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NEWS IN SHORT

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NEWS ②: Ministry of Tourism signs MoU with Cleartrip, Ease My Trip

NEWS ③: MoFPI, DAY-NRLM join hands to implement PM-FME Scheme

NEWS ④: 'The Hydrogen Economy – New Delhi Dialogue 2021'

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NEWS ⑥: 6th Raisina Dialogue 2021 inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi

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NEWS ⑨: T.N. sees over two-fold jump in investments

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS – 18.04.2021

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

PM calls for more temporary hospitals, isolation centres

- PM Narendra Modi chaired a meeting with senior Central and State government officials to review the status of preparedness to handle the COVID19 pandemic.
- Various aspects relating to medicines, oxygen, ventilators and vaccination were discussed.

Ministry of Tourism signs MoU with Cleartrip, Ease My Trip

- The Ministry of Tourism signed a MoU with 2 Online Travel Companies – Cleartrip and Ease My Trip for boosting the Hospitality & Tourism Industry of India.
- It mandates Cleartrip & Ease My Trip to encourage Units to register on NIDHI National Integrated Database of Hospital Industry.

MoFPI, DAY-NRLM join hands to implement PM-FME Scheme

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries & Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Livelihoods Mission of Ministry of Rural Development have agreed to work together on implementation of Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme.

'The Hydrogen Economy – New Delhi Dialogue 2021'

- The Inauguration Edition of Hydrogen Roundtable titled 'The Hydrogen Economy-New Delhi Dialogue 2021' took place virtually on 15th April, 2021.
- The Hydrogen Roundtable is the first of its kind conference on Hydrogen Ecosystem.

UN Food Systems Summit 2021

- The United Nations Secretary General has called for the 1st ever United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 to be held in September 2021 in New York, USA.
- The Summit is a part of the Decade of Action (2020-30) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

6th Raisina Dialogue 2021 inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi

- The 6th edition of the Raisina dialogue 2021 which is India's annual global conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics was organized in a fully digital form for the first time due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Theme: "Viral world: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control"

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Italy Launched the First ever Food Park & Food Processing Unit in India

- Italy launched the first ever **Mega Food Park** project, including food processing facilities in India.
- The pilot project “**The Mega Food Park**” was launched over a virtual platform in the presence of **Vincenzo de Luca, Ambassador of Italy to India**, and **Neena Malothra, the Ambassador of India to Italy**.

Gender Samvaad Event

- The Ministry of Rural Development recently launched the **Gender Samvaad Event**. It is a joint initiative between **DAY-NRLM** and **IWWAGE**.
- The main objective of **Gender Samvaad** event was to create awareness on **gender related interventions under the DAY-NRLM**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Henley Passport Index 2021

- According to ‘**Henley Passport Index : Q2 2021 Global Ranking**’ released by **Henley & Partners, India** has been ranked as **84th Most Powerful Passport** (visa-free score – 58).
- The Index has been **topped by Japan, Singapore** while **Germany & South Korea** together took the **3rd spot**.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

T.N. sees over twofold jump in investments

- Fresh **investments into Tamil Nadu** more than doubled to over **Rs,1,00,000 crore** during the **pandemic hit 2020-21**, with the southern State witnessing the **second highest investment outlay**.
- **Maharashtra** retained the **top spot** for a second year in a row. **Tamil Nadu** jumped from the ninth position in 2019-20, to **second in 2020-21**.

Government Extends Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 till September 30, 2021

- Government extended the existing **Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20** for **another six months** up to September 30, 2021 from **March 31, 2021**.
- Exports during April-February 2020 dipped by 12.23 per cent to \$256 billion. Imports during the period too declined by 23.11 per cent to \$340.8 billion, leaving a **trade deficit of \$84.62 billion**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Raul Castro steps down

- **Raul Castro** is **stepping down as head of Cuba’s Communist Party**, ending an era of formal leadership that began with his brother Fidel and country’s **1959 revolution**.
- He said he was retiring with the sense of having “**fulfilled his mission and confident in the future of the fatherland**.”

OBITUARY

Actor, humanist Vivekh no more

- **Tamil Actor Vivekh**, passed away due to massive heart attack. He was 59.
- **Vivekh**, who is a **Padma Shree recipient**, and the winner of many film industry awards, is known for featuring in several hit films like **Minnale, Dhool, Kushi** and **Sivaji** to mention a few.