

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–FEBRUARY 4, 2021

STATES

- Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amarinder Singh - has launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission through video conferencing

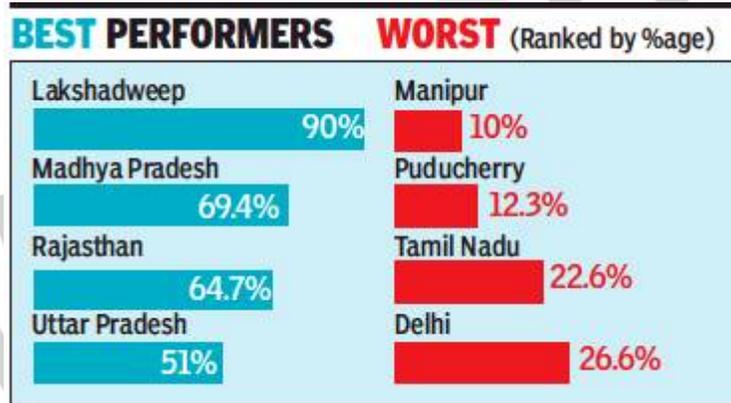


- ✓ This mission is the part of the government's campaign to complete the goal of 100% potable piped water supply in all rural households by March 2022.
- ✓ The CM also inaugurated one Mega Surface Water Supply Scheme, covering the 85 villages in the Moga district.
- ✓ The scheme comprises of 144 new water supply schemes for 172 villages, alongwith 121 Arsenic and Iron removal plants.
- ✓ It will help in replacing the groundwater with the surface water supply for drinking.
- ✓ The scheme is being funded by the World Bank, NABARD, Jal Jeevan Mission and State Budget.
- ✓ The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019 to provide safe and adequate drinking water.
- ✓ The scheme seeks to provide tap water to the individual houses by 2024 in rural India.

NATIONAL

- India – became the fastest country to vaccinate more than 4 million people

- ✓ As on February 2, around 47% of the total 92,61,227 health workers enrolled from the public and private sectors were vaccinated in 18 days since the launch of its vaccination drive on January 16
- ✓ Compared to India, the US took 20 days, whereas UK and Israel took 39 days to vaccinate four million people.
- ✓ Among the major states, Madhya Pradesh vaccinated the highest 69.4% of its healthcare workers, followed by Rajasthan at 64.7%.
- ✓ However, in absolute numbers, Uttar Pradesh vaccinated the highest over 4.63 lakh, 51% of its more than 9 lakh healthcare workers in 18 days.
- ✓ Maharashtra, with the largest health workforce with 9,36,857 beneficiaries registered, vaccinated only 34%.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu (22.6%), Delhi (26.6%), Chhattisgarh (29%), Puducherry (12.3%) and Goa (28.3%) are among the other states with poor coverage of Covid vaccination.
- ✓ Manipur has registered the lowest vaccination at 10% till February 2.
- ✓ Lakshadweep has covered 90% of its health workers and tops the list despite its small demographic.



- ✓ West Bengal and Karnataka, both with over 7 lakh health beneficiaries each, have inoculated 41.1% and 40.9%, respectively.
 - ✓ Other states like Odisha, Kerala, Haryana and Gujarat have over 50% coverage of their total health workforce.
 - ✓ The government aims to inoculate a total of around three crore health and frontline workers on priority by March-April.
- **Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman – proposed a “Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme” during the Union Budget 2021 presentation**
- ✓ The scheme will help the industries to attract large investments, boost employment generation and exports.
 - ✓ MITRA scheme will be launched in addition to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI).
 - ✓ The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme is a Central Sector scheme that was notified in April 2020
 - ✓ It was initially launched for the domestic manufacturing of mobile phones and specified electronic components.

- ✓ In the later phase, it was rolled out for the pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices.
- ✓ This scheme provides 4% to 6% incentive to the eligible companies who are manufacturing goods for 5 years period.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – appreciated a girl from Odisha named Bhagyashree in his recent mann ki baat programme aired on January 31**



- ✓ The girl was an exponent of the art of Pattachitra on various themes using the soft stones.
- ✓ The girl developed her skill during the lockdowns and created pattachitra art works on unused bottles, electric bulbs and various glass and plastic materials.
- ✓ Pattachitra or Patachitra is an intricate art form generally used for the traditional, cloth-based scroll painting.
- ✓ It is performed in the states of Odisha and West Bengal.
- ✓ The art form is known for the mythological narratives and folktales inscribed in it.
- ✓ This is an ancient art form in Odisha which is created for ritual use and as souvenirs for pilgrims to temples.
- ✓ These art forms are also part of an ancient Bengali narrative art.
- ✓ The literal meaning of the word “Pajtta” is “cloth” and “Chitra” means “picture” in Sanskrit.
- ✓ The colours used in the Paintings are natural and the paintings are made in old traditional way by Chitrakaras (Odiya Painter).
- ✓ The Odia paintings done on canvas are based on Hindu mythology, inspired by Jagannath and Vaishnava sect.
- ✓ Pattachitra style of painting is the mix of both folk and classical elements.
- ✓ They are divided into three categories based on the medium namely, Paintings on cloth or ‘Patta Chitra’, Paintings on walls or ‘Bhitti Chitra’ and Paintings on the palm leaf or “Tala Patra Chitra’.
- ✓ The Geographical indication (GI) of Patachitra is registered differently in both the states because style and motif of the paintings in both the state are different.
- ✓ Patachitra of Odisha is registered as Orissa Pattachitra while that of West Bengal is registered as Bengal Patachitra.

- **Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman - announced an agricultural infrastructure and development cess (AIDC) on some goods while presenting Union Budget 2021.**
 - ✓ It will be applied on a small number of items without causing any additional burden to customers
 - ✓ The various items on which the AIDC will be levied includes petrol, diesel, gold, silver and dore bars, alcoholic beverages, crude palm oil, crude soyabean and sunflower oil, apples, coal, lignite and peat, specified fertilizers, Kabuli chana, Lentil (Mosur), Bengal Gram/Chick Peas, peas and Cotton which are not Carded
 - ✓ The AIDC was announced in different slabs for different commodities to enhance remuneration for the farmers and improve the agriculture infrastructure
 - ✓ Cess on petrol and diesel will not amount any additional burden on consumers because of the reduction in the special additional excise duty levied earlier

- **Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu - has inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat in New Delhi on February 1, 2021**



- ✓ The festival comprises the display and sale of tribal art & craft, medicine, cuisine and folk performances
- ✓ It is being organised at Dilli Haat, INA and feature more than thousand tribal artisans, artists and chefs from across the 20 States of the country
- ✓ The tribal communities will provide a glimpse of their rich traditional culture.
- ✓ The festival is conceived by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the year 2017.
- ✓ It will continue till February 15, 2021.
- ✓ The festival is organised under the theme: “Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce”.

INTERNATIONAL

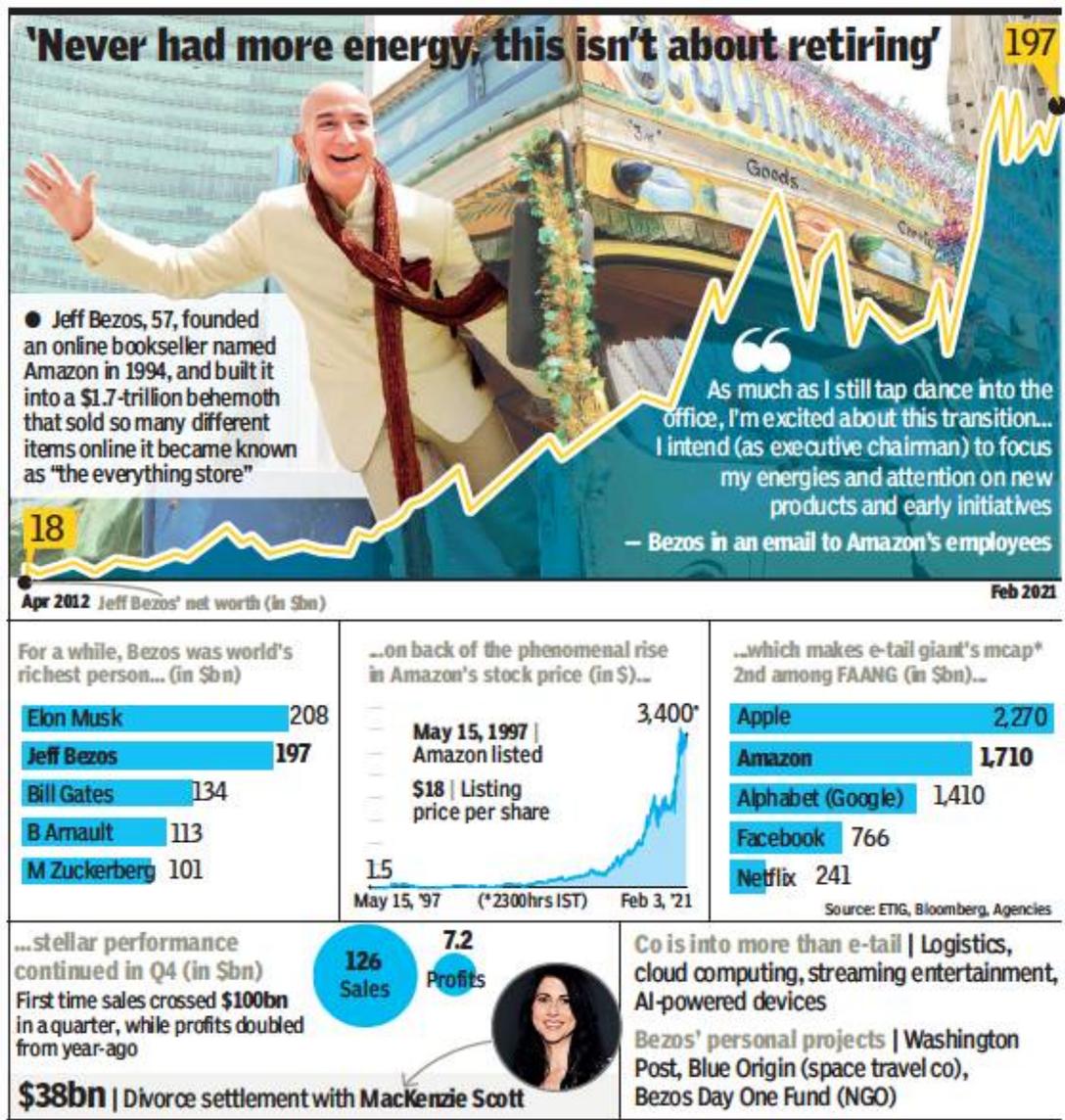
- **On February 3, U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration - extended the New START nuclear treaty with Russia by five years**

- ✓ One day before the treaty was set to expire, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States was extending New START by the maximum allowed time of five years.
 - ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin signed off on legislation extending the accord on January 29
 - ✓ Accordingly, the treaty — signed by then-President Barack Obama in 2010 — will run until February 5, 2026.
 - ✓ The last remaining arms reduction pact between the former Cold War rivals, New START caps to 1,550 the number of nuclear warheads that can be deployed by Moscow and Washington.
 - ✓ Former President Donald Trump’s administration cancelled previous agreements with Moscow and unsuccessfully sought to expand New START to cover China.
- **Elon Musk’s SpaceX - has recently announced the plan to launch its first all civilian mission to the space.**
- ✓ The mission has been named as Inspiration4 and it will be launched on a Falcon 9 rocket
 - ✓ SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket will launch the Crew Dragon spacecraft into low Earth orbit.
 - ✓ The spacecraft scheduled to fly Inspiration4 is Resilience, the Crew Dragon spacecraft currently docked to the International Space Station in support of NASA’s Crew-1 mission.
 - ✓ This would be the first all-commercial astronaut mission in the world, to be launched by October 2021
 - ✓ It will be launched from the Launch Complex 39A at the NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
 - ✓ The four-member crew mission aims to support \$200 million fundraising for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital for its Cancer research
 - ✓ The flight will be led by Jared Isaacman, a tech entrepreneur and world record setting pilot
 - ✓ The three remaining seats will be filled with members of the public who exemplify the pillars of hope, generosity, and prosperity.
 - ✓ Isaacman, the commander of the flight, is donating the costs for the seats and has already committed \$100 million to St. Jude in connection to the spaceflight.
 - ✓ The remainder of the crew for Inspiration4 will be selected at the end of February and announced in early-March.
 - ✓ This mission will orbit the Earth every 90 minutes along a customized flight path.

PERSONALITIES

- **On February 2, Jeff Bezos – announced that he would step down as the CEO of Amazon later this year**
- ✓ Jeff Bezos founded an online bookseller named Amazon in 1994

- ✓ He developed it into a \$1.7 trillion empire after successfully integrating the retail industry and turning Amazon into a logistics giant
- ✓ Later, Bezos expanded into cloud computing, streaming entertainment and artificial intelligence-powered devices
- ✓ The founder of the online retailer major, Bezos, 57, is planning to step into the role of executive chairman of the Seattle-based company this summer
- ✓ Andy Jassy, 53, the chief executive of Amazon's cloud computing division, will be promoted to run the entire company.
- ✓ The change will be effective in the third quarter, which starts in July.
- ✓ Bezos' personal wealth also soared to \$188 billion, which was surpassed only last month by Elon Musk.
- ✓ In recent years, Bezos had stepped back from much of Amazon's day-to-day business



- ✓ He instead had focused on Amazon's future and on personal projects.

- ✓ In 2013, he bought The Washington Post, and has said he spends more than \$1 billion a year on Blue Origin, his space travel company.
- ✓ Bezos will remain Amazon's biggest shareholder — he owns 10.6% of the company, according to filings — and stay on the board of directors.
- ✓ Jassy, who grew up in New York, joined Amazon in 1997 when it was still a startup and took on different roles as the company expanded.
- ✓ He eventually laid the foundation for Amazon Web Services, the cloud computing business, which he grew into an engine of innovation and profit.
- ✓ The cloud business generated \$45 billion in sales last year, up 30% from a year earlier.
- ✓ Amazon's international business (outside the US), which includes India, recorded a third consecutive quarter of profits.
- ✓ Amazon has been steadily investing in India as one of its largest markets outside the US.
- ✓ It infused around \$1.5 billion in various India units related to the e-commerce business in the financial year ended March 2020.

DEFENCE

- **The 13th edition of Aero India 2021 – was inaugurated on February 3 with an integrated display of IAF's acrobatic team Surya Kiran and Sarang at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- ✓ The event featured Rafale, which for the first time flew in Indian colours at Aero India, and the US B-1B Lancer bomber
- ✓ Apart from these two, all other aircrafts and choppers were manufactured by HAL.



- ✓ The inaugural flying display, which usually is a major highlight of the show, began with three Mi-8 helicopters flying in formation.
- ✓ The actual display started with two ALH maritime choppers and a light utility helicopter flying in formation
- ✓ It was followed by a Dhanush formation by light combat helicopters (LCHs) and HAL's Atmanirbhar formation flight that had the HTT-40, Hawk-i, Sitara (intermediate jet trainer) and Dornier-228.
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh spoke at the inaugural event of Aero India 2021

- ✓ The government has earmarked \$130 billion for military modernisation for the next eight years, as per the Minister
- ✓ He added that India hopes to create a turnover of ₹1.7 lakh crore in the next three years, including ₹35,000 crore worth of exports.
- ✓ **As part of the event, IOR defence ministers' conclave will take place at Aero India 2021**
- ✓ The conclave was organised under the theme: "Enhanced Peace, Security, and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean".
- ✓ The three-day event featuring countries in Indian Ocean Region aims to lay a strong foundation for enhanced peace, security and stability in the region.
- ✓ The conclave was attended by 18 countries.
- ✓ Among them, the Defence Ministers of 4 countries Comoros, Maldives, Madagascar, and Iran took part in the conclave.
- ✓ From six countries namely Australia, Kenya, Myanmar, Kuwait, Mauritius and Seychelles, six High Commissioners or Ambassadors participated.
- ✓ From 10 countries, the service Chief participated besides, the Defence Secretary of Sudan.
- ✓ The ₹46,898-crore order for manufacturing 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas Mark-1A' was signed on the day
- ✓ Defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will now start producing the aircraft for the Indian Air Force
- ✓ The contract includes 73 LCA Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircraft and 10 LCA Tejas Mk-1 trainer aircraft
- ✓ The Mark-1A will have 43 improvements over the Tejas Mark-1 jets which the IAF has already placed orders for earlier.
- ✓ The PSU will start delivering the first batch of aircraft in 36 months, while the final batch will be delivered by 2030.
- ✓ At present, HAL has the capacity to manufacture eight LCAs per year, which it will now augment to 16 with a second dedicated plant in Doddanekundi which was inaugurated by the Defence Minister on February 2.
- ✓ HAL has got order for 73 fighters and 10 trainers and the clearance for this was given by the cabinet committee on security (CCS) in January.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Zoho founder, Sridhar Vembu – has been appointed on National Security Advisory Board**
- ✓ Tech entrepreneur Sridhar Vembu — the founder and CEO of Chennai and US-based SaaS firm Zoho — was chosen to be the part of National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).
- ✓ The NSAB is an advisory body part of the National Security Council
- ✓ It is headed by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- ✓ Vembu was among the Padmashri awardees this year



- ✓ His role in the Board will be advisory in nature to provide inputs as and when required.
 - ✓ Vembu, who was earlier based out of Silicon Valley, moved to a village near Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu before Covid struck to prove that learning hubs could be created beyond the metros.
 - ✓ He has been busy the past year working out of his village by the mountains and has been setting up a research and development ecosystem in the hinterlands.
 - ✓ Zoho offers a full productivity suite for enterprises and has over 50 million users for its 45+ business applications
 - ✓ It has opened around 10 satellite offices in various small towns including Tenkasi, Surandai, Erode, Coimbatore and Palakkad in the past one year.
- **Gujarat cadre IPS officer Praveen Sinha - was appointed as the interim chief of CBI on February 3**

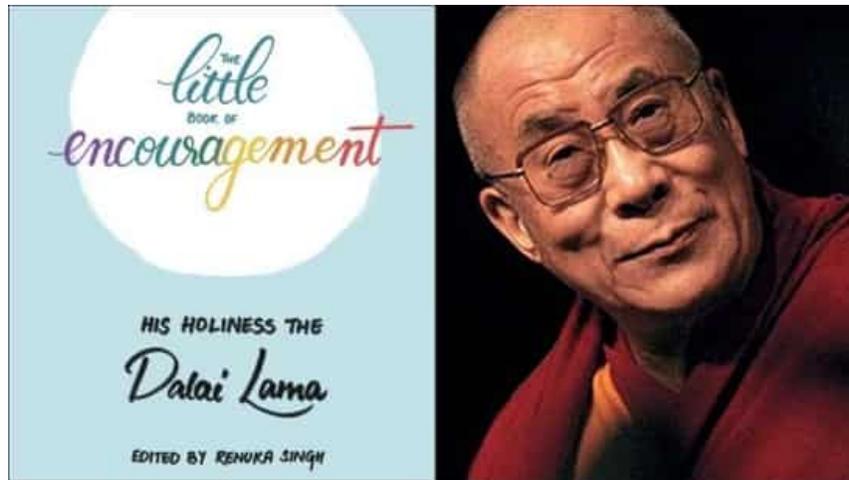


- ✓ Sinha, currently Additional Director of the CBI, will replace current chief R.K Shukla, whose two-year tenure ended.
- ✓ Shukla, a 1983-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IPS officer, was appointed in January 2019.
- ✓ The Department of Personnel and Training issued a notification appointing Sinha, a 1988-batch Gujarat cadre IPS, to take over as the CBI's interim chief.
- ✓ He will officiate as the CBI chief for a few weeks till the appointment of a Director

- ✓ The Centre has initiated the process of the new appointment by creating a panel of officers.
- ✓ Those in the panel include BSF chief and Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana, NIA chief Y.C. Mody, CISF chief Subodh Jaiswal and Kerala DGP Loknath Behera

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama - has recently launched his new book “The Little Book of Encouragement”**



- ✓ He has asked the readers to discuss the thoughts from the books with friends and put these thoughts in day-today life practice.
- ✓ The book comprises of 130 quotes and is edited by Renuka Singh
- ✓ It is published by Penguin Random House.
- ✓ Dalai Lama title has been given by the Tibetan people to the foremost spiritual leader of the Gelug or “Yellow Hat” school of Tibetan Buddhism.
- ✓ Tenzin Gyatso is the current and 14th Dalai Lama, who lives in India as a refugee.

