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Press Information Bureau (PIB) Summary Jan -March 2021

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PIB SUMMARY: JANUARY 2021

PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- The Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum Complex, which was closed for public viewing due to COVID-19 since March 13, 2020, was re-open.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down the six Light House Projects under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India), being executed with modern technologies in six states which will boost the housing construction sector in the country.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the 'National Environmental Standards Laboratory' and also dedicates 'National Atomic Timescale' and 'Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya' to the nation at the National Metrology Conclave on 4th January 2021. The National Atomic Timescale generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanoseconds and Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya is supporting testing and calibration of laboratories for quality assurance, at par with international standards.
- On 5th January 2021, Prime Minister dedicated the Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline worth Rs 4000 crore to the nation, this 450 km long pipeline has been built by GAIL (India) Ltd.
- For installation of additional 162 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants in public health facilities Rs 201.58 crore of The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund Trust were allocated.

CABINET

- India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM), United Arab Emirates (UAE).

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

- Under MSP Schemes, Government continues to procure Kharif 2020-21 crops at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) from farmers. Paddy Procurement showed an increase of 24.93% from last year. More than 62.28 Lac farmers have already been benefitted from the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21 (KMS) procurement Operations with an MSP value of Rs 92120.85 Crore.
- **Year-End review**
 - This year the Budget allocation has been increased by more than 6 times to Rs. 1,34,399.77 crore.
 - The Government launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) under this scheme Rs. 6,000 is transferred to the beneficiary farmer's account per year in three installments. With this initiative, more than 1,10,000 crore rupees have been released so far and 10.59 crore farmer families have been benefitted.
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has successfully completed 4 years of its implementation.
 - The Institutional credit for the agriculture sector increased from Rs. 7.3 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 13.73 lakh crore in 2019-20. Interest Subvention benefits have been extended to farmers for fulfilling the short term working capital needs in allied activities like Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.
 - Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched which will be in effect for 10 years to provide medium to long-term debt financing for investment in various projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure.
 - In the year 2020, National Bee and Honey Mission have been launched with the allocation of Rs 500 crore as a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
 - Under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana additional 50.1 lakh hectare area has been covered under micro-irrigation.
 - Micro Irrigation Fund Rs 5,000 crore has been placed with NABARD to facilitate the States in mobilizing resources to increase the coverage under micro irrigation through special and innovation projects.

- Crop insurance scheme - the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) successfully completed 5 years also under this scheme the average sum insured per hectare has increased from ₹15,100 during the pre-PMFBY Schemes to ₹40,700 under PMFBY.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

- For enhancing Quality and Productivity in Indian Industry, The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India is organizing Udyog Manthan - a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars in association with Quality Council of India, National Productivity Council, and Industry bodies.
- For strengthening strategic cooperation between India and Azerbaijan in export of Basmati Rice and to boost export potential of India's agricultural and processed food products, APEDA was organized a Virtual Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) in Azerbaijan.
- The two-day 'Prarambh', Startup India International Summit was held in New Delhi with the members of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries participating in the inaugural event.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

YEAR-END REVIEW 2020

- DigiLocker, the digital platform for issuance and verification of documents issued by Government and private departments, achieved 5.19 crore registered users and more than 426 crore documents have been issued from 722 Issuer organizations.
- UMANG, a mobile app, which is a unified platform aggregating major govt services (center, state, and local bodies), a total of 2084 services are available and the app is integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Payment Gateway, etc.
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge was launched for 9 categories like Business, eLearning, Entertainment, Games, Health etc.
- Digital Skilling initiative launched by MeitY and NASSCOM to cover 7 lakh IT professionals in the next 5 years.
- Jeevan Pramaan, a biometric-enabled digital service for pensioners for submitting their Digital Life Certificates (DLC) online, processed 4.31 crore DLCs till November 2020.
- GST e-invoice system, has completed the journey of three months and has enabled more than 37000 taxpayers to generate more than 1680 Lakh Invoice Reference Numbers (IRNs), from the NIC developed e-Invoice system.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Union Education Minister and Union Minister WCD and Textiles jointly launched Toycathon-2021 to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system which will inculcate positive behaviour and good value among the children.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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- The Union Home Minister released the inaugural issue of the “National Police K-9 Journal” on the subject of Police Service K9s (PSKs) i.e. Police Dogs, they can be used effectively to detect drugs and in the fight against terrorism.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

- On 16th January 2021, the 51st International Film Festival of India started with the movie ‘Another Round’ by Thomas Vinterberg. The festival was closed on 24th January 2021 with the historical drama ‘Wife of a Spy’ by Kiyoshi Kurosawa.
- The 51st Edition of The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in Goa from 16th January to 24th January 2021, and the Country in Focus is Bangladesh.
- To enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technologies, India and Japan signed a MoU.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

- From freight loading, Indian Railways earned Rs. 11788.11 crores which is also Rs. 757.74 crores (6.87%) higher compared to last year’s earnings ((Rs. 11030.37 crores).

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) paid a dividend of Rs 5.625 crore to Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. Rs six per share dividend has been declared by this company i.e., 60 percent of the equity share capital, which amounts to Rs 24.99 crore for the financial year (FY) 2019-20.
- To conserve water and protect the environment, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MAHA –METRO), signed an agreement for the implementation of its advanced biodigester Mk-II technology for the treatment of human waste in the metro rail network.

MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE

- On 4th January 2021 India launched the 40th scientific expedition to Antarctica. This Indian Antarctic expedition began in the year 1981.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- **Government of India (GoI) has announced the Sale (Re-issue) of Government Securities ----**
 - 3.96% Government Security, 2022 for a notified amount of Rs2,000 crore (nominal) through price-based auction,
 - 5.15% Government Security, 2025 for a notified amount of Rs11,000 crore (nominal) through price-based auction,
 - 5.85% Government Security, 2030’ for a notified amount of Rs 8,000 crore (nominal) through price-based auction, and
 - 6.80% Government Security, 2060 for a notified amount of Rs 6,000 crore (nominal) through price-based auction. The auctions were conducted by the Reserve Bank of India.

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$100 million loan agreement to modernize, enhance the quality and upgrade the power distribution system in Bengaluru city, Karnataka.
- West Bengal Government and the World Bank signed an agreement on a \$105 million project to improve the inland water transport infrastructure in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Andhra Pradesh Government and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed loan agreements of up to USD 323 million each for two projects named Andhra Pradesh Roads and Bridges Reconstruction Project which comprises widening 1,600 km of State Highways to double lane and reconstructing dilapidated bridges and Andhra Pradesh Mandal Connectivity and Rural Connectivity Improvement Project which comprises widening 1,400 km of district roads to double lane.
- Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have become the first group of States to complete citizen-centric reforms i.e One Nation, One Ration Card Reforms, Ease of Doing Business Reforms, and Urban Local Bodies Reforms and for completing these the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has given additional financial assistance amounting to Rs.1004 crore under the newly launched Scheme of “Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure”.
- Telangana has become the 3rd State to successfully complete the “Urban Local Bodies (ULB)” reform, and become eligible to assemble Rs.2,508 crore through Open Market Borrowings.
- Government of India issued Sovereign Gold Bonds 2020-21 (Series X) for the period January 11-15, 2021 with an issue price of Rs 5,104 per gram.
- to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, The Government of Japan has given a loan amount of JPY 30 billion (approx. Rs. 2,113 crore)
- Manipur has become the 4th State to successfully complete “Urban Local Bodies (ULB)” reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, and become eligible to assemble Rs.75 crore through Open Market Borrowings.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports has launched the Assam Rifles Public School (ARPS) in Shillong as a Khelo India Sports School and with this initiative, this school becomes the first Sports School under the Khelo India scheme.

MINISTRY OF POWER

- On 5th January 2015, Prime Minister launched the Government of India's zero-subsidy Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) successfully completed 6 years. Both the programmes are being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), and have distributed over 36.69 crores LED bulbs across India under UJALA. 1.14 crore LED streetlights have been installed by EESL under SLNP.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- The Minister for Science & Technology, Health & Family Welfare and Earth Sciences inaugurated the centralized network lab of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) established at Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- Government of India and Government of Japan has signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to "Specified Skilled Worker".

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

- To encourage the use of Swadeshi products in the paramilitary forces, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) signed an MoU with ITBP for the supply of 1.72 lakh cotton durries every year.
- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways & MSME launched an innovative new paint called "Khadi Prakritik Paint" which has anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties developed by Khadi.

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- To empower India's youth with skills, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) was launched Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 3.0, in nearly 600 districts making 300+ skill courses available to the youth.

CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CCEA)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir of Rs. 28,400 crore up to the year 2037.

MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

- To provide technical support in developing renewable energy projects, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NHPC Ltd.

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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- Rashtrapati Bhavan Re-Opened for Public viewing from February 6.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind greeted fellow-citizens on the eve of the birthday of Guru Ravidas on February 26.

VICE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- International Mother Language Day
 - Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Webinar on the occasion of 'International Mother Language Day' (21st Feb). The Webinar on 'Fostering Multilingualism for Inclusion in Education and Society' is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and IGNCA.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

1. 'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations
 - The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh on 4th Feb. through video conference. The day marks 100 years of the 'Chauri Chaura' incident, a landmark event in the country's fight for independence.
2. Prime Minister of India and the POTUS
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation with His Excellency Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America and looked forward to working closely with him to further elevate the India-US Strategic Partnership.

AYUSH

- AyuSamvad

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- It is the Public Awareness Lecture series of AYUSH Ministry, which will specifically focus on the role of Ayurveda in the Preventive, Promotive, Curative and Rehabilitative Management of COVID 19.

FINANCE COMMISSION

- The Report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission
 - The Commission's Report was tabled in the Parliament. The government accepted the 15th Finance Commission's recommendation to maintain the States' share in the divisible pool of taxes to 41% for the five-year period starting 2021-22.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

1. The Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF), with a corpus of Rs. 5,000 crores has been created under NABARD To further strengthen & expand the adoption of Micro Irrigation systems by the farmers in the country for enhancing water use efficiency at farm level, a Budget announcement has been made to double the initial corpus of Micro Irrigation Fund of Rs. 5000 created under NABARD, by augmenting it by another Rs. 5,000 crores.
2. World Pulses Day
World Pulses Day (10th Feb) is a designated United Nations global event to recognize the importance of pulses as a global food.
Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, was the Chief Guest at the event on World Pulses Day organized by Indian Pulses Research Institute (IIPR).
3. Record Foodgrain production
The second advance estimates of production of principal crops for year 2020-21 have been released. The second advance estimates of production of major crops reveal a record production of 303.34 million tonnes of food grains.

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

- 6th Edition of 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021'
 - The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, jointly with FICCI & Invest India organized the 6th edition of annual program on Pharmaceuticals & Medical Device sector – 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021' scheduled on 25-26 February & 1-2 March 2021.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

- Permission granted to BCCI to use drones
 - Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the deployment of drones for live aerial cinematography of the India Cricket Season in 2021.

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MINISTRY OF COAL

- National Coal Index
 - The NCI is a price index which reflects the change of price level of coal on a particular month relative to the fixed base year. The base year for the NCI is FY 2017-18.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

1. Trade Deficit Between India and China

The Government of India has made sustained efforts to achieve a more balanced trade with China. The deficit now stands at USD 25178.72 mn (Apr-Nov 2020), as supposed to USD 48647.99 mn in FY 2019.
2. 6th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Sector

Addressing the 6th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Sector, Minister of Commerce & Industry called upon the Indian pharmaceutical and health care sector to adopt best practices in terms of quality, facility and commitment to maintain high standards.
3. INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES

The Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is released Index of Eight Core Industries for the Month of January, 2021. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 137.6 in January, 2021, which increased by 0.1 (provisional) per cent as compared to the Index of January, 2020. Its cumulative growth during April to January, 2020-21 has been(-) 8.8%.

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- MCA amends One Person Companies (OPCs) rules
 - Previously NRIs were not allowed to incorporate OPCs. Now any natural person, who is an Indian citizen, whether resident in India or otherwise would be allowed to form an OPC.
 - For being considered as a resident in India, the residency period has been proposed to be reduced to 120 days from 182 days for NRIs.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

1. Aakashvani Sangeet Sammelan
 - Aakashvani Sangeet Sammelan will henceforth be called Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan.
2. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav
 - The third and final edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2021 in West Bengal organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India began on 27th February 2021 at Murshidabad, West Bengal.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

1. Lieutenant General Chandi Prasad Mohanty assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on 01 February 2021.
2. Aero-India 2021
 - Aero India 2021, Asia's largest Aerospace and Defence Exhibition held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru between February 03-05, 2021.
3. Helina & Dhruvastra
 - Joint User Trials for Helina (Army Version) and Dhruvastra (Air Force Version) Missile Systems have been carried out from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) platform in desert ranges. The missile systems have been designed and developed indigenously by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
4. NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21
 - Indian Naval Ship Pralaya participated in the NAVDEX 21 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 21 (International Defence Exhibition), from 20 to 25 February 2021 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
5. VL-SRSAM Missile System
 - DRDO conducted two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from a static vertical launcher from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- ASEAN India Hackathon
 - Union Education Minister addressed the inaugural ceremony of the ASEAN India Hackathon with an aim to solve common identified challenges under two broad themes of "Blue Economy" and "Education".

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

- Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021
 - Amidst growing concerns around lack of transparency, accountability and rights of users related to digital media and after elaborate consultation with the public and stakeholders, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 has been framed in exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- World Wetlands Day
 - On the occasion of the World Wetland Day (2nd Feb.) and as a part of its commitment towards conservation, restoration and management of India's wetlands, the Minister of State for

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Environment, Forest and Climate Change, announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM), as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, an institution under the Ministry.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. Government to Introduce Single Securities Markets Code
 - Union Minister for Finance announced that the Government will consolidate the provisions of SEBI Act, 1992, Depositories Act, 1996, Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and Government Securities Act, 2007 into a rationalized single Securities Markets Code.
2. Eleventh India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue
 - The 11th India-EU Macroeconomic dialogue was held here today virtually through video conferencing. Shri Tarun Bajaj, Secretary, Economic Affairs, led the Indian delegation. The delegation from European Union was led by Mr. Maarten Verwey, Director General, Economic & Financial Affairs (ECFIN), European Commission.
3. G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting
 - Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman participated virtually in the First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Italian Presidency to discuss policy actions for transformative and equitable recovery along with other issues on the agenda including global economic outlook, financial sector issues, financial inclusion and sustainable finance.

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- Mandarin & Turmeric
 - To incentivise farmers to transport their agricultural produce through Kisan Rail, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Food Processing Industries have included Mandarin (a variety of Orange) and Turmeric (raw) in the list of eligible Fruits and Vegetables for 50% transportation subsidy through any type of train service provided by Indian Railways under Operation Greens – TOP to TOTAL.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has laid down a charter for banks to oversee funds received by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
 - According to the Charter, the donations received in Indian rupees by NGOs and associations from any foreign source located in India or outside India at the time of such donation is defined as foreign contributions.
2. 'Nation First - The Golden Saga of 82 Years'
 - Union Home Minister, Amit Shah released CRPF's book 'Nation First - The Golden Saga of 82 Years' in New Delhi.
3. 19th Home Secretary Level Talks between India and Bangladesh

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- The 19th Home Secretary Level Talks (HSLT) between India and Bangladesh were held virtually today in the backdrop of 'MujibBarsho' and 50 years of Bangladesh Liberation War and establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

- TECHNOGRAHIS
 - An Enrolment Module for TECHNOGRAHIS, has been launched by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA. TECHNOGRAHIS are students from IITs, NITs, engineering, planning and architecture colleges, faculty members, academicians, and stakeholders.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

- Mon Shugu
 - The sale of the 1000-years old heritage Monpa handmade paper or "Mon Shugu", the ancient art of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, is quickly catching pace after a special mention by the PM in his Mann ki Baat.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

- Mushaira
 - Union Ministry of Minority Affairs organised "Mushaira" on the theme of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" in New Delhi on 20th February 2021 where renowned poets of the country presented their couplet.

MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Joint Working Group
 - The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain held in virtual format.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

- Strategic Crude Oil Reserves
 - Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL), a Government of India Special Purpose Vehicle, has established Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely (i) Visakhapatnam, (ii) Mangaluru and (iii) Padur.
- 11th IEA, IEF, OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks

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- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, participated in the 11th IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks —held virtually— on 17th February 2021 under the patronage of the Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud.

MINISTRY OF POWER

- International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins
 - ICOLD Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins was inaugurated by the Minister for Jal Shakti. ICOLD in collaboration with Central Water Commission (CWC), Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP) and National Hydrology Project (NHP) is organised Symposium on “Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins” under the aegis of ICOLD at New Delhi as Hybrid event from 24th - 27th February 2021.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

1. Meri Saheli Initiative
 - ‘Meri Saheli’ initiative was launched as Pilot Project by Railway Protection Force (RPF) across South Eastern Railway for security of women passengers in trains originating in that zone.
2. Kisan Rail Services
 - Since the launch of first Kisan Rail service on 7th August 2020 and upto 5th February 2021, Indian Railways have operated 208 Kisan Rail services on 24 routes, transporting approximately sixty-eight thousand tonnes of perishables including fruits and vegetables.
3. Tanakpur-Delhi-Tanakpur Purnagiri Jan Shatabdi Express
 - Union Railway Minister, Piyush Goyal Flagged off Tanakpur-Delhi-Tanakpur Purnagiri Jan Shatabdi Express Special train through Video Conferencing.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

1. India’s first Diesel-converted CNG Tractor
 - Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari launched India’s first-ever diesel tractor converted to CNG which, according to him, will help save farmers approximately 1 lakh Rs. annually on fuel costs.
2. FASTag Mandatory
 - Ministry of Road Transport & Highways decided that all lanes in the fee plazas on National Highways shall be declared as “FASTag lane of the fee plaza” w.e.f midnight of 15th/16th February 2021. Therefore, as per NH Fee Rules 2008, any vehicle not fitted with FASTag or vehicle without valid, functional FASTag entering into the FASTag lane of the fee plaza shall pay a fee equivalent to two times of the fee applicable to that category.

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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. Solar – Biodiesel Mini Grid System
 - CSIR-CMERI-Centre of Excellence for Farm Machinery has developed Off-grid Solar Biodiesel Hybrid Mini Grid of 50kW peak capacity system for providing 24X7 power to Center for Excellence in Farm Machinery (CoEFM) Residential Colony at Gill Road, Ludhiana (Punjab). Prof. (Dr.) Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR - CMERI inaugurated the system on 1st February 2021.
2. 40th INCA International Congress
 - National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), under Ministry of Science & Technology, organised 3 days 40th INCA International Congress from 10th February, 2021 in Kolkata. keeping in view the pandemic situations, it was held both in physical and virtual mode.
3. CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow celebrates its 70th Annual Day Celebrations on February 17.
4. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) celebrated its 35th Foundation Day on February 27.

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- 12th Technical Group Meeting of National Statistical Offices(NSOs) of BRICS Countries
 - The 12th Technical Group Meeting of National Statistical Offices of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Countries has been held today (24th February 2021) at New Delhi in virtual mode under the aegis of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India.

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

1. Govt. announced the launch of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme to make Indian textile industry globally competitive.
 - MITRA aims to make the textile industry globally competitive, attract large investments, boost employment generation and exports by creating world class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable creation of global champions in exports.
2. Union Textiles Minister virtually inaugurated Certified Jute Seeds Distribution Program And Awareness Workshop For Jute Farmers, organised at ICAR-CRIJAF Institute at Barrackpore, West Bengal with an aim to promote the usage of certified seeds and hence, increasing productivity and income of the farmers.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

- Astro-Tourism: The Next Frontier of Nature-based Tourism
 - The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series titled "Astro- Tourism: The Next Frontier of Nature-based Tourism" held on 6th February, 2021 focused on promoting nature-based tourism which is emerging strongly in a post - COVID world, the major thrust of the webinar was sustainable and responsible travel.

PIB Summary: February 2021

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

- Aadi Mahotsav
 - M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India inaugurated the tribal festival Aadi Mahotsav in New Delhi. The Festival Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, New Delhi was held from February 1-15, 2021.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

1. Maternal Mortality Ratio
 - A Task Force has been constituted by the Government to examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with (i) health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/ infant/ child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter, (ii) key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (CSR) etc. and (iii) any other relevant points pertaining to health and nutrition in this context.
2. POCSO e-Box
 - The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has received 354 complaints through POCSO e-Box during the last three year, i.e., 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and the current year 2020-21 (till 31st January, 2021).
3. The Government of India has implemented the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 which is a comprehensive law that provides protection to children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.
4. Smartphones for Anganwadi Workers
 - Anganwadi workers are empowered with the provision of smart phones procured through Government e-Market (GeM) for efficient service delivery. The Ministry has been pursuing with States to saturate access to smart phones for Anganwadi Workers in India.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

- 2nd Khelo India National Winter Games
 - The second edition of Khelo India Winter Games saw a grand launch on February 26 in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir as Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the sports meet virtually.

NITI AAYOG

- 6th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog
 - The sixth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held on February 20 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi via video conferencing. It was attended by 26 Chief Ministers, 3 Lieutenant Governors and 2 Administrators, apart from Union Ministers, who are Ex-Officio Members, and Special Invitees. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Members and CEO, Principal Secretary to the PM & other senior officers from PMO; Cabinet Secretary; and

PIB Summary: February 2021

Chief Secretaries of States/ Union Territories also attended the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh.

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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

1. International Women's Day

- On the occasion of International Women's Day (March 7), The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind extended his congratulations and best wishes to all the women.

2. World Tuberculosis Day

- The President of India, gave a message on the eve of World Tuberculosis Day which is observed on 24th March to raise public awareness about TB.

VICE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- Air Surveillance System
 - A presentation suggesting the setting up of sewage and air surveillance system in the Indian Parliament to find the prevalence of COVID-19 was made to the Vice President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha on March 30 by the Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr. Shekhar C Mande.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

1. COVID-19 Vaccine

- On March 1, PM Narendra Modi took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at AIIMS, New Delhi.

2. Maritime India Summit 2021

- On March 2 2021, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maritime India Summit 2021' through video conferencing.
- It is organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

3. Maitri Setu

- The Prime Minister inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh on 9th March 2021.

- The bridge 'Maitri Setu' has been built over Feni river which flows between Indian boundary in Tripura State and Bangladesh.

4. QUAD

- The Prime Minister addressed the first summit of the leaders' of the Quadrilateral Framework (QUAD).
- QUAD consists of India, USA, Japan and Australia and its objective is to safeguard the interest of countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

AYUSH

1. BRICS

- The Ministry of AYUSH hosted a virtual meeting of the BRICS Experts in Traditional Medicines under India's Chairship of BRICS 2021 on 25 March 2021. The meeting was attended by Traditional Medicines Experts from Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.

2. Ayurveda Parav

- A 3-day "Ayurveda Parav" was organized by Vinoba Seva Pratisthan (VSP), in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, in order to promote Ayurveda as the mainstream treatment for the prevalent lifestyle related diseases.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

1. Agriculture Voltage Technology

- ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, developed an Agri-voltaic system of 105 KW capacity.

2. King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award

- ICAR received the prestigious King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- The King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award acknowledges individuals/institutions that raise public awareness of soils by organising successful World Soil Day celebrations.

3. Multi-Layer Farming

- ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram has undertaken research (on-station) and technology validation through farmers' participatory research (on-farm research) on Integrated Farming Systems and Cropping Systems under AICRP-Integrated Farming Systems (AICRP-IFS) in 24 states and 1 Union Territory with the participation of 34 State Agricultural Universities, 6 ICAR institutes and 1 Central University.

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

- 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas
 - Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) celebrated 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas on March 7 with the theme of “Seva Bhi – Rozgar bhi”.
 - Janaushadhi Diwas week was observed from 1st March to 7th March 2021.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

- Kurnool Airport
 - Kurnool Airport was inaugurated at Orvakal, Andhra Pradesh by the Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
 - Kurnool is the 6th airport in Andhra Pradesh to become functional after Kadapa, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Rajahmundry & Vijayawada.

MINISTRY OF COAL

- 2nd Tranche of Commercial Coal Mining
 - On March 25, India launched its 2nd Tranche of auction for commercial coal mining offering 67 mines for sale of coal.
 - Out of the total 67 mines offered by the Ministry of Coal, 23 mines are under CM(SP) Act and 44 under MMDR Act.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

1. BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues

- The BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) leaders held their first meeting under India's Chairship from 9-11 March 2021.
- The theme of BRICS this year is -"BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus".

2. Virtual Trade Fair

- First Virtual Trade Fair (VTF) to boost exports potential of India's agricultural and processed food products during COVID19 pandemic was organised by APEDA.
- The VTF organised during March 10-12, 2021 drew huge response from participants, exporters and buyers from countries including India, UAE, Brazil, New Zealand and France.

3. INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES

- The Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released Index of Eight Core Industries for the Month of February, 2021.
- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 127.8 in February, 2021, which declined by 4.6% as compared to the Index of February, 2020.

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework
 - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in association with British High Commission, released a publication titled “Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework”.
 - The Handbook details several aspects of professional ethics, including conflict of interest, independence, impartiality, objectivity and timelines, etc. in a comprehensive manner.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

1. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2021

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organised the third and final edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2021 at Murshidabad. All the seven Zonal cultural Centres presented the dance performances and made the evening memorable for the audience.

2. Gandhi Peace Prize

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 has been conferred on (Late) His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman.

Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government of India since 1995, the 125th Birth Anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

1. EX Desert FLAG VI

- The Indian Air Force participated for the first time in Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with air forces of the United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.
- The exercise was scheduled from March 03, 21 to March 27, 21 at Al-Dhafra air base, UAE.
- Ex Desert Flag is an annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force.

2. Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- SFDR technology is a missile propulsion system based on the concept of the Ramjet Engine principle which takes up oxygen from the atmosphere during flight.

3. Battle Ready for 21st Century

- Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) released a book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century” which defines emerging areas of conflict, desired capabilities and doctrinal issues that need careful examination.

4. Swarnim Vijay Varsh 2021

- Indian Navy conducted a maiden Operational Demonstration on the Hooghly River, Kolkata on March 20, 2021 as part of the Swarnim Vijay Varsh 2021 Celebrations.
- Two Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC), four Navy Patrol Boats, one each Sea King and Chetak Helicopter, a Marine Commando (MARCOS) team and a Coast Guard Air Cushion Vessel (CG ACV) demonstrated in the ‘Op Demo’.

5. 7th IN BN STAFF TALKS

- 7th Staff Talks between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted from 23 to 25 March 2021 at New Delhi with an objective of further bolstering existing defence relations between India and Bangladesh in the maritime domain.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

1. Indian Knowledge Tradition Courses Programme

- Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal released the study material of Bhartiya Jnana Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition) courses of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in Noida on March 02, 21.
- Under these courses the subject of Vedas covers topics such as the Ramayana epic narratives, the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, the Panini propounded Maheshwara Sutras, the Samarasa shloka sangraha, the Ekatyasastotra, the numerous Vedic hymns, the Vishnu Sahasranama stotra, the Shikshavalli, Brahmavalli, Bhriguvalli, Lallishatnama stotra.

2. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak

- Union Education Minister inaugurated Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in New Delhi on March 23, the day of martyrdom of Bhagat Singh.
- To honour and value the sacrifices made by the National heroes and to drive out lessons of inspiration from their lives and times, the Government of India has declared 23rd March as ‘Shaheed Diwas’.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

- International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing- 2021
 - Government of India, on the occasion of 30th foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), inaugurated the International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing (MEMP 2021).
 - MEMP-2021 will provide an opportunity to scientists, researchers, academicians and young students to interact with eminent scientists/technologists working in the field of multifunctional electronic materials for various applications & their processing for making devices. Materials required for energy storage, energy generation, Nanostructured materials, Quantum dots, Sensors, Neutrino Energy Conversion /storage. Flexible devices, Photonic devices and processing techniques like Additive Manufacturing (3D printing) will be discussed.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Women Forest Officers
 - On the eve of International Women's Day (March 08), the Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar released an e-book titled: "The Green Queens of India – A nation's pride", which is a compilation of case studies, best practices and life experiences as shared by the woman forest officers themselves.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. 45th Civil Accounts Day

- The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) celebrated the 45th Civil Accounts Day on 01 March 2021.

2. New Development Bank

- Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank through video-conference in New Delhi.
- The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa.

3. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 1.0 & 2.0

- In recognition of the continuing adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on certain service sectors, the Government has now extended the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) through introduction of ECLGS 3.0 to cover business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism, Leisure & Sporting sectors which had, as on 29.02.2020, total credit outstanding not exceeding Rs. 500 crore and overdues, if any, were for 60 days or less, on that date i.e. 29th Feb 2020.

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- Production Linked Incentive Scheme
 - The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Modi has approved the Central Sector Scheme - "Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)" to support creation of global food manufacturing champions.
 - The main objective of the Scheme is to strengthen select Indian brands of food products for global visibility and wider acceptance in the international markets.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

1. Land Ports Authority of India

On March 01, the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day at its Headquarter in New Delhi.

LPAI works under MoH with an aim to build land ports on India's borders, to provide secure, seamless and efficient systems for cargo and passenger movement, to reduce dwell time and trade transaction costs, to promote regional trade and people-to-people contact and endeavour to imbibe the best international practices.

2. National Crime Records Bureau

On March 11, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 36th Inception Day.

NCRB is an Indian government agency (under MoH) responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

- Ease of Living Index 2020
 - The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry released the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020.
 - In Million+ category: Bengaluru emerged as the top performer followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai.
 - In the Less than Million category: Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

- 228th meeting of CBT, EPF

- The 228th meeting of Central Board of Trustees, EPF was held on March 04 in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir under the chairmanship of Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment (Independent Charge).
- Chairman, CBT virtually inaugurated three new Regional Office buildings of EPFO at Raichur, Salem, Jamshedpur and annexed buildings for Zonal Office & Regional Office in Bengaluru.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

1. Outlook Business Leading Edge 2021

- Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari Addressed Outlook Business Leading Edge 2021 - "Regaining Growth" in which he spoke about various Govt measures taken in order to ensure smooth recovery of the MSME sector.

2. Khadi Mujib Jackets

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) supplied 100 custom-designed "Mujib Jackets" that were the attire of dignitaries during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Bangladesh on March 26 & 27.
- "Mujib Jacket" is famed as the signature garment worn by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is called Bangladesh's Father of the Nation.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

- Hunar Haat
 - On March 13, the 27th "Hunar Haat" of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen from across the country was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal in the presence of Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.
 - On March 27, Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated 28th "Hunar Haat" of indigenous artisans and craftsmen at Kala Academy, Campal, Panaji in the presence of Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

- Indo-Israeli JV IOC Phinergy Pvt Ltd
 - On March 17, Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, along with Minister of Energy, Israel, Dr. Yuval Steinitz, witnessed the launching of a Joint Venture (IOC Phinergy Private Limited) between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Indian

Oil) and Phinergy, an Israeli start-up company specializing in hybrid lithium-ion and aluminium-air/zinc-air battery systems.

MINISTRY OF POWER

1. 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21

- NTPC Ltd, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power has been conferred the prestigious 'Role Model' Award at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21.
- The award was presented in the virtual conference "Learn from the Achievers".

2. GRAM UJALA

- GRAM UJALA programme was launched in Arrah, Bihar and Varanasi, UP by R.K. Singh, the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Power & New and Renewable Energy.
- Under this the LED bulbs are offered by state-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd's (EESL's) subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL).
- This is the first programme to be financed entirely through carbon credits.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

1. Kotdwar-Delhi Junction-Kotdwar Siddhabali Jan Shatabdi Express Special

- The Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal flagged off Kotdwar-Delhi Junction-Kotdwar Siddhabali Jan Shatabdi Special train through video conferencing.

2. Fog Pass Devices

- A GPS based portable hand-held Fog PASS device is being provided to loco pilots in fog affected areas which raises audio visual signals whenever landmarks like signals, level crossing gates etc. are approaching within the Geo-fence range.

3. AC Three Tier Economy Class Coach

- Indian Railways Production Unit, Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala has recently rolled out the first prototype Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) AC three-tier economy class coach of Indian Railways (IR). Trial has been successfully completed.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

1. Rating Mechanism for National Highways

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has released the ratings for 18,668 km of completed 4/6 lane NH stretches covering 343 toll plazas. This has been done by NHAI under

MoRTH, which has taken initiative to improve its accountability towards road users, who pay user fee for use of developed National Highways.

2. Tourist Vehicle Operators

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a new scheme, All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an “All India Tourist Authorization/Permit” through online mode. It will be issued, after relevant documents are submitted and fees deposited, within 30 days of submission of such applications.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. Global Bio India: Atma Nirbhar Bharat Conclave

The largest bio-technology conglomerate Global Bio-India 2021 was inaugurated by Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan on March 1.

The three-day event organized by DBT-BIRAC with participation of over 6000 delegates from 50 countries, saw different sessions touching down upon different aspects of biotechnology.

2. CSIR Floriculture Mission

With an objective to raise farmers' income and employment by raising awareness about the floriculture, the Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched CSIR Floriculture Mission in New Delhi.

This Mission is being implemented in collaboration with ICAR-Directorate of Floriculture; Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC); Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce; Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED); Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj, Ministry of MSME and Universities.

3. Air Pollution Control System for Crematoria

The four pyres of Green Crematorium, Air Pollution Control System for Crematoria, developed by CSIR-NEERI, was launched by the Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan at Delhi's Nigam Bodh Ghat Crematorium.

4. US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative

In a bid to focus on AI cooperation in critical areas, US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) initiative was launched.

USIAI is an initiative of Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) which was established in March 2000.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

- Sugamya Bharat App & Access - the Photo Digest
 - Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched “Sugamya Bharat App” and a handbook entitled “Access – The Photo Digest”.
 - Sugamya Bharat App is a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.
 - Access - The Photo Digest is a collection of photographs from across different States and UTs. This Book is envisaged as a tool and guide to sensitise stakeholders about 10 basic features of accessibility and related good-bad practices in easy to understand pictorial form.

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

1. Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved the closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), the Corporation, a Government of India undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles.

2. Synthetic Yarn

- In order to boost exports, including textiles and garments, the Government of India launched a scheme namely "Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products' (RoDTEP).

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

- 1000 BAR DEKHO- NORTH EAST DEKHO
 - Ministry of Tourism organised an event “1000 BAR DEKHO- NORTH EAST DEKHO” under the tagline of “DEKHO APNA DESH” and “FIT INDIA” from 7 March to 18 March 2021.
 - The Ministry of Tourism placed special emphasis on the development and promotion of tourism in the North Eastern Region (NER).

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

1. GI Mahotsav

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, inaugurated the Tribes India GI Mahotsav at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussoorie on March 5.
- GI Mahotsav is organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED) with an aim to increase awareness about various GI products and cultural heritage of India.

2. Abki Holi Tribes India Wali

- Colorful kurtas for men and women, waistcoats in different types of weaves and styles, sarees, dresses and stoles in various traditions such as Maheshwari, Chanderi, Bagh, Kantha, Bhandara, Tussar, Sambhalpuri and Ikat along with organic gulal, organic soaps, shampoos, herbal oil packs formed a part of the Holi collection of Tribes India.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

1. 6th IBSA Women's Forum Meeting

- The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually on 16th March, 2021. Led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, the event witnessed participation of Ministers and officials responsible for Women Affairs of IBSA Countries.

2. Working Women Hostels Scheme

- The Working Women Hostels scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development with an aim to ensure safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

1. MoU between India and Maldives

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment of Maldives for cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs, was given approval by the Union Cabinet.
- The prime objective of the MoU is to hold bilateral exchange programmes in the field of sports and expand knowledge and expertise.

2. Yogasana

- Yogasana sport for both male and female categories have been included in Khelo India Youth Games, 2021. The Government recognition makes the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) eligible for financial assistance for conduct of national championships in all the categories, viz. Senior, Junior and Sub-junior and participation in international sporting events.

NITI AAYOG

1. Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India

- NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India released a report 'Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India', which highlights the role of finance in the India's transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and analyses that the transition will require a cumulative capital investment of USD 266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh crore) in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries over the next decade.

2. AIM-PRIME

- With an objective of driving India into a digitally transformed nation, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship), an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.