



adda247

# THE HINDU REVIEW

MARCH 2021

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTHLY CAPSULE



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## The Most Important Current Affairs March 2021

### Golden Globe Awards 2021 Announced

The **Golden Globe Awards 2021** was held to recognise excellence in film, both American and international, and American television. This was the **78th** edition of the annual event, which honoured the best in American television, as well as film in 2020 and early 2021, as chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. American TV series **“The Crown”** won the most awards for the ceremony with four awards. Late American actor **Chadwick Boseman** won the Golden Globe award for Best Actor in Drama category, posthumously, for his portrayal of Levee Green in Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.

#### Winners in the Film category:

- **Best Film – Drama: Nomadland**
- Best Film – Musical/Comedy: Borat Subsequent Movie film
- **Best Director: Chloe Zhao for Nomadland**
- **Best Actress – Drama: Andra Day for The United States vs. Billie Holiday**
- **Best Actor – Drama: Chadwick Boseman for Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom**
- Best Actress – Musical/Comedy: Rosamund Pike for I Care A Lot
- Best Actor – Musical/Comedy: Sacha Baron Cohen for Borat Subsequent Movie film
- Best Supporting Actress: Jodie Foster for The Mauritanian
- Best Supporting Actor: Daniel Kaluuya for Judas And The Black Messiah
- Best Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin for The Trial of the Chicago 7
- Best Foreign Language Film: Minari
- Best Animated Feature: Soul
- Best Original Score: Soul
- Best Original Song: ‘Io Si (Seen)’ from The Life Ahead

#### Winners in the Television category:

- **Best TV Series – Drama: The Crown**
- Best TV Series – Musical/Comedy: Schitt’s Creek
- Best Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film: The Queen’s Gambit
- **Best Actress – Drama: Emma Corrin for The Crown**
- **Best Actor – Drama: Josh O’Connor for The Crown**
- Best Actress – Musical/Comedy: Catherine O’Hara for Schitt’s Creek
- Best Actor – Musical/Comedy: Jason Sudeikis for Ted Lasso
- **Best Supporting Actress: Gillian Anderson for The Crown**
- Best Supporting Actor: John Boyega for Small Axe
- Best Actress (Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film): Anya Taylor-Joy for The Queen’s Gambit
- Best Actor (Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film): Mark Ruffalo for I Know This Much Is True

### 10th Hurun Global Rich List 2021 announced

The **10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021** was released, which ranked 3228 billionaires from 2,402 companies and **68 countries**. The report showed that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the world added 8 billionaires every week in 2020 and 421 in a year, taking their total number to a record 3,288.

The total wealth of all billionaires across the globe surged 32 per cent, an addition of \$3.5 trillion, to take their total wealth to \$14.7 trillion, during the period under review. The wealth calculations taken into account is as of January 15, 2021.

#### Top three billionaires:

- Tesla chief **Elon Musk** bagged the top spot on the Hurun Global Rich List for the first time after adding a massive **\$151 billion** during the year 2020 to take his net worth to **\$197 billion**.
- Amazon.com Inc CEO **Jeff Bezos** ranked second with **\$189 billion** in net worth.
- **Bernard Arnault**, the chief executive of LVMH Moët Hennessy – Louis Vuitton SE, the world’s largest luxury-goods company ranked third with a net worth of \$114 billion.

#### India in the list

- With 60 Billionaires from the Hurun India Global List 2021, **Mumbai** became the capital for India’s rich followed by **New Delhi** (40) & **Bengaluru** (22).
- Asia’s richest person and Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** is ranked eighth on the **Hurun Global Rich List 2021**. The total wealth of Ambani surged by 24% to **\$83 billion** (approximately Rs 6.09 lakh crore).

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- **Apoorva Mehta** of Instacard & **Nikhil Kamath** of Zerodha (both 34 years) became the youngest Indian Billionaires with a net worth of USD 1.7 Billion.
- **Gautam Adani** of Adani Group (Global Rank – 48)
- **Shiv Nadar** of HCL (Global Rank – 58)
- **Lakshmi N Mittal** of ArcelorMittal (Global Rank – 104)
- **Cyrus Poonawalla** of Serum (Global Rank – 113)

**ASIA:**

**Zhong Shanshan** (Founder of Chinese Bottle Water Maker – Nongfu Spring) with USD 85 Billion became Asia’s Richest person, followed by **Mukesh Ambani**. He also broke into the Hurun Global Rich List 2021 for the 1st time with a rank of 7.

**Government amends Insurance Ombudsman Rules 2017**

The **Government of India** has notified comprehensive amendments to the **Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017**, for better resolution of policyholders’ complaints regarding insurance service deficiencies, in a timely, cost-effective and impartial manner. This will help in facilitating the resolution of the complaints with respect to the deficiencies in insurance services in a cost-effective and impartial manner on time.

**What are those amendments?**

- The Ombudsman mechanism was administered by the Executive Council of Insurers. This has now been renamed as the **Council for Insurance Ombudsmen**.
- Earlier, the scope of complaints to Ombudsmen was limited to only disputes, but now it has been enlarged to include **deficiencies in service** on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries.
- The insurance brokers have also been brought within the ambit of the Ombudsman mechanism. The Ombudsmen has been empowered to pass **awards against insurance brokers as well**.
- To strengthen the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the mechanism, policyholders will now be enabled for making **complaints electronically to the Ombudsman**.
- A complaints management system will be created to enable policyholders to track the status of their complaints online.
- The rules also provide that, the ombudsman can use **video-conferencing** to hear the cases.

**Who is an ombudsman?**

Ombudsman is an official who is appointed to investigate the complaints regarding the service or on an administrative authority. The ombudsman is usually appointed by governments however, the private companies can also appoint them. The Indian government has appointed an ombudsman to resolve the grievances with respect to income tax, banking and insurance.

**Economic Freedom Index 2021 Announced**

The **Heritage Foundation**, a US Conservative think-tank, recently launched the **“Economic Freedom Index”**. The index was prepared by covering 184 countries this time for the period of **July 2019 to June 2020**. This is the first time the index has been published since the COVID-19 pandemic overturned lives as well as global economies and the scoring reflects a small extent how governments have responded to the health crisis.

**Ranking:**

In the index, **Singapore** has topped the global ranking for the second consecutive year. In the 2021 Index, **India** came in around the middle of the pack among Asia-Pacific countries ranking **26th** out of 40 countries, scoring 56.5 points. Globally, the Foundation rates India’s economy as the **121st freest**. Although its overall score is unchanged, improvements were made in business freedom. This was offset by declines in judicial effectiveness and other scores.

**Index**

- **Rank 1:** Singapore
- **Rank 2:** New Zealand
- **Rank 3:** Australia
- **Rank 4:** Switzerland
- **Rank 5:** Ireland

**Important Fact of the Index:**

- The biggest news generated from the “2021 Index of Economic Freedom” was however not the rankings or how COVID-19 impacted the scores but that The Heritage Foundation decided to exclude **Hong Kong** from its rankings for the first time ever.
- The Heritage Foundation said that the reason for leaving Hong Kong out is that the Special Administrative Region and its economic policies have now come under the direct control of Beijing.

**What is Economic Freedom Index?**

- The Heritage Foundation’s Index of Economic Freedom is an annual guide published to measure the progress made in advancing economic freedom which it claims brings greater prosperity.
- The Foundation also believes that “the ideals of economic freedom are strongly associated with healthier societies, cleaner environments, greater per capita wealth, human development, democracy, and poverty elimination.”

- The index ranks 12 indicators from property rights to financial freedom under four categories: rule of law, size of government, regulatory efficiency and open markets.
- The small island nation of Singapore made improvements or maintained its score for all 12 indicators except monetary freedom and judicial effectiveness which declined marginally, but its scores in these two indicators are still exceptionally high when compared with most other countries.

### Winners List of Swiss Open 2021

India's ace shuttler **PV Sindhu** has won a silver medal in the **BWF Swiss Open Super 300** in the final of the women's singles event held at **Basel, Switzerland**. The World No. 7 Sindhu lost to World No. 3 and reigning Olympic champion **Carolina Marin**.

- Men's Singles : **Viktor Axelsen** (Denmark) beat Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand).
- Women's Singles: **Carolina Marin** (Spain) beat PV Sindhu (India).
- Men's Doubles: **Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen** (Denmark) beat Mark Lamsfuss-Marvin Seidel (Germany).
- Mixed Doubles: **Thom Gicquel-Delphine Delrue** (France) beat Denmark pair, Mathias Christiansen-Alexandra Boje.

### 2021 Dandi March to mark 75 years of Independence

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off the **91st anniversary of Dandi March on March 12 in Ahmedabad** to celebrate the **75th anniversary of India's Independence**. The Salt March, which took place from **March to April 1930**, was an act of civil disobedience led by **Mahatma Gandhi** to protest the British rule in the country. The event is kicked off from **Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram** and this event is also the part of the State government's programme to mark "**Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav**."

#### What was the original Dandi March?

The Dandi March or Salt March as part of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent protest against the British monopoly on the production of salt. Led by Gandhi, **78 people** started the 24-day march on **March 12** and reached Dandi on **April 5, 1930**. After making salt at Dandi, Gandhi headed to Dharasana Salt Works, 40 km south, but was arrested on May 5.

### GoI Sets up 259-Member panel to Commemorate 75 Years of India's Independence

The Government of India has set up a **259-member** high-level national committee, to be headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to commemorate **75 years of India's independence**. The committee will provide policy direction and guidelines for the formulation of programmes for the commemoration of the 75th

anniversary of Indian Independence, at the national and international levels.

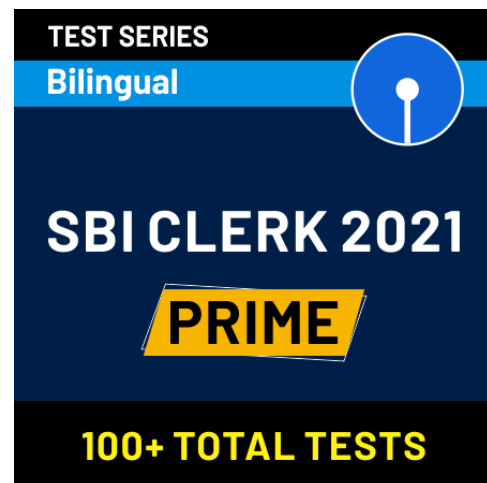
The celebrations are proposed to be launched 75 weeks prior to **August 15, 2022**, on March 12, 2021, which is the **91st anniversary** of the historic **Salt Satyagraha** led by Mahatma Gandhi. The celebrations will be held at the national and international level in the form of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The high-level committee will hold its first meeting on March 8, 2021.

#### Members include:

- The members of the panel include former president Pratibha Patil, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, NSA Ajit Doval, 28 chief ministers, artistes like Lata Mangeshkar, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, senior BJP leader LK Advani, almost all Union ministers and several governors.
- Opposition leaders like Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and former Uttar Pradesh chief ministers Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati are also part of the committee.

### PM Narendra Modi Launches Kindle Version of Bhagavad Gita

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the Kindle version of **Swami Chidbhavananda's 'Bhagavad Gita'** via video conferencing. The event has been organised to commemorate the sale of over 5 lakh copies of the Swami Chidbhavanandaji's **Bhagavad Gita**. Swami Chidbhavanandaji is the founder of **Sri Ramakrishna Tapovanam Ashram** at Thirupparaithurai, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. Chidbhavananda Ji was devoted to India's regeneration. He noted that Swami Vivekananda's Madras lectures inspired Swami Chidbhavananda Ji to put the nation above everything else and serve the people.



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## Grammy Awards 2021 Announced: Check the list of Winners

The 63rd edition of the annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles on March 14, 2021. The 2021 Grammy awards recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year, between **September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020**. The award is presented by **The Recording Academy** to recognize achievements in the American music industry. **Beyonce** received the most nominations with nine, as well as the most awards with four.

Here is the list of winners of **Grammy Awards 2021**:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Album Of The Year	"Folklore" by Taylor Swift
2.	Record Of The Year	"Everything I Wanted" by Billie Eilish
3.	Best New Artist	Megan Thee Stallion
4.	Best Rap Album	"King's Disease" by Nas
5.	Best R&B Album Winner	"Bigger Love" by John Legend
6.	Best Rap Song	"Savage" by Beyoncé, Shawn Carter, Brittany
7.	Best Country Album	"Wildcard" – Miranda Lambert
8.	Song Of The Year	"I Can't Breathe" by Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas
9.	Best Rock Album	"The New Abnormal" by The Strokes
10.	Best Rock Song	"Stay High" by Brittany Howard, songwriter (Brittany Howard)
11.	Best Dance/Electronic Album	Bubba by Kaytranada
12.	Producer of the Year, Classical	David Frost
13.	Best Music Video	Brown Skin Girl by Beyoncé, Blue Ivy & WizKid
14.	Best Country Song	Crowded Table by Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby & Lori McKenna
15.	Best Folk Album	All the Good Times
16.	Best Comedy Album	Black Mitzvah by Tiffany Haddish

### History of Grammy Award:

The Grammy Award is an award presented by the Recording Academy to recognize achievements in the music industry. The first Grammy Awards ceremony was held on **May 4, 1959**, to honour and respect the musical accomplishments of performers for the year **1958**. The trophy represents a gilded gramophone.

## Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 Announced

**Sahitya Akademi** announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards in 20 languages**. Seven books of poetry, four of the novel, Five short stories, two plays, and one each of memoirs and epic poetry in 20 Indian languages. The awards for **Malayalam, Nepali, Odia and Rajasthani** will be announced later. Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India. It is a dream for all Indian writers to look forward to one of the prestigious literary awards. The **political-writer M Veerappa Moily, poet Arundhathi Subramaniam** will be bestowed with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2020.

### Sahitya Akademi Award

The Akademi is run by three authorities

- General council.
- Finance committee.
- Executive board.

The Akademi is known for holding the largest library of multi-lingual books in India. The Sahitya Akademi is autonomous. It comes under the Ministry of Culture.

The complete list of winners in different language and genre categories is given in the table below.

S. No.	Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
1	Assamese	Bengsata (Short stories)	Apurba Kumar Saikia
	Bengali	Eka Eka Ekashi (Memoirs)	Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay
3	Bodo	Gwthenay Lamayao Gwdan Agan (Short stories)	Dharanidhar <i>Owari</i>
4	Dogri	Baba Jitmal (Play)	Gian Singh
5	<b>English</b>	When God Is a Traveller (Poetry)	Arundhati Subramaniam
6	Gujarati	Banaras Diary (Poetry)	Harish Meenakshru
7	<b>Hindi</b>	Tokeri Mein Digant "Their Gatha" (Poetry)	Anamika
8	Kannada	Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam (EPIC POETRY)	M. Veerappa Moily
9	Kashmiri	Tilasm-e-Khanabadosh (Short stories)	Hiday Koul Bharti
10	Konkani	Yugaparivarathanancho Yatri (Poetry)	RS Bhaskar
11	Maithili	Gachh Roosal Achhi (Short Stories)	Kamalkant Jha
12	Manipuri	Malangbana Kari Hai (Poetry)	Irungbam Deven
13	Marathi	Udya (Novel)	Nanda Khare
14	Punjabi	Aam Khass (Short stories)	Gurdev Singh Rupana
15	<b>Sanskrit</b>	Vaishali (Novel)	Mahesh Chandra Sharma Gautam
16	Santali	Gur Dak Kasa Dak(Poetry)	Rupchand Hansdah
17	Sindhi	Jehad (Plays)	Jetho Lalwani
18	Tamil	Sellaatha Panam (Novel)	Imaiyam
19	Telugu	Agniswaasa(2015-17) Poetry	Nikhileswar
20	<b>Urdu</b>	Amawas Mein Khwab (Novel)	Hussain-ul-Haque

Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 winners will be bestowed with the award in the form of a casket, containing the engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and a cash amount of **Rs. 1,00,000/-** at the Sahitya Akademi Award Presentation function.

### Mumbai City FC beat ATK Mohun Bagan to win their maiden ISL title

Mumbai City FC has defeated ATK Mohun Bagan 2-1 in the ISL 2020-21 final to lift yet another trophy this year. Mumbai had earlier secured the ISL Shield along with a spot in the AFC Champions League group stage by finishing first in the standings in the regular season.

#### Related Awards

- **Golden Ball Award** (Best Player of ISL 2020-21): ATK Mohun Bagan forward **Roy Krishna**.
- **Emerging Indian Player of the Year**: NorthEast United midfielder **Lalengmawia**.
- **Golden Boot Award** (Top goal-scorer): FC Goa striker **Igor Angulo** for 14 goals.

- **Golden Glove Award** (Best Goalkeeper): ATK Mohun Bagan custodian **Arindam Bhattacharya** for ten clean sheets.

**TEST SERIES**

**ENGLISH**



**FCI 2021**

**ASST. GENERAL MANAGER**  
**(General Administration)**

**20 TOTAL TESTS**

## 67th National Film Awards Announced

The **67th National Film Awards** are currently being announced in **New Delhi**. The awards are for films from the year **2019**. The event is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**. The ceremony was supposed to be held in May last year but was delayed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Here is the complete list of all the winners:**

### Feature Film Awards

- Best Feature Film: **Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea** (Malayalam)
- Best Actor (shared): **Manoj Bajpayee** for Bhonsle (Hindi), and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)
- Best Actress: **Kangana Ranaut** for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)
- Best Supporting Actress: Pallavi Joshi for The Tashkent Files (Hindi)
- Best Supporting Actor: Vijay Sethupathi for Super Deluxe (Tamil)
- Best Director: **Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan** for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)
- Best Debut Film of a Director: **Mathukutty Xavier** for Helen (Malayalam)
- Best Child Artist: Naga Vishal for KD (Tamil)
- Best Action Direction: Avane Srimannarayana (Kannada), Vikram Mor
- Best Choreography: **Maharishi** (Telugu), Raju Sundaram
- Best Special Effects: Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam), Siddharth Priyadarshan
- Special Jury Award: Oththa Seruppu Size 7 (Tamil), Radhakrishnan Parthiban
- Best Lyrics: Prabha Varma for Kolaambi (Malayalam)
- Best Music Direction: **D. Imman** for Viswasam (Tamil)
- Best Background Music: Prabuddha Banerjee for Jyeshthoputro (Bengali)
- Best Make-up Artist: Ranjith for Helen (Malayalam)
- Best Costumes: Sujith Sudhakaran and V. Sai for Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
- Best Production Design: Anandi Gopal (Marathi), Sunil Nigwekar and Nilesh Wagh
- Best Audiography (Location Sound Recordist): Iewduh (Khasi), Debajit Gayan
- Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track): Oththa Seruppu Size 7 (Tamil), Resul Pookutty
- Best Screenplay (Original): Jyeshthoputro (Bengali), Kaushik Ganguly
- Best Screenplay (Adapted): Gumnaami (Bengali), Srijit Mukherji

- Best Screenplay (Dialogue Writer): The Tashkent Files (Hindi), Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri
- Best Cinematography: **Jallikattu (Malayalam)**, Gireesh Gangadharan
- Best Editing: Jersey (Telugu), Navin Nooli
- Best Children's Film: **Kastoori (Hindi)**
- Best Film on Environment Conservation: Water Burial (Monpa)
- Best Film on Social Issues: Anandi Gopal (Marathi)
- Best Film on National Integration: Tajmahal (Marathi)
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Maharishi (Telugu)
- Best Female Playback Singer: **Savani Ravindra** for Bardo (Marathi)
- Best Male Playback Singer: **B Praak** for Kesari (Hindi)

### Best Films in Each Language:

- Best Hindi Film: **Chhichhore**
- Best Telugu Film: **Jersey**
- Best Malayalam Film: Kalla Nottam
- Best Tamil Film: Asuran
- Best Paniya Film: Kenjira
- Best Mishing Film: Anu Ruwad
- Best Khasi Film: Iewduh
- Best Chattisgarhi Film: Bhulan the Maze
- Best Haryanvi Film: Chhoriyan Chhoron Se Kam Nahi Hoti
- Best Tulu Film: Pingara
- Best Punjabi Film: Rab Da Radio 2
- Best Odia Film: Kalira Atita and Sala Budhar Badla (shared)
- Best Manipuri Film: Eigi Kona
- Best Marathi Film: Bardo
- Best Konkani Film: Kaajro
- Best Kannada Film: Akshi
- Best Bengali Film: Gumnaami
- Best Assamese Film: Ronuwa – Who Never Surrender
- Special Mentions: Biriyan (Malayalam), Jonaki Porua (Assamese), Lata Bhagwan Kare (Marathi) and Picasso (Marathi)

### Non-Feature Film Awards

- Best Voice-over/ Narration: Sir David Attenborough for wild Karnataka (English)
- Best Music Direction: **Bishakhjyoti** for Kranti Darshi Guruji – Ahead of Times (Hindi)
- Best Editing: Arjun Gourisaria for Shut Up Sona (Hindi/ English)
- Best Audiography: Radha (Musical), Allwin Rego and Sanjay Maurya
- Best On-Location Sound Recordist: Rahas (Hindi), Saptarshi Sarkar



- Best Cinematography: Savita Singh for Sonsi (Hindi)
- Best Direction: Sudhanshu Saria for Knock Knock Knock (English/ Bengali)
- Best Film on Family Values: Oru Paathira Swapnam Pole (Malayalam)
- Best Short Fiction Film: Custody (Hindi/ English)
- Special Jury Award: Small Scale Societies (English)
- Best Animation Film: **Radha (Musical)**
- Best Investigative Film: Jakkal (Marathi)
- Best Exploration Film: Wild Karnataka (English)
- Best Educational Film: Apples and Oranges (English)
- Best Film on Social Issues: Holy Rights (Hindi) and Ladli (Hindi)
- Best Environment Film: The Stork Saviours (Hindi)
- Best Promotional Film: The Shower (Hindi)
- Best Arts and Culture Film: Shrikshetra-Ru-Sahijata (Odia)
- Best Biographical Film: Elephants Do Remember (English)
- Best Ethnographic Film: Charan-Atva The Essence of Being a Nomad (Gujarati)
- Best Debut Non-Feature Film of a Director: Raj Pritam More for Khisa (Marathi)
- Best Non-Feature Film: An Engineered Dream (Hindi)

#### Other Awards

- Most Film Friendly State: **Sikkim**
- Best Book on Cinema: **A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema**, by Sanjay Suri (Special mentions: Cinema Paharana Manus by Ashok Rane and Kannada Cinema: Jagathika Cinema Vikasa-Prerane Prabhava written by PR Ramadasa Naidu)

### 66th Filmfare Awards 2021: Check Complete List of Winners

The awards for the **66th annual Filmfare awards** were announced. The event was hosted by actors **Rajkumar Rao and Riteish Deshmukh**. Despite the difficulties the film industry faced during 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Filmfare decided it was important to commemorate the best of Indian cinema. Among the winners was the late **Irrfan Khan**, who won the award for best actor in a leading role (male) category, while **Amitabh Bachchan** bagged the best actor (critics) Award.

#### Check the complete list of Bollywood celebrities, who won big at the 66th Filmfare Awards 2021:

1. Best Film: Thappad
2. Best Film (Critics): Prateek Vats (Eeb Allay Ooo!)
3. Best Director: Om Raut (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)
4. Best Actor in a Lead Role (MALE): Irrfan Khan (Angrezi Medium)

5. Best Actor (Critics): Amitabh Bachchan (Gulabo Sitabo)
6. Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female): Taapsee Pannu (Thappad)
7. Best Actress (Critics): Tillotama Shome (SIR)
8. Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): Saif Ali Khan (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)
9. Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female): Farrokh Jaffar (Gulabo Sitabo)
10. Best Story: Anubhav Sushila Sinha and Mrunamayee Lagoo Waikul (Thappad)
11. Best Screenplay: Rohena Gera (SIR)
12. Best Dialogue: Juhi Chaturvedi (Gulabo Sitabo)
13. Best Debut Director: Rajesh Krishnan (Lootcase)
14. Best Debut Female: Alaya F (Jawaani Jaaneman)
15. Best Music Album: Pritam (Ludo)
16. Best Lyrics: Gulzar (Chhappak)
17. Best Playback Singer (male): Raghav Chaitanya - Ek Tukda Dhoop (Thappad)
18. Best Playback Singer (Female): Asees Kaur (Malang)
19. Lifetime Achievement Award: Irrfan Khan.

### Gandhi Peace Prize for the Year 2019 & 2020 Announced

The **Gandhi Peace Prize** for the year **2019** is being conferred on (Late) His **Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said** of Oman. Gandhi Peace Prize recognizes the unparalleled vision and leadership of the Late H.M. Sultan Qaboos Bin Said in strengthening relations between **India and Oman**, and his efforts to promote peace and non-violence in the Gulf region.

On the other hand, Gandhi Peace Prize for the year **2020** is being conferred on **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**. The Committee selected the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods. The Gandhi Peace Prize recognizes the immense and unparalleled contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in inspiring the liberation of Bangladesh, bringing stability to a nation born out of strife, laying the foundation for the close and fraternal relations between India and Bangladesh, and promoting peace and non-violence in the Indian subcontinent

#### About the Gandhi Peace Prize

Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government of India since **1995**, the **125th Birth Anniversary** commemoration year of **Mahatma Gandhi**. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex. The award carries an amount of **Rs. 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/ handloom item**.

## India ranks 139th in World Happiness Report 2021

India has been placed at **139th** position out of **149 countries** in the **UN World Happiness Report 2021** released. In 2019, India was ranked **140th**. The World Happiness Report 2021 has been topped by **Finland**, for the fourth consecutive year. The 2021 report is the ninth World Happiness Report and focuses on the effects of COVID-19 and how people all over the world have fared.

### Top 10 Countries

1. Finland
2. Iceland
3. Denmark
4. Switzerland
5. The Netherlands
6. Sweden
7. Germany
8. Norway
9. New Zealand
10. Austria

### Bottom 5 Countries

- Afghanistan (149)
- Zimbabwe (148)
- Rwanda (147)
- Botswana (146)
- Lesotho (145)

### World Happiness Report

The World Happiness Report is issued by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, to rank countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be. The countries of the world are ranked on the basis of questions from the Gallup World Poll. The results are then correlated with other factors, like gross domestic product per person, healthy life expectancy and the opinions of residents.

## Nozomi Okuhara bags women's singles titles at All England Open

Japan's **Nozomi Okuhara** has won the **All England Badminton Championships women's title** as she defeated **Pornpawee Chochuwong** 21-12, 21-16 in the finals. In the men's category, Malaysia's **Lee Zii Jia** has won the All England Badminton Championships title as he defeated Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in the summit clash. With this win, Malaysia's title drought came to an end and it is after four years, that someone from the country has managed to win the All England Open. Lee Chong Wei had last won the All England Open for Malaysia in 2017.

Here is the list of winners of the All England Badminton Championships 2021:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Men's singles	<b>Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia)</b>
2.	Women's singles	<b>Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)</b>
3.	Men's doubles	Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe
4.	Women's doubles	Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara
5.	Mixed doubles	Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino

## Shaheed Diwas Observed On 23 March

Every year, **March 23** is observed as **Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day)** to pay tribute on the death anniversary of the freedom fighters **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru**, who laid their lives for the freedom of India. It was on March 23 in 1931, in **Lahore (Pakistan)**, that these three were hanged to death for assassinating **John Saunders**, a British police officer in 1928. They had mistaken him for British police superintendent **James Scott**, who had ordered lathi-charge, which eventually led to the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**. Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

### Why is Shaheed Diwas (Martyr's Day) observed on March 23?

Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23 to honour the sacrifice of three extraordinary freedom fighters of India. **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar** were hanged to death by the Britishers. They came forward at a very young age and fought bravely for the independence of India. They went on to become an inspiration to the youth of the country.

## Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- Reserve Bank of India has notified that it has included Fino Payments Bank in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. All banks which are included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 are Scheduled Banks. These banks comprise Scheduled Commercial Banks and Scheduled Co-operative Banks.
- The World Bank plans to introduce a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme, which has not gained enough traction. The scheme will allow micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units.

- The **State Bank of India (SBI) Mutual Funds** has launched its first overseas offering on 1 March 2021. The fund titled **SBI International Access – US Equity FOF** is an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in a mutual fund scheme/ETFs that invest in US markets, which are domiciled overseas.
- Private sector lender **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will handle the salary account of the **Indian army** personnel. The bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army here for a salary account. The MoU enables Kotak to offer its salary account proposition, combined with exclusive benefits for the Indian Army, to all army personnel - both active and retired.
- **HDFC Bank** on the occasion of International Women' Day has announced the launch of a dedicated programme named "**SmartUp Unnati**" for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank. Under the SmartUp Unnati programme, over the next one year, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank will mentor women entrepreneurs in helping them achieve their goals. This programme is available only to exist customers and will initially target more than **3,000 women entrepreneurs** associated with the bank's SmartUp programme.
- The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has released the list of "**Digital Payment Scorecard**". In the list, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has topped for the third consecutive months. The digital payment scorecard tracks the performance of the Commercial Banks on several digital parameters. SBI maintained the top remitter bank by recording the highest UPI transaction volume which accounted for nearly **Rupees 640 million**.
- **Axis Bank** has launched a range of wearable contactless payment devices under the brand **Wear 'N' Pay**. These devices come in different forms of wearables like a band, key chain and watch loop and are available starting at **Rs 750**. The wearables are directly linked to the bank account of an Axis Bank customer and function like a regular debit card. It allows purchases at any merchant store which accepts contactless transactions.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has removed **IDBI Bank** from its enhanced regulatory supervision or **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework**. It was noted that as per published results for the quarter ending December 31, 2020, the bank is not in breach of the PCA parameters on regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has asked banks to implement the image-based **Cheque Truncation System (CTS)** in all branches by **September 30** this year. The move is aimed at faster settlement of cheques resulting in better customer service. The Apex bank said that to leverage the availability of CTS and provide a uniform customer experience irrespective of the location of her/his bank branch, it has been decided to extend CTS across all bank branches in the country. To facilitate this, banks will have to ensure that all their branches participate in image-based CTS under respective grids by September 30.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **2 crores** on the **State Bank of India (SBI)** for contravention of certain provisions of **Section 10** of the **Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949**. The central bank's specific directions issued to the bank on payment of remuneration to employees in the form of commission. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested with RBI under the provisions of the BR Act. The penalty is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has set up a wholly-owned subsidiary namely "**PNB Cards & Services Ltd**" to manage its credit card business. The PNB Cards & Services Ltd has been incorporated on March 16, 2021, by the **Registrar of Companies, Delhi**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 15 lakh** on **Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Mumbai**. The penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with "certain provisions of the directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) contained in "**Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016**".
- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched '**IOB Trendy**', a savings account customised for the growing millennial population in the country by keeping their banking preferences in mind. IOB Trendy is a Savings Bank Account Scheme introduced by the bank towards this endeavour.
- **Union Bank of India** has launched "**UNI - CARBON CARD**", an **HPCL** co-branded credit card on the **Rupay platform of NPCI**. It is a unique card designed with association with one of the largest Public Sector Bank, Union Bank of India and HPCL, a leader in the fuel retail and Rupay - India's largest card payment network. It will create an opportunity to create value for the customers.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has once again extended the restriction imposed on scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank for a further period of 3 months till June 30, 2021.

### Economy Current Affairs

- The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected India's economy to contract by **6.9 per cent** in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, is forecast to record a "stronger recovery" in 2021 and grow by **5 per cent**. Further, the UNCTAD estimates the global economy to grow by **4.7 per cent in 2021**.
- **Moody's Analytics** has projected the Indian economy to grow by **12 per cent** in the Calendar Year 2021. For the Calendar year 2020, the real GDP was projected to contract **7.1 per cent** by Moody's. It must be noted that Moody's Analytics makes calendar year projections, while its sister organization Moody's Investors Service provides fiscal year estimates.
- **India's foreign-exchange reserves** surpassed **Russia's** to become the world's **fourth-largest reserve**. The foreign currency holdings of India stood at **\$580.3 billion** as of March 5, as per the data by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. The reserve of Russia was **\$580.1 billion**. Overall, **China** has the largest reserves, followed by **Japan and Switzerland**, as on the International Monetary Fund table.
- **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** interim economic outlook has pegged India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound to **12.6%** in FY22, which will be the fastest in the world, followed by China at **7.8%** growth. India's GDP is expected to grow at **5.4%** in the following financial year, owing to the faster rebound of several large emerging-market economies.

- India's GDP growth is expected to rebound to **11%** in **FY'22** as people learn to live with the new normal, flattening of the **Covid-19** affliction curve, the rollout of vaccinations, and investment-focused government spending converge, according to rating firm **Crisil**.
- The board of **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has kept the interest rates on **Provident Fund deposits** for the financial year 2020-21 at **8.5 per cent**. The rate has been kept unchanged, as in 2019-20. The decision was taken by the Central Board of Trustees, at the 228th meeting, under the chairmanship of Labour Minister **Santosh Kumar Gangwar**.
- The **gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue** collected in the month of **February 2021** is **₹ 1,13,143 crore** of which CGST is **₹ 21,092 crore**, SGST is **₹ 27,273 crore**, IGST is **₹ 55,253 crore** (including ₹ 24,382 crores collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹ 9,525 crore (including ₹ 660 crores collected on import of goods). Revenues for February are **7%** higher than the GST revenues of February 2019. Revenues from the import of goods were **15%** higher than Feb '19.
- American credit rating agency, **Fitch** has revised India's GDP growth estimate for the fiscal 2021-22 to **12.8%**, from its previous estimate of **11%**, in its latest **Global Economic Outlook (GEO)**. The improvement in GDP rate is based on factors like a stronger carryover effect, a looser fiscal stance, and better virus containment. Also, for the fiscal year 2022-23, Fitch expects GDP growth at **5.8%**.
- **S&P Global Ratings** raised **India's** growth forecast for the financial year **2021-22** to **11%** from **10%** earlier, led by an expansionary fiscal policy aimed at boosting domestic private spending. It has also raised the 2021 growth forecast for **China** to **8%** from **7%** on stronger-than-expected exports and lingering momentum in the property market.



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### Business Current Affairs

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** has launched the "Business Kisht Suraksha" cover. It is a unique cover that was launched with the aim of protecting the balance sheet of **Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)**, financial institutions and banks if any catastrophe or a natural disaster occurs.

- **Axis Securities** has announced the launch of 'YIELD' - an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market. By offering competitive rates and technical know-how, YIELD would empower the investors to make the right investment decision. The trades and settlement of transactions executed will be reported on the BSE NDS (new debt segment) platform.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the umbrella entity for digital payments in India, has launched a new application named "UPI-Help" on **BHIM UPI**, which will act as a grievance redressal mechanism for the users of the BHIM application. Initially, UPI-Help has been made live on the BHIM app for the customers of **State Bank of India, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank**. Users of other banks participating in UPI will also be added to UPI-Help soon.
- Markets regulator **Sebi** has cancelled the certificate of registration of **Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd** as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfil the "fit and proper" criteria. The regulator had appointed a designated authority in 2018 to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of Intermediaries Regulations.
- **Alliance Insurance** has launched the insurance portal 'SMEInsure' in order to provide financial security to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, small shop and business owners Alliance. It is a portal to insure **5 crores Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** under the insurance category.
- The Indian Government has announced it will sell a 15% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to raise nearly \$103m (Rs7.5bn). Out of 15% the government would divest 10% equity with a 5% Green Shoe option.
- The **United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP)** has recommended the graduation of **Bangladesh** from the category of **Least Developed Country (LDC)**. Bangladesh has fulfilled the eligibility criteria in terms of per capita income, human assets and economic and environmental vulnerability.
- **Ghana** has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed **COVAX initiative** with a delivery of 600,000 doses of the **AstraZeneca** vaccine made by the **Serum Institute of India**.
- **Israel's president** has formally received the **first-ever ambassador** from the **United Arab Emirates**, following last year's historic agreement between the countries to normalise ties. UAE envoy **Mohamed Al Khaja**, who arrived in Israel, delivered his credentials to Israeli President **Reuven Rivlin** at a ceremony in **Jerusalem**.
- **Australian conservationists** have unveiled plans to build the world's first refuge for the **platypus**, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction due to climate change. The **Taronga Conservation Society Australia** and the New South Wales State government said they would build the specialist facility, mostly ponds and burrows for the semi-aquatic creatures, at a zoo 391 km from Sydney, by 2022.
- **Google** has launched a new web platform 'Women Will' on March 8, 2021, on the occasion of "International Women's Day". This platform will provide its support to **1 million rural women** in India in order for them to become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship.
- In the **50th year of Indian victory over Pakistan** in the **1971 Liberation war**, Indian Naval Ships arrived in the port town of **Mongla** for a three-day visit to **Bangladesh**. The Indian Naval Ships is on a three-day visit between March 8 to 10. This is the first time ever that any Indian Naval Ship is visiting the port of Mongla in Bangladesh.
- **Switzerland** has voted in favour of a proposal banning full facial coverings including the **burqa and niqab** in almost all public places. In the public referendum, around **51.21 per cent** of voters voted in support of the controversial proposal.

### International Current Affairs

- The Russian space corporation **Roscosmos** successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the **Arctic's climate and environment**. The satellite called "Arktika-M", was launched on February 28, 2021, onboard **Soyuz-2.1b** carrier rocket, from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan**. This satellite will help to collect information to solve operational meteorology and hydrology problems, and monitoring the climate and environment in the Arctic region.

- **Mahamadou Issoufou**, the incumbent President of **Niger** has won the “**2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership**”, the world’s largest leadership prize, worth **\$5 million**. He is the sixth winner of the Ibrahim Prize since it was introduced in **2006**, by Sudanese billionaire Mo Ibrahim’s foundation to promote good governance in the world’s poorest continent.
- The **Japanese** scientific research institute called **RIKEN and Fujitsu** started developing the “**Fugaku**” six years ago. It is the world’s most powerful supercomputers. Fugaku has been named after an alternative name for **Mount Fuji**.
- **El Salvador** is the first country in Central America to be certified **malaria-free** by the **World Health Organization**. WHO grants a certification of malaria elimination when a country proves “beyond a reasonable doubt” that there has been no indigenous transmission of the disease nationwide for the previous three consecutive years.
- The **largest floating solar farm** in the world is being built in **Singapore**. The country has resorted to set up energy plants off the coasts and reservoirs across it. This floating solar farm is being set up in the light that despite being one of the smallest countries across the world, it is one of the biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in India.
- **Samia Suluhu Hassan** was sworn in as the sixth President of **Tanzania**, becoming the first female leader of the East African country. Prior to taking charge as President, Hassan was the Vice-President of Tanzania, also being the first female vice-president of the country, since November 2015.
- **Netherlands** Prime Minister, **Mark Rutte** has won the 2021 parliamentary elections with most seats to be sworn in as the **Prime Minister for the fourth straight term**.
- **Russian** space agency ‘**Roscosmos**’ successfully launched **38 foreign satellites** into orbit, onboard **Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket** from the Baikonur cosmodrome in **Kazakhstan**. The 38 satellites belonged to 18 countries including **South Korea, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy and Brazil**. One of these satellites named ‘**Challenge-1**’ was the first-ever satellite made completely in Tunisia, which was created by the Telnet telecommunications group.
- **Sri Lanka** has signed a **10 billion yuan (about USD 1.5 billion) currency swap deal** with **China** with the main motive to promote bilateral trade and direct investment between the two countries. The agreement signed between the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the People’s Bank of China is valid for three years. China remains Sri Lanka’s largest source of imports.
- The **Norwegian Coastal Administration** has received the green signal to start working on the construction of the world’s first tunnel, being built exclusively for ships. The tunnel is dubbed as “**Stad Ship Tunnel**” and would be built under the mountainous **Stadhavet peninsula** in northwestern Norway.
- The longtime president of the **Republic of Congo**, **Sassou Nguesso** is set for another five-year term after getting over 88% of the vote. The election day was marred by the death of his main opponent, **Guy Brice Parfait Kolelas**.
- **New Zealand’s** parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a **miscarriage or stillbirth**, becoming only the second country in the world to do so. **India** is the only other country with similar legislation.
- The Bank of England unveiled the design of the new GBP 50 banknote, which features British scientist and World War II codebreaker Alan Turing.

### National Current Affairs

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the first-ever **Indian Toy Fair 2021** via video conference during which he urged the country to become ‘**Atmanirbhar**’ in the toy manufacturing sector. The toy fair is divided into five stages – **pre-school to Class II, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary**.
- The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare **Dr Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the second edition of **Global Bio-India-2021** in New Delhi through virtual mode. The theme of Global Bio-India-2021: “**Transforming lives**” with the tag line “**Biosciences to Bio-economy**”.
- **Indian** High Commission in Colombo has described the island nation of **Sri Lanka** as its “**Priority One**” partner in the defence sphere and reiterated the assurance of fullest cooperation in the field of defence and security. The assertion comes at a time when the **Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF)** is gearing up for the celebration of its **70th anniversary** on 2 March.
- The **Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Television channels** that broadcast the proceedings of the upper and lower Houses of Parliament, respectively, have been merged into a single entity. The new channel has been named the ‘**Sansad Television**’.

- The **UN General Assembly** adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by **India** and supported by over **70 nations** declaring **2023** as the **International Year of Millets**. The International Year of Millets is aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and its suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions. India's Permanent Mission to the UN also distributed savoury millet snack murukku to all UN Member States.
- The Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has inaugurated the **New Delhi World Book Fair 2021-Virtual Edition**, through video-conferencing. The program has been organized by the **National Book Trust (NBT)**. The New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 is the 29th edition of the annual event. The theme of the 2021 New Delhi World Book Fair is '**National Education Policy-2020**'.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed '**Janaushadhi Diwas**' celebrations through video conference. He dedicated to the nation the **7500th Janaushadhi Kendra** at NEIGRIHMS, **Shillong** during the event. **1st March to 7th March** is celebrated as '**Janaushadhi Week**' across the nation with the theme of "**Jan Aushadhi - Seva Bhi, Rozgar Bhi**" for creating awareness about the use of generic medicines.
- The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of **Singorgarh Fort** in Singrampur village of Damoh district, **Madhya Pradesh**. He also inaugurated the newly carved **Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India**.
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the '**Maitri Setu**' bridge between India and Bangladesh through a video conference, to strengthen the connectivity between both countries and especially with the north-eastern region of India. Maitri bridge will also make Tripura the '**Gateway of North East**' with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh. The Maitri Setu bridge has been built on the Feni river, which lies between the Indian boundary in Tripura and Bangladesh.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)**, as a single non-lapsable reserve fund. This has been **approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess** which is levied under the **Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has given its nod for amendments in the **Insurance Act**, paving way for **74 per cent** foreign direct investment in the sector. Currently, the permissible FDI limit in life and general insurance stands at **49 per cent** with ownership and management control with Indian. According to sources, the Cabinet in its meeting has approval for amendments in the **Insurance Act, 1938**.
- The commerce and industry ministry has stated that the central government is working to develop a portal called "**Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra Portal**" for information dissemination, hand-holding, and facilitation of domestic investors.
- The Supreme Court has asked the government to respond to a plea challenging the Places of Worship Act enacted in 1991. A notice is issued by a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde to the Union Ministries of Home, Law and Culture on a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay against various provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has announced a new scheme for tourist vehicle operators, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an "**All India tourist authorization and permit**" through online mode. The new set of rules will be known as "**All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021**". This will come into effect from April 01, 2021.
- The **Jammu and Kashmir administration** has approved the incorporation of a joint venture company (JVC) under the name "**Ratle Hydro-electric Power Corporation**". To implement the **850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP)** on river **Chenab** in the Kishtwar district of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha**, initiated the project "**Awaam Ki Baat**" - a Radio program by launching its website at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. The half-an-hour long Radio program to be aired **every third Sunday of the month** (to start from April), is one of the many sequential steps of a broader program aimed at disseminating the progressive steps taken by the government and providing the public with a platform to speak, write and interact with the administration, thereby voicing their suggestions, ideas and creative proposals.

- The government of India has launched the “Gram Ujala Scheme” to provide the cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas. The scheme was launched by the Union power and new and renewable energy minister, **Raj Kumar Singh**. In the first phase, the scheme was launched from Arrah district in Bihar. In this phase, around 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed in the villages of Arrah (Bihar), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and western Gujarat.
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has launched the ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain’ campaign on March 22, 2021, on the occasion of World Water Day for conserving water. PM urged that every penny of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) funds be spent on rainwater conservation till the monsoon arrives.
- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **SA Bobde** has recommended Justice **NV Ramana’s** name as his successor after he retires next month. CJI Bobde is set to retire on **23 April**. In a letter to the Law Ministry, CJI SA Bobde recommended Justice Ramana as his successor. Justice NV Ramana is the most senior judge in the apex court after CJI Bobde. On appointment, Justice NV Ramana will be the **48th Chief Justice of India** and he will have a long tenure as CJI for over 16 months.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** virtually inaugurated **Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC)** and **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority’s (IEPFA) Mobile App**. The two tech-enabled initiatives have been launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to leverage digital solutions to achieve the Prime Minister’s vision of ‘Digitally empowered India.

- India’s First **Indo-Korean Friendship Park** was jointly inaugurated at **Delhi Cantonment** by Hon’ble Raksha Mantri, **Shri Rajnath Singh**, and Hon’ble Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea **Mr Suh Wook**.

### States Current Affairs

- In Tripura, the **39th Agartala International Book Fair** with the theme “**Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura**” has begun at **Agartala**. State Chief Minister **Biplab Kumar Deb** has inaugurated the fair in presence of Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner **Md. Jobayed Hossain** and other state cabinet ministers and MLAs.
- The Cyberabad Police has launched India’s first-ever **Transgender Community Desk’** at the **Gachibowli** Police Station in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. This desk is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiatives in the country. It is the world’s first-ever help desk for the transgender community and it will be managed by a Police Liaison Officer and a member of the transgender community who is designated as a community coordinator.
- The **First Forest Healing centre of the country** was inaugurated at **Ranikhet in Kalika Uttarakhand**. The forest healing centre has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department after research on the healing properties of the forests and its revitalizing impact on overall health and well being. It is spread over an area of around 13 acres.
- **Trivendra Singh Rawat** has resigned as the chief minister of Uttarakhand, a year before the hill state is scheduled to go to polls. Rawat, who became the CM after the BJP swept the assembly elections here in early **2017**, tendered his resignation after meeting governor **Baby Rani Maurya**.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party’s member of Parliament from Pauri Garhwal, **Tirath Singh Rawat**, will be the **next chief minister of Uttarakhand**. This was announced by outgoing chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, who resigned. Tirath Singh Rawat will be sworn in as the new chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- The famous **Swarnim International Shivratri Fair** has begun with Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** formally launching it at the historic Paddal ground, Himachal Pradesh. Thousands of people dressed in their traditional attire participated in the procession carrying their local deities dancing all the way up to Paddal ground.

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- Odisha farmer gained attention of people on social media by generating electric four-wheeler that runs on a solar powered battery. Sushil Aggarwal from Odisha's Mayurbhanj district had built a four-wheeler powered by an 850 Watts motor and 100 Ah/54 Volts of battery. After fully charged the vehicle can travel up to 300 km. He told that he had built this car inside a workshop at his home during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- The Central Government will set up the National Wildlife Disease Diagnostic Research and Referral Centre in Gujarat. The proposal is part of the document for Project Lion drafted in consultation with the Government of Gujarat and Wildlife Institute of India.
- 27th "Hunar Haat" of indigenous products of artisans & craftsmen from across the country was inaugurated by MP CM Shivraj S Chouhan. More than 600 artisans, craftsmen from more than 31 States/UTs are participating in the "Hunar Haat" in Bhopal.
- Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru now has India's first dedicated Express Cargo Terminal exclusively for export and import of international couriers that will be operated by the Express Industry Council of India to enable ease of doing business & reduce transaction time.
- The state government of **Jharkhand** has launched a campaign called **SAAMAR** to tackle malnutrition in the state. SAAMAR stands for **Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction**. The campaign has been launched with a 1000 days target, where annual surveys will be conducted to track the progress. The campaign will bring together various departments to identify anaemic women and malnourished children to effectively deal with the problem in a state where malnutrition has been a major problem.
- **Bihar Cabinet** has approved the **Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021**, becoming the 1st Indian State to have an **ethanol promotion policy**. The policy allows the extraction of ethanol, which was restricted to sugarcane, from surplus quantities of maize as well. The new policy would permit ethanol production in Bihar from all feedstocks permitted by National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, and subsequently by the National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- Fruit growers in rural **Maharashtra** have started an innovative '**movement**' to promote fresh **fruit cakes** as a healthier option, instead of the traditional bakery-made cakes. According to farmers and agrarian experts, the aim of this 'spontaneous' movement is to encourage farmers and their families to increase the intake of fruits in their diet and to find a new way of selling their produce in times of the pandemic.
- The state government of **Andhra Pradesh** has decided to set up "**India's first government-run ambulance network**" for animals. This decision was taken in order to further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state. Ambulance network as one of its main missions in order to help in reaching out to the distressed animals to provide them with proper animal healthcare.
- **Kerala's tuberculosis eradication programme** had won national honour as the state bagged the Union government's award for reducing the prevalence of the disease through various systematic initiatives. Kerala is the only state had chosen for recognition in the state category.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the **Kurnool Airport, in Andhra Pradesh** virtually. The flight operations at Kurnool airport will begin on 28 March 2021. This airport has been developed under the **Regional Connectivity Scheme, Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN)**.
- Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister, **S Pangnyu Phom** has launched **i-Learn**, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers, CHOs in the state at his office chamber in **Kohima**.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** was organised a '**Banana Festival**' in **Kushinagar**, which has witnessed the participation of at least **35 farmers and entrepreneurs**. The state government had in 2018 organised the **One District One Product (ODOP) scheme** to promote traditional enterprise.
- The Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge) Shri **Prahlad Singh Patel**, and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** jointly inaugurated the '**Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**. The Convention Centre has been developed under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** of the Ministry of Tourism, adding another feather to the **UNESCO World Heritage** site at Khajuraho.

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Shaheed Ashfaq Ulla Khan Zoological Park in Gorakhpur. This is the first zoo in Purvanchal and the third in the state.

### Schemes/Committees

- The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched "Super-75" scholarship schemes for meritorious girls, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021. The basic aim of this scholarship scheme is to facilitate the education and entrepreneurship of women.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced the names of the members of the **Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC)** for evaluating applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks. The committee has five members, with former RBI deputy governor **Shyamala Gopinath** as the chairperson. The panel will have a tenure of three years.
- The government has constituted an experts advisory committee for the overall execution and monitoring of the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**. The committee would be chaired by **H K Mittal** from the Department of Science and Technology. The other representatives of the committee would include members from DPIIT, the department of biotechnology, science and technology, electronics and IT, Niti Aayog, and expert members from the startup ecosystem.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched "Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam" (daughter's name is a home's identity) programme and development schemes worth Rs 42 crore in Nainital. Initially, the scheme has been launched in Nainital and later is set to be extended to the entire Uttarakhand.
- The **Tripura government** has come up with a digital platform 'Jagrut Tripura' to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state government. At least 102 schemes of various departments of both governments are available on the platform. The 'Jagrut Tripura' will empower citizens of the northeastern state.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and SBI Payments have partnered to launch "RuPay SoftPoS" for Indian merchants. The RuPay SoftPoS solution will provide a cost-effective acceptance infrastructure to retailers at a nominal cost. This innovative solution has the capability to transform NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers.
- IBM has announced a collaboration with Samagra Sikhsha Uttarakhand, the Government of Uttarakhand's education mission, to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across five districts in the state. The collaboration is part of a three-year program between IBM and Uttarakhand State Government with the American India Foundation as the implementation partner to increase the participation of girls and women in STEM careers.
- The space agencies of China and Russia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of their national governments, to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries. The MoU was officially signed between the Chinese space agency, China National Space Administration (CNSA) and the Russian space agency Roscosmos, on March 09, 2021.
- Italy has signed the amended Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) with India. The framework agreement was signed by the Italian Ambassador to India Vincenzo De Luca. ISA is an alliance of over 121 nations that have been initiated by India.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) will sign the first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked external commercial borrowing (ECB) deal. The deal will be signed because the de facto international benchmark reference rate called the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) will no longer work as the benchmark after December 2021.
- On the occasion of World Water Day, the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh signed an agreement with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to implement the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project. The main purpose of this project is to carry water from surplus regions to drought-prone and water-scarce region through the interlinking of rivers.

### Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- India has signed a key pact with the Philippines called "implementing arrangement" for "procurement of defence material and equipment", as per which the country will buy the BrahMos cruise missiles from India. Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was also present at the pact's signing ceremony in Manila.

- India and Japan have agreed to recognize each other's offices to act mutually as competent International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) for any international patent application filed with them. This memorandum of cooperation on the industrial property was arrived at during the 4th review meeting between DPIIT and Japan Patent Office.
- India and Bangladesh have signed five Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to further boost bilateral cooperation. The signing of the MoUs took place on 27 March 2021, between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Dhaka. Indian PM Narendra Modi was on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh to join the twin celebrations of Bangladeshi Founding Father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence in 1971. This is the first trip of PM Modi to a foreign country since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

### Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- The re-appointment of **Pramod Chandra Mody** as **Chairman** of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has been extended for a further period of **three months**. He is a 1982-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, was appointed as the CBDT chief in February 2019.
- Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Eastern Naval Command (ENC). He replaces Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain. Atul Kumar Jain has been transferred to New Delhi to assume charge as the Vice Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).
- The former head of the News Services Division of All India Radio, Jaideep Bhatnagar, took over as Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau. Prior to his current charge as head of the organisation, Bhatnagar has worked in PIB for six years in different capacities. He will take over from Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, who superannuated on February 28, 2021.
- Matam Venkata Rao has taken charge as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Central Bank Of India. Rao till now held the position of Executive Director at Canara Bank. His appointment is for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after March 1, 2021, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- IPS officer **Kuldiep Singh** has given an additional charge of CRPF director general (DG) after incumbent chief A P Maheshwari retires. Kuldiep Singh is working as the special DG of its central zone, will hold the additional charge of the CRPF head till "the appointment and joining of the successor or until further orders.
- Senior diplomat, **Manpreet Vohra** has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to **Australia**. Vohra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently Ambassador of India to **Mexico**.
- Six-time world champion boxer **Mary Kom** has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) Champions and Veterans Committee**. The 37-year-old was voted to the post by AIBA's board of directors on March 03, 2021.
- Department of economic affairs secretary, **Tarun Bajaj** has been given the additional charge of revenue secretary. Present revenue secretary **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** retires on February 28.
- UN chief **Antonio Guterres** has appointed leading Indian economist **Ligia Noronha** as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Indian-origin **Naureen Hassan** has been appointed as the first **Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO)** of the New York-based **Federal Reserve Bank**, by the Board of Governors of the **Federal Reserve System**.
- NABARD chairman, **G R Chintala** has assumed charge as the chairman of **APRACA (Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association)**. He has taken over from **DPK Gunasekera**, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Ceylon.
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-appointed as the **Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations** for the year 2021. Prior to this, Mr Murmu was elected as Chairman of the Panel for 2020 as well.
- The Central Government has appointed **Dr G P Samanta** as the new **Chief Statistician of India (CSI)** for a period of two years. He is India's fourth CSI. He will replace Kshatrapati Shivaji who was holding an additional charge of the post since September 2020.
- Union Minister **Anurag Thakur** has become the first serving MP to be appointed as **Captain in the Territorial Army**. Thakur has been promoted to the rank of Captain at **124 Infantry Battalion Territorial Army (Sikh)**.

- **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil)** has announced the appointment of **Pallav Mohapatra** as its **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director**. Prior to the appointment, Mohapatra was the MD and CEO of the **Central Bank of India**.
- **Deepak Mishra**, Practice Manager in the **World Bank's** Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice, has been appointed as the **next director and chief executive** of the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)**.
- Former Cabinet Secretary and Principal Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) **P.K. Sinha** has relinquished his high-profile position on personal grounds. He was appointed in the PMO first as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) briefly and then as Principal Advisor, a specially created position for him, in September 2019 after the 2019 parliamentary polls.
- Senior IPS officer, **M. A. Ganapathy** was on March 16, 2021 appointed **Director General of National Security Guard**. Ganapathy, a 1986 batch **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, is currently Director General, **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**.
- Lt General **DP Pandey** has taken over the command of strategic **Kashmir-based 15 Corps** from Lt Gen **BS Raju**, who has been appointed as the new **Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army**.
- Dr **Ajay Mathur** has assumed office as the **Director-General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** with effect from March 15, 2021. He has been appointed for a period of four years which can be renewed for an additional term. Dr Ajay Mathur has replaced **Upendra Tripathy**, who completed his term on March 15, after serving as the Director-General since 2017.
- 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. He will serve a three-year term, commencing from July this year.
- **NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd**, a lender to small businesses, has announced the appointment of cricketer **Ajinkya Rahane** as its brand ambassador. The agreement is for a year which can be extended further. Rahane will feature in a campaign slated to be released in the first week of April, which will talk about the ease of procuring loans through NeoGrowth for small businesses.
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach was on 10th March re-elected for an additional four-year term.
- **Arindam Bagchi**, an officer of the 1995 batch of the **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)**, has assumed charge as the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He is replacing Anurag Srivastava, an officer of the 1999 batch of IFS.
- The US Senate has voted, 57-43, to confirm the appointment of Indian-American doctor **Vivek Murthy** as the **Surgeon General** under **US President Biden's administration**. The 43-year-old Dr Murthy would occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time.
- The government has extended the term of **Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) K. VijayRaghavan** by a year. He was appointed PSA in 2018 after retiring as Secretary of, Department of Biotechnology. His contract ends on April 2 but has now been extended until **April 2022**.
- IAS **Sanjeev Kumar** has appointed as **Chairman** of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**. Kumar is a 1993-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment.
- Senior bureaucrat, **Saurabh Garg** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Mr Garg is at present serving in his cadre state Odisha. He is a 1991 batch IAS officer.
- **Atish Chandra** has been appointed as **Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India** in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. Mr Chandra, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
- **Anish Shah** who is set to take over as the **managing director and CEO** of **Mahindra and Mahindra** from **2 April** will become the first professional executive to oversee the entire business of the **\$19.4 billion Mahindra Group**.
- **Soma Mondal**, the chairperson of the state-owned **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**, was on March 26, 2021, elected the new chairperson of the **Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)**. Mondal will have a two-year term starting April; she took charge of SAIL on January 1, 2021.

**Ranks and Reports**

- **Bengaluru** emerged as the top city on the government's **Ease of Living Index 2020** that was released by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**. Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in this **Million+ category**. In this group, Shimla was ranked the highest in **Less than Million category of** ease of living.
- The **11th edition** of the **QS World University Rankings** was released on March 04, 2021. The QS World University Rankings 2021 ranks the top 1,000 universities from around the world, covering 80 different locations. There are 47 new entrants on the list. The **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the United States** has retained its top position as the best university for the ninth year in a row. The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay has emerged as the best institution. It is placed at 172 positions. No institute in India is in the top 100.
- The **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** has released the final rankings of the **Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020**. Indore has topped this list in **Million plus population category**, followed by Surat and Bhopal. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) emerged as the leader in **Less than a million category**, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.
- **India's** status as a democracy and free society has been downgraded to "**partly free**" in the latest annual report on global political rights and liberties by Freedom House, a US government-funded NGO that studies political freedom around the world. The report titled "**Freedom in the World 2021 - Democracy under Siege**". India had been rated as "**free**" in Freedom House's reports for **2018, 2019 and 2020**, though its scores on a scale of 100 had declined during this period from **77 to 71**. In the latest report, India had a score of **67 out of 100**.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP released the Food Waste Index Report 2021 and highlights that food wastes by different countries in 2019. As per the report, Over 931 million tonnes of food were wasted globally in 2019. In India, the household food waste estimate is 50 kg per capita per year, or 68,760,163 tonnes a year. The household food waste estimate in the US is 59 kg per capita per year, or 19,359,951 tonnes a year. China these estimates are 64 kg per capita per year or 91,646,213 tonnes a year.
- The Hurun India Wealth Report, 2020 was released on March 16, 2020. The report identifies a novel household category in India called the 'New Middle Class' which accounts for an average savings of Rs 20-lakh per annum. The report highlights that these households have a major allocation towards physical assets like primary residential property and automobiles. As per the report, the total number of such cumulative households in India stands at 633,000.
- New Delhi has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city for the third straight year in the 2020 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir. Globally, New Delhi is ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world. The topmost polluted city in the world is Xinjiang in China. This is followed by nine Indian cities as the most polluted cities in the world, which are Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Bishakh Jalalpur, Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow and Bhiwari.
- India's arms imports fell 33% between 2011-15 and 2016-20, said a report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri). The report on international arms transfers attributed the drop in India's arms imports mainly to an attempt to reduce its dependence on Russian arms and complex procurement processes. Russia was the most affected supplier, although India's imports of US arms also fell by 46%. India's top three arms suppliers during 2016-20 were Russia (accounting for 49% of India's imports), France (18%) and Israel (13%), the report. Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Mauritius were the top recipients of Indian military hardware, the report.
- **India** has moved down 13 spots in the latest global home price index to finish last at **56th rank** in the quarter ending December 2020. Against its **43rd rank** a year ago, India saw a decline of **3.6%** year-on-year (YoY) in home prices, leading to the drop in global position, showed **Knight Frank's Global House Price Index**. India was the weakest-performing country during the fourth quarter of 2020, with a decline of 3.6% in home prices, followed by Morocco with a drop of 3.3%.
- **India** ranked **40** among **53 global economies** on the latest annual edition of the **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index** released. The US Chamber of Commerce **Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)**, the Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.

**Sports Current Affairs**

- **Kieron Pollard** hit six sixes in an over to guide **West Indies** to a comprehensive four-wicket win against **Sri Lanka** in the first game of their three-match **T20 series**. Pollard joins former India batsman **Yuvraj Singh** as the only other player to hit six sixes in an over in T20 cricket, and just the third man to hit six sixes in an international match, emulating **Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa)** and **Yuvraj Singh (India)**.
- **All India Football Federation** confirms **Odisha** as the venue for the forthcoming **Hero Indian Women's League 2020-21 edition**. This is the **fifth edition** of IWL, the top division women's league in India. The Odisha government is a strategic partner of the **AIFF (All India Football Federation)** as it provides the necessary infrastructure to various men and women age-group teams.
- Star Indian wrestler, **Vinesh Phogat** has defeated 2017 world champion **Vanesa Kaladzinskay** of Belarus to win a **gold medal** at the **XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament**, held in Kiev, Ukraine.
- India's **Varun Kapur** and **Malvika Bansod** clinched the **men's and women's singles titles** respectively at the **2021 Uganda International Badminton tournament in Kampala**. Varun beat compatriot Sankar Muthusamy 21-18, 16-21, 21-17 in the men's singles final.
- **Mumbai City FC** has scripted a **2-0 triumph** over **ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB)** at the GMC Stadium in Goa to bag the **ISL League Winners Shield** and the coveted AFC Champions League spot that comes with it.
- Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** topped the medals tally in the second **edition of the Khelo India Winter National Games**. J&K won **11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals**. The five-day mega sports event which began on the 26th of February concluded in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The event was e-inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- In wrestling, the World Championship bronze medallist **Bajrang Punia** won a gold medal at the **Matteo Pallicone ranking series** held in **Rome, Italy**. Apart from this, the ace India woman wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** won the gold medal in the 53kg title. The 26-year-old Vinesh beat Canada's Diana Weicker 4-0.
- India spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** was awarded the **ICC Player of the Month** award for February, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**. Meanwhile, England opener **Tammy Beaumont** won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for February**.
- India will play their inaugural World Test Championship final against New Zealand at Southampton's Ageas Bowl Stadium, England from June 18-22. Initially, the final was supposed to be held at the Lord's but Southampton, with a five-star facility inside the stadium, will make it easier for both the ICC and the England and Wales Cricket Board to create a bio-bubble for the two teams.
- The veteran Indian women's cricketer **Mithali Raj** has become the first Indian woman cricketer that has completed **10,000 international runs** in all the cricket formats. She also becomes the second woman cricketer at the international level to complete 10000 runs. She achieved the milestone of 10,000 after she hit a boundary off the Anne Bosch in 28th over of Indian innings in the ongoing third ODI match against **South Africa**.
- Bhavani Devi became the first-ever Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics. The sabre fencer secured an Olympic spot due to events in the ongoing Fencing World Cup. Hosts Hungary lost in the quarterfinals of the team event, allowing Korea to progress to the semis.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has imposed eight years ban on former UAE players **Mohammad Naveed** and **Shaiman Anwar Butt** from all cricket, for trying to fix matches during the T20 World Cup qualifiers in 2019. The ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal had found them guilty of breaching the Anti-Corruption Code in January 2021.
- Indian captain **Virat Kohli** has breached the 3000-run mark in Twenty20 Internationals with his last shot in the second T20I against England. Kohli's knock of 73 runs, which came off 49 balls, also helped India to level the five-match T20I series. He also became the third captain in international cricket to score 12000 runs as a captain. He joined legendary captains **Ricky Ponting** and **Graeme Smith** in the elite list.
- Sprinter **S Dhanalakshmi** beat national record holder **Dutee Chand** to win women's 100m sprint final in the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala. The 22-year-old Dhanalakshmi of Tamil Nadu clocked 11.39 seconds to become the fastest woman of the championships. Odisha-based **Dutee** clocked 11.58 seconds to be placed in second place.

- Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi became the first batsman from the country to register a double hundred in Test cricket. He got his first double century on Day Two of the second Test against Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi. He made 200 not out off 443 balls with 21 fours and one six as Afghanistan put up a mammoth 545 for 4 in their first innings.
- Founder of Ultimate Battle is Tarun Gupta. It is an online eSports platform where gamers can test their mettle against others without paying a fee. India is still small in this segment, gamers need platforms that can give them competitive exposure to improve their skills.
- The Indian athlete **Avinash Sable** set a new national record in the men's **3000m steeplechase** event in the ongoing **Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships** in Patiala, with timing of **8:20.20**. With this, the 26-year-old Avinash broke his own record of **8:21.37** which he set in 2019, after finishing 13th in the final of the World Athletics Championships in Doha.
- **Yashaswini Deswal** bagged the first gold medal for India in the **Women's 10M Air Pistol** final of the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun**. Deswal accumulated 238.8 points to lead in her category. Another Indian shooter Manu Bhaker won a silver medal with 236.7 points.
- In Cricket, India Legends defeated Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs to clinch the Road Safety World Series final title, held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. India Legends put up a total of 181/4 but Sri Lanka's Legends could manage 167/7. Sachin Tendulkar was the captain of the India Legends.
- Indian para-athlete Singhraj won the gold medal in the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE. He defeated Uzbekistan's Server Ibragimov to get the top honour in the P1 - Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.
- English county **Lancashire** has announced the overseas signing of India batsman **Shreyas Iyer** for the **2021 Royal London Cup**.
- India's **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** won gold in the men's **50m Rifle 3 Positions** event at the **ISSF World Cup in New Delhi**. The 20-year-old became the youngest in history to win a shooting World Cup gold in the 3 Positions event.
- Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has decided to extend the **Khelo India** scheme from **2021-22 to 2025-26**. The Ministry has furnished an **Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)** memorandum to the Ministry of Finance for extension/continuation of the **Khelo India Scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has included **Yogasana** in **Khelo India Youth Games 2021** in a bid to develop it as a competitive sport. Yogasana sport for both male and female categories have been included in Khelo India Youth Games, 2021.
- **Girl Gang**, a track by **New Zealand** singer **Gin Wigmore**, has been announced as the official song of the **2022 ICC Women's World Cup**. The tournament is set to be hosted in **New Zealand** from **March 4 to April 3, 2022**.
- In Shooting, India won gold in the **women's 25m Pistol Team** event at the **ISSF World Cup in Delhi**. India beat Poland in the final to win the country's 10th gold. The Indian women's team of **Rahi Sarnobat, Chinki Yadav and Manu Bhaker** beat Poland's Joanna Iwona Wawrzonowska, Julita Borek and Agnieszka Korejwo 17-7 in the gold medal match.
- **India** finished at the top of the medals table at the **2021 ISSF World Cup New Delhi**, held from 18 to 29 March 2021 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. India secured 30 medals which included **15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze**. The USA came second with eight medals including four gold, three silver and one bronze.

### Summits And Conferences

- The Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman has attended the G20 Central Bank Governors' meeting. This was the first-ever G20 Central Bank Governors' meeting that was held under the Italian Presidency. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss policy actions for transformative and equitable recovery along with other issues on the agenda including the global economic outlook, financial sector issues, financial inclusion and sustainable finance. This meeting is a follow-up for the upcoming 2021 G20 Summit, the sixteenth meeting of Group of Twenty, scheduled to take place in Rome, Italy, on 30-31 October 2021.

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- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has participated in the **virtual India-Sweden summit**, with the Prime Minister of Sweden, **Stefan Lofven**. Both the leaders underlined that the longstanding close relations between India and Sweden were based on shared values of democracy, rule of law, pluralism, equality, freedom of speech, and respect for human rights. Prime Minister Modi welcomed Sweden's decision to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has addressed the inaugural session of **TechBharat 2021**. Laghu Udyog Bharati and IMS Foundation have organized the 2nd edition of the conclave bringing together stakeholders from the HealthTech & Edutech sector on a virtual platform.
- Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has attended the three-day **Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC)** along with top defence officials at **Kevadia, Gujarat**. Theaterisation of armed forces, self-reliance in the defence sector and evolving threats in the region will be the focus. It is a premier brainstorming event of the Military Commanders from the three Services.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, US President **Joe Biden**, Australian Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** and Japan Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga** come together for the first **QUAD Summit**. The meeting was held virtually during which the four participants will exchange views on different areas of cooperation like maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, COVID-19, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security, and climate change.
- Under the chairship of India, the First Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was held from 9th March 2021 to 11th March 2021. The 2021 theme of the BRICS is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus". India presented the calendar of events for BRICS CGETI 2021, this includes the priority areas for deliverables, schedule and scope of the MSME roundtable conference workshop on Services Statistics, and the BRICS Trade Fair.
- The India-Finland Virtual Summit was held on March 16, 2021, with the participation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland Ms Sanna Marin. The virtual summit was organised to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral issues as well as other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.
- The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually. The Forum discussed key issues that contribute towards the transformation of women's lives. At the end of the conference, a joint declaration was also issued highlighting the shared IBSA goals and commitments for achieving gender equality in all spheres of life.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, addressed the **7th annual summit of NATHEALTH**. The summit focused on '**Indian Health system expansion in post-COVID era**'. While addressing the summit the minister reiterated the commitments of the government for fulfilling the goal of Health for all.
- President **Joe Biden** has invited **40 world leaders**, including Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, to a US-hosted virtual summit on climate next month to underscore the urgency and the economic benefits of stronger climate action.
- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan at Dushanbe in Tajikistan.

### Awards & Recognition

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the CERAWEEK global energy and environment leadership award during an annual CERAWEEK Conference-2021. The award is given to him for his commitment to sustainability in energy and the environment.
- The Hindu Group won two golds and two silvers at South Asian Digital Media Awards given by WAN IFRA (World Association of News Publishers), culminating in being named 'Champion Publisher of the Year', owing to the highest tally on the points table. The awards are presented in recognition of outstanding work done by news publishers, in digital media. The winners were honoured virtually at the Digital Media India 2021 Conference held on March 3, 2021.
- The **30th Bihari Puraskar for 2020** will be given to **Mohankrishna Bohara** for his Hindi book of Criticism, titled **Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya**. The **K.K. Birla Foundation** announced this in New Delhi. The book was published in 2016.



- World rapid chess champion **Koneru Humpy** has won the **BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year award**. BBC director-general Tim Davie, hosting the virtual awards ceremony. The Lifetime Achievement award went to veteran athlete **Anju Bobby George**. English cricket star **Ben Stokes** announced the 19-year-old Indian Shooter, **Manu Bhaker** as the winner of the **Emerging Player-of-the-Year award category**. Bhaker, won two golds at the ISSF World Cup in 2018, followed by gold at the Youth Olympics and a Commonwealth Games gold with a record to boot.
- Megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** will be honoured with an award by the **International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF)**. The veteran actor will be the first Indian cinema personality to be bestowed with the FIAF Award for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world's film heritage.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has presented a **baton of honour** and a letter of appreciation to former Puducherry lieutenant governor **Kiran Bedi** at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The former Puducherry lieutenant governor received a Baton of Honor decorated with the emblem of the Indian Republic and the appreciation letter recognizing her service in the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- The U.S. Consulate honoured Tamil Nadu-based anti-caste activist and human rights defender **Gowsalya Shankar** with a nomination for the **International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award**. The IWOC Award Certificate of Nomination was handed over to her by U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin at an event '**Courageous Women Inspire a Better World**' held in the city.
- Well known Hindi writer, Prof. Sharad Pagare will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman – 2020. He will be awarded the 31st Vyas Samman for his novel "Patliputru Ki Samragi". The Vyas Samman started in 1991, is given by KK Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.
- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** had been awarded '**Great place to work**' certification by the Great place to Work Institute. The certification is the result of an employee survey conducted by the third-party global authority on recognising high-trust and performance culture at workplaces. This recognition acknowledges the bank's commitment and credibility amongst its employees.
- Legendary singer **Asha Bhosle** will be honoured with the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Award for the year 2020**. A committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to select Ms Bhosle for the award for the year 2020. Ms Bhosle, whose sister Lata Mangeshkar won the award for 1997, said she got to know from Mr Thackeray that she has been selected for the award for 2020. Ms Bhosle received the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2000**.
- **Mahinder Giri**, range officer of **Rajaji Tiger Reserve** for being the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious **International Ranger Award** for his contribution towards conservation. The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas WCPA.
- Noted Marathi writer **Dr Sharankumar Limbale** will receive **Saraswati Samman, 2020** for his book Sanatan. The award carries fifteen lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque. Saraswati Samman, instituted by **KK Birla Foundation in 1991**, is recognised as the most prestigious and highest literary award in the country.
- **Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet**, an imagined take on the death of Shakespeare's son from the bubonic plague, has won the **National Book Critics Circle prize** for fiction.
- Harsh C. Mariwala, chairman of Marico, was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020.
- Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan has commended DGP Gautam Sawang for receiving the SKOCH Award as the best DGP in the country for outstanding performance in policing, public safety and taking up technical reforms in AP Police.
- Chloe Zhao's "Nomadland" received a major boost ahead of the Oscars as the movie bagged the top prize at the 2021 Producers Guild Awards.

### Important Days

- **Zero Discrimination Day** is an annual day celebrated on **1 March** each year by the **United Nations** and other international organisations. The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2021: "**End Inequalities**".
- The **Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)** observes the "**Civil Accounts Day**" every year on **March 01, 2021**, since its inception in **1976**. The year 2021 marks the **45th** Civil Accounts Day celebrations. ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.

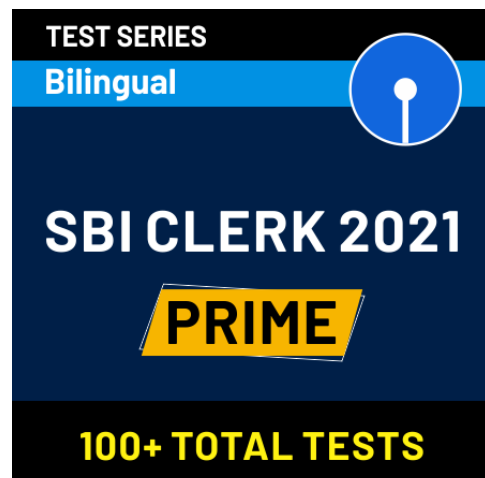
- **World Hearing Day** is held on **3 March** each year by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. The theme of World Hearing Day 2021 is **Hearing care for ALL!: Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate.**
- **World Wildlife Day** is observed globally on the **3rd of March** every year to celebrate the beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora present on earth. World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2021 under the theme **"Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet"**.
- The **National Safety Day (NSD)** is celebrated every year on **4 March** by the **National Safety Council (NSC)** of India. In 2021, we are observing the **50th National Safety Day**. The National Safety Day Theme 2021 is **"Sadak Suraksha (Road Safety)"**.
- In India, **March 4** is celebrated as **National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas)** every year, in the honor of the **Indian Security Forces**. 4 March also marks the day when the **National Security Council (NSC) of India** was established, in **1966** by the Ministry of Labour under the Government of India. The **first National Security Day (NSD)** was held in **1972**.
- **International Women's Day** is celebrated on the **8th of March** every year. This day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year's theme for International Women Day, **"Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"**, celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) – Raising Day (CRD) is observed on March 10 in India every year. In 2021, the nation is celebrating the 52nd Raising Day of CISF. The basic objective of the CISF is Better "protection and security" of industrial undertakings in both government and private sectors in the country.
- **World Kidney Day** is observed globally on the **second Thursday of March** every year. This year World Kidney Day is observed on **11th March 2021**. The theme of the 2021 World Kidney day is **"Living Well with Kidney Disease"**. World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.
- **World Consumer Rights Day** is celebrated on March 15 every year to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs, and protect consumers across the globe against market abuses. The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2021 is **"Tackling Plastic Pollution."**
- The **National Vaccination Day**, (also called the **National Immunization Day**), is celebrated every year on **March 16** in India, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation. The prime purpose behind the celebration of National Vaccination Day is to make all people aware of arming against polio and eradicating it completely from the world. In 2021, the National Vaccination Day is important as the country has started its biggest **Covid-19 immunization programme**.
- **Global Recycling Day** is observed every year on March 18 to create awareness among the masses about the rapid pace at which our natural resources are being used. The day also promotes the concept and practice of recycling. Every year, events are organised by environmentalist and activists to promote the cause.
- The Ordnance Factories' Day is observed on the 18th of March every year. The production of India's oldest Ordnance Factory, which is at Cossipore of Kolkata, was started on the 18th of March, 1802. OFB is the 37th largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world, 2nd largest in Asia, and the largest in India.
- **World Sparrow Day** is celebrated every year on **March 20** to raise awareness about the House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations. The theme of 2021 World Sparrow Day **"I LOVE Sparrows"**.
- **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated on **March 20** to promote happiness as a fundamental human right for all human beings across the world. The 2021 International Day of Happiness campaign theme is **'Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind'**.
- **World Oral Health Day** is observed every year on **20th March**. It focuses on highlighting the benefits of good oral health, spreads awareness about oral diseases and promotes maintenance of oral hygiene. The theme for the next three years, 2021-2023 is: **Be Proud Of Your Mouth**.
- The **UN French Language Day** is observed annually on **20 March**. The day was established by the **UN's Department of Public Information in 2010**, to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.

- **World Water Day** is observed globally on **22nd March** every year. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the **2.2 billion** people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. The theme of World Water Day 2021 is **“Valuing water”**.
- The **International Day of Forests** (also known as World Forestry Day) is celebrated every year on **March 21**. The theme for International Day of Forests 2020 is **“Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being”**.
- The **World Down Syndrome Day** is observed globally on **21 March** each year, to raise public awareness for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome. This year, the theme for World Down Syndrome Day is **“We Decide.”** This day was first observed in the United Nation in the year **2012**.
- The **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is observed annually on **21 March** to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination. This year theme is **“Youth standing up against racism”**.
- **World Poetry Day** is celebrated on **21 March** every year to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world. The Day celebrates one of humanity’s most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity.
- The **World Meteorological Day** is celebrated every year on **23 March** to commemorate the date of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization in **23 March 1950**. The World Meteorological Day theme is **“The ocean, our climate and weather”** celebrates WMO’s focus in connecting the ocean, climate and weather within the Earth System.
- **International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims** is observed annually on **24th March** every year. This day is observed on 24th March every year to pay tribute to **“Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero”** as he was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- **World Tuberculosis Day** is observed every year on **24 March** to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. The date marks the day in **1882** when **Dr Robert Koch** announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease. The theme of World TB Day 2021 - **“The Clock is Ticking”**.
- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** is observed annually on **25th March** every year. 2021 Theme: **“Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice”**.
- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25 March by the United Nations. The day is marked each year on the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) when he was abducted by armed gunman in 1985. His body was finally found in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley in 2009.
- **World Theatre Day** is observed globally on **27th March** every year. World Theatre Day was initiated in **1961** by the **International Theatre Institute (ITI), France**. The author of the Message of World Theatre Day 2021 is **Helen MIRREN, United Kingdom**.
- Every year, the **Earth Hour** is celebrated worldwide on the last **Saturday of March** month to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. **Earth Hour 2021** is being marked on **March 27, 2021**. The Earth Hour 2021 theme will focus on **“Climate Change to Save Earth.”**
- **Bangladesh** celebrates **50 years of its Independence and National Day** on **26 March**, coinciding with the grand celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- **International Transgender Day of Visibility** observed globally on **31st March** every year. The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

### Defence Current Affairs

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Desert Flag-VI, which has been organised from March 03 to 27, 2021 at Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE. The purpose of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to the participating forces, train them to undertake simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment, provides an opportunity to enhance their operational capabilities along with the mutual exchange of best practices.

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a successful flight test of **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology** from the integrated test range (ITR), **Chandipur, off Odisha coast**. The SFDR technology will help DRDO with the technological advantage to develop long-range air-to-air missiles (AAMs).
- The **Indian Navy** got its **third Scorpene submarine**, commissioned as **INS Karanj**, of Project P-75 in Mumbai. With the delivery of Karanj, India further cemented its position as a submarine-building nation. Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL), one of India's leading shipyards with the capacity and the capability to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Indian Navy. Before Karanj, **INS Kalvari** and **INS Khanderi** have been commissioned in the Indian Navy in 2017 and 2019, respectively.
- The **India - Uzbekistan** joint military exercise **DUSTLIK II** has commenced in Foreign Training Node **Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand**. This is the **Second Edition** of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies. It will continue till the 19th of this month. The first edition of the exercise was held in **Uzbekistan** in November 2019. 45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and the Indian Army are participating in the exercise.
- The **Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS)**, which is a joint venture between the **Kalyani Group of India** and **Rafael Advanced Defence Systems of Israel**, have released the first batch of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** kits. The missile was released for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- As part of **Mission Sagar-IV**, Indian Naval Ship **Jalashwa** arrived at **Port Anjouan, Comoros** to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice. An official ceremony for handing over the food aid from the Government of India to the Government of Comoros. **INS Jalashwa**, the largest amphibious ship of the Indian Navy, has been specially sent to Comoros due to its large carrying capacity.
- **Indian Navy** on **18th March** undertook **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with Royal Bahrain Naval Force Corvette **Al Muharraq** in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp. PASSEXs are conducted regularly by the Indian Navy with units of friendly foreign navies, whilst visiting each other's ports or during a rendezvous at sea. The exercises are aimed at fostering interoperability and reflecting the commitments of both, India and Bahrain, to build cooperative partnerships in meeting emergent maritime challenges.
- The **Defence Ministry** has sealed a deal with the public sector undertaking **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** to acquire **4,960 MILAN-2T anti-tank guided missiles** at a cost of **₹ 1,188 crores** for the Indian Army. The missiles, having a range of **1,850 metres**, are being produced by BDL under license from French defence major MBDA Missile Systems.
- **China** has the strongest military force in the world while **India stands at number four**, according to a study released by defence website **Military Direct**. China has the strongest military in the world, scoring **82 out of 100 points** in the index. The **USA**, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by **Russia** with 69, **India** at 61 and then **France** with 58. The **U.K.** just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9th place with a score of 43.
- The eight-member bloc said that the decision to hold the joint exercise '**Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021**' was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**. Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, including India, Pakistan and China, will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise this year.
- L&T-built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) **ICGS Vajra** was commissioned into the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** by General **Bipin Rawat**, Chief of Defence Staff, at Chennai. ICGS Vajra is the **sixth** vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in the year **2015**. Like the five OPVs in the series, ICGS Vajra was also delivered ahead of the contractual schedule.
- In a first, the navies of **India and Madagascar** undertook joint patrolling of Madagascar's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** and also conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**.



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- The **11th edition** of **Indo-US** joint special forces exercises **Vajra Prahar 2021** was conducted at Special Forces training school located at **Bakloh, in Himachal Pradesh**. The exercise 'Vajra Prahar' is aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics. The exercise was aimed at improving interoperability between the special forces of the two countries.

### Science and Technology

- India's Polar rocket has successfully launched **Amazonia-1** of **Brazil** and 18 other satellites from the spaceport here, in the first mission of the year for space agency **ISRO**. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51 lifted from the first launch pad of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR)** and first injected into orbit primary payload Amazonia-1.
- Indian Scientists at Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have indigenously designed and developed a low-cost optical Spectrograph named as Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC). It has been commissioned on the 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT), in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
- The Governor of Tripura, **Ramesh Bais** has inaugurated the **Udaipur Science Centre**, at **Udaipur, Tripura**. The Udaipur Science Centre has been developed at a cost of **Rs 6 crore** funded jointly by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Tripura Government and with this; the **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** has now set-up science centres in all the northeastern states.
- **Elon Musk** owned private rocket company, **SpaceX** successfully tested its **Starship prototype rocket "SN10"** after two recent failed attempts. SpaceX launched the rocket prototype, to an altitude of **10,000 kilometres** and then landed back on the ground. However, the rocket exploded about six minutes after landing.
- ISRO has completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission with the US space agency NASA. NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is a joint collaboration for a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for earth observation. NISAR will be the first

satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimetre across. ISRO is providing the spacecraft bus, the S-band radar, the launch vehicle and associated launch services for the mission, whose goal is to make global measurements of the causes and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has launched a new online certificate course on **5G technology** to be conducted by the **National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT)**, which is the training institute of DoT.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched the sounding rocket (**RH-560**) to study altitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics, at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range (SHAR)**. ISRO has developed a series of sounding rockets called Rohini series, important among them being **RH-200, RH-300 and RH-560**, number in the name indicating the diameter of the rocket in mm, according to the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.
- The Finnish telecom equipment maker, Nokia has announced on March 16 that it has partnered with Microsoft, Amazon web services and Google so as to develop a new cloud-based 5G radio solution. This solution will be developed with its radio access network (RNA) technology. This partnership was gone with the objective of developing new business cases.
- The new bacterial strains discovered from different locations aboard the ISS. The researchers named the novel species as *Methylobacterium ajmalii*, in honour of the renowned Indian biodiversity scientist, Dr Ajmal Khan, a former professor at Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu.

### Books & Authors

- Anindya Dutta, a banker turned author, penned a new book titled "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis", a chronicle of Indian Tennis. Advantage India is a well-researched account of the journey of Indian tennis, with a special section on the Doubles game and on women's tennis in India. The book is published by Westland publications.

- The autobiography of **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, popularly known as the “Frontier Gandhi”, titled “**The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle**” is set to be published in English by the publishing house Roli Books. This will be his first autobiography in English. The book was translated into English by **Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada**, the former Pakistani civil servant and author.
- The English translation of journalist-author Anant Vijay’s book “**Amethi Sangram: Aitihasik Jeet Ankahi Dastan**” will be released on March 15. The book, titled “**Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph**”, traces Union Minister Irani’s journey from her defeat in 2014 to her victory in the Congress stronghold of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.
- The Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** released a digital e-book titled **Dawn Under The Dome**. The digital book depicts the history of the **Mumbai General Post Office building**. It has been authored by Post Master General of Mumbai **Swati Pandey** in collaboration with **Orchida Mukherjee**.
- A book titled “**Battle Ready for 21st Century**” co-edited by **Lt Gen AK Singh**, Distinguished Fellow CLAWS and **Brig Narendra Kumar**, Visiting Fellow CLAWS was released by **Gen Bipin Rawat**. The book lays down the conceptual framework for the strategic management of future conflicts.
- The book “**My Experiments with Silence**” is authored by **Samir Soni** on anxiety and self-discovery. Soni’s book aims to be a personal account of his dialogues with himself during his growing-up years in Delhi, his stint at Wall Street and his time in Bollywood. The book will be published by **OM Books International**. Soni said his book will be an “ode to anyone who has fought or is fighting their inner demons”.
- ‘**In The Dream House: A Memoir**’ by **Carmen Maria Machado** Wins **The Rathbones Folio Prize 2021**. In the 2019 book, the author outlines her experiences in a same-sex relationship with her former partner, and the abuse she was subjected to. It is at once an inventive and radical work, a true testimony to her narrative gift.
- A book titled “**Names of the Women**” authored by **Jeet Thayil**. The book talks about the women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or erased in the Gospels. Jeet Thayil is a renowned author, best known for his book ‘**Narcopolis**’ which was shortlisted for the **Man Booker Prize 2012** and won the **DSC Prize for South Asian Literature**. His most recent book ‘**Low**’ was released in 2020.

- A Book Titles Indians: A Brief History of A Civilization” Authored by **Namit Arora**. It is published by **India Viking**. This book conveys the way of Indian lived, ate, built, loved, fought, and made sense.

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The **Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021** is underway at **Noida Haat**. The fair was inaugurated by Union Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**. **Narendra Singh Tomar** while inaugurating the event highlighted that the Ministry of Rural Development is working to include more women under the **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- The **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** has celebrated its **9th Foundation Day** on 01 March 2021. The Land Ports Authority of India or LPAI is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing border infrastructure in India. It manages several Integrated Check Posts all across Borders of India.
- The **International Yoga Festival** was inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand **Subodh Uniyal**, head of **Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad (ABAP)** **Narendra Giri** and **Patanjali Yogpeeth** chairman **Acharya Balakrishna** in **Rishikesh**.
- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, **Thaawarchand Gehlot** has launched the “**Suganya Bharat App**”, through a video conference in New Delhi. The minister also launched a handbook entitled “**Access - The Photo Digest**”.
- India captain **Virat Kohli** became the first cricketer in the world to have **100 million** followers on the social media platform **Instagram**. The 32-year-old Kohli is also the **fourth most** followed sportsperson on Instagram.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs India** will commemorate ‘**Chabahar Day**’ on March 4 on the sidelines of the **Maritime India Summit 2021** being held in **New Delhi**. The virtual event will see the participation of ministers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan. The Summit is being held from March 2-4, 2021.
- **Delhi government** has approved the formation of a separate school board for nearly **2,700 schools in the city**. There are around **1,000 Delhi government schools** and **about 1,700 private schools**, most of them affiliated to the **CBSE**, in the city.

- **Indian Railways' Western Railway zone** has introduced a **mobile train radio communication (MTRC) system** to facilitate direct and continuous communication between the train crew and the control centre and station master. This new communication system has already been deployed in **105 rakes**, operating between **Churchgate to Virar over Mumbai's** suburban segment.
- The Delhi government presented a Rs **69,000-crore** budget themed on '**patriotism**' or '**Deshbhakti**' for the financial year 2021-22. The budget was presented by the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, **Manish Sisodia**. While presenting the budget, he announced that the government has decided to celebrate the **75th Independence Day of India**.
- Actor **Deepika Padukone** has joined the list of the **Young Global Leaders (YGLs)** compiled by the **World Economic Forum**. The list also includes several Indian citizens and India-origin persons. They join a group of Nobel Prize recipients, Pulitzer winners, heads of state and chief executive officers committed to improving the state of the world.
- In the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, the festival of Shivratri '**Herath**' is being celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir. Festival Mahashivratri locally known as Herath in Kashmir is being celebrated across J&K by Kashmiri Pandit Community with religious fervour by offering "**Watak Nath Pooja**".
- In order to facilitate the '**One Nation-One Ration Card**' system in the country, the government has launched '**Mera Ration**' **mobile app** to benefit citizens in identifying the nearest fair price shop. This app will benefit especially those ration card holders who move to new areas for livelihoods.
- **Tata Motors** has launched '**Wheels of Love**', a holistic programme that supports new parents in the workforce. This is a move to promote a progressive culture of care, inclusion and sensitisation within the organisation across levels.
- **ReNew Power** has been named to the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network**, which recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community supportive, profitable growth. ReNew Power is an Indian renewable energy company. It has an asset base of over 8 GW, with around 5 GW operational. ReNew Power is one of the two Indian companies to be recognised by the **Global Lighthouse Network** this year.
- In the Indian Ocean, the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) will launch the first-of-its-kind project of Genome Mapping. Indian Ocean covers about 20% of the Earth's water surface and so is the third largest water body in the world. Its objective is to gather samples of genome mapping of microorganisms in the Indian Ocean.
- Samsung India has announced that it has inaugurated a Samsung Innovation Lab at Delhi Technological University (DTU) to focus on collaborative research and training. It has set up the innovation lab under the Samsung Innovation Campus initiative as part of its new #PoweringDigitalIndia vision. With this addition, Samsung now has eight technical labs spread across the country as part of its Samsung Innovation Campus initiative, which was earlier called Samsung Digital Academy.
- The Union Minister of Education, Shri **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**, virtually inaugurated the **Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak** in New Delhi on March 23, 2021.
- **Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID)** has launched an "**e-Tendering Portal**" called '**PRANIT**' to make the tendering process more transparent. The portal "PRANIT" will involve less paperwork and allow ease of operation, which in turn will make the tendering process more transparent.
- A team of four undergraduate students from the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur** emerged as winners at the **CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0**, sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI and IA: Interior Architects. The team comprised Siddhant Samarth, Pratim Majumdar, Rishita Raj and Utkarsh Agrawal and were guided by Prof. Jenia Mukherjee (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences).
- The Hyderabad-based startup, **Maithri Aquatech** has set up the world's first **mobile water-from-air kiosk** and '**Water Knowledge Centre**' in the smart city of **Visakhapatnam**. This initiative is supported by Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and project SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health) - an alliance between USAID and SWN (Safe Water Network).
- Jammu and Kashmir, LG **Manoj Sinha** has e-inaugurated **73 AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres** under **Ayushman Bharat** across the UT. These centres aim to promote good health and expanding the outreach of comprehensive primary healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully demonstrated free-space **Quantum Communication** over a distance of **300 metres**, with several technologies developed within the country. The demonstration included live video conferencing using quantum-key-encrypted signals, at **Space Applications Centre (SAC)**, Ahmedabad, between two line-of-sight buildings within the campus.
- The giant container ship "**Ever Given**" that blocked traffic in the **Suez Canal** for the last week resumed its journey, after being successfully refloated. The efforts to float the delinquent **Panamanian container ship Ever Given** are successful.
- Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has inaugurated "**Anandam: The Center for Happiness**" at the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu** virtually. The centre will help people overcome mental stress and help spread positivity and it will encourage and propagate holistic development for all the stakeholders at IIM Jammu.
- Prime Minister Modi announced Swarna Jayanti scholarship for youths of Bangladesh. The Swarna Jayanti Fellowship is a research fellowship awarded annually by the Department of Science and Technology of India.
- Dhyana Chand National Sports Award-winning veteran Indian athlete **Ishar Singh Deol**, has passed away. Punjab-based Deol won the **Dhyana Chand National Award in 2009** for his lifelong contribution towards sports.
- Justice Shri **Anshuman Singh**, the former **Governor of Rajasthan & Gujarat**, has passed away. Anshuman Singh was a retired Justice who served as the Governor of Rajasthan from January 1999 till 2003. Prior to that, he was appointed as the Governor of Gujarat state in 1998.
- The Marathi stage and film actor, **Shrikant Moghe** has passed away. He was popular for his work in both Marathi and Hindi languages.
- The incumbent Prime Minister of **Ivory Coast, Hamed Bakayoko**, has passed away due to cancer. He was named prime minister in July 2020 following the sudden death of his predecessor, Amadou Gon Coulibaly. President of Ivory Coast, **Alassane Ouattara**, has named **Patrick Achi** as interim prime minister in place of Bakayoko.
- Renowned Indian artist and painter **Laxman Pai** has passed away. The Goa-based painter was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour. The former principal of the Goa College of Art had several laurels under his name including **Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award, and Lalit Kala Akademi Award**.
- The former undisputed middleweight boxing legend "Marvelous" **Marvin Hagler** has passed away. Hagler, the American legend, ruled as the undisputed middleweight champion from 1980 to 1987. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame and the World Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993.
- Veteran Kathakali artist **Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair** has passed away in Kozhikode, Kerala. He was 105-year old. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2017 for his contributions to the dance form of Kathakali.
- The Dutch inventor of audio cassette tapes, **Lou Ottens** passed away. Dutch engineer credited with inventing the cassette tape and playing a major role in the development of the first CD.
- **Barrister Moudud Ahmed**, who held various political offices for short stints in the Government of Bangladesh, has passed away. He had served as the **Prime Minister of Bangladesh (1988-1989)**, Vice President of Bangladesh (1989-1990), Deputy Prime Minister (1976-1978 and 1987-1988), and Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (2001-2006).

### Obituaries

- Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, has passed away. He was a six-term MP, who was elected as the Lok Sabha MP for the first time in 1996 and got re-elected in 1998, 1999, 2004, 2014 and 2019.
- **M G George Muthoot**, the Chairman and Whole Time Director of **The Muthoot Group**, has passed away. He was the mentor and visionary leader who played a pivotal leadership role through his long career in building one of the most trusted financial powerhouses in the country.
- Noted Kannada poet, critic and translator **NS Lakshminarayana Bhatta** has passed away. Popularly known as 'NSL' in the Kannada literary world, he was born in 1936 in the Shivamogga district. A was recipient of the **Karnataka Sahitya Akademi award** and **Kannada Rajyotsava Award** among others, his popular works include **Thaye Ninna madilali**.



- Former Union Minister and BJP leader, **Dilip Gandhi** passed away, due to coronavirus. He had served as the **Union Minister of State, Ministry of Shipping** from 29 January 2003 to 15 March 2004.
- The President of Tanzania, John Magufuli has passed away following a heart ailment. Popularly nicknamed the "Bulldozer", Magufuli served as the fifth President of Tanzania from 2015 until his death in 2021. He first won the presidential election in October 2015 and was sworn in on 5 November 2015. He was re-elected in 2020.
- Former Sebi chairman GV Ramakrishna passed away. He was appointed as the chairman of markets regulator Sebi in 1990 when it lacked legal status. He headed that body till 1994 and then became the first chairman of the Disinvestment Commission in 1996.
- Noted writer and filmmaker **Sagar Sarhadi**, known for films like "Kabhi Kabhie", "Silsila", and "Bazaar", has passed away.
- **Nawal Saadawi**, a renowned **Egyptian feminist, psychiatrist and novelist**, whose writings have stirred controversy for decades in an overwhelmingly conservative society passed away. She was a fierce advocate of women rights in Egypt and the Arab world.
- Renowned Polish poet **Adam Zagajewski** has passed away. He was a leading figure in **Poland's New Wave or Generation '68**, a literary movement of the late 1960s that called for a simple language to relate directly to reality.
- Noted Odissi dancer **Laxmipriya Mohapatra**, the wife of legendary classical dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra, passed away. She started her dancing career at the **Annapurna Theatre in Puri in 1947**.
- Noted journalist and author **Anil Dharker** passed away. He was the founder and director of the **Mumbai International Literary Festival**. He was in his mid-70s, was the editor of several publications including Mid-Day and The Independent and played a vital role in opening the Akashwani Auditorium in south Mumbai as an art movie theatre.
- Lieutenant General, **Walter Anthony Gustavo 'WAG' Pinto (Retd)**, a military hero who led an infantry division to a legendary victory in the **1971 India-Pakistan War** has passed away at the age of 97.
- Beloved children's author of US, **Beverly Cleary** passed away. She was named a **Living Legend in 2000** by the Library of Congress. In 2003, she was chosen as one of the winners of the **National Medal of Arts**.

## Static Takeaways

- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.
- Sri Lanka President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- Sri Lanka Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.
- UN General Assembly Headquarters: New York, United States.
- UN General Assembly Founded: 1945, New York, United States.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.
- Ghana President: Nana Akufo-Addo.
- Ghana Capital: Accra.
- Ghana Currency: Ghanaian cedi.
- Israel Prime minister: Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem.
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- Australia Capital: Canberra.
- Australia Currency: Australian dollar.
- Australia PM: Scott Morrison.
- Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte.
- Philippines Capital: Manila.
- Philippines Currency: Philippine peso.
- Fino Payments Bank established: 13 July 2006.
- Headquarters of Fino Payments Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Established: 1924.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Headquarters: New Delhi.

**TEST SERIES**

**ENGLISH**



**FCI 2021**

**ASST. GENERAL MANAGER**  
(General Administration)

**20 TOTAL TESTS**

- Eastern Naval Command Headquarter: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Eastern Naval Command Founded: 1 March 1968.
- PIB has its Headquarters in New Delhi.
- The Press Information Bureau was established in June 1919.
- Central Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Central Bank of India Founded: 21 December 1911.
- Central Reserve Police Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Central Reserve Police Force Formed: 27 July 1939.
- Central Reserve Police Force Motto: Service and Loyalty.
- Prime Minister of Australia: Scott Morrison.
- The currency of Australia: Australian dollar.
- Capital of Australia: Canberra.
- AIBA Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- AIBA Founded: 1946.
- Chiefs of Air Staff: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.
- Hurun Report Headquarters: Shanghai, China.
- Hurun India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- AIFF founded: 23 June 1937.
- FIFA affiliation of AIFF: 1948.
- Headquarters of AIFF: Dwarka, Delhi.
- Uganda Capital: Kampala.
- Uganda Currency: Ugandan shilling.
- Uganda President: Yoweri Museveni.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha.
- United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNAIDS Founded: 26 July 1994.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Wildlife Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.
- World Wildlife Fund Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland.
- National Security Council of India Founded: 19 November 1998.
- National Security Council of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Land Ports Authority of India Founded: 1 March 2012.
- Land Ports Authority of India Parent organization: Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Land Ports Authority of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences Founded: 20 April 1954.
- SpaceX Founded: 2002.
- SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- Stockholm is the capital of Sweden.
- The krona is the official currency of Sweden.
- The current PM of Sweden is Stefan Lofven.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- HDFC ERGO Headquarters: Mumbai.
- HDFC ERGO Founded: 2002.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: Lets make money simple.
- Axis Bank Commenced operations: 1994.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Axis Bank Tagline: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi Managing.
- United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- United Nations Environment Programme Founded: 5 June 1972.
- National Book Trust Founded: 1 August 1957.
- National Book Trust Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, Delhi.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.
- Switzerland Currency: Swiss franc.
- Switzerland Capital: Bern.
- Niger Capital: Niamey.
- Niger Currency: West African CFA franc.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo.
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen.
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.
- EPFO Founded: 4 March 1952.

- EPFO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Alliance Insurance Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- Axis Bank Commenced operations: 1994.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Axis Bank Tagline: Dil Se Open.
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France.
- OECD Founded: 30 September 1961.
- Headquarters of Crisil: Mumbai.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Federal Reserve Bank Founded: 23 December 1913.
- Federal Reserve Bank HQ: New York, United States.
- CAG Founded: 1858.
- CAG Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Capital of Uzbekistan: Tashkent; Currency: Uzbekistani Som.
- BBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- BBC Established: 1922.
- FIAF Founded: 17 June 1938; Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Heritage Foundation Headquarters: Washington, D.C., US.
- Heritage Foundation Founded: 16 February 1973.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- United Nations founded: 24 October 1945.
- Headquarters of United Nations: New York, United States.
- Ivory Coast President: Alassane Ouattara.
- Ivory Coast Capital: Yamoussoukro.
- Ivory Coast Currency: West African CFA franc.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971.
- Lieutenant Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha.
- Tata motors HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Guenter Butschek.
- BRICS Establishment: 2009.
- BRICS Members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The First BRICS Ministerial Meeting was held on 20th September 2006.
- Tata motors HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Guenter Butschek.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha.
- El Salvador President: Nayib Bukele.
- El Salvador Capital: San Salvador; Currency: El Salvador colon.
- Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar.
- Capital of Singapore: Singapore.
- PM of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.
- President of Italy: Sergio Mattarella.
- Capital of Italy: Rome; Currency of Italy: Euro.
- Prime Minister of Italy: Mario Draghi.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- ICRIER Established: August 1981.
- ICRIER Headquarters: New Delhi.
- National Security Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.
- The motto of the National Security Guard: Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha.
- International Solar Alliance Headquarters Location: Gurgram, Haryana.
- International Solar Alliance Established: 2015.
- World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March.
- Israel Prime minister: Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem.
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Finland: Capital: Helsinki; Currency: Euro.
- Sipri Headquarters: Oslo, Norway.
- Sipri Founded: 6 May 1966.
- Headquarters of Ordnance Factory Board: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Tanzania President: Samia Suluhu.
- Tanzania Capital: Dodoma.
- Tanzania Currency: Tanzanian shilling.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971.
- Headquarters of Moody's: New York, United States.
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.
- UNCTAD Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNCTAD Founder: United Nations General Assembly.
- UNCTAD Founded: 30 December 1964.
- Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro

- France Prime minister: Jean Castex.
- France Capital: Paris.
- France President: Emmanuel Macron.
- IOC Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- IOC Founded: 23 June 1894.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte; Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.
- Sri Lanka Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa; Sri Lanka President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- Norway Currency: Norwegian krone.
- Norway Capital: Oslo.
- Prime Minister of Norway: Erna Solberg.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo.
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen.
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- Indian Overseas Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Overseas Bank Founded: 10 February 1937, Chennai.
- Fitch Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Fitch Ratings CEO: Paul Taylor.
- Fitch Ratings Founded: 1914.
- Airports Authority of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Airports Authority of India Founded: 1 April 1995.
- UIDAI Founded: 28 January 2009;
- UIDAI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Food Corporation of India Founded: 14 January 1965.
- Food Corporation of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- Bahrain Capital: Manama.
- Bahrain Currency: Bahraini dinar.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited Founded: 1970, Hyderabad.
- Director-General of Indian Coast Guard: Krishnaswamy Natarajan.
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ESAF Small Finance Bank HQ: Thrissur, Kerala.
- World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Intellectual Property Organization Founded: 14 July 1967.
- International Shooting Sport Federation Headquarters: Munich, Germany;
- International Shooting Sport Federation Founded: 1907.

- Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- World Meteorological Organization Head: Petteri Taalas.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Meteorological Organization has a membership of 191 member states and territories.
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the WHO's Director-General.
- WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- Mr Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- Power Grid Corporation of India Founded: 23 October 1989.
- Power Grid Corporation of India Headquarters: Gurgaon, India.
- World Wide Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.
- World Wide Fund Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland.
- Madagascar Capital: Antananarivo;
- Madagascar President: Andry Rajoelina;
- Madagascar Currency: Malagasy ariary.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.
- Republic of Congo Capital: Brazzaville;
- Republic of Congo Currency: franc.



**BILINGUAL**

**SBI PO**

**Foundation Batch 2021**

Starts April 7, 2021

11 AM to 10 PM

- S&P Global Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.
- SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SAIL founded: 19 January 1954.
- Prime minister of New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern.
- Capital of New Zealand: Wellington.
- The currency of New Zealand: New Zealand dollar.
- South Korea Capital: Seoul
- South Korea President: Moon Jae-in
- South Korea Currency: South Korean won
- Union Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Union Bank Founded: 11 November 1919.
- Union Bank Tagline: Good People to Bank with.

**States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:**

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal	Satyadeo Narain Arya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
11	Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Tirath Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

**Union Ministers in News in month of March 2021**

Sr. No.	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep Singh Puri
2	Minister of External Affairs	Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
3	Union Minister of Railways	Piyush Goyal
4	Minister of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal
5	Minister of Communications	Ravi Shankar Prasad
6	Minister of Road Transport and Highways	Nitin Gadkari
7	Minister of Women and Child Development	Smriti Zubin Irani
8	Labour Minister	<b>Santosh Kumar Gangwar</b>
9	Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare	<b>Dr Harsh Vardhan</b>
10	Union Education Minister	<b>Ramesh Pokhriyal</b>
11	Finance Minister of India,	Nirmala Sitharaman
12	Defence minister	<b>Rajnath Singh</b>
13	Union Minister of Agriculture	<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>
14	Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment,	<b>Thaawarchand Gehlot</b>

**Heads of various organizations in News in month of March 2021**

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	UN General Assembly President	Volkan Bozkır
2	Chairman of Fino Payments Bank	Prof Mahendra Kumar Chouhan
3	MD & CEO of Fino Payments Bank	Rishi Gupta
4	World Bank President	David Malpass
5	SBI Chairperson	Dinesh Kumar Khara
6	SBI Mutual Fund MD & CEO	Vinay Tonse
7	AIBA President	Umar Kremlyov
8	Hurun Report Chairman and Chief Researcher	Rupert Hoogewerf
9	Hurun India MD and Chief Researcher	Anas Rahman
10	President of AIFF	Praful Patel
11	UNAIDS Executive Director	Winnie Byanyima
12	Director-general of WHO	Tedros Adhanom
13	President and CEO of World Wildlife Fund	Carter Roberts
14	Land Ports Authority of India Chairman	Aditya Mishra
15	ISRO Chairman	K.Sivan
16	SpaceX founder & CEO	Elon Musk
17	SpaceX president & COO	Gwynne Shotwell

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
18	Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
19	National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
20	HDFC ERGO CEO	Ritesh Kumar
21	Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO	Uday Kotak
22	Axis Bank MD and CEO	Amitabh Chaudhry
23	United Nations Environment Programme Head	Inger Andersen
25	National Book Trust President	Govind Prasad Sharma
26	Google CEO	Sundar Pichai
27	Google Founders	Larry Page, Sergey Brin
28	United Nations Environment Programme Founder	Maurice Strong
29	IBM CEO	Arvind Krishna
30	CEO of EPFO	Sunil Barthwal
31	Alliance Insurance CEO & Principal Officer	S. V. Thakkar
32	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan (Succeeds Aditya Puri).
33	Axis Bank MD and CEO	Amitabh Chaudhry
34	IDBI Bank CEO	Rakesh Sharma
35	OECD Secretary-General	Jose Angel Gurría
36	CEO of Crisil	Ashu Suyash
37	Crisil Chief Economist	Dharmakirti Joshi
38	Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive	Ajay Tyagi
39	CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank	John C. Williams
40	Federal Reserve Bank Chairperson	Jerome Powell
41	President of Uzbekistan	Shavkat Mirziyoyev
42	BBC director-general	Tim Davie
43	Heritage Foundation Chairperson	Thomas A. Saunders III
44	Chairman of ICC	Greg Barclay
45	CEO of ICC	Manu Sawhney
46	Secretary-General of United Nations	Antonio Guterres
47	DG of Central Industrial Security Force	Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
48	World Economic Forum Founder	Klaus Schwab
49	National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
50	Sipri Director	Dan Smith
51	Director-General & Chairman of Ordnance Factories	C S Vishwakarma
52	World Economic Forum Founder	Klaus Schwab
53	President & CEO of Moody's	Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr
54	Punjab National Bank MD and CEO	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
55	IOC Director General	Christophe De Kepper
56	Indian Overseas Bank CEO	Partha Pratim Sengupta
57	Fitch Ratings Founder	John Knowles Fitch
58	Bharat Dynamics Limited Chairman & MD	Siddharth Mishra
59	ESAF Small Finance Bank MD & CEO	K Paul Thomas
60	World Intellectual Property Organization Head	Daren Tang
61	International Shooting Sport Federation President	Vladimir Lisin
62	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
63	World Wide Fund President and CEO	Carter Roberts
64	President of S&P Global Ratings	John Berisford
65	Union Bank CEO	Rajkiran Rai G

