



RACE™



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This **CURRENT AFFAIRS** bulletin is prepared to help students learn **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS** within **10 MINUTES**
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NEWS IN SHORT

NEWS ①: Serum Institute of India fixes price for Covishield

NEWS ②: Arvind Kejriwal, CM of Delhi will be representing India at the WCCF 2021.

NEWS ③: Chandigarh has released a first of its kind draft cycling policy

NEWS ④: World Press Freedom Index, 2021, India at 142nd

NEWS ⑤: International Energy Agency released the Global Energy Review report

NEWS ⑥: World Economic Forum released the Global Energy Transition Index

NEWS ⑦: Nimbus Project - Government of Israel has chosen Google and Amazon Web Services

NEWS ⑧: FirstRand Bank has decided to withdraw its banking services from India

NEWS ⑨: IOB appoints Ernst & Young as its Digital Consultant

NEWS ⑩: Care Ratings Revised down India's GDP Growth Forecast

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

SII fixes price for Covishield

- The Serum Institute of India will sell its COVID-19 vaccine, 'Covishield', to the States at **Rs.400 a dose** and to private hospitals at **Rs.600 a dose**, its chief executive officer, Adar Poonawala, said in a statement.
- The vaccines, however, would not be sold in retail for four or five months, and corporates and private individuals.

STATE AFFAIRS

World Cities Cultural Forum 2021

- Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of Delhi will be representing Delhi and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF) 2021.
- The Forum comprises 40 world cities including London, Tokyo and New York. The WCCF 2021 Forum was hosted by London.

Cycling policy

- Chandigarh has released a first of its kind **draft cycling policy**, this is the first time for a city to draft a cycling policy in India.

- The draft recognises cycling as one of the environment friendly and quickest modes of transport in urban areas. The policy was drafted by the Chandigarh Smart City Limited.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Press freedom index

- The World Press Freedom Index, 2021, produced by Reporters Without Borders, a French non governmental organisation, has again ranked India at **142nd out of 180 countries**.
- In 2016, India's rank was 133, which has steadily climbed down to **142 in 2020**.

Global Energy Review report

- The International Energy Agency released the **Global Energy Review report**. According to the report, the **Carbon Dioxide emissions** in India is to be **1.4% higher** than the levels recorded in 2019.
- The carbon dioxide emissions all over the world is to increase by **1.5 billion tonnes in 2021**.

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Global Energy Transition Index

- The **World Economic Forum** recently the **Global Energy Transition Index**. The index was prepared in collaboration with **Accenture**.
- **Sweden ranked first** in the report followed by **Norway and Denmark**. **India ranked 87th** in the index.

“Countries of Particular Concern”

- The **US Commission for International Religious Freedom** recommended **Biden Administration** to place four countries including India under “**Countries of Particular Concern**”.
- The other **three countries** were **Russia, Vietnam and Syria**.

Nimbus Project

- The **Government of Israel** has chosen **Google and Amazon Web Services** to provide cloud services for its military and **Public Sector Units**.
- The project is to be implemented in four phases and has been named the “**Nimbus**” project. It will establish cloud sites in Israel.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

FirstRand Bank

- **FirstRand Bank**, the second largest bank in South Africa has decided to withdraw its **banking services from India** just within a week of **Citi banks exit**.
- **FirstRand** had started its banking service in India in late 2009. The bank has its only office in Mumbai.

IOB appoints Ernst & Young as its Digital Consultant

- **Indian Overseas Bank** appointed **Ernst & Young Global Limited**, a multinational professional services network as its **digital consultant**.
- This partnership is a part of IOB’s growth strategy to transform its banking services into **Digital format**.

Care Ratings Revised down India’s GDP Growth Forecast

- **Care Ratings** has reduced **India’s Gross Domestic Product** growth forecast for **FY 22 to 10.2 per cent** from its earlier projection of 10.7-10.9 per cent.
- In the last 30 days, this is the **third revision** by the rating agency due to the **surge in COVID-19 cases** and local restrictions.

South Korea’s LG Electronics closes down mobile phone business

- **South Korea’s LG Electronics** has announced that it is **closing down its mobile phone business** unit worldwide after nearly six years of **losses totalling \$4.5 billion**.
- The decision was approved by its board of directors.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COVIRAP

- The **IIT Kharagpur** has successfully commercialised the healthcare product **COVIRAP**.
- **COVIRAP** is a diagnostic technology to **detect COVID-19 virus**. The technology is also capable of **testing influenza, dengue, malaria, Tuberculosis and Japanese Encephalitis**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Girish Chandra Murmu

- **India’s Comptroller and Auditor General Girish Chandra Murmu** has been appointed as **External Auditor of the Organisation** for the **Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** for a three-year term starting 2021.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mother Earth Day

- The **United Nation’s International Mother Earth Day** has been observed annually across the globe on **22nd April** since 2009.
- The theme of the Earth Day 2021 is “**Restore Our Earth**”.

OBITUARY

Poet Sankha Ghosh passes away at 89

- **Eminent poet and critic Sankha Ghosh** passed away in Kolkata. The **Jnanpith awardee** was 89 and had tested positive for **COVID19**.
- He was well known for his books “**Adim Lata-Gulmomay**” and “**Murkha Baro Samajik Nay**” considering his authority on **Rabindranath Tagore**.