underserved and unbanked areas of India**.

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- Under this partnership, **IPPB will make use of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) of FSS** to offer the doorstep banking services to its customers in India.

ICICI Bank Partnered with Fintech Niyo

- India's private sector bank, **ICICI Bank has partnered with Fintech Niyo to launch and issue prepaid cards to MSME workers.**
- The card will also allow **workers to get the benefit of the funds up to Rs. 1 lakh** into the card account.

'YES BANK Wellness' and 'YES BANK Wellness Plus' Credit Cards

- The Yes Bank in partnership with **Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited** launched the **themed credit cards.**
- These themed credit cards are launched **to offer holistic health, self-care and wellness facilities to the consumers.**

YES MSME

- It is a proposition to strengthen **MSMEs with fast and easy access to funds** and support them with digital solutions.
- The Yes Bank under YES MSME programme will offer **collateral-free funds up to Rs 5 crore.**

'InstaFX' Mobile App—ICICI Bank

- The 'InstaFX' app is launched **to help the customers of any bank to get 'ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card' swiftly.**
- Thus by doing so, ICICI Bank has become **first in the country to offer this facility to money changers.**

'AURA' Credit Card—Axis Bank

- The AURA Credit Card comes up with **health and wellness benefits features at an affordable cost to the users.**
- **To launch this card with exclusive benefit features,** Axis Bank has partnered with Poshvine, Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG etc.

GrayQuest Partnered with SBM Bank India

- They have partnered with SBM Bank India with an aim **to offer support to its clients with affordable funds to pay their children's academic fees in monthly payments.**
- Until now , the education fintech company GrayQuest has joined hands with **2000 leading schools, universities and colleges for financial support.**

India's Economy to Contract by 8% -- By IMF

- As per IMF, India's GDP to contract by **8% in the fiscal year 2021-22.**
- Also, the IMF has projected that **Indian economy to rise to 11.5% in FY2021-22.**

Framework for Strengthening Grievance Redress Mechanism in Banks--RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the framework for **strengthening the grievance redress mechanism in banks**.
- It is also launched with an aim **to address the complaints lodged by customers in a time-bound manner**.

INDEX AND RANKING

Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021

- The index is topped by **Jeff Bezos with a net worth of 190 Billion USD**.
- India's richest man **Mukesh Ambani** has achieved the 12th position in the index.

Henley Passport Index 2021

- The Henley Passport Index 2021 was **released by Henley and Partners**.
- As per the report, India is ranked at **85th position among 110 nations** with a visa-free score of 58.

Global Firepower Index 2021

- This index ranks the countries as per their **military strength**.
- To rank the countries, the GFI makes the **calculations by considering 50 individual factors**.

2nd India Innovation Index

- The index describes the efforts taken by the government **to transform India into an innovation emerged nation**.
- The India Innovation Index analyses performances undertaken **for innovation by states and UTs and rank them accordingly**.

16th Global Climate Risk Index 2021

- The **Bonn, Germany based environmental think tank named Germanwatch** released the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.
- As per the index ranking, India is at **7th position among the countries that are most affected by climate change in 2019**.

Corruption Perception Index 2020

- As per the index ranking, **India is at 86th rank position among 180 nations, with a score of 40**.
- The index is topped by **New Zealand and Denmark, both with the score of 88**.

Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) recently launched the **Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index**.

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- The index is first-of-its-kind and is a tool to analyse the readiness of eleven health systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

REPORTS

16th Global Risks Report 2021

- The report was drafted by Marsh McLennan, SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group.
- The main moto of the report is to enable better preparation by government and institutional organisations during the time of crisis.

2nd India Justice Report 2020

- As per the report, Maharashtra is at the top position among the 18 large and mid-size states to provide better justice delivery.
- Also, in the category of small states, the report ranking is topped by Tripura in providing better justice delivery.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Soma Mondal	Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
Suneet Sharma	Chairman and CEO of Railway Board
P Ravi Kumar	38th Chief Secretary of Karnataka
K. Sivan	ISRO Chairman and Secretary of Department of Space
Umesh Sinha	Deputy Election Commissioner in Election Commission of India
Sanjay Kapoor	President of All India Chess Federation (AICF)
Ashish Pethe	Chairman of All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)
Saiyam Mehra	Vice-Chairman of All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)
Ram Vinay Shahi	Head the committee set up by the central government named as 'South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)'
Lt Gen Shantanu Dayal	Deputy Chief of Army Staff
Karan Bajwa	Head the Google Cloud in the Asia Pacific. Currently, he heads the Google Cloud in India
Abhishek Yadav	1st Deputy General Secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF)
Alex Ellis	British High Commissioner to India
Arup Kumar Goswami	Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court
J K Maheshwari	Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court
Hima Kohli	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court
Raghvendra Singh Chauhan	Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court

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Sudhanshu Dhulia	Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court
Judge Merrick Garland	US President Joe Biden for the post of United State's Attorney General
N S Viswanathan	To head the academic advisory council committee called 'College of Supervisors' formed by RBI
G Kishan Reddy	To head the committee which will work to protect language, cultural identity and land of UT Ladakh
Dr Raj Iyer	Chief Information Officer of the US Army
Sumona Guha	Senior Director for South Asia by US President Joe Biden
Tarun Chhabra	Senior Director for Technology and National Security by US President Joe Biden
Faustin-Archange Touadera	President of the Central African Republic
Preeti Pant	To head the expert panel which will examine the findings of National Family Health Survey-5
RS Sharma	To head the 10 member panel which will look after the administration of COVID-19 vaccine
Jay Shah	BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) for the ICC (International Cricket Council) board meetings
Japarov Sadyr Nurgojoevich	President of Kyrgyzstan
Subhash Chandra Khuntia	To head the expert committee called 'Health Insurance Advisory Committee' formed by IRDAI
Jayant Kumar Dash	Chairman for the committee setup by RBI to regulate digital lending frauds
Pet Gelsinger	CEO of Intel
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Milind Pant and Edward Knight	Vice-Chairs of US-India Business Council (USIBC) for 2021
Sandeep Aggarwal	Chairman of Telecomm Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)
Nazhat Shameem Khan	UN Human Rights Council's President for 2021
PM Narendra Modi	Chairman of the Trust which manages Somnath temple in Gujarat
Yoweri Museveni	President of Uganda
Vishwavir Ahuja	MD and CEO of RBL Bank
Justice Bansi Lal Bhat	Officiating Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)
Siddhartha Mohanty	MD of LIC (Life Insurance Corporation)
Rajiv Lochan	MD of Sundaram Finance Ltd
Sanjeev Kumar	Chairman and MD of TCIL (Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd)
Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy)
Jayant N Khobragade	India's next Ambassador to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Secretariat
Rishabh Pant	Manage commercial interest and marketing rights of JSW Sports
J K Shivan	MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank

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Marcelo Rebelo De Sousa	President of Portugal for 2nd term
Jayati Ghosh	UN to its 2nd term of the high-level advisory board on economic and social affairs
Lt Gen Chandi Prasad Mohanty	Vice-Chief of Army Staff
Swaminathan Janakiraman and Ashwini Kumar Tewari	Managing Directors of SBI
Kaja Kallas	First female Prime Minister of Estonia

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awards	Awardee
V K Yadav	'Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020'
Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	Sahitya Gaurav Samman 2021

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
4 th January 2021	World Braille Day	--
6 th January 2021	Maharashtra's Journalist Day	--
6 th January 2021	World Day for War Orphans	--
9 th January 2021	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day	Theme: 'Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat'
10 th January 2021	World Hindi Day	--
12 th January 2021	National Youth Day	Theme: Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building
14 th January 2021	Armed Forces Veterans Day	--
15 th January 2021	India Army Day	--
18 th January to 17 th February 2021	National Road Safety Month	--
18 th January 2021	16 th Raising Day of NDRF (National Disaster Response Force)	--
23 rd January 2021	Parakram Diwas	--
24 th January 2021	National Girl Child Day	--
24 th January 2021	International Day of Education	Theme: 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'
25 th January 2021	National Voters Day	Theme: 'Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed'
25 th January 2021	National Tourism Day	--
26 th January 2021	72nd Republic Day of India	--
26 th January 2021	International Customs Day	Theme: Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience

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27 th January 2021	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust	Theme: Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust
30 th January 2021	Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas	--
31 st January 2021	World Leprosy Day	Theme: 'Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and advocate for Mental Wellbeing'

MOUS SIGNED

BSSUKM signed MoU with NKJ Biofuel Ltd

- The **Bhoramdeo Sahakari Sakhar Utpadak Karkhana Maryadit (BSSUKM)** which a sugar mill has signed MoU with NKJ Biofuel Ltd.
- The MoU is signed **to set up India's first Ethanol Plant on the basis of public-private partnership (PPP).**

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation signed MoU with UNDP India

- The **Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)** has entered into MoU with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) India.
- The MoU is signed **to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB).**

J&K Government Signed MoU with NAFED

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration has entered into MoU with **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).**
- They have entered into MoU **for the purpose of increasing marketing for Horticulture produce in the UT.**

NHPC, PDD and JKPDC Signed MoU for Mega Hydro Project in J&K

- The projects will be built and executed with an **investment of Rs 35000 crore.**
- This **mega hydropower project will improve the power sector of J&K,** provide energy security and 24 hours power supply to the UT.

Cabinet approved MoU between India & Japan for Specified Skilled Workers

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has given the approval **for signing MoU between India and Japan for Specified Skilled Workforce.**
- These workers will be **granted with a new status of residence of 'Specified Skilled Worker'** by Japan's Government.

Flipkart Signed MoU with Logistics Skill Sector Council (LSC)

- The CoE developed under this partnership will help **to build a skilled workforce for the logistics sector.**
- The first CoE will be set up at **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

IREDA Signed MoU with NHPC Limited

- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** signed MoU with **NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited)** for the purpose of providing technical expertise for upcoming renewable energy projects.
- IREDA will develop an action plan to achieve the goal for **various renewable energy projects of NHPC Ltd for the next 5 years.**

EESL Signed MoU with NHAI

- The **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** has signed MoU with National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).
- The MoU is signed to **build clean energy and energy efficiency interventions at NHAI structures.**

Union Cabinet Approved MoU between India and UAE

- The **Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved the MoU between India and UAE for scientific and technical cooperation.
- The MoU was approved between **India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and UAE's National Centre of Meteorology.**

Bharti Airtel Signed MoU with NSIC

- **Indian Telecomm Company, Bharti Airtel** has signed MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).
- The MoU is signed to **achieve digital transformation of Indian MSMEs.**

CSIR-NIO, CSIR-NGRI Signed MoU with POI

- The **agreement among the entities will allow the scientist and researchers from India and Russia** to work in the field of marine science and technology.
- The MoU will also help to **increase capacity and enhance skill development in the marine science and technology sector.**

India and Japan Enters into MoU

- India and Japan have entered into MoU to **boost the cooperation in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** and to have standardization for 5G Technology.
- The MoU will increase the **ICT cooperation between both nations to another level.**

J&K Signed MoU with NECBDC

- This partnership will help to **develop industries in UT which deal with exports of bamboo products.**
- The NECBDC, will also **perform research activities related to bamboo cultivation** and will look to have overall development of UT in Bamboo sector.

TRIFED Signed MoU with IFFDC

- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** has signed MoU with Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-Operative Ltd (IFFDC).
- They have collaborated **to provide livelihood opportunities to the tribal community.**

Cabinet Approved MoU Between India and Uzbekistan in Solar Energy Sector

- The **Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved MoU between India and Uzbekistan in the solar energy sector.
- As per the MoU, both the countries will work collaboratively **for the research and project activities of solar energy.**

Pact Signed for Submarine Rescue Report—By India and Singapore

- The Submarine Rescue Dialogue was signed **to deepen military cooperation between both nations.**
- The pact was signed by **India's Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and Singapore's Defence Minister, Ng Eng Hen.

MoRTH Signed MoU with DRDO

- They will work **to monitor and supervise mitigation measures, investigate geohazards** and avalanches and accordingly formulate measures to mitigate geo-hazards on national highways.
- This will help to increase safety against the **adverse effects of landslides and natural calamities on the national highways of India.**

Indian Army signed MoU with SIDM

- The MoU was signed **to boost indigenisation and innovation.**
- MoU was signed with an aim of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and **to reduce the dependency on foreign manufactured defence equipment and technologies.**

Gujarat Signed MoU with APSEZ

- The MoU was signed **to build the country's largest multi-modal logistic park in Gujarat.**
- The multi-modal logistic park will be constructed in **1450 acre of land with allotted funds of Rs 50,000 crore.**

IIM Indore Signed MoU with MPIDC

- The IIM Indore will also help in **improving ease of doing business in the state**, thus to increase the number of employment and investment opportunities in the state.
- Both IIM Indore and MPIDC entered into MoU **to develop an ecosystem of businesses in the Madhya Pradesh.**

Gov. of Karnataka Signed MoU with Amazon India

- This MoU will help to uplift the **MSMEs to a global level with the help of various export programmes of Amazon.**

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- Under this MoU, Amazon India will conduct **seminars and training workshops** for exporters from major MSMEs.

Textiles Committee Signed MoU with Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre

- The Textiles Committee of **Ministry of Textiles** signed MoU with Japan's Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre.
- The partnership will help textile industries to fit the Japanese quality standards by jointly performing testing, inspection and conformity assessment.

MoU signed Between CSIR and UT Ladakh

- The MoU was signed to have the development of UT Ladakh by using Science and Technology (S&T) interventions.
- This MoU will also help to establish a knowledge partnership between CSIR and the Ladakh.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile App

- The **Ministry of External Affairs, GOI** launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and mobile app.
- This portal and app will help to connect **3.12 crore Indians across the world**.

'Launch Pad Scheme' of Madhya Pradesh

- The scheme is launched for boys and girls who have completed 18 years of age and aims to offer **employment opportunities to them in order to make them self-reliant**.
- The scheme is launched by **Women and Child Development Department of MP** under Child Protection Scheme.

Toycathon 2021 and Toycathon Portal

- The 'Toycathon 2021' initiative is launched to **make India self-reliant in the Toy manufacturing sector** by promoting toy manufacturing industries.
- The initiative aims to **make India a Global Toy Manufacturing Hub**.

Bindu Sagar Lake Cleaning Project

- The **Government of Odisha** launched the Bindu Sagar Lake Cleaning Project.
- The state government launched this project jointly with the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GOI**.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0

- The scheme is launched for the current fiscal year i.e. **till March 2021**.
- This third phase of the scheme will be managed by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.

'SAKSHAM' Campaign—Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

- It is a one-month-long campaign which will **create awareness for clean and green energy**.
- The SAKSHAM Campaign is organised by the **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**.

'One School One IAS' Scheme -- Kerala

- Kerala's Governor Arif Mohammad Khan launched '**One School One IAS' Scheme**.
- The scheme is launched under the **Vedhik Erudite Foundation Scholarship Programme**.

'ShramShakti' Portal and 'ShramSaathi' Tribal Training Module

- It was launched virtually during the programme held at **Panjim, Goa in the presence of CM of Goa, Pramod Sawant**.
- The 'ShramShakti' portal is a **National Migration Support Portal**.

Avalokana Software

- The software will also help the state government **to take a decision on releasing funds by referring to expenditure data saved in it**.
- This will help in **increasing the government hold over resources**.

Udyam Sarathi App—Uttar Pradesh

- The 'Udyam Sarathi' app is launched for the youths **to assist them for employment opportunities**.
- The app will help youths to avail information related **to self-employment and job vacancies in industries of the state**.

'PANKH Abhiyan'—Madhya Pradesh

- The 'PANKH Abhiyan' is launched under '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' scheme with an aim to empower the girl child of the state.
- The significance of 'PANKH Abhiyan' is: '**P**' for **Protection**, '**A**' for **Awareness of their rights**, '**N**' for **Nutrition**, '**K**' for **Knowledge** and '**H**' for **Health**.

Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme for CAPF

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** launched **Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme** for the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).
- For this purpose, the MoU was signed between the **National Health Authority (NHA)** and the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Krishi Sakha App—Bharti AXA General Insurance

- The app will help farmers **to get updated with daily farming needs**.
- The app will provide farmers with the **proper guidance of best farming techniques** which they can adopt in their farms and thus increase yields.

DEFENCE

DRDO & Indian Navy conducted Trial of SAHAYAK-NG

- The **SAHAYAK-NG** is **India's first indigenously designed** and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft.
- The trial was **executed off the coast of Goa.**

Defence Ministry signed Agreement with BEL

- The **Ministry of Defence entered into an agreement with Bharat Electronics Limited** to procure the 10 numbers of Lynx U2 Fire Control Systems i.e. LYNX U2 GFCS.
- This 10 Lynx U2 Fire Control Systems from BEL will be installed on **Naval Offshore Patrolling Vessel Talwar and Teg class of ships.**

'Sagar Anveshika'- A Coastal Research Vessel

- **Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Coastal Research Vessel (CRV)** named as 'Sagar Anveshika' at Chennai Port.
- The CRV 'Sagar Anveshika' will be used to **perform environment indexing and bathymetric in coastal and offshore waters.**

2nd Edition of 'Sea Vigil-21'

- The 2nd edition of **'Sea Vigil-21'** commenced from **12th Jan 2021.**
- It is the biennial **pan-India coastal defence exercise** which is conducted to assess India's preparedness for coastal defence and maritime security.

'Asmi'—India's First Indigenous 9mm Machine Pistol

- The name of India's **first indigenous Machine Pistol** is 'Asmi'.
- It can fire up to a range of **100 meters and is developed in a record time of 4 months.**

Indo-French Joint Exercise Desert Knight-21

- This exercise is an indication of growing interaction between the **two premier Air Forces of India and France.**
- The Indian side is represented by **Mirage 2000, Rafale, Su-30 MKI, IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft, AWACS and AEW&C aircraft.**

SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon)

- It was test-fired from **Hawk-i aircraft off the Odisha coast.**
- The SAAW is developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad of DRDO.**

Operation Sard Hawa

- The 'Operation Sard Hawa' was launched by the **Border Security Force (BSF).**
- It was launched on the **western international border of Rajasthan.**

AMPHEX - 21

- The **tri-service joint amphibious exercise named AMPHEX - 21** was conducted by the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.
- The exercise was held in the **Andaman and Nicobar group of islands**.

DRDO Conducted Maiden Test Launch of Akash-NG Missile

- The Akash-NG Missile is a surface **to air missile having the test range of 30km**.
- It is used by Indian Air Force for the **interception of high manoeuvring aerial threats**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG)

- The **DRDO's Young Scientist Laboratory for Quantum Technologies (DYSL-QT)** has developed the Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG).
- The QRNG has the ability **to detect random quantum events and convert those into a stream of binary digits**.

SC-NBWL approved the Advisory for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management

- The **Standing Committee for National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL)** has approved advisory for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management.
- The advisory **for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management will be set up** to have effective inter-departmental coordinated actions.

Bharat Biotech Signed Pact with Precisa Medicamentos

- Bharat Biotech has entered into an agreement with **Precisa Medicamentos**.
- They have signed a pact to supply its **COVID-19 vaccine, called 'Covaxin' to Brazil**.

CollabCAD Software—By NIC, CBSE and Atal Innovation Mission

- The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** in partnership with **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** and **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** of NITI Aayog launched CollabCAD Software.
- With the help of this software, **students from Atal tinkering labs will be able to develop 3D designs**.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

National Metrology Conclave 2021

- The National Metrology Conclave was inaugurated and addressed by **PM Modi on 4th Jan 2021**.
- The conclave was organised by **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)** and is being held in New Delhi.

Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020'

- **Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** inaugurated the Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020'.
- The conference was organised by the **Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in partnership with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA)**.

India-France Strategic Dialogue 2021

- India was represented by **Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor** and **France** were represented by Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President.
- Both the nations held discussions about **counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, defence cooperation, maritime security and regional and global issues**.

7th TPR of India Held at WTO

- The TPR is a mechanism which comes under **WTO's monitoring function**. Under this mechanism, WTO examines trade and policies of member countries.
- At the 7th TRP of India, the **Indian delegation was represented by Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary**.

13th India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue

- They expressed satisfaction in the **defence cooperation between both nations**.
- They also assured **to strengthen the cooperation between armed forces** by following the framework of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

4th One Planet Summit

- **France organised this summit in partnership** with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- The main aim of the summit was **to have a focus on biodiversity preservation**.

'Prarambh': Startup India International Summit

- It was organised by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The summit was participated by **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** member countries.

148th Session of WHO Executive Board

- The WHO Executive Board session was held **to discuss the direction and frame agenda to fulfil the health requirement of WHO Member nations**.
- **WHO has announced the year 2021** as the year of global solidarity and survival.

1st Virtual India-EU Maritime Security Dialogue

- India was represented by **Joint Secretary Sandeep Arya** and **Director Joanneke Balfourt** represented European Union External Action Service side.

- The dignitaries held discussions about **regional cooperation activities, maritime security and developments of mutual interest.**

7th MASCRAGE 2021

- The '**7th MASCRAGE 2021-Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade**' was inaugurated by Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.
- It was organised by **FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy).**

15th India Digital Summit 2021

- **15th India Digital Summit 2021 (IDS-2021)** was inaugurated by Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The 15th IDS 2021 was organised by the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).**

14th Joint Working Group Meet of India-UK on Counter-Terrorism

- India and United Kingdom virtually conducted the **14th edition of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.**
- Both nations assured **to deepen cooperation in order to combat global terrorism** and cross-border terrorism in South Asia.

35th PRAGATI Meet

- In the 35th edition of the meet, **PM Modi reviewed ten agenda items which included nine projects** and one program for 15 states.
- The 9 projects are having a **cumulative cost of Rs. 54,675 crores.**

4th FII Forum 2021

- The **Future Investment Institute (FII)** hosted the forum.
- The forum was held based on the theme of '**The Neo-Renaissance**'.

5th India-Japan Act East Forum Meet

- India was represented by **Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary** and Japan were represented by Suzuki Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India.
- The meeting was held **to review the work of major ongoing projects of the North Eastern Region of India.**