

## 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' in Assam



- To mark the launch of 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra', he inaugurated the Ro-Pax vessel operations between Neamati-Majuli Island, North Guwahati-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari.
- He laid the foundation stone of Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal at Jogighopa and various tourist jetties on River Brahmaputra and launched digital solutions for Ease-of-Doing-Business.
- **Note:** 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' programme will strengthen water connectivity by Brahmaputra water through port-led development.

- **Facts about Assam:**

**World Heritage Sites:** Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary

## 2. India hosts SAARC virtual meet



- India hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries on February 18, 2021 to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Pakistan has been also invited to attend the workshop.
- The virtual workshop was held on COVID-19 management and response to the pandemic and exchange of best practices amid the pandemic.
- **Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed a Coronavirus Emergency Fund for the SAARC region during a video conference of the SAARC Heads of State on March 15, 2020.
- **Facts about SAARC:** The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia. Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**Founded:** 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Headquarters:** Kathmandu, Nepal

**Secretary General:** Esala Weerakoon

### 3. Union Minister launches Software Applications and instruction manuals with questionnaire for five All India Surveys



- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar launched the trainers' training programme for the All India Surveys being conducted by Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment by releasing the Instruction Manuals & Questionnaires for the surveys and the software application developed.
- **The Labour Bureau is entrusted with five All India surveys:** All India Survey of Migrant workers, Domestic Workers, Employment generated by Professionals, Employment generated in Transport Sector and Quarterly Establishment based Employment
- **Note:** The surveys are significant in terms of the path-breaking initiative being taken by the Bureau in terms of use of Information Technology (IT) in the entire chain of data collection to report generation.

### 4. Cabinet approves Amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to introduce measures for strengthening Child Protection set-up to ensure best interest of children.

- The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** has been passed by Parliament of India amidst intense controversy, debate and protest on many of its provisions by Child Rights fraternity. It replaced the Indian juvenile delinquency law, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and allows for juveniles in conflict with Law in the age group of 16–18, involved in Heinous Offences, to be tried as adults.

#### 5. IIT Madras-incubated startup Pi Beam has launched an electric two-wheeler, PiMo, for Rs 30,000



- PiMo is a vehicle that's between an electric bicycle and entry-level electric scooter.
- PiMo, having 90% of components manufactured in India, is a stylishly designed two-wheeler offering a range of 50 km on a single charge with a top speed of 25 kmph.
- The company aims to sell 10,000 units by the end of next financial year (2021-22).
- **About Pi Beam:** "Pi Beam is an incubated company at IIT-M to bring electric mobility in India. They have been working on vehicles which essentially enable carrying of goods and passengers.

#### 6. Amazon to set up its first device manufacturing line in India



- Amazon is setting up its first device manufacturing line in India to make Fire TV sticks locally and has partnered with Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, to begin producing the device at its Chennai plant later this year.

- It reiterated its commitment to invest \$1 billion into the country to digitise 10 million small and medium businesses by 2025 and create 1 million additional jobs by then.
- **Note:** Amazon Fire TV stick is one of the best-selling devices. It is powered by a 1.7 GHz quad-core processor that enables faster streaming in 1080p at 60fps with HDR compatibility.

#### 7. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy conferred Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award



- The Award has been presented to the CM by Chairman, Skoch group, Sameer Kochhar personally at Tadepalli in Andhra Pradesh.
- **About SKOCH Award:** SKOCH Award, independently instituted in 2003, is India's honest civilian honour conferred by an independent organisation as a third party assessment. It is the only award in the country that is based on felt-needs assessment and outcome evaluation based on evidence. It recognises people, projects and institutions.

#### 8. WCCB receives Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020



- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020 awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said that WCCB getting the award twice in three years is a testimony of India's commitment towards ending wildlife crime.
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been awarded this year under the Innovation category.
- **Note:** Earlier, the Bureau had received the award in 2018 under the same category.

### 9. Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan sworn-in as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Puducherry



- Chief Justice of Madras High Court Justice Sanjib Banerjee administered the oath of office to the LG.
- **Note:** Soundararajan is the fifth woman to hold the post of Lt Governor of Puducherry, after Chandrawati, Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Rajani Rai and Kiran Bedi.
- **Recently**, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi was removed from her post when the Union Territory was witnessing a political crisis.

### 10. N. Venudhar Reddy takes over as Principal DG, AIR News



- Senior officer of Indian Information Service N. Venudhar Reddy took over as Principal Director General of AIR (All India Radio) News.
- **Note:** Mr. Reddy replaces Jaideep Bhatnagar who is now posted as Officer on Special Duty to the Press Information Bureau, PIB. Mr. Bhatnagar will take over as Principal Director General of PIB from 1st March.
- **All India Radio (AIR)**, officially known since 1957 as **Akashvani** ("Voice from the Sky"), is the national public radio broadcaster of India and is a division of Prasar Bharati. It was established in 1936.

### 11. Japan Olympics Minister Hashimoto to accept role as head of Tokyo Olympics 2021



- Japanese Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto, a woman who has competed in seven Olympic Games, intends to accept the job of Head of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee.
- Former chairman of the committee Yoshiro Mori had resigned from the post last week over indecent remarks on women.
- **Note:** Originally scheduled to take place between 24 July and 9 August 2020, the Olympic Games are now rescheduled for 23 July to 8 August 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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