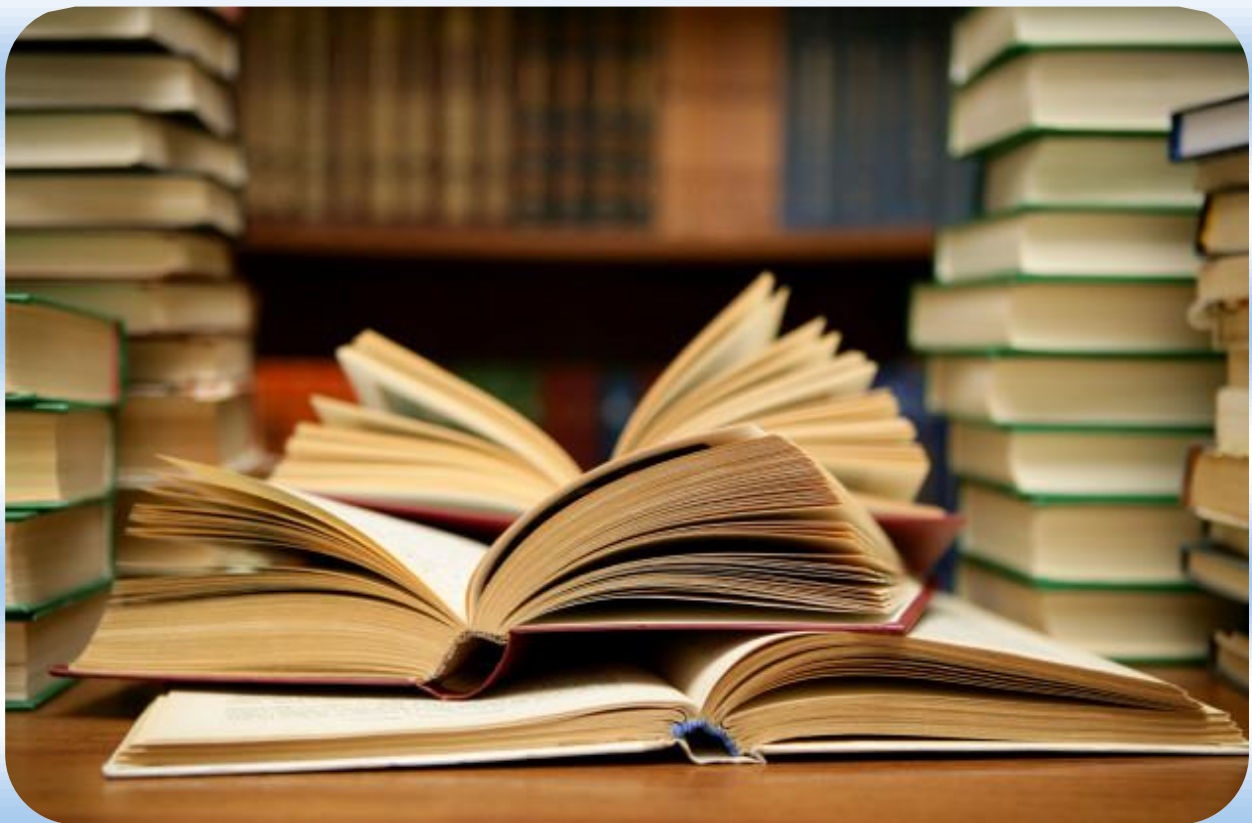


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



MARCH-2021

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

SBI Payments launch of 'RuPay SoftPoS'

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Friday partnered with SBI Payments to announce the launch of 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants. This innovative solution has the capability to transform NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to ₹5000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism on their smartphones. RuPay SoftPoS will provide cost effective acceptance infrastructure to retailers at nominal cost. This unique phenomenon would be able to proliferate digital payment acceptance among millions of underserved Indian MSMEs.

HDFC Bank launches SmartUp Unnati programme

HDFC Bank on the occasion of International Women' Day has announced the launch of a dedicated programme for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank. Under the SmartUp Unnati programme, over the next one year, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank will mentor women entrepreneurs in helping them achieve their goals, HDFC Bank said in a statement on Monday.

Economic Freedom Index 2021- Highlights

Singapore topped the global ranking for the second year in a row in the latest Economic Freedom Index published last week by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation. Singapore increased its overall score by 0.3 points to 89.7 primarily due to an improvement in the score for government spending. Singapore's score is well-above the regional and world averages. Rounding up the global top five are New Zealand in second place with 83.9 points, Australia, third (82.4 points), Switzerland in fourth with 81.9 points and Ireland (81.4 points).

What is 'SMS scrubbing'?

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Tuesday temporarily suspended the scrubbing of short message service or SMS by telecom service providers (TSP) for seven days to allow principal entities to register their messaging templates. Trai has asked the telecom companies to inform the respective principal entities and facilitate their registration within the stipulated time. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) officials will, on Wednesday, also meet the TSPs, Trai officials, bank executives, and other principal entities that send SMSes to users.

Threshold for Mandatory e-invoicing Lowered to ₹50 Crore

The Finance Ministry on Monday further lowered the threshold for mandatory e-invoicing to ₹50 crore, from ₹100 crore. The new rule will come into effect from April 1, according to a Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notification. e-invoicing essentially involves reporting details of specified GST documents to a government-notified portal and obtaining a reference number. GSTN (the IT systems provider for GST) claims that there is not much difference between the present system and new one. Registered persons continue to create GST invoices on their own accounting/billing/ERP systems.

NITI Aayog submits first list of 12 PSUs for Privatisation

The government has kicked off its privatisation drive, with the NITI Aayog, a body headed by the prime minister, submitting its first list of about 12 public sector undertakings (PSUs) to be privatised. The organisation has submitted the list comprising PSUs in strategic sectors, which will be considered by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), and the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), headed by the cabinet secretary, said a top government official.

Govt to launch “Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra Portal”

The commerce and industry ministry said on Friday said that the government is in the process of developing a portal for hand-holding, information dissemination and facilitation of domestic investors. The portal - Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra - is in the testing phase and will be launched by May 1, 2021. The ministry is also working on webpage that will be available in regional languages and mobile app.

Parcel Management System of Indian Railways to be extended

The parcel services of Indian Railways are geared towards providing small consignments' transportation, over a vast network of stations. These services are used by small businesses and traders especially those in smaller cities and towns for transportation of their merchandise.



India to Propose Cryptocurrency Ban

India will propose a law banning cryptocurrencies, fining anyone trading in the country or even holding such digital assets, a senior government official told Reuters in a potential blow to millions of investors piling into the red-hot asset class. The bill, one of the world's strictest policies against cryptocurrencies, would criminalise possession, issuance, mining, trading and transferring crypto-assets, said the official, who has direct knowledge of the plan.

US Becomes India's Second Biggest Oil Supplier

NEW DELHI - The United States overtook Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier last month, as refiners boosted cheaper U.S. crude purchases to record levels and to offset supply cuts from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+), data from trade sources showed. India's imports from the world's top producer rose 48 per cent to a record 545,300 barrels per day (bpd) in February from the prior month, accounting for 14 per cent of India's overall imports last month, the data obtained by Reuters showed.

Government Informs LIC is not being Privatized

Replying to a supplementary question during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur said, the government is bringing in the IPO to usher in transparency and valuation. He said, the IPO will increase the investment in LIC. He said the decision on percentage for share holders will be taken later. Mr. Thakur said, IPO will benefit the country and shareholders as well.

NPCI launches "UPI-Help"

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella entity for digital payments in India, has gone live with "UPI-Help" on BHIM UPI, which will act as a grievance redressal mechanism for the users of the BHIM application. The application will enable the users to check the status of the pending transactions, raise complaints against transactions that have not been processed or the money has not reached the beneficiary, and raise complaints against merchant transactions.

Cabinet clears DFI with capital infusion of Rs 20000 crore

The Cabinet has cleared a Bill to set up a government-owned development finance institution (DFI) with initial paid-up capital of Rs 20,000 crore so that it can leverage around Rs 3 trillion from the markets in a few years to provide long-term funds to infrastructure projects as well as for development needs of the country. To put it in perspective, Rs 3 trillion constitutes slightly less than 3 per cent of the Rs 111 trillion to be spent on over 7,000 projects in the National Infrastructure Pipeline from 2019-20 to 2024-25.

Indian firms to collaborate with Finland to develop 5G and 6G Technologies

NEW DELHI: Indian companies Wipro and Tech Mahindra are collaborating with Finnish companies for development and expansion of 5G and 6G technologies for use in India and other markets, a senior Indian official said on Tuesday. Finnish company Nokia is already working in rural areas of India to expand 5 G applications, Neeta Bhushan, joint secretary in charge of Central Europe told reporters after a virtual summit between the prime ministers of India and Finland on Tuesday.

India leads m-cap gains in world's top 10 nations

MUMBAI : Indian stocks gained the most among the world's top 10 nations by market value this fiscal, underscoring the strength of the rally that remained unshaken by covid-induced turmoil and economic uncertainties. India's aggregate market capitalization soared 88% in dollar terms this fiscal year, showed data from Bloomberg. This is the sharpest increase in aggregate market capitalization since FY11. Last fiscal year, India's market capitalization plunged 31% as the nationwide lockdown wrecked investor sentiment.

RBI imposes Rs 2 crore penalty on SBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on the State Bank of India. "This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers," the central bank said in a release. "The statutory inspection of SBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2017, and March 31, 2018,

SBI and IOCL to ink India's First Libor Alternative Rate Deal

State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) will be inking the first SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate) linked external commercial borrowing (ECB) deal as the world moves away from London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the de facto international benchmark reference rate. In a statement, SBI said it will be arranging \$100 million for 5 years linked to SOFR. The LIBOR will no longer remain the benchmark after December this year.

New Vehicle Scrapping Policy

Mumbai: A well-defined vehicle scrapping policy in India can help create an industry of its own with a business opportunity of \$6 billion (Rs 43,000 crore) a year, say automobile sector executives and experts. It could generate fresh employment and trigger economic growth, and also act as a critical factor to revive the automobile market that has been hit by a prolonged slowdown, they said.

Rajya Sabha passes Insurance Amendment Bill

The Rajya Sabha passed the Insurance (Amendment) Bill here on Thursday. The Bill is to raise the limit of foreign investments in an Indian insurance company from the existing 49 per cent to 74 per cent. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Bill is to allow foreign ownership and control of insurance companies with safeguards. The Opposition demanded that the Bill must be sent to the Finance Standing Committee of Parliament or to a joint select committee comprising members of both houses.

Arogya Sanjeevani Scheme

To widen the coverage of health insurance across the country, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), in its latest circular, has expanded the sum insured bands under the standard Arogya Sanjeevani policy to between ₹50,000 and ₹10 lakh. To clear the confusion and encourage more people to buy health insurance, Irdai had in January 2020 mandated all general and health insurers to offer a standard individual health insurance product with a maximum sum insured of up to ₹ 5 lakh and a minimum of ₹1 lakh.

SEBI relaxes Valuation Norms for AT-1 Bonds

Days after the Finance Ministry asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to review restrictions on mutual fund investments in additional tier-1 (AT1) bonds, Sebi has announced some relaxations in valuation norms.



DFI to get direct access to RBI Funding Facilities

The new government-backed development finance institution (DFI) will get direct access to funding facilities by the Reserve Bank of India, helping the infrastructure lender to raise funds at a cheaper rate. The central government may guarantee the bonds, debentures, and loans issued by the new DFI if the infrastructure lender wants. The DFI will be able to “borrow money from the Reserve Bank repayable on demand or on the expiry of fixed periods not exceeding ninety days from the date on which the money is so borrowed against the security of stocks, funds or securities

SC waives Interest in Loan Moratorium Scheme

The Supreme Court on Tuesday told lenders that they cannot charge interest on interest on the loan amount for all borrowers that was granted moratorium between March and August 2020 and said lenders have to refund the amount or the amount should be adjusted with the borrowers. The refund or the adjusted amount is likely to be in the range of Rs 7000 crore to Rs 8000 crore, rating agencies and analysts said. Earlier, following a Supreme Court order, the government has already refunded the interest on interest to all borrowers of loans below Rs 2 crore.

Govt launches auctions for Second Tranche of Commercial Coal Mining

The government on Thursday offered 67 coal mines for sale, launching the second tranche of commercial coal mining auction and termed it a step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. This is the highest number of mines on offer in a particular tranche after commencement of the auction regime in 2014.



Parliament passes 'National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill'

Parliament on Thursday passed a bill to set up the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) to fund infrastructure projects in India. The Rajya Sabha passed the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021 by voice vote on Thursday. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on March 23, 2021. The bill seeks to establish the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure.

RBI extends curbs on PMC Bank till 30 June

MUMBAI : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said it has extended restrictions on withdrawals and deposits in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank till 30 June, as it works to finalize an investor for the scam-hit multi-state cooperative bank. The central bank had imposed restrictions on PMC Bank in September 2019 after finding financial irregularities. RBI had curbed all activities of PMC Bank and appointed an administrator for the next six months, besides limiting withdrawals from customers' accounts. The restrictions were set to expire on 31 March 2021.

India at WTO- Proposes for TRIPS Waiver

India has urged WTO members to reach consensus on a proposal on waiver of certain provisions in a multilateral agreement on intellectual property to deal with COVID-19 crisis, stating that one cannot continue to engage in endless discussions when millions of lives are lost to the pandemic.



Government amends Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017

Good news for policyholders. With a view to improve the working of the Insurance Ombudsman mechanism to facilitate resolution of complaints regarding deficiencies in insurance services in a timely, cost-effective and impartial manner, the government has notified comprehensive amendments to the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017. The amended rules have enlarged the scope of complaints to Ombudsmen from only disputes earlier to deficiencies in services on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries.

Axis Bank Launches WhatsApp Banking

Now resolve your banking queries instantly via WhatsApp! In a bid to help address the banking needs of its customers, Axis Bank has now come out with WhatsApp Banking, which will help you bank anywhere and anytime on your favorite chatting app.



Wipro joins WEF initiative of Racial Justice in Business

Wipro has joined the 'Partnering for Racial Justice in Business initiative' launched by the World Economic Forum to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people of all racial backgrounds in the workplace. The initiative is aimed towards driving action and accountability for companies to confront racism at a systemic level, set new global standards for racial justice in business and accomplish necessary policy changes for inclusion and advancement of professionals with under-represented racial and ethnic identities.

What is 'Mobile Train Radio Communication system?'

In order to establish direct voice communication between loco pilots, controllers, station masters, the railway authorities introduced the mobile train radio communication system across the national transporter's network.



Assam's Red rice export to U.S.

NEW DELHI: In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off on Thursday to the United States of America (USA). Iron-rich 'red rice' is grown in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. The rice variety is referred as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of Assamese food.



Floriculture Mission to be implemented in 21 states

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched 'CSIR Floriculture Mission' through virtual mode in New Delhi on March 4, 2021. He encouraged scientists of CSIR laboratories across the country to develop the land available at each laboratory to be set up as a model under the "CSIR Floriculture Mission". The CSIR Floriculture Mission has been approved for implementation in 21 States and Union Territories of India.

SBI Research: Fuel Prices will Drop if Brought under GST

Bringing petrol and diesel under the GST regime could lead to a loss of as little as ₹1 lakh crore in annual revenue for the Centre and States while bringing pan-India prices of the fuels to ₹75 and ₹68 a litre, respectively, as per an SBI Research report.



India and 17 countries face U.S. Anti-Dumping Tax

The U.S. Department of Commerce is preparing to tax aluminium sheet exporters from 18 countries after determining on Tuesday that they had benefited from subsidies and dumping. The US International Trade Commission (ITC), an independent body, must approve the final decision by April 15 to impose anti-dumping or countervailing duties, a department statement said. The investigation, launched under the Donald Trump administration.

Google Launched "Women Will" Web Platform

Technology for MSMEs: Google on Monday announced a new web platform Women Will to support 1 million rural women in India to become entrepreneurs through accelerator programmes, mentorship, business tutorials, etc.



India justifies designs of the two Hydro Projects in J-K

New Delhi: Pakistan raised objections to the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower plants in Jammu and Kashmir and sought more information on the projects in Ladakh sanctioned after the abrogation of Article 370 as the Indus Commissioners of the two countries met here on Tuesday, sources said. On its part, India justified its stand on the designs.

Mithali Raj: 1st Indian woman cricketer to score 10,000 international runs

Mithali Raj on Friday became the first Indian woman to score 10,000 runs in international cricket across all formats. Mithali reached the milestone in the ongoing third One-day International (ODI) against South Africa in Lucknow. The Indian ODI skipper scored 36 runs before being dismissed by Anne Bosch. Mithali has scored 6974 runs in ODIs while in the T20Is, she has 2,364 runs to her name.

Bhavani Devi- First Indian Fencer to Qualify for Olympics

Bhavani Devi became the first ever Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics. The sabre fencer secured an Olympic spot due to events in the ongoing Fencing World Cup on Sunday.



FIAF Award 2021: Amitabh Bachchan to be honoured?

Actor Amitabh Bachchan was honoured with the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) Award 2021 Friday evening, which was bestowed on him by iconic Hollywood filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Christopher Nolan.



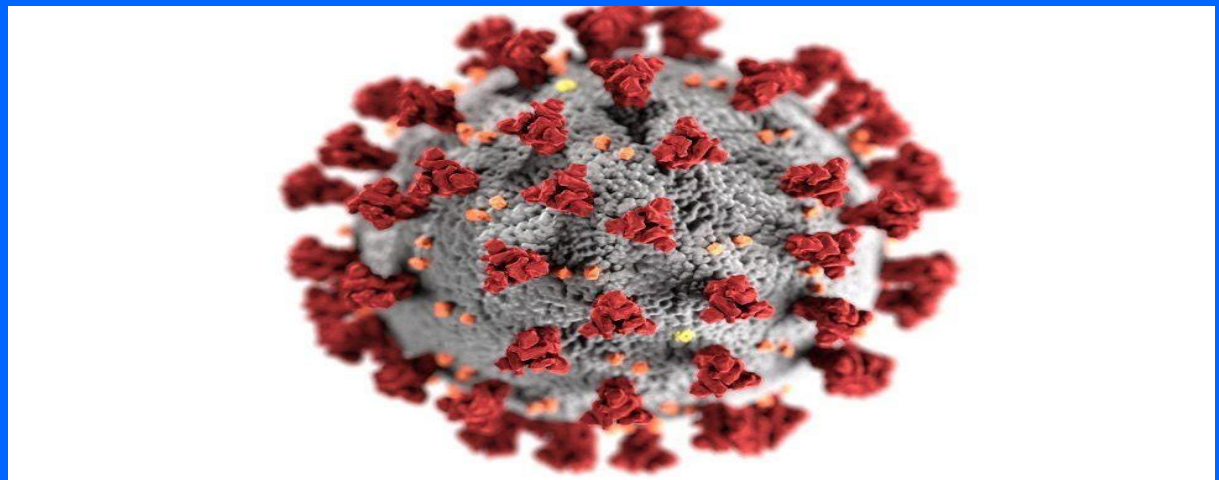
Who was Udupi Ramachandra Rao?

Udupi Ramachandra Rao Google Doodle: Google on Wednesday celebrated the 89th birthday of renowned Indian professor and scientist Udupi Ramachandra Rao, remembered by many as “India’s Satellite Man.”



What is a ‘Double Mutant’ virus?

Like all viruses, the coronavirus keeps changing in small ways as it passes from one person to another. The vast majority of these mutations are inconsequential and don't alter the way the virus behaves.



Supreme Court refuses to Stay Sale of Fresh Electoral Bonds

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the sale of a fresh set of electoral bonds from 1 April, ahead of assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory -- West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and UT of Puducherry. The apex court said that fresh electoral bonds can be issued from 1 April. The SC said that since the bonds were allowed to be released in 2018 and 2019 without interruption, and sufficient safeguards are there, there is no justification to stay the electoral bonds at present.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

UN calls for Scaling-up “Carbon Capture, Use and Storage” Technology

The net-zero emissions goal is crucial to limit global warming, as outlined in the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the technology brief calls for rapid scale-up of carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS).



What is a vaccine passport?

As people around the world prepare for COVID-19 vaccinations, documenting the shots are becoming an important step in easing cross-border travel. Airports, workplaces and public places may soon require people to produce records of their inoculation status. For these purposes, a 'vaccine passport' may soon become an essential document. Some passports in the making include International Chamber of Commerce's AOKPass and IBM's Digital Health Pass.

Why is Turkey’s Salda Lake called ‘Mars on Earth’?

As NASA’s rover Perseverance explores the surface of Mars, scientists hunting for signs of ancient life on the distant planet are using data gathered on a mission much closer to home at a lake in southwest Turkey.



Brazil: Severe Second Wave of Covid-19

The country's health service has been pushed to the brink as cases of the virus continue to climb. President Jair Bolsonaro has faced intense criticism for his handling of the crisis and was hit by high-profile resignations this week. But on Wednesday he again railed against lockdown measures imposed by local governors and mayors. "We had, and we have, two enemies - the virus and unemployment! It is a reality! We are not going to solve this problem by staying at home," he said.

Fugaku: World's most Powerful Supercomputer

The world's most powerful supercomputer Fugaku is now fully developed in Japan, and the machine is available for research use. Japanese scientific research institute RIKEN and Fujitsu began development six years ago with an aim to make the device core of Japan's computing infrastructure. Then, in April 2020, it was tested particularly in projects to combat COVID-19 pandemic.

China's new Five-Year Plan

China on Thursday formally approved the outline of its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), which highlights a number of key strategic projects to be pursued as a priority including the first dam in Tibet on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo or Brahmaputra, a Sichuan-Tibet railway line near the India border, and a push for self-sufficiency in emerging industries such as Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Retinal scan technology developed to identify Childhood Autism

A Hong Kong scientist has developed a method to use machine learning and artificial intelligence to scan retinas of children as young as six to detect early autism or the risk of autism and hopes to develop a commercial product this year. Retinal eye scanning can help to improve early detection and treatment outcomes for children, said Benny Zee, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson to visit India

Prime Minister Boris Johnson will visit India at the end of April on his first major international tour following the UK's exit from the European Union, Downing Street has announced, as Britain seeks to "unlock" the opportunities in the strategic Indo-Pacific region. The announcement of the visit, which had been postponed from a planned Republic Day tour in January due to the escalating COVID-19 crisis in the UK, comes as Mr. Johnson launches the conclusions of the UK government's Integrated Review of defence, security, development and foreign policy – a post-Brexit policy vision that falls within a wider Global Britain agenda.

World's Largest Floating Solar Farms being built in Singapore

Thousands of panels glinting in the sun stretch into the sea off Singapore, part of the land-scarce city-state's push to build floating solar farms to cut greenhouse gas emissions.



What is 'Sinatra Doctrine'?

As China's increasing aggressiveness to undermine European unity through a 'divide and rule' policy continues, the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) member countries have responded by accepting their own way to deal with the increasing threat of Beijing's influence, known as the 'Sinatra Doctrine'. The doctrine would be based on two pillars: continuing cooperation with China in regards to address global challenges such as climate change, combating COVID-19 and regional conflicts, while also strengthening the European Union's (EU) strategic sovereignty by protecting technological sectors of its economy, according to EU Reporter.

World Bank to provide USD 200 million to Bangladesh

The Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE) project is aimed to benefit about 1.75 lakh poor urban youth through training, apprenticeship programme, counselling, micro and self-employment support. It will also help about 2 lakh migrants who were forced to return to Bangladesh to reintegrate in the domestic labour migrate or prepare for re-migration. The funding will provide them cash grants and counselling services based on their needs and aspirations.

Russia deploys Giant Space Telescope in Lake Baikal

Russia: Russian scientists on Saturday launched one of the world's biggest underwater space telescopes to peer deep into the universe from the pristine waters of Lake Baikal.



India-US launches Artificial Intelligence Initiative

The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum has launched a 'US-India Artificial Intelligence Initiative' for cooperation in priority areas for both countries. USIAI will serve as a platform to discuss opportunities, challenges and barriers for bilateral R&D collaboration, enable AI innovation, share ideas for developing an AI workforce, and recommend mechanisms for catalysing partnerships.

Russia successfully launches 38 satellites for 18 countries

Russia on Monday put 38 foreign satellites into orbit after a successful launch from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan following delays due to technical issues. Video published by the Russian space agency Roscosmos showed its Soyuz rocket launching against grey and cloudy skies at 0607 GMT. "The Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with the Fregat upper stage and 38 spacecraft from 18 countries took off from the Baikonur cosmodrome," Roscosmos said on its Twitter account.

Saudi Arabia proposes UN-sponsored ceasefire in Yemen

Saudi Arabia has announced a plan to offer its rivals in Yemen's long-running war a nationwide ceasefire under the auspices of the United Nations, the kingdom's foreign minister said.



North Korea fires Two Cruise Missiles

Pyongyang is banned from testing ballistic missiles under UN Security Council resolutions. Both Japan and South Korea, which call it the Sea of Japan and East Sea respectively, have condemned the test. It comes just days after North Korea reportedly fired two non-ballistic missiles into the Yellow Sea. Japan said no debris had fallen within its territorial waters. The US Pacific Command, which oversees military forces in the Asia-Pacific region, said on Thursday that the test highlighted "the threat that North Korea's illicit weapons programme poses to its neighbours and the international community".

Taiwan to Ration Water for 1 Million Households

TAIPEI : Taiwan will from next month ration water for more than one million households in the centre of the island because of a drought but the technology hub of Hsinchu will not be affected, Economy Minister Wang Mei-hua said on Wednesday.



2021 is make or break year to confront global climate emergency: UN Chief

2021 is a "make or break" year to confront the global climate emergency according to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. "2021 is a make or break year to confront the global climate emergency. The science is clear, to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C, we must cut global emission by 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels," said Guterres commenting on an interim report from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) released earlier this week.

India to Gift 2 lakh Covid Vaccine Doses to UN Peacekeepers

India on Saturday delivered on its promise of 2,00,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UNPKF) worldwide, sending a shipment bound for Copenhagen. The cargo of AstraZeneca Covishield vaccines produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune was sent despite the government's decision to reduce exports in view of the need for vaccines domestically, honouring a commitment made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at a UNSC meeting in February.

Norway to construct World's First Ship Tunnel

TORONTO -- An engineering project billed as the world's first ship tunnel is slated for construction in Norway. The tunnel will run underneath the mountains in Norway's Stadlandet peninsula. It will measure 1,700 metres long, 37 metres high and 26.5 metres wide when complete.



UK, US call for alternative to China's BRI

U.S. President Joe Biden said he told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that democratic countries should provide an alternative to China's infrastructure strategy, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "One of the things I suggested we do is — we talked about China and the competition they're engaging in in the Belt and Road Initiative," Mr. Biden told his traveling press corps after he landed in Delaware for the weekend. "And I suggested we should have, essentially, a similar initiative coming from the democratic states, helping those communities around the world," he said.

Global Wind Report-2021

LONDON: The global wind industry could install nearly 1 terawatt (TW) of new capacity between now and 2030, with much of that added by China, consultancy Wood Mackenzie said on Monday. China's target of having 1,200 GW of wind and solar by 2030 could result in 408 GW of new wind capacity from 2021 to 2030, almost half of the global total, the report said.



New Assessment by IUCN on African elephants

The first ever “red list” assessment of the African elephant as two separate species – the forest elephant and savanna elephant – has found that both are threatened with extinction, according to an updated review of the world’s most at-risk plants and animals.



Australia & Boeing completes First Test of Fighter-Like Pilotless Jet

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Boeing Co will use a pilotless, fighter-like jet developed in Australia as the basis for its U.S. Air Force Skyborg prototype, an executive at the plane maker said on Tuesday. The "Loyal Wingman", the first military aircraft to be designed and manufactured in Australia in more than 50 years, made its first flight on Saturday under the supervision of a Boeing test pilot monitoring it from a ground control station in South Australia.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia regains Top Position

NEW DELHI: Just 30 seconds were left on the clock and India's star wrestler Bajrang Punia was trailing 0-2 in his 65kg final against Mongolia's Tulga Tumor Ochir at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series tournament in Rome. For the better part of 5 minutes, 30 seconds, Bajrang was concentrating on defending - especially his legs. There were attacking moves, but few and far between.

