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# -----NEWS IN SHORT

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NEWS 2: Indradhanush 3.0 launched

NEWS 3: 11th World PetroCoal Congress 2021 and World Future Fuel Summit 2021 held in New

Delhi

N EWS (4): Bilateral Military Exercise 'PASSEX'

conducted

**NEWS** (3): United States has officially re-joined the Paris

climate agreement

NEWS 6: Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme launched

NEWS (9: Indian Bank signed MoU with Society for **Innovation and Development** 

NEWS ®: Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram

NEWS 9: Helina and Dhruvastra Anti-Tank Guided Missiles trails carried out by DRDO

N EWS @: Atal Paryavaran Bhavan at Lakshadweep inaugurated

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 20.02.2021

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### **Epilepsy**

- A major drugmaker has developed the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) and the finished dosage formulation of **Brivanext**, a **drug for epilepsy**.
- **Epilepsy** is a central nervous system (neurological) disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal.

### Indradhanush 3.0

- Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0.
- It is to provide immunization to the pregnant women and children free of cost in India.

# STATE AFFAIRS

### Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram

- The PM extended his wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on their 35th Statehood Day.
- Mizoram became the 23<sup>rd</sup> state of India with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Amendment, 1986. Similarly, through the 55<sup>th</sup> Amendment 1986, Arunachal Pradesh became the 24<sup>th</sup> state of the Indian Union on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1987.

# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### 11th World PetroCoal Congress 2021

• Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Dharmendra Pradhan,** addressed the Joint Conference of the 11<sup>th</sup> World PetroCoal Congress 2021 and World Future Fuel Summit 2021 in New Delhi. with theme "Petroleum-Coal-Gas: Towards a Win-Win Strategy for Producer and Consumer".

#### 'PASSEX'

- Indian Navy conducted a Bilateral Military Exercise 'PASSEX' (Passage Exercise) with the Indonesian Navy in the Arabian Sea.
- The main aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability & strengthen the Bilateral Maritime Cooperation between the two navies.

### United States has officially re-joined the Paris climate agreement

- The United States has officially re-joined the Paris climate accord. The president of US, Joe Biden, had signed the executive order to reversed the withdrawal ordered by former President, Donald Trump.
- It is an agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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# **BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

#### **Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme**

- Bank of Maharashtra in partnership with Vayana Network, launched its Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme, a Channel Financing solution for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- It enables BoM to provide **short term credit** to meet funding requirements.

### Indian Bank signed MoU with Society for Innovation and **Development**

Indian Bank signed Memorandum of Understanding with Society for Innovation and Development, an initiative of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru to provide exclusive credit facility to start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Helina and Dhruvastra

- DRDO has successfully carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed Helina and Dhruvastra Anti-Tank Guided Missiles from the Advanced Light Helicopter at the Pokhran deserts in Rajasthan.
- Helena is the Army version and Dhruvastra is the Air Force version.

# ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

### "Making Peace With Nature"

• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report title "Making Peace With Nature", climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution posing a triple threat to human health due to environmental degradation.

#### **Atal Paryavaran Bhavan**

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, inaugurated the Atal Paryavaran Bhavan at Lakshadweep.
- Lakshadweep is a group of islands is located 200 to 440 km off the southwestern coast of India.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Seiko Hashimoto

- **Seiko Hashimoto**, who was serving as the Minister for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games became the President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- She succeeds Yoshiro Mori.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#### TIME100 Next 2021

- Chandra Shekhar Aazad (Bhim Army Chief ) have been featured in the 2021 TIME100 Next.
- TIME100 Next 2021 is the second edition of the annual list of Time magazine's 100 'emerging leaders who are shaping the future.'

# **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

### "Star Struck: Confessions of a TV Executive"

- Peter Mukerjea, the former CEO of Star India Network, has penned down his memoir titled "Star Struck: Confessions of a TV Executive".
- The book is published by Westland Books.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

#### Soil Health Card Day

- Soil Health Card Day has been observed on 19 February to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card Scheme.
- 2021 marks the sixth year of the launch of the SHC Scheme.

### World Pangolin Day

- World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the "Third Saturday of February" every year.
- In 2021, this Day is being celebrated on 20 February 2020. The day aims to raise awareness about pangolins and speed up conservation efforts.

#### **World Day of Social Justice**

- World Day of Social Justice is observed annually all over the world on 20 February.
- This year theme is "A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy".

# **SPORTS**

### Dhammika Prasad

- Sri Lanka fast bowler Dhammika Prasad has announced his **retirement** from international cricket.
- He played **25 Tests** and **24 ODIs** for Sri Lanka and took 75 and 32 wickets respectively.

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