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NEWS IN SHORT

- NEWS ①:** Stringent measures to control the spread of Covid-19 during the Kumbh Mela at Haridwar
- NEWS ②:** Rajasthan announced the Rajasthan Model of Public Health
- NEWS ③:** MP launched the Mission Gramodaya for the development of villages in MP
- NEWS ④:** Bihar is celebrating its 109th foundation day on March 22.
- NEWS ⑤:** India is the 4th Strongest Military in the World.
- NEWS ⑥:** India, Pakistan, China & others take part in 'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021'
- NEWS ⑦:** Catastrophe bond for the volcano-related disasters
- NEWS ⑧:** RBI Reported 9.1% Growth in India's Software Services Export
- NEWS ⑨:** According to 'India Trend Book 2021', India's e-commerce market expected to be worth USD 99 Billion by 2024
- NEWS ⑩:** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Haridwar Kumbh Mela

- The Centre has written to the Uttarakhand government about the need for **stringent measures to control the spread of Covid-19** during the ongoing Kumbh Mela at Haridwar.
- Kumbh Mela comes under **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

STATE AFFAIRS

Right to Health

- CM of Rajasthan announced the implementation of the **Rajasthan Model of Public Health** that would include a **Right to Health** as well as measures for preventive, primary and curative care as envisioned by the WHO.
- The **Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana** will also be launched as a **Universal Health Care** scheme.

Mission Gramodaya

- Shivraj Singh Chouhan, CM of **Madhya Pradesh** and Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture jointly launched the **Mission Gramodaya** for the **development of villages in MP**.

- It's objective is to **provide basic and fundamental infrastructure to rural areas** in the state.

"Bihar Day"

- Bihar is celebrating its **109th foundation day** on **March 22**. On this day, Bihar was carved out of the Bengal by the British government in the year **1912**.
- Official languages** of the state are **Hindi and Urdu**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

'Ultimate Military Strength Index'

- According to a study by **Defence Website 'Military Direct'**, **India** is the **4th Strongest Military** in the World.
- China** was rated as the **World's Strongest Military** followed by the **USA & Russia**. The study is based on the **'Ultimate Military Strength Index'**.

'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021'

- India, Pakistan, China & other members** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** will take part in a **Joint Anti-Terrorism Exercise** called **'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021'** which is scheduled to take place in 2021.

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Volcano Bonds

- The **Danish Red Cross** has launched first of its kind **catastrophe bond** for the **volcano-related disasters**.
- This bond which will enable the **disaster relief agency to get the financial aid quickly** to those who are suffering because of the eruption of volcanoes. The project's partners aim to raise **\$3 million** with the launch of this bond.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

RBI Reported 9.1% Growth in India's Software Services Export

- **RBI** released the data related to the **2019-20 round of annual survey on exports of computer software and information technology-enabled services** in which **India's export of software services** stood at **US\$ 128.6 billion** during 2019-20, registering **9.1 % growth** over the previous year.

Arogya Sanjeevani Policy

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India**, has hiked the **maximum cover** under the standard health insurance plan – **Arogya Sanjeevani Policy** – from **Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh** and also has expanded the sum insured bands under the policy to between **₹50,000 and ₹10 lakh** in multiples of ₹50,000.

'India Trend Book 2021'

- According to a report '**India Trend Book 2021**' released by **Ernst Young-Indian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association**, **India's e-commerce market** is expected to be worth **USD 99 Billion by 2024**.
- **Grocery & Fashion/apparel** will be the **key drivers of this growth**.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Gandhi Peace Prize

- The **Ministry of the culture** has stated that, the government of India has conferred the **Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020** on the **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- He was the first President and also became the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. **The award was launched in the year 1995**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

"Bringing Governments and People Closer"

- **Dr M Ramachandran**, retired IAS officer, authored a book title **"Bringing Governments and People Closer"**.
- The book was launched by **Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu** virtually.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Water Day

- It is observed annually across the globe on **22nd March**, with the purpose of **highlighting the importance of water**, and raising awareness about the water crisis that the world faces.
- Theme of World Water Day 2021 is **"Valuing Water"**.

International Day of Forests 2021

- The **United Nations International day of Forests** is annually observed across the globe on **21st March** to create awareness about the **importance of all types of forests**.
- The theme of the International Day of Forests for 2021 is **"Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being"**.

International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination

- The **United Nations International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination** is annually observed across the globe on **21st March** to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.
- Theme of 2021 is **"Youth standing up against racism"**.

SPORTS

All England Open Badminton Championships 2021

- The **2021 All England Open** took place at **Arena Birmingham in England**. *Winners of the tournament:*
- **Men's Singles- Lee Zii Jia** (Malaysia) & **Men's Doubles - Yuta Watanabe & Hiroyuki Endo** (Japan)
- **Women's Singles - Nozomi Okuhara** (Japan) & **Women's Doubles - Mayu Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara** (Japan).