CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. FEB 2021
   1. China pressured Nepal to buy it’s vaccine : Leaked documents
      * China’s vaccine – CoronaVac by biopharmaceutical company Sinovac – 50.4% efficacy
   2. Bangladesh & Nepa to receive CovidShield vaccine on Jan 21 **(Vaccines given by India to countries?)**
   3. Brazil suspends Chinese COVID-19 vaccine at 50.4%
   4. TATA GROUP to make military aircraft in India
      * Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) will show its twin engine aircraft for military use in a defence expo in Bengaluru. (Aero India 2021)
      * Will use help of Germany.
   5. Pornhub banned unverified uploaders, pulling down 10 million videos.
      * Cases of a 15 year old missing girl from Florida, whose mother found over 50 videos of her on Pornhub.
      * These videos were of exploitation & abuse.
   6. Tesla to set up Electric Car manufacturing unit in Southern India - Bangalore, Karnataka
      * Generate employment
      * Tesla has plants in very few places like USA, China, Germany, and France.
      * Will face challenge from Tata, Mahindra & Hyundai in terms of cost.
      * Tesla has a long experience in making EV.
      * Help India achieve India’s goal of only EV’s on road by 2030. India welcomes all companies offering EV plants in India.
      * India offering incentives to EV manufacturers, Maharashtra offering land to Tesla.
   7. MOBILE APP – “Satark Nagrik” 🡪 J&K, action against corrupt government official in 48 hrs
   8. Coastal Research Vessel “Sagar Anveshika” launched from CHENNAI PORT.
   9. State Govt providing free 2 GB data to students for online study 🡪 Tamil Nadu
   10. State Govt launched 25 pink buses under “Brahman Sarthi Scheme” 🡪 Assam (free travel for old people and women)
   11. International Day of Zero Tolerance – 6th Feb
       * THEME – “No time for Global Inaction, Unite Fund & Act to End Female Genital Mutilation”
       * Against female genital mutilation – to power down sex drive of girls, some part of vagina is cut. More than 30 lakh girls every year are victims to this.
       * Many girls die due to immense pain, extensive bleeding.
       * UN wants Zero Tolerance on this, to spread awareness and educate people about this problem.
       * The main aim is to end this practice in one decade.
   12. Donald Trump acquitted of 2nd Impeachment
       * Process of Impeachment
         1. 6 committees, decide on allegations
         2. Lower House pass a bill with 50% + 1 votes
         3. Federal Court decides on the case
         4. Senate votes on the bill, where Trump was acquitted (10 votes short)
         5. Impeached
       * Total Presidents faced Impeachment Trials (4) 🡪 Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, all faced trials, but acquitted.
       * Reasons for Impeachment – Trump misused his powers in 2019, incident at Capitol Hall.
   13. UP Govt to keep an eye on Internet Search Data, surfing porn can land viewers in trouble.
       * Hired a company “Oomuph” to track search history.
       * New team called “UP Women Powerline 1090”, will reach out to people and help prevent crime.
   14. Women in Nepal : Voice against proposed restrictions
       * Proposed Restrictions – any woman below 40, travelling abroad needs to present a letter of consent from the guardian of her family.
       * Brought in response to high cases of rape & women trafficking to Middle East (for prostitution)
       * Many Nepali’s working outside of Nepal are exploited (employed in porn sector by Middle East)
       * Protesters say the restrictions are Anti-women.
   15. Pakistan Home Minister fires tear gas on govt. employees
       * Employees were protesting demanding salary hike in Rawalpindi.
       * Sheikh Rashid Ahmed fired tear gas stating that he was test firing an old tear gas canister as it had been unused for a long time.
   16. Vaccine Passport that Denmark going to launch
       * Vaccine Passport 🡪 Passport + Digital Certificate showing if holders are vaccinated.
       * Other country that has talked about it 🡪 Estonia
       * Airline Companies also support this
       * Issue – not every country can afford this technology.
   17. Six elephants die in 14 days : Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalahandi, Odisha Wildlife Sanctuary
       * Due to Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS) [Bacteria – Pasturella Multocida]
       * Pathogens lead to severe pneumonia.
       * Cattles most infected, before and after monsoons.
       * Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary
         1. Odisha’s Kalahandi District
         2. Vegetation – Dry Deciduous Forest
         3. Fauna
            1. Mammals – Elephant, Leopard, Gaur, Sambhar, Malbar Giant Squirrel, Pangolin
            2. Birds – Peacock, Hornbill
            3. Reptilians – Magar, Crocodile, Monitor Lizard
            4. Plants – Sal, Bija, Bamboo, Medicinal Plants
            5. Purhlijharan Waterfalls is located
   18. Google’s Payment Deal with Australian Media Firms : De-escalation between Google & Australia
       * Australia’s news firm ‘Seven West Media’ signed a deal with Google where google will pay an amount for the news it shows from this firm.
       * Deal comes in light of new regulations by Australia in July 2020. (Australian Competition & Consumer Commission)
   19. Third Scorpene Class Submarine delivered to Navy 🡪 INS Karanj
       * Project 75 – Kalvari Class Submarines
         1. Based in French Scorpene Class diesel attack submarines
         2. Built by Mazagon Dock Limited
         3. Depth – 300m
         4. Ships
            1. INS Kalvari (S21) 🡪 Dec 2017
            2. INS Khanderi (S22) 🡪 Sept 2019
            3. INS Karanj (S23) 🡪 Mar 2021
            4. INS Vela (S24) 🡪 2022 expected
            5. INS Vagir (S25)
            6. INS Vagsheer (S26)
   20. First woman to head WTO – Ngozi Okonjo Iweala (Nigerian)
       * First woman & African to head World Trade Organization
       * WTO formerly known as GATT
       * Trump blocked this idea of her being the head.
       * She was twice the finance minister of Nigeria, also foreign affairs minister
       * Worked for over 20 years in World Bank, rose to Managing Director.
       * WTO – estd 1995, HQ Geneva, Switzerland
         1. FIFA – 1904, HQ Zurich Switzerland
   21. ???Pakistan PM Imran Khan was invited to address the Sri Lankan Parliament, cancelled at the last moment by Sri Lankans
   22. ???Canada is requesting CoviShield from India, instead of Moderna & Pfizer from her neighbor.
       * NAFTA – Signed between Canada, USA, Mexico
       * Rocky Mountains in all 3 countries
       * Great Lakes HOMES (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior)
   23. Shabnam – First woman to be hanged in independent India
       * Killed 7 people with axe – Amorha Murder Case, UP
       * Link – Pardoning Powers
         1. A 72 – President
         2. A 161 – Governor
         3. Death sentence can only be pardoned by President
   24. South Africa asks Serum to take back 1 million vaccine doses
       * CoviShield not effective there because of a different mutated virus in SA.
       * India’s Initiative – Vaccine Maitri (to give vaccines to other countries)
         1. 60% of global vaccine production is from India
         2. Supplies 1.5 billion doses annually to over 150 countries
         3. Largest supplier of DPT, BCG & Measles vaccines
         4. WHO sources 70% of its essential immunization vaccines from India
       * NEW UPDATE
         1. South Africa did not return Astrazeneca Vaccine to India, says SA’s Health Minister, fake news was spread about return of vaccine.
         2. SA will offer those vaccines to Africa Union platform, as there is mutation in SA, so vaccines will be used somewhere else.
   25. Impact of Facebook switching off in Australia
       * News sources on Facebook were removed by Facebook, as FB denied to pay amount for news sources.
       * No Australians can see news now on Facebook
       * Australia - National Anthem changed, forest fires, new regulations to curb news on social media.
   26. Bank became world’s first central bank with 1 million Twitter followers – RBI
       * Estd 1935, Hilton & Young Commission, Nationalized 1949 (51% share by govt)
       * Ranking – RBI > Central Bank of Mexico > Bank of Indonesia > US Federal Reserve > European Central Bank
   27. G20 Summit in 2023 – India
       * 2020 – Saudi Arabia, 2021 – Italy, 2022 – Indonesia, 2024 – Brazil
       * Members
         1. Canada, USA, Mexico
         2. Brazil, Argentina
         3. UK, France, Germany, Italy, EU
         4. South Africa
         5. Russia, China, India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Japan
         6. Australia
   28. Kiran Bedi removed as Lt. Gov of Puducherry
       * 8 UT’s 🡪 6 + 2 (Delhi & Puducherry, both have CM & Legislative Assembly)
       * A 74 🡪 on advise of Mantri Parishad, President can remove Lt. Gov
       * Pondicherry
         1. First ruled by Portuguese
         2. 1654 – France took over till 1954
         3. Joined India in 1956.
       * UT’s
         1. Headed by Lt. Governor
         2. UT’s are made for Central govt to have direct rule over these areas, as opposed to states.
   29. Mars Mission
       * NASA’s Mission Perseverance
         1. Operations lead by Dr. Swati Mohan
       * UAE’s Hope Mission
       * CHINA’s Tianwen 1
         1. Zhurong Rover
   30. #metoo campaign – MJ Akbar vs Priya Ramani
       * In an interview from 2017, she reveals that 20 years ago there was sexual misconduct in an interview by MJ Akbar
       * MJ Akbar (Right to Reputation) vs Ramani (Right to Live with Dignity)
       * Delhi Court acquitted Ramani in the case of defamation by MJ Akbar (former Union Minister)
   31. First time China acknowledges causalities in Galwan Valley clash.
       * China says 4 officer were killed in clashes with foreign countries (didn’t name India)
   32. India is not participating in IRAN-RUSSIA Maritime exercises
       * One of the possible reasons
         1. American CAATSA (Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act) – a US federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea and Russia.
         2. Any country supporting these countries will also face sanctions
       * Another reason 🡪 Iran had invited China in this exercise, India backed out.
   33. PM to initiate work on longest bridge in India
       * Longest bridge until now 🡪 Dhola – Sadiya Bridge (9.15 km), Assam
       * New Bridge
         1. 19.82 km 4 lane bridge over Brahmaputra will be completed by 2026-27
         2. Connect Phulbari (Meghalaya) to Dhubri (Poll bound Assam)
         3. Would reduce distance from 200 km to 19 km.
         4. Cost – 5000 Cr
         5. Japans JICA company would help India in building this bridge.
       * Idea of this bridge came when in an accident in 2012 of capsized boat in river killed 103 people
       * World’s Longest Bridge – Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge, China (165 km)
         1. 2nd longest – Langfang-Qingxian Viaduct (70.8)
         2. Both part of Beijing Shanghai High Speed Railway
   34. Crime reduced by 16% from 2019, while cybercrime had peaked.
   35. Too many IIT’s unrealistic expectation – Editorial (20th Feb 2021)
       * New IIT’s planned – Mandi(HP), Palakkad(Kerala), Dharwal (Karnataka)
   36. PM Modi addresses COVID-19 Management Workshop
       * Ideas appreciated by Pakistan, addressed to neighboring countries
       * Special visa scheme for doctors and nurses so they can travel quickly during health emergencies
       * Proper management of air ambulances
       * Create a regional platform for sharing of COVID – 19 vaccine production
       * Sharing of Ayushman Bharat schemes should be implemented in other countries
   37. India 3rd among vaccinated population
   38. Government to Monitor OTT content
       * Under the ambit of Information Technology Rules 2021
       * 3 ways to control
         1. All platforms should have a complaint officer, where action has to be taken in 15 days
         2. If problem is not resolved here, it will be raise to Self-Regulation Group, collectively established by the OTTs. This body headed by a retired SC judge or HC or imminent personality from media/broadcast/entertainment/human rights.
         3. All the above steps fail, govt will take action.
       * OTT platforms will have to self-classify contents in to categories
       * Platforms would be required to implement parental locks and reliable age verification.
   39. World Day of Social Justice – 20th Feb
       * Theme – “Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice”
       * Highlights social injustice done throughout the world and solution/improvements.
   40. Presidents Rule imposed in Puducherry
       * CM – Narayan Swami, Lt Gov – Kiran Bedi
       * As govt fell, temporary governor was given to Telangana governor
       * Maximum President Rule – UP
       * Maximum President Rule during Indira Gandhi’s time – 35
   41. Nitini Gadkari launches “GO ELECTRIC” campaign
       * India’s target, 1/3rd vehicles on road should be EV
       * Spread awareness on benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure as well as electric cooking
       * Reduce oil import dependence
       * Brought by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under Ministry of Power
   42. Chinese Coast Guard vessels enter Japanese waters near the Senkakus
       * 3 countries claim these islands with their own names
         1. Japan – Senkaku
         2. China – Diaoyu
         3. Taiwan - Tiaoyutai
       * Japan supported by USA.
       * Senkaku Islands in Pacific Ocean
   43. FATF keeps Pakistan on Grey List until June
       * Estd 1989, 39 members, India also a part
       * Targets countries that are part of money laundering and terrorist funding.
       * Grey List – Members will not get loans from IMF, if they do at very high interest rates
         1. Other countries – Morocco, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cayman Islands at present 12 countries in grey list.
       * Black list – North Korea & Iran (countries only get added here when all 39 members agree, reason why Pak is not black listed because of support form China)
   44. Motera Stadium renamed Narendra Modi Stadium (World’s Largest Cricket Stadium)
       * When small – Sardar Vallabhai Patel Stadium
       * Owned by Gujarat Cricket Association, seating 1,10,000
       * World’s largest stadium – Rungrado MayDay Stadium, Pyongyang, NK (1,14,000)
   45. Vice President says end low representation of women in Parliament & Legislature (Politics)
       * India ranks 153/190, in percentage of women representation in the lower houses of world parliaments
       * Acc to this list, Rawanda ranks first with 61% women representation.
       * Even Pakistan has 20% representation, compared to India’s 14% (in current 17th LS)
   46. Railway Bridge taller than Eiffel Tower over Chenab – Chenab Bridge
       * World’s highest railway bridge, Mouri area
       * Will connect J&K to India
   47. Hima Das – World Champion Sprinter appointed DSP of Assam
       * Called Dhing Express/Golden Girl
       * Arjuna Award in 2018
   48. Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Casts (NCSC) – Vijay Sampla
       * NCSC is mentioned in A-338
   49. Pagdi Sambhal Jatta Movement
       * 23rd Feb – 140th birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh’s Uncle Ajit Singh
         1. He protested against farmer laws enacted by British in 1907.
       * Lines – Pagdi Sambhal Jatta given by Banke Dayal.
   50. Sri Lanka urges rejection of UNHRC Resolution
       * UNHRC
         1. 47 members, part of UN
         2. Takes action against countries violating human rights
       * Sinhala tribe (75%), Tamils (11%)
       * 1983 to 2009 🡪 Sinhala vs Tamils
       * Tamil group to counter Sinhala, formed a group LTTE.
       * Sri Lankan army ordered to kill Tamils, over 1 lakh Tamils killed.
       * India supported Sri Lanka and not Tamils and when UN raised voice against Sri Lanka, India sided with UN. (Rajeev Gandhi assassinated by LTTE)
       * UN has accused Sri Lanka of killing 1 lakh Tamils(violating Human Rights)
       * UNHRC passes a bill accusing Sri Lanka, to keep the majority votes from Sinhala, Sri Lanka rejected this bill.
       * UNHRC again passes new bill, if Sri Lanka rejects again, there will be serious actions.
       * India in a tough spot, if supports Sri Lanka, TB will be against us. If we support Tamils in Sri Lanka, we might lose Sri Lanka to China.
   51. Caracal/The Wild Cat – now critically endangered.
       * Favorite hunting animal in medieval India (Mentioned in Akbarnama) by royals.
       * Found in Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP.
       * Also found in Middle East, Africa.
       * Name derived from Karakulak (Turkish meaning black ears)
       * Known as Siyagosh in India.
   52. India Pakistan agree to stop cross border firing in Kashmir
   53. How India is building its own Footwear Sizing System
       * CLRI (Central Leather Research Institute) – pan India feet scanning survey
       * Replacing UK/US sizes
       * Bad fits can cause injuries, more so in age above 40 cause diabetes.
       * Scanned using 3D scanner machines, imported from Italy
       * 11 crores total cost
       * India 2nd largest footwear production country after China
   54. Imran Khan pitches Economic corridor to Sri Lanka
       * Kashgar(China) to Gwadar (Pakistan) Road (CPEC) – to connect with Persian Gulf countries’
       * Imran khan want Sri Lanka to become part of this CPEC corridor
       * If this becomes reality, India will be surrounded by this corridor.