

Awards and Honours

Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Ayesha Aziz	Becomes India's Youngest Female Pilot at 25	The 25 -year-old from Kashmir who is the youngest female pilot in the country acts as a source of inspiration and a beacon of empowerment for numerous Kashmiri women.
'Koozhangal' – Tamil Film	Tiger Award at Rotterdam Film Festival	Tamil film 'Koozhangal', directed by PS Vinohraj, won Tiger Award at the 50th International Film Festival of Rotterdam (IFFR).
Bengaluru Airport	ACI World's 'Voice Of The Customer' Award	The 'Voice of the Customer' recognises airports that continued to prioritise their customers and remained committed to ensuring that their voice was heard during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
Robert Irwin	Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2021	Robert won the award for the image titled 'bushfire', which is the picture of the devastating Australian Bushfire in 2020, he captured using a drone, near the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Cape York, Queensland.
Manasa Varanasi	VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020	The 23-year-old will now represent India at the 70th Miss World pageant in December 2021. Born in Hyderabad, Manasa Varanasi is an engineer by profession and works as a financial information exchange analyst.
Dr Shobhna Kapoor, Dr Antara Banerjee, Dr Sonu Gandhi and Dr Ritu Gupta.	SERB Women Excellence Award 2021	The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has announced the SERB Women Excellence Award for the year 2021, on the

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		occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
Delhi Police	Best Marching Contingent Trophy-2021	Jat Regimental Centre bagged the trophy of best marching contingent among the Tri-Services while Delhi Police was adjudged as the best marching contingent among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and other auxiliary services.
Theodore Baskaran	Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020	S. Theodore Baskaran who is a writer, a historian, a naturalist and an activist has won the Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award, 2020.
YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	SKOCH Chief Minister of the Year Award	The Award has been presented to the CM by Chairman, Skoch Group, Sameer Kochhar personally at Tadepalli in Andhra Pradesh. The award selection was based on a study of project-level outcomes in various States.
Union Bank Of India	World HRD Congress Awards	Union Bank of India was awarded “Best Service Provider” in Human Resources and also the best institution for “Excellence in Learning & Development” at the 29th Global HRD Congress awards.
Anjali Bharadwaj	US anti-corruption award	The honour was conferred upon 12 individuals in total for their dedication towards combating corruption.
PM Narendra Modi	CERAWeek global energy and environment leadership award	The CERAWeek by IHS Markit, which is the world’s preeminent energy conference, will be held virtually between March 1-5, 2021.

Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Rama Mohan Rao Amara	SBI Card - MD & CEO	SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card) has appointed Rama Mohan Rao Amara as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of two years. Rao is a veteran banker, with a successful career spanning over 29 years at SBI, the credit card company
R S Sharma	CEO of Ayushman Bharat Scheme	The National Health Authority (NHA) has appointed RS Sharma as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of country's flagship public health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat, also called Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
Jay Shah	President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)	He is the youngest person ever to be appointed to the office. He replaces Nazmul Hussain, Chief of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) who was the previous chief of the ACC.
Henry Moniz	First Chief Compliance Officer – Facebook	He will join Facebook on February 8 to lead the company's global compliance team, to enhance its global compliance and risk management and promote the highest standards of legal and ethical conduct at the company.
Anish Shah	Chairman of Mahindra Finance	Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has announced the appointment of Anish Shah as the chairman of the board, effective April 2, 2021. Shah is already a director of the company. He is the deputy managing director and group

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		CFO of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
Andy Jassy	CEO – Amazon	Amazon announced on February 2, 2021 that founder Jeff Bezos will step down as CEO of the company during the third quarter of 2021.
Ajay Singh	Boxing Federation of India – President	As for his second tenure, Singh said the focus will be developed at the grassroots, sports science, women’s boxing and involving young administrators in the sport.
Praveen Sinha	Interim Director of CBI	He has been appointed in place of the incumbent chief RK Shukla, whose tenure came to an end on February 03, 2021.
Bikram Singh Bedi	Google Cloud – MD	He will succeed Karan Bajwa, who has been elevated as Vice president for the Asia Pacific (APAC) region cloud operations at Google Cloud. At Google, Bikram Bedi will be responsible for leading Google Cloud’s sales and operations teams in this dynamic market.
Okonjo-Iweala	First female Chief of WTO	She would be the first woman as well as the first African nation to lead the organization. Okonjo-Iweala, the former finance minister of Nigeria, will succeed Roberto Azevedo, who stepped down in August 2020.
Michael Bloomberg	Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions	Bloomberg is the founder and owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News. He was previously appointed as the U.N. special envoy for climate action between March 2018 and November 2019.

Satishwar Balakrishnan	Aegon Life's MD & CEO	Aegon Life Insurance, India's first digital-only life insurance company, elevated Satishwar Balakrishnan to be the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
Mario Draghi	Italy's new Prime Minister	Ex-PM Giuseppe Conte had resigned in January after his party lost support for its coalition government over plans for spending EU recovery money.
Marc Llistosella	CEO & MD – Tata Motors	He will replace current CEO & MD of Tata Motors, Guenter Butschek, who had expressed his desire to relocate to Germany at the end of the contract for personal reasons.
Ngozi Okonjo Iweala	First Woman to lead WTO	She has also become the first African to hold this charge amid rising protectionism.
Preeti Sinha	United Nations Capital Development Fund	The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has appointed Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary. She is an Indian-origin investment and development banker.
Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar	Chief Justice of Manipur HC	He was appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur by the President of India. Prior to this, he served as a Judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
Ajay Mathur	DG at special assembly of ISA	The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced Dr Ajay Mathur as its new Director-General following his election at the first special assembly of ISA members.
Ajai Malhotra	First Indian chairperson at UNHRC advisory	Ajai Malhotra became the first Indian to be elected as the Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council.

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Vijay Sampla	Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes	Vijay Sampla on February 24, 2021, took the charge of Chairman National Commission for Scheduled Castes- NCSC. He has been a former Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment from 2014-2019.
Dushyant Chautala	President of TTFI	Dushyant Chautala has been re-elected as the President of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) for a period of four years.
Natalia Vodianova	UN goodwill ambassador	Russian supermodel and philanthropist Natalia Vodianova has become a United Nations goodwill ambassador, to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies.
Sharad Goklani	President & CTO - AU Small Finance Bank	AU Small Finance Bank has named Sharad Goklani as its new President & CTO. He was earlier associated with Equitas Small Finance Bank as its EVP & Chief Technology Officer.

Banking & Finance

RBI cancels licence of Kolhapur-based Shivam Sahakari Bank

According to RBI, the licence of Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank has been cancelled as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

PNB Restricts Withdraw of Money from non-EMV ATMs

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has decided to restrict its customers from withdrawing money from non-EMV automated teller machines (ATMs) with effect from 01 February 2021, in an attempt to check frauds, related to money transactions. This restriction will apply to both, financial and non-financial transactions. To overcome this, PNB will introduce OTP based systems for withdrawing cash.

ICICI Bank launches 'Namma Chennai Smart Card'

ICICI Bank has announced the launch of a Common Payment Card System (CPCS) in partnership with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) to provide citizens with a one-stop solution for making various kind of payments.

RBI Monetary Policy: Policy Rate unchanged

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, has decided to maintain the status quo on policy rate amid sticky rate of inflation. At this point, the repo rate or the rate at which RBI lends to banks stands unchanged at 4 per cent. The reverse repo rate also stayed unchanged at 3.35 per cent. The MPC committee members voted unanimously in favour of the decision.

New Development Bank Commits \$100 million in NIIF Fund of Funds

The New Development Bank (NDB) has committed to invest USD 100 million (Rs 727.6 crore), into the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF) Fund of Funds (FoF). With NDB's investment, the total commitments secured by the FoF has reached \$800 million (about Rs 5,820 crore). This investment marks NDB's first equity investment into India and its first-ever investment into a Fund of Funds.

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Paypal to shut domestic payments service in India from April 1

The California-based global digital payment platform PayPal has announced that the company has decided to wind down its domestic payment services in India with effect from April 01, 2021. The decision has been taken because the company wants to shift its focus on cross-border payments business.

SBI joins JPMorgan's blockchain payments network

State Bank of India has tied up with JPMorgan to use the US bank's blockchain technology to speed up overseas transactions. The tie-up is expected to reduce SBI customers' transaction costs and time taken for payments. SBI has joined Liink, a new blockchain-based interbank data network developed by JPMorgan.

ICICI Lombard partners with Flipkart to offer 'Hospicash' insurance

The e-commerce company Flipkart has partnered with ICICI Lombard to offer its customers the 'Group SafeGuard' insurance, a group health insurance policy. The 'Group SafeGuard' comes with daily cash benefits starting from Rs 500, and 'Hospicash' benefit for Flipkart consumers.

PhonePe partners with Axis Bank on UPI multi-bank model

Digital payments platform, PhonePe has announced that it has partnered with Axis Bank on a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) multi-bank model. The partnership will provide PhonePe users with the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with Axis Bank's "@axl" handle.

RBI to conduct bond purchases for Rs 20,000 crore

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will purchase four government securities (G-Secs) that amount to ₹20,000 crores. The central bank will purchase it on February 10, 2021, under the open market operations (OMOs). This move was announced in aftermath of the yields that were moving up to touch the intra-day high of 6.1634 per cent recently. The RBI was concerned about the higher government borrowing.

Exim Bank to provide \$400 Million for Maldives project

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

RBI Organises Financial Literacy Week from February 8-12

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) from February 8-12, 2021, to propagate financial education. RBI conducts Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme every year across the country, through a focused campaign

World Bank Signs \$100 million Project with Chhattisgarh

Indian Govt and Chhattisgarh Govt has signed a \$100 million for CHIRAAG (Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth) project with the World bank. The main purpose is to develop sustainable production systems that allow tribal households in remote areas of Chhattisgarh to practice round-the-year production of diversified and nutritious food.

Indian Affairs

Sports Minister Riju launches anti-doping reference material

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Kiren Rijju has launched a breakthrough Reference Material for use in chemical testing in the field of anti-doping. A reference material jointly synthesised by the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati.

Smriti Irani inaugurates 8th India International Silk Fair

The Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the 8th India International Silk Fair on Virtual Portal on 31st January 2021. The five days event is being held on the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council's virtual platform due to COVID-19 pandemic. The fair is considered to be India's biggest silk fair.

'Aatmanirbharta' named Hindi word of 2020 by Oxford

'Aatmanirbharta', implying self-reliance, has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020. Oxford Languages said that the word "validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic". The word was chosen by an advisory panel of language experts- Kritika Agrawal, Poonam Nigam Sahay and Imogen Foxell.

Ministry of Education launched ASEAN India Hackathon 2021

The Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has addressed the inaugural ceremony of the ASEAN India Hackathon 2021 on February 1. The Ministry of Education has launched the ASEAN India Hackathon 2021.

The ASEAN India Hackathon 2021 is being conducted virtually from February 1 to 3, 2021. The 10 ASEAN countries are- Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Brunei, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

Ministry of Sports restores recognition of Gymnastics Federation of India

The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has decided to restore recognition of the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) as a National Sports Federation (NSF).

The Sports Ministry in a letter to the GFI president stated that the elections of two office bearers -Sudhir Mittal as President and Kaushik Bidiwala as Treasurer for the term 2019- 2023 have been taken on record of the Ministry.

PM Modi to inaugurate 2nd Maritime India Summit-2021 on March 2

Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the 2nd Maritime India Summit which will be held in a virtual mode on March 2, 2021. The event will be organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and waterways jointly with EY as the knowledge partner and FICCI as the Industrial Partner.

India gets its first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management

A dedicated Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) has been established at the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, an institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Venkaiah Naidu Inaugurates National Tribal Festival “Aadi Mahotsav”

The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the National Tribal Festival “Aadi Mahotsav” at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi. The Aadi Mahotsav 2021 is being organized from February 1-15, 2021. The festival aims to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, the culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place.

GoI launches unified web portal for monitoring progress of GOBARDHAN activities

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Animal Husbandry Minister Giriraj Singh, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria jointly launched a unified web portal for monitoring the progress of GOBARDHAN activities across the nation.

India’s first amputee clinic launched by PGIMER Chandigarh

India’s first amputee clinic has been launched by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. This was informed by the institute’s Director Jagat Ram on February 2, 2021.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Chauri Chaura centenary celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chauri Chaura centenary celebrations at Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing on February 4, 2021.

The Prime Minister also released a postal stamp dedicated to mark the beginning of centenary celebrations of the Chauri Chaura incident. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was present on the occasion.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates ‘Jalabhishekam’ campaign in Madhya Pradesh

The state government of Madhya Pradesh has launched a water conservation campaign called ‘Jalabhishekam’, under which more than 57,000 water structures has been constructed. The campaign was inaugurated by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually.

PM Modi Inaugurates Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Chauri Chaura incident on February 4 via videoconferencing. February 4, 2021 marks 100 years of the ‘Chauri Chaura’ incident, a landmark event in the country’s fight for independence.

Government announces to invest Rs. 400 crores in Goa to make it fisheries hub

The Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh on February 7, 2021, announced an investment of Rs. 400 crores in Goa for making the coastal state a fisheries hub in India.

As per the Union Minister, Goa has the potential for the highest fish production in the country and it has the capacity to become a fisheries hub.

National Horticulture Fair 2021 begins

The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Kailash Choudhry has inaugurated the National Horticulture Fair (NHF) 2021 on February 08, 2021, in Bengaluru via virtual mode. The five-day-long event has been organised by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), from February 8 to February 12 at its IIHR campus situated in Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru.

The theme of NHF 2021 is ‘Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India’.

Samagra Shiksha – Funded School is Renamed as Netaji

The Ministry of Education has decided on the Schools and hostels under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, which was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Renaming the scheme will help to create awareness regarding the facility of these residential schools and hostels in difficult areas. It will also motivate these schools to achieve high-quality education.

FSSAI Caps Trans Fats in Foods

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has amended the rules to limit trans fatty acids (TFA) in food products. This decision was made a week after the amended of the norms for oils and fats.

According to the new regulations, the total amount of industrial trans fats in foods containing edible fats and oils shall not exceed 2% of the total fats and oils in the product.

‘Jalabhishekam’ Water Conservation Campaign

The Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, inaugurated 57,000 water structures under the “Jalabhishekam Water Conservation Campaign” on February 11, 2021 virtually from New Delhi.

These water structures were constructed in Madhya Pradesh. The Water conservation work is being carried in the Madhya Pradesh by the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with participation of public in it.

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021 announced

The prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards 2021 were announced, to honour the best in Indian cinema, television, music, and OTT. Late actor Sushant Singh Rajput was posthumously awarded ‘Critics Best Actor’ for his performance in Dil Bechara.

Government signs \$304 million loan agreement with AIIB for Assam Power Transmission Project

The Finance Ministry informed on February 23, 2021, that the Central government has inked a loan agreement worth \$304 million with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank- AIIB for strengthening the electricity transmission system of Assam.

The loan agreement was signed by Rajat Mishra, acting director-general of investment operations at AIIB, and Baldeo Purushartha, Joint Secretary at the Economic Affairs Department on behalf of the Indian Government.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates world's largest Narendra Modi stadium in Gujarat

President Ram Nath Kovind on February 24, 2021, inaugurated the world's largest Stadium at Motera, in Gujarat. The Motera stadium has been renamed Narendra Modi Stadium and it will surpass Melbourne Cricket Ground to become the largest stadium in the world.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 on February 19, 2021. The Minister also launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 portal and released the Operational Guidelines for IMI 3.0 and the awareness material/IEC package developed as part of the campaign.

Cabinet News

Union Budget 2021-22 is being presented by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman is presenting the Union Budget 2021 for the 3rd time in a row. The Union Budget is the yearly financial report estimating the income and expenditure presented to outline future policies to be adopted by the government for sustainable growth and development.

The Economic Survey 2020-21 was released on 29th January 2021 by the Chief Economic Advisor of India, Krishnamurthy Subramanian. According to the survey, India's economy could contract 7.7 per cent in the financial year that ends on March 31.

Rajya Sabha passes Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Rajya Sabha today passed The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021. It will replace Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance of 2021 which merged the Jammu and Kashmir cadre of the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, and Indian Forest Service with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territory cadre, also known as AGMUT cadre.

Delhi Cabinet Approves 'Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha' Scheme

The Delhi cabinet has approved "Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha" in which Rs 5,000 will be provided to 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship. The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes at the school level.

Punjab Cabinet approves mission 'Lal Laker' in all villages

The Punjab Cabinet has approved the implementation of the mission 'Lal Laker' aimed at facilitating villagers to monetise property rights and availing benefits provided by government departments, institutions and banks in all villages across the state.

Union Cabinet approves President's Rule in Puducherry

The Union Cabinet has approved to dissolve the Puducherry Assembly and impose President's rule in the Union Territory, following the resignation of the Chief Minister, V Narayanasamy, whose government lost majority power in the assembly.

MoU signed between MCA and CBIC for data exchange

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on February 25, 2021, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of data between the two organisations.

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

The Union Cabinet approved a Rs 12,195-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products such as switches, routers, radio access network, wireless equipment and other IoT access devices.

Cabinet approves President's Rule in Puducherry

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to impose President's Rule in Puducherry. This proposal was approved days after the Congress-led government in the union territory lost power after a vote of confidence.

Cabinet approves PLI Scheme for IT hardware & pharma sectors

The Union Cabinet has approved the production-linked Incentive scheme for IT Hardware on February 24, 2021. The PLI scheme proposes an incentive to boost the domestic manufacturing. It also proposes to attract large investments in value chain of IT Hardware.

State Related Affairs

Lucknow metro becomes first to sanitise coaches using UV rays

Lucknow Metro has become the 1st metro in the country to use ultraviolet rays to sanitise train coaches. For this, the LMRC has procured UV sanitization apparatus from M/s FB TECH, an Indian firm in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) has taken inspiration from the New York Metro's experiment to sanitise trains with UV lamp rays.

Uttarakhand sets up Botanical Garden to conserve species of Shivalik range

In Nainital district of Uttarakhand, a first of its kind botanical garden named 'Shivalik Arboretum' has been inaugurated, for conserving over 210 species of trees found in the Shivalik range of Himalayas. Shivalik Arboretum aims to spread nature education among people so that they are able to feel an emotional connect with the trees, and make them more active towards conservation.

Odisha Govt announced Development Package for Maa Samaleswari Shrine

The state government of Odisha, under Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has launched the development work for the SAMALEI Project (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives), to offer the divine experience to tourists & devotees.

Prime Minister launches 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative in Assam. He laid the foundation stone for the Dhubri Phulbari bridge. PM also perform the bhumi puja for the construction of Majuli Bridge in Assam.

Snakepedia' mobile app launched in Kerala

A team of scientists, doctors and photographers in Kerala have launched a mobile application named "Snakepedia", that will present all relevant information on snakes, to help the public as well as doctors in treating snake bites.

Chandigarh became the first Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch

Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual. Although the app can be accessed by everyone, it has specific options for the residents of Chandigarh to compile a detailed study.

MP approved Penal Law (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2021

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the "Penal Law (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2021" on February 26, 2021. This bill was approved in order to give life imprisonment to food adulterers in states.

In the month of December 2019, an awareness rally organised in Bhopal to fight against the adulteration. The rally witnessed the participation of people from all age groups. It was held from Roshanpura to Lal Parade in Bhopal.

Karnataka: Namma Cargo services Launched

The Chief Minister of Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa, launched the ‘Namma Cargo’ services on February 26, 2021. At this place, the State road transport corporations will transport the parcels so as to generate more revenue, except for the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC).

Odisha To Construct ‘COVID Warrior Memorial’ in Bhubaneswar

In order to recognize the sacrifice and services rendered by the Covid warriors who lost their lives fighting the pandemic, the government has decided to construct a Covid Warrior Memorial in Odisha. The Biju Patnaik Park in Bhubaneswar has been selected for this purpose.

11th Edition of ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’ inaugurated in WestBengal

The Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 11th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav at Cooch Behar Palace at West Bengal. The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Culture, organised under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme, since 2015, to celebrate the idea of unity in diversity.

Kerala Government sanctions Rs. 9 crore to build 48 ‘Smart’ Anganwadis

The state government of Kerala has sanctioned Rs. 9 crores to build ‘smart anganwadis’, by converting the conventional anganwadis into “smart” structures with better amenities. The state Department of Women and Child Development has given permission for 48 anganwadis in the state to construct new buildings under the Smart Anganwadi scheme.

Gujarat government to set up Indian Institute of Skills in Gandhinagar

The Gujarat state government announced on February 4, 2021, that it will be setting up an Indian Institute of Skills at Nasmed Village Gandhinagar district.

The Labour and Employment Department of Gujarat will be setting up the institute in collaboration with the Tata Group on a not-for-profit model.

India’s 1st Thunderstorm Research Testbed to be established in Odisha

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced to set up the first ‘Thunderstorm Research Testbed’ of the country at Odisha’s Balasore district. The main objective of the “Thunderstorm Research Testbed” is to minimalise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes.

Vijayanagara officially declared as 31st District of Karnataka

The Karnataka government issued an official gazette notification to declare Vijayanagara as the 31st district of the state. The new district has been carved out of Ballari and named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.

Police Museum on Chambal Dacoits to be set up in Madhya Pradesh

The state of Madhya Pradesh has launched a Police Museum at the police headquarters in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh. It is a unique museum themed on the dacoits to showcase their stories.

The museum contains several unique items that were used by dacoits namely Phoolan Devi and Nirbhay Gujjar. It also showcases the stills from the making of Bollywood movie ‘Chambal ke Daaku’.

Meghalaya police inks MoU with SBI for e-Challan

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Meghalaya police and the State Bank of India for implementation of the e-Challan within the jurisdiction of the Shillong Traffic Police (STP). The e-Challan system which will be launched in the days to come is a digital traffic enforcement solution whereby, imposing penalties on violators of traffic rules and generating of challan will be done digitally.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands becomes first UT to be free of COVID-19

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands has become the first Union Territory of India to be officially declared free from the Coronavirus infection as the active cases of the virus in the UT has fallen to zero.

Punjab CM launches ‘Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai’ mission

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has virtually launched the ‘Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai’ mission as part of the government’s campaign to accomplish the goal of 100 per cent potable piped water supply in all rural households. The scheme is being funded by the World Bank, Jal Jeevan Mission of GoI, NABARD, and State Budget.

Kerala to open its first human milk bank on February 5

The Health Minister of Kerala, KK Shailaja will open the state’s first Human Milk Bank, a state-of-art facility, at the Ernakulam General Hospital on February 5, 2021.

The Human Milk Bank which has been set up with the support of the Rotary Club of Cochin Global will ensure the breast milk for the newborn babies in the hospital, who are not being breastfed by their own mothers who may be deceased or sick or because of the insufficient production of the breast milk.

4 more states complete ‘Ease of Doing Business’ Reforms

As per the recent data by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), four more states have completed the reforms in the ‘Ease of Doing Business’, as stipulated by

the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The four states are- Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

Now the total number of state that has undertaken the reforms to promote Ease of Doing Business till now has gone up to 12. The other states are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Ladakh to get India's first Geothermal Power Project

The first geothermal power project of India will be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh.

This decision was taken because, Puga village was identified as the hotspot of geothermal energy by the scientists. The project will be completed in four phases.

Madhya Pradesh launches 'SAANS' campaign to reduce infant mortality

The health department in Madhya Pradesh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully ('SAANS') campaign. The main purpose of the campaign is to reduce the death rate due to pneumonia among infants a strategy is being chalked out under the Social awareness campaign in which medical staff is being trained.

UP Government announces unique 16-digit Unicode to identify landholdings

Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state. The main purpose of the system is to check the cases of land disputes, put an end to fake registries of the disputed land and save people from falling into the trap of fraudsters.

Karnataka to host Khelo India University Games 2021

The chief minister of Karnataka, BS Yeddyurappa, announced that Karnataka will be hosting the second Khelo India University Games (KIUG) in the year 2021.

The Khelo India University Games will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Games will be held in the Jain University and other venues of the state.

Famous Mandu Festival Begins in Madhya Pradesh

The three-day famous "Mandu Festival" began at the historic town of Mandu in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on February 13, 2021. The festival will culminate on February 15, 2021. The festival is organised by the state government of Madhya Pradesh to showcase each and every aspect of the ancient Mandu city, ranging from food, music, history & heritage, art & craft etc.

Puducherry CM Narayanaswamy resigns after losing trust vote in Assembly

Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanaswamy submitted his resignation to Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on February 22, 2021 after losing trust vote in the Assembly.

The V Narayanaswamy-led Congress government lost the floor test, following which the Puducherry Assembly Speaker VP Sivakolundhu announced that the Chief Minister has failed to prove his majority and adjourned the house sine die.

Madhya Pradesh's Hoshangabad City to be renamed as Narmadapuram

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on February 19, 2021 that Hoshangabad city in the state would be renamed as Narmadapuram.

He made the announcement while speaking during the Narmada Jayanti programme held in Hoshangabad. The Chief Minister said a proposal for the name change will be sent to the centre.

UP becomes first state to table paperless budget

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to table a paperless budget. The state's first paperless budget was presented in the state assembly at 11 am on February 22, 2021 by UP State Finance Minister Suresh Khanna.

All members of the State Legislature were provided iPads to view the budget highlights, which were also displayed on two big screens put up in the House.

Andhra Pradesh: 2nd State to undertake Power Sector reforms

Andhra Pradesh has become the second State to implement the power sector reforms that was put forward by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Before Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh undertook the reforms in the power sector. It was given additional borrowing permission of Rs. 1,423 crores which is equal to 0.15 percent of its GSDP.

Tamil Nadu set to create state's 5th tiger reserve

The Central government has given its approval for the creation of a fifth tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu that will encompass the Meghamalai and Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuaries. It will be the 51st Tiger Sanctuary of India.

Hyderabad Recognised as '2020 Tree City of the World'

Telangana's capital, Hyderabad has been recognized as a 2020 Tree City of World, by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Arbor Day Foundation, for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests.

Hyderabad is the only city from India to have been recognized as a Tree City, to date. With this recognition, it has joined a network of like-minded global cities that recognise the importance of trees in building healthy, resilient and happy cities.

Mamata Banerjee launches ‘Maa’ scheme to provide meals at Rs 5

West Bengal government launched “Maa” canteens for providing subsidised cooked meals for the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of ₹5. The govt will give a subsidy of ₹15 and people have to pay ₹5. The kitchen will run by Self-Help Groups (SHG). The government allocated ₹ 100 crores for this project.

International Affairs

UN World Tourism Organization confirms 2020 as ‘worst year on record’

In accordance with the latest United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO) “World Tourism Barometer”, the year 2020 was the “worst year on record” as global tourism suffered adversely due to international travel bans implemented to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. International arrivals dropped by 74% & worldwide destinations welcomed 1 billion fewer international arrivals than in 2019.

US extends New START Nuclear Treaty with Russia for five years

The United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for another five years. This was announced by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who said that it made the world safer as unconstrained nuclear competition would endanger us all.

World’s First ‘Energy Island’ to be built by Denmark

The Government of Denmark has approved a project to build the world’s first energy island, in the North Sea that will produce and store enough green energy to meet the electricity needs of three million households in European countries. The hub will strengthen the integration of Europe’s power grids and increase renewable electricity production necessary for a climate-neutral Europe.

South Korea to Build World’s Largest Offshore Wind Farm

President Moon Jae-in-led, South Korea Government has approved a plan to build the world’s largest wind power plant in the country by 2030. Currently, the world’s largest offshore wind farm is Hornsea 1 in Britain, which has 1.12 GW capacity.

14th International Children’s Film festival concludes in Bangladesh

The 14th International Children’s Film Festival of Bangladesh (ICFFB) came to an end in Dhaka. A total of 12 awards were presented to the winners at the concluding ceremony. 179 films from 37 countries were shown at various venues during the 7-day long festival organised by the Children’s Film Society (CFS) of Bangladesh.

US government moves to rejoin UN Human Rights Council

The United States President Joe Biden has moved to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council- UNHRC three years after the former US President Donald Trump withdrew from the global body. This move is another reversal by Biden of Trump’s administration.

US-Russia Extends New START Arms Reduction Treaty

The United States has extended the “New START” nuclear disarmament treaty with Russia for a period of five years. The New START, which stands for Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.

FATF decides to keep Pakistan on its Grey List till June this year

Global money laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) yesterday decided to keep Pakistan on its terrorism financing Grey list. In an online press briefing from Paris, FATF President Marcus Pleyer said, Islamabad had made progress, but was yet to complete its action plan to overcome deficiencies in its combating of money laundering and terrorism financing.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body set up in 1989 to combat money laundering, terror financing and other related threats to the international financial system. Currently, it has 39 members. Pakistan has been on the Grey list since June 2018.

Foreign Relation

India-Bahrain 1st Joint Working Group Meeting held in the field of Renewable Energy

India and the Kingdom of Bahrain held the first Joint Working Group Meeting virtually in the field of Renewable Energy on February 4, 2021.

During the meeting, the Bahrain delegation was led by the President of Sustainable Energy Authority Dr. Abdul Hussain Bin Ali Mirza while the delegation from India was led by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy Mr. Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale and the Ambassador of India to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava also participated in the meeting.

India, Australia and France hold trilateral dialogue with focus on Indo-Pacific

A trilateral dialogue was held among India, France, and Australia on February 24, 2021, at the senior officials' level, with a focus on further enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The aim of this trilateral dialogue is to build strong bilateral relation among the three countries and synergies their respective strength to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.

India and Afghanistan Inks MoU for the construction of the Lalandar “Shatoot” Dam

India and Afghanistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU over video-conferencing (VTC), for the construction of the Shahtoot Dam (Lalander Dam) on a tributary of the Kabul river in Afghanistan. The project, which costs nearly \$ 300 million, is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.

CSIR inks MoU with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to promote health research

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the development, conduct and promotion of health research in India. Gates Foundation and CSIR will work together to identify opportunities to initiate scientific and technological collaborations.

Indian Oil- Norway’s Greenstat join hands for hydrogen research

The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and the Greenstat Norway signed an agreement to set up the Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen. This agreement was signed some days after India unveiled its national hydrogen mission.

India & Ethiopia Sign Agreements On Visa Facilitation and Leather Technology

India and Ethiopia signed two agreements related to visa facilitation and leather technology. The Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen is on a 4-day visit to India to hold useful and productive discussions on a range of bilateral and regional issues.

India & Maldives sign 5 deals to boost infrastructure

External Affairs Minister (EAM), S. Jaishankar was on a two-day official visit to the archipelago nation the Maldives to review bilateral ties and development cooperation. During this visit, Mr S Jaishankar handed over 1 lakh additional doses of the made-in-India COVID-19 vaccine to the Maldives.

India signs trade deal, \$100 million defence agreement with Mauritius

The Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar was on an official visit to two key Indian Ocean region countries- Maldives and Mauritius. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar visited the Island nation Mauritius to review the comprehensive and important bilateral relationship between the two nations. India signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement-(CECPA)) with Mauritius.

Ranks & Indices

Maharashtra tops justice delivery in India Justice Report 2020

The second edition of the India Justice Report, India's only ranking of states on delivery of Justice to people, announced. Maharashtra once again at the top of the 18 Large and Mid-sized states (with a population of over one crore each) in the 2nd Edition of the India Justice Report, an initiative of Tata Trusts, followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, and Kerala.

PHDCCI Report: India to emerge as second most resilient economy in 2021

India will emerge as the second most resilient economy in 2021, as per the International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank, released by industry body, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). The ranking has been topped by Germany, among the top-10 leading economies. South Korea is at the third position in the list.

Kohli India's most valued celebrity brand for 4th year in a row at ₹1,734 cr: Report

Team India captain Virat Kohli has been named as India's most valuable celebrity brand for the fourth year in a row in Duff & Phelps' latest celebrity valuation report. Kohli's brand value rose to \$237.7 million (₹1,734 crore) in 2020. Actor Akshay Kumar retained his second spot in the rankings with a brand valuation of \$118.9 million (over ₹865 crore).

India ranks 53rd in EIU's Democracy Index

India's position has slipped by two places to be placed at 53rd spot in the 2020 Democracy Index, from among 167 countries. The overall score of India is 6.61 in the Index, on a scale of 0-10. India has been classified as a 'flawed democracy'. Democracy Index is the global ranking released by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) that provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide.

India will become world's 3rd largest energy consumer by 2030: IEA

India will overtake the European Union (EU) as the world's third-largest energy consumer by 2030, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday. IEA forecasted that India will account for the biggest share of energy demand growth over the next two decades. "By 2040, India's power system [will be] the world's third-largest in terms of electricity generation," IEA said.

Business News

Ford joins hand with Google to offer cloud-based data services

Ford Motor Co has joined hands with Alphabet Inc's Google to cooperate in software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing, to develop new consumer services and modernize internal operations. The automaker will deploy Google artificial intelligence technology to improve the efficiency of vehicle development, supply chain and manufacturing operations.

Reliance gets world's first 'carbon-neutral' oil from US

Reliance has sourced the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from the United States. The move comes as the company looks to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035.

The US supplier said in a statement that Reliance got 2 million barrels of consignment. The Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV), which is a division of US oil major Occidental had delivered the carbon-neutral oil to Reliance.

Coal India, EESL sign MoU to reduce carbon footprint

Coal India announced on February 4, 2021 that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) to reduce its carbon footprint and improve its overall operational efficiency and profitability.

Indian Oil signs pact with Greenstat Norway for hydrogen fuel

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has signed a Statement of Intent with Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Greenstat Norway, to set up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen. Under this association, a Center of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H) including CCUS and Fuel Cells.

China becomes India's top Trade Partner

China has again become India's top trading partner in the year 2020. The reason was that India was still dependent on the import of heavy machines, telecom equipment and home appliances from China.

Defence Ministry inks pact with BEL to procure ship-borne modern radio system

The defence ministry has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to procure a software-defined radio tactical (SDR-Tac) ship-borne system worth over Rs 1,000 crore. The procurement of SDR-Tac (software-defined radio tactical) "will bring strategic depth to the armed forces.

Maharashtra govt signs MoU with Flipkart to promote wooden toys

Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with Flipkart to promote wooden toys, local artefacts, handicrafts. Maharashtra Small Industries Development Corporation and

Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Flipkart.

Tata Electronics inks MoU with TN to set up Mobile Component Unit

The Tata Electronics has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government in order to establish a facility to manufacture the mobile components.

Piramal group to takeover the DHFL

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the takeover of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) by Piramal Group on February 18, 2021. The decision was taken by RBI after a month a Committee of Creditors of DHFL voted in favor of Piramal's bid.

HCL Tech inks pact with IIT Kanpur to build up competence in cybersecurity

HCL Technologies has inked an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity. As part of the pact, the IT company will work with C3iHub, a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IITK.

Hyundai Develops Ultimate Mobility Vehicle 'TIGER X-1'

Hyundai Motor Company has launched a Transformer-like robocar dubbed as TIGER X-1, that can travel over the most challenging terrains on the Earth as well as on other planets. TIGER stands for Transforming Intelligent Ground Excursion Robot, and the X-1 denotes its experimental status.

Defence News

Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 45th Raising Day

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is celebrating its 45th Raising Day on 01 February 2021. The ICG was formally established on February 1, 1977, by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India. It operates under the Ministry of Defence.

Yudh Abhyas: Indo-US joint military exercise to begin on February 8 in Rajasthan

The 16th edition of 'Yudh Abhyas', India-US joint military exercise, will be held in Rajasthan between February 8 and 21, 2021. The drill has come days after the air forces of France and India held a 5-day joint exercise in Rajasthan in January 2021.

Chiefs of Air Staff (CAS) Conclave Organised at Bengaluru

Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 'Chiefs of Air Staff (CAS) Conclave' at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The two-day conclave has been organised by Indian Air Force, from 3 to 04 February 2021, in a Hybrid Form with extensive use of digital media.

Indian Navy Ship Pralaya Participates in NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21

Indian Naval Ship Pralaya reached Abu Dhabi in UAE to participate in the Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX 21) and International Defence Exhibition (IDEX 21) from February 20 to 25, 2021. NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21 is one of the leading international naval and defence exhibitions of the region.

India- Indonesia Navies conduct PASSEX exercise

The Indian and the Indonesian navies held the PASSEX military exercise in the Arabian sea on February 18, 2021. This military exercise was organised in order to enhance the operational interoperability and the overall cooperation.

L&T delivers 100th K9 Vajra howitzer to Indian Army

Army Chief Gen Manoj Naravane has flagged off the 100th K9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzer built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its armoured system complex at Hazira in Gujarat. L&T had completed the delivery of all the howitzers under the contract awarded in May 2017 ahead of schedule.

Aero India 2021 Begins in Bengaluru

The Aero India 2021 event, country's premier aerospace and defence exhibition, kick-started at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru. The 13th edition of the international event touted as the world's first-ever hybrid aero and defence show will see several aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Army, Navy, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), and the Coast Guard participating in the show.

First Women Team Inducted in CRPF's CoBRA Commando Unit

A maiden contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel has been inducted into its specialized jungle warfare commando force CoBRA. The contingent will soon be deployed in the anti-Naxal operations grid of the country.

Prime Minister hands over indigenous Arjun Mk-1A tank to Army

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has handed over the indigenous main battle tank Arjun Mk-1A to the Army in a function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane received the model of the tank, designed and developed by Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), a unit of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

India to start trials of Astra Mark 2 missile in 2021

India will start the testing of the Astra Mark 2 beyond visual range air to air missile in 2021. The missile which is capable to take down enemy aircraft from a range of 160 kms will step forward for India as the missile will establish the country's superiority in air combat over Pakistan and China.

Science & Technology

NASA names Indian-American Bhavya Lal as Acting Chief of Staff

NASA has named Indian-American Bhavya Lal as the Acting Chief of Staff. As the senior White House appointee at NASA, Lal served as a member of the Biden Presidential Transition Agency Review Team and oversaw the agency's transition under US President Joe Biden-led administration. She will also serve as the senior advisor for budget and finance at NASA.

Stardust 1.0: The First Rocket To Use Biofuels

Stardust 1.0 was launched from Loring Commerce Center, a former military base in Maine, USA. This is the first commercial space launch driven by biofuels. Compared with traditional rocket fuels, biofuels are non-toxic to the environment.

Stardust 1.0 is a launch vehicle suitable for students and budget payloads. The rocket is 20 feet high and mass about 250 kg. The maximum payload mass of the rocket is 8 kg.

HAL to develop world's first high-altitude pseudo satellite

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is developing a futuristic high altitude pseudo satellite with a start-up company, to strengthen the country's military strike capabilities. It is a first of its kind project in the world, where a manned aircraft will operate within the boundary and the unmanned aircraft will enter the enemy zone and can carry out strikes deep inside the enemy territory.

World's Largest Radio Telescope- Square Kilometre Array

The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council recently held its meeting. During the meeting, the council has approved the setting up of the world's largest radio telescope.

The Square Kilometre Array Observatory is a new intergovernmental organisation. It is dedicated to the radio astronomy. It is headquartered in the United Kingdom.

NASA Selects SpaceX to launch its SPHEREx Mission

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected spaceflight company, SpaceX to launch its SPHEREx Mission. Through this mission, NASA aims to perform an all-sky survey to measure the near-infrared spectra of approximately 450 million galaxies across the universe and 100 million stars inside our Milky Way galaxy.

ISRO launches Brazil's Amazonia-1 and 18 other satellites

The Indian Space Research Organisation on February 28, 2021, launched Polar Satellites Launch Vehicle- PSLV C51 carrying Amazonia-1 satellite of Brazil and 18 other satellites of USA and India from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at 10.24 am.

Square Kilometre Array Observatory launched

The newly constituted Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council has approved for the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope. The telescope will enable astronomers to monitor the sky in unprecedented detail and survey the entire sky much faster than any system currently in existence.

Russia to launch around 40 satellites from 18 countries in March 2021

Russia is set to put into orbit around 40 satellites from over a dozen different countries all over the world using the Soyuz-2 carrier rocket in March 2021. The information was shared by the space industry of the country.

ONGC to establish India's first geothermal field development project in Ladakh

India's first-ever geothermal power project will be implemented by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at Puga village of eastern Ladakh. The project, known as Geothermal Field Development Project, will be implemented in three phases and is planned to commission by the end of 2022.

HOPE: UAE's Mars Mission

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has put a probe called Hope in the orbit around the MARS. By doing so, UAE has become the fifth country to launch the spacecraft into the orbit of MARS after United States, Soviet Union, Europe and India.

Turkey announces space program including 2023 moon mission

The President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on February 9, 2021, unveiled an ambitious 10-year space program that includes missions to the moon, developing internationally viable satellite systems, and sending Turkish astronauts into space.

ISRO opens satellite testing centre for private sector

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has opened its UR Rao Satellite Centre for testing satellites developed by the private sector for the first time in its history. Two satellites, developed by the Indian startups SpaceKidz India and Pixxel (incorporated as Sygzy) were tested at the UR Rao Satellite Centre.

Pakistan Army successfully test-fires Babur cruise missile

The Pakistan Army conducted a successful test-firing of a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Babar' on February 11, 2021. This test was the third missile test carried out over the past three weeks.

India's Homegrown App MapMyIndia Ties Up With ISRO

India's homegrown app MapMyIndia ties up with ISRO to build an alternative to Google Maps. The agreement between ISRO and MapmyIndia is suggested to become an alternative to Google maps and similar platforms. The collaboration with MapMyIndia will turn out to be a

benefit for users because it will use digital maps of MapmyIndia and satellite imagery and earth observation data of ISRO.

ISA to Launch World Solar Bank

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) have planned to launch the World Solar Bank (WSB) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow that is scheduled for November 2021.

The development of the World Solar Bank will support India's attempt to secure its leadership in the climate arena.

Perseverance rover has successfully landed on Mars

The NASA Perseverance rover safely landed on Mars after its 292.5 million-mile journey from Earth. The rover has been on a nearly 300 million-mile journey since it left Earth more than 6 months ago. Perseverance and her teams lived up to the namesake, overcoming the challenges of preparing for the journey's final stages during a pandemic.

Book News

Dalai Lama pens new book ‘The Little Book of Encouragement’

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has come out with his new book titled ‘The Little Book of Encouragement’, in which he has shared quotes and words of wisdom to promote human happiness. The book has been edited by Renuka Singh and published by Penguin Random House.

Vice President releases ‘Maverick Messiah’, a political biography on NTR

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has released “Maverick Messiah”, a political biography on former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao authored by senior journalist Ramesh Kandula. NTR was ranked among the top pioneers of ‘alternative politics’.

‘By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life’ authored by M Hamid Ansari

A book titled ‘By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life’ has been authored by M Hamid Ansari. Mohammad Hamid Ansari was the vice president of India and chairman of the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 2007 to 2017.

Meghna Pant’s new book “The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News”

Award-winning writer, journalist and speaker, Meghna Pant has penned a new book “The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News”. The book will be released in April 2021, and soon be seen as a major motion picture under the title Badnam Ladoo.

Award winning Author Irwin Allan Sealy’s new novel ‘ASOCA’

Prizewinning writer Irwin Allan Sealy’s new novel ‘ASOCA: A Sutra’, an imagined memoir of Ashoka The Great. The novel will be presented as an imagined memoir of Ashoka The Great, the emperor who ruled most of the Indian Subcontinent and played a pivotal role in the spread of Buddhism from India to other parts of Asia in the 3rd century BC. It will be published by Penguin Random House India.

Sports

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Tamil Nadu	Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy	In Cricket, Tamil Nadu lifted the coveted Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy after defeating Baroda by seven wickets in the final at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.
India	Asian Online Shooting Championship	The Indian shooting contingent has topped the medals tally in the first-ever Asian Online Shooting Championship, organised by Kuwait Shooting Federation.
Joe Root	Becomes first batsman to score 200 in 100th Test	In the process, Root also surpassed former Pakistan captain Inzamam-Ul-Haq as the player with the highest individual score playing the 100th Test match of his career.
Rishabh Pant	ICC Player of the Month January 2021	Pant has been honoured for his superlative performances in the two Tests against Australia in January 2021, wherein he scored a 97 at Sydney and an unbeaten 89 at Brisbane, leading India to an incredible series win.
Ishant Sharma	Becomes third Indian pacer to take 300 Test wickets	Indian fast bowler Ishant Sharma became the sixth Indian and third pacer from the country to take 300 wickets in Test cricket.
Chris Morris	IPL's most expensive player	Rajasthan Royals went all-out for the South African all-rounder Morris, buying him for a whopping INR 16.25 crore.
Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka	Australian Open 2021	The four Grand Slam title for Osaka comes two Australian Open titles (2021 and 2019) and two US Open title (2018 and 2020).

Obituary

Name	Associated Field
Paul Crutzen	Nobel Prize Winner
Christopher Plummer	Oscar-winning Canadian actor
Akhtar Ali	Indian Tennis legend
Rajiv Kapoor	Bollywood actor

Important Days

Day	Date	Theme
World Wetlands Day	February 02	Wetlands and Water
World Cancer Day	February 04	I Am And I Will
International Day of Human Fraternity	February 04	A Pathway to the Future
International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	February 06	No Time for Global Inaction: Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation.
World Pulses Day	February 10	Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future
International Epilepsy Day	Second Monday of February	
International Day of Women and Girls in Science	February 11	Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19
World Unani Day	February 11	
National Productivity Day	February 12	
World Radio Day	February 13	New World, New Radio
National Women's Day	February 13	
Soil Health Card Day	February 19	
World Pangolin Day	Third Saturday of February (February 20)	
World Day of Social Justice	February 20	A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy
International Mother Language Day	February 21	Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society
World Thinking Day	February 22	Peacebuilding
Central Excise Day	February 24	
World NGO Day	February 27	
National Protein Day	February 27	Powering with Plant Protein
Rare Disease Day	February 28	
National Science Day	February 28	Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work