

Week 4 Current Affairs Update

22nd - 31st January 2021

EVENTS

NATIONAL

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

15TH INDIA DIGITAL SUMMIT 2021



Date: 24th January 2021

15th India Digital Summit 2021 (IDS-2021) was inaugurated by Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Key Points:

- The 15th IDS 2021 was organised by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- The theme for 15th IDS 2021: 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat-Start of New Decade'.
- The summit observed discussions related to frame digital initiatives in areas like policies, businesses, advertisement, start-ups, commerce etc.
- The participants discussed agendas like (a) Digitally recharging SMEs (b) Digital policies from a global perspective but Indian reality (c) Nurturing Indian start-ups.

AWARDS & HONOURS

COAL MINISTER'S AWARD



Date: 24th January 2021

Recently, the Ministry of Coal, GOI has announced and conferred the Coal Minister's Award.

Key Points:

- The Ministry also inaugurated Coal Handling Unit at Krishnashila Coal Project in Uttar Pradesh and launched the Project Passion.
- Coal Minister's Award 2020 is conferred to three units of CIL (Coal India Limited) namely (a) Northern Coalfields Ltd of Madhya Pradesh (b) Central Coalfields Ltd of Jharkhand (c) Western Coalfields Ltd of Maharashtra.
- Coal Handling Unit at Krishnashila Coal Project, UP: It is having a coal handling capacity of 4 million tonnes per annum. It will provide coal to Anpara Thermal Power Station of UP's Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd and Renusagar Power Division of Hindalco.
- Project Passion: The Union Coal Minister launched Project Passion which is an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) of CIL. This project will help to enhance business performance and will lead to the growth of the organisation by maintaining digital integrity.

AWARDS & HONOURS

SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE AAPDA PRABANDHAN PURASKAR 2021



Date: 25th January 2021

To recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of Disaster Management, Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.

Key Points:

- For the year 2021, (i) Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (in the institutional category) and (ii) Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari (in the Individual category) have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for their excellent work in Disaster Management.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

UDYAM SARATHI APP—UTTAR PRADESH



Date: 26th January 2021

The CM of Uttar Pradesh launched the 'Udyam Sarathi' mobile application for the youths to assist them for employment opportunities.

Key Points:

- The app will help youths to avail information related to self-employment and job vacancies in industries of the state.
- Youths will be able to search for employment opportunities in multiple departments and sectors of the state and central governments.
- The app is developed under the 'One District One Product' scheme.
- The app was launched on the occasion of the 71st Foundation day of the state.
- The UP is celebrating its 71st foundation day from 24th Jan to 26th Jan 2021 by conducting various programmes under the theme, 'Respect for self-reliant Uttar Pradesh, women young farmers, development of all.'

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CSIR-CMERI unveils India's First-ever Aqua Rejuvenation Plant



Date: 27th January 2021

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur (West Bengal) unveiled the first-ever Waste Water Treatment Technology Model which purifies Waste Water for Irrigation/Farming purposes. It facilitates an Organic Farming Model through treated Waste Water.

Key Points:

- Aqua Rejuvenation Plant (ARP) is an Integrated Waste Water Rejuvenation Model which has Six-Stage purification profile for comprehensive treatment of Waste Water, based upon diverse purification parameters.
- The used filtration media have been specially developed to handle Indian Sewage Water Parameters and based upon Geographical Variations they may be modified.
- The system has dual benefits. While the treated water is being used for irrigation purposes, the filtered sludge generated is also utilized as manure / fertilizer.
- The bio char prepared from dry leaves falling in autumn is also used for mixing in soil as it reduces the water requirement for irrigation thus saving precious water.

DEFENCE

OPERATION SARD HAWA



Date: 26th January 2021

The 'Operation Sard Hawa' was launched by the Border Security Force (BSF).

Key Points:

- It was launched on the western international border of Rajasthan.
- The operation was conducted to check the instances of infiltration because of dense fog in the region.
- The operation was also conducted to verify and increase security in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

AWARDS & HONOURS

PADMA AWARDS 2021 BY MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS



Date: 26th January 2021

On the eve of Republic Day, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the name of personalities who will be conferred with Padma Awards by President Ram Nath Kovind.

Key Points:

- Total 119 names of the personalities from various fields were announced who will be conferred with Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards.
- These awards are given in areas of art, social work, public affairs, sports, science and engineering, industry, medicine, literature, education, civil services, trade etc.
- Winners for Padma Vibhushan: Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Late singer SP Balasubramaniam, Dr. Belle Monappa Hegd, Narinder Singh Kapany, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, B. B. Lal.
- Winners for Padma Bhushan: Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra, Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous), Chandrashekhar Kambara, Sumitra Mahajan, Nripendra Misra, Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous), Tarlochan Singh, Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous), Rajnikant Devidas Shroff.

National Non-Communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS)



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National
Non-communicable
Disease (NCD)
Monitoring Survey
(NNMS)

Date: 26th January 2021

Union Health Minister released the 'National Non-communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS)', the largest comprehensive national Survey on risk factors and health systems preparedness of NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (NCDs).

Key Points:

- While two in five adults have three or more risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCD) in India, the status of the health system in responding to the disease burden is also underscored. Findings of the reports are as follows:
- Overweight or obese: More than 1 in every 4 adults and 6.2% adolescents
- Raised blood pressure: Almost 3 out of 10 adults
- Raised blood glucose: 9.3%.
- Insufficient physical activity: More than 2 in 5 adults and 1 in 4 adolescents .
- One in every three adults and more than one-fourth proportion of men used any form of tobacco and consumed alcohol in the past 12 months respectively.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

'PANKH ABHIYAN'—MADHYA PRADESH



Date: 27th January 2021

The Government of Madhya Pradesh launched the 'PANKH Abhiyan'.

Key Points:

- The scheme was launched to mark the occasion of National Girl Child Day.
- 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.
- Along with this scheme, the CM of the state also declared scholarships of Rs 6.47 crore for 26,099 girls under Ladli Laxmi Yojana.

ART & CULTURE

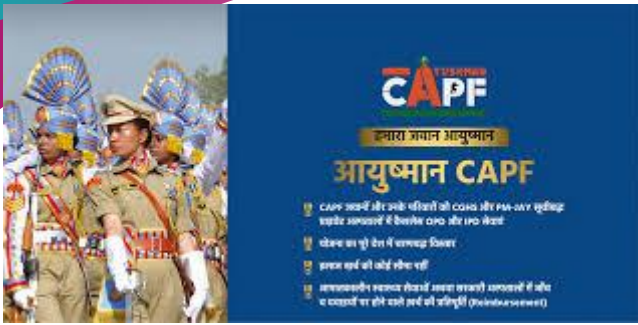
BHARAT PARV-2021



Date: 27th January 2021

- The annual event Bharat Parv-2021 was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on 26th Jan 2021.
- **Key Points:**
- The event was organized by the Ministry of Tourism.
- The event was conducted to observe and celebrate the spirit of India and showcase its cultural diversity.
- The theme for Bharat Parv-2021: Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.
- In this event, all the states and UTs will showcase their tourism destinations, handicrafts, cuisine and other features.
- The event was held to achieve the vision set by PM Modi that every person of India should visit at least 15 destinations by the year 2022.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH SCHEME FOR CAPF



Date: 27th January 2021

The Ministry of Home Affairs launched Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme for the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).

Key Points:

- For this purpose, the MoU was signed between the National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The scheme is launched for CAPF personnel and their dependents.
- The scheme will be beneficial to: Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG), Assam Rifles and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Under the scheme, ‘Ayushman CAPF’ Health cards will be distributed to the CAPF personnels.

DEFENCE

AMPHEX – 21



Date: 27th January 2021

The tri-service joint amphibious exercise named AMPHEX – 21 was conducted by the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

Key Points:

- The exercise was held in the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.
- The aim behind conducting AMPHEX – 21 exercise was to validate and enhance India's capabilities to protect its territorial integrity.
- It also aimed to boost the operational synergy and joint warfighting capabilities of the three services.
- The tri-services executed multi-domain and high-intensity based offensive as well as defensive manoeuvres in Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.
- They conducted multi-faceted maritime operations by employing amphibious assault ships, surveillance platforms and complex manoeuvres at sea.
- The Airborne insertion of Marine Commandos of Navy and Special Forces of the Army, naval gunfire support, the amphibious landing of forces and follow-on operations were also part of the exercise.

DEFENCE

INTEGRATED WEAPONS SYSTEM DESIGN CENTRE



Date: 28th January 2021

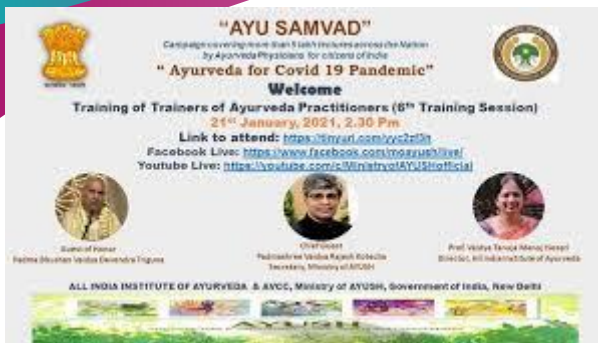
Indian Vice President recently inaugurated the Integrated Weapons System Design Centre at DRDO's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile complex in Hyderabad.

Key Points:

- The Integrated Weapon System Design facility is said to enhance the capability in design and development of command & control systems for surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems and ballistic missile defence (BMD) systems.
- Centre will give a thrust to the overall system design and evaluation methodology for state-of-the-art missile systems and will help in improving the performance of missiles.
- The Vice President inaugurated a new missile technology exposition and seminar hall on the campus.
- The exposition will display missile technologies and weapon systems and the centre will be the backbone for outreach activities.

HEALTHCARE

Ayu Samvad: Largest public awareness campaign program



Date: 28th January 2021

“AYU SAMVAD” (My Health My Responsibility) is one of the largest public awareness campaign programs being organised on AYURVEDA and COVID 19 PANDEMIC.

Key Points:

- It is being organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda New Delhi, as envisioned & supported by the Ministry of AYUSH.
- More than 5 lac lectures will be organized across the nation by Ayurveda Physicians for citizens of India.
- Main objective of the campaign is to create awareness through Lecture series to make common people aware about the theme “Ayurveda for COVID 19 Pandemic”.

DEFENCE

DRDO CONDUCTED MAIDEN TEST LAUNCH OF AKASH-NG MISSILE



Date: 28th January 2021

The DRDO successfully conducted the maiden test launch of the new generation Akash-NG Missile.

Key Points:

- The test was conducted from ITR off the Odisha coast.
- The Akash-NG Missile is a surface to air missile having a test range of 30km.
- It is used by Indian Air Force for the interception of high manoeuvring aerial threats.

- During the testing activity, the performance of the command and control system was validated along with the configuration of onboard avionics and aerodynamic equipment of the missile.

ART & CULTURE

51ST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021



Date: 28th January 2021

The 51st edition of International Film Festival 2021 concluded in Panaji, Goa.

Key Points:

- The IFFI 2021 was conducted in hybrid mode i.e. 50 films among 224 films of various categories were screened online.
- Organizers of IFFI 2021: Directorate of Film Festival which comes under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Government of Goa and Entertainment Society of Goa.
- Country of the Focus: Bangladesh
- Indian Personality of the Year Award: Biswajit Chatterjee
- Opening Film of IFFI 2021: Another Round
- Closing Film of IFFI 2021: Wife of a Spy
- Chairman of International Jury for IFFI 2021: Pablo Cesar (Argentina)

REPORTS & INDICES

2ND INDIA JUSTICE REPORT 2020



Date: 31st January 2021

The Tata Trusts in partnership with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS–Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and How India Lives released the 2nd edition of India Justice Report (IJR).

Key Points:

- As per the report, Maharashtra is at the top position among the 18 large and mid-size states to provide better justice delivery.
- The second and third positions are marked by Tamil Nadu and Telangana respectively.
- Also, in the category of small states, the report ranking is topped by Tripura in providing better justice delivery.
- Tripura is followed by Sikkim and Goa at second and third ranks respectively.
- The report considers justice delivery in the areas of Police, Judiciary, prisons and Legal Aid and thus gives the rank accordingly.

INTERNATIONAL

REPORTS & INDICES

16TH GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK INDEX 2021



Date: 27th January 2021

The Bonn, Germany based environmental think tank named Germanwatch released the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.

Key Points:

- This is the 16th edition of the Global Climate Risk Index and is drafted by analyzing the impact of extreme climate conditions on the country and on the economy.
- The report is drafted by considering data from Munich Re's NatCatSERVICE.
- As per the index ranking, India is at 7th position among the countries that are most affected by climate change in 2019.

- Top 3 most affected countries in 2019 are: Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Bahamas.
- Top 3 most affected countries in the last 20 years (2000-2019) are: Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti.

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE ADAPTATION SUMMIT 2021



Date: 27th January 2021

Recently, Indian Prime Minister addressed the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 hosted by Netherlands.

Key Points:

- The summit will have a significant focus on securing new investments to ensure that millions of smallholder farmers can adapt to the stresses of climate on food production.
- During the summit, it was said that India is targeting 450 gigawatt of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- It is also promoting LED lights and saving 38 million tons of carbon-di-oxide emissions annually.
- India is going to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- Clean cooking fuel is being provided to 80 million rural households.
- 64 million households are being connected to piped water supply.

DEFENCE

14TH JOINT WORKING GROUP MEET OF INDIA-UK ON COUNTER-TERRORISM



Date: 28th January 2021

India and United Kingdom virtually conducted the 14th edition of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.

Key Points:

- Both the nations strongly condemned the terrorism activities in all forms.
- Both nations assured to deepen cooperation in order to combat global terrorism and cross-border terrorism in South Asia.
- They also assured to enhance bilateral cooperation to combat counter-terrorism, extremism and radicalization, financing of terrorism, prevention of internet exploitation for cyber-crimes etc.
- They held discussions to have law enforcement, capacity building and maritime & aviation security.

ECONOMY

FUTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE FORUM



Date: 28th January 2021

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed the 4th edition of the Future Investment Initiative Forum.

Key Points:

- The Future Investment Initiative (FII) is an annual investment forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to discuss trends in the world economy and investment environment.
- It is hosted by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF).
- The first event was in October 2017.
- The purpose of this year's forum was to find solutions on how business and government can expand access to healthcare, train healthcare workers, remove regulatory barriers and encourage investment in advanced health technologies.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

INDIA PLEDGED USD 150,000 FOR UN PEACEBUILDING



Date: 28th January 2021

India has announced that it has pledged to provide USD 150,000 to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for 2021.

Key Points:

- Announcement of this was made by India's permanent representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti.
- 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.
- The UN Peacekeeping works to help nations to transform from conflict situations to peace.
- The UN Peacebuilding fund helps to offer support for the UN's key instrument in order to tackle conflict situations and strengthen the response across the UN peace and security pillars.

ECONOMY

RESTORING CROSS BORDER MOBILITY BY WEF'S COMMON TRUST NETWORK



Date: 28th January 2021

The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare addressed the event on Restoring Cross Border Mobility by the World Economic Forum's Common Trust Network through a Video Conference.

Key Points:

- As countries around the world work to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and restart their economies, they all face the challenge of how to reopen their borders and allow travel and commerce to resume while protecting their populations' health.
- To address this challenge, The Commons Project Foundation and the World Economic Forum have launched the Common Trust Network in collaboration with a broad voluntary network of public and private stakeholders.
- The Common Trust Network is designed to:
 - empower individuals with digital access to their health information,
 - make it easier for individuals to understand and comply with each destination's requirements,
 - ensure that only verifiable lab results and vaccination records from trusted sources are presented for cross-border travel and commerce.
- The Network is enabled by a global registry of trusted laboratory and vaccination data sources, standard formats for lab results and vaccination records, and standard tools to make those results and records digitally accessible.

ENERGY

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA AND IEA



Date: 29th January 2021

India signed the strategic partnership agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA) for the purpose of energy security.

Key Points:

- The MoU will enable cooperation in the global energy security sector.

- Because of this agreement, India will be able to boost energy security cooperation with the major support from IEA member nations.
- India will now keep a focus on IEA's Clean Energy Transition Programme (CETP), Energy Security, Stability and Sustainability and will also increase petroleum storage in the country.
- India will also be able to achieve its goal to become a gas-based economy.
- IEA will implement various activities for India with cooperation with IEA's member nations in order to strengthen the strategic partnership.

REPORTS & INDICES

ASIA-PACIFIC PERSONALISED HEALTH INDEX



Date: 30th January 2021

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

Key Points:

- The index is first-of-its-kind and is a tool to analyse the readiness of eleven health systems in the Asia-Pacific region.
- This index enables the adoption of personalized healthcare systems and measures.
- Overall rank of India is 10th position out of 11 health systems.
- The index is topped by Singapore among all the 11 health systems.
- The second and third positions are marked by Taiwan and Japan respectively.
- The index ranking was calculated by analyzing performance across 27 major indicators associated with personalised health across 4 categories which are called 'Vital Signs'.
- The 'Vital Signs' are Policy Context, Health Information, Personalised Technologies and Health Services.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

5TH INDIA-JAPAN ACT EAST FORUM MEET



Date: 30th January 2021

The 5th India-Japan Act East Forum (AEF) Meeting was recently held in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- India was represented by Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary and Japan was 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.
- The projects are held in areas like hydropower, water management, skill development and sustainable development.
- They also reviewed the work of the projects related to road connectivity, health, bamboo value chain development and forest conservation.
- The Act East Forum (AEF) is a collaboration of India's 'Act East Policy' and Japan's 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' vision.

HEALTHCARE

WORLD NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (NTD) DAY



Date: 30th January 2021

January 30, 2021 will mark the second annual World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day, highlighting the global community's commitment to ending Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Key Points:

- On World NTD Day, more than 50 landmarks representing 25 nations across the world will be lit up to celebrate how far we have come together in beating NTDs.
- India too will join these countries, by illuminating UNESCO world heritage site Qutub Minar.
- Originally announced by the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi at the 2019 Reaching the Last Mile Forum, hundreds of partners signed up to mark World NTD Day and demand action to Face NTDs and End The Neglect.

ENVIRONMENT

2021: INDO-FRENCH YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Date: 31st January 2021

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.

Key Points:

- This will help to enhance the partnership between India and France with respect to sustainable development and an increase in actions related to the protection of the global environment.
- The Indo-French Year of the Environment is the joint platform of India and France to work jointly in the areas of environment, biodiversity, climate change throughout the year of 2021.
- The partnership in this will be held for the tenure of 2021-22.
- The themes for Indo-French Year of the Environment: (a) Environmental protection (b) Climate change (c) Biodiversity conservation (d) Sustainable urban development (e) Development of renewable energies and energy efficiency.



PEOPLE

NATIONAL

OBITUARY

NARENDRA LUTHER



Date: 26th January 2021

Noted historian, author, poet and retired bureaucrat Narendra Luther has passed.

Key Points:

- A 1955 batch IAS officer, Luther was closely associated with the history and culture of erstwhile Hyderabad state and its rulers.
- He had served in various positions before retiring as the chief secretary of the undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1991.
- A naturalist to the core, Luther was moved by Hyderabad's unique rock formations that took millions of years to shape.
- He was instrumental in bringing some of the geological formations under urban development authority regulations in 1981 to conserve them for posterity.
- He has penned a number of books on the history, heritage and architecture of Hyderabad.

APPOINTMENTS

SWAMINATHAN JANAKIRAMAN AND ASHWINI KUMAR TEWARI



Date: 27th January 2021

Why in news: Appointed as Managing Directors of SBI.

Key Points:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the appointment of Swaminathan Janakiraman and Ashwini Kumar Tewari as new Managing Directors (MDs) of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years.
- Prior to this, Swaminathan Janakiraman was the deputy managing director (Finance) at SBI and Ashwini Kumar Tewari was serving as MD & CEO of SBI Card, a subsidiary of SBI.
- SBI is headed by a Chairman and four managing directors. Dinesh Kumar Khara is the current Chairman of the bank. The other two MDs of the bank are C.S. Setty and Ashwani Bhatia.

APPOINTMENTS

R. S. SHARMA



Date: 30th January 2021

Why in news: Appointed as the New Chief Executive of Ayushman Bharat.

Key Points:

- R. S. Sharma has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Ayushman Bharat scheme or the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana which is an insurance scheme by the National Health Authority's (NHA).
- RS Sharma, will replace Indu Bhushan.
- RS Sharma has worked as the Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- He is also the head of the Empowered Group on Technology and Data Management to combat the Covid-19 and the Covid-19 vaccine delivery technology platform—Co-WIN.
- He also works as a member of the National Expert Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Administration.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

GIUSEPPE CONTE



Date: 27th January 2021

Why in news: Resigned from the post of the Prime Minister of Italy.

Key Points:

- Giuseppe Conte, the Italian Prime Minister has resigned from his post.
- Conte has resigned after turmoil in the coalition. He hopes to form a new government now.
- Giuseppe Conte presented his resignation to the country's President Sergio Mattarella who in turn has asked Conte to work in the caretaker capacity till the new government is formed.
- The ruling coalition was formed in 2019 and was weakened after the withdrawal of former premier Matteo Renzi's party 'Italia Viva' this month.

OBITUARY

PAUL CRUTZEN



Date: 31st January 2021

The Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul J. Crutzen, who warned of the ozone hole, has passed away.

Key Points:

- Crutzen won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995, jointly with Mario J. Molina and F. Sherwood Rowland, for their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of ozone.
- He was known for his work on the ozone layer and climate change and for popularizing the term 'Anthropocene' to describe a proposed new era when human actions have a drastic effect on the Earth.
- His findings have triggered off much research on biogeochemical cycles like the carbon and nitrogen cycle.

The logo for 'disha' features the word 'disha' in a large, lowercase, light blue sans-serif font. Above the letter 'i' is a stylized orange arrow pointing upwards and to the right. Below the word 'disha' is the tagline 'Nurturing Ambitions' in a smaller, light blue sans-serif font.

disha
Nurturing Ambitions

ISSUES

NATIONAL

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

BHIMA KOREGAON BATTLE



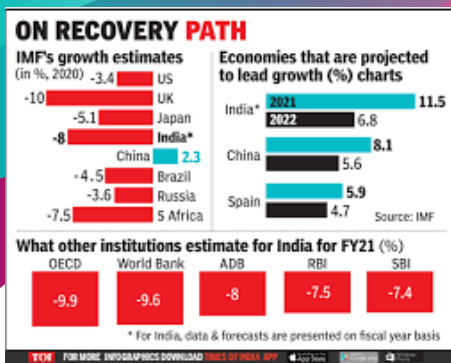
Date: 26th January 2021

Key Highlights:

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has called for the release of Bhima Koregaon activists.
- The Bhima Koregaon case dates back to January 1, 2018, which marked the 200th anniversary of the Bhima Koregaon battle.
- The event was organised to celebrate the victory of the British army, which included a large number of Mahars, against Peshwa Baji Rao II's army.
- Several human rights activists, including Sudha Bharadwaj, Varavara Rao and Gautam Navlakha, were arrested during the course of the investigation.
- Bhima- Koregaon battle was fought in Bhima Koregaon, a district in Pune with a strong historical Dalit connection, between the Peshwa forces and the British on January 1, 1818. The British army, which comprised mainly of Dalit soldiers, fought the upper caste-dominated Peshwa army. The British troops defeated the Peshwa army.

ECONOMY

INDIA'S ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY 8% – BY IMF



Date: 28th January 2021

Key Highlights:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised the growth forecast for India.
- As per IMF, India's GDP to contract by 8% in the fiscal year 2021-22.
- Earlier it has projected the GDP contraction of 10.3%.
- The IMF has released this updated prediction in its World Economic Outlook.
- Also, the IMF has projected that Indian economy to rise to 11.5% in FY 2021-22.
- For 2020, global growth to contract at 3.5% and the global economy to grow by 5.5% in 2021.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute



Date: 29th January 2021

Key Highlights:

- Recently, Maharashtra CM released a book titled Maharashtra-Karnataka Boundary Dispute: Struggle and Pledge. The book is a collection of articles, news, and other material on the demand that Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka should be integrated into Maharashtra.

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray saying his government is committed to incorporating areas of Karnataka where Marathi-speaking people are in majority into his state has added fuel to a controversy that has been simmering for the last six decades.
- Belgaum or Belagavi, which has a large Marathi-speaking population, is currently part of Karnataka and is claimed by Maharashtra.
- While Maharashtra has gone to the Supreme Court over this land dispute, Karnataka has declared Belagavi its second capital.

INTERNATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

USA'S NEW PRESIDENT RESTORES AMERICA'S PARTICIPATION IN PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT



Date: 27th January 2021

Key Highlights:

- Joe Biden assumed office as President of the USA recently. Among the first orders he signed was one to restore America's participation in the United Nations Paris Agreement on climate change.
- His decision on America's return will take effect on February 19, which would be 107 days after its withdrawal under the Donald Trump administration became formal on November 4, 2020.
- America's return will take effect on February 19.
- The USA has promised enforcement mechanisms to achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050, including a target no later than the end of his term in 2025, aided by a planned federal investment that will total \$1.7 trillion over ten years, besides private investments.
- The plan revolves around 10 million well-paying clean energy jobs with a focus on solar and wind power.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

USA RESTORES RELATIONS WITH PALESTINE



Date: 29th January 2021

Key Highlights:

- U.S. President's administration announced it was restoring relations with the Palestinians and renewing aid to Palestinian refugees.
- It is a reversal of the Donald Trump administration's cutoff and a key element of its new support for a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict agreed to by Israelis and Palestinians.
- Palestine is recognized officially as the State of Palestine by the United Nations and other entities.
- It is a de jure sovereign state in Western Asia claiming the West Bank (bordering Israel and Jordan) and Gaza Strip (bordering Israel and Egypt) with Jerusalem as the designated capital, although its administrative center is currently located in Ramallah.
- The entirety of territory claimed by the State of Palestine has been occupied since 1948, first by Egypt and Jordan and then by Israel after the Six-Day War in 1967.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

‘SHRAMSHAKTI’ PORTAL AND ‘SHRAMSAATHI’ TRIBAL TRAINING MODULE



Date: 24th January 2021

Key Features:

- The ‘ShramShakti’ portal is a National Migration Support Portal launched by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The portal will allow GOI and the state government to collect data related to the tribal migrant workers and will allow ease in the formulation of national level programs for the migrants.
- The portal will allow migrants to be linked with various welfare schemes as it will collect real-time data of the migrants.
- The portal will address the data gap and will empower the migrant workers, who are in search of job opportunities.
- The portal will collect data like livelihood options, demographic profile, migration pattern, and skill mapping of the tribal migrants.
- The Union Minister also launched ‘ShramSaathi’, which is a tribal training module. This module will offer proper management for safe and productive livelihood migration of workers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AVALOKANA SOFTWARE



Date: 25th January 2021

Key Features:

- The CM of Karnataka launched Avalokana software for the purpose of the state government to allow access to data related to expenditures and sanctions incurred on 1800 programmes of the state.
- The Avalokana software is an e-governance tool and provides a track on SDG goals, Scheduled caste sub-plans, tribal sub-plans and centrally sponsored welfare schemes.
- 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.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GREEN TAX



Date: 26th January 2021

Key Features:

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has approved the following proposals to levy a “Green Tax” on old vehicles which are polluting the environment.
- It includes the policy of deregistration and scrapping of vehicles owned by the Government department and PSU, which are above 15 years in age.
- Revenue collected from the Green Tax to be kept in a separate account and used for tackling pollution, and for States to set up state-of-art facilities for emission monitoring.

- Transport vehicles older than 8 years could be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate, at the rate of 10 to 25 % of road tax;
- Personal vehicles to be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of Registration Certification after 15 years.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

‘JAIL TOURISM’



Date: 26th January 2021

Key Features:

- The government of Maharashtra will be launching 'Jail Tourism' initiative from Yerawada prison of Pune on 26th Jan 2021.
- 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.
- In this initiative, school students, college students and other people can visit historical places.
- The first phase of the initiative will be launched from Pune's Yerawada prison as many freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak, Motilal Nehru, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sarojini Naidu, Subhas Chandra Bose had been imprisoned in it.

UK VACCINE IS A GLOBAL GAME CHANGER



Date: 29th January 2021

Key Features:

- The approval of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine in the UK this week will make a significant impact on the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus as it is the most accessible shot approved so far and is likely to remain that way.
- This is significant for India, as the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) has tied up with AstraZeneca to deploy the vaccine in the country.
- This new vaccine is a viral vector vaccine, which works in a different way than the mRNA vaccines that have already been approved.
- A viral vector vaccine uses another non-replicating virus to deliver SARS-CoV-2 genes, in the form of DNA, into human cells, where viral proteins are produced to induce protective immune responses.

