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NEWS IN SHORT

- NEWS ①:** Ministry of Earth Sciences rolled out the draft Blue Economy policy
- NEWS ②:** "Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH)" inaugurated
- NEWS ③:** PM launched the 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' programme
- NEWS ④:** IEA released the India Energy Outlook 2021 Report
- NEWS ⑤:** Essar Oil and GEPL signs Memorandum of Understanding
- NEWS ⑥:** Piramal Group Gets RBI nod to Acquire DHFL
- NEWS ⑦:** HCL Technologies has inked an agreement with the IIT Kanpur
- NEWS ⑧:** AP CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Blue Economy Policy

- Ministry of Earth Sciences has rolled out the draft Blue Economy policy, inviting suggestions and inputs from various stakeholders.
- It is in line with the Government of India's Vision of New India by 2030. It is the sustainable use of ocean resources.

"Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH)"

- Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated CRTDH – a Research Facility at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.
- It aims to provide support to Pharma Industry and Academia for conducting advanced research in the field of Drug discovery.

'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' programme & laid the foundation stone for 2 Bridges 'Dhubri-Phulbari' bridge which is set to be India's Longest Bridge & 'Majuli' Bridge in Assam.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India Energy Outlook 2021

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released the India Energy Outlook 2021 Report. It is a new special report from the IEA's World Energy Outlook series.
- According to the report, India overtakes the European Union as the world's third- biggest energy consumer by 2030.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Essar Oil and GEPL signs Memorandum of Understanding

- Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd has signed a MoU for collaboration with Indian School of Mines -ISM, Dhanbad (Jharkhand).
- Both entities will work together on research and development of various advanced coal bed methane technological innovations.

Piramal Group Gets RBI nod to Acquire DHFL

- The Reserve Bank of India has given approval to the Dewan Housing Finance Corporation resolution plan from Piramal Capital and Housing Finance, a company of Piramal group that was submitted by the Committee of Creditors.



GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

Gangetic River Dolphin

- A **Gangetic Dolphin** was beaten to death in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh. Killing the **Gangetic River Dolphin** is a punishable **offence** under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- The Ganges river dolphin can **only live in freshwater** and is **essentially blind**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Beema Bamboo Crash Barrier

- Experts from the **Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur**, are working on the **design of crash barriers** made of **beema bamboo and coir**.
- These are being developed as a **low-cost alternative** to steel barriers to **reduce accident deaths** on highways.

HCL Technologies has inked an agreement with the IIT Kanpur

- **HCL Technologies** has inked an **agreement** with the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** to collaborate in the area of **cybersecurity**.
- As per the pact, the IT company will work with **C3iHub**, a specialised **cybersecurity research centre** at IITK.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award

- The **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** has been conferred the **Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award**.
- The award selection was based on a study of **project-level outcomes in various States**.

Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020

- **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**, under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, was selected as one of the **winners** of the **5th Asia Environmental Enforcement Award, 2020** by the **United Nations Environment Programme**.
- WCCB has won the award under the **Innovation** category.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Kiran Bedi

- **Kiran Bedi**, the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry, has been **removed** from the position.
- **Tamilisai Soundararajan**, the **Governor of Telangana**, has been given **additional charge** as the **Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry** till a permanent replacement will be announced.

Usha Rao Monari

- **António Guterres**, **United Nations Secretary-General** appointed **Ms. Usha Rao-Monari** of India as **Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator** of the **United Nations Development Programme**.
- She succeeds **Mourad Wahba** of Egypt.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

'Indian Economy's Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead'

- **Arun Kumar** has authored a new book titled, **'Indian Economy's Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead'**. The book is published by **Penguin Random House**.

"Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love"

- **"Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love"**, authored by **Ashis Ghatak** is the **biography of Louis Banks**, the **Godfather of Indian Jazz**.
- **Ustad Zakir Hussain**, the **tabla maestro** has **written the foreword** of this book. The book published by **Rupa Publications**.

"The Epic Battle of Longewala"

- **Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria** launched the book **"The Epic Battle of Longewala"** authored by **Air Marshal (retd) Bharat Kumar**.
- The book features the candid details about the events that happened during the **1971 battle of Longewala**.

OBITUARY

Congress leader Satish Sharma, passed away at 73

- **Captain Satish Sharma**, **Veteran congress leader** and the **former Member of Parliament**, passed away at the age of 73.
- He served as the **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas** from 1993 to 1996 under the **PV Narasimha Rao**.