



# **PIB Summary**

## **February 2021**

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### PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

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- Rashtrapati Bhavan Re-Opened for Public viewing from February 6.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind greeted fellow-citizens on the eve of the birthday of Guru Ravidas on February 26.

### VICE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

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- International Mother Language Day
  - Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Webinar on the occasion of 'International Mother Language Day' (21st Feb). The Webinar on 'Fostering Multilingualism for Inclusion in Education and Society' is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and IGNC.

### PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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1. 'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations
  - The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh on 4th Feb. through video conference. The day marks 100 years of the 'Chauri Chaura' incident, a landmark event in the country's fight for independence.
2. Prime Minister of India and the POTUS
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation with His Excellency Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America and looked forward to working closely with him to further elevate the India-US Strategic Partnership.

### AYUSH

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- AyuSamvad

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- It is the Public Awareness Lecture series of AYUSH Ministry, which will specifically focus on the role of Ayurveda in the Preventive, Promotive, Curative and Rehabilitative Management of COVID 19.

### FINANCE COMMISSION

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- The Report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission
  - The Commission's Report was tabled in the Parliament. The government accepted the 15th Finance Commission's recommendation to maintain the States' share in the divisible pool of taxes to 41% for the five-year period starting 2021-22.

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

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1. The Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF), with a corpus of Rs. 5,000 crores has been created under NABARD
  - To further strengthen & expand the adoption of Micro Irrigation systems by the farmers in the country for enhancing water use efficiency at farm level, a Budget announcement has been made to double the initial corpus of Micro Irrigation Fund of Rs. 5000 created under NABARD, by augmenting it by another Rs. 5,000 crores.
2. World Pulses Day
  - World Pulses Day (10th Feb) is a designated United Nations global event to recognize the importance of pulses as a global food.
  - Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, was the Chief Guest at the event on World Pulses Day organized by Indian Pulses Research Institute (IPR).
3. Record Foodgrain production
  - The second advance estimates of production of principal crops for year 2020-21 have been released. The second advance estimates of production of major crops reveal a record production of 303.34 million tonnes of food grains.

### MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

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- 6th Edition of 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021'
  - The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, jointly with FICCI & Invest India organized the 6th edition of annual program on Pharmaceuticals & Medical Device sector – 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021' scheduled on 25-26 February & 1-2 March 2021.

### MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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- Permission granted to BCCI to use drones
  - Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the deployment of drones for live aerial cinematography of the India Cricket Season in 2021.

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## MINISTRY OF COAL

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- National Coal Index
  - The NCI is a price index which reflects the change of price level of coal on a particular month relative to the fixed base year. The base year for the NCI is FY 2017-18.

## MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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1. Trade Deficit Between India and China
  - The Government of India has made sustained efforts to achieve a more balanced trade with China. The deficit now stands at USD 25178.72 mn (Apr-Nov 2020), as supposed to USD 48647.99 mn in FY 2019.
2. 6th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Sector
  - Addressing the 6th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Sector, Minister of Commerce & Industry called upon the Indian pharmaceutical and health care sector to adopt best practices in terms of quality, facility and commitment to maintain high standards.
3. INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES
  - The Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is released Index of Eight Core Industries for the Month of January, 2021. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 137.6 in January, 2021, which increased by 0.1 (provisional) per cent as compared to the Index of January, 2020. Its cumulative growth during April to January, 2020-21 has been(-) 8.8%.

## MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

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- MCA amends One Person Companies (OPCs) rules
  - Previously NRIs were not allowed to incorporate OPCs. Now any natural person, who is an Indian citizen, whether resident in India or otherwise would be allowed to form an OPC.
  - For being considered as a resident in India, the residency period has been proposed to be reduced to 120 days from 182 days for NRIs.

## MINISTRY OF CULTURE

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1. Aakashvani Sangeet Sammelan
  - Aakashvani Sangeet Sammelan will henceforth be called Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan.
2. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav
  - The third and final edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2021 in West Bengal organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India began on 27th February 2021 at Murshidabad, West Bengal.



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## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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1. Lieutenant General Chandi Prasad Mohanty assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on 01 February 2021.
2. Aero-India 2021
  - Aero India 2021, Asia's largest Aerospace and Defence Exhibition held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru between February 03-05, 2021.
3. Helina & Dhruvastra
  - Joint User Trials for Helina (Army Version) and Dhruvastra (Air Force Version) Missile Systems have been carried out from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) platform in desert ranges. The missile systems have been designed and developed indigenously by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
4. NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21
  - Indian Naval Ship Pralaya participated in the NAVDEX 21 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 21 (International Defence Exhibition), from 20 to 25 February 2021 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
5. VL-SRSAM Missile System
  - DRDO conducted two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from a static vertical launcher from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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- ASEAN India Hackathon
  - Union Education Minister addressed the inaugural ceremony of the ASEAN India Hackathon with an aim to solve common identified challenges under two broad themes of "Blue Economy" and "Education".

## MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

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- Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021
  - Amidst growing concerns around lack of transparency, accountability and rights of users related to digital media and after elaborate consultation with the public and stakeholders, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 has been framed in exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011.

## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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- World Wetlands Day
  - On the occasion of the World Wetland Day (2nd Feb.) and as a part of its commitment towards conservation, restoration and management of India's wetlands, the Minister of State for

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Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 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, an institution under the Ministry.

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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1. Government to Introduce Single Securities Markets Code
  - Union Minister for Finance announced that the Government will consolidate the provisions of SEBI Act, 1992, Depositories Act, 1996, Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and Government Securities Act, 2007 into a rationalized single Securities Markets Code.
2. Eleventh India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue
  - The 11th India-EU Macroeconomic dialogue was held here today virtually through video conferencing. Shri Tarun Bajaj, Secretary, Economic Affairs, led the Indian delegation. The delegation from European Union was led by Mr. Maarten Verwey, Director General, Economic & Financial Affairs (ECFIN), European Commission.
3. G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting
  - Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman participated virtually in the First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Italian Presidency to discuss policy actions for transformative and equitable recovery along with other issues on the agenda including global economic outlook, financial sector issues, financial inclusion and sustainable finance.

## MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

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- Mandarin & Turmeric
  - To incentivise farmers to transport their agricultural produce through Kisan Rail, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Food Processing Industries have included Mandarin (a variety of Orange) and Turmeric (raw) in the list of eligible Fruits and Vegetables for 50% transportation subsidy through any type of train service provided by Indian Railways under Operation Greens – TOP to TOTAL.

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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1. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has laid down a charter for banks to oversee funds received by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
  - According to the Charter, the donations received in Indian rupees by NGOs and associations from any foreign source located in India or outside India at the time of such donation is defined as foreign contributions.
2. 'Nation First - The Golden Saga of 82 Years'
  - Union Home Minister, Amit Shah released CRPF's book 'Nation First - The Golden Saga of 82 Years' in New Delhi.
3. 19th Home Secretary Level Talks between India and Bangladesh

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- The 19th Home Secretary Level Talks (HSLT) between India and Bangladesh were held virtually today in the backdrop of 'MujibBarsho' and 50 years of Bangladesh Liberation War and establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

## MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

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- TECHNOGRAHIS
  - An Enrolment Module for TECHNOGRAHIS, has been launched by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA. TECHNOGRAHIS are students from IITs, NITs, engineering, planning and architecture colleges, faculty members, academicians, and stakeholders.

## MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

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- Mon Shugu
  - The sale of the 1000-years old heritage Monpa handmade paper or "Mon Shugu", the ancient art of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, is quickly catching pace after a special mention by the PM in his Mann ki Baat.

## MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

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- Mushaira
  - Union Ministry of Minority Affairs organised "Mushaira" on the theme of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" in New Delhi on 20th February 2021 where renowned poets of the country presented their couplet.

## MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

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- Joint Working Group
  - The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain held in virtual format.

## MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

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- Strategic Crude Oil Reserves
  - Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL), a Government of India Special Purpose Vehicle, has established Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely (i) Visakhapatnam, (ii) Mangaluru and (iii) Padur.
- 11th IEA, IEF, OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks



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- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, participated in the 11th IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks —held virtually— on 17th February 2021 under the patronage of the Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud.

## MINISTRY OF POWER

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- International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins
  - ICOLD Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins was inaugurated by the Minister for Jal Shakti. INCOLD in collaboration with Central Water Commission (CWC), Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP) and National Hydrology Project (NHP) is organised Symposium on “Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins” under the aegis of ICOLD at New Delhi as Hybrid event from 24th - 27th February 2021.

## MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

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1. Meri Saheli Initiative
  - ‘Meri Saheli’ initiative was launched as Pilot Project by Railway Protection Force (RPF) across South Eastern Railway for security of women passengers in trains originating in that zone.
2. Kisan Rail Services
  - Since the launch of first Kisan Rail service on 7th August 2020 and upto 5th February 2021, Indian Railways have operated 208 Kisan Rail services on 24 routes, transporting approximately sixty-eight thousand tonnes of perishables including fruits and vegetables.
3. Tanakpur-Delhi-Tanakpur Purnagiri Jan Shatabdi Express
  - Union Railway Minister, Piyush Goyal Flagged off Tanakpur-Delhi-Tanakpur Purnagiri Jan Shatabdi Express Special train through Video Conferencing.

## MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

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1. India’s first Diesel-converted CNG Tractor
  - Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari launched India’s first-ever diesel tractor converted to CNG which, according to him, will help save farmers approximately 1 lakh Rs. annually on fuel costs.
2. FASTag Mandatory
  - Ministry of Road Transport & Highways decided that all lanes in the fee plazas on National Highways shall be declared as “FASTag lane of the fee plaza” w.e.f midnight of 15th/16th February 2021. Therefore, as per NH Fee Rules 2008, any vehicle not fitted with FASTag or vehicle without valid, functional FASTag entering into the FASTag lane of the fee plaza shall pay a fee equivalent to two times of the fee applicable to that category.

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## MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. Solar – Biodiesel Mini Grid System
  - CSIR-CMERI-Centre of Excellence for Farm Machinery has developed Off-grid Solar Biodiesel Hybrid Mini Grid of 50kW peak capacity system for providing 24X7 power to Center for Excellence in Farm Machinery (CoEFM) Residential Colony at Gill Road, Ludhiana (Punjab). Prof. (Dr.) Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR - CMERI inaugurated the system on 1st February 2021.
2. 40th INCA International Congress
  - National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), under Ministry of Science & Technology, organised 3 days 40th INCA International Congress from 10th February, 2021 in Kolkata. Keeping in view the pandemic situations, it was held both in physical and virtual mode.
3. CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow celebrates its 70th Annual Day Celebrations on February 17.
4. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) celebrated its 35th Foundation Day on February 27.

## MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- 12th Technical Group Meeting of National Statistical Offices(NSOs) of BRICS Countries
  - The 12th Technical Group Meeting of National Statistical Offices of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Countries has been held today (24th February 2021) at New Delhi in virtual mode under the aegis of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India.

**EXAMS Today**  
**MINISTRY OF TEXTILES**

1. Govt. announced the launch of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme to make Indian textile industry globally competitive.
  - MITRA aims to make the textile industry globally competitive, attract large investments, boost employment generation and exports by creating world class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable creation of global champions in exports.
2. Union Textiles Minister virtually inaugurated Certified Jute Seeds Distribution Program And Awareness Workshop For Jute Farmers, organised at ICAR-CRIJAF Institute at Barrackpore, West Bengal with an aim to promote the usage of certified seeds and hence, increasing productivity and income of the farmers.

## MINISTRY OF TOURISM

- Astro-Tourism: The Next Frontier of Nature-based Tourism
  - The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series titled "Astro- Tourism: The Next Frontier of Nature-based Tourism" held on 6th February, 2021 focused on promoting nature-based tourism which is emerging strongly in a post - COVID world, the major thrust of the webinar was sustainable and responsible travel.

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## MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

- Aadi Mahotsav
  - M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India inaugurated the tribal festival Aadi Mahotsav in New Delhi. The Festival Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, New Delhi was held from February 1-15, 2021.

## MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

1. Maternal Mortality Ratio
  - A Task Force has been constituted by the Government to examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with (i) health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/ infant/ child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter, (ii) key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (CSR) etc. and (iii) any other relevant points pertaining to health and nutrition in this context.
2. POCSO e-Box
  - The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has received 354 complaints through POCSO e-Box during the last three year, i.e., 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and the current year 2020-21 (till 31st January, 2021).
3. The Government of India has implemented the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 which is a comprehensive law that provides protection to children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.
4. Smartphones for Anganwadi Workers
  - Anganwadi workers are empowered with the provision of smart phones procured through Government e-Market (GeM) for efficient service delivery. The Ministry has been pursuing with States to saturate access to smart phones for Anganwadi Workers in India.

## MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

- 2nd Khelo India National Winter Games
  - The second edition of Khelo India Winter Games saw a grand launch on February 26 in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir as Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the sports meet virtually.

## NITI AAYOG

- 6th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog
  - The sixth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held on February 20 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi via video conferencing. It was attended by 26 Chief Ministers, 3 Lieutenant Governors and 2 Administrators, apart from Union Ministers, who are Ex-Officio Members, and Special Invitees. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Members and CEO, Principal Secretary to the PM & other senior officers from PMO; Cabinet Secretary; and

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Chief Secretaries of States/ Union Territories also attended the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh.

