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2021 not as bad as 2020, says think tank – 3rd January, 2022

Level 4

A think tank suggested that the year 2021 wasn't as bad as 2020. The non-profit body of experts specializing in foreign policy celebrated its centenary in 2021. However, there was still plenty of bad news. Perhaps the worst was the failure to address the climate change challenge. The UN declared "a code red for humanity". Other top stories included coronavirus, mass migration, the supply chain crisis, and the Taliban returning to power.

The think tank said 2021 did bring some good news. It said: "For a moment in early summer, it seemed that COVID-19 was in the rearview mirror." Happier news included more than 9 billion covid-19 vaccinations being given. In addition, NASA successfully extracted a sample of Martian rock for the first time. In health news the WHO declared China free of malaria. In sustainability news, a passenger aircraft flew using 100 per cent sustainable fuel.

Level 5

A think tank has suggested that the year 2021 wasn't as bad as 2020. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is a non-profit body of experts specializing in foreign policy and international affairs. It celebrated its centenary in 2021. It stated that 2021 "wasn't as tumultuous as 2020". There was still plenty of bad news. Perhaps the worst was the failure to properly address the climate change challenge. This led to the UN declaring "a code red for humanity". Other top stories included coronavirus, mass migration, the supply chain crisis, and the Taliban returning to power.

The CFR said 2021 did bring some good news. It said: "For a moment in early summer, it seemed that COVID-19 was in the rearview mirror." On the brighter side, more than 9 billion covid-19 vaccinations were given. Notable achievements in 2021 included NASA's Perseverance rover successfully extracting a sample of Martian rock for the first time. In health news the WHO declared China free of malaria. There was also good news regarding sustainability with the first passenger aircraft to use 100 per cent sustainable fuel.

Level 6

An influential think tank has suggested that the year 2021 wasn't as bad as 2020. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is a United States not-for-profit body of experts specializing in U.S. foreign policy and international affairs. It celebrated its centenary in 2021. It stated that 2021 "wasn't as tumultuous as 2020, which put in a claim to be the worst year ever". However, there was still plenty of dreadful news. Number one on the bad news list was the world's failure to properly address the climate change challenge. This led to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres declaring "a code red for humanity". Other top-ten stories included the mutating of the coronavirus, mass migration, the supply chain crisis, and the Taliban returning to power.

The CFR asserted that 2021 did bring some good news. It said: "For a moment in early summer, it seemed that COVID-19 was in the rearview mirror." On the brighter side, more than 9 billion covid-19 vaccinations were administered globally. Many notable achievements occurred in 2021. NASA's Perseverance rover successfully "drilled, extracted and stored a sample of Martian rock" for the very first time. In health news, "after decades of targeted and sustained action," the WHO declared China free of malaria. There was also good news regarding sustainability as United Airlines flew the first passenger aircraft with 100 per cent sustainable fuel. And... cheese lovers were guaranteed there is "no evidence that cheese causes weight gain".