

The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974

1. Lok Sabha passes Appropriation Bill



- The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Appropriation Bill 2021-22, authorising the government to draw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for its working as well as implementation of its programmes and schemes. This completes two-thirds of the exercise for approval of the Budget for 2021-22.
- The Lok Sabha earlier discussed demands for grants of different ministries, including railways, education and health. Speaker Om Birla later applied the guillotine, after which all the outstanding demands for grants, whether discussed or not, were put to vote at once and passed.
- After that, the Appropriation Bill was taken into consideration and passed by the lower house of Parliament. The Lok Sabha will now discuss the Finance Bill, which essentially contains the government's tax propo .. Once the Finance Bill is passed, the budget exercise is complete.
- Both appropriation and finance bills are classified as money bills which do not require the explicit consent of the Rajya Sabha. The upper house only discusses them and returns the bills. After passing the Finance Bill, it enters the statute as the Finance Act. Thus, the final Budget gets approved.
- While guillotine literally is a large, weighted blade used for executing a condemned person, in legislative parlance, to "guillotine" means to bunch together and fast-track the passage of financial business. It is a fairly common procedural exercise in Lok Sabha during the Budget Session.

2. Book Titled "Battle Ready For 21st Century" Released At Centre For Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).

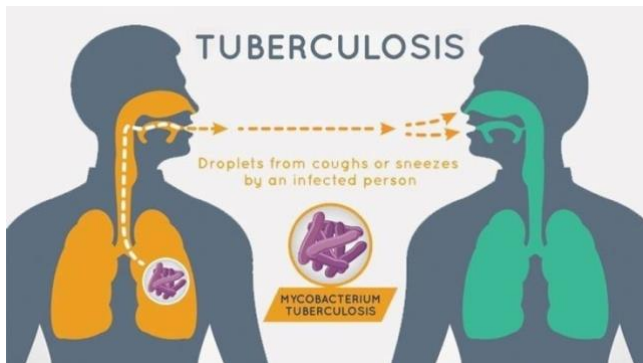


- A book titled "Battle Ready for 21st Century" co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh, Distinguished Fellow CLAWS and Brig Narender Kumar, Visiting Fellow CLAWS was released by Gen Bipin Rawat, CDS and Gen Deepak Kapoor, Former Chief of the Army Staff at Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) on 17 March 2021.
- The book "Battle Ready for the 21st Century" has endeavoured to postulate and define emerging areas of conflict, desired capabilities and doctrinal issues that need careful examination. The authors with hands-on experience and domain specialisation have endeavoured to define and suggest the ways and means necessary to secure India from emerging security challenges on land, air, sea, space, cyber domain and even cognitive domain. The book is dwelling on future conflicts that India may face and need to build capabilities to dissuade and prevent accidental wars. The foreword is written by former Naval Chief Admiral Arun Prakash. Former Chief of the Army Staff Gen NC Vij and Prof Gautam Sen have commented on the book for empirically identifying future security challenges and the need for building capabilities.

3. Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan appointed as Chairman of international body Stop TB Partnership Board.

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WHAT IS TELEMEDICINE

According to WHO, telemedicine is the delivery of healthcare services by using information and communication technologies for the exchange of information for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease



WHY TELEMEDICINE

The practice cuts down one-on-one interactions between the patient and the doctor or healthcare provider, and is useful when handling infectious diseases

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan has been appointed as the Chairman of the international body Stop TB Partnership Board. He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis from India by 2025. Dr Harsh Vardhan will serve a three-year term, commencing from July this year.
- The Stop TB Partnership is a unique international body with the power to align actors all over the world in the fight against TB. The participation of a wide range of constituencies gives this global body the credibility and the broad range of medical, social and financial expertise needed to defeat TB. The Partnership's vision is a TB-free world.
- The appointment of Dr Harsh Vardhan as the Chair of this prestigious global body is a proud recognition of India's political commitment to the eradication of TB. Established in the year 2000, the 'Stop TB Partnership' is mandated to eliminate Tuberculosis as a public health problem.
- The Centre's National Telemedicine Service has offered 30 lakh consultations so far with Tamil Nadu and Gujarat among the top 10 States availing the facility, the Union Health Ministry said on Wednesday.
- The service known as eSanjeevani is operational in 31 States and Union Territories and daily over 35,000 patients across the country are using this innovative digital medium to seek health services, it said.
- The National Telemedicine Service, set up by the Ministry of Health, comprises two variants of eSanjeevani namely - doctor to doctor (eSanjeevani AB-HWC) telemedicine platform that is based on hub and spoke model and patient to doctor telemedicine platform (eSanjeevani OPD) which provides outpatient services to the citizens in the confines of their homes. The eSanjeevani AB-HWC is being implemented at Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, and by December 2022 it will be made operational at 1,55,000 Health and Wellness Centres across India, the Ministry said in its statement.
- It was rolled out in November 2019 and Andhra Pradesh was the first State to roll out eSanjeevani AB-HWC services. Since its roll out over 1,000 hubs and around 15,000 spokes have been set up in various States. eSanjeevani AB-HWC has completed around 9,00,000 consultations, the statement said.
- The eSanjeevani OPD provides digital health services to the citizens through more than 250 online OPDs set up on eSanjeevaniOPD. Over 220 of these online OPDs are specialist OPDs and the rest are general OPDs. eSanjeevani OPD was rolled out on April 2020 during the

4. Thirty lakh telemedicine consultations offered under Centre's eSanjeevani service

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first lockdown in the country when all the OPDs were closed, the Ministry stated. "So far, over 21,00,000 patients have been served through eSanjeevaniOPD," it said.

- The service has started aiding the Indian healthcare delivery system by plugging the digital health divide that exists in urban and rural India, the Ministry highlighted.
- "It is also addressing the shortage of doctors and specialists at ground level while reducing the burden on secondary and tertiary level hospitals. In line with the National Digital Health Mission eSanjeevani is also boosting digital health ecosystem in the country," the statement.
- Leading 10 States in terms of adoption (number of consultations) of eSanjeevani are Tamil Nadu (6,42,708), Uttar Pradesh (6,31,019), Karnataka (6,07,305), Andhra Pradesh (2,16,860), Madhya Pradesh (2,04,296), Gujarat (1,95,281), Kerala (93,317), Maharashtra (84,742), Uttarakhand (74,776) and Himachal Pradesh (67,352). As regards adoption amongst districts, eSanjeevani has been used by citizens in around 600 districts. Nationally, over 31,000 doctors and paramedics have been trained and on boarded eSanjeevani, of these around 14,000 doctors practice telemedicine on eSanjeevani OPD and over 17,000 doctors and Community Health Officers use eSanjeevani AB-HWC.
- Quick and widespread adoption of eSanjeevani reflects that a significant proportion of outpatient visits can be clinically managed effectively remotely. Patients with not so urgent medical conditions are using eSanjeevani without having to expose themselves to the risk of being infected and without compromising quality of care," the Ministry said.
- Very soon iOS app of eSanjeevani OPD will be made available on iOS App Store and this is expected to further increase the penetration of National Telemedicine Service in the country. The government of Jharkhand is setting up a special OPD on eSanjeevaniOPD that would issue COVID-19 co-morbidities e-certificates to the public to facilitate COVID-19 inoculation for them, the statement said.

5. ICC Rankings: Virat Kohli rises to 5th in T20I list,



- Virat Kohli reclaimed the No.5 spot in the ICC T20I rankings for batsmen after two stunning innings against England in the ongoing 5-match series. Kohli had been dismissed for 0 in the first match on March 12 but followed that up with scores of 73 not out and 77 not out.

6. APEDA Organizes First Ever Virtual Trade Fair To Boost Export Potential Of India's Agricultural And Processed Food Products



- In a first of its kind initiative for boosting export potential of India's agricultural and processed food products during COVID19 pandemic, APEDA launched its first Virtual Trade Fair (VTF) yesterday on 10th March 2021. The fair will conclude on March 12, 2021
- The fair with a theme 'India Rice and Agro Commodity', will focus on showcasing the exports potential of various

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agricultural commodities. Importers as well as exporters will be key participants of the VTF. The potential buyers or importers and visitors will get to explore a wide range of food products presented by the exporters through this virtual fair.

- The key products which would be displayed through VTF include - basmati rice, non-basmati rice, millets, wheat, maize, groundnut and coarse grains. So far 135 Exhibitors have registered for the VTF. Further 266 Indian and international buyers from United Arab Emirates, Brazil, New Zealand, France, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Fiji, Philippines, Qatar, Sudan, Myanmar, Netherlands, and Peru have registered at the starting of the events. The buyers have been generated with the support of Indian Embassies abroad. An aggressive campaign of Virtual Trade Fair is running on Social media.

7. Bangladesh: 10 day long programme to celebrate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib centenary, 50 years of liberation.



- Bangladesh will celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of the liberation of the country between March 17-26. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told the media on Wednesday that the programme will be held at the National Parade Square in Dhaka.
- Talking about the arrangements for holding the programmes, the Home Minister said all the guests will

need to come to the venue with COVID 19 negative certificates to take part in the event. Security arrangements for the dignitaries and foreign diplomats visiting the programme will be made, said the minister.

- However, no large scale public gathering will be allowed during the programmes because of the continuing Corona pandemic in the country. Chief Coordinator of the centenary celebration Committee Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury said that about 500 people will be invited from different sectors and guests will be invited in phases, reports the official news agency BSS. He said that out of the 10 day's programme, functions on four days will be held with physical attendance, rest of the programmes will be done virtually.

8. Poshan Pakhwada Being Celebrated from 16th to 31st March.



- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the Poshan Pakhwada from March 16 to March 31, 2021. The Department of Women & Child Development or the Social Welfare Department will be the nodal department to look after the Poshan Pakhwada across the states and Union Territories.
- Addressing nutritional challenges through Food Forestry and organizing Poshan Panchayats are the key focus areas for Poshan Pakhwada 2021.
- Poshan Panchayat will be organized involving members of PRIs for generating awareness on topics like malnutrition

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prevalence and its consequences, Poshan Vatika, food forestry, identification of SAM/MAM children and its management.

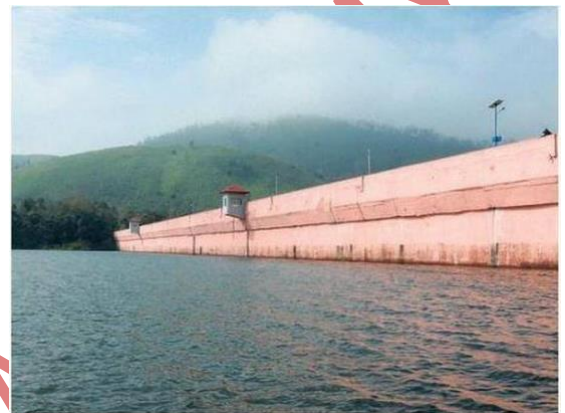
- Poshan Abhiyaan, launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 8, 2018, has reached a long way in ensuring wider people's participation. Poshan Abhiyaan endeavors to improve nutritional outcomes in a holistic manner in convergence with other Ministries.

9. Avinash Sable reiterated his credentials as the best steeplechaser in the country.



- Avinash Sable has made a habit of breaking his own records and setting new benchmarks.
- In the Federation Cup on Wednesday, the steeplechaser set yet another National record, his fifth in three years, while also breaching the Olympic qualification mark, also for the second time.
- Sable clocked 8:20.20, more than a second off his 2019 National mark. It started with breaking Gopal Saini's long-standing mark in 2018 and since then, Sable has only gotten better.

10. Mullaperiyar Dam



- The Supreme Court said on Tuesday that the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary shall be "personally responsible" and "appropriate action" will be taken on failure to give information on the rule curve for Mullaperiyar dam to the Supreme Court-appointed Supervisory Committee.
- Rule curve in a dam decides the fluctuating storage levels in a reservoir. The gate opening schedule of a dam is based on the rule curve. It is part of the "core safety" mechanism in a dam.
- After a nearly day-long hearing, a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar directed the Supervisory Committee to issue directions or take steps to address the three core safety issues – the monitoring and performance of the instrumentation of the dam, finalising the rule curve and fixing the gate operating schedule – and submit a compliance report in four weeks.
- "We find that the three core issues are directly concerned with the safety of the dam and will have a cascading effect on persons residing in the nearby areas," the court noted.
- During the high-voltage hearing, the Tamil Nadu government blamed Kerala for delaying the finalisation of the rule curve for the 123-year-old dam.
- "Right from the beginning, Kerala has adopted an obscurantist and obstructive stand... Kerala government is somehow not comfortable with Tamil Nadu operating the dam. Kerala has made consistent efforts to obstruct Tamil



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Nadu from operating the dam. Kerala is preventing the finalisation of the rule curve. We are not able to access data which is in their terrain. There is no road built, the power supply has not been restored, though we had paid for it... How do we function?" said senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, for Tamil Nadu.

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