



20.03.2021

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NEWS IN SHORT

NEWS ①: Indian Navy and Royal Bahrain Naval Force undertook Passage Exercise – PASSEX

NEWS ②: Kuwait's Foreign Minister paid a 2-day visit to India

NEWS ③: Amazon Web Services to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem

NEWS ④: UNDP launched 'Sahi Disha' campaign

NEWS ⑤: International Renewable Energy Agency Report : 'World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5° C Pathway'

NEWS ⑥: South Africa was ranked 1st in the World's Most Dangerous Roads study

NEWS ⑦: United Nations released the World Happiness Report 2021

NEWS ⑧: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report released

NEWS ⑨: Samia Suluhu Hassan sworn in as Tanzania's first woman President

NEWS ⑩: Sharath Kamal, Indian table tennis player, win in the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Passage Exercise – PASSEX

- Indian Navy and Royal Bahrain Naval Force undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp.
- India's warship 'INS Talwar' took place in the exercise, while the RBNF was represented by the Corvette 'Al Muharraq'.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister paid a 2-day visit to India

- Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah paid a 2-day visit to India. Both the sides released a Joint Statement on the establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers.
- JCM will act as an umbrella for all bilateral institutional engagements.

Innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem

- A Statement of Intent was signed between The Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and Amazon Internet Services Private Limited, a local legal Indian entity of Amazon Web Services to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India.
- It's objective is to empower school students with cloud computing skills.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

'Sahi Disha' campaign

- The UNDP launched 'Sahi Disha' campaign to celebrate the livelihoods and entrepreneurship of women in rural India.
- The campaign aims to highlight the issues that affect the rural women's opportunity to access jobs, livelihood and to establish enterprises to become self-reliant.

International Renewable Energy Agency Report

- According to the report 'World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5° C Pathway' released by International Renewable Energy Agency, the COVID-19 Crisis is an opportunity for countries across the world to disengage their economies from Fossil Fuels & accelerate their shift to renewable energy sources.

World's Most Dangerous Roads study

- According to the Study conducted by International driver education company, Zutobi, South Africa was ranked 1st in the World's Most Dangerous Roads study, it was followed by Thailand.
- United States ranked 3rd. India was ranked 4th in the study.

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World Happiness Report 2021

- The **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the **United Nations** released the **World Happiness Report 2021**.
- **Finland** has been ranked as the **happiest country** in the world for the fourth consecutive year. **India** has been ranked **139**, out of 149 countries.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report

- **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** released its **Trade and Development Report 2020** in which it expected **India's GDP to have contracted 6.9% (-6.9%)** in 2020 and grow 5% in 2021.
- The report described the year 2020 as **"Annus horribilis"**.

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary

- **Six tigers** are **missing** in **Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary (Rajasthan)**.
- **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** lies in the eastern part of Rajasthan state in Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts, at the **junction of the Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

U.S. India Artificial Intelligence

- **India & United States** has launched the **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum's U.S. India Artificial Intelligence Initiative** during the launch ceremony organized by **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum**.
- This initiative will enhance the Science & Technology relationship.

World's Largest Floating Solar Farms

- **Singapore**, is building one of the **world's largest floating solar farms**, as part of its plan to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.
- This project is being built by **Sembcorp Industries**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Samia Suluhu Hassan

- **Samia Suluhu Hassan**, 61 sworn in as **Tanzania's woman President** by succeeding John Magufuli.
- She is the sixth President of Tanzania and 2nd female president.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Happiness Day

- It is celebrated every year on **20th March** to highlight the **importance of happiness** in the diurnal lives of people.
- The United Nations started to celebrate the **International Day of Happiness in 2013**. Theme of 2021: **"Happiness For All, Forever"**.

World Oral Health Day

- **World Oral Health Day** is annually observed across the globe on **20th March** to promote the **importance of oral health** and to reduce the problems of oral diseases.
- The theme of World Oral Health Day 2021 is **"Be Proud of your Mouth"**.

SPORTS

Sharath Kamal

- **Sharath Kamal**, an **Indian table tennis player**, win over Muhammad Rameez of Pakistan in the **Asian Olympic Qualification tournament** held in **Doha, Qatar** and became the **first Indian Paddler** to qualify for the **2020 Tokyo Olympic Games**.

OBITUARY

Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi

- **Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi**, former **Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader** passed away at the age of 69 in Delhi.
- He was tested positive for COVID-19. He served as the **Union Minister of State, Ministry of Shipping** from 2003 to 2004.