

# CURRENT AFFAIRS= 20-01-2021

## NITI Aayog Releases Second Edition of India Innovation Index

- NITI Aayog released the **second** edition of the **India Innovation Index** on 20 January 2021, along with the Institute for Competitiveness.

| Rank | Major States   | Score |
|------|----------------|-------|
| 1    | KARNATAKA      | 42.50 |
| 2    | MAHARASHTRA    | 38.03 |
| 3    | TAMIL NADU     | 37.91 |
| 4    | TELANGANA      | 33.23 |
| 5    | KERALA         | 30.58 |
| 6    | HARYANA        | 25.81 |
| 7    | ANDHRA PRADESH | 24.19 |
| 8    | GUJARAT        | 23.63 |
| 9    | UTTAR PRADESH  | 22.85 |
| 10   | PUNJAB         | 22.54 |
| 11   | WEST BENGAL    | 21.69 |
| 12   | RAJASTHAN      | 20.83 |
| 13   | MADHYA PRADESH | 20.82 |
| 14   | ODISHA         | 18.94 |
| 15   | JHARKHAND      | 17.12 |
| 16   | CHHATTISGARH   | 15.77 |
| 17   | BIHAR          | 14.48 |

| Rank | UT and City States        | Score |
|------|---------------------------|-------|
| 1    | DELHI                     | 46.60 |
| 2    | CHANDIGARH                | 38.57 |
| 3    | DAMAN & DIU               | 26.76 |
| 4    | PUDUCHERRY                | 25.23 |
| 5    | GOA                       | 24.92 |
| 6    | DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI      | 22.74 |
| 7    | ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS | 18.89 |
| 8    | JAMMU & KASHMIR           | 18.62 |
| 9    | LAKSHADWEEP               | 11.71 |

| Rank | NE and Hill States | Score |
|------|--------------------|-------|
| 1    | HIMACHAL PRADESH   | 25.06 |
| 2    | UTTARAKHAND        | 23.30 |
| 3    | MANIPUR            | 22.78 |
| 4    | SIKKIM             | 20.28 |
| 5    | MIZORAM            | 19.93 |
| 6    | ASSAM              | 16.38 |
| 7    | ARUNACHAL PRADESH  | 14.90 |
| 8    | NAGALAND           | 14.11 |
| 9    | TRIPURA            | 12.84 |
| 10   | MIZHAPALAYA        | 12.15 |

- The report examines the innovation capabilities and performance of the states and union territories.

- The innovation index ranking is based on five enabler parameters ('Human Capital', 'Investment', 'Knowledge Workers', 'Business Environment', 'Safety and Legal Environment'), and two performance parameters ('Knowledge Output' and 'Knowledge Diffusion').

- In the 'Major States' category, **Karnataka** occupied the top position, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu respectively.

- In UT and city states category, Delhi topped followed by Chandigarh.
- Under the 'North-Eastern/Hill States' category, **Himachal Pradesh** emerged as the top state.

## DRDO Develops Special Motor Bike Ambulance 'Rakshita' for CRPF



The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has launched a bike-based casualty transport emergency vehicle, 'RAKSHITA' for the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. The specially designed bike has been developed by the DRDO's Delhi-based laboratory, **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**.

'RAKSHITA' bike ambulance will help the Indian security forces to reach urgent evacuation sites in event of a medical emergency or battle injury, where access through ambulance is difficult and time consuming.

## Flt. Lt. Bhawana Kanth to become the first Woman Fighter Pilot to take part in Republic Day Parade

**Flight lieutenant Bhawana Kanth**, who is one of the first women fighter pilots to be inducted in the IAF, will create a historic moment when she will **become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade** on 26 January 2021. Kanth will be the part of the Indian Air Force's (IAF's) tableau in the parade.



The IAF tableau will showcase mock-ups of the light combat aircraft, light combat helicopter and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane.

Currently Kanth is posted at an airbase in Rajasthan where she flies the MiG-21 Bison fighter plane.



## India & Singapore sign pact on submarine rescue support during 5th Defence Ministers' Dialogue



The **5th edition of the Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD)** between **India and Singapore** was successfully held on 20 January 2021 through a video conference, in an effort to deepen military cooperation.

During the meeting, the **'Implementing Agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation'** was

signed between the two Navies.

The agreement was signed between **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and his Singaporean counterpart **Dr. Ng Eng Hen**.

## 15th India Digital Summit 2021 held virtually

The two-days **India Digital Summit 2021**, one of the biggest conference for the digital industry, was organised on **January 19 and 20, 2021**, through virtual platform.

The 2021 marked the 15th edition of the annual Summit. The event was inaugurated by the honourable Chief Guest Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Law & Justice, **Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad**.

The theme of the 2021 Summit was **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Start of New Decade'**

**India Digital Summit** is the flagship event of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.

## ICICI Bank launches 'InstaFX' mobile app to help customers obtain Forex Prepaid Card swiftly

**ICICI Bank** has launched a new mobile application **'InstaFX'** for authorised money changers, on January 20, to help customers of any bank get **'ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card'** swiftly.

ICICI is the bank is the first in the country to offer such facility to money changers. *A money changer is a person or organization whose business is the exchange of coins or currency of one country, for that of another.*

The **'InstaFX'** app will enable the authorised money changers, who are partners of the Bank, to complete the KYC verification and validation of customers digitally and on a real-time basis.

The **'ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card'** gets activated swiftly within a few hours, as against the industry practice of up to two-days, thus it will significantly improve customer convenience, even if they are not customers of ICICI bank.



## Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju assigned additional charge of Ministry of AYUSH



The Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports (Independent Charge) and Minister of State, Minority Affairs, **Kiren Rijiju**, has been given the additional charge of the **Ministry of AYUSH**.

He has been assigned the portfolio on temporary basis till the treatment of the Union Minister Shripad Y Naik, who met an accident on January 11.

The 68-year-old **Shripad Yesso Naik**, was holding the portfolio as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH); and Minister of State in Ministry of Defence.

## Goa CM Pramod Sawant releases book ‘Manohar Parrikar – Off The Record’, by author Shri Waman Subha Prabhu



The Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** recently released a book titled ‘**Manohar Parrikar – Off the Record**’, written by senior journalist **Shri Waman Subha Prabhu**.

Through this book, the author narrates the multi-faceted personality of late Parrikar, based on the collection of memories held by Waman Prabhu who happened to be with late Parrikar during the journey of his life.

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