







**WEEKLY CA
JAN 2021**

JANUARY 24-31

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. **President of India** has launched **ECI's Web Radio: 'Hello Voters' programme** that will be accessible through a link on the Election Commission of India website.
2. **Bharat Parv 2021** has been organized virtually at bharatparv2021.com platform. It is a festival to celebrate the spirit of India.
3. Large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise '**AMPHEX 21**' was held in Andaman & Nicobar group of islands from 21 to 25 Jan 2021. It involved participation of troops of **Army, Navy and Indian Air Force**. Joint force executed multi-domain, high intensity offensive and defensive manoeuvres in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. **Ex KAVACH** for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was also a part of AMPHEX 21.
4. **South-East Central Railways (SECR)** zone in **Chhattisgarh** breaks record by successfully operating the longest ever freight train named as '**Vasuki**' by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km. The train covered a distance of **224 km** between **Bhilai and Korba railway stations** and took about 7 hours.
5. Union Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has launched electronic version of voter identity card, **e-EPIC (Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card)**.
6. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Prakash Javadekar** has released **Marine Mega fauna Stranding Guidelines** and **National Marine Turtle Action Plan**.

STATES AFFAIRS

7. **Uttar Pradesh** CM Yogi Adityanath has launched '**Udyam Sarathi App**' on the occasion of 71st Foundation Day of UP, on 24 Jan 2021. **Udyam Sarathi App** aims to enable the youths to get every information related to self-employment and job industry. It has been launched under **One District One Product (ODOP) scheme**.
8. **Uttar Pradesh** has become **1st state** in the country with **two airstrips on expressways** to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
9. **Madhya Pradesh**, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched '**PANKH Abhiyan**' scheme on the occasion of National Girl Child Day. It is launched under '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' scheme for empowerment and growth of the girl child. PANKH scheme stands for:

P: protection

A: awareness of their rights

N: nutrition

K: knowledge

H: health.

10. **Uttar Pradesh govt** will establish **India's 1st leather park in Kanpur district**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

11. **China** became **world's largest current account surplus nation in 2020** overtaking Germany, as per the survey of IFO institute. Current account surplus of China is **\$310 billion** in 2020, while current account surplus of **Germany** shrank to **\$261 billion** in 2020. China and Germany is followed by **Japan** with current account surplus of \$158 billion. **IFO (Information and Forschung) Institute for Economic Research** is based in Munich, Germany and analyses economic policy.
12. **India-Bangladesh** held **19th meeting of Joint Steering Committee** on cooperation in energy sector held in Dhaka. Committee took stock of implementation decisions taken during the last meeting of **Joint Working Group (JWG)** and **Joint Steering Committee (JSC)**.
13. **SpaceX** has successfully launched rideshare mission named as **Transporter-1**, carrying **143 small satellites** by **Falcon 9 rocket** from Cape Canaveral Space Station in Florida. It created record of launching the **largest number of satellites** from single rocket.
14. **India** has signed framework for **Strategic Partnership** with **International Energy Agency (IEA)** members to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation, enhancing global energy security, stability, and sustainability. It will lead to an extensive exchange of knowledge and help India becoming a full member of International Energy Agency (IEA). IEA HQs: **Paris, France**.

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REPORTS & INDICES

15. **India** has been placed at **7th rank** among top 10 most affected countries by climate change, in **Global Climate Risk Index 2021**. It has been published by Bonn-based environmental think tank **Germanwatch**. **Mozambique** tops the index, followed by **Zimbabwe** and **Bahamas** as most affected countries in 2019. Top 3 Countries most affected in 20 years: **Puerto Rico, Myanmar, Haiti**.
16. **China** was the largest recipient of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in 2020, as per **Investment Global Investment Trend Monitor, No. 38** released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**). China overtook United States to gain the top position in 2020. **China attracted \$163 billion FDI inflows in 2020**, compared to \$134 billion attracted by United States. In

2019, United States received \$251 billion in inflows and China received \$140 billion. Overall, global FDI had fell by 42% in 2020.

17. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has been ranked **3rd most-valued IT services brand globally**, according to a report released by Brand Finance. **Accenture** and **IBM** has been ranked as the most-valued IT services brand. TCS has a brand value of USD 15 billion.
18. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has forecasted Indian economy to contract by **8%** in 2020-21. However, IMF estimated GDP of India to rise to **11.5%** in the next financial year **i.e. 2021-22** and will have slow down GDP of 6.8% in 2022-23. Apart from this, IMF projected the **global growth to contract at 3.5% in 2020**.
19. **India** has secured **86th rank** with a score 40, among 180 countries in **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020**. The index is released by **Transparency International**, which is headquartered in Berlin, Germany. Top Ranked Country: **New Zealand and Denmark** have jointly secured first position with scores of 88, followed by **Finland, Singapore, Sweden** and **Switzerland**. Lowest Ranked Country: **Somalia** and **South Sudan** are ranked lowest with scores of 12.
20. **India** has been ranked **86th** among 98 countries in **Coronavirus Performance Index**. The index has been released by **Australia-based Lowy Institute**. **New Zealand** topped the index, followed by **Vietnam** and **Taiwan**. **Brazil** was ranked at the bottom of the list for worst handling of COVID pandemic than any other country. **China** was excluded from the list due to lack of publicly available data.
21. The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** has released the 'Asia-Pacific Personalized Health Index'. **India** ranked **10th** out of 11 Asia Pacific countries. **Singapore** ranked first in the index followed by Taiwan (2nd), Japan (3rd) and Australia (4th).
22. **Maharashtra** ranks first in the second edition of the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2020**, that judges states on delivery of justice to people. **Tamil Nadu** is in second place which improved its ranking from its previous third position in 2019 and **Telangana** ranked third. The report was released by **Tata Trusts** with the support of the Center for Social Justice and others.
23. As per the data released by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, India ranked third globally after **China** and the **US** in scientific publications. Out of 15,550 patents filed by Indians at Indian Patent Office during the period, 65 per cent were filed from **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu** and **Delhi**.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

24. The Government of India has approved the '**Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**' (SISFS) to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.
- **SISFS** shall provide financial assistance to startups via a corpus of Rs. **945 cr** that will be disbursed through selected incubators across India in 2021-25. A startup, recognized by DPIIT, incorporated not more than **2 years** ago at the time of application is eligible for SFS.

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ECONOMY & BUSINESS

25. **FICCI** has forecasted **India's gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by 8% in 2020-21**, according to its Economic Outlook Survey. FICCI expect the economy to perform better with GDP growth rate of 9.6% in FY22.
26. **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the **First Revised Estimate of GDP** of for FY 2019-20 and 2nd Revised Estimates for FY 2018-19 & 3rd Revised Estimates for 2017-18. (Base Year 2011-12).
Nominal GDP for FY 2019-20 is estimated at ₹203.51 lakh crore as against ₹188.87 lakh crore for the year 2018-19, showing a growth of 7.8 per cent during 2019-20 as compared to 10.5% during 2018-19.
Real GDP for FY 2019-20 and 2018-19 stands at ₹145.69 lakh crore and ₹140.03 lakh crore, respectively.

FINANCE & BANKING

27. **RBI** has suggested tougher regulatory framework for **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** to prevent recurrence of any systemic risk. It will be based on **4-layer structure**:
- Base layer (NBFC-BL)
 - Middle layer (NBFC-ML)
 - Upper layer (NBFC-UL)
 - Top layer
- Revisions for lower layers will also be applicable to NBFCs in higher layers. Current threshold of **₹500 crore** for systemic importance is to be revised to **₹1,000 crore**. Extant NPA classification norm will be reduced to 90 days
28. **Company Law Committee (CLC)** has recommended that **12 offences under LLP Act should be decriminalized** and LLPs must be allowed to issue NCDs to raise funds improving ease of doing business for limited liability partnership (LLP) firms. CLC was headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary **Rajesh Verma**.

29. Union Health Minister, **Harsh Vardhan** has addressed 4th edition of **Future Investment Initiative (FII) Forum**. Hosted by **Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF)** with an aim to find solutions on how business and government can expand access to healthcare, train healthcare workers, remove regulatory barriers and encourage investment in technologies
30. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has inaugurated virtually **new Bench of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) at Chennai**. Chennai Bench of the NCLAT is first bench to be launched outside Delhi. Chennai benches of NCLAT will have jurisdiction over NCLAT of Karnataka, TN, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshwadeep, Puducherry.
31. **HDFC Bank** has joined hands with **CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd** to provide EMI Collection Services for **CSC-HDFC Bank's Business Correspondents** across the country.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

32. Govt has announced **Subhash Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021** on the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (23 Jan)**. The award was given in 2 categories:
- **Institutional category:** *Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society*
 - **Individual category:** *Rajendra Kumar Bhandari*
33. **President of India** distributes **Padma Awards** on every Republic Day to the civilians of India. This year, President has approved conferment of **119 Padma awards**, that comprises of **7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan** and **102 Padma Shri**
- **Padma Vibhushan:** *Shinzo Abe and late singer SP Balasubramaniam*
 - **Padma Bhushan:** *Tarun Gogoi and Keshubhai Patel, Ram Vilas Paswan, Sumitra Mahajan*
34. **51st edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was held from **16 to 24 January 2021** in Goa. Bangladesh was country of focus in the festival. Winners of IFFI awards:
- **Golden Peacock Award for Best Film:** *Into the Darkness*
 - **Silver Peacock Award for Best Male Actor:** *Tzu-Chuan Liu, The Silent Forest*
 - **Silver Peacock Award for Best Female Actor:** *Zofia Stafiej, I Never Cry.*
35. **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has conferred **Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Meghalaya** for Special Award for Information Technology (IT) applications in the category of **National Best Electoral Practices Awards 2020**.

PERSON IN NEWS

36. **Swaminathan Janakiraman** and **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** has been appointed as **Managing Directors (MDs) of State Bank of India (SBI)** for 3 years.

37. Leader of the Reform Party, **Kaja Kallas** has been elected as the new **Prime Minister of Estonia**. She is **first female Prime Minister of Baltic country, Estonia**.

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38. Lieutenant General **Chandi Prasad Mohanty** has been appointed as the **new Vice-chief of Army staff**.

OBITUARIES

39. Former Indian National Football team goalkeeper, **Prasanta Dorap** passed away.

40. Noted economist **Shaibal Gupta** passed away after a prolonged illness. He was the founder of the **Asia Development Research Institute (ADRI)**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

41. **National Girl Child Day (NGCD)** is observed every year on **January 24**. On this occasion, **Punjab** has launched **Dheeiyani Di Lohri scheme** and announced **January 2021 to be the 'month of the girl child'**

42. The **National Voters' Day (NVD)** is being celebrated every year on **January 25** By **Election Commission of India**. The Day was introduced in **2011**, all across the country to mark the **foundation day of Election Commission of India (25th January 1950)**. Theme for 2021: '**Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed**'.

43. **National Tourism Day** in India is celebrated every year on 25 January. Theme of National Tourism Day 2021: '**Dekho Apna Desh**'

44. India observed **72nd Republic Day** on 26 January 2021 at Rajpath in New Delhi. **Republic Day** marks the date on which the **Constitution of India** came into effect on **26 January 1950**. Our constitution **replaced Government of India Act 1935** as the governing document of India.

45. **International Customs Day (ICD)** is observed every year on **26 January**. Theme 2021: **Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience**. It was introduced by **World Customs Organization (WCO)** in 1953. WCO HQs: **Brussels, Belgium**.

46. **International Day of Education** is observed every year on **24 January** across the globe. International Day of Education was held for the first time in 2019. Theme of 3rd International Day of Education: '**Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation**'.

47. **Data Privacy Day (Data Protection Day)** is observed every year on **28 January**.
48. 30th January 2021 marked the second annual World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day.

SPORTS

49. **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has won **10th National Ice Hockey Championship trophy**, after defeating team Ladakh with the score line goals of 5-1. **National Ice Hockey Championship** was organized by **Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)** at Gulmarg Ice Rink, in Jammu and Kashmir.

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