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**WEEKLY CA**  
**FEB 2021**

**FEBRUARY 23-28**

PRACTICE

**MOCK**



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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has virtually inaugurated **Skill Development Centre (SDC)** for **Fire Safety Training** at Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh. SDC is created by **DRDO lab Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)**
2. **Pune International Centre** and **Ministry of External Affairs** will co-chair **Asia Economic Dialogue 2021**. The dialogue will be addressed by External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** and his counterparts from **Japan, Australia, Maldives, Mauritius** and **Bhutan**.
3. The **IIT Council**, which is the apex decision-making body of IITs has set up **four panels** for autonomy. The panel will look after several issues ranging from funding to graded autonomy in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
4. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) has successfully launched the two indigenously designed and developed **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)**. The missiles were launched with the help of static vertical launcher. They were launched from **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur** off the Odisha Coast.
5. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **26th edition of 'Hunar Haat' in New Delhi**. It will be organized with the theme of **'Vocal for Local'**. More than 600 artisans and craftsmen from more than 31 states and UTs are participating. Hunar Haat is also available online at [hunarhaat.org](http://hunarhaat.org) and on **Government e-Marketplace portal** for domestic as well as international customers. **Hunar Haat** is a beautiful exhibition of India's traditional art and craft.
6. **Mumbai** will start the **first undersea tunnel of India** in 2023 which is being constructed as part of **Coastal Road project of Mumbai**. Two tunnels will be built under the Mumbai Coastal Road Project. The tunnel will have the length of 2.07 km out of which 1 kilometre portion will be under the sea.
7. The International Commission on Large Dams (**ICOLD**) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins was inaugurated by the Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on February 24, 2021.
  - The Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins is being organised by the **International Commission on Large Dams (INCOLD)** in association with the **Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP)**, Central Water Commission (**CWC**) and National Hydrology Project (**NHP**).
  - The event will be organized at **New Delhi** as Hybrid event.
  - The event will be participated by more than 300 delegates from India and abroad.

8. Indian Coast Guard Ship **C-453** has been commissioned at **Chennai** to join the Coast Guard Eastern fleet. It is the **17th of the 18 Interceptor Boat (IBs) project** indigenously constructed by **Larsen & Toubro Ltd.**
9. **Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh** has received necessary clearances from aviation regulator **DGCA** to operate international flights. Once operational, **Kushinagar airport** will become **third functional international facility in UP.**
10. The ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways informed that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the second edition of the **Maritime India Summit (MIS)** in the virtual mode on March 2, 2021. Apart from that, the ministry has already started signing several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various entities.
11. The Union Government has announced that the **second phase of COVID-19 vaccination** will begin from **March 1, 2021.**
12. The Central government has notified the new guidelines on social media regulations on February 25, 2021. It is being called as "**Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021**". The new guidelines have been notified with the aim of regulating social media and OTT platforms.
13. The task force on **Interlinking of Rivers** has approved the **Mahanadi-Godavari Link** on February 25, 2021. Approval was given to the preparation of final detailed project report on proposed Mahanadi - Godavari link. The linking project was approved by ensuring the utilisation of allocated Godavari waters by the states of **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.**
14. The **Ministry of consumer affairs** had decided to integrate the **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** with the **E-Daakhil portal** to facilitate the consumers for e-filing. The e-Daakhil Consumer grievance redressal portal was launched on September 7, 2020 by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission. It has been developed and is maintained by **National Information Centre (NIC)** under **MeitY.** It is now operational in 15 States and UTs. It has provision of online payment of fees from anywhere.

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15. The Union education minister, addressed the **16th FICCI Higher Education Summit** on February 25, 2021. The summit is being organised in **New Delhi** from February 25, 2021 to February 27, 2021. While addressing the summit the minister said it will make India the knowledge capital of the world.



16. Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde on February 27, 2021 called for reducing dependence on courts by encouraging parties to opt for pre-litigation mediation which has a way of solving problems, both civil and criminal, which arise from similar dispute. He also inaugurated a new Centenary Building of Patna High Court.
17. The **India Toy Fair-2021** is being held from February 27 to March 2 in a virtual mode. During the inaugural ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed the toy manufacturers to build toys that are better both for "**ecology and psychology**." The toy fair is divided into **five stages — pre-school to Class II, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary**.
18. The **NITI Aayog and Invest India** have associated with the **National Bamboo Mission** to conduct the National Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo in India. The National Conference on Opportunities will be organized with the aim to discuss on the bamboo ecosystem in order to promote holistic growth of the sector across the entire value chain system.
- The discussion by experts and stakeholders from several fields will further accelerate the efforts of National Bamboo Mission in order to bring about solutions regarding the issues that sector is facing.
  - Conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of MSME, Nitin Gadkari, on February 25, 2021.
19. The countdown for the launch of Indian Space Research Organisation's **PSLV-C 51 or Amazonia-1** mission started on February 27, 2021. The countdown began 8:54 am. PSLV-C51 is scheduled to be launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh**.
20. The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, has inaugurated the **Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021** on February 26, 2021 at **Noida Haat**.
21. Science and Technology Minister **Harsh Vardhan** will virtually inaugurate **2nd edition of Global Bio-India**. It will be organized from **1st to 3rd March**
- It will showcase strength of India's biotechnology sector at national level and global community
  - Theme: **Transforming lives and tag line Biosciences to Bioeconomy**
  - It is being co-organised by **Dept of Biotechnology, Ministry of S&T, PSU, BIRAC, CII, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises** and **Invest India**.
22. Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated **6th edition of International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector**
- Theme of India Pharma 2021 is : **Indian Pharma Industry: Future is Now**
  - Theme of India Medical Device 2021: **India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance**
  - It is organized by **Dept of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, FICCI**

23. **Union Health Minister** has virtually addressed **Global Indian Physicians Congress**, organized by **Global Association for Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO)**

## STATES AFFAIRS

24. The Horticulture Department of **Karnataka** will set up a **flower processing centre** in collaboration with the **International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB)**. The centre will be set up in order to convert the unsold flowers into its useful products.
25. The chief minister of **Rajasthan**, Ashok Gehlot, have announced a **Universal Health Coverage** for the state while presenting the state budget of state for 2021-22 on February 24, 2021.
26. The Chief Minister of **Karnataka**, B.S. Yediyurappa, launched the '**Namma Cargo**' services on February 26, 2021. Namma Cargo Services was launched at the Vidhana Soudha. 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 (BMTC).
27. **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**.
28. **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced the renaming of **Hoshangabad city as Narmadapuram**. This was announced during **Narmada Jayanti programme** held in Hoshangabad.
29. **Kerala's** Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has recently inaugurated **first Digital University of India at Mangalapuram, Kerala**.
- It is named as **Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology** (Digital University)
  - It has been established by upgrading **Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K)**
  - It has been set up with a vision of creating a futuristic institution of higher learning in Digital technologies and its management

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

30. **Eleventh India-EU Macroeconomic dialogue** was held through video conferencing.
- It was led by Indian Secretary Economic Affairs **Tarun Bajaj** and Director General of ECFIN in European Commission **Maarten Verwey**
  - The dialogue covered sharing of their experiences to enable both sides on various aspects including collaboration in **G20 on finance track matters**
  - India-EU relationship covers all dimensions-political, economic, security, trade and investment, environment, research

31. **NASA** has launched **Northrop Grumman-built Cygnus cargo ship**, a space supply ship, from **Virginia** to carry vital supplies for astronauts on **International Space Station (ISS)**
- Ship is named as **S.S. Katherine Johnson** in honour of Katherine Johnson, a Black NASA mathematician, who played critical role in the success of the first U.S. crewed spaceflight, Mercury-Atlas 6 Mission.
  - Launch coincided with **59th anniversary of America's first orbit around Earth (1962)**
32. The United States space agency, **NASA**, released the first **audio from Mars**. It was a faint crackling recording of the wind that was captured by Perseverance rover. NASA has also released the first video of landing of the rover.
33. **India and Mauritius** have signed a **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)**. This was **first ever trade agreement with any African country**. It was signed in the presence of Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth and the external affairs minister of India, S Jaishankar.
34. **Japan** has appointed the first ever **Minister for Loneliness** amid the increasing suicide rates in Japan. Suicide rates in Japan has increased for the first time in 11 years in the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.
35. The parliament of **Australia** has passed the landmark legislation called the "**News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code**" on February 25, 2021. This legislation **mandates the global digital platforms to pay** for publishing the Australian news content on their respective platforms. The legislation mainly targets Facebook and Google.

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36. The World Trade Organisation (**WTO**) is under pressure to consider the India's proposal of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver on Covid-19 vaccines. Pressure increased on WTO after several European Union lawmakers and group of least developed countries (LDC) provided their support to India's proposal of waiving the TRIPS on vaccines.
37. **India** has started its **BRICS** Chairship with the inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting on February 25, 2021. The spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Anurag Srivastava stated that the Secretary (CPV & OIA) chaired the meeting and highlighted the themes, priorities, and calendar for the BRICS 2021. Earlier, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had launched India's BRICS 2021 website at Secretariat of BRICS at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan.

38. **India and Ireland** held the bilateral **consultations on UN Security Council** issues on February 26, 2021 in the virtual mode. During the bilateral consultations, both the countries congratulated each other for their election to United Nation Security Council (UNSC). They also held discussions and briefed each regarding the UNSC priorities.
39. The Global anti-terrorism watchdog **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** decided to maintain **Pakistan into Grey List** till June 2021 on February 25, 2021. This decision by the FATF was taken in the light of country's failure to fully comply with the 27-point action plan of to combat the terrorism.
40. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the appointment of **Ligia Noronha of India** as **Assistant Secretary-General** and Head of the **New York Office** of the **United Nations Environment Programme**. Noronha is an economist and has worked since 2014 as Director of UNEP's Economy Division based in Nairobi, leading UNEP's work on climate mitigation and energy transitions on inclusive green economies, sustainable consumption and production as well as on trade and sustainable finance.
41. The Finance Minister of India, **Nirmala Sitharaman**, attended the **G20 Central Bank Governors'** meeting on February 26, 2021. This was the first ever G20 Central Bank Governors' meeting that was held under the **Italian Presidency**.
42. **India, France, and Australia** held **trilateral dialogue** at the senior officials' level, with focus on further enhancing cooperation in Indo-Pacific.
- First **India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue** was held virtually on **September 9, 2020**.
43. The new **Passenger train service** between India and Bangladesh will start on the **26th of March 2021** (Independence Day of Bangladesh).
- The **Haldibari-Chilahati** (in Bangladesh) **train route** was opened after a gap of **55 years** for goods trains on the **17th of December** last year.

## REPORTS & INDICES

44. The United Nations World Food Programmes (**WFP**) has released its report titled "**The State of School Feeding Worldwide on February 24, 2021**."
- As per the report, the COVID-19 pandemic risks have reversed the efforts that were made worldwide in a decade to provide nutritious food to the most vulnerable children.
  - The report highlights that, one in two school children that would count as around 388 million children worldwide received the school meals when the pandemic was at its peak. This accounts for the highest number in history.
  - When the pandemic was at its peak around April 2020, 199 countries had closed their schools. Because of which, 370 million children were suddenly deprived of nutritious meal of the day.
  - The report highlighted that, the lockdown threw spotlight on the critical role that school plays in feeding vulnerable children and protecting their futures.



45. The Centre for Science and Environment (**CSE**) has released its **State of Environment Report, 2021** on February 25, 2021. The report highlighted how the Covid-19 pandemic will impact the children across world.

- The report highlighted that the pandemic will impact the 375 million children across the world. The report highlighted that the pandemic will impact the 375 million children across the world.
- Children including from newborns to 14-year-olds will suffer long-lasting impacts.
- These children will be vulnerable to being underweight, stunting and increased child mortality.
- Their education and work productivity will also be impacted.
- As per the report, pandemic has forced over 500 million children out of school globally. Out of the total children, India accounted for more than half.
- The report further highlighted that; 115 million additional people might get pushed into extreme poverty due to pandemic. Most of the poorer people live in South Asia.
- As far as sustainable development is concerned, India ranked 117 among 192 nations.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

46. The Central government has launched the '**National Urban Digital Mission**' on February 23, 2021. The National Urban Digital Mission was launched by the Union Housing & Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri and Minister of Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

- While launching the mission, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry (MoHUA) stated that, this mission will institutionalize the citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach for the urban governance and service delivery in cities by the year 2022. It will also be providing these service deliveries in all cities and towns by 2024.
- *Initiatives like Smart-Code, India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), Smart Cities 2.0 website, and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched at this virtual event.*
- "**India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)**" initiative has been developed by the **Smart Cities Mission** in partnership with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**.

47. The National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) recently published its **draft national policy on migrant labours**. The policy was prepared in association with the working subgroup of officials and members of civil society. This draft policy is inspired by the rights-based approach which gain momentum during the return migration.

48. The flagship scheme of the central government, **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN)** has completed its two years on February 24, 2021. The PM-KISAN Scheme was formally launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on February 24, 2019. The scheme was launched at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

49. 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.
- The proposed scheme includes the target segments like tablets, laptops, all-in-one PCs and servers.
- Total cost of the proposed scheme is around **Rs.7,350 crore for 4 years**.
- The budget includes an incentive outlay of Rs.7,325 crore besides the administrative charges of Rs 25 crore.
- Under the scheme, a total production of worth Rs 3,26,00 crore will be achieved out of which 75 per cent will be achieved through the exports.
- This scheme has a potential to generate direct and indirect employment of over 1,80,000 in over 4 years.
- It will provide also provide impetus to Domestic Value Addition for IT Hardware for which there is an expectation that it will rise to 20% – 25% by 2025.

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50. Union Cabinet has also approved **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals** from 2020-21 to 2028-29

- It will benefit domestic manufacturers and is expected to provide wide range of affordable medicines for consumers.
- Under this, total incremental sales of Rs 2,94,000 crore and total incremental exports of Rs 1,96,000 crore are estimated from 2022-23 to 2027-28.
- It is also expected to **generate employment** for both skilled and unskilled personnel.

51. **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** (Ministry of Jal Shakti) has announced the selection of **12 iconic sites** under **Phase IV** of Swachh Iconic Places.

- These sites include **Ajanta Caves** (Maharashtra), **Sanchi Stupa** (Madhya Pradesh), **Kumbhalgarh Fort**, Jaisalmer Fort & **Ramdevra** (Rajasthan), **Golconda Fort** (Telangana) and **Konark Sun Temple** (Odisha).
- Rock Garden, Dal Lake, **Banke Bihari Temple** (Mathura), **Agra Fort** (Uttar Pradesh) and **Kalighat Temple** (West Bengal).

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

52. MSME Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated **50 artisan-based SFURTI clusters** spread over 18 States.

- These clusters will have over 42 thousand artisans belonging to traditional segments of muslin, khadi, coir, handicraft, handlooms, wood craft, leather, pottery, etc

- These clusters have been inaugurated in **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, UP and WB**

53. **S&P Global Ratings** has forecasted that India will be one of the fastest growing emerging market economies with **10%** growth in the next fiscal, during **webinar on India outlook for 2021**.

- **India's economy** has stabilized over recent months, with progressively better manufacturing, services, labour market, and revenue data.
- S&P Global Ratings Headquarters: **New York, United States**.

54. **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.

- The provisional data from the trade between both the countries in the year **2020** stood at **\$77.7 billion**.
- However, the trade had decreased as compared to the 2019 trade total of \$85.5 billion.
- The imports of heavy machines etc outweighed India's efforts to cut down its dependence on trade.
- As a result of which, the bilateral trade gap of India with China was \$40 billion in the year 2020.
- **Total imports from China stood at \$58.7 billion** which was **more than India's combined imports from U.S. and U.A.E.**
- The data further highlights that, India was able to lower the imports from its Asian neighbors despite there were demand disruptions amid the coronavirus pandemic.

55. India's External Affairs Minister has signed **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement-(CECPA)** with Mauritius

- FTA is India's first pact with any African country and will help Mauritius to emerge as a hub of Africa
- India has also offered a **USD 100 million Line of Credit (LoC) to Mauritius** to facilitate procurement of defence assets.

56. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (**MPEDA**) and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (**NCDC**) have signed an MoU to **promote the Export-Oriented Marine Product**. The MoU was signed in order to synergise the programmes related to export-oriented capture and culture in fisheries sectors and other allied sectors.

57. The Defence Acquisition Council (**DAC**) has approved the acquisition of **118 Arjun Mark 1A tanks** on February 23, 2021. The approval was given for the Indian Army at a cost of ₹6,000 crores. This move will be a boost for the indigenisation in defence sector.

58. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has set up the working group committee so as to relook its **information and security guidelines**. The need to set up the panel was

felt in the aftermath of exponential increase in cyberattacks across the world amid the ongoing covid-19 pandemic.

59. The National Statistical Office (**NSO**) recently released its data on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the financial year 2021. As per the NSO, the Indian economy will be **expanded by 0.4% in the December quarter**.
60. **ICRA** has projected the **Indian economy to contract 7% in current fiscal (FY21)**. For the next fiscal, i.e. **FY22 (2021-22)**, ICRA expects a considerable rebound in India's economic growth to **10.5%** due to higher central government spending, and a pick-up in consumption.
- **ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Ltd)** is an Indian independent and professional investment information and credit rating agency
  - Headquarters: **Gurugram, India**.
61. **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** has signed MoU with **MOL (Asia Oceania)** for **transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas** through barges on **National Waterways-1** and **National Waterways-2**
- IWAI will provide support for, facilitating with adequate fairway, handling of LPG cargo on IWAI terminals or Multimodal Terminals at Haldia, Sahibganj and Varanasi.
62. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched The **City Innovation Exchange (CiX)** platform.
- The platform will be a **significant** addition to the growing innovation **ecosystem of India** and focuses on fostering innovative practices in cities.
  - The **CiX** will connect cities to innovators across the national ecosystem to design innovative solutions for their pressing challenges.
  - The Platform has more than **400 start-ups**, 100 smart cities, more than **150 challenges** statements.
63. Khadi and Village Industry **Commission's e-Market Portal** has registered a gross turnover of over **Rs. one crore 10 lakh** in just eight months of its launch.
- This portal has provided a wide marketing platform for various Khadi and village industry products to a larger population.
  - Online orders have been received from all 31 States and UT including the far-flung Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir among others.

## FINANCE & BANKING

64. The finance ministry has allowed all the **private sector banks to participate in business related to government** such as small savings schemes and collection of taxes pension payments. Currently, only some of the big private sectors are allowed to conduct government-related businesses.

65. The Finance Ministry has announced that, the Central government has signed a loan agreement with the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** (AIIB) for the **Assam Power Transmission** Project. The loan agreement was signed worth **\$304 million**. This loan will be used for strengthening electricity transmission system in the state of Assam.

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66. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (**IRDAI**) has launched a **standard personal accident cover** called **Saral Suraksha Bima**. This accident cover will be mandatorily offered by the general and health insurers **from April 1, 2021**. This product has assured **maximum sum of Rs 1 crore** while the **minimum assured sum of Rs 2.5 lakh**.

67. **Report on Currency and Finance (RCF)** by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) official has recommended that, the time span that was considered to measure whether monetary policy-setting panel has failed in achieving its objectives or not **should be of four quarters rather than current time period of three-quarter**.

- The report also recommends that roll the terms for the members in six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in order to moderate the political influence at the place of current appointments for the fixed term.
- Report highlights that, the definition for failure of MPC needs to be revised from the present three-quarter horizon.
- *According to the report, the failure can be redefined as inflation overshooting or inflation undershooting the upper and lower tolerance bands around the set target for time span of four consecutive quarters.*
- Report emphasised that, there should be a greater flexibility for monetary policy and MPC in order to go through sharp movements in food prices which are brought about by transient factors.
- The report further states that, the definition of failure that balances two objectives will help in preventing the volatility in the output growth which is brought by the policy responses.

68. The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** has **extended the last date** for availing of the direct tax Vivaad Se Vishwas dispute resolution scheme to **March 31, 2021**.

- This is the fifth extension of the scheme. Those willing to settle their tax disputes under the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act can file their declarations till March 31 and pay the settled tax amount by April 30, 2021.



69. **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** signed MoU with **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** for exchange of data for enhancing ease of doing business in India and improve overall regulatory enforcement.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

70. An Indian social activist, **Anjali Bhardwaj**, who works on issues of transparency and accountability has been selected for the “**United State International Anti-Corruption Champions Award**” along with the other 11 anti-corruption champions. These names were announced by Joe Biden administration.
71. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will receive the **CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award** for his commitment to expanding India’s leadership in sustainable development to meet the country’s, and the world’s, future energy needs. The award will be given to him during an annual international energy conference, which will be held virtually from March 1 to 5, 2021.
72. Prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards 2021** has been announced to honour the best in Indian cinema, television, music, and OTT
- Best Actor (Female): **Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak**
  - Best Actor (Male): **Akshay Kumar, Laxmii**
  - Critic’s Best Actress: **Kiara Advani, Guilty**
  - Critic’s Best Actor: **Late Sushant Singh Rajput, Dil Bechara**
  - Best Film: **Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior**
  - Best International Feature Film: **Parasite**
  - Best Web Series: **Scam: 1992**

## PERSON IN NEWS

73. **Jasmine Harrison (21 years)** has become the **youngest woman to row solo across an Ocean**
- She hails from Thirsk, North Yorkshire in UK
  - She achieved the feat by finishing **top in 2020 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge**, organized by Atlantic Campaigns.
74. Vice-President **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book titled as ‘**Maverick Messiah**’, which is based on the political biography of ‘**N T Rama Rao**’.
- The book has been authored by senior journalist, **Ramesh Kandula**.
  - **Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (N T Rama Rao)** served as the **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh** for three terms from the Telugu Desam Party, which was founded by him 1982.
75. **Vijay Sampla** assumed charge as the **Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** in New Delhi
- He succeeded **Ram Shankar Katheria**, who served NCSC till May 2020.

- He served as former **Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment** from 2014-19
76. Veteran actor **Kabir Bedi** has come out with his memoir titled as '**Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor**'
- It will be published by **Westland Publications**.
77. **Irakli Garibashvili** has been sworn in as the **Prime Minister of Georgia** for his second term.
- He was the youngest person to assume the PM office at the **age of 31 years**.
78. Renowned Russian supermodel, entrepreneur, public speaker and philanthropist **Natalia Mikhailovna Vodianova (39 years)** has been appointed as **U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) goodwill ambassador**

## OBITUARIES

79. Former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), **Rahul Khullar (68 years)** passed away following prolonged illness.
- Khullar was a **1975-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** and was also a **former Income Tax Commissioner**.
80. Well-known poet **Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri** (81-years) passed away in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in 2014. He is also a recipient of several literary honours, including the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

81. The Bhakti Movement Saint **Guru Ravidas Jayanti** is being observed on **February 27, 2021** across the country. He is well known for his efforts in eradicating caste system from India.
82. **National Science Day** is observed in India every year on **28 February** to spread the message about the importance of science used in the daily life of the people.
- The days mark the discovery of the **Raman effect** by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman (28 February 1928). He was awarded Nobel Prize in Physics for this discovery in 1930.
  - Theme 2021: **Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work**.

## SPORTS

83. 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.

84. The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, has inaugurated the **world's largest Stadium at Motera, in Gujarat** on February 24, 2021. The Motera stadium was later renamed as the Narendra Modi Stadium. This stadium has surpassed the Melbourne Cricket Ground and became the largest stadium in the world.
85. The second edition of the **Khelo India Winter Games** began at **Gulmarg** in the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** on February 26, 2021.
86. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has **restored the recognition** of **Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI)** as the National Sports Federation (NSF) with immediate effect till December 31, 2021.
87. **PM Modi** has virtually inaugurated **2nd Khelo India National Winter Games** today in **Gulmarg**
- The game will be conducted from **Feb 26** and will continue till **March 2, 2021**
  - It is being organized by **Youth Affairs and Sports ministry** in collaboration with **Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir** and **J&K Sports Council**
  - Athletes from **27 states and UT** are competing in the Games
88. **Dushyant Chautala (32 years)** has been re-elected as the **President of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** for a tenure of four-years.
- He is also the **current Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana**.
89. India's dashing batter **Yusuf Pathan (38 years)** has announced his **retirement** from all formats of the game.

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