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## NEWS IN SHORT

**NEWS ①:** India, Qatar Hold Fourth Foreign Office Consultations

**NEWS ②:** 'Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)' with a corpus of INR 945 crores

**NEWS ③:** National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' 2021 inaugurated

**NEWS ④:** France's Ecological Transition Minister, Barbara Pompil's 5-day visit to India

**NEWS ⑤:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs includes 14 New Minor Forest Produce items under MSP scheme

**NEWS ⑥:** 8th India International Silk Fair inaugurated

**NEWS ⑦:** 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' Mission launched in Punjab

**NEWS ⑧:** 15th Finance Commission Recommendations accepted by Govt.

**NEWS ⑨:** US Startup bluShift Aerospace launches 'Stardust 1.0'

**NEWS ⑩:** 2nd February 2021 marks the 25th World Wetlands Day

**NEWS ⑪:** Ashok Dinda announces retirement from all forms of cricket

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 03.02.2021

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

**'Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)' with a corpus of INR 945 crores**

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has given the approval for setting up of **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme** for the period 2021-25.
- The scheme will provide funds to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry & commercialization.

#### National Tribal Festival

- Vice President of India inaugurated the **National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' 2021** at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.
- The festival is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs includes 14 New Minor Forest Produce items under MSP scheme**

- The 14 items are **Tasar Cocoon, Cashew Kernel, Elephant Apple Dry, Bamboo Shoot, Malkangani Seed, Mahul Leaves, Nagod, Gokhru, Pipla/Uchithi, Gamhar/Gamari, Oroxylumindicum, Wild Mushroom dry, Shringraj & Tree Moss.**

**France's Ecological Transition Minister, Barbara Pompil's 5-day visit to India**

- During the visit several initiatives were signed & discussed between the two countries for **boosting the Indo-French cooperation in sustainable development** such as sustainable development, **renewable energy, Biodiversity Conservation, Smart cities & plastic waste management.**

#### 8th India International Silk Fair

- Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles, **Smriti Zubin Irani** virtually addressed the inaugural session of **India's Biggest Silk Fair.**
- India is the only country in the world to produce all **4 varieties of Silk - Mulberry, Eri, Tassar (Tropical & Temperate), and Muga.**

### STATE AFFAIRS

**'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' Mission**

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain **Amarinder Singh** virtually launched **'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission**, aimed at providing **100% potable water supply** to all rural households of the state by March, 2022.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### India, Qatar Hold Fourth Foreign Office Consultations

- **Fourth Foreign Office Consultation** was held between **India and Qatar** over a virtual platform.
- Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India led the Indian side and Dr. Ahmad Hassen Al-Hammadi, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar, led the Qatari side.

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

### 15th Finance Commission Recommendations

- The government accepted the **15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission's recommendation** to maintain the **States' share** in the divisible pool of taxes to **41%** for the five-year period starting 2021-22.
- Its recommendations will cover a period of **five years from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26**.

## ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Cyrtodactylus arunachalensis

- A team of researchers discovered a **new species of gecko** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The species is named **"Cyrtodactylus arunachalensis"** after Arunachal Pradesh, the state in which it was discovered. These **geckos are nocturnal**.

### US Startup bluShift Aerospace launches 'Stardust 1.0'

- **United States** based Startup **bluShift Aerospace** launched **'Stardust 1.0'** from **Loring Commerce Centre** in **Maine, US**.
- It is the **World's 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Rocket** launch powered by **Biofuel**. Stardust 1.0 is a launch vehicle which is capable of launching tiny nanosatellites.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### "The Little Book of Encouragement"

- The **14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama** authored a new book titled **"The Little Book of Encouragement"**. The book edited by **Renuka Singh** is published by **Penguin Random House**.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 2nd February 2021 marks the 25th World Wetlands Day

- **World Wetlands Day** is annually observed across the globe on **2<sup>nd</sup> February** to create awareness about the **importance of wetlands and their roles towards humans and the planet**.
- The theme of World Wetlands Day 2021 is **"Wetlands and Water"**.

## SPORTS

### Ashok Dinda announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- **Dinda**, took **420 first-class wickets** and has also played **13 ODIs and nine T20s for India**, taking **12 and 17 wickets** respectively.
- He has also played in the Indian Premier League, turning out for teams like **Kolkata Knight Riders** and **Pune Warriors**.

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