





**WEEKLY CA
FEB 2021**

FEBRUARY 8-15



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. India-US exercise '**Yudh Abhyas**' has commenced in **Bikaner district in Rajasthan**. It is the **16th edition of annual bilateral joint exercise** of both the armies and will be held till 21st February.
2. **India's first geothermal power project** named as **Geothermal Field Development Project** will be established at **Puga village of eastern Ladakh**. A tripartite MoU between **ONGC Energy, LAHDC, Leh and Power Department of UT Ladakh** for establishment and implementation of first phase was signed.
3. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated **World Sustainable Development Summit 2021** on 10th February. Theme: '**Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all**'. It is the **20th edition of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI)** flagship event. **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Earth Sciences** are key partners of Summit
4. The biennial **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21)** which is the largest wargame of the **Indian Navy** was started in January 2021. The exercise is still underway, and it will end in the third week of February 2021. The exercise is being held in the Indian Ocean Region and its adjunct waters.
5. Union Minister of State for Agriculture, **Kailash Choudhry** has virtually inaugurated **National Horticulture Fair (NHF) 2021** in Bengaluru. It was a **5-day long event. It aims to showcase cutting edge technologies, crop varieties, pest and disease management practices and processing method, etc.** Organized by: **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)**. Theme: '**Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India**'
6. **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has restricted permissible amount of industrial Trans Fatty Acid in food products to 2%. FSSAI has amended **FSSAI (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011** to put into effect **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2021**. It will come into effect from **Jan 1, 2022**
7. PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate 2nd edition of **Maritime India Summit-2021** on 2nd March. The summit will be participated by around 20,000 delegates, 24 partner countries and more than 400 Projects. It will be organized by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways jointly with FICCI as Industrial Partner and EY as Knowledge Partner.
8. For the first time in history, **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has opened its **UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru** for testing satellites developed by private sector. Two satellites,

developed by **Indian startups SpaceKidz India** and **Pixel (incorporated as Sygyzy)** were tested at UR Rao Satellite Centre.

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9. **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has launched **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)** during skill partnership function under **SANKALP**. Fellows under MGNF will acquire academic expertise and technical competency in understanding the overall skill ecosystem along with being attached to District Skill Committees (DSCs). Ministry has partnered with top **9 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)** across India for MGNF implementation.
10. **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **Australia's national science agency (CSIRO)** inaugurated **India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon, 2021**, to enable talented innovative students and start-ups from Australia and India to address common national issues through innovative technology solutions. **I-ACE** is supported by **Australian Dept of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER)**, **AIM Atal Incubation Centre network**, and various domain experts.
11. India's homegrown app **MapMyIndia** ties up with **ISRO** to build an alternative to **Google Maps**.
12. The Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh, has launched the **e-Chhawani portal**. With the launch of this portal, the residents of Cantonment areas can now register their complaints with respect to the civic issues.
13. The government has shared data that India has suffered a **huge crop loss on 18.176 million hectares of land**. The crop loss on the 18.176 million hectares land amounts to roughly 8.5 per cent of the total gross cropped area. The crop loss occurred due to floods.
14. The 18th edition of **BioAsia** event will be held in between February 22, 2021 to February 23, 2021. It will be organised under the theme: '**Move the Needle**'. This year, the BioAsia event will focus on Covid-19, pharma, medtech and global health.

STATES AFFAIRS

15. **Uttar Pradesh government** has introduced a system of issuing a unique **16-digit Unicode** on February 7, 2020. This Unicode will be used to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state. The Unicode numbers for the land would comprise of the 16 digits.
16. **PM Narendra Modi** has laid the **Foundation Stone of two hospitals at Biswanath and Charaideo** and launched '**Asom Mala**' at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur District, Assam. **Asom**

- Mala:** Programme for state highways and major district roads. It is launched in line with 'Bharat Mala Project'.
17. **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has announced to set up first '**Thunderstorm Research Testbed**' of India at Odisha's Balasore district.
18. **Vijayanagara** has been declared as the **31st district of Karnataka** through an official gazette notification.
19. The office of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) was inaugurated in Karnataka. The office was inaugurated with the objective of **increasing the digital economy contribution to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 30 per cent**. Along with the office, the "Beyond Bengaluru" report was also published.
20. **Maharashtra Small Industries Development Corporation** and **Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board** have signed MoU with **Flipkart** to promote wooden toys, local artifacts, handicrafts.

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21. 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.
22. **Govt of India, Govt of Chhattisgarh** has signed an agreement worth **\$100 million** with **World Bank** for project **CHIRAAG (Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth)**. **CHIRAAG Project** will develop sustainable production systems in Chhattisgarh, that will allow tribal households in remote areas to produce diversified and nutritious food, round-the-year.
23. Famous '**Mandu Festival**' inaugurated at the historic town of Mandu in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh and will culminate on **February 15, 2021**.
24. **Kerala**, which is home to India's biggest art event called Kochi-Muziris Biennale, is now aspiring to become a museum hub in the country by **setting up mini-museums**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

25. **South Korea** has approved a plan to build **World's largest wind power plant by 2030**.

26. **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has selected **SpaceX** to launch its **SPHEREx Mission**. **SPHEREx**: Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer.
27. **United Arab Emirates' (UAE)** first mission to Mars, **Hope Probe** has successfully entered the orbit around the red planet.
28. Former European Central Bank Chief **Mario Draghi** has been sworn in as the new **Prime Minister of Italy**.
29. The Prime Minister of Italy, Mario Draghi, has put the climate change at the centre of his plans to run Italy. He has created a **super ministry** to ensure a transition to green energy drives recovery in the country.
30. A Chinese spacecraft named **Tianwen-1** has successfully entered the **orbit around Mars** on February 10, 2021. This mission is China's first independent mission on the red planet

REPORTS & INDICES

31. The **Business Confidence Index (BCI)** was recently published by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The index has rose 29.6 per cent between second and third quarter of the financial year 2020-2021. It has rose in the backdrop of the COVID-19 vaccination drive in several countries including India.
32. The World Bank recently published its report titled "**Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society**". This report was released by Union transport minister, Nitin Gadkari, on February 13, 2021. The report mentions the disproportionate impact of a road crash on poor households. It also throws light on the links between poverty, road crashes, inequality and vulnerable road users across India.
- The report highlights that, India has only **1 per cent of the world's vehicles**. but it **accounts for 11 per cent of the global death** due to road accidents. It stands highest death toll in the world because of road accident.
 - The world bank report highlighted that the road crash deaths among rural poor households accounts for 44 per cent. While, the road crash death among urban poor households accounts for 11.6 per cent.
 - The report further highlights that, the low-income household spends seven months of its income on post-road crash care.
 - It also states, a high-income household spends less than a month's salary on the post-road crash care.
 - Report reveals that, the socio-economic burden of road crashes is disproportionately borne by poor households.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

33. In the Union Budget 2021, **Rs. 1050 crore** budget has been allocated for **Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** for the financial year 2021-2022. The SMAM scheme was launched in the year 2014-15. The scheme was launched by the government of India with the aim of 'reaching the unreached'.
34. The second phase of **Vigyan Jyoti programme** was started on February 11, 2021. It was started on the occasion of **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**. The Vigyan Jyoti Programme will spread the programme to encourage the girls to take interest in science.
35. The Union Textile Minister, Smriti Irani, has launched the commercial Jute seed distribution scheme on February 15, 2021. **Commercial Jute Seed Distribution Scheme** was launched in the backdrop of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the **Jute Corporation of India and the National Seeds Corporation**.
36. The National e-governance plan in agriculture (**NeGPA**) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme was initially launched in the year 2010-11 in 7 States. Recently, this scheme was extended up to March 31, 2021. The scheme was launched with the aim of achieving the rapid development in India by using Information & Communication.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

37. **State Bank of India's Economic Research Department** has revised **India's FY21 GDP estimates to (-) 7.0%**. Prior to this, SBI had estimated FY21 GDP at -7.4%.
38. 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.

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FINANCE & BANKING

39. **RBI** has released **Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2019-20** that depicts an increase of 65% in receipt of complaints out of which almost 92% have been disposed of.
- RBI has 3 Ombudsmen that can be approached for grievances:
 - **Banking** (ATM & Debit Cards, Electronic Banking complaints)
 - **NBFC** (non-observance of regulatory guidelines, lack of transparency/ loan agreement and levy of charges without notice complaints)
 - **Digital transactions** (fund transfer)

40. The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has announced to launch '**NPCI PayAuth Challenge**'. It is a global-level hackathon that will be organised to get the alternatives of the authentication of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions. One such alternative options is the use of biometric while making transactions.
41. The Finance Ministry has decided to **infuse Rs 3,000 crore capital** into the state-owned **general insurance companies** in the fourth quarter of FY 2020-21.
42. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** from **Feb 8 to 12, 2021** to propagate financial education on a particular theme across the country.
- FLW theme 2021: **Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions**
 - FLW theme is one of the strategic objectives of **National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025**
 - Focus will be on responsible borrowing, borrowing from formal institution and timely repayments
43. The Reserve Bank of India has announced that the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide USD 400 million to Maldives project. **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** will provide **\$400 million** to **Maldives** through **Line of Credit (LoC) to fund Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)** with effect from Jan 28, 2021.
44. Private general insurer **ICICI Lombard** has launched the '**Corporate India Risk Index**'. This is intended to be a unified, standardised corporate risk index that spans industries and companies. This will help companies understand the level of risk that their business is facing and also assist in developing a successful risk aversion plan.
45. The New Development Bank (NDB) has announced to invest **\$100 million** into the **NIIF Fund** of Funds (FoF). With the NDB's investment of \$100 million, the NIIF FoF has now secured \$800 million in commitments. NDB has joined the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Government of India (GoI) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) as an investor in the NIIF FoF.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

46. **Manasa Varanasi (23 years)** has been declared as the winner of **VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020**. She hails from Telangana and is a financial information exchange analyst.
47. Australian wildlife photographer, **Robert Irwin** has won **Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award Contest**.
48. Tamil movie **Koozhangal** has won '**Tiger**' award at **50th edition of International Film Festival Rotterdam 2021**.

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49. **SERB** has announced **SERB Women Excellence Award 2021**, on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11 February).

- **Winners:**
- Shobhna Kapoor
- Antara Banerjee
- Sonu Gandhi
- Ritu Gupta

PERSON IN NEWS

50. Google Cloud has appointed **Bikram Singh Bedi** as the new **Managing Director (MD) for its India Business**.
51. Former vice president of India, **Mohammad Hamid Ansari** has written a book titled '**BY MANY A HAPPY ACCIDENT: Recollections of a Life**'
52. **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** has bagged global recognition from Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer' award.
53. Former Miss World and Bollywood, Hollywood star **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** has come up with her memoir titled as '**Unfinished**'. It has been published by **Penguin Random House**.
54. Justice **Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar** has been sworn-in as the **Chief Justice of Manipur High Court** at Raj Bhavan, Imphal.
55. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (**UNCDF**) has appointed **Preeti Sinha** as its Executive Secretary. She is an Indian-origin investment and development banker.

OBITUARIES

56. Well Known Theatre Director and wonderful stage designer, **Bansi Kaul** (71 years) passed away. He was the designer and show director for the **Commonwealth Games' opening ceremony (2010)** and **art director for Khajuraho Festival (1986 and 1987)**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

57. The world celebrates the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** every year on the **11th day of February**. The year 2021 marked the 6th International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The

day was celebrated under the theme “**Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19**”.

58. **National Women’s Day** in India is observed on **13 February** every year to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu**.
59. **World Radio Day** is observed every year on **13 February** to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- Theme for World Radio Day 2021: **New World, New Radio**.
 - Theme is further divided into three sub-themes:
 - **Evolution**
 - **Innovation**
 - **Connection**

SPORTS

60. **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced **BYJU'S** as its global partner from 2021 to 2023.

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