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NEWS IN SHORT

NEWS ①: Energy Efficiency Enterprise (E3) Certifications Programme for the Brick Manufacturing Sector launched

NEWS ②: Bullet Train Project MoU signed

NEWS ③: 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' inaugurated by PM

NEWS ④: "Maha Samruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran scheme" launched by Maharashtra

NEWS ⑤: 24th Annual Global CEO Survey released by Price Waterhouse coopers

NEWS ⑥: BNP Paribas sold the major part of its share in SBI Life

NEWS ⑦: Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra - a dedicated digital portal

NEWS ⑧: NIO launched project of Genome Mapping in the Indian Ocean

NEWS ⑨: NASA has predicted that the asteroid '2001 FO32' is the largest to pass by Earth in 2021

NEWS ⑩: ISRO launched a new Sounding rocket from its Rohini Series, RH-560

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Energy Efficiency Enterprise

- The Ministry of Power has launched "Energy Efficiency Enterprise (E3) Certifications Programme for the Brick Manufacturing Sector".
- The E3 Certification Scheme is aimed at tapping huge energy efficiency potential in this sector. E3 certification is an accreditation process focused on the Brick industry.

Bullet Train Project

- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited & Japan Railway Track Consultant Co. Limited virtually signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Track works in the 237-km stretch between Vadodara & Vapi in Gujarat for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail also known as Bullet Train Project.

"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the curtain raiser activities of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at the event organised in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- He also flagged off the Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad to Dandi, Gujarat as a part of the India@75 programme.

STATE AFFAIRS

"Maha Samruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran scheme"

- Maharashtra launched the "Maha Samruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran scheme" to empower the women in rural areas.
- Rural Development department will be the nodal body for the implementation of the scheme.
- Under this scheme, the Self Help Groups will organise exhibitions to showcase the works of the rural women.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

24th Annual Global CEO Survey

- According to Price Waterhouse coopers 24th Annual Global CEO Survey, India emerged as the 5th most attractive growth destination in the world.
- India has slipped one position to 5th, after being surpassed by the United Kingdom which took the 4th Position. USA emerged as the Number one.



BUSINESS & ECONOMY

BNP Paribas sold the major part of its share in SBI Life

- The foreign partner of **SBI Life Insurance**, **BNP Paribas**, sold the major part of its share in **SBI Life** through the **open market process**.
- Over **5 crore shares** are sold which is around **4.99% stake**. SBI Life was incorporated as a joint venture between **SBI and BNPPC** as a **74:26 equity ratio**.

'Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra'

- To promote domestic investments, the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** is in the process of finalising a **dedicated digital portal – Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra** – for **hand holding, information broadcasting**, and provide **assistance of domestic investors**.
- It is under the supervision of the **commerce and industry ministry**.

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Genome Mapping in Indian Ocean

- **National Institute of Oceanography** is going to launch the first-of-its-kind project of **Genome Mapping in the Indian Ocean**.
- It's aim is to gather **samples for genome mapping of microorganisms** in the Indian Ocean and to understand the **biochemistry and nutrient stress and increasing pollution of the ocean**.

Hemiandrus jacinda

- **Hemiandrus jacinda** is a **species of wētā**, native to **New Zealand** was named after **New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** and was published in **Zootaxa journal**.
- The insect is red in colour and **"longlimbed"**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Asteroid 2001 FO32

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** has predicted that the **asteroid '2001 FO32'** is the largest to **pass by Earth in 2021**.
- It will be at its closest on **21st March**. It will provide a rare opportunity for astronomers to get a good look at a rocky relic that formed at the dawn of our solar system.

Rohini Series, RH-560

- **Indian Space Research Organisation** launched a new **Sounding rocket** from its **Rohini Series, RH-560** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota Range, Andhra Pradesh**.
- This Sounding rocket will help in carrying out **studies in the upper Atmospheric regions**, on **Altitude Variations in the Neutral Winds and Plasma Dynamics**.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

UN's 2020 Asia Environmental Enforcement Award

- **Sasmita Lenka**, Divisional Forest Officer, Odisha received the **United Nations's 2020 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards** under the category **Impact and Gender Leadership**.
- She became the **first Indian** to receive the award. The 2020 theme of the Awards is **"Fighting Transboundary Environmental Crimes"**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Swami Chidbhavanandaji's Bhagavad Gita

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the **Kindle version of Swami Chidbhavanandaji's Bhagavad Gita** through virtual mode.
- He is the **founder of Sri Ramakrishna Tapovanam Ashram** at **Thirupparaithurai, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu**, who has **authored 186 books** and all genres of literary composition.