

## Go Electric Campaign



- Ministry of Power, Government of India, launched "Go Electric" Campaign on 19 February, 2021 with the objective of creating awareness among masses on benefits of adopting Electric Vehicles and Electric Cooking appliances such as Induction cook hobs, Electric
- This initiative is intended to encourage consumers to switch over to Electric Vehicles and Electric Cooking in place of currently used conventional modes and appliances, thereby, reducing dependency of the country on imported fuel.
- The "Go Electric" Campaign is aimed at promoting adoption of Energy Efficient Electric Vehicles and Electric Cooking appliances and is expected to help the country to achieve energy transition as well as low carbon economic growth in the future.
- These technologies being energy efficient, are expected to scale down mobility and cooking related emissions, securing cleaner and greener future.
- The share of renewables in the energy mix is expected to increase due to integration of more renewable based power generation.
- Benefits of adopting these electricity based technologies shall be completely realized by enhancing share of renewables in the Grid.

## Re-enactment of historic Dandi March



- Re-enactment of historic Dandi March of Mahatma Gandhi flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is travelling in Kheda and Anand districts
- More than 4 thousand people have already joined the Dandi Yatra.
- AIR correspondent reports that Ayush Ministry has made special arrangements at its wellness centres to help and take care of the participants during the March.

## New AICTE rules



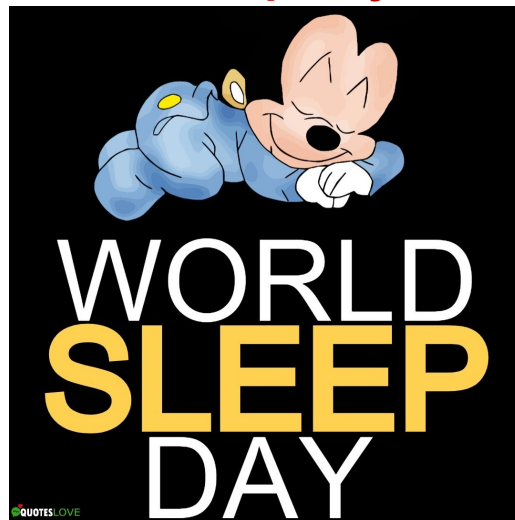
- AICTE, India's technical education regulator, tweaked the entry-level qualification for undergraduate engineering programmes making students who haven't studied either physics or mathematics (or both) in Classes 11 and 12 eligible for admission.
- Under the new norms, a candidate is expected to have scored at least 45% in any three subjects out of a list of 14 — physics, mathematics, chemistry, computer science, electronics, information technology, biology, informatics practices, biotechnology, technical vocational subject, engineering graphics, business studies, and entrepreneurship.

## The Pusa-Farm Sun Fridge (Pusa-FSF)



- Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2021, popularly called Pusa Kisan Mela, saw a lot of attractive activities and innovations done by farmers and scientists.
- One of the attractions was Pusa Farm SunFridge, innovative fridge run by solar power.
- It is designed by Dr. Sangeeta Chopra, Principal Scientist, Energy Science and Technology, Electrical Engineering, IARI.
- The SunFridge devised by Dr. Sangeeta provides 2 tonnes of storage at 4 degrees celsius.
- The specialty of this fridge is that it is completely solar-powered. It requires no electric power, so the farmer does not have to worry about power bills.
- The fridge uses water from AC. This means the fridge also helps in water conservation because it uses the water that drops from AC.
- The fridge is especially designed for farmers who can store their perishable produce like fruits and vegetables.
- It often happens that farmers cannot sell their entire produce the same day.
- Due to lack of storage facility, they usually throw away the surplus produce for animals to eat. They have no choice.

## World Sleep Day 2021



- World Sleep Day was first held in the year 2008 by the World Sleep Society.
- They aim to raise awareness about sleep and its association with health as also its social importance.
- The theme of this year's event is 'Regular Sleep, Healthy Future.'
- To celebrate the occasion, we share below, some of the health benefits of sleeping.

## Rajya Sabha clears Bill to raise FDI in insurance sector to 74%



- RAJYA SABHA on Thursday passed the Insurance(Amendment)Bill,2021 that seeks to raise the FDI in insurance sector to 74per cent from the current 49 per cent, despite opposition push to refer the Bill to a standing committee

- “Under the new structure, the majority of directors on the board and key management persons would have to be resident Indians, which will make them accountable under the Indian law.
- At least half of directors are to be independent directors which also ensures accountability
- On the criticism that the move might dilute reservation in state insurance players, the minister said the Narendra Modi government is committed to the protection of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

## MMDR Amendment Bill

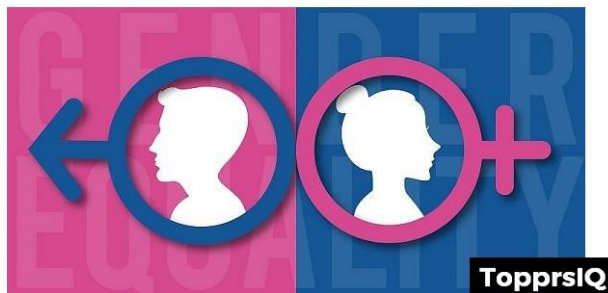


- Coal and Mines Minister has introduced the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha to streamline the renewal of the auction process for minerals and coal mining rights.
- The amendment proposes to allow captive miners of both coal and other minerals to sell up to 50 per cent of their production after meeting the requirements of the end-use plant and on paying additional royalty to the state government.

- Operators are currently only allowed to use coal and minerals extracted from captive mines for their own industrial use.
- Experts note that this increased flexibility would allow miners to maximise output from captive mines as they would be able to sell output in excess of their own requirements.
- The amendment also proposes to fix additional royalty payments to states for the extension of mining leases for central public sector enterprises.
- Disagreements over the additional royalty to be paid by state-owned NMDC to the Karnataka government for the extension of mining rights at the Donimalai mine had led to NMDC suspending operations at the mine for over two years.
- NMDC recently resumed operations after an interim agreement on the additional royalty to be paid to the Karnataka government.
- Another key change the Bill proposes is to empower the central government to conduct auctions or re-auction processes for the grant of a mining lease if a state government fails to complete the auction process in a specified period, decided after consultations between the Centre and state.

## The Opportunity Index 2021

### LinkedIn Opportunity Index 2021



- According to LinkedIn Opportunity Index 2021, around 85% of women in India have missed out on a raise, promotion because of their gender

#### About the Index

- The Index highlights the difference in perception of available opportunities in the market for men and women in India.
- The Index seeks to understand how people perceive opportunities and the barriers that stand in the way of achieving them.
- The current report dives deep to understand how women perceive opportunities, and how the gender gap is further slowing down career progress for working women in India amid the pandemic.

## Which are the world's most expensive cities to buy water?



- Norway's Oslo emerged as the city where a bottle of water is most expensive, costing \$1.85 (₹134.50), according to a Bloomberg report citing a survey of 120 cities conducted by travel tech company Holidu
- It's followed by the USA's Virginia Beach, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Sweden's Stockholm
- Bengaluru featured among the places where water is cheapest, at \$0.13 (₹9.45).

## 'Youm-e-Rasul Mir' Celebrated After Three Decades In South Kashmir



- The Army organised 'Youm-e-Rasul Mir' to celebrate the works of the leading 19th century romantic poet of Kashmir in his hometown Dooru-Shahabad here after a gap of over three decades.
- The event will help the youth to connect with their roots, culture and Kashmiriyat and move forward with their heads held high, an Army officer said.
- The festival organised by the 19 Rashtriya Rifles with support of the civil administration saw scintillating performances by popular singers, dancers and dramatists who highlighted the works of Rasul Mir, popularly known as 'John Keats of Kashmir'.
- Rasul Mir was a legendary poet of Kashmir and was known as 'imam-e-Ishqiya Shayari' (the epitome of romantic poetry).
- This day used to be celebrated here (Dooru) earlier, but was stopped after the eruption of terrorism

## Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP)



- The KMMTTP, named after the Kaladan River that flows from the Chin state in Myanmar through India's North Eastern state of Mizoram to merge into the Bay of Bengal.
- Connecting Mizoram with Myanmar, through a multimodal transport corridor, would enable easy trade and transit transport movement in this region.
- This project would allow the North East region, tenuously connected to the mainland through a 21 km Chicken's Neck corridor in the upper West Bengal and flanked by Nepal and Bhutan, to be easily accessible.
- The KMMTTP (with two modes of transport – waterway and roadways) moves through the Rakhine State and Chin State in Myanmar and Mizoram in India.
- As planned, the KMMTTP would reduce the distance of transportation between Kolkata and Sittwe in Myanmar by shortening the route from 1,880 km via the Chicken's Neck to 930 km.
- The multimodal transportation includes cargo movement through three different modes viz. coastal shipping, inland waterway and road transport.

## Components of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- Construction of an integrated port and Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) terminal at Sittwe, including reclamation of land and dredging
- Development of navigational channel along river Kaladan from Sittwe to Paletwa (158 km)
- Construction of an Inland waterway — Highway trans-shipment terminal at Paletwa
- Construction of seven IWT barges (each with a capacity of 300 tonnes) for transportation of cargo by waterway between Sittwe and Paletwa
- Building a highway (110 km) from Paletwa to the India–Myanmar border (Zorinpui) in Mizoram.
- The Kaladan River is a river in eastern Mizoram State of India, and in Chin State and Rakhine State of western Myanmar.
- The Kaladan River is called the Chhimtuipui River in India.
- It forms the international border between India and Burma between 22° 47' 10" N (where its tributary, the Tiau River, joins it) and 22° 11' 06" N.
- Kaladan was an entry point to Mizoram from the seaport of Sittwe in 1904.
- Kaladan is Mizoram's largest river and it flows through its southeastern region.

## Hazaras



- Hazara is one of two Ethnic groups in Afghanistan (second one is Pashtun).
- Hazara people are minorities in Afghanistan, as they are Persian speaking, and they usually live in the center of the country.
- Language: A Hazari dialect of Persian/a dialect of Dari (Farsi dialect) called Hazaragi
- Native/location: Majority of them live in the mountainous region of Hazarajat, in central Afghanistan. And others live in the Badakhshan mountains
- Origin: The word Hazara means 'thousand' in Persian but given the Hazaras' typical physical features, current theory supports their descent from Mongol soldiers left behind by Genghis Khan in the 13th century.
- Religion / sect: Vast majority follow the Shi'a sect (Twelver Imami) of Islam.
- A significant number are also followers of the Ismaili sect while a small number are Sunni Muslim.
- Culture: They are famous for their music and poetry and the proverbs from which their poetry stems.
- The poetry and music are mainly folkloric having been passed down orally through the generations.

- Hazaras are believed to have settled in Afghanistan at least as far back as the thirteenth century
- The Hazaras are said to be descendants of Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol empire, and the Mongol soldiers who swept through the region in the 13th century.

## Sendai Framework

7 GLOBAL TARGETS	
Reduce	Increase
<b>Mortality/</b> global population <small>2020-2030 Average &lt;&lt; 2005-2015 Average</small>	Countries with national & local DRR strategies <small>2020 Value &gt;&gt; 2015 Value</small>
<b>Affected people/</b> global population <small>2020-2030 Average &lt;&lt; 2005-2015 Average</small>	<b>International            cooperation</b> to developing countries <small>2030 Value &gt;&gt; 2015 Value</small>
<b>Economic loss/</b> global GDP <small>2030 Ratio &lt;&lt; 2015 Ratio</small>	<b>Availability and access</b> to multi-hazard early warning systems & disaster risk information and assessments <small>2030 Values &gt;&gt; 2015 Values</small>
<b>Damage to critical infrastructure            &amp; disruption of basic services</b> <small>2030 Values &lt;&lt; 2015 Values</small>	

- in virtual address, the Prime Minister of India emphasised that 2021 being the mid-point of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Paris agreement and the Sendai Framework, the expectations from the COP26 later this year are high
- The COP-26 is the 26th UN conference on climate change being organised by the UK in Glasgow from November 1-12

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework)
- It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.
- Goal: Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience

### Scope & Purpose:

- The present framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or manmade hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.
- It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors
- The Framework works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements, including The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and ultimately the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR)
- It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

- Four priority areas of the framework
- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

## Indian rupee becomes only Asian currency to gain in March



- The Indian rupee is the only currency in Asia that witnessed gains against the US dollar this month amid a broad sell-off in risk assets.
- The rupee has advanced 1.3% in March so far, according to Bloomberg.
- The currency's gains are largely due to "the huge line-up of IPOs and possible robust foreign interest", as per Emkay Global Financial Services.

## Hallmarking of gold jewellery compulsory from June 1: BIS



- Only hallmarked gold jewellery and artefacts are to be sold from June 1, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) said in a notification to jewellers.
- This would protect both the interests of consumers as well as help jewellers keep a check on supplier quality, BIS added.
- Registration fee for jewellers with annual turnover of less than ₹5 crore is ₹7,500.

## Karnataka to produce, sell gold jewellery under its own brand name



- Karnataka government is planning to produce and sell gold jewellery through retail outlets on the lines of state-run Mysore Silks and Mysore Sandalwood Soaps, Mines Minister Murugesh Nirani said.
- The jewellery will be promoted under Karnataka's brand name and gold coins will carry the state emblem. Gold production in Karnataka mines will be increased from 1,700 kg to 5,000 kg.