



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS– FEBRUARY 28, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Registration Department - has successfully completed a pilot project for automatic patta name transfer and will launch the system in phases throughout the State soon**
 - ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami is to launch the service in the 21 districts where it was pilot-tested
 - ✓ The pilot project was launched following a similar exercise in Perambalur district, where land documents since 1865 had been digitised.
 - ✓ For the purpose, the Star 2 software of the Registration Department was integrated with the digital database of the Commissioner of Survey and Settlements in the 21 districts.
 - ✓ The 21 districts having only the rural area database, including Chengalpattu, Ariyalur, Thoothukudi, Thirupathur, Theni, Erode and Namakkal, were selected.
 - ✓ The automatic patta transfer in these districts would be applicable to sale documents in the 'not involving sub-division' (NISD) category, and not to sale deeds or settlements in the 'involving sub-division' category.
 - ✓ With all documents in order, the patta name would automatically be transferred in the Sub-Registrar Office itself and the buyer need not go to the Tahsildar's office.

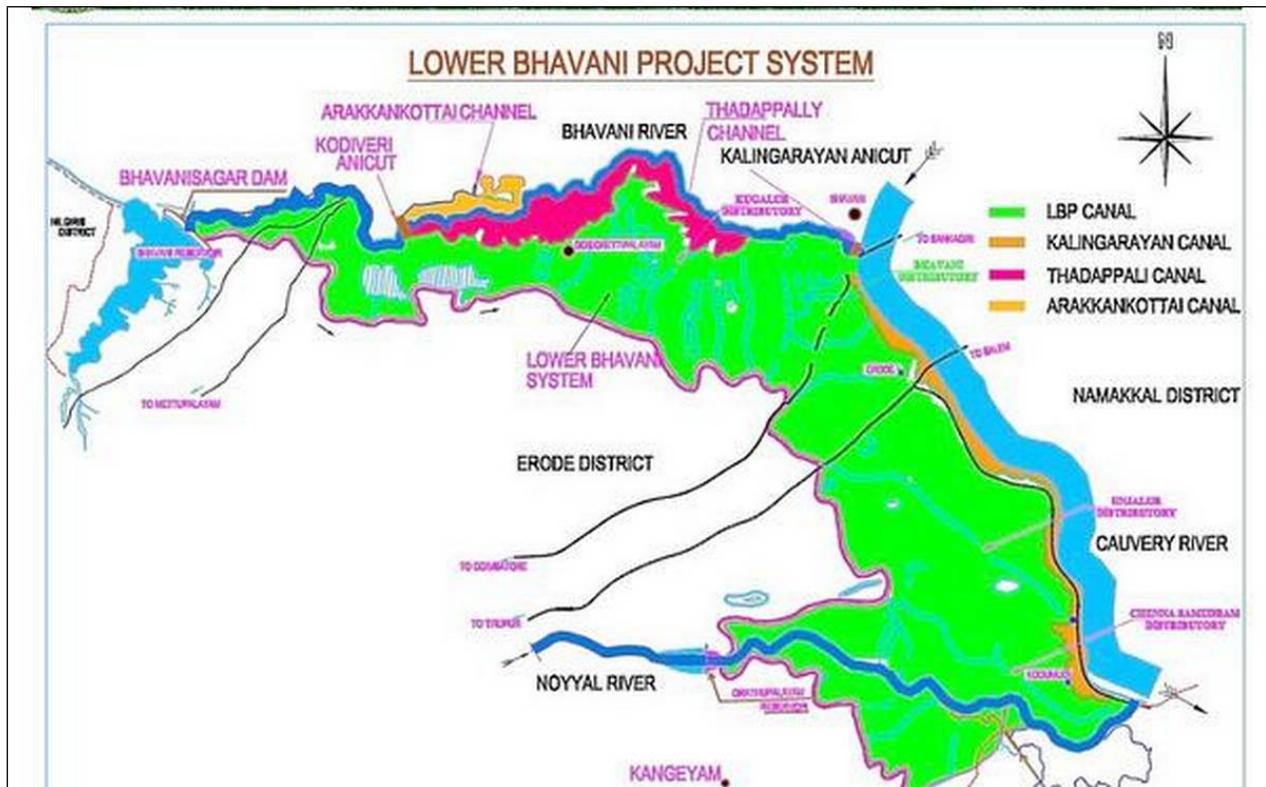
- **The University of Madras - has decided to reserve a seat for transsexuals in all departments from 2021-22.**
 - ✓ This was decided at the academic council meeting of the University, chaired by vice-chancellor S Gowri, on February 27
 - ✓ The university also passed a resolution to reserve a seat for differently-abled people, sportspersons, wards of ex-servicemen and Tamil students of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - ✓ The seat will be over and above the allotted strength of each department.
 - ✓ The academic council also gave its permission to institute new diploma courses in management, marketing management, financial management, human resource

management, systems management, logistics and supply chain management and hospital management to enhance the job opportunities of present undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students.

- ✓ Present students can study these courses in distance or online mode while pursuing their UG and PG degrees.
- ✓ The academic council also gave its nod to institute two new PG degree programmes in online mode from next academic year

INCLUSIVE CHANGE	
<p>➤ A seat for transgender in each university department over and above the sanctioned strength</p>	<p>sportspersons, wards of ex-servicemen, Tamil students from Andaman and Nicobar Islands</p>
<p>➤ Another seat will be reserved over and above specified categories such as disabled,</p>	<p>➤ New diploma courses to be introduced for enhancing employability of UG and PG students</p>
<p>New diploma courses Management courses in marketing, finance, human resources, systems, logistics and supply chain and hospital</p>	

- ✓ The name Institute of Distance Education (IDE) has been changed into Institute of Distance and Online Education.
- ✓ The institute, which currently offers 35 UG and PG degree programmes in various disciplines, will from the 2021-22 academic year offer online degree programmes.
- ✓ The university also plans to offer certificate courses in Carnatic music, voice training, management and written Tamil.
- ✓ Further, the university and DTH, SWAYAM IIT-M have started preparing video lectures of ancient Tamil literary text 'Tholkappiyam'.
- ✓ The videos of the lectures will be telecast on the Swayam Prabha channel.
- ✓ The council also adopted resolutions to change English courses names in first semester as Communicative English-I (part-II) and the professional English courses as English for Arts and Social Sciences-I, English for Commerce and Management-I, English for Physical Sciences - I, English for Life Sciences - I.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - laid the foundation stone for the extension, renovation and modernisation of the Lower Bhavani Project (LBP) system during his visit to Coimbatore on February 25, 2021**
- ✓ The LBP system comprises the main canal that receives water from the Bhavani Sagar dam and runs for 201 km, irrigating 2.07 lakh hectares in the districts of Erode, Tiruppur and Karur.
- ✓ The project, whose total length is 395 km, was to be taken up at a cost of ₹933.1 crore
- ✓ The main canal also feeds the Arakkankottai and Thadapalli channels at Kodiveri anicut.
- ✓ The Kalingarayan canal that runs for 90.5 km also comes under the system.



- ✓ The objective of the project is to provide the right quantum of water at the right time for the total cultivable command area (CCA) by effective water utilisation and adopting conservancy strategies.
 - ✓ It would be executed as six packages and the costs associated with each package are – for first package (₹194.15 crore), second (₹127.65 crore), third (₹198.23 crore), fourth (₹189.55 crore), fifth (₹76.8 crore) and the sixth (₹146.72 crore).
 - ✓ While packages one to four will be taken up in LBP canal, package five will cover Kalingarayan and package six will cover Thadapalli and Arakkankottai channels.
 - ✓ The funding for the project will be under NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA)
- **The Skill Development Corporation – to set up apex centres to ensure high-end training to job seekers**
- ✓ The state department is to start apex centres in hospitality and healthcare, transport and logistics, auto and machine tools, construction and infrastructure, and banking, finance services.
 - ✓ The centres for health and logistics have already started training people in Guindy and Oragadam.
 - ✓ The government has allocated ₹100 crore for the apex centres, with each sector getting ₹20 crore.
 - ✓ The scheme is expected to benefit, over six years, 15,000 people who will be trained and placed in the respective sectors.

STATES

- **The Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia - announced recently that all departments of Delhi government will shift to electric vehicles within the next 6 months.**
- ✓ The announcement was made after the government launched 'Switch Delhi' campaign.
- ✓ The transition from the diesel or petrol vehicle to EVs will be monitored by the Transport Department of Delhi.
- ✓ Switch Delhi Campaign was launched in order to encourage the private vehicle owners to shift to the electric vehicles and install a charging point in their premises within three years.
- ✓ It is an eight-week mass awareness campaign that aims to inspire the residents to switch from the polluting vehicles to zero-emission electric vehicles
- ✓ The first two weeks of the campaign will focus to promote two and three-wheeler owners
- ✓ The third week of the campaign will concentrate on four-wheeler vehicle owners
- ✓ The Delhi government had launched its Electric Vehicle Policy in August 2020 to tackle the problem of air pollution.
- ✓ Under this policy, the government proposed to waive off the registration fee and road tax.
- ✓ The government will also be providing an incentive of up to ₹1.5 lakh for new electric cars in Delhi.

- **Chief Minister of Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa - launched the 'Namma Cargo' services on February 26, 2021.**



- ✓ The Cargo services will be implemented across 109 bus stations in Karnataka.
- ✓ The State road transport corporations will transport the parcels so as to generate more revenue, except for the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).
- ✓ It will also be implemented across the selected locations in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

- ✓ The first phase of the “Namma Cargo Services” will operate in 88 taluks of Karnataka and at 21 inter-State locations.
- ✓ The name ‘Namma Cargo’ name was chosen for the services following a contest.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre – has capped the price of Covid vaccine at ₹250/dose at private hospitals during the next phase of vaccination starting March 1**
- ✓ The upcoming phase will cover a large population above 60 years and those above 45 with specific co-morbidities
- ✓ As per the Centre’s advisory, private hospitals can charge ₹150 per person per dose as cost of vaccine and vaccination centres can charge up to ₹100 per dose per person to account for logistics, storage and vaccinators
- ✓ The Centre is likely to open registrations for the next round of vaccinations on March 1.

HOW TO GET COVID SHOT

PROCESS FOR REGISTRATION IN THE NEXT PHASE TO START FROM MARCH 1

1 Advance self-registration
Beneficiaries can self-register in advance by downloading the Co-Win 2.0 portal and through other IT applications such as Arogya Setu, Common Service Centres etc. This will show the government and private hospitals serving as Covid Vaccination Centres (CVCs) with date and time of the available schedules. The beneficiary would be able to choose the CVC of his/her choice and book an appointment for vaccination



2 On-site registration
Those who cannot self-register in advance can walk into the identified Covid Vaccination Centres and get themselves registered on-site and then vaccinated. This will depend on availability of slots

3 Facilitated cohort registration
Under this mechanism, the state/UT government will take proactive lead. Specific date(s) for Covid vaccination will be decided where target groups of potential beneficiaries will be vaccinated

BENEFICIARIES MUST CARRY ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PHOTO ID DOCUMENT

Aadhar card

Electoral Photo Identity Card

The photo ID card specified at the time of registration in case of online registration (if not Aadhar or EPIC)

Certificate of co-morbidity for citizens in age group of 45 years to 59 years (signed by a registered medical practitioner)

Employment certificate/ official identity card – (either, but with photo and date of birth) for health and frontline workers

- ✓ The process of registration can be done via advance self-registration, on-site registration and facilitated cohort one.
- ✓ People will be required to fill in a few details and upload identification proof through Co-Win as well as other IT applications and platforms

- ✓ States can use hospitals empanelled in their healthcare plans apart from those under Ayushman Bharat and CGHS.
- ✓ The Centre had paid ₹200 per dose for Serum Institute of India's Covishield and around ₹295 per dose for Covaxin by Bharat Biotech.
- ✓ At government sites, vaccination would be provided free of cost.

CO-MORBIDITIES THAT MAKE 45-59 YRS ELIGIBLE FOR JOB

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heart failure with hospital admission in past 1 year; ➤ Post-cardiac transplant/left ventricular assist device ➤ Significant left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVEF <40%) ➤ Moderate or severe valvular heart disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Congenital heart disease with PAH or idiopathic PAH ➤ Coronary artery disease with past CABG/PTCA/MI and hypertension/diabetes ➤ Angina and hypertension/diabetes on treatment ➤ CT/MRI-documented stroke 	and hypertension/diabetes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pulmonary artery hypertension and hypertension/diabetes on treatment ➤ Diabetes (>10 years or with complications and hypertension/diabetes) <p style="text-align: right;">More reports on P 13</p>
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- ✓ This phase of vaccination would cover an estimated 27 crore people in the country.
- ✓ So far, only health and front-line workers were being inoculated against Covid-19.
- ✓ A total of 1.42 crore doses were administered till February 26.
- ✓ Of these, 66.6 lakh health and 51.1 lakh front-line workers received the first dose, whereas 24.5 lakh healthworkers also received the second dose of the vaccine.
- **On February 24, the Union Cabinet - approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the pharmaceuticals and IT hardware sectors, with an outlay of ₹15,000 crore and ₹7,350 crore, respectively.**
 - ✓ The PLI scheme for pharmaceuticals will be applicable for nine years till 2028-29
 - ✓ It will benefit domestic manufacturers, help create employment and is expected to contribute to the availability of a wider range of affordable medicines for consumers
 - ✓ The scheme is expected to bring in investment of ₹15,000 crore in the pharmaceutical sector.
 - ✓ The growth in the sector is expected to add 20,000 direct and 80,000 indirect jobs for both skilled and unskilled personnel.
 - ✓ Currently, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is \$40 billion and it contributes around 3.5% to the global market.
 - ✓ The Cabinet also approved the PLI Scheme for IT hardware such as laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers.
 - ✓ The budget includes an incentive outlay of Rs.7,325 crore besides the administrative charges of Rs 25 crore.
 - ✓ The scheme, under which an incentive will be given on net incremental sales of goods manufactured in India for four years, will benefit five 'major global players' and ten domestic 'champions' in IT hardware

- ✓ The Centre said the scheme could generate more than 1,80,000 jobs (direct and indirect) over four years.
 - ✓ The PLI scheme is an output-oriented scheme in which the incentives are paid if the manufacturers reach the target level of production.
 - ✓ It provides cash incentives for five to seven years.
 - ✓ Under this scheme all the important sectors are covered ranging from automobiles, food processing, advanced chemistry, Pharma, Solar PV manufacturing etc.
- **The task force on Interlinking of Rivers - has approved the Mahanadi-Godavari Link on February 25, 2021.**
- ✓ The final detailed project report will have to be prepared following the approval given to the proposed linking project
 - ✓ The linking project aims to ensure the utilisation of allocated Godavari waters by the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The decision was taken at the 13th meeting of the task force on interlinking of rivers which was held in New Delhi.
 - ✓ The draft detailed project report was prepared by the National Water Development Authority (NWDA).
 - ✓ The NWDA was authorised to explore the feasibility of linking sub-basins of rivers in States.
 - ✓ The agency worked for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Ken-Betwa river link in accordance with the priority links under Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan.
- **The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) - have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for mutual data exchange on February 25, 2021**



- ✓ It was signed by Joint Secretary of MCA, Manoj Pandey and the ADG of CBIC, B. B. Gupta.
- ✓ Accordingly, the agencies will share databases including the details regarding import-export transactions and consolidated financial statements of companies which are registered in India.

- ✓ The data sharing agreement has become more significance in the context of development of MCA21 Version 3 to enhance ease of doing business
- ✓ The agreement will also enable sharing of specific information like Shipping Bill (Exports) Summary, Bill of Entry (Imports) from CBIC and the financial statements with Registrar by corporates.
- ✓ To achieve the objective, a Data Exchange Steering Group was constituted for the purpose.
- **The Ministry of consumer affairs - to integrate the Common Service Centres (CSCs) with the E-Daakhil portal to facilitate the consumers for e-filing**
- ✓ The e-Daakhil Consumer grievance redressal portal was launched on September 7, 2020 by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission.
- ✓ This online grievance redressal portal is now operational in 15 States and Union Territories.
- ✓ The e-daakhil portal empowers the consumer and their advocates to file consumer complaints online.
- ✓ The e-Daakhil Portal was developed and is maintained by the National Information Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- ✓ This portal has been developed under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Global anti-terrorism watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - decided to keep Pakistan in Grey List under increased monitoring till June 2021.**
- ✓ This decision by the FATF on February 25 considering its failure to fully comply with the 27-point action plan to combat terrorism
- ✓ This decision was taken following a virtual plenary session that was over three days.
- ✓ Though, the FATF has appreciated several steps taken by Pakistan, it still needs to act upon three important points out of 27 action points.
- ✓ The three points are related to the demonstration regarding the terror funding investigations, prosecutions and implementation of targeted financial sanctions against UN designated terrorists
- ✓ The FATF had also kept the Pakistan into grey list in October, 2020
- ✓ This makes it difficult to obtain aid from World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, and European Union.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Canada – has signed agreement with Serum Institute of India for supply of 2 million doses of AstraZeneca’s Covid-19 vaccine**

- ✓ Following the approval of the vaccine by Canada, 500,000 doses of the same vaccine manufactured in India will arrive in Canada on March 3
- ✓ Canadian PM Justin Trudeau expressed appreciation for India's support and partnership in ensuring speedy delivery of the vaccines.
- ✓ The delivery will take place within 3 weeks of the conversation that took place between Trudeau and PM Narendra Modi on the issue of vaccines.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar - has inaugurated the Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 on February 26 at Noida Haat.**



- ✓ The event commenced on February 26, 2021 and will conclude on March 14, 2021.
 - ✓ It is being organised by the Ministry of Rural Development.
 - ✓ More than 300 rural self-help groups and craftsman from 27 states have participated in the event
 - ✓ The Mela is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
 - ✓ It was launched to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs), which are formed with the help & support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform.
 - ✓ The event will help the SHGs to showcase their skills and sell their products.
 - ✓ It is supported by "Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)" which is the marketing arm of Ministry.
 - ✓ Under the event, workshops are conducted for the rural SHG women.
 - ✓ They will help the SHGs to boost their knowledge and sharpen their skills in bookkeeping, product design, GST, packaging, communication skills, marketing or e-marketing etc.
- **The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins - was inaugurated by the Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat recently**



- ✓ It was conducted at New Delhi as Hybrid event from 24th February to 27th February 2021.
 - ✓ The symposium was organised by the International Commission on Large Dams (INCOLD) in association with the Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP), Central Water Commission (CWC) and National Hydrology Project (NHP).
 - ✓ The event was participated by more than 300 delegates from India and abroad.
 - ✓ During the symposium, Indian Dam Engineering Professionals and Agencies had an opportunity to share their experiences, ideas and latest developments
 - ✓ The event discussed the concepts of new materials and construction technologies, best engineering practices, advancement in investigation techniques, dam safety issues etc.
 - ✓ The event also provided an opportunity to interact with the world-renowned dam experts who are involved in Dam Construction, management, operation and maintenance.
- **Union Minister of MSME, Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated the National Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo on February 25**



- ✓ The Conference was organized by the NITI Aayog and Invest India in association with the National Bamboo Mission

- ✓ It provided a platform to discuss and promote holistic growth of the bamboo sector across the entire value chain system.
- ✓ The conference witnessed participation of eminent professionals related to bamboo farming, innovation, research, industry, entrepreneurs, and attendees from research institutes, farmers and entrepreneurs.
- **Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman - attended the G20 Central Bank Governors' meeting that was held under the Italian Presidency on February 26**
- ✓ During the meeting, the finance minister highlighted regarding the India's policy with respect to COVID-19 pandemic and the world's largest inoculation drive with their G-20 counterparts.



- ✓ They also discussed financial sector issues, global economic outlook, financial inclusion and sustainable finance.
- ✓ The discussion also focused on the implications of climate change on global growth and financial stability.
- ✓ The G20 economies account for 90% of the gross world product collectively.
- ✓ The G20 is an international forum for governments and central bank governors coming from the 19 countries and European Union (EU).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Isro – to launch PSLV-C 51 or Amazonia-1 mission on February 28 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh**
- ✓ This is the 53rd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle mission of the ISRO.
- ✓ In this launch, the PSLV-C51 rocket will carry Brazilian satellite Amazonia-1 as primary satellite alongwith 19 other satellites
- ✓ This mission is also the first dedicated commercial mission of commercial nodal agency of ISRO called “New Space India Limited (NSIL)”
- ✓ Out of the 18 co-passenger satellites, 14 will be sent by NSIL

- ✓ NSIL is working on this mission in accordance with the commercial agreement with the Seattle-based Spaceflight Inc., of US
 - ✓ Amazonia-1 is being sent by National Institute for Space Research , Brazil.
 - ✓ It is an optical Earth observation satellite that will provide analysis of the diversified agriculture across Brazil.
 - ✓ It will also share the remote sensing data so as to monitor the deforestation in the Amazon region of Brazil.
 - ✓ The PSLV Vehicle will be carrying four satellites from the nodal agency called Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).
 - ✓ The satellites include three UNITYsats along with one satellite from the Satish Dhawan Centre
 - ✓ IN-SPACe is an independent agency working under the Department of Space that allows the private sector to take part in the space activities.
- **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – confirms that the single-shot Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine is highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19, including newer variants**
- ✓ With this, the vaccine may become the third one available in the United States after the formal authorization by an independent panel convened by the US FDA
 - ✓ In large clinical trials, the J&J vaccine’s efficacy against severe disease was 85.9% in the United States, 81.7% in South Africa, and 87.6% in Brazil.
 - ✓ Overall, among 39,321 participants across all regions, the efficacy against severe COVID-19 was 85.4%, but it fell to 66.1% when including moderate forms of the disease.
 - ✓ Crucially, vaccine showed no marked differences across age, race, or people with underlying conditions.
 - ✓ The vaccine was generally well-tolerated, with no reports of severe allergic reactions such as anaphylaxis, which have been seen in rare cases for the Pfizer and Moderna shots.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Vijay Sampla – was appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes**



- ✓ The post was kept vacant since May 2020
- ✓ Sampla was a former Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment from 2014-2019
- ✓ He was also the former MP from Hoshiarpur in Punjab

AWARDS

- **Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi - is all set to receive the “CERAWeek global energy and environment leadership award” at an annual international energy conference which is scheduled in March 2021**
- ✓ Prime minister will also be delivering the keynote address at the CERAWeek Conference-2021.
- ✓ The CERAWeek Conference-2021, organized by information provider IHS Markit, will be held virtually from March 1 to 5, 2021.
- ✓ It is an annual international conference that brings together the energy industry leaders, experts, policy makers, government officials, leaders from the technology, energy technology innovators and financial & industrial communities.
- ✓ The themes and sessions of the conference is inspired by “The New Map: Energy, Climate, and the Clash of Nations”.
- ✓ The last conference of the CERAWeek was held in March 2019.

SPORTS

- **The second edition of the Khelo India Winter Games - began at Gulmarg in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on February 26, 2021.**



- ✓ This is a five-day event and will conclude on March 2, 2021.
- ✓ It was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- ✓ The Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Kiren Rijiju, also participated in the event.
- ✓ It was officially launched in the Ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district of north Kashmir.
- ✓ The event will include the sports activities such as ice-skating, shoe race, skiing, ice-hockey, Nordic ski, snowboarding, ice stock and ski mountaineering.
- ✓ It is being organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in association with the Winter Games Association of Jammu & Kashmir and J&K Sports Council.
- ✓ The Khelo India Winter Games was started in the year 2020 following the success of multiple editions of Khelo India Youth Games.
- ✓ The Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) is a national level multidisciplinary grassroot games which is organised for two categories
- ✓ The first category is under-17 years school students while the second category is under-21 college students.
- ✓ In this annual event, the top ranked 1000 kids are given the scholarship of ₹5 lakh for 8 years in order to prepare them for international sport events.
- ✓ It was formerly known as Khelo India School Games (KISG) and held in the month of January or February.
- **The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports - has restored the recognition of Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) as the National Sports Federation (NSF) with immediate effect till December 31, 2021.**
- ✓ Further, it has restored the elections of two office bearers namely Sudhir Mittal on the post of President and Kaushik Bidiwala on the post of Treasurer for the term of 2019- 2023.
- ✓ The constitution of GFI needs will be aligned with provisions of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 (Sports Code) within the next 6 months
- ✓ The Ministry has granted the conditional recognition provided the terms and conditions are adhered to.
- ✓ The appointment of the office-bearers for the federation will be done through an election in accordance with the Model Election Guidelines which will be issued by the Ministry.

