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March
CA MockDrill
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(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF मार्च 2021 माह में Testzone पर MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & Sates Affairs

1. Aditya Birla Health Insurance has announced to offer up to 100% return of the premium if the customer has accrued adequate number of 'Activ Dayz' (one Activ Day means 10,000 steps a day, or any fitness activity specified by the insurer). The insurer will monitor the active lives of its customers through the Activ Health app. the new product is an enhanced version of its existing Activ Health policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance – to offer up to 100% return of the premium (India's 1st initiatives)
- 'Activ Health policy' – belongs to Aditya Birla Health Insurance
- HQs of ABHICL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mayank Bathwal

2. Alliance Insurance has recently launched "SMEInsure" portal to bring 5 Cr Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the insurance category. The new platform will benefit MSMEs, small shop and business owners amid financial emergency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alliance Insurance – launched "SMEInsure" portal – to bring 5 Cr SMEs under the insurance category
- HQs of Alliance Insurance – Mumbai, MH

3. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its "Waste to Wealth" Mission launched the 'Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship' to recognize students, community workers/self-help groups, and municipal/sanitary workers. The Waste to Wealth Mission is one of the 9 national missions of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser – launched the Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship
- It was launched under – "Waste to Wealth" Mission

4. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot has virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App" and a handbook entitled "Access - The Photo Digest" in New Delhi. The App and the handbook have been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thaawarchand Gehlot – launched "Sugamya Bharat App" & a handbook "Access - The Photo Digest"
- App & handbook have been developed by – DEPwD - under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot (Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)

5. On March 1, Centuries-old St. George's Orthodox Church at Cheppad, Kerala has faced the risk of demolition for widening of National Highway (NH) 66, but it is now set to be declared a centrally protected monument of National Importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It is believed that the church was built in AD 950. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- St. George's Orthodox Church (Cheppad, Kerala) – declared as monument of National Importance – by ASI
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

6. On March 2, SBI Mutual Fund has announced the launch of SBI International Access - US Equity FoF, an open-ended Fund of Fund scheme that would invest in mutual fund scheme/ETFs that further invests in the US markets. The fund will be managed by Mohit Jain. The minimum investment required is Rs 5,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Mutual Fund – to launch “SBI International Access - US Equity FoF” - an open-ended Fund of Fund scheme
- ETF – Exchange Traded Fund
- HQs of SBI Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vinay M. Tonse

7. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced that the large companies can now divest a minimum 5% in the Initial Public Offering (IPO), instead of 10%. Further, they will get 5 years, instead of 3 years, to raise the public float to 25%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI announced that the large companies can now divest a minimum 5% in the IPO (instead of 10%)
- To raise the public float to 25%, the companies will get – 5 years (instead of 3 years)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

8. On March 1, General Manager, Western Railway, Shri Alok Kansal has inaugurated the newly commissioned Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system at Divisional Railway Manager's Office in Mumbai. This is the first time that MTRC is commissioned in Indian Railways. MTRC System is a TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) based Digital technology that is designed to prevent train accidents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Western Railway – inaugurated the newly commissioned Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system
- MTRC System – a TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) based Digital technology
- HQs of Western Railway Zone – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Shri Alok Kansal

9. On March 2, Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV have been merged into a single entity called the “Sansad TV”. The decision was jointly taken by the Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Ravi Capoor is appointed as the CEO of the ‘Sansad TV’ channel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lok Sabha TV + Rajya Sabha = merged as “Sansad TV” | CEO of new channel – Ravi Capoor
- Rajya Sabha Chairman – M. Venkaiah Naidu | Lok Sabha Speaker – Om Prakash Birla



10. On March 3, Karnataka has launched India's maiden Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy to raise its contribution to the sector in India to 45% in the next 5 years (by 2025). According to industry apex body Nasscom, ER&D has the potential to become a \$100-billion industry in India in the next 5 years. The ER&D sector in India is the fastest growing industry with a CAGR of 12.8%. The ER&D sector in India is expected to generate over 6.5 lakh jobs by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched India's maiden Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy
- ER&D has the potential to become a \$100-billion industry in India – by 2025 (in next 5 years)
- The ER&D sector in India is the fastest growing industry with a CAGR of 12.8%
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

11. Aequs Private Limited is developing a 400-acre toy manufacturing cluster at Koppal in Karnataka at an investment of \$500 million. India imports \$1.2 billion worth of toys annually. China exports \$20 billion worth of toys and recreation goods annually. Koppal is already famous for its Kinhal toys. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aequs Private Ltd – is developing a 400-acre toy manufacturing cluster – at Koppal, Karnataka (\$500 million)
- HQs of Aequs – Hattargi, Karnataka | CEO & Chairman – Aravind Melligeri
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

12. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the India's 1st Toy Fair 2021 via video conference during which he urged the country to become 'Atmanirbhar' in the toy manufacturing sector. IIT Gandhinagar based Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) showcased 75 unique toys during the virtual event. The toy fair is divided into 5 stages - pre-school to Class II, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated the India's 1st Toy Fair 2021
- CCL showcased 75 unique toys during the virtual event | CCL is based at – IIT
- The Toy Fair is divided into 5 stages

13. Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL), under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), was recognized as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for Asia-Pacific Region. With its recognition as RCL, CRCL joins a select group of Customs Laboratories in the region like those in Japan & Korea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CRCL – recognized as a “Regional Customs Laboratory” of the WCO for Asia-Pacific Region
- Location of CRCL – New Delhi | Director – Sandeep Prakash | Established in – 1939
- HQs of WCO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Kunio Mikuriya
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

14. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently completed development of a 25.54 km single lane stretch of road in just 18 hours, creating a world record. This took place during the construction of the 4-lane highway between Vijaypur and Solapur on the NH-52. The milestone will be entered in the Limca Book of Records. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHAI – created a world record by completing the development of a 25.54 km single lane stretch of road in 18 hours
- It took place during the construction of 4-lane highway between Vijaypur and Solapur on the NH-52
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu | Founded in – 1988

15. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) is organizing “GI Mahotsav” in collaboration with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and the Ministry of Culture on March 4-5. TRIFED is also working on the identification of new products that can be GI tagged and has listed out 54 such products so far. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + LBSNAA (Mussoorie) + Ministry of Culture = organizing “GI Mahotsav”
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

16. Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has virtually laid the Foundation Stone for the project “Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh” approved under ‘PRASHAD Scheme’ of the Ministry of Tourism. The project has been approved by the Ministry of Tourism with an estimated cost of Rs. 43.33 Cr in Oct. 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prahlad Singh Patel laid the foundation stone for “Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple” – at Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh
- The project was approved under – ‘PRASHAD Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

17. On March 3, Haryana has approved the bill providing 75% reservation in private sector to state job seekers who have a domicile certificate. The quota will apply for 10 years. The new law will provide quota to locals in private sector jobs that offer a salary of less than ₹50,000 a month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – approved the bill providing 75% reservation in Private Sector to state job seekers (for 10 years)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

18. On March 2, Nagaland has launched its first air cargo services from Dimapur airport. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially flagged off this service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – launched its 1st Air Cargo Services from Dimapur airport
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

19. Rishikesh is hosting the 7-day International Yoga Festival from March 1 to 7. The festival is being jointly organised by Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN) and Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7-day “International Yoga Festival” from March 1 to 7 – held in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

20. The Tripura government has launched 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 are available on the platform. The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tripura – launched a digital platform “Jagrut Tripura” to help people get benefits from various schemes
- The project was developed by – EasyGov (a company of Jio Group)
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

21. On March 3, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated 6 new Outreach Service Centres for communication disorders by the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru on World Hearing Day. The centres have been setup in Bihar, Odisha and Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated 6 new Outreach Service Centres for communication disorders by AIISH (Mysuru)
- The centres setup in – Bihar (1) + Odisha (1) + Karnataka (4):

Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science	Patna, Bihar
AIIMS	Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences	Belagavi, Karnataka
Karnataka Institute of Medical Science	Hubbali, Karnataka
Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research	Kolar, Karnataka
Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences	Bidar, Karnataka

22. On March 4, The SEBI has cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfill 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation (SIFC)
- HQs of SIFC – Lucknow, UP | Executive Director – Anupam Prakash
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

23. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is in favour of 4 sub-categories of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) suggested by the Justice Rohini Commission. Bhagwan Lal Sahni is the Chairman of NCBC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCBC is in favour of 4 sub-categories of OBCs – suggested by the Justice Rohini Commission
- HQs of NCBC – New Delhi | Chairman – Bhagwan Lal Sahni

24. On March 6, The Arunachal Pradesh government has dedicated 2021 as the “Year of Education” with a planned investment of ₹1,000 Cr for the sector. The state government will launch “Mission Shiksha” to improve the standard of education in the next 2 years with 6 focus areas. The state had presented a ₹578.50 Cr deficit budget in the assembly. Rs 300 Cr are allocated towards the initiation of ‘Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – dedicated 2021 as the “Year of Education” with a planned investment of ₹1,000 Cr
- Arunachal Pradesh government – to launch “Mission Shiksha”
- Arunachal Pradesh – presented a ₹578.50 Cr deficit budget
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

25. On March 4, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has exhorted scientists of CSIR laboratories in 21 states across India to develop the land available at each laboratory to be set up as a model under the “CSIR Floriculture Mission”. Since 1953, CSIR has been developing new floral varieties and several value addition technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – launched “CSIR Floriculture Mission” – in 21 states
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

26. On March 3, India is conducting a 90-day ‘Scientific Cruise Mission’ in the second week of March in the Indian Ocean to sample water, sediments, planktons and various organisms in search of genomes and micro-nutrient. CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has been commissioned to conduct genome and proteome mapping (micro nutrients) present inside single-cell organisms in the Indian Ocean. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-NIO is conducting a 90-day ‘Scientific Cruise Mission’ in Indian Ocean in search of genomes & micro-nutrient
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Panaji, Goa



27. On March 4, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has announced opening of two new Kendriya Vidyalayas - KV Sadalaga, Belagavi in Karnataka and KV IIT Ropar in Punjab. With this, the total number of KVs across India will raise to 1247. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Two new Kendriya Vidyalayas to be opened in – Karnataka & Punjab
- Now, the total number of KVs across India – 1247
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

28. On March 5, In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'Red rice' was flagged off to the USA. Iron-rich 'Red rice' referred as 'Bao-dhaan' is grown in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st consignment of 'Red rice' was sent to – USA
- 'Red rice' referred as 'Bao-dhaan' is grown in – Brahmaputra valley of Assam
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

29. On March 4, The Jammu and Kashmir administration distributed tablets among Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) and launched ANMOL application under the National Health Mission for identification and tracking of beneficiaries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – distributed tablets among Auxiliary Nursing Midwives
- J & K – launched ANMOL application 'ANMOL' application under the National Health Mission
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

30. On March 5, The government has set up a 259-member High-Level National Committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. The panel includes dignitaries and eminent citizens from all walks of life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 259-member High-Level National Committee is set up to commemorate 75 years of India's independence
- The committee is headed by – PM Narendra Modi

31. On March 2, Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs has inaugurated the "Tribes India GI Mahotsav" at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussoorie. On the occasion, Shri Munda also inaugurated the 130th Tribes India Showroom and Café of Tribes India at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Munda – inaugurated the "Tribes India GI Mahotsav" – at LBSNAA, Mussoorie
- Arjun Munda – also inaugurated the 130th Tribes India Showroom & Café of Tribes India – at LBSNAA, Mussoorie
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

32. As on March 6, The construction work of Rs 8,662 Cr “Dwarka Expressway” will be completed before 15 August 2022. The 29-km expressway, which connects Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram, is being constructed under the Bharatmala Project. It will be the first-ever elevated Urban Expressway in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The construction work of Rs 8,662 Cr Dwarka Expressway – to be completed before 15 August 2022
- It connects Dwarka (Delhi) to Gurugram (Haryana) | Length – 29 km

33. On March 6, President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated All India State Judicial Academies Directors’ Retreat in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. He has appealed to judicial academies in states to provide training to quasi-judicial staff along with judges in district courts for the speedy disposal of cases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated All India State Judicial Academies Directors’ Retreat – in Jabalpur, MP
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

34. On March 5, The 29th edition of the annual “New Delhi World Book Fair”, organized by the National Book Trust (NBT), India was held virtually from March 6 to 12 with the theme of “National Education Policy (NEP) 2020”. The event was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ – inaugurated 29th edition of “New Delhi World Book Fair” – organized by NBT
- Theme – “National Education Policy (NEP) 2020”
- HQs of NBT – New Delhi | President – Govind prasad sharma

35. On March 7, PM Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation the 7,500th Janaushadhi Kendra at North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong. An entire week from March 1-7 is being celebrated as ‘Janaushadhi Week’ across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – dedicated to the nation the 7500th Janaushadhi Kendra – at NEIGRIHMS, Shillong
- March 1-7 – ‘Janaushadhi Week’
- March 7 – Janaushadhi Diwas (Generic Medicine Day)

36. On March 4, Addressing the virtual session “Investment Opportunities in Andhra Pradesh”, Piyush Goyal has stated that the government is working to ensure that the entire rail network will be fully electrified by December 2023 and the entire rail network will run on renewable energy by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The entire rail network will be fully electrified – by December 2023
- The entire rail network will run on renewable energy – by 2030

37. On March 5, Madhya Pradesh, which is known for its robust tourism industry, has now introduced ‘Night Safari’ in three of the national parks - Kanha National Park, Pench National Park and Bandhavgarh National Park. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh introduced 'Night Safari' in 3 National Parks: Kanha NP, Pench NP & Bandhavgarh NP
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

38. Uttarakhand government has declared Gairsain as the third administrative division in the state after Garhwal and Kumaon. The declaration was made by the CM in his budgetary speech on March 4 under which the new division would comprise 4 districts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gairsain – declared as the third administrative division in Uttarakhand (after Garhwal & Kumaon)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

39. On March 6, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the new research building 'Desikan Bhawan' equipped with new COVID-19 diagnostic facility at ICMR-NJIL&OMD, Agra in the presence of Director General ICMR & Secretary, Department of Health Research, Prof. Balram Bhargava. The new building is named after Institute's first Director, Dr. K. V. Desikan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated 'Desikan Bhawan' equipped with new COVID-19 diagnostic facility – at Agra
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

40. On March 6, The Indian Army has launched its first community radio station 'Radio Chinar' in Sopore of Baramulla district in North Kashmir to bridge the gap between Jawan and Awaam. The radio station will have coverage around north Kashmir. It will be available at the frequency of 90.4 FM MHz. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – launched its first community radio station 'Radio Chinar' – in Baramulla, J & K
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

41. On March 9, To provide better facilities to livestock breeders in the state a Centre of Excellence in the dairy sector will soon be established in Rajasthan with the help of Denmark. Danish Ambassador Freddy Svane discussed this while meeting Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during his visit to Jaipur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denmark – to establish a Center of Excellence for the dairy sector in Rajasthan
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

42. On March 6, Odisha has announced to set up a "Department of Mission Shakti" to strengthen Self Help Group initiatives of the state. Now, the SHGs are also being promoted by Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) under Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department and National Urban Livelihood Mission. The Mission Shakti was launched in the State in 2001. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Odisha – to set up a “Department of Mission Shakti” to strengthen SHG initiatives
- ‘Mission Shakti’ was launched in the State – in 2001
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

43. On March 9, Google is launching a global ‘Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls’ under which it will provide \$25 million in overall funding to nonprofits and social organizations in India and around the world. Based on learnings from the ‘Internet Saathi’ programme, Google is introducing a new “Women Will” web platform to support 1 million women entrepreneurs in rural India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google is launching a global ‘Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls’
- Google is introducing a new “Women Will” web platform to support 1 million women entrepreneurs
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

44. On March 5, The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a 200-feet ‘Bailey bridge’ on Joshimat-Malari road across the Rishiganga river in record of 26 days, restoring connectivity to the 13 border villages in Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district. The bridge has been named “The Bridge of Compassion” as a tribute to the fallen Karma Yogis of the Reini power plant and the NTPC Power Plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BRO constructed a 200-feet ‘Bailey bridge’ or “The Bridge of Compassion” – across Rishiganga river
- It restores connectivity to the 13 border villages – in Chamoli, Uttarakhand
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

45. On March 7, India's first forest healing centre based on the concept of making people healthy by bringing them into direct contact with nature was opened to the public at Kalika in Uttarakhand. It was inspired from the Japanese technique of forest bathing (shinrin-yoku) for stress relief and mood rejuvenation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first forest healing centre – opened in Kalika, Uttarakhand
- It was inspired from Japanese technique of forest bathing (shinrin-yoku) for stress relief & mood rejuvenation
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

46. India has launched a real-time vessel tracking system that can help seafarers and fishermen in the times of need. The system is termed “Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre” (MMDAC) and it will be operated by Directorate General of Shipping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has launched – a real-time vessel tracking system termed as “Sagar-Manthan” (operated by DG Shipping)



47. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the Global Encyclopedia of the Ramayana. The encyclopedia in an e-book format is prepared by the Ayodhya Research Institute. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched the Global Encyclopedia of the Ramayana
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

48. On March 6, The Delhi government approved the formation of a separate school board for nearly 2,700 schools in the city. In the beginning, 21-22 state government schools will be affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) and in the next 4 to 5 years all the schools will be brought under it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – approved the formation of a separate school board for nearly 2,700 schools in the city
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

49. On March 6, The Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system is commissioned in Western Railway trains to prevent accidents. It was launched at the Divisional Railway Manager's office in Mumbai. MTRC acts in a similar way to that of air traffic control (ARC) for aircrafts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system is commissioned in Western Railway
- HQs of Western Railway Zone – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Shri Alok Kansal

50. On March 6, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated India's first-of-its-kind World Skill Centre (WSC) at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The centre has been developed at an investment of Rs 1,342.2 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first-of-its-kind World Skill Centre (WSC) – inaugurated at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

51. On March 8, In the state's budget for 2021-22, Maharashtra has proposed to provide 1% concession over prevailing stamp duty for women homebuyers. The state government is estimated to face revenue shortfall of around Rs 1,000 Cr owing to this concession being provided to women homebuyers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – proposed to provide 1% concession over prevailing stamp duty for women homebuyers
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

52. On March 9, A 'Transgender Community Desk' has been inaugurated at Gachibowli police station. It is the first-of-its-kind gender inclusive community policing initiative in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st ever 'Transgender Community Desk' – inaugurated at Gachibowli police station, Hyderabad
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

53. On March 9, Union Minister V. Muraleedharan has stated that two Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) are being transformed into All Women PSK, one in New Delhi and the other at Cochin, in Kerala. A total of 1670 women employees are deployed in the Passport Seva Programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) – being transformed into All Women PSK – at Delhi & Kochi
- [Minister of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [Minister of State for External Affairs – V. Muraleedharan](#)

54. On March 9, To overcome the inconvenience over multiple helpline numbers for grievances and enquiry during railway travel, Indian Railways has integrated all railway helplines into single number 139 (Rail Madad Helpline) for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey. The 139 helpline will be available in 12 languages and the passengers can either opt for IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System) or directly connect to the call centre executives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – integrated all railway helplines into single number 139 (Rail Madad Helpline)
- The 139 helpline will be available in 12 languages
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma](#)

55. On March 10, Bareilly Airport is functional now and has started flight operations; with this development, Bareilly becomes the 8th airport to operate in Uttar Pradesh. As per the reports, the Bareilly airport has been upgraded for commercial flight operations under UDAN - RCS. With this, Bareilly becomes the 56th airport to be successfully operationalized under UDAN. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bareilly Airport – became the 8th airport to operate in Uttar Pradesh (56th airport under UDAN)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

56. On March 8, Andhra Pradesh would become the first State to come up with a Gender Budget this year. CM Jagan Mohan Reddy has virtually inaugurated women help desks and cyber kiosks in police stations across the State, launched 'Swechha programme' intended to create awareness on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls and flagged off a fleet of 900 Disha patrolling vehicles and 18 Disha crime scene management vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – the first State to come up with a Gender Budget this year
- Andhra Pradesh – launched 'Swechha programme' & a fleet of 900 Disha patrolling vehicles
- Andhra Pradesh – also launched 18 Disha crime scene management vehicles
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

57. On March 7, Sports Minister Kiren Rijju and Women and Women and Child Development minister Smriti Irani have launched an online training programme exclusively for Female Physical Education Teachers and Community Coaches to celebrate the International Women's Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Sport + MoWCD = launched an online training programme for Female Physical Education Teachers
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijju (Constituency – Arunachal West)
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women & Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Amethi, Uttar Pradesh)

58. On March 8, The Delhi government has announced to set up 500 anganwadi hubs under the “Saheli Samanvay Kendra” for incubating individual start-ups and to promote self-help groups. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has set aside Rs 4,750 Cr for the Department of Social Welfare, women and Child Development and welfare of SC/ST/OBC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi has announced to set up 500 Anganwadi Hubs under the “Saheli Samanvay Kendra”
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

59. On March 10, NTPC Southern Region is all set to commission about 217 MW floating solar capacity, including one of the Largest Floating Solar Power Plant of 100 MW at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana by May, 2021. The project costs ₹430 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's largest Floating Solar Power Plant of 100 MW – to be commissioned in Peddapalli, Telangana – by NTPC
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of NTPC Southern Region – Secunderabad, Telangana
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

60. Indian Railways (Ministry of Railways) has ensured 100% compliance of payment of minimum wages to contract workers through “Shramik Kalyan Portal”. The Shramik Kalyan e-application of the national transporter was launched on 1 October 2018. As on 9 March 2021, a total of 15,812 contractors and as many as 3,81,831 contract workers are registered on this portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Railways ensured 100% compliance of payment of minimum wages to contract workers through “Shramik Kalyan Portal”
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

61. Union Minister for Railways, commerce & industry and consumer affairs, food and public distribution, Piyush Goyal has flagged off the 3000 HP Cape gauge locomotive indigenously developed by Banaras Locomotive Works (formerly Diesel Locomotive Works), Varanasi. The export of locomotives to Mozambique shall boost the Indo-African relationship. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal flagged off the 3000 HP Cape gauge locomotive developed by Banaras Locomotive Works (Varanasi)
- Mozambique – is set to receive two 3000 HP Cape Gauge Locomotives
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

62. On March 10, India will levy a customs duty of 40% on solar modules and 25% on solar cells from April 2022, as it looks to cut imports and boost local manufacturing. India wants to ramp up its renewable capacity to 175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030, as part of its commitment under the Paris climate accords. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to levy a customs duty of 40% on solar modules & 25% on solar cells from April 2022
- India wants to ramp up its renewable capacity to 175 GW by 2022 & 450 GW by 2030

63. On March 8, Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has announced the establishment of a 500-MW Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) Solar Power Park at a cost of ₹350 Cr at Firozabad of Kalaburagi district. He has also announced the establishment of 1,000 charging centres for such vehicles in the State under a public-private partnership model. Rs 7,795 Cr has been allocated for “Bengaluru Mission 2022” while Rs 850 Cr for suburban rail project in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – to establish a 500-MW Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) Solar Power Park – in Kalaburagi
- The cost of establishment of ISTS – ₹350 Cr
- Rs 7,795 Cr – allocated for “Bengaluru Mission 2022”
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

64. On March 8, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal presenting the budget for 2021-22, announced 3 projects in name of Dr BR Ambedkar – a museum and a management institute in Doaba’s Kapurthala and a university chair at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar. A total allocation of Rs 1,064 Cr has been made for grants to universities such as Panjab University, Chandigarh; GNDU Amritsar, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana etc. A New Scheme namely ‘Kamyaab Kisan, Khushaal Punjab (K3P)’ is announced with an outlay of Rs 3,780 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab presenting the budget for 2021-22 announced 3 projects:
 - Dr BR Ambedkar museum (Cost: Rs 100 Cr)
 - Dr BR Ambedkar management institute
 - Dr BR Ambedkar university chair
- Punjab also announced – ‘Kamyaab Kisan, Khushaal Punjab (K3P)’ scheme
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

65. On March 10, SEBI has formed a Group of Experts to examine the feasibility of introducing Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC)-like structures in India. SPACs are usually formed by private equity funds or financial institutions with expertise in a particular industry or business sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – formed a Group of Experts to examine the feasibility of introducing SPAC-like structures in India
- SPAC – Special Purpose Acquisition Company
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

66. On March 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on ‘Shlokas’ of Srimad Bhagavadgita. J & K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Dr Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee of Dharmarth Trust, J & K, were also present on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – released a manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on ‘Shlokas’ of Srimad Bhagavadgita

67. Madhya Pradesh CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the 27th “Hunar Haat” of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen from across India in Bhopal with the theme of “Vocal for Local” from 12th to 21st March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – inaugurated the 27th “Hunar Haat” – in Bhopal
- ‘Hunar Haat’ is organised by – Ministry of Minority Affairs | Theme – “Vocal for Local”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

68. On March 12, To mark 75 years of India’s Independence, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav” and flagged off Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav” – at Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
- PM Narendra Modi – flagged off Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

69. On March 11, The Union Cabinet has given its nod to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit to 74% from the current 49%. The Cabinet in its meeting has approved amendments in the Insurance Act, 1938. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet – gave its nod to increase the FDI limit to 74%
- Union Cabinet – also approved amendments in the Insurance Act, 1938

70. On March 12, The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is in the process of developing a portal - “Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra” for hand-holding, information dissemination and facilitation of domestic investors. The portal is in testing phase and the final version will be ready for launch by May 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- DPIIT – to develop “Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra” portal | To be launched by – May 1, 2021
- DPIIT comes under – Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- DPIIT HQ – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

71. On March 12, The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the ‘Mera Ration’ mobile app in line with the Central government’s One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution – launched the ‘Mera Ration’ mobile app
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution | Constituency – Maharashtra

72. On March 13, As per the maximum limit recently set by the SEBI, Mutual fund schemes can invest a maximum of 10% of their assets in debt with special features such as perpetual bonds and with a maximum of 5% in a single issuer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mutual fund schemes can invest a maximum of 10% of their assets in debt with special features
- Mutual fund schemes can invest a maximum of 5% of their assets in a single issuer
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

73. On March 11, PM Narendra Modi has launched the Kindle version of Swami Chidbhavanandaji’s Bhagavad Gita through video conferencing. Tamil version of the Gita with his commentaries was published in 1951, followed by the English in 1965. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – launched the Kindle version of Swami Chidbhavanandaji’s Bhagavad Gita
- Tamil version of the Gita with his commentaries was published in 1951 & English version in 1965

74. On March 13, Jharkhand Cabinet has approved an employment policy ensuring 75% of the private sector jobs up to a salary of Rs 30,000 for local candidates only. The Jharkhand's unemployment rate gradually fell down to 11.3% in January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – approved an employment policy ensuring 75% of the private sector jobs up to a salary of Rs 30,000
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

75. During March 10-12, First Virtual Trade Fair (VTF) was organised by APEDA to boost exports potential of India’s agricultural and processed food products during COVID19 pandemic. The fair was organised with a theme “India Rice and Agro Commodity”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APEDA – organised 1st Virtual Trade Fair to boost exports potential of India’s agricultural products
- Theme of the fair – “India Rice and Agro Commodity”
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur



76. On March 12, The Uttar Pradesh government has issued directions to senior administrative and police officials to remove all the religious structures on public roads, highways and pavements since 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP – issued directions to remove all the religious structures on public roads, highways and pavements since 2011
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

77. On March 14, The Uttarakhand government, in a recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, had sought withdrawal of “inner-line permit” (ILP) system in Niti Valley of Chamoli district and Nelang Valley of Uttarkashi district for better border management and expansion of tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand asked Amit Shah to withdraw the “ILP” system in Niti Valley & Nelang Valley in Uttarkashi
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

78. On March 11, The ministry of finance have announced that 17 states have successfully implemented ‘One Nation, One Ration Card system’ after Uttarakhand became the latest state to complete the operationalization of reforms. The scheme was launched on a pilot basis in four states in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17 states have successfully implemented ‘One Nation, One Ration Card system’ – as of March 11, 2021
- Latest state – Uttarakhand

79. On March 11, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has inaugurated the New Green Campus of ICMR’s National Institute for Research in Environment Health (NIREH), at Bhopal. The NIREH, Bhopal was set up in Bhopal on October 11, 2010 as the 31st permanent research centre of the ICMR. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the New Green Campus of ICMR’s NIREH – at Bhopal
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911

80. On March 11, The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a framework and guidelines for testing, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water quality as well as a Water Quality Information Management System (WQMIS) portal to provide detailed information on laboratories for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Jal Shakti – launched Water Quality Information Management System (WQMIS) portal
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

81. On March 13, India's first centralised air-conditioned railway terminal will be operational in Bengaluru. Byappanahalli is the 3rd coach terminal sanctioned in 2015-16, which has been named after Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya. It is built at the cost of ₹314 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Sir M Visvesvaraya terminal” - India's 1st centralised air-conditioned railway terminal to be operational in Bengaluru
- It is the 3rd coach terminal sanctioned in 2015-16 | Named after – Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya

82. On March 13, In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Ramban district has developed a mobile application named “e-Suvidha” to bring many public delivery services and departments on the digital platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramban, J & K – developed a mobile application named “e-Suvidha”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

83. On March 11, Tata Motors has launched the ‘Wheels of Love’ programme. It will support new parents in their exciting journey both as a parent and also as a valued employee while promoting a progressive culture of care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors – launched the ‘Wheels of Love’ programme to support new parents
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Guenter Butschek

84. The agriculture sector has grabbed the lion’s share in the Haryana budget that chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar unveiled on March 12 with a sharp 21% hike in farming outlay. A special campaign “Har Khet Swasth Khet” will be started to focus on soil health and help farmers make cropping choices based on soil quality. Rs. 2400 are allocated for setting up India International Horticulture Market at Ganaur, Sonapat. The state has also increased financial assistance under Dr BR Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna to Rs. 80,000 from Rs. 50,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – to start a special campaign “Har Khet Swasth Khet”
- Rs. 2400 allocated to set up India International Horticulture Market – at Ganaur, Sonapat, Haryana
- Financial assistance under “Dr BR Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna” increased to – Rs 80,000
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

85. On March 10, The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has issued a notification for reconstitution of the Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary Study of the River Sarasvati (Ghaggar-Hakra River) for the next 2 years. The ASI had first set up the committee on December 28, 2017 for a period of 2 years. The committee would continue to be chaired by the Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASI reconstituted an Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary Study of the River “Sarasvati” for 2 years
- The committee to be chaired by – Prahlad Singh Patel (Culture Minister)
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi



86. The Kempegowda International Airport in the city of Bengaluru has launched India's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal. The terminal has been launched exclusively for export and import of international couriers. The Common-User Express Terminal will be operated by the Express Industry Council of India (EICI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kempegowda International Airport ([Bengaluru](#)) – launched India's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal
- The Terminal will be operated by the Express Industry Council of India (EICI)

87. Odisha will establish "District Funding Promotion Companies (DIPA)" in every of the 30 Districts throughout the State. DIPAs will work as an prolonged arm of IPICOL and shall be arranged in phases from April 2021 to December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to establish "District Funding Promotion Companies (DIPA)" in 30 Districts
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

88. On March 15, The Delhi government has announced that special 'Women Mohalla Clinics' namely "Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics" will be opened across the city in the next financial year to offer free gynaecological and other medical care services. In the UT government's annual budget for year 2021-22, Rs 9,934 Cr has been allocated to the healthcare sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – announced to open special 'Women Mohalla Clinics' namely "Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics"
- Rs 9,934 Cr has been allocated to the healthcare sector in Delhi's annual budget for year 2021-22
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

89. On March 15, The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the online 5G certification course to train and certify its officials on the next-generation wireless broadband technology, even as India braces for 5G. The course will run for a period of 12 weeks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DoT – launched the online 5G certification course for a period of 12 weeks
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Constituency – Patna Sahib, Bihar)

90. On March 15, The new Parcel Management System (PMS) of the Indian Railways will soon be extended from 84 locations to 523 as part of its transformation geared towards providing transportation for small consignments over a vast network of stations. The new PMS will also include an FSLA (Freight System Ledger Accounting) module for online preparation of manifest for registered newspapers and magazines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways' Parcel Management System (PMS) to be extended to 523 locations (from 84 locations)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

91. On March 15, President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated “Vanvasi Samagam” (Forest Dwellers convention) at Sevakunj Ashram in Sonhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. UP governor Anandiben Patel and chief minister Yogi Adityanath were also present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated “Vanvasi Samagam” (Forest Dwellers convention) – in Sonhadra, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

92. On March 14, In a bid to promote tourism, All India Tourist Authorization/Permit will be provided to operators within 30 days of online application submission. The new rules will be applicable from April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- All India Tourist Permit – to be provided to operators within 30 days of online application submission

93. On March 13, The finance ministry has written to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), requesting it to withdraw a rule that fixes the tenor or maturity of all perpetual bonds at 100 years. In a circular, SEBI had also stated that no MF would own more than 10 per cent of AT1 bonds issued by a single issuer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance ministry asked SEBI requesting it to withdraw a rule that fixes the tenor of all perpetual bonds at 100 years
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

94. In view of the large crowd that gathered on the first Shahi Snan on Maha Shivaratri (March 11), the central government has deployed a high-level team led by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Director Dr S. K. Singh to review the Covid-19 situation for “Kumbh Mela” in Haridwar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Government deployed a high-level team to review the Covid-19 situation for “Kumbh Mela” in Haridwar
- The team is led by – Dr S. K. Singh (Director of NCDC)

95. On March 16, ReNew Power has become 2nd company to be named as the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network, which recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community supportive, profitable growth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power – became 2nd company to be named as the WEF’s Global Lighthouse Network
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab | Founded in – 1971



96. On March 15, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has introduced “Bachat Plus”, which is a non-linked, participating individual savings plan with a combination of protection and savings. The minimum basic sum assured is ₹1 lakh with no upper limit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC introduced “Bachat Plus” - an Individual Life Insurance savings plan
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956

97. On March 15, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched “UPI-Help” on BHIM UPI, which will act as a grievance redressal mechanism for the users of the BHIM application. This will be available for the customers of State Bank of India, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – launched “UPI-Help” on BHIM UPI
- This feature will be available for the customers of – SBI, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank & ICICI Bank
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

98. On March 15, The SEBI has approved Paytm UPI handle to enable fast & seamless payment mandates for Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications. Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) has also entered into a partnership with Paytm Money to enable payment mandates for IPO applications. Paytm Money has the aim to bring 10 million Indians to equity markets by the financial year 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI approved Paytm UPI handle for IPO applications
- Paytm Money’s aim to bring 10 million Indians to equity markets by 2022
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO of Paytm – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar
- CEO of Paytm Payment Bank– Satish Kumar Gupta | CEO of Paytm General Ins. Ltd. – Vineet Arora

99. As part of Mission Sagar - IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa has arrived at Port Ehoala, Madagascar on 22 March 2021 to deliver a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tonne of rice and 100,000 Hydroxychloroquine tablets. This is the second visit of an Indian Navy ship to Madagascar within a span of one year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Jalashwa – arrived at Port Ehoala, Madagascar to deliver a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tonne of rice
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

100. As part of Mission Sagar-IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa has arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros on 14 March 2021 to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Jalashwa – arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros to deliver a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tonne of rice
- Comoros – Moroni – Comorian franc | President – Azali Assoumani

101. MG Motor India has joined hands with IIT Delhi's Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) for research in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles. The partnership through Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi aims at furthering the automaker's focus on CASE mobility (Connected Autonomous Shared Electric). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MG Motor India + IIT Delhi's CART = for research in the field of Electric and Autonomous Vehicles
- [HQs of MG Motor India – New Delhi | President & MD – Rajeev Chaba](#)

102. Four States - Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation. 27 States (including UTs) in India have less than 30% micro-irrigation system out of which 23 have less than 15% micro-irrigation. "Per Drop More Crop" was included as a component under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim, AP, Karnataka & Maharashtra have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation
- "Per Drop More Crop" – included as a component under 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana'

103. On March 15, The Government has approved financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each in respect of death cases of journalists due to Covid-19. Prakash Javadekar said that his ministry has carried out a special drive for financial assistance under the 'Journalist Welfare Scheme'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each in respect of death cases of journalists due to Covid-19
- I & B ministry carried out a special drive for financial assistance under the 'Journalist Welfare Scheme'

104. On March 16, The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched its pilot project, "RE-HAB" (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees). The project, estimated to cost ₹15 lakh, proposes to create "Bee-fences" to mitigate human-elephant conflicts in the district, state and country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – launched its pilot project "RE-HAB" (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) | Cost – ₹15 lakh
- [HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena](#)

105. On March 16, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has conducted the Boiler light-up of 1 x 800 MW NCTPS Stage III at its North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL – conducted the Boiler light-up of 1 x 800 MW NCTPS Stage III – in Tamil Nadu
- [HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal](#)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

106. On March 16, The J&K Administrative Council has approved the proposal of the Housing and Urban Development Department to provide interest-free loan up to Rs 2 lakh to the urban houseless economically weaker section beneficiaries under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Urban (PMAY-U). The tenure of the BLC interest-free loan has been fixed at 10 years and includes a moratorium of six months, repayable through monthly installment of Rs 2,500. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K – approved to provide additional interest-free loan up to Rs 2 lakhs for house construction under “PMAY-U”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

107. On March 17, According to a report by PTI, the Indian Railways has connected the two ends of the main arch of the world’s highest bridge on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district which will provide direct connectivity to Kashmir Valley. It is being built by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) at a cost of Rs 12,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways connected 2 ends of the main arch of world’s highest bridge – on Chenab river in Reasi, J & K
- It is being built by – Konkan Railway Corp Ltd | Cost – Rs 12,000 Cr
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

108. On March 16, The Union Cabinet has approved the closure of loss-making Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd (HHEC). HHEC is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles. The Cabinet has also approved a revised cost estimate of ₹9,129.32 Cr for strengthening intra state electricity transmission and distribution network of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the closure of loss-making “Handicrafts & Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd (HHEC)”
- HHEC functions under – Ministry of Textiles
- Cabinet approved ₹9,129 Cr for Arunachal Pradesh & Sikkim Intra-State Electricity Network

109. On March 22, The Rajasthan government will set up 100 Nursery Sports Academies to give an opportunity to children to play in their districts in the academies. A rehabilitation center will be built in the state at a cost of Rs 16 Cr for the players who get injured and unable to take part in competitions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – to set up 100 Nursery Sports Academies to give an opportunity to children
- A rehabilitation center will be built in Rajasthan at a cost of Rs 16 Cr
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

110. On March 18, India will propose a law banning cryptocurrencies and will fine anyone trading, mining or even just holding these digital assets. If the ban becomes law, India would be the first major economy to make holding cryptocurrency illegal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will propose a law banning cryptocurrencies and will fine anyone trading, mining or just holding

111. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has launched a vendor onboarding mobile app for its upcoming e-commerce portal “Bharat e Market”. The app will enable businesses and service providers to register on the portal and create their own “e-dukaan”. The other e-commerce portals are charging commission from 5% to 35% on transactions happening on their portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CAIT – launched a vendor onboarding mobile app for its upcoming e-commerce portal “Bharat e Market”
- Commission of e-commerce portals on transactions – 5% to 35%
- HQs of CAIT – New Delhi | Secretary General – Praveen Khandelwal

112. The Telangana government has presented a Tax-Free Budget for 2021-22, proposing a total expenditure of Rs 2,30,825.96 Cr. It proposed a new scheme ‘CM Dalit Empowerment Programme’, with an allocation of Rs 1,000 Cr and Rs 11,728 Cr for ‘Aasara’ (social security) Pensions Scheme. It also allocates Rs 14,800 Cr for ‘Rythu Bandhu Scheme’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – presented a tax-free Budget for 2021-22 | Total expenditure of Rs 2,30,825.96 Cr
- Amount allocated for various schemes:
 - CM Dalit Empowerment Programme – Rs 1,000 Cr
 - ‘Aasara’ (social security) Pensions Scheme – Rs 11,728 Cr
 - Rythu Bandhu Scheme – Rs 14,800 Cr

• Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

113. On March 16, The J&K Administrative Council (AC) has approved the incorporation of the 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) on river Chenab in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K approved the incorporation of the “850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project” – on Chenab river, in Kishtwar, J&K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

114. On March 17, The government has constituted an Experts Advisory Committee which will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). The committee would be chaired by H. K. Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology. The SISFS has been approved for the period of next 4 years starting from 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government constituted an Experts Advisory Committee for Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)
- The committee would be chaired by – H. K. Mittal | SISFS is approved for next 4 years
- The implementing body of SISF scheme – DPIIT

115. On March 15, Ministry of Education has decided to link the certificates with DigiLocker in order to ensure hassle-free access to verified Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System (OTPRMS) Certificates. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Education – to link OTPRMS certificates with DigiLocker
- OTPRMS – Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

116. On March 17, The AYUSH ministry along with the FICCI, is currently holding stakeholder consultations to explore setting up of an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (EPC). The Harmonized System (HS Codes) is an international nomenclature for the classification of products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AYUSH ministry + FICCI = to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (EPC)
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy

117. On March 17, The UNDP has launched “Sahi Disha” campaign to celebrate women’s livelihoods & entrepreneurship in rural India. The Disha initiative is a 5-year collaboration between UNDP and the IKEA Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP – launched “Sahi Disha” campaign for women entrepreneurship
- Disha initiative – a 5-year collaboration between UNDP & IKEA Foundation
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

118. On March 17, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated the ₹52 Cr state-of-the-art Yogiraj Baba Gambhirnath auditorium and cultural centre in Gorakhpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – inaugurated the ₹52 Cr Yogiraj Baba Gambhirnath auditorium and cultural centre – in Gorakhpur
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

119. On March 23, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) has established an e-Tendering Portal “PRANIT” which will lead to less paperwork and ease of operation, making the tendering process more transparent. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- POWERGRID – established an e-Tendering Portal “PRANIT”
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant

120. On March 23, The Central Government has notified to set up an Empowered Committee for manufacturing in High Technology Areas. The proposed 10-member committee will be headed by the minister of Commerce and Industry. The Committee will be serviced by the DPIIT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Government – notified to set up an Empowered Committee for manufacturing in High Technology Areas
- The 10-member committee will be headed by – Minister of Commerce & Industry | Serviced by – DPIIT



121. On March 25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has raised the limit for Tax Exemption on interest earned on Provident Fund Contribution by employees to Rs 5 lakh per annum in specified cases as against Rs 2.5 lakh proposed in the Budget. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PF contribution limit raised to Rs 5 lakh for tax-free interest (from Rs 2.5 lakh)
- [Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka](#)

122. On March 24, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered an investigation into WhatsApp's new privacy policy for breaching The Competition Act, 2002. The investigation has been ordered under Section 26(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI ordered an investigation into WhatsApp's new privacy policy for breaching "The Competition Act, 2002"
- [HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003](#)

123. On March 24, Under this "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" campaign, Tripura has been paired with Bihar. Tripura is well known for its scenic beauty, rich natural resources, and rich art and cultural heritage. Many people from Bihar visit Tripura either for traveling purposes or many have come and settled down or live for a job. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tripura + Bihar = newly paired under "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" campaign
- [Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)
- [Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan](#)

124. On March 23, The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has decided to launch a "Poshan Abhiyan" for the Elderly, to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition. According to the 'Report of Government of India's Technical Group on Population Projection for India and States' brought out in July, 2020, till the year 2036, population of senior citizens would be 22.74 Cr (14.9%). Moreover, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) celebrated 'Poshan Pakhwada' (Nutrition Fortnight) across India under POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission from March 16-31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – to launch a "Poshan Abhiyan" for the Elderly
- Population of senior citizens would be 22.74 Cr (14.9%) – by 2036
- Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated 'Poshan Pakhwada' (Nutrition Fortnight) across India
- POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched by PM Narendra Modi – in 2018
- [Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot \(Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh\)](#)

125. On March 23, Bangladesh has taken initiative to open more 'Border Haats' along the border with Mizoram. There are several opportunities of expanding trade and connectivity between Mizoram and Bangladesh. Mizoram can supply items like bamboo, timber, ginger, sugar and stone to Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Bangladesh – took an initiative to open more ‘Border Haats’ along the border with Mizoram
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

126. On March 22, LT Foods has become the first Company globally to be certified with highest level of verification - L3, by UN-backed Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) ecolabel. This will enable the Company to use Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) verified logo on the packs of Rice. The L3 SRP certification is the highest level of verification for sustainable cultivation of rice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LT Foods – became 1st Company globally to be certified with highest level of verification “L3” – by SRP
- LT Foods – Gurugram, Haryana

127. On March 23, In Madhya Pradesh, a campaign named “Sankalp”, the Resolution, has been started in the state to control the spike in cases of corona infection. Sankalp campaign is focused on “My mask - My security” theme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A campaign named “Sankalp” started in Madhya Pradesh
- Theme – “My mask - My security”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

128. On March 24, Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister S Pangnyu Phom in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA has launched “i-Learn”, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – launched “i-Learn” self-learning app
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

129. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a Climate Data Service Portal with data of over 100 years which can be accessed by the public. The IMD has meteorological data since 1900. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMD launched a “Climate Data Service Portal” with data of over 100 years
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

130. On March 23, SEBI in consultation with the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) has launched a new penal structure for Commodity Derivatives Segment in the event of delivery default. The delivery default norms will be effective from the first trading day of May 2021. With regard to futures contracts on agri-commodities and on non-agri commodities, penalty on seller in case of delivery default would be 4% and 3% respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – issued a new framework for delivery default in Commodity Derivatives Segment
- Penalty on seller in case of delivery default – 4% (on agri-commodities) & 3% (on non-agri commodities)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of CCIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Hare Krishna Jena | Established in – 2001

131. On March 23, National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was launched on pilot basis in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Under NDHM scheme, the expenditure has been borne by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which is Rs 11.82 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDHM is launched on pilot basis in 6 UTs
- Rs 11.82 Cr Expenditure to implement NDHM is born by – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

132. On March 23, Dr Harsh Vardhan, in inauguration of ‘World Tuberculosis Day’ celebrations, awarded best performing states/UTs based on their State TBI Index. Lakshadweep (UT) and the district of Budgam (J&K) were declared TB-free. India has 30% of the world's TB cases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lakshadweep & Budgam (J&K) – declared TB-free
- India has 30% of the world's TB cases

133. On March 26, Kurnool Airport - the sixth airport in Andhra Pradesh has been named after freedom fighter Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy. The new airport will enhance the reputation of Kurnool, which is designated as the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kurnool Airport (6th airport in Andhra) – named after Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy (a freedom fighter)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

134. On March 25, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs has launched Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) to scrutinise the filings by users under straight through processes. The finance minister also launched the mobile app of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA). The two initiatives aim to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of ‘Digitally empowered India’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs – launched the Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) & IEPFA mobile App
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

135. On March 24, Tata Safari will be the Official Partner for VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021. This marks the continuation of Tata Safari with the BCCI for the fourth consecutive year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Safari – will be the Official Partner for the IPL 2021
- Title sponsor of the 14th edition of “IPL 2021” – Vivo

136. On March 25, The SEBI has relaxed norms for listing of start-ups and approved the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform. The term ‘Accredited Investor’ for the purpose of IGP is renamed as ‘Innovators Growth Platform Investors’. SEBI has decided to reduce the period of holding of 25% of pre-issue capital of the issuer company by eligible investors to 1 year from 2 years. The regulator has also decided that threshold trigger for open offer should be relaxed from the existing 25% to 49%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – approved the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP)
- SEBI – to reduce the holding period of 25% of pre-issue capital by eligible investors to 1 year (from 2 years)
- Threshold trigger for open offer to be relaxed – to 49% (from 25%)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

137. On March 25, The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Goa, has initiated a project for mapping the genetic diversity of organisms and the effect of micronutrients and trace metals on them in the Indian Ocean through its TraceBioMe flagship project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-NIO – initiated a project for mapping the genetic diversity of organisms in the Indian Ocean
- ‘TraceBioMe’ flagship project belongs to – CSIR-NIO
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Panaji, Goa

138. On March 26, Prahlad Singh Patel and Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the “Chhatrasal Convention Centre” at Khajuraho developed under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism. They also launched “MICE Roadshow Meet in India” Brand and Roadmap for the Promotion of India as MICE Destination in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Chhatrasal Convention Centre” & “MICE Roadshow Meet in India” – inaugurated in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

139. On March 22, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched ‘Dekho Apna Pradesh’, a brainchild of Khandu conceptualized in line with PM Narendra Modi’s ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ campaign. The campaign is launched to promote tourism within the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – launched ‘Dekho Apna Pradesh’ campaign to promote tourism
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra



140. On March 23, Maithri Aquatech, a company formed under the 'Make in India' initiative has set up the "World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre" in the smart city of Visakhapatnam. This project is set up in partnership with GVMC, USAID, and Safe Water Network (SWN) as part of their SEWAH initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maithri Aquatech – set up "World's 1st Mobile Water from Air Kiosk & Water Knowledge Centre" – in Visakhapatnam
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

141. On March 26, BharatPe has launched a new lending product called "Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance" that would provide instant liquidity to distributors, wholesalers, traders and dealers. D2R would offer collateral-free loans of up to ₹50 lakh for a period of 7 days to 30 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BharatPe – launched a new lending product called "Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance"
- D2R would offer collateral-free loans of up to ₹50 lakh for a period of 7 days to 30 days
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Ashneer Grover

142. On March 26, In the presence of Prakash Javadekar, an MoU was signed by State Pollution Control Boards, Urban Local Bodies and Institutes of Repute for 132 identified cities for implementation of City Specific Action Plans under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The NCAP's target is to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 132 cities are selected to implement City Specific Action Plans – under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- NCAP's target: To achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) concentrations – by 2024

143. On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, India and Bangladesh are together making a film titled "Bangabandhu" - directed by the renowned film director Shyam Benegal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Bangladesh are together making a film titled "Bangabandhu"
- Film Director – Shyam Benegal
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

144. On March 23, Odisha is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's first ever visit to the state. On the occasion, Union Minister Sanjay Dhotre has digitally released a commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of the first visit of Gandhiji to Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's first ever visit to the state
- Sanjay Dhotre – released a commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of the 1st visit of Gandhiji to Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

145. On March 24, Genome Sequencing by INSACOG shows variants of concern and a Novel variant in India. The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG) is a grouping of 10 National Laboratories that was established by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 25 December, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INSACOG is a grouping of 10 National Laboratories – established by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- INSACOG – Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics

146. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched “Dial 112” Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) wherein people can call the toll-free number for all emergency services including police, fire and health. The state government has allocated Rs 157.12 Cr for the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched “Dial 112” Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
- Rs 157.12 Cr allocated for the project
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

147. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will assist states and union territories to prepare an ‘Annual Export Ranking Index’ of different districts to rank each district on its export competitiveness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGFT – to assist states & UTs to prepare an ‘Annual Export Ranking Index’ of different districts
- DGFT comes under – “Ministry of Commerce & Industry” (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DGFT – New Delhi | Director General – Amit Yadav

148. On March 27, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has delivered the first 500 Pax passenger-cum-150-tonne cargo vessel Sindhu to the Andaman and Nicobar administration. The ship delivered is part of a series of 4 passenger vessels comprising two 500 Pax and two 1,200 Pax at a total order value of about ₹1,400 Cr under the ‘Make in India’ initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard – delivered 1st 500 Pax passenger-cum-150-tonne Cargo Vessel ‘Sindhu’ – to Andaman & Nicobar
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Shri Madhu S Nair

149. On March 24, The State Assembly of Odisha has passed a unanimous resolution for incorporation of word “Ahimsa” (Non-violence) in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – passed a resolution for inclusion of word “Ahimsa” (Non-violence) in the Preamble of Indian Constitution
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

150. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Minister of Education, has launched a competency-based Assessment Framework for the CBSE students of class 6-10 based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The assessment aims to improve the overall learning outcomes of students mainly covering three subjects - English (reading), Science, and Maths. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal – launched a competency-based Assessment Framework for CBSE students of classes 6-10
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja | Formed in – 1962

151. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of Defence of Republic of Korea Mr Suh Wook have jointly inaugurated the first of its kind “India-Korea Friendship Park” in New Delhi. India and South Korea have agreed to go for joint production and export of military hardware. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh + Suh Wook = inaugurated the first of its kind “India-Korea Friendship Park” in New Delhi
- India + South Korea = agreed to go for joint production & export of Military Hardware
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

152. The Supreme Court has rejected a plea for a stay on the issue of a fresh round of Electoral Bonds from April 1 to 10. Electoral bonds are available in the denomination of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakhs & Rs 1 Cr with No Maximum purchase limit. SBI is authorized to issue these bonds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The SC rejected a plea for a stay on the issue of a fresh round of Electoral Bonds
- Denominations of Electoral Bonds: Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakhs & Rs 1 Cr
- Authorized bank to issue the bonds – SBI

153. On March 28, The Centre has planned to issue a 14-digit identification number named Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) to every plot of land in India within a year’s time. The ULPIN scheme has been launched in 10 States this year and will be rolled out across India by March 2022. This is the next step in the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) which began in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centre planned to issue a 14-digit “Unique Land Parcel Identification Number” (ULPIN) to every plot of land
- ULPIN scheme has been launched in 10 States & will be launched across India by – March 2022
- Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) launched – in 2008

154. On March 28, Uttar Pradesh government will introduce a ‘Happiness Curriculum’ as a pilot project from this academic session. To be called ‘Realisation Curriculum’, it would be introduced in Mathura schools this session onwards. The happiness curriculum was first introduced by the Delhi government in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to introduce a ‘Happiness Curriculum’ also called ‘Realisation Curriculum’ – in Mathura schools
- ‘Happiness Curriculum’ was first introduced by Delhi in 2018
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



155. Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru became the first in south India to have Operational Parallel Runways. It was closed for renovation and upgrades in June 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kempegowda International Airport (Bengaluru) – 1st in south India to have Operational Parallel Runways
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjeev Kumar

156. HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) has become the first Indian company to buy oil from Guyana. India is the world's third-largest crude importer. HMEL has bought the 1 million-barrel cargo of Guyana's Liza light sweet crude. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HPCL-Mittal Energy – became the first Indian company to buy oil from Guyana
- India – world's 3rd largest crude importer
- Guyana – Georgetown – Guyanese Dollar | President – Irfaan Ali
- HQs of HMEL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Prabh Das

157. On March 30, Bihar is set to become India's first state to have two Green Energy efficient towns in Rajgir and Bodh Gaya. The towns will start getting Solar Energy through the first of its kind Renewable Energy project from 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – to become India's 1st state to have 2 Green Energy efficient towns – in Rajgir & Bodh Gaya
- The towns will start getting Solar Energy – from 2023
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

158. On March 30, A 104 feet tall flag mast hoisting the National Flag was inaugurated by Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg in Gangtok. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 104 feet tall flag mast hoisting the National Flag was inaugurated – in Gangtok, Sikkim
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

159. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified "ICEGATE portal" or Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway as the common customs electronic portal for all customs related documentation and duty payments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC notified "ICEGATE" or Indian Customs & Central Excise EC/EDI Gateway as common customs Electronic Portal
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964



160. The Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) has revamped its Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) portal. The upgraded portal offers single IEM for one company to capture details of all its locations and sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT – revamped its Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) portal
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

161. On March 16, Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors will become operational in 2022 as informed by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in Lok Sabha. Rs 2,15,000 Cr have been allocated for Railways in 2021-22 Budget. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eastern & Western Dedicated Freight Corridors – to become operational in 2022
- Rs 2,15,000 Cr – allocated for Railways in 2021-22 Budget

162. The 28th MoU under the “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project has been awarded on 15th March 2021 for Dara Shikoh Library Building in Delhi. The duration of the MoU is for an initial period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 28th MoU under “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” – awarded for ‘Dara Shikoh Library Building’
- Dara Shikoh Library Building – located in Delhi | Duration of the MoU – 5 years

163. On March 18, 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. It 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 the times of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra farmers started fresh fruit cake movement to sustain during pandemic
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

164. On March 18, The Jharkhand government has launched SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction) campaign to tackle malnutrition in the state. The campaign aims to identify anemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem. SAAMAR has been launched with a 1000 days target. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched “SAAMAR campaign” to tackle malnutrition
- SAAMAR – Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu



165. NITI Aayog has submitted its first list of about 12 public sector undertakings (PSUs) for privatisation. The list will be considered by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD). India has targeted Rs 1.75 lakh Cr of disinvestment in the FY 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – submitted its first list of about 12 PSUs for privatisation
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

166. On March 19, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 4th edition of the “Global Ayurveda Festival 2021” through video conference. This festival was organized by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) between March 12 and March 19. It featured lectures by 35 internationally renowned scientists and more than 150 Indian scientists. V. Muraleedharan is the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th edition of the “Global Ayurveda Festival 2021” – organized by CISSA
- The festival was chaired by – V. Muraleedharan

167. On March 24, Shri R. K. Singh, the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Power & New and Renewable Energy, has launched the “GRAM UJALA” programme in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Under this program Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) will distribute high quality LED bulbs, at an affordable cost of Rs 10 per bulb in rural areas of Varanasi. Earlier, the scheme was launched in Arrah, Bihar where it has crossed 6,150 distribution mark within 2 days of launch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. K. Singh (Ministry of Power) – launched the “GRAM UJALA” programme in Varanasi, UP (earlier in Arrah, Bihar)
- CESL distributes high quality LED bulbs – at Rs 10 per bulb
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

168. On March 24, India has planned to conduct Airborne Radar Surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers, with a pilot study to be conducted in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh. Once the pilot project is done, similar studies will be conducted in Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra sub-basins. India has planned to add 45 gigawatts (GW) of hydropower capacity to its energy basket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has planned to conduct Airborne Radar Surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers
- The pilot project will be conducted – in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

169. On March 19, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' took a ride in the "Energy Swaraj Yatra" bus built by Dr Chetan Singh Solanki, a Professor at IIT Bombay. The Energy Swaraj Yatra began in 2020 and will continue till 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' took a ride in the "Energy Swaraj Yatra" bus – built by IIT Bombay
- The Energy Swaraj Yatra began in 2020 and will continue till 2030

170. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, has inaugurated a Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Testing Facility at the IRCS NHQ Blood Centre. He also inaugurated 3 fully equipped vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated a Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Testing Facility – at IRCS NHQ Blood Centre
- HQs of IRCS – New Delhi | Chairman – Dr. Harsh Vardhan

171. The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes. Manipur has emerged as the model state for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana. Since the time that the programme was launched in the State in October 2019, 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been established. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – emerged as the model state for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

172. In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has initiated the project "Awaam Ki Baat" - a Radio program by launching its website at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jammu and Kashmir – initiated the project "Awaam Ki Baat" - a Radio program
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

173. In Madhya Pradesh, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan have launched the "Mission Gramodaya" in the state. Under the Gramodaya mission, besides providing housing facilities in rural areas, basic and fundamental infrastructure will also be expanded. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar & Shivraj Singh Chouhan – launched "Mission Gramodaya" in Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

174. On March 19, NABARD's wholly-owned subsidiary NABSarakshan Trustee Pvt Ltd (NTPL) has been appointed by the government as a trustee for Rs 750 Cr Credit Guarantee Fund under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF). The government has set up AHIDF with a corpus of Rs 15,000 Cr as part of the Aatmanirbhar package. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABSarakshan Trustee Pvt Ltd – appointed by the government as a trustee for Rs 750 Cr Credit Guarantee Fund
- Government has set up AHIDF with a corpus of – Rs 15,000 Cr
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu | Founded in – 1982

175. On March 19, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has hiked the maximum cover under the standard health insurance plan “Arogya Sanjeevani Policy” from Rs 5 lakh earlier to Rs 10 lakh. Arogya Sanjeevani Policy was launched in March 2020. IRDAI has made it mandatory for insurers to offer a sum insured between Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh under this policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI hiked the maximum cover under “Arogya Sanjeevani Policy” – to Rs 10 lakh (from Rs 5 lakh)
- Range of sum insured under this policy – between Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

176. On March 18, As part of Kisan Kalyan Mission, Uttar Pradesh has launched a UP Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Shakti portal, a first of its kind in India, to benefit farmers at grass roots level. The initiative comes amid the BJP government’s resolve to double the income of farmers by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched “FPO Shakti portal” to benefit farmers – as part of Kisan Kalyan Mission
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

177. On March 18, Bihar has become the first state in India to implement an “Ethanol Promotion Policy” that would allow investors to directly make ethanol from maize, molasses, broken rice and rotten grains. An investor would get a 15% government subsidy a maximum of Rs 5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – became the first state in India to implement an “Ethanol Promotion Policy”
- An investor would get a 15% government subsidy a maximum of Rs 5 Cr
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

178. On March 21, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated state-of-the-art facilities at various research centres in Chandigarh and Mohali. He inaugurated IMTECH Bio Innovation Centre & Centre of Excellence for Intelligent Sensors and System at CSIR- IMTECH in Chandigarh. He also inaugurated “Advanced High Resolution Microscopy Facility at National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali, Punjab. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated IMTECH Bio Innovation Centre – at CSIR-IMTECH (Chandigarh)
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Intelligent Sensors & System – at CSIR-IMTECH (Chandigarh)
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated Advanced High Resolution Microscopy Facility – at NABI (Mohali, Punjab)

179. On March 21, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has inaugurated the state's first formal indigenous language and knowledge system school in East Kameng district. The first-of-its-kind school is called "Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – inaugurated "Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko" the state's 1st formal indigenous language & knowledge system school – in in East Kameng
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

180. The Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 310 also known as "The Cobras" has celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on March 21, 2021. The Cobras were raised in faraway France 60 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "INAS 310" also known as "The Cobras" – celebrated its Diamond Jubilee (completed 60 years)

181. As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a 3-day "Shehnai festival" was organised at Banaras Hindu University campus Varanasi from March 21. BHU has organised this music evening to remember the shehnai Maestro Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3-day "Shehnai festival" – organised at Banaras Hindu University campus (Varanasi, UP)
- BHU has organised this music evening to remember – Ustad Bismillah Khan

182. PM Narendra Modi has launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign for conserving water and he also stressed that every penny of MGNREGA funds be spent on rain water conservation till the monsoon arrives. The campaign's theme is "Catch the rain, Where it falls, When it falls". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign
- Campaign's theme – "Catch the rain, Where it falls, When it falls"

183. On March 17, Niti Aayog has constituted two task forces that will recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts as well as effective conciliation mechanism. One task force, which will suggest facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual disputes between private entities and the government, will be headed by Amitabh Kant. The second task force, which will recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts, will be led by Rajiv Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Niti Aayog constituted 2 Task Forces for achieving policy certainty in contract enforcement
- One task force – suggesting facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual disputes – headed by Amitabh Kant
- Second task force – recommending a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts – headed by Rajiv Kumar

184. On March 18, To expedite the transition of India from a linear to a Circular Economy, 11 committees have been formed by the central government. The committees will be led by the concerned line ministries and comprising officials from MoEFCC and NITI Aayog, domain experts, academics and industry representatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government formed 11 committees to expedite the transition of India from a linear to a Circular Economy
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

185. On March 18, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have signed an agreement to link the Ken and Betwa rivers and irrigate the water deficient Bundelkhand region (spread over both States) as well as provide electricity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + Madhya Pradesh = an agreement to link the Ken & Betwa rivers
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

186. On March 22, Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia has announced lowering of legal age to drink liquor in the national capital to 21 from 25. An expert committee set up by the government recommended in December that the legal drinking age be changed to 21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – lowered the legal age to drink liquor to 21 (from 25)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

187. On March 22, To further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in Andhra Pradesh, the state government has decided to set up "India's first government-run Ambulance Network" for animals. A total of 175 mobile ambulances (veterinary) clinics will be placed at Assembly Constituency Level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – to set up "India's first government-run Ambulance Network" for animals
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

188. On March 23, The government has recently formed a committee to popularise the legacy of 11th century Tomar king, Anangpal II. Anangpal Tomar II was succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government formed a committee to popularise the legacy of 11th century Anangpal II (Tomara Dynasty)

International Affairs

1. Commemorating 50 years or Golden Jubilee of 1971 War of Liberation (defeating Pakistan), Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief RKS Bhadauria gifted a legacy 'Alouette III' helicopter to Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) and got a legacy 'F-86 Sabre' aircraft as a return gift from Dhaka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – gifted a legacy 'Alouette III' helicopter to Bangladesh Air Force
- Bangladesh – gifted a legacy 'F-86 Sabre' aircraft to Indian Air Force
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Founded in – 1932
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

2. Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina has inaugurated the advanced digital cobalt therapy machine "Bhabhatron-II". India has donated this advanced telecobalt machine for cancer treatment & it is developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The machine has been functional at HJRA since January and has the capacity to treat 50 patients per day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madagascar – inaugurated the advanced digital cobalt therapy machine "Bhabhatron-II"
- It is donated by – India & developed by – Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina
- India's Ambassador to Madagascar – Abhay Kumar

3. India and Pakistan have agreed to a strict observance of the '2003 Ceasefire Agreement' along the Line of Control (LoC) and all other sectors with effect from the midnight of February 24-25. The decision was announced after discussions between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGsMO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Pakistan = agreed to a strict observance of the '2003 Ceasefire Agreement' along the LoC
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

4. On March 2, British cruise ships - the Marco Polo & the Magellan are no longer meant for use and they are finding their way to India to be scrapped. The Marco Polo, built in the 1960s, made its final voyage to Alang in Gujarat, referred to as the "world's largest ship graveyard". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Marco Polo & the Magellan - the cruise ships of Britain (UK) – being scrapped in India
- Alang (Gujarat) – known as world's largest ship graveyard
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

5. On March 2, Sri Lanka has approved a proposal to develop the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal (WCT) under a joint venture with India and Japan. Operate and Transfer (BOT) proposal approved by a negotiating committee had been forwarded to both the Indian High Commission and the Japanese embassy. The proposal presented by Adani Ports and special economic zone limited (APSEZ Consortium) has been approved by the Indian High Commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka approved a proposal to develop Colombo Western Container Terminal (WCT) – with India & Japan
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

6. India and Norway will work jointly in the area of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for the next 5 years. They have identified Lakshadweep and Puducherry as pilot sites for the project. This is a part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative under an MoU signed between the two countries in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Norway – to work jointly in the area of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for the next 5 years
- Lakshadweep & Puducherry – identified as pilot sites for the project
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg

7. India has described Sri Lanka as “Priority One” partner in the Defence Sector. The Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) has celebrated its 70th Anniversary on March 2 and to commemorate the historical event. A total of 23 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy would participate in the grand event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – described Sri Lanka as “Priority One” partner in the Defence Sector
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

8. The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has recommended graduation of Bangladesh from the category of Least Developed Country (LDC) as it fulfilled the eligibility criteria in terms of per capita income, human assets and economic and environmental vulnerability. This is the second consecutive time since 2018 that the CDP has made recommendation for Bangladesh for graduation from LDC category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UN CDP – made recommendation for “Bangladesh” for graduation from LDC category (2nd time since 2018)
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

9. Global anti-terrorism watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to retain Pakistan on its “Grey List” till June, 2021 for its failure to fully comply with FATF’s 27-point action plan to combat terrorism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FATF decided to retain Pakistan on its “Grey List” – till June, 2021
- HQs of FATF – Paris, France | President – Marcus Pleyer | Member Countries – 39
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi



10. On March 3, Australia has unveiled plans to build the world's first Platypus Sanctuary, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction due to climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – to build the world's 1st Platypus Sanctuary
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

11. On March 3, The U. N. General Assembly has adopted a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the “International Year of Millets”. It is aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and their suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNGA – adopted a resolution declaring 2023 as the “International Year of Millets”
- The resolution was sponsored by India & supported by over 70 nations
- [HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193](#)

12. On March 3, India has signed a key pact with the Philippines for the sale of defence material and equipment which are likely to include BrahMos cruise missiles. India and Russia have also been planning to export the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to the Philippines and several other countries. The BrahMos missile is produced by an Indo-Russian joint venture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Philippines = signed a pact for the sale of Defence material & equipment
- The BrahMos missile is produced by – Indo-Russian joint venture
- [India's Ambassador to the Philippines – Shambu S. Kumaran](#)
- [Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte](#)

13. A World Bank funded project - ‘Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme’ (TEQIP) will be replaced with ‘Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE)’. Three phases of the ₹3,600-Cr TEQIP project have been completed since it was launched in December 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank funded TEQIP – to be replaced with MERITE
- TEQIP project was launched in – 2002
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189](#)
- [President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

14. On March 3, India has decided to send a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice and 1,00,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine to drought-hit Madagascar. The humanitarian assistance will be delivered onboard the Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will send a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice & 1,00,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine – to Madagascar

- Humanitarian assistance delivered through – INS Jalashwa
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

15. As on March 4, Reliance Power has formed a joint venture with Japan-based JERA Co. Inc to develop a new gas-fired power generation project in Bangladesh. The project is to build, own, and operate a 745-MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat near Dhaka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Power + JERA = JV to develop 745-MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Bangladesh
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- HQs of JERA – Tokyo, Japan | CEO – Toshiro Kudama

16. On March 4, A new cultural centre of the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is the second cultural centre of the High Commission of India in Dhaka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – inaugurated a new (2nd) cultural centre of the High Commission of India – in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

17. El Salvador has become the first country in central America and the third in all Americas to get the malaria-free certificate from the World Health Organization (WHO). Malaria elimination certificate is awarded to a country when the chain of indigenous transmission of the disease has been disrupted nationwide for at least 3 consecutive years. El Salvador recorded its last malaria death in 1984. In India, the malaria infections fell by 14.4 million between 2000 and 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- El Salvador – became 1st central American country to be declared malaria-free by WHO (last death – 1984)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- El Salvador – San Salvador – US Dollar | President – Nayib Bukele

18. On March 9, PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge (Maitri Setu) over the Feni river at Sabroom in south Tripura. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 8 other infrastructure projects together worth ₹ 3,518 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge “Maitri Setu”
- It was inaugurated – over Feni river at Sabroom, Tripura
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for 8 other infrastructure projects worth ₹ 3,518 Cr
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



19. On March 9, Swiss voters have voted in favour of the proposal to ban face coverings, both the Niqabs and Burqas worn by Muslim women in the country and the ski masks and bandannas used by protesters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Switzerland voted in favour of the proposal to ban face coverings both Niqabs & Burqas worn by Muslim women
- [Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin \(New\)](#)

20. As part of the “Swarnim Vijay Varsh” celebration commemorating 50 years of the 1971 war triumph against Pakistan, INS Sumedha and INS Kulish have made the first-ever visit to the historic port town of Mongla in Bangladesh from March 8 to 10. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Sumedha & INS Kulish – made the 1st ever visit to the historic Mongla Port, in Bangladesh
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

21. On March 12, A Japanese-Australian venture has begun producing Hydrogen from brown coal in a A\$500 million (\$387 million) test project that aims to show liquefied hydrogen can be produced and exported safely to Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan + Australia = began producing Hydrogen from ‘Brown coal’ in a A\$500 million (\$387 million) test project
- ‘Brown coal’ – also known as ‘Lignite’
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

22. On March 3, India has opened the 1st of its kind India Energy Office (IEO) in Russia with a goal to push an already burgeoning energy partnership between the two strategic partners. The IEO in Moscow was inaugurated by Tarun Kapoor, Secretary in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India opened the 1st of its kind India Energy Office (IEO) • in Russia
- IEO was inaugurated by – Tarun Kapoor ([Secretary in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas](#))
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

23. INS Shardul has visited Port Louis, Mauritius from 10 to 13 March, 2021 on the occasion of National Day celebrations of Mauritius. INS Shardul is indigenously built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata and commissioned in the Indian Navy in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Shardul – visited Mauritius on the occasion of its National Day celebrations
- INS Shardul – indigenously built at GRSE ([Kolkata](#)) | Commissioned in – 2007



24. On March 12, A new species of weta - a giant flightless cricket that is endemic to New Zealand, has been named *Hemiandrus jacinda* after Jacinda Ardern, the Prime Minister of New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A giant flightless cricket – named “*Hemiandrus jacinda*” – after Jacinda Ardern the PM of New Zealand
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern

25. On March 13, PM Modi has addressed the 1st ever Leader-Level Summit of QUAD countries. In the summit, India, USA, Japan & Australia vowed to work unitedly on manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The US will provide financial assistance to support Indian drug-maker Biological E's effort to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi addressed the 1st ever Leader-Level Summit of QUAD countries
- US will support Biological E's effort to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022
- QUAD countries – 4 – India, USA, Japan & Australia

26. On March 12, US President Joe Biden and other top officials have announced “Help is Here Tour” to promote Covid Relief Plan. Biden has signed \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package into law. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – announced “Help is Here Tour” to promote Covid Relief Plan
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

27. The KRL Cricket Ground of Rawalpindi, Pakistan has been renamed after Shoaib Akhtar for his heroics at the international level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KRL Stadium in Rawalpindi has been renamed as “Shoaib Akhtar Stadium” (Pakistan)
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

28. On March 18, Italy has signed the International Solar Alliance under the amended ISA Framework Agreement. The amendments to the Framework Agreement of the ISA entered into force, opening its Membership to all Member States of the UN. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Italy – signed the International Solar Alliance under the amended ISA Framework Agreement
- Total 73 countries have signed the ‘ISA Framework Agreement’
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Member Countries – 124
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

29. On March 18, Spain's parliament has voted in favour of a law legalising Euthanasia. This makes Spain the fourth European nation to decriminalise assisted suicide, alongside the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spain's parliament voted in favour of a law legalising Euthanasia
- Spain is 4th country to do so (others are Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg)
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

30. As on March 17, Singapore is building one of the world's largest floating solar farms. It has resorted to setting up these energy plants off its coasts and on reservoirs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Singapore is building one of the world's largest floating solar farms
- [Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob](#)

31. The Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket) has proposed a plan to complete a tender process this year for the construction of the world's first shipping tunnel in western Norway. The total value of the 1.7km tunnel project is expected to be approximately \$325m. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Norway – to construct world's first shipping tunnel | Length – 1.7km | Estimated cost – \$325m
- [Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg](#)

32. On March 23, New Zealand's parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth. New Zealand has become only the second country in the world to do so. India is the only other country with similar legislation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – became 2nd country to pass miscarriages bereavement leave law | 1st country – India
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)

33. The United States has notified that India has been added to the list of countries that have been affected by 'African swine fever', imposing restrictions on the import of pork and pork products from the country. India's export of pork and related items to the U.S. in 2020 was \$5,00,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U.S. adds India to list of countries affected by 'African Swine Fever' – imposing restrictions on the import of pork
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

34. Israel has recently held its 4th parliamentary election in two years, the product of protracted political deadlock and disagreement over longtime leader Benjamin Netanyahu's fitness to rule while facing corruption charges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel recently held its 4th parliamentary election in 2 years
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

35. The third phase of the Indian beamline project was initiated on March 23, 2021, with special focus on industrial application research. It is a facility for materials research set up under India-Japan Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This India-Japan Scientific and Technological Cooperation project was initiated in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The third phase of the Indian beamline project was initiated – in Japan
- India-Japan S & T Cooperation project was initiated – in 2007
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

36. PM Narendra Modi has visited Bangladesh from 26 to 27 March 2021 to join the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh. Government of India announced 1000 'Shuborno Jayanti Scholarships' (Swarna Jayanti scholarship) for Bangladeshi students for pursuing education/courses in India. To mark the 50th anniversary of India-Bangladesh friendship, both sides released respective commemorative postage stamps. Russia collaborated with India to establish "Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant" which is the 1st Nuclear Power Plant of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi visited Bangladesh – to join the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Independence of Bangladesh
- India announced 1000 'Swarna Jayanti scholarship' for Bangladeshi students for pursuing education in India
- 1st Nuclear Power Plant of Bangladesh – "Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant" – to be established by India & Russia
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

37. On March 30, Swedish automaker Volvo Cars has announced to give its 40,000 employees worldwide the right to 6-month paid parental leave in a bid to increase gender equality and attract talent. As of April 1, employees who have worked for the carmaker for at least one year will be entitled to the benefit at 80% of their salary. The policy is based on Sweden's national parental leave policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Volvo Cars – to give its 40,000 employees worldwide the right to 6-month paid parental leave
- HQs of Volvo Group – Gothenburg, Sweden | CEO – Martin Lundstedt

38. On March 30, Iceland witnessed the awakening of a volcano near its capital Reykjavik, for the first time in 900 years. Streams of Red Lava bubbled and flowed out of a fissure in a valley in Geldingadalur, close to Mount Fagradalsfjall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iceland witnessed the awakening of a volcano for the first time in 900 years
- Mount Fagradalsfjall – located in Iceland
- Iceland – Reykjavik – Krona | President – Guoni Th. Johannesson

39. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's party has won the most seats in parliamentary elections. His last government resigned in January over a child welfare fraud scandal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mark Rutte – won the Parliamentary Elections of Netherlands
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

40. A second batch of 20,000 litres of Malathion 95% ULV pesticide is being supplied by India to Iran under a Government-to-Government Locust Control Programme. The consignment reached Chabahar Port on March 18, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India supplied 20,000 litres of Malathion pesticide to Iran
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei](#)

41. On March 17, 2021, the European Commission has proposed to create a “Digital Green Certificate” to facilitate the safe and free movement of citizens within the European Union (EU) amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A Digital Green Certificate is proof that a person has either been vaccinated against COVID-19, has received a negative test result or has recovered from COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- European Commission – proposed to create a “Digital Green Certificate” for citizens
- [HQs of European Commission – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen](#)

42. On March 22, The European Union (EU) has officially on-boarded as a member of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). To support the CDRI, the US has announced funds of up to \$9.2 Million. The CDRI was launched in 2019 by PM Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Change Summit. PM Narendra Modi has also addressed at the 3rd edition of the annual conference of the Coalition for Disaster resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EU – joined Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- US announced funds of up to \$9.2 Million to support the CDRI | Launched by PM Modi – in 2019
- PM Modi addressed at the 3rd edition of the annual conference of the CDRI
- [HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27](#)

43. On March 22, The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has agreed to assist the Bangladesh aviation regulator in enhancing its capacity in terms of infrastructure and skilled manpower. India is currently celebrating “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”, the golden jubilee year marking the 1971 war victory over Pakistan that led to the creation of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AAI – agreed to assist the Bangladesh aviation regulator in enhancing its capacity
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)
- [HQs of AAI – New Delhi | President – Arjun Munda](#)

44. On March 22, The Danish Red Cross has sponsored and launched the world’s first Catastrophe Bond (cat bond) to offer dedicated insurance against volcanic eruptions. The project’s partners aim to raise as much as \$3 million with the launch of the note. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Danish Red Cross ([Denmark](#)) – launched the world’s 1st Catastrophe Bond (cat bond) to cover 10 volcanoes
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

Banking & Economic Affairs

1. On March 4, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has presented a budget of ₹57,400.32 Cr for 2021-22 fiscal in the Assembly with emphasis on health, rural infrastructure, employment generation and agriculture. Rs 25 Cr has been allocated to a new scheme “Chief Minister Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – presented a budget of ₹57,400.32 Cr for 2021-22 fiscal
- Rs 25 Cr – allocated to “Chief Minister Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana”
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

2. PNB Housing Finance and YES Bank have entered into a strategic co-lending agreement to offer retail loans to home buyers. They will jointly do due diligence and co-originate the loan at an agreed ratio. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- YES Bank + PNB Housing Finance = a strategic co-lending agreement to offer retail loans to home buyers
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tag Line – Ghar Ki Baat

3. On March 5, Kotak Mahindra Bank has signed an MoU with the Indian Army for salary accounts. All personnel of the Indian army will get access to the full range of Kotak's products and services including a zero-balance salary account that earns up to 4% interest per annum with free unlimited ATM transactions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Indian Army = an MoU for salary accounts
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

4. On March 4, The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) has decided to fix 8.5% rate of interest for 2020-21 at its 228th meeting of Central Board of Trustees (CBT) in Srinagar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EPFO decided to fix 8.5% rate of interest for 2020-21 at its 228th meeting of CBT – in Srinagar, J & K
- HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Shri Sunil Barthwal

5. On March 1, Federal Bank in partnership with Mastercard is set to launch Credit Cards in coming months and remains bullish about growth opportunities on the retail portfolio. The bank expects the retail portfolio to grow at about 13% to 15%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + Mastercard = to launch Credit Cards in coming months
- HQs Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

6. On March 4, The RBI had announced to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) on March 10. On March 10, RBI purchased 4 government securities of different maturity dates aggregating to Rs 20,000 Cr and sell 3 securities aggregating to Rs 15,000 Cr using the multiple price auction method. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI conducted simultaneous purchase (Rs 20,000 Cr) & sale (Rs 15,000 Cr) of government securities under OMO
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

7. On March 5, Titan-owned youth accessories brand Fastrack has partnered India's largest public sector bank Yono-State Bank of India (SBI) to enter the smart wearable category of fitness bands with digital payment component under its sub-brand Reflex. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fastrack (Titan) + Yono (SBI) = partnership to enter the smart wearable category of fitness bands
- HQs of Titan – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – C. K. Venkataraman
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

8. On March 4, HDFC ERGO General Insurance has launched “Business Kisht Suraksha”, a unique cover aimed at protecting the balance sheet of MFIs, financial institutions and banks in the event of a catastrophe or natural disaster. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC ERGO – launched “Business Kisht Suraksha” insurance cover
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Ritesh Kumar

9. On March 5, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and SBI Payments have partnered to launch “RuPay SoftPoS”, which is expected to provide seamless, cost-effective acceptance infrastructure to retailers at a nominal cost. It is a smart phone enabled Point of Sale (PoS) system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI + SBI Payments = partnership to launch “RuPay SoftPoS”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

10. On March 9, India has attracted total FDI inflow of \$67.54 billion during April to December 2020. It is the highest ever inflow for the first 9 months of a financial year. Besides, FDI equity inflow grew by 40% in the first 9 months of FY21 to \$51.47 billion from an year ago period of \$36.77 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has attracted total FDI inflow of \$67.54 billion during April to December 2020 (highest ever)
- FDI equity inflow grew by 40% in the first 9 months of FY21 to \$51.47 billion



11. On March 9, Axis Bank has partnered with WhatsApp to offer basic banking services to its customers. This will allow customers to seek information regarding their account balance, recent transactions, credit card payments, fixed and recurring deposit details, besides getting their queries answered in real-time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank + WhatsApp = partnership to offer basic banking services to its customers
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

12. On March 8, HDFC Bank has launched “SmartUp Unnati Programme” for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank. This programme is available only to existing customers and will initially target more than 3,000 women entrepreneurs associated with the bank's SmartUp programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – launched “SmartUp Unnati Programme” for mentoring women entrepreneurs
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

13. On March 9, Maharashtra State Finance Minister Ajit Pawar has presented a ₹4,84,118.19 Cr Budget. The state government announced Rajmata Jijau Griha-Swamini Yojna, Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule scheme, Tejasvini Yojana, Maharashtra Apprentice Promotion Scheme and Sant Janabai Social Security and Welfare scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra FM Ajit Pawar – presented a ₹4,84,118.19 Cr Budget
- Schemes:
 - Rajmata Jijau Griha-Swamini Yojna
 - Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule scheme
 - Tejasvini Yojana
 - Maharashtra Apprentice Promotion Scheme
 - Sant Janabai Social Security and Welfare scheme
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

14. Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) has launched the ‘Vikas Asha’ loan scheme for women. Under this scheme, the bank will extend loan up to a maximum of ₹10 lakh with a repayment period of 84 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank – launched the ‘Vikas Asha’ loan scheme for women (loan upto ₹10 lakh)
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P. Gopi Krishna

15. March 9, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has launched a women savings account named “Garima Savings Account” catering to the financial needs of women. It will offer multiple customised benefits to women, including up to a maximum of 7% rate of interest on the savings account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank – launched “Garima Savings Account” for women
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Nitin Chugh

16. March 8, Yes Bank has launched “YES Essence”, a holistic banking proposition for women across customer segments – homemakers, salaried professionals, entrepreneurs and senior citizens. The proposition offers a bouquet of solutions including complementary healthcare benefits, earn on auto sweep to FD, preferential pricing on loans, fee waiver on demat and trading account, and more. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank launched “YES Essence” - a banking service customized for women
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

17. March 5, AckoDrive, a one-stop solution for first-hand car buying, has partnered with IDFC FIRST Bank to issue free FASTags. With AckoDrive getting a FASTag is hassle free and convenient. Unlike FASTags issued by others, AckoDrive's digital platform requires no issuance fee, no paperwork or security deposit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AckoDrive + IDFC FIRST Bank = partnership to issue free FASTags
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan
- HQs of AckoDrive – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Dua

18. On March 8, Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia has proposed a budget outlay of ₹69,000 Cr for 2021-22. The theme for this year's budget will be “Patriotism” to celebrate 75 years of the India's Independence. ₹10 Cr will be allocated on programmes and events on the life of Bhagat Singh and another ₹10 Cr for programmes and events on the life of BR Ambedkar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – proposed a budget outlay of ₹69,000 Cr for 2021-22
- The theme for this year's budget – “Patriotism”
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

19. On March 16, DBS Bank India has partnered with TRRAIN (Trust for Retailers & Retail Associates of India) as part of the ‘DBS Stronger Together Fund’. The partnership will support youth from low-income households by providing them with long-term employment opportunities. The program aims to train and secure jobs for over 800 individuals by the end of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India + TRRAIN = to provide long-term employment opportunities to Youth
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome

20. On March 16, Bank of Baroda in partnership with Aquaconnect will provide credit access to 1.6 million aquaculture farmers under the Kisan Credit Card scheme at an annual rate of as low as 10%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Baroda + Aquaconnect = partnership to provide credit access to 1.6 million aquaculture farmers
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – India's International Bank
- HQs of Aquaconnect – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Rajamanohar Somasundaram

21. On March 10, State Bank of India (SBI) has topped the ministry of electronics and information technology's (MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard for the 3rd consecutive month with 64 Cr transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform and a user base of 13.5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI topped the MeitY's Digital Payment Scorecard for the 3rd consecutive month
- Total transactions on UPI platform – 64 Cr | User base – 13.5 Cr
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

22. On March 10, Axis Bank has become the first bank to launch contactless payment wearable devices “Wear ‘N’ Pay” for Rs 750. Customers can make contactless payments up to Rs. 5,000 at PoS machine using simple wave or tap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank became the first bank to launch contactless payment wearable devices “Wear ‘N’ Pay” for Rs 750
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

23. On March 10, Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) and Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company (Chola) jointly announced launching of the co-lending business in a partnership. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVB + Chola = launched the co-lending business in a partnership
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – B. Ramesh Babu
- HQs of Chola – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – M. M. Murugappan

24. On March 9, The Finance Ministry has notified the change in the GST Act on the recommendation of the GST Council. The CBIC has made e-invoices filing of GST mandatory for businesses with annual revenue of over Rs 50 Cr from April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC made e-invoices filing of GST mandatory for businesses with annual revenue of over Rs 50 Cr from April 1, 2021
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

25. On March 10, The Reserve Bank of India has removed IDBI Bank Ltd from its Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF) list after it found the bank was not in breach of the central bank's parameters. IDBI Bank was placed under the so-called PCA framework in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI removed “IDBI Bank Ltd” from its Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework list
- The Bank was placed under PCA in – 2017
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rakesh Sharma



26. On March 15, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by September 30. A move aimed at faster settlement of cheques resulting in better customer service. The CTS is in use since 2010 and presently covers around 1,50,000 branches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI asked banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) – by September 30, 2021
- The CTS is in use – since 2010
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

27. On March 15, NITI Aayog has kept 6 public sector banks (PSBs) out of the Privatisation Plan in last round of consolidation. These banks are Punjab National Bank, Union Bank, Canara Bank and Indian Bank, and Bank of Baroda and SBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – kept 6 public sector banks (PSBs) out of the Privatisation Plan
- 6 PSBs: SBI, PNB, BoB, Union Bank, Canara Bank & Indian Bank
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

28. On March 17, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 Cr on State Bank of India (SBI) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 Cr on SBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

29. On March 17, The SBI has signed India's first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)-linked \$100 million External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) deal with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for 5 years. SOFR will replace World Bank's LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + IOCL = signed India's 1st SOFR-linked \$100 million ECB deal for 5 years
- SOFR will replace World Bank's LIBOR
- SOFR – Secured Overnight Financing Rate | LIBOR – London Inter-Bank Offered Rate
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

30. State-run Union Bank of India has partnered with SMC Global Securities to offer online trading services to the bank's customers. SMC has a presence in more than 550 cities which can service the lender's 9,500 branches. UBI had launched India's First Talking bilingual accessible ATM in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI + SMC Global Securities = partnership to offer online trading services to the bank's customers
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”
- HQs of SMC Global Securities – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Mahesh C. Gupta

31. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised 307 million dollars from its first panda bond issue in more than a decade, representing its largest-ever borrowing in an Asian local currency. The bond pays a 3.2% annual coupon and features a 5-year bullet maturity redeeming in March 2026. Chinese Currency will be used in Panda bond. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – raised \$307 million from its first panda bond issue in more than a decade
- Chinese Currency will be used in Panda bond
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

32. On March 16, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has set up a wholly-owned subsidiary namely PNB Cards & Services Ltd to manage its credit card business. The authorised capital of the company is Rs 25 Cr and the paid-up capital is Rs 15 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – set up a wholly-owned subsidiary namely “PNB Cards & Services Ltd”
- The authorised capital of the company – Rs 25 Cr | The paid-up capital – Rs 15 Cr
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

33. On March 16, International Air Transport Association (IATA) has signed up Standard Chartered Bank to provide a ‘Pay as you Go’ service to travel agents that replaces the traditional billing and settlement system. This EasyPay service will provide greater payment flexibility to travel agents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IATA + SCB = partnership to provide a ‘Pay as you Go’ service to travel agents for greater payment flexibility
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG & CEO – Alexandre de Juniac
- HQs of IATA India – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters

34. On March 16, Deutsche Bank and Continuum Energy Levanter Pte Ltd have executed the world's 1st Green Hedging Transaction, with a second party opinion based on a specially designed Green Hedge Framework. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deutsche Bank + Continuum Energy Levanter Pte = executed the world's 1st Green Hedging Transaction
- HQs of Deutsche Bank – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Christian Sewing | President – Karl von Rohr
- HQs of Deutsche Bank AG, India – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of Continuum Energy Levanter Pte – Mumbai, Maharashtra

35. On March 23, The SEBI has eased valuation rule of Perpetual Bonds. The residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will be 10 years until 31 March, 2022, and would be increased to 20 and 30 years over the subsequent 6-month period. From April 1, 2023, onwards, the residual maturity of AT-1 bonds will become 100 years from the date of issuance of the bonds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – eased valuation rule of ‘Perpetual Bonds’
- The residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will be 10 years – until 31 March, 2022
- The residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will become 100 years – from April 1, 2023
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

36. On March 24, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched “IOB Trendy”, a savings account customized for the growing millennial population in India by keeping their banking preferences in mind. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Overseas Bank – launched “IOB Trendy” - a customized savings account for millennial population
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta

37. On March 24, ICICI Bank is the first in India to introduce instant EMI facility called “EMI @ Internet Banking” on its internet banking platform. The Bank has tied up with BillDesk and Razorpay, leading online payment gateway companies to offer this facility. It enables customers to convert their high-value transactions up to Rs. 5 lakh into easy monthly installments (EMIs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – the 1st in India to introduce instant EMI facility called “EMI @ Internet Banking”
- ICICI Bank tied up with – BillDesk & Razorpay for this facility | EMIs for high-value transactions up to – Rs 5 lakh
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

38. On March 25, YES Bank has launched “YES Essence Plus” - a unique accelerator program to support women-led startups in partnership with SHEROES, the women-only social network. Over a 10-week period, the cohort startups will receive customised training through virtual workshops conducted by industry experts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + SHEROES = partnership to launch “YES Essence Plus” - a unique accelerator program to support women
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

39. On March 25, Niyox has launched “Niyox” - a mobile banking solution for millennials in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank and Visa. Niyox is aiming to on-board 2 million customers by the end of 2021. Addressing the banking needs of millennials, the Niyox is offering 007 banking’s features. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Niyox + Equitas SFB + Visa = partnership to launch “Niyox” - a mobile banking solution
- HQs of Niyox – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Vinay Bagri
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

40. On March 25, The Supreme Court of India has rejected the plea for further extension of the 6-month loan moratorium scheme that was issued by RBI. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan had reserved its verdict on these pleas on December 17, 2020. The Centre had waived the compound interest charged on certain categories of loans up to Rs 2 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The SC rejected the plea for further extension of the 6-month Loan Moratorium Scheme – issued by RBI
- The Centre waived the compound interest charged on certain categories of loans up to – Rs 2 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

41. On March 26, Karnataka Bank and IIFL Securities Limited have partnered to introduce “KBL Smart Trade”, a facility under which all Karnataka Bank customers can access IIFL Securities Demat and Trading account solution for their capital market needs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Bank + IIFL Securities Ltd = partnership to introduce “KBL Smart Trade”
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S.
- HQs of IIFL Securities Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Nirmal Jain

42. The RBI has set a deadline of March 31 for firms to submit their applications for setting up New Umbrella Entities (NUEs). As envisaged by the RBI, an NUE will be a non-profit entity that will set-up, manage and operate new payment systems, especially in the retail space such as ATMs, white-label PoS; Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI set a deadline for firms to submit their applications to set up New Umbrella Entities (NUEs) – by March 31
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

43. On March 22, The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹15 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (Fedfina), Mumbai, for non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI’s directions on monitoring of frauds. Fedfina is a subsidiary of Federal Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹15 lakh on – Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (Fedfina)
- HQs of Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (Fedfina) – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Anil Kothuri
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

44. On March 26, Union Bank of India has launched “UNI - CARBON CARD”, a Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI. This co-branded credit card is a Bank’s maiden joint venture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HPCL co-branded the contactless credit card “UNI - CARBON CARD” – launched by UBI
- HQs of HPCL – Mumbai, MH | CEO & Chairperson – Mukesh Kumar Surana
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”



45. On March 24, As per the Reserve Bank of India's new guidelines on amalgamation of two or more UCBs, A uni-State Urban Co-operative Bank (UCB) can metamorphose into a multi-State UCB through amalgamation with a uni-State bank registered in another State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released new guidelines on amalgamation of two or more Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

46. On March 26, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended restrictions on withdrawals and deposits in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank till 30 June, 2021. The RBI had imposed restrictions on PMC Bank in September 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended restrictions on withdrawals & deposits in the PMC Bank – till 30 June
- HQs of PMC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Administrator – A. K. Dixit
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

47. While attending the 6th annual meeting of Board of Governors of NDB, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that India is going to set up a new 'Development Financial Institution' with initial paid-up capital of around \$3 billion with a lending target of \$69 billion in next 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to set up a new 'Development Financial Institution' with initial paid-up capital of around \$3 billion
- India's lending target – \$69 billion in next 3 years

48. On March 26, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has capped the volume of transactions via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on Third Party App Providers (TPAPs) at 30%. This will be with effect from January 1, 2021. And the Providers have to comply with the market cap norms on UPI until December 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI capped the volume of transactions via UPI on Third Party Apps – at 30%
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

49. On March 30, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with nStore to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India. Under this partnership, the lender will offer a mobile application "nLincs" to its current account holders who own local businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ujjivan SFB + nStore = to take local kirana stores online with this new app "nLincs"
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Nitin Chugh
- HQs of nStore – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Pradeep Sampath



50. On March 30, RBL Bank has tied-up with Tide India, a UK-based banking fintech, to provide banking infrastructure for Tide's India platform focused on the SME segment. Tide India aims to acquire 25,000 customers in the first year of the launch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + Tide India = tie up to provide banking infrastructure for Tide's India platform focused on the SMEs
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja

51. On March 17, The RBI has set up the Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) for evaluating applications for universal and small finance banks. Shyamala Gopinath, former Deputy Governor, RBI, has been appointed as the chairperson of the SEAC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI set up the Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) to evaluate applications for Universal & SFBs
- Chairperson of the SEAC – Shyamala Gopinath
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

52. According to the RBI's Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21, the current inflation target of 4% with a +/-2% tolerance band is appropriate for the next 5 years. India has adopted the Flexible Inflation Target (FIT) framework in 2016 and the next review of the inflation target is due before March 31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21" – released by the RBI
- The current inflation target of 4% with a +/-2% tolerance band is appropriate for the next 5 years
- FIT – Flexible Inflation Target | FIT was adopted by India – in 2016
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

53. On March 1, Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga has presented the annual budget for the 2021-22 fiscal with an outlay of ₹11,148.90 Cr and no proposal to levy new taxes or raise existing rates. He has also presented the supplementary demands for grants for 2020-21 amounting to ₹3,058.08 Cr. Revenue expenditure for 2021-22 is estimated at ₹9,216.39 Cr. Rs 5 Cr has been set aside for the Rehabilitation of MNF (Mizo National Front) Returnees and Rs 400 Cr has been allocated for various activities of Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mizoram – presented the annual budget for the 2021-22 fiscal with an outlay of ₹11,148.90 Cr
- Rs 5 Cr – set aside for the Rehabilitation of MNF (Mizo National Front) Returnees
- Rs 400 Cr – allocated for various activities of Socio-Economic Development Policy
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

54. On March 1, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has presented a budget of Rs 97,106 Cr for 2021-22 in the Assembly. The budget defines the concept of development through the acronym "HEIGHT". In the budget, 38% provision is for the social sector, 39% for the economic sector and 23% for the general service sector. Besides, the main provisions of the budget are given below. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – presented a budget of Rs 97,106 Cr for 2021-22
- The concept of development through the acronym “HEIGHT”:
H-Holistic development, **E**-Education, **I**-Infrastructure, **G**-Governance, **H**-Health, **T**-Transformation
- Main provisions of the budget:
 - Setting up of rural industrial park in rural areas similar to ‘Pauni Pasari scheme’ in cities
 - Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Collector Social Security Scheme
 - Assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to journalists on accidental death due to accident
 - Lump sum assistance of Rs 5,000 to women under ‘Kaushalya Maternity Scheme’ on birth of second child girl
 - Mukhyamantri Dharsa Development Scheme
 - Provision of Rs 5 Cr 85 lakh for ‘Padhna Likhna Abhiyan Yojana’
 - Provision of Rs 5,703 Cr for ‘Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana’
 - Provision of Rs 175 Cr for ‘Godhan Nyaya Yojana’
 - Provision of Rs 100 Cr for ‘Mukhyamantri Sugam Sadak Yojana’
 - Provision of 13 Cr for the ‘Chief Minister Haat Bazar Clinic Scheme’
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

55. On March 2, Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB) and Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) have launched digital savings account opening facility through Video-Know Your Customer (KYC). Both banks are sponsored by SBI. They became first RRBs in India to adopt this tech that offers zero contact onboarding of customer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana GB + Andhra Pradesh GVB = became first RRBs in India to launch video-KYC facility
- Both banks are sponsored by – SBI
- HQs of TGB – Hyderabad, Telangana | HQs of APGVB – Warangal, Telangana
- Currently, total number of Regional Rural Banks (RRB) functioning across India – 43

56. On March 2, Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari has invited MSMEs to avail concessional debt finance to install rooftop solar for business efficiency. The MSME ministry along with SBI is working with World Bank on a \$100 million credit guarantee program to make financing accessible to unrated MSMEs. In 2016, The World Bank launched the “Solar Rooftop Financing Program” being implemented by the State Bank of India (SBI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSME ministry + SBI + World Bank = to launch a \$100 million (\$1 billion) Credit Guarantee Scheme
- World Bank + SBI = had launched the “Solar Rooftop Financing Program” in 2016
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



57. On March 3, Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Devda has presented a budget of ₹ 2,41,375 Cr for 2021-22 in the Assembly with no additional tax burden. An amount of ₹1.12 lakh Cr has been allocated for Socio-Economic Development schemes. ₹ 5,762 Cr has been allocated for providing tap water to households under the Jal Jeevan Mission. An amount of ₹3,200 Cr has been allocated under the CM's Farmers' Welfare Scheme (CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana) under which ₹4,000 are paid to each eligible farmer annually. A provision of ₹ 4,592 Cr has been made under the Atal Krishi Jyoti Yojana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – presented a budget of ₹2,41,375 Cr for 2021-22
- ₹1.12 lakh Cr – allocated for Socio-Economic Development schemes
- CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana: amount allocated – total ₹3,200 Cr | ₹4,000 / year – to each eligible farmer
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

58. On March 3, In Jharkhand, Finance Minister Dr. Rameshwar Oraon has presented the budget worth Rs 91,277 Cr for the year 2021-22 in the State Assembly at Ranchi. The breakup of budget includes a revenue expenditure of Rs. 75755.01 Cr and Capital Expenditure of Rs 15521.99 Cr. The honorarium of MNREGA workers has been increased and fixed at Rs 225. A provision has also been made in the budget for better education for the ST and SC students of the state by opening of new State Tribal University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – presented the budget worth Rs 91,277 Cr for the year 2021-22
- Announcements:
- The honorarium of MNREGA workers has been increased and fixed at Rs 225.
- A provision for better education for the ST and SC students by opening 'State Tribal University'.
- [Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu](#)

59. On March 3, Gujarat Finance Minister Nitin Patel has presented a revenue surplus budget with an Outlay of Rs 2,27,029 Cr for 2021-22, without new taxes or tinkering with existing rates. The Minister projected a revenue surplus of ₹588 Cr for the year 2021-22. Additionally, the Finance Minister also allocated ₹652 Cr for Statue of Unity Area Development and Rs 1,500 Cr for Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train Project. Announcement of a new scheme 'MASIHA' is also made to construct houses for labourers. 'Whale Shark Tourism' was promoted for providing employment in rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – presented the budget worth Rs 2,27,029 Cr for the year 2021-22
- Announcements:
- Rs 652 Cr for Statue of Unity Area Development
- Rs 1,500 Cr for Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train Project
- A new scheme 'MASIHA' to construct houses for labourers
- 'Whale Shark Tourism' promoted for providing employment in rural areas
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)



60. On March 3, Axis Securities has launched “YIELD” - an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market. With a simple investment process, YIELD is the first-of-its-kind initiative that aggregates only 'AAA' to 'A' rated quality debt instruments available for investment in the secondary market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Securities launched “YIELD” - an online platform to buy & sell bonds, debentures in secondary market
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

61. On March 3, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has signed an MoU with Our Food Pvt Ltd for arranging cost-effective processing units to farmers through the bank loan. Vendor will ensure supply, delivery and installation of high-quality, standardised and branded equipment/machinery as per the requirement of the farmer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVGB + Our Food Pvt Ltd = an MoU for arranging cost-effective processing units to farmers
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P Gopi Krishna
- Location Our Food Pvt Ltd – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

62. On March 3, Exim Bank, on behalf of the Indian government, has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of \$10.40 million (Rs 75.99 Cr) to the government of the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland) for the construction of disaster recovery site. Till date, Exim Bank has extended 3 LoCs to Eswatini, taking the total value to \$68.30 million. With the signing of this latest agreement, Exim Bank has now in place 270 LoCs, covering 62 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank – extended a LoC of \$10.40 million (Rs 75.99 Cr) – to Eswatini (Swaziland)
- Exim Bank has now total 270 LoCs, covering 62 countries
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982
- Eswatini (Swaziland) – Mbabane/Lobamba – Swazi lilangeni | King – Mswati III

Defence Affairs

1. On March 3, the Indian Air Force is for the first time participating in the annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise, “Desert Flag VI” hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force. The other countries taking part in the exercise scheduled from March 3 to 27 include Bahrain, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the U.S. Besides, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal R. K. S. Bhadauria has arrived in Colombo on a 2-day visit coinciding with the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF for the first time participated – in the “Desert Flag VI” exercise – hosted by the UAE
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Founded in – 1932
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

2. On March 2, The Army has decided to induct the first lot of 6,000 new Light Machine Guns (LMG) from Israel. These are part of the 16,497 “Negev” LMGs contracted from Israeli Weapons Industry (IWI) in March 2020. The first lot of 6,000 guns had arrived in Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Army decided to induct the first lot of 6,000 new “Negev” LMGs – from Israel
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

3. On March 4, The Special Forces Training School (SFTS) of the Indian Army, which is a unique institution providing training to the Indian Army's Special Forces, has commenced training of paratroopers from the Turkmenistan Special Forces in Combat Free Fall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army's Special Forces Training School is providing the training to the Turkmenistan Special Forces
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat | President – Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

4. On March 3, Indian Air Force Chief, Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria has arrived in Colombo to take part in celebrations and ceremonies to mark the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF). India's indigenous fighter aircraft the Tejas (LCA) Light Combat Aircraft will be taking part in the events to mark the SLAF anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria – arrived in Colombo to take part in the 70th anniversary of Sri Lankan Air Force
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

5. On March 8, The Indian Army has leased 4 Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) made by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for possible deployment along the 3,488-km India-China border. The lease period is for three years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army leased 4 Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – made by Israel
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

6. On March 9, The armies of Indian and Uzbekistan have conducted the 2nd edition of exercise namely “Dustlik-2” recreating Kashmir-like counter-terror operations between March 9 and 21 in Chaubatia near Ranikhet in Uttarakhand. The exercise is aimed at carrying out joint counter-terror operations in a mountainous rural and urban scenario. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd edition of exercise namely “Dustlik-2” – held between Indian & Uzbekistan – in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

7. On March 10, France has begun its first military exercises codenamed “AsterX” in space to test its ability to defend its satellites. Michel Friedling, the head of France's newly created Space Command, called the exercises a ‘Stress test of our Systems’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France – began its first military exercises codenamed “AsterX”
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

8. On March 9, The Indian Navy has signed a contract with Suryadipta Projects to construct 11 Ammunition-Cum-Torpedo-Cum-Missile (ACTCM) barges. Delivery of barges is scheduled to commence from May 22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Suryadipta Projects = a contract to construct 11 Ammunition-Cum-Torpedo-Cum-Missile Barges
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of Suryadipta Projects – Thane, Maharashtra | MD – Shyamashish Ghoshal

9. On March 12, The Indian Army is in the process of procuring Mobile Integrated Network Terminal (MINT) systems under Make II Category of DAP 2020. A total of 11 firms have been issued with the Project Sanction Order on 12 March 2021 for development of prototype. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – is in the process of procuring “MINT” systems under Make II Category of DAP 2020
- MINT – Mobile Integrated Network Terminal
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



10. In a major step, the Indian Navy has recently deployed 4 women officers onboard its warships after a gap of around 23 years when lady officers were posted for the first time on the maritime force's vessels. Two of them are posted on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya while two other are deployed on the tanker ship INS Shakti. For the first time in 1998, women officers started getting deployed onboard warships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy deployed 4 women officers onboard its warships after a gap of around 23 years (1st time in 1998)
- Two in INS Vikramaditya & Two in INS Shakti
- [Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar](#)

11. Indian Army has de-commissioned two of its longest serving Artillery systems. The Mahajan Field Firing Ranges witnessed the decommissioning ceremony marked by the customary firing of last salvos of the 130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns and the 160mm Tampella Mortars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army de-commissioned two of its longest serving Artillery systems
- Two Artillery systems – “130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns” & “160mm Tampella Mortars”
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

12. On March 16, India has commissioned its Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel called ‘INS Dhruv’. INS Dhruv will play a critical role in triangulating incoming ballistic missiles in conjunction with geostationary satellites and land-based radars. With this India has become the 5th Country to possess such a Tracking vessel after US, France, Russia & China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India commissioned its Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel called ‘INS Dhruv’
- India – 5th country to possess such a Tracking vessel (after US, France, Russia & China)

13. Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) has begun delivery of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kits to the Indian Army and the Air Force. KRAS is a joint venture (JV) of Kalyani Group and Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KRAS began delivery of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile kits to the Indian Army & the Air Force
- KRAS – a JV of Kalyani Group ([India](#)) & Rafael Advanced Defense Systems ([Israel](#))
- [HQs of Kalyani Group – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairperson – Baba Kalyani](#)

14. On March 18, Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility “L58”, the 8th and last ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mark IV Class, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair. It was indigenously designed and built by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE). Commander Krishan K. Yadav is appointed as the 1st Commanding Officer of the Ship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “L58” the 8th and last ship of the LCU ‘Mark IV Class’ – commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair
- It was indigenously designed and built by – GRSE

- The 1st Commanding Officer of the Ship – Krishan K. Yadav
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

15. On March 17, The US Navy will hold Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise alongside Belgium, France and Japan in the Mideast amid tensions over Iran’s nuclear programme in the region. The Exercise will see ships from 4 countries conduct drills in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US Navy – will hold Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise (alongside Belgium, France & Japan)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

16. On March 24, 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, Tamil Nadu. ICGS Vajra is the 6th vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in the year 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS Vajra – commissioned into service at Chennai, TN
- ICGS Vajra – 6th vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam

17. On March 25, 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) in the western Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The INS Shardul and Malagasy Naval Ship Trozona undertook the patrol. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Madagascar = conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) – in western IOR
- INS Shardul & Malagasy Naval Ship Trozona – participated in the patrol
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

18. French multinational Naval exercise “La Perouse” was scheduled from 5 to 7 April 2021 in the Bay of Bengal. Post conduct of La Perouse, the Indo-French Naval exercise “Varuna” is scheduled in the Western Indian Ocean, wherein UAE too shall be participating. It is for the first time that Indian warships shall be participating in La Perouse exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naval exercise “La Perouse” – in the Bay of Bengal (India participated for the first time)
- Naval exercise “Varuna” – in the Western Indian Ocean

19. On March 29, India and the US has begun a two-day Passage Exercise ‘PASSEX’ in Bay of Bengal (Eastern Indian Ocean Region). Indian Navy’s Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft ‘P8I’ participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with US Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = began a 2-day Passage Exercise ‘PASSEX’ in Bay of Bengal
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



20. Troops from Pune-headquartered Southern Command of the Indian Army have launched “Operation Thiruvallur” in Tamil Nadu for the safe disposal of at least 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance collected from the industrial sector in Thiruvallur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Southern Command of the Indian Army – launched “Operation Thiruvallur” in Tamil Nadu
- HQs of Southern Command – Pune, MH | Current commander – Jai Singh Nain
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

21. Indian Navy has undertaken Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Bahrain Naval Force Corvette Al Muharraq in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp. Maritime Security Operations, code-named ‘Op Sankalp’ was initiated in the Gulf region on June 19, 2019, in the aftermath of the attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Bahrain = undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Persian Gulf under ‘Operation Sankalp’
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

22. On March 20, The Union Defence Ministry has signed a Rs 1,188-Cr deal with the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of 4,960 Milan-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) to the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Defence Ministry + Bharat Dynamics = Rs 1,188-Cr deal for the supply of 4,960 Milan-2T ATGMs to Indian Army
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

23. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has paid an interim dividend of Rs 92.56 Cr to the Ministry of Defence. MDL has paid a total dividend of Rs 138.73 Cr to the government of India during FY 2020-21, including final dividend of Rs 46.17 Cr for FY 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders – paid an interim dividend of Rs 92.56 Cr to the Ministry of Defence
- HQs of MDL – Mumbai, MH | MD & Chairman – Narayan Prasad
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

24. On March 19, Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS) has received a contract of manufacturing 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles (LSV) worth ₹1,056 Cr. Light Specialist Vehicles will be inducted into the Indian Army's fleet in a phased manner over the next 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahindra Defence Systems – received a contract of manufacturing 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles (LSV)
- Worth – ₹1,056 Cr
- HQs of Mahindra Defence Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Schemes & Initiatives

1. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched 4 welfare schemes during the celebrations of the 644th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas. He launched “Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana” to select 1 lakh poor families having lowest family income through Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) portal. He also announced that the BPL families belonging to any category will be able to avail the benefits of “Dr B. R. Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna”. Under “Sant Mahapurush Vichar Samman and Prasaar Yojana”, a financial assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh will be provided to the social and religious organisations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched 4 welfare schemes during the celebrations of the 644th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas
- Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana
- Dr B. R. Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna
- Sant Mahapurush Vichar Samman and Prasaar Yojana
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

2. 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 Cr in Nainital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched “Gharoki Paachan Chelik Naam” (daughter’s name is a home’s identity) programme
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

3. On March 8, The Women and Child Development Ministry has classified all its major programmes under 3 umbrella schemes - Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, for their better implementation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Women and Child Development Ministry classified all its major programmes under 3 umbrella schemes:

Scheme	Particular	Amount allocated in 2021-22 budget
Mission Poshan 2.0	Strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach, and outcomes	Rs 20,105 Cr
Mission Shakti	One Stop Centre, Mahila police volunteer, Women's helpline, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana	Rs 3,109 Cr
Mission Vatsalya	Child protection services & Child welfare services	Rs 900 Cr

4. On March 9, On International Women's Day, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched “Super-75 scholarship scheme” to support the education of meritorious girls from poor families. Mission Youth will provide 10% of the project cost and will also pay the interest every year. The Lt Governor also announced a new scheme - “Tejaswini” under Mission Youth, to provide financial assistance of ₹5 lakhs to the girls between the age group of 18 to 35 years to start their business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – launched “Super-75 scholarship scheme” – to support the education of meritorious girls
- J & K – launched “Tejaswini” scheme for girls | Financial assistance – ₹5 lakhs | Age group – 18 to 35 years
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

5. On March 9, Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess. PMSSN will be administered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The proceeds of Health and Education Cess are levied under ‘Section 136-b’ of Finance Act, 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund
- The proceeds of Health and Education Cess are levied under ‘Section 136-b’ of Finance Act, 2007

6. On March 13, The Labour Ministry has launched the convergence of PM-JAY (Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana) with ESI (Employees State Insurance) Scheme. The convergence will ensure that 1.35 Cr ESI beneficiaries in 113 districts avail cashless medical services through empanelled hospitals of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Ministry launched the convergence of “PM-JAY” with “ESI Scheme”
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Constituency – Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

7. In a bid to empower women in rural Maharashtra, the state government has launched the “Mahasamruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran” scheme on March 8. The state Rural Development department is the nodal body for implementing the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched the “Mahasamruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran” scheme
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

8. On March 23, Irfan Ali, a 25-year-old man from Bihar's Gopalganj district, has received the 10th Cr card under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10 Cr cards – issued under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- Irfan Ali (Bihar) – received 10th Cr card under AB-PMJAY

9. On March 23, The Uttar Pradesh government will start the Affordable Rental Housing and Complexes (ARHC) scheme for poor people living in cities. The ARHC scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under ‘Self-reliant India’ campaign. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to start the Affordable Rental Housing and Complexes (ARHC) scheme
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

10. On March 26, Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched “Tribal TB Initiative” in pursuit of TB Mukht Bharat by 2025. He also announced that government accords top priority to ensuring Universal Access to free treatment and care for TB across the country. Dr Harsh Vardhan has also announced to link the ‘NIKSHAY’ Portal of MoHFW & ‘Swasthya’ Portal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – launched “Tribal TB Initiative” – in pursuit of TB Mukht Bharat
- Dr Harsh Vardhan – announced to link the ‘NIKSHAY’ Portal of MoHFW & ‘Swasthya’ Portal of MoTA
- **Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi)**

11. On March 24, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur has inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) at Latoo Village. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh – inaugurated the first “Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme” of KREDA – at Latoo Village
- **Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur**

12. In a move to turn the goal of ‘Health for All’ into reality, Rajasthan government has announced a cashless insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh under a universal health scheme ‘Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Yojna’ for all families of the state under BPL (Below Poverty Line), NFSA (National Food Security Act) & SECC categories (Socio-Economic Caste Census) from May 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan announced a universal health scheme ‘Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Yojna’
- A cashless insurance of up to – Rs 5 lakh (from May 1)
- **Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra**

13. On March 22, The Delhi government has launched the “Education Mentoring Programme” through its ‘Youth for Education’ initiative, which focuses on mentoring girls studying in Classes 9 to 12 in government schools. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – launched “Education Mentoring Programme” through its ‘Youth for Education’ initiative
- **Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev**



Sports & Games

1. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced that Odisha has hosted the 2020-2021 Hero Indian Women's League. India is set to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022 and then the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha has hosted – “2020-2021 Hero Indian Women's League”
- AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022 & FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup – will be hosted by India
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

2. The Sports Ministry has restored the recognition of the faction-ridden Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) after 10 years. The recognition has been granted for the period till 31st December 2021. The GFI was de-recognised by the ministry in 2011 because of infighting in the body. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – restored the recognition of Gymnastics Federation of India after 10 years (till 31st Dec 2021)
- The GFI was de-recognised – in 2011
- Sports Minister – Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- President of GFI – Sudhir Mittal

3. On March 3, Jammu and Kashmir has topped the medals tally in the 2nd edition of “Khelo India Winter National Games”. J&K won 11 Gold, 18 Silver & 5 Bronze medals. The event was e-inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event was organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “Khelo India Winter National Games” – held in Gulmarg, J & K
- J & K – topped the medals tally (11 Gold, 18 Silver & 5 Bronze)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

4. Indian shuttlers Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod have won the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the “2021 Uganda Badminton International Tournament” in Kampala. Sankar and Anupama had to settle for silver medals in the 4-day tournament which saw participation of shuttlers from India, Germany and African countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Varun Kapur ([Badminton](#)) – won men's singles title at “2021 Uganda Badminton International Tournament”
- Malvika Bansod ([Badminton](#)) – won women's singles title at “2021 Uganda Badminton International Tournament”
- HQs of Badminton Association of India – New Delhi | President – Himanta Biswa Sarma



5. On March 4, Kieron Pollard has become the 3rd batsman in the history of International Cricket to hit six 6s in an over after Herschelle Gibbs and Yuvraj Singh. He achieved the feat in the first T20I of the three-match series against Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kieron Pollard ([West Indies](#)) – became the 3rd batsman in the history of International Cricket to hit six 6s in an over
- Other two players are: Herschelle Gibbs ([South Africa](#)) & Yuvraj Singh ([India](#))

6. According to the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), the second ODI National Zone Cricket Championship League for the deaf was held from March 1 to 5. The 50-over tournament will be held at the MCG 2 & 3, Ghevara Cricket Ground, Kanjhwala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd ODI National Zone Cricket Championship League for the deaf – held from March 1 to 5
- [President of IDCA – Sumit Jain](#)

7. Indian boxer Deepak Kumar has won the silver medal at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. He lost a fiercely-contested flyweight (52kg) final. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepak Kumar ([Boxing](#)) – won the silver medal at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria
- [Bulgaria – Sofia – Lev | President – Rumen Radev](#)

8. The Mumbai City Football Club has won their first Indian Super League title. Mumbai City has completed a treble against ATK Mohun Bagan in this season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mumbai City FC – won their 1st Indian Super League title

9. On March 6, The India has defeated England in the 4th Test Match held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. With this, India has again qualified for the ‘Anthony de Mello Trophy’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – defeated England in the 4th Test Match held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- [‘Anthony de Mello Trophy’ – related to Cricket](#)

10. On March 8, India's ace shuttler P. V. Sindhu has won a silver medal in the “BWF Swiss Open Super 300” at Basel. She was defeated in the final by Spain’s Carolina Marin. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark has won men’s single title at Swiss Open. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. V. Sindhu (India-Badminton) – won Silver medal in the “BWF Swiss Open Super 300” at Basel
- Carolina Marin (Spain-Badminton) – won Gold medal in the “BWF Swiss Open Super 300” at Basel
- Viktor Axelsen (Denmark-Badminton) – won Gold medal in the men’s single title



11. A 14-member (8 men and 6 women) Indian contingent had participated in the 35th edition of the Boxam International Tournament. Manish Kaushik has clinched the Gold Medal in the men's 63 Kg category as Indian boxers concluded their impressive campaign at the "2021 Boxam International Tournament" with 10 medals in Castellon, Spain. The other five silver medals for the country were secured by Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (57), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Sumi Sangwan (81kg), and Satish Kumar (+91kg). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 14-member Indian contingent – won 10 medals in 35th "Boxam International Tournament" – in Castellon, Spain
- Manish Kaushik ([Indian Boxer](#)) – clinched the Gold Medal (men's 63 Kg category)

12. Indian Women's Trap Team trio Kirti Gupta, Manisha Keer and Rajeshwari Kumari (Shooters) won a Silver Medal in the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt after being defeated by Russia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Women's Trap Team – won a Silver Medal in the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt (winner – Russia)
- [HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin](#)
- [Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi](#)

13. On March 9, The National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) disciplinary panel has imposed sanctions on weightlifter Madhavan R for 4 years and boxer Ruchika for 2 years for violation of its code. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NADA imposed sanctions on Madhavan R (Weightlifter) & Ruchika (Boxer) – for 4 years & 2 years respectively
- [HQs of NADA – New Delhi | CEO – Navin Agarwal | Motto – Play Fair | Founded in – 2005](#)

14. On March 11, Captain of the India women's team, Mithali Raj has become the first woman cricketer from the country and only the second overall to score 10000 international runs. Mithali Raj is currently the second highest run getter in women's international cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mithali Raj ([Cricket](#)) – became the first woman cricketer from India to score 10000 international runs

15. On March 14, C. A. Bhavani Devi has become the first Indian fencer to qualify for the "2021 Tokyo Olympics". The sabre fencer secured a spot in the World Cup in Hungary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C. A. Bhavani Devi ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the "2021 Tokyo Olympics"

16. On March 16, India's skipper Virat Kohli has become the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T20 International. Kohli has achieved the milestone during the second T20I against England at Narendra Modi Stadium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli became the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T20Is
- [Narendra Modi Stadium \(world's largest cricket stadium\) – at Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat](#)

17. On March 12, International Boxing Association (AIBA) has announced that “Asian Boxing Championships 2021” will be hosted by New Delhi, India from May 21-31. It will be the first boxing tournament in Asia to be held in 2021. The 2019 edition of the “Asian Amateur Boxing Championships” has set a new record with 304 boxers participating from 34 countries. It was hosted by Bangkok, Thailand. India’s Amit Panghal & Pooja Rani had won Gold in the Tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asian Boxing Championships 2021” will be hosted – by New Delhi, India
- “Asian Amateur Boxing Championships” hosted – by Bangkok, Thailand
- Amit Panghal & Pooja Rani – won Gold in the “Asian Amateur Boxing Championships”
- HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev (from Russia)

18. On March 17, Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan has created a record as he bowled the most number of overs in a single Test in the 21st century. He surpassed Aussie spin legend Shane Warne’s record of 98 overs in a Test match against South Africa in Cape Town. Rashid ended up bowling 99.2 overs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rashid Khan (Afghanistan) – created a record of bowling the most number of overs in a single Test in the 21st century
- He has broken previous record of – Shane Warne
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

19. International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup 2021 was held from March 17 at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges in New Delhi. The season’s first World Cup was held in all three disciplines - shotgun, rifle, and pistol. The event will end on March 29. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “ISSF Shooting World Cup 2021” – held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges in New Delhi
- The season’s first World Cup was held in all 3 disciplines: Shotgun, Rifle & Pistol
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin

20. On March 18, The ICC has slapped 8-year bans on United Arab Emirates (UAE) cricketers Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt for their alleged role in trying to fix matches in the T20 World Cup qualifier in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Naveed & Shaiman Anwar Butt (Cricketers from UAE) – banned by ICC for 8 years
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

21. On March 18, Dhanalakshmi of Tamil Nadu has won a Gold medal in the 100-metre women’s final at the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dhanalakshmi – won a Gold medal in 100-metre women’s final at ‘Federation Cup Athletics 2021’ – in Patiala
- Dhanalakshmi (Tamil Nadu) – an Athlete (Sprinter)



22. On March 18, The seasoned Achanta Sharath Kamal has become the first Indian paddler to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games after a dominant win over Pakistan's Muhammad Rameez at the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament in Doha. It will be Kamal's fourth appearance at the Olympic Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Achanta Sharath Kamal ([Table Tennis](#)) – became the 1st Indian paddler to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games
- Muhammad Rameez ([Pakistan](#)) – [Table Tennis](#)
- Asian Olympic Qualification tournament was held in – Doha, Qatar

23. On March 17, Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has extended “Khelo India Scheme” from 2021-22 to 2025-26. An amount of Rs 8750 Cr has been estimated as financial implication of the new Khelo India Scheme. An amount of Rs 657.71 Cr has been allocated in the Budget Estimate (B.E.) for the year 2021-22 under the Khelo India Scheme. The first Khelo India Games were held in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – extended “Khelo India Scheme” to 2025-26 (from 2021-22)
- Rs 657.71 Cr – allocated in the Budget Estimate for FY22 under ‘Khelo India Scheme’
- The first Khelo India Games were held – in 2018
- [Sports Minister – Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West](#)

24. Manish Narwal has clinched the Gold medal in the P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 event at the “2021 Para Shooting World Cup”. This was India's second gold medal in the event after Singhraj claimed the yellow metal in P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event. India has bagged 7 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver & 4 Bronze) & finished at 3rd Position in the “2021 Para Shooting World Cup”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India bagged 7 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver & 4 Bronze) & stood at 3rd Position in “2021 Para Shooting World Cup”
- Manish Narwal & Singhraj ([Para Shooters](#)) – clinched Gold medals

25. On March 25, Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has included ‘Yogasana’ in “Khelo India Youth Games 2021” in a bid to develop it as a competitive sport. An International Yogasana Sports Federation was formed under the presidentship of yoga guru Baba Ramdev with HR Nagendra as secretary general in November 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – included ‘Yogasana’ in “Khelo India Youth Games 2021”
- President of International Yogasana Sports Federation – Baba Ramdev | Formed in – 2019
- [Sports Minister – Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West](#)

26. On March 25, The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay has kicked off in Fukushima, Japan. It will travel through all of the country's 47 prefectures over the next 121 days before arriving in Tokyo for the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony on July 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay” started from – Fukushima, Japan
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga](#)



27. India Legends emerged champions in the 1st edition of the “Road Safety World Series T20” after defeating Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs in the final. Total 7 countries had participated in the series. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India Legends – won the 1st edition of the “Road Safety World Series T20” (defeating Sri Lanka Legends)
- Total 7 countries participated in the series

28. On March 26, DY Patil Stadium (Navi Mumbai), TransStadia (Ahmedabad) and Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar) have been finalised as the three venues for the “2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament” to be hosted by India. India is also scheduled to host the next edition of the “FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup in 2022”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The “2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament” – to be hosted by India
- 3 venues: DY Patil Stadium (Navi Mumbai), TransStadia (Ahmedabad) and Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar)
- India will also host the “FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup in 2022”
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

29. On March 28, India has beaten England by 7 runs to win the ODI series 2-1. Virat Kohli has moved to 4th position in the “ICC T20 Batsman Rankings”. And Rohit Sharma ranked at the 14th. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won the 3-match ODI Series against England
- “ICC T20 Batsman Rankings”: Virat Kohli – 4th | Rohit Sharma – 14th

30. Mercedes Driver Lewis Hamilton has won a thrilling season-opening “Bahrain Grand Prix - 2021” defeating Max Verstappen. It was Hamilton’s first season-opening triumph since 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – won “Bahrain Grand Prix - 2021”
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives ‘Mercedes’

31. On March 26, A “Centre of Excellence in Hockey” will be set up in Uttar Pradesh. A 100-bed hostel for boys and girls, modern sports medicine and physiotherapy centres as well as top coaches would be part of the centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Centre of Excellence in Hockey” will be set up in – Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

32. India has continued its Gold rush at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi as the trio of Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker and Chinki Yadav have won the Gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event. Yashaswini Singh Deswal has won the Gold medal in the Women’s 10m Air Pistol event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yashaswini Singh Deswal – won the Gold medal in the Women’s 10m Air Pistol event – at ISSF World Cup
- Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker & Chinki Yadav – won the Gold medal in the Women’s 25m Air Pistol event
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin



33. India has ended with the highest-ever medal tally in “ISSF World Cup” with 30 Medals (15 Gold, 9 Silver, 6 Bronze). India was followed by the US & Italy in the medal tally with total 8 and 4 medals respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – topped the medal tally in “ISSF World Cup” with 30 Medals (15 Gold, 9 Silver, 6 Bronze)
- 2nd – US (8) | 3rd – Italy (4)

34. Mumbai batsman Aditya Tare has led his team with a 91-ball hundred as Mumbai went on to beat Uttar Pradesh and lifted their 4th Vijay Hazare Trophy. Prithvi Shaw became 1st player to score 800 runs in single edition. Uttar Pradesh batsman, Madhav Kaushik scored an unbeaten 158, the highest score by any player in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mumbai Team – lifted their 4th Vijay Hazare Trophy
- Prithvi Shaw – became 1st player to score 800 runs in single edition

35. Ireland wicketkeeper Gary Wilson has retired from International Cricket ending his 16-year international career to become head coach of North-West Warriors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gary Wilson (Ireland) – retired from International Cricket
- Ireland – Dublin – Euro | PM – Micheal Martin

36. On March 21, Yashaswini Deswal has won the first Gold medal for India in 10m pistol events at the ongoing “ISSF World Cup” in Delhi. She is one of India’s 15 Tokyo Olympics quota winners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yashaswini Deswal – won the first Gold medal for India in 10m pistol events – at the “ISSF World Cup” in Delhi
- Yashaswini Deswal (New Delhi) – Shooting

37. The Indian Style Wrestling Association of India (ISWAI) has officially been recognised as a National Sports Federation (NSF) by the Sports Ministry, making it eligible to receive fund and support from the government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – officially recognised “Indian Style Wrestling Association of India” as NSF
- HQs of ISWAI – New Delhi | Formed – 1958

38. On March 21, Malaysian shuttler Lee Zii Jia has defeated defending champion Viktor Axelsen to win the men's singles crown at the Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships while Japan's Nozomi Okuhara won the women's title for a second time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia) – won men's singles at the “Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships”
- Nozomi Okuhara (Japan) – won women's singles at the “Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships”



39. On March 19, Kamalpreet Kaur has qualified for Tokyo Olympics breaking national record in women's discus throw. Kamalpreet Kaur set a new national record of 65.06 metres. The Olympic qualification benchmark is 63.5 metres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kamalpreet Kaur – set a new national record of 65.06 metres in ‘Discus Throw’ & qualified for Tokyo Olympics

40. The ICC Women’s World Cup 2022 has announced its official song ‘Girl Gang’ by New Zealand singer Gin Wigmore. The song is from Wigmore’s fourth album Ivory released in 2017. The ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2022 will be held in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC Women’s World Cup 2022 – announced its official song ‘Girl Gang’ – by Wigmore ([New Zealand singer](#))
- ICC Women’s World Cup 2022 – to be held in New Zealand
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)

41. 3000 metre Steeplechaser Avinash Sable from Maharashtra has broken the National Record for the fifth time in his career clocking 8:20.20s and rewriting his previous best achieved in Doha which was 8:21:37s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Avinash Sable ([MH](#)) – broke the National Record for the 5th time (latest record in 3000m Steeplechase – 8:20.20s)
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)



Important Days & Dates

1. On March 1, the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) has celebrated its 9th Foundation Day at its Headquarter in New Delhi. Secretary, Border Management in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Sanjeeva Kumar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – 9th Foundation Day of Land Ports Authority of India
- HQs of LPAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Aditya Mishra (LPAI functions under Ministry of Home Affairs)

2. World Civil Defence Day is observed on March 1 annually, across the world. This day was integrated by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) in 1990. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the ICDO. This year, the theme is “Strong Civil Protection to Preserve the National Economy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – World Civil Defence Day
- Theme – “Strong Civil Protection to Preserve the National Economy”
- HQs of ICDO – Geneva, Switzerland

3. Zero Discrimination Day is observed annually on 1 March by the United Nations and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV & AIDS (UNAIDS) to celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life with dignity and equality. This year’s theme for Zero Discrimination Day is symbolised by a Butterfly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day – by UNAIDS
- This year’s theme is symbolised by – a Butterfly
- HQs of UNAIDS – Geneva, Switzerland | Executive Director – Winnie Byanyima

4. The Udupi District Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Centres Owners’ Association has observed ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’ on March 7. There are 40 Jan Aushadhi centres in Udupi district. The ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’ was observed for the third consecutive year. This year, the theme is “Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 7– 3rd ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’ | Theme – “Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi”

5. On March 1, the 45th Civil Accounts Day was celebrated in New Delhi. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest of the event. Comptroller and Auditor General G. C. Murmu, Expenditure Secretary Dr T. V. Somanathan and Controller General of Accounts Soma Roy Burman were present on the occasion among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – 45th Civil Accounts Day | Chief Guest of the event – Nirmala Sitharaman
- CAG – G. C. Murmu | Expenditure Secretary – T. V. Somanathan | CGA – Soma Roy Burman



6. On December 20, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to celebrate March 3 as World Wildlife Day. March 3 was chosen as World Wildlife Day as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed on the same day in 1973. This year, the theme is “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 3 – World Wildlife Day (since 2013)
- Theme – “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”

7. PM Narendra Modi has paid tribute to Morarji Desai on his 125th birth anniversary on February 28. Morarji Desai, a long-time Congress man, became the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India, after being elected Leader of the Janata Party in Parliament post the 1977 General Elections. He served as the 4th PM of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 28 – 125th birth anniversary of Morarji Desai (1st non-Congress PM & 4th PM of India)

8. March 4 is observed every year as National Safety Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) in India with the purpose of creating awareness among people with respect to safety measures. This year, the focus of National Safety Day is on road safety and the theme is “Sadak Suraksha” (road safety). A seminar and public function will be organized on the theme “Learn from Disaster and Prepare for a Safer Future”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 4 – 49th National Safety Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas)
- Theme – “Sadak Suraksha” (road safety)
- Seminar & public function – organized on the theme “Learn from Disaster and Prepare for a Safer Future”

9. On March 3, India has commemorated “Chabahar Day” on March 4 on the margins of the ‘Maritime India Summit-2021’ which is being held from March 2 to 4. The Chabahar port is a key connectivity project to boost trade ties among India, Iran, and Afghanistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 4 – “Chabahar Day” commemorated by India
- Chabahar Port – located in Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

10. International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8 every year. It was first organised in 1911 by the early 20th century Marxist from Germany Clara Zetkin. This year, the theme is “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 8 – International Women’s Day – by the UN
- Theme – “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”



11. The 52nd CISF Raising Day was observed this year on March 10. The CISF was set up under an act of the Parliament of India on March 1969 with strength of around 2,200 personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 10 – 52nd CISF Raising Day (set up in - 1969)
- HQs of CISF – New Delhi | Director – Subodh Kumar Jaiswal | Motto – ‘Protection & Security’

12. On March 8, the 3rd National Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) Day is observed on March 10. Gestational diabetes puts women at a greater risk for developing diabetes later in life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 10 – 3rd National Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) Day (1st in 2019)

13. The “World Kidney Day” is observed on March 11 with the theme of “Kidney health for everyone everywhere, living well with kidney disease”. The doctors are working to ensure back-up for patients and their care-givers during pandemics and similar challenging periods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 11 – “World Kidney Day”
- Theme – “Kidney health for everyone everywhere, Living well with Kidney Disease”

14. To honor the courageous and heroic deeds of the Great General of Assam, Chilarai's Birth Anniversary is observed as Bir Chilarai Divas every year across Assam on February 27. Bir Chilarai (1510-1571 AD) was a great general of the Koch Royal Dynasty of Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 27 – Bir Chilarai Divas – celebrated in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

15. On March 11, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has celebrated its 36th Inception Day. On the occasion, the Union Home Secretary presented medals to 3 NCRB officers and personnel during a brief Investiture Ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 11 – 36th Inception Day of NCRB
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Ram Phal Pawar | Established in – 1986

16. 14 March, proclaimed by UNESCO as “International Day of Mathematics” (IDM), was celebrated under the theme “Mathematics for a Better World”. The Day highlights the essential role played by this discipline in reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The 1st “Pi Day” was observed on 14th March 1988. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 14 – 2nd edition of “International Day of Mathematics” | “Pi Day”
- Theme – “Mathematics for a Better World”
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay



17. World Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on March 15 to protect the rights of consumers and to ensure that the consumers are not subjected to market abuse or social injustice that may undermine their rights. However, in India, National Consumers Right Day is observed on December 24 annually. This year, the theme is “Tackling Plastic Pollution”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 15 – World Consumer Rights Day
- Theme – “Tackling Plastic Pollution”
- National Consumers Right Day in India – December 24

18. International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on March 14. This year marked the 24th edition. This year, the theme is “Rights of Rivers”. The aim is to unite against the destruction of rivers, other water bodies and the ecologically fragile watershed areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 14 – 24th edition of International Day of Action for Rivers
- Theme – “Rights of Rivers”

19. India has observed “National Vaccination Day” or “National Immunisation Day” every year on March 16. It was first celebrated at the time when the National Pulse Polio vaccination drive was launched, in 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 16 – “National Vaccination Day” or “National Immunisation Day” (since - 1995)

20. The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has celebrated the 220th ‘Ordnance Factory Day’ on March 18, the three workers’ federations which are opposing the corporatisation of OFB have decided to observe it as ‘Save Ordnance Factories Day.’ The Day is observed to mark the foundation of the first Ordnance Factory at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 18 – 220th Ordnance Factory Day – by OFB
- The first Ordnance Factory at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801
- HQs of OFB – Kolkata, West Bengal | Chairman – Hari Mohan

21. March 18th marks the annual “Global Recycling Day” around the world. Global Recycling Day is organized and supported by the Global Recycling Foundation formed in October 2018. The theme for this year's Global Recycling Day is “Celebrating our Recycling Heroes”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 18 – Global Recycling Day
- Theme – “Celebrating our Recycling Heroes”



22. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Urban Forest Division Srinagar organized a programme to observe “Chinar Day” on March 15 at Shuhama Campus of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) to mark the importance of the Endangered tree. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 15 – “Chinar Day” – observed by Jammu & Kashmir
- Chinar Corps of Indian Army is also known as – 15 Corps
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

23. World Sleep Day is observed on the Friday before Spring Equinox every year. This year, World Sleep Day is celebrated on March 19. This year, the slogan for World Sleep Day is “Regular Sleep, Healthy Future”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 19 – World Sleep Day (since 2008)
- Slogan – “Regular Sleep, Healthy Future”

24. World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed each year on March 24 to raise awareness amongst the public about the debilitating health, social as well as economic consequences of tuberculosis. March 24 also marks the day on which Dr Robert Koch announced in 1881 that he had made the discovery of the bacterium which causes TB. This year the theme is “The Clock is Ticking”. India has set a target to end Tuberculosis by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – World Tuberculosis Day | Theme – “The Clock is Ticking”
- India’s Target to end Tuberculosis – by 2025

25. On March 24, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has greeted the Assam Rifles personnel and their families on the occasion of the 186th Raising Day of Assam Rifles. Raised in 1835 as the Cachar Levy, the Assam Rifles now is the oldest paramilitary force in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – 186th Raising Day of Assam Rifles
- HQs of Assam Rifles – Shillong, Meghalaya | Founded in – 1835 | Motto: “Sentinels of the North East”

26. The “International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members” was observed across the globe on 25th March. According to UN data, as of 15 March, 20 United Nations personnel are in detention. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 25 – “International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members” – by UN
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

27. The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery is celebrated every year on March 25. The theme for this year is “Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- March 25 – International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery – by UN
- Theme – “Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

28. On March 24, the U.N. has marked the “International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims”. It is a day designated to honor the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – Int. Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations & for Dignity of Victims
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

29. World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on March 27th by ITI centers and the international theatre community. World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute ITI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 27 – World Theatre Day (since 1961)
- HQs of ITI – Paris, France | Director-General of ITI – Tobias Biancone

30. Every year, millions of people across the planet turn off the lights between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm on the last Saturday in March, which is known as “Earth Hour”. The goal of this activity is to spread awareness about sustainability and climate change. This year “Earth Hour” was observed on March 27, 2021. It was started by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney in 2007. The theme of Earth Hour 2021 is “Climate Change to Save Earth”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 27 – “Earth Hour 2021” – by WWF
- Theme – “Climate Change to Save Earth”
- 1st Earth Hour was observed in Sydney – in 2007
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini | Established in – 1961

31. Rajasthan Diwas is observed on March 30th every year to commemorate the formation of the state. The state was formed on March 30th, 1949 & this year marks the 72nd foundation day of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 30 – 72nd foundation day of Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

32. Every year, World Piano Day is observed on the 88th day of the year (there being 88 keys on a conventional piano). So this year Piano Day falls on March 29th. The first Piano Day was in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 29 (88th day of the year) – “World Piano Day 2021”
- The first Piano Day was in – 2015



33. 23rd March is the day that commemorates the passage of the Pakistan Resolution by the Muslim League at its historic Lahore session in 1940. The day is observed as Pakistan Republic Day or Pakistan Resolution Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – Pakistan Republic Day or Pakistan Resolution Day
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

34. International Transgender Day of Visibility, held on March 31 every year since 2009, celebrates transgender individuals' contributions to society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 31 – International Transgender Day of Visibility (since 2009)

35. Every year March 20 is observed as “World Sparrow Day” to raise awareness about the bird. The need for marking this day was felt due to the tremendous decrease in its population. The house sparrow is on the verge of extinction. The initiative was started by Nature Forever Society (NFS) of India. This year, the theme is “I Love Sparrows”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Sparrow Day (since 2010)
- Theme – “I Love Sparrows”

36. World Oral Health Day is observed every year on March 20 with the purpose of spreading awareness about the importance of maintaining oral hygiene. The theme for the next three years is “Be proud of your mouth”. The Campaign theme is “2021-2023”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Oral Health Day
- Theme – “Be proud of your mouth” | Campaign theme – “2021-2023”

37. The International Day of Happiness is observed every year all over the world on March 20 to highlight the importance of happiness in the diurnal lives of people. This year, the theme is “Happiness For All, Forever”. The World Happiness Report 2021 which was released by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. India ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – International Day of Happiness (since 2013)
- Theme – “Happiness For All, Forever”
- India's rank according to “World Happiness Report 2021” – 139th | Top – Finland | Last – Afghanistan

38. “International Astrology Day” was observed on March 20th this year. The Day is celebrated with great passion amongst the Vedic astrology followers as well as western astrologers. In the year 1993, the association for astrological networking declared the International Astrology Day which varies from March 19 to match 22. It is observed on the ‘Spring Equinox’ every year. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- March 20 – International Astrology Day 2021 (since 1993)
- It is observed on the ‘Spring Equinox’ every year

39. Every year, March 20 is observed as World Frog Day to celebrate the existence of these tailless amphibians. The day was first observed in 2009 with an aim to raise awareness of the different species of frogs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Frog Day (since 2009)

40. Every year, French Language Day is celebrated on March 20. Spoken in more than 25 countries, French developed from Latin between the 5th and 8th centuries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – French Language Day

41. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has celebrated its 82nd Anniversary on March 19. It was on this day in 1950 that the then Home Minister, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel presented colours to the CRPF after the CRPF Act was enacted and the force rechristened to its present name. The CRPF was raised in 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 19 – 82nd Raising day of CRPF
- Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel presented colours to the CRPF – in 1950
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldip Singh | Formed – 1939 | Motto – Service & Loyalty

42. Bihar has observed its 109th foundation day on March 22. Every year on March 22, the state observes ‘Bihar Diwas’ or ‘Bihar Day’ and a public holiday since 2010. The state government has decided “Jal Jeevan Hariyali” as the theme of this year's celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 22 – 109th foundation day of Bihar or ‘Bihar Diwas’ (since 2010)
- Theme of this year’s celebrations – “Jal Jeevan Hariyali”

43. The United Nations has observed March 21 as the “International Day of Forests”, commemorating the green cover around the world and reiterating its importance. This year, the theme is “Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – International Day of Forests (since 2012)
- Theme – “Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being”

44. The UNESCO has come up with “World Poetry Day” that is celebrated on March 21. UNESCO adopted this on March 21 in its 30th General Conference held in Paris in the year 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Poetry Day – by UNESCO



45. World Water Day is observed annually across the globe on March 22 with the purpose of highlighting the importance of water and raising awareness about the water crisis. According to the United Nations (UN) website, the main focus of the day is to support the achievement of sustainable development goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. This year, the theme is “Valuing Water”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 22 – World Water Day | Theme – “Valuing Water”
- Aim: To support the achievement of SDG 6: Water & Sanitation for all by 2030

46. On March 21, the world celebrates “International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination” to create awareness about the impacts of racial discrimination. This year, the theme is “Youth standing up against racism”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Theme – “Youth standing up against racism”

47. World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21 every year, with an aim to spread awareness about the Down syndrome. The syndrome is also called ‘Trisomy 21’. #LotsOfSocks campaign was conducted for this. The campaign theme is “#CONNECT”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day | Campaign conducted – #LotsOfSocks campaign
- Campaign theme – “#CONNECT”

48. The World Puppetry Day was recently observed across the globe on March 21 to promote the puppetry arts. The Day was launched by UNIMA in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Puppetry Day
- The Day was launched by UNIMA in 2003

49. The Communist Party of India urged the Union government to declare March 23 (Shaheed Diwas) - the martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh and his comrades, as “Inquilab Diwas” to be marked with a national public holiday. This year is the 90th anniversary of martyrdom of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – Shaheed Diwas / Martyr’s day / Inquilab Diwas
- 90th anniversary of martyrdom of freedom fighters – Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev & Rajguru
- January 30 – Martyr’s day (death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)

50. World Meteorological Day 2021 is celebrated on March 23 every year. This year, the theme is “The Ocean, our Climate and Weather”. The World Meteorological Organisation or WMO was established on March 23 in the year 1950. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- March 23 – World Meteorological Day
- Theme – “The ocean, our climate and weather”
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Pune International Centre (PIC) have jointly convened the 5th “Asia Economic Dialogue 2021” (AED 2021). The theme for this year's conference is “Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics”. The conference was addressed by External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MEA + Pune Int. Centre = convened the 5th “Asia Economic Dialogue 2021” (addressed by - S. Jaishankar)
- Theme of the conference – “Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics”

2. On March 1, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Global Bio-India-2021” in New Delhi. The 3-day event will showcase the strength and opportunities of the India's biotechnology sector at national level and to the global community. The theme for this year is “Transforming lives” with the tag line “Biosciences to Bio-economy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Global Bio-India-2021” in New Delhi
- Theme – “Transforming lives” | Tagline – “Biosciences to Bio-economy”

3. The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins was inaugurated by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as Chief Guest. It was held at New Delhi as Hybrid event from 24th to 27th February 2021. ICOLD is organising Symposium on “Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “ICOLD Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins” as Hybrid event – at New Delhi
- Chief Guest – Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- HQs of ICOLD – Paris, France | President – Michael Rogers

4. Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr D V Sadananda Gowda has inaugurated the 6th Edition of “India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021”. It was jointly organised by Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, FICCI & Invest India on 25-26 February & 1-2 March 2021. The theme for this year India Pharma is “Indian Pharma Industry: Future is Now” and for India Medical Device is “India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D V Sadananda Gowda – inaugurated the 6th Edition of “India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021”
- It was jointly organised by = Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers + FICCI + Invest India
- Theme for India Pharma – “Indian Pharma Industry: Future is Now”
- Theme for India Medical Device – “India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance”

5. On March 2, The Government of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and UN-based Better Than Cash Alliance have hosted “Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat” with special focus on Himalayan Regions, North East Regions and Aspirational Districts of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Gov + FICCI + Better Than Cash Alliance = hosted “Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat”
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy
- HQs of Better Than Cash Alliance – New York, US | MD – Ruth Goodwin-Groen

6. On March 4, TEPC (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council) has organized ‘India Telecom 2021’ - an Exclusive International Business Expo being held virtually on March 3 & 4, 2021 under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce. This annual event was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre – inaugurated ‘India Telecom 2021’ - an Exclusive International Business Expo
- This annual event was organized by – TEPC (New Delhi)
- MoS for Communications, Education and Electronics & Information Technology – Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre

7. On March 6, PM Narendra Modi has held a virtual summit with his Sweden counterpart Stefan Lofven to exchange views on regional and global issues and to discuss the bilateral relations between the two countries. This was the fifth interaction between the two leaders since 2015 in which they decided to establish a “Sweden-India Health Hub” at AIIMS-Jodhpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – held a Virtual Summit with his Sweden counterpart Stefan Lofven
- India + Sweden = decided to establish a “Sweden-India Health Hub” – at AIIMS-Jodhpur
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Kjell Stefan Lofven

8. PM Narendra Modi has addressed a conference of India's top military leadership in Gujarat’s Kevadia on March 6, which will also see the participation of jawans and junior commissioned officers (JCOs) for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi addressed a conference of India's top military leadership – in Kevadia, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

9. At the invitation of National Security Adviser Shri Ajit K. Doval, the National Security Adviser of Nigeria Major General (Retd.) Babagana Monguno has visited India (New Delhi) for the First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue between India and Nigeria at the level of NSA from March 4-5, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The First Strategic & Counter-Terrorism Dialogue – held between India & Nigeria
- National Security Adviser of India – Shri Ajit K. Doval
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhar

10. On the occasion of 30th foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) on March 8, Sanjay Dhotre has inaugurated the International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing (MEMP 2021) at Pune. India's share in global electronics manufacturing increased from 1.3% in 2012 to 3.6% in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 8 – 30th foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology ([Pune](#))
- Sanjay Dhotre – inaugurated International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing – at Pune
- [MoS for Ministry of Education – Sanjay Dhotre](#)

11. The first Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was held under India's Chairmanship from 9th to 11th March. The theme of BRICS this year is "BRICS at 15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues – held under India's Chairmanship
- Theme – "BRICS at 15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation & Consensus"
- [BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India](#)

12. On March 10, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has inaugurated the South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in New Delhi. India is taking lead to promote regional approach to energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh Vardhan Shringla – inaugurated SAGE at Research & Information System for Developing Countries – in ND
- [Foreign Secretary of India – Harsh Vardhan Shringla](#)

13. Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan has addressed the 2nd edition of "TechBharat 2021". The E-Conclave brings together stakeholders from the HealthTech & Edutech sector on a virtual platform. In the Union Budget 2021-22, the highest ever funding for health and well-being was allocated which is ₹2,23,846 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed the 2nd edition of "TechBharat 2021"
- Funding allocated for health and well-being in the Union Budget 2021-22 – ₹2,23,846 Cr

14. On March 17, The 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually on 16th March, 2021. Led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, the event witnessed participation of Ministers and officials responsible for Women Affairs of IBSA Countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting – held on 16th March
- The event was led by – Ministry of Women and Child Development
- India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum was established – in 2007
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro](#)
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

15. On March 16, India's PM Narendra Modi and PM of the Republic of Finland Ms. Sanna Marin have held "India-Finland Virtual Summit" and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral issues as well as other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Wipro and Tech Mahindra are collaborating with Finnish companies to develop 5G and 6G technologies for use in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi + Ms. Sanna Marin = participated in "India-Finland Virtual Summit"
- Wipro + Tech Mahindra = collaborating with Finnish companies to develop 5G and 6G technologies
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

16. On March 17, Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers D. V. Sadananda Gowda has inaugurated the 11th Edition of "India Chem 2021" in New Delhi with the theme "India: Global Manufacturing hub for Chemicals and Petrochemicals". Government has launched 12 PLI scheme for different sectors which will directly or indirectly benefit the chemicals sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D. V. Sadananda Gowda – inaugurated the 11th Edition of "India Chem 2021" – in New Delhi
- Theme – "India: Global Manufacturing hub for Chemicals and Petrochemicals"

17. On March 23, Sanjay Dhotre has represented India at the "World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021" that represents one of the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community. It is co-organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Dhotre – represented India at the "World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021"
- It is co-organized by = ITU + UNESCO + UNDP + UNCTAD

18. On March 24, India and the U.S. have agreed to re-establish the "US-India Homeland Security Dialogue". The first Homeland Security Dialogue between the two countries was held in 2011 when Janet Napolitano, Barack Obama's DHS Secretary visited New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = to re-establish the "Homeland Security Dialogue" (the 1st dialogue was held in 2011)
- India's Ambassador to the US – Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- US Defence Secretary – Lloyd Austin
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

19. On March 23, The Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi as a part of the 116th meeting of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The IWT was signed in 1960. Pakistan raised objections on the 1000MW Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project built over Marusudar river. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 116th meeting of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) – held between India & Pakistan
- Pakistan raised objections on the 1000MW Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (built over Marusudar river)
- The IWT was signed in – 1960
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

20. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has addressed the “India TB Summit”. Last year, the government disbursed more than ₹ 249.43 Cr to over 11.10 lakh patients as nutrition support under Nikshay PoshanYojana. The theme for the summit is “Reimagining TB Care in India”. India targets to end Tuberculosis by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – addressed the “India TB Summit”
- Theme – “Reimagining TB Care in India”
- India’s target to end Tuberculosis – by 2025

21. Dr Harsh Vardhan has addressed the 7th annual summit of “NATHEALTH” focusing on the theme “Indian Health System Expansion in post-COVID Era”. It was organized by NATHEALTH - Healthcare Federation of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed the 7th annual summit of “NATHEALTH”
- Theme – “Indian Health System Expansion in post-COVID Era”

22. Russia has hosted a peace conference for Afghanistan. The one-day gathering is the first of three planned international conferences ahead of a May 1 deadline for the final withdrawal of U. S. and NATO troops from the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia hosted a peace conference for Afghanistan
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

23. On March 18, the decision to hold the joint exercise “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021” was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. India, Pakistan, China and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021” this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) – held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- SCO members will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021”
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- SCO member countries (8): China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan





Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. On March 9, Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel has inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra' at Rabindra Bhavan Galleries of Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prahlad Singh Patel – inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra' – in New Delhi
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. PM Narendra Modi has received the “CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award” on March 5. He has also delivered the keynote address at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week (CERAWeek) 2021. Notably, CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Dr Daniel Yergin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – received the “CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award”
- CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Dr Daniel Yergin

2. The 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021 has recently taken place in a Hybrid Format. American drama film “Nomadland” has won the “Golden Globes 2021 Award” for ‘Best Motion Picture - Drama’. The drama film is directed, written and edited by Chloe Zhao. The other awards were given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021 – took place in a Hybrid Form

Category	Winner
Best Motion Picture Drama	‘Nomadland’ (America)
Best Director (Motion Picture)	Chloe Zhao (for Nomadland)
Best Actress (Motion Picture Drama)	Andra Day
Best Actor (Motion Picture Drama)	Chadwick Boseman
Best Picture (Musical/Comedy)	Borat Subsequent Moviefilm

3. On March 2, Sayragul Sauytbay, a human rights activist and survivor from China's Xinjiang, has been awarded the “2021 Nuremberg International Human Rights Award”, for highlighting the human rights abuses being meted to ethnoreligious minorities in the country's western region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sayragul Sauytbay – awarded the “2021 Nuremberg International Human Rights Award”

4. On March 5, India’s 3 premiere engineering institutions IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras have made it to the list of 100 top engineering institutions worldwide, as per the latest “QS World University Rankings 2021”. IIT Bombay has grabbed the best ever 49th rank whereas IIT Delhi stood at 54th in the ranking. And IIT Madras has ranked 94. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA has again emerged as the best global institution for engineering students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Bombay (49th), IIT Delhi (54th) & IIT Madras (94th) – featured in top 100 of the “QS World University Rankings 2021”
- The list is topped by – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

5. On March 2, Mohankrishna Bohara has been awarded the 30th Bihari Puraskar Award for his critical work ‘Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya’. The Bihari Puraskar is one of the three literary awards instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991. The award carries a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, a plaque and a citation. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Mohankrishna Bohara – received the 30th Bihari Puraskar Award
- ‘Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya’ by – Mohankrishna Bohara

6. On March 4, As per Confederation of Indian Industry’s IGBC ratings, Indian Railways’ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) becomes the first railway station in Maharashtra to be awarded with Gold certification. Various green initiatives have been implemented across the Central Railway zone with the installation of solar panels, plantation, passenger-friendly initiatives at many railway stations, LED bulbs, lights, etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (MH) – 1st in Maharashtra to be awarded with ‘IGBC Gold certification’
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

7. On March 6, As many as 40 scholars from 6 countries have been awarded with “Indian Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021” to carry out their research in Indian Institutes and Universities by the Government of India. The ISRF has been implemented since 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 40 scholars from 6 countries – awarded with “Indian Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021”

8. On March 6, Bangladesh has announced the names of 9 individuals and one organization for conferring the ‘Swadhinta Puraskar’, the highest civilian award of Bangladesh for the year 2021. The award has been given since 1977 ahead of the Independence Day of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh – announced names of 9 individuals and one organization for conferring the ‘Swadhinta Puraskar’
- Swadhinta Puraskar’ – the highest civilian award of Bangladesh since 1977
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

9. On March 8, Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan was presented the “Top 20 Global Women of Excellence Award for 2020” at the 9th Congressional International Women’s Day Gala at Naperville, Illinois. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamilisai Soundararajan – received “Top 20 Global Women of Excellence Award for 2020”

10. On March 8, The former Puducherry lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi has received a “Baton of Honor” decorated with the emblem of the Indian Republic and a letter of appreciation from President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Bedi – received a “Baton of Honor” – from President Ram Nath Kovind

11. On March 8, Petra Kvitova has won the women’s singles “Qatar Open title 2021”. It was her second Qatar Open title & 28th career title from 38 finals played. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic) – won the women’s singles “Qatar Open title 2021” (28th Career Title)
- Czech Republic – Prague – Koruna | President – Milos Zeman



12. On March 10, After Vinesh Phogat has grabbed the 53kg Gold medal, Bajrang Punia has won the Gold medal in the final of the men's 65kg event at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series in Rome, Italy. With this, he has become the World Number 1 in the 65 Kg category. The 14-member Indian Wrestling Contingent has won total 8 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver, 5 Bronze). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajrang Punia ([Wrestler](#)) – won Gold medal in men's 65kg at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series in Rome, Italy
- Vinesh Phogat ([Wrestler](#)) – won Gold medal in women's 53kg at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series
- 14-member Indian Wrestling Contingent won total 8 medals (2 Gold + 1 Silver + 5 Bronze)

13. On March 9, Chess player Koneru Humpy has won the 2nd edition of “BBC India Sportswoman of the Year award for 2020”. The award was based on a public vote in which Humpy beat sprinter Dutee Chand, shooter Manu Bhaker, wrestler Vinesh Phogat and hockey captain Rani Rampal. Humpy became the Youngest Grandmaster in 2002 at the age of 15. She has received the Arjuna Award in 2003 and the Padma Shri in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Koneru Humpy ([Andhra Pradesh-Chess](#)) – won the 2nd “BBC India Sportswoman of the Year award - 2020”
- Manu Bhaker ([Shooting](#)) | Vinesh Phogat ([Wrestling](#)) | Rani Rampal ([Hockey](#))

14. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has received the prestigious “King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award” by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Ms Suchitra Durai, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Thailand received the award on behalf of the ICAR in a ceremony in Bangkok. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suchitra Durai – received the “King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award” by the FAO (on behalf of ICAR)
- Ms Suchitra Durai – Ambassador of India to Thailand
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

15. On March 11, 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. This year FIAF celebrates the 20th anniversary of its annual Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amitabh Bachchan – to be honoured with 20th edition of “International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF)” award
- HQs of FIAF – Brussels, Belgium

16. On March 11, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as the Men's Player of the Month (February) while England opening batter Tammy Beaumont is named as Women's Player of the Month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravichandran Ashwin – named as the Men's Player of the Month (February) – by ICC
- Tammy Beaumont ([England-Cricket](#)) – named as the Women's Player of the Month (February) – by ICC
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney

17. On March 8, Mahamadou Issoufou (President of Niger) has been awarded the “2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership”. The prize has been awarded since 2007 by the foundation set up by British-Sudanese telecoms tycoon Mo Ibrahim. Issoufou is the 6th recipient of the award. Winners receive \$5m over 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahamadou Issoufou (Niger) – awarded the “2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership”
- A winner receives \$5m over 10 years

18. On March 11, Actor Deepika Padukone and several Indian citizens and India-origin persons have joined the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum. The Forum of Young Global Leaders was founded in 2005 by Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – joined the list of the “Young Global Leaders (YGLs) - 2021” compiled by WEF
- HQs of WEF – Coligny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab | Founded in – 1971

19. On March 13, Politician-writer M. Veerappa Moily and poet Arundhati Subramaniam are among 20 writers who will be bestowed with the “Sahitya Akademi Award 2020”. While Subramaniam won the award for her poetry collection “When God is a Traveller” in English, Moily was named for his epic poetry titled “Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam” in Kannada. The Akademi has named Gian Singh (Dogri) and Jetho Lalwani (Sindhi) the winners for their plays, while Shankar (Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay) in (Bengali) received the award for his memoir “When God is a Traveller”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sahitya Akademi Award 2020”:
 - M. Veerappa Moily – for his epic poetry titled “Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam” in Kannada
 - Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay – for his book “Eka Eka Ekasi” in Bengali
 - Arundhati Subramaniam – for her poetry collection “When God is a Traveller” in English

20. On March 15, Beyonce has set a new record at the “Grammys Awards 2021” by becoming the only female artist to ever win 28 Grammy awards. She has surpassed Alison Krauss to become the most decorated female act in Grammy history. Other winners are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Beyonce – set a new record at the “Grammys Awards 2021” (the only female artist to win 28 Grammy awards)
- She is an American singer-songwriter
- Full list of winners:

Category	Winner
Record of the year	“Everything I Wanted” by Billie Eilish
Album of the year	“Folklore” by Taylor Swift
Best R&B performance	“Black Parade” by Beyonce
Best Pop Vocal Album	“Future Nostalgia” by Dua Lipa
Best Rap Song	“Savage” by Megan Thee Stallion
Song of the year (Songwriter's award)	“I Can't Breathe” by H.E.R., Dernst Emile II & Tiara Thomas
Best Pop Solo Performance	“Watermelon Sugar” by Harry Styles
Best Country Album	“Wildcard” by Miranda Lambert



21. On March 17, French architects Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal have won the “Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021”, considered to be the profession’s highest honour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal (France) – won the “Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021”
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

22. On March 18, The U. S. Consulate has 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 Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gowsalya Shankar (TN) – honored with the “International Woman of Courage 2021 Award”
- ‘Courageous Women Inspire a Better World’ event – held in Chennai
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

23. On March 23, Esaf Small Finance Bank has been awarded “Great Place to Work” certification by the Great Place to Work Institute. This recognition acknowledges the bank’s commitment and credibility amongst its employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Esaf SFB – awarded “Great Place to Work” certification
- HQs of Esaf SFB – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – K. Paul Thomas

24. On March 24, Well known Hindi writer Prof Sharad Pagare will be conferred with the prestigious “Vyas Samman - 2020” for his novel “Patliputru Ki Samragi”. The Vyas Samman, started in 1991, is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sharad Pagare – to be conferred with “Vyas Samman - 2020” for his novel ‘Patliputru Ki Samragi’
- Vyas Samman is given by – K. K. Birla Foundation | It was started in – 1991 | Given for – Literary work in Hindi

25. On March 24, With a wealth of Rs 44,270 Cr, Mangal Prabhat Lodha of Macrotech Developers (Lodha Group) topped the list of richest real estate tycoons for the fourth year in a row. According to “GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2020”, his wealth has increased by 39% in 2020. He was followed by Rajiv Singh of DLF at second and Chandru Raheja & family at third. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2020”
- 1st – Mangal Prabhat Lodha (Macrotech Developers - Lodha Group)
- 2nd – Rajiv Singh (DLF)
- 3rd – Chandru Raheja & family (K Raheja)

26. The Maharashtra government has announced that singer Asha Bhosle has been selected for the “Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2020”, the State government’s highest honour. The award carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation. The award was instituted in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Asha Bhosle – selected for the “Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2020”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

27. On March 25, HDFC Bank was adjudged the ‘India’s Best Bank for SMEs’ at the “Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021” for the transformation of its MSME business over the past few years. Kotak Mahindra Bank was awarded with the award for Best Domestic bank while DBS Bank was awarded with Best International bank and Best corporate & investment bank 2021. Axis Bank was adjudged Best Digital bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021”

Bank	Award Category
HDFC Bank	India’s Best Bank for SMEs
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Best Domestic bank
DBS Bank	Best International bank Best Corporate & Investment bank
Axis Bank	Best Digital bank

28. On March 23, Kerala’s Tuberculosis Eradication Programme has won National Honour as the state bagged the Union government's award for reducing the prevalence of the disease through various systematic initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala’s Tuberculosis Eradication Programme – won National Honour from Union government
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

29. On March 23, A team of four undergraduate students from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-K) emerged as winners at the “CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0”. It was sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI and IA: Interior Architects. The team will be awarded \$5,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A team from IIT Kharagpur – won the “CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0” | Prize - \$5,000
- It will be sponsored by – Cushman & Wakefield + KI & IA: Interior Architects

30. American author Carmen Maria Machado has won the “Rathbones Folio Prize” for her memoir, “In the Dream House”. The Rathbones Folio Prize is a literary award that was backed by London-based publisher The Folio Society in the initial two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carmen Maria Machado (USA) – won the “Rathbones Folio Prize” for her memoir - “In the Dream House”

31. On March 26, 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. Tom Zoellner's "Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire" won for nonfiction. The award was given in total 6 categories as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Book Critics Circle prize:

Category	Winner
Fiction	"Hamnet" – by Maggie O'Farrell
Nonfiction	"Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire" – by Tom Zoellner
Biography	"Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World" – by Amy Stanley
Autobiography	"Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning" – by Cathy Park Hong
Poetry	"Here Is the Sweet Hand" – by Francine J. Harris
Criticism	"Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration" – by Nicole Fleetwood

32. On March 28, Prakash Javadekar congratulates Mahinder Giri for winning IUCN's "International Ranger Award" for his contribution towards conservation. He is range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahinder Giri – received IUCN's "International Ranger Award"
- Rajaji Tiger Reserve – Uttarakhand
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang

33. On March 28, The 66th Vimal Elaichi "Filmfare Awards 2021" took place at the Goregaon Filmcity, Mumbai. The Awards ceremony was hosted by Rajkummar Rao and Riteish Deshmukh. The complete list of winners for the 66th Vimal Elaichi Filmfare Awards 2021 is given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- List of winners at the 66th Vimal Elaichi "Filmfare Awards 2021":

Category	Winner
Best Film	Thappad
Best Director	Om Raut – for 'Tanhaji'
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Irrfan Khan for 'Angrezi Medium'
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Taapsee Pannu for 'Thappad'
Best Film (Critics)	'Eeb Allay Ooo'
Best Actor (Critics) Male	Amitabh Bachchan for 'Gulabo Sitabo'
Best Story	Thappad
Lifetime Achievement Award	Irrfan Khan
Best Music Album	Pritam - 'Ludo'



34. On March 25, Harsh C. Mariwala (Chairman of Marico) has been named the “EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020”. Awards were also announced for 8 other categories. Byju Raveendran was conferred with the “Business Transformation Award”. Prathap Chandra Reddy was felicitated with the “Lifetime Achievement Award”. Peyush Bansal was conferred the “Manufacturing category Award”. Suresh Narayanan was honoured as the “Entrepreneurial CEO”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh C. Mariwala – conferred with the “EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020”
- Byju Raveendran – conferred with the “Business Transformation Award”
- Prathap Chandra Reddy – conferred with the “Lifetime Achievement Award”
- Peyush Bansal – conferred with the “Manufacturing category Award”
- Suresh Narayanan – conferred with the “Entrepreneurial CEO”

35. Marathi novelist, poet, critic and short story writer Sharankumar Limbale was selected for the 30th edition of the 2020 Saraswati Samman, a prestigious literary recognition conferred annually by the KK Birla Foundation. The award carries a plaque and an award money of ₹15 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sharankumar Limbale – selected for the 30th edition of the “2020 Saraswati Samman” – by KK Birla Foundation
- [Sharankumar Limbale – Marathi novelist, poet, critic and short story writer](#)

36. NTPC Ltd has been conferred the prestigious ‘Role Model’ Award at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21. This award is the highest level of recognition in the field of Human Resources by Confederation of Indian Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC – conferred the prestigious ‘Role Model’ Award – at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21
- [HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975](#)

37. Riz Ahmed, who has been nominated for his stellar act in Amazon movie ‘Sound of Metal’, is the first Muslim actor to be nominated in the Best Actor category in Oscar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Riz Ahmed ([UK](#)) – first Muslim actor to be nominated in the Best Actor category in Oscar
- For his role in the movie – ‘Sound of Metal’

38. On March 17, The “Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020” is conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The prestigious prize for the year 2019 is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman. The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by government of India since 1995, the 125th birth anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – conferred “Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020”
- Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman – conferred “Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019”
- [Gandhi Peace Prize was first awarded in – 1995](#)

39. On March 18, The Jury for the 67th National Film Awards has announced the winners for the year 2019. Sikkim has bagged the award for being Most Film Friendly State. The other awards were given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 67th National Film Awards:

Category	Winner
Most Film Friendly State	Sikkim
Best Feature Film	Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
Best Non-Feature Film	An Engineered Dream (Hindi)
Best Children's Film	Kastoori (Hindi)
Best Hindi Film	Chhichhore
Best Marathi Film	Bardo
Best Assamese Film	Ronuwa - Who Never Surrender
Best Telugu Film	Jersey
Best Kannada Film	Akshi
Best Malayalam Film	Kalla Nottam
Best Bengali Film	Gumnaami
Best Tamil Film	Asuran
Best Actor	Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi) Dhanush for Asuran (Tam)
Best Actress	Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) & for Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)
Best Child Artist	Naga Vishal for KD (Tamil)
Best Female Playback Singer	Savani Ravindra for Bardo (Marathi)
Best Male Playback Singer	B Praak for Kesari (Hindi)

Appointments & Resignations

1. On March 1, The 1985-batch IAS officer Arun Kumar Singh is appointed as the new Chief Secretary (CS) to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Arun will replace Deepak Kumar. Singh is a native of Bihar's West Champaran district and will retire this year on August 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arun Kumar Singh – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar (by replacing - Deepak Kumar)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

2. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the re-appointment of Shri Pramod Chandra Mody as Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), for a further period of 3 months with effect from March 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pramod Chandra Mody – tenure extended for 3 months as Chairman of CBDT (till May 31, 2021)
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody

3. Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar has taken over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command (WNC). He succeeded Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar who retired after an illustrious career spanning 40 years. R. Hari Kumar was commissioned in the Navy on January 1, 1983. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar – took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command
- HQs of WNC – Mumbai, MH | Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief – R. Hari Kumar
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

4. Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh has taken over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Eastern Naval Command (ENC) by replacing Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain. Vice Admiral Jain is now the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) based out of New Delhi. Vice Admiral Ajendra was closely associated with the response to Super Cyclone Hudhud in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajendra Bahadur Singh – took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command
- HQs of ENC – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOC-in-C – Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh

5. On March 1, Shri Manpreet Vohra (IFS:1988), presently Ambassador of India to Mexico, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manpreet Vohra – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

6. The Competent Authority has approved assignment of additional charge of the post of Secretary of Department of Revenue to Tarun Bajaj (Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs) upon superannuation of Ajay Bhushan Pandey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tarun Bajaj – appointed as the Secretary of Department of Revenue (by replacing - Ajay Bhushan Pandey)

7. Six-time world champion Mary Kom has been appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mary Kom – appointed as the Chairperson of the AIBA's champions & veterans committee
- HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev (from Russia)

8. On March 2, Indian-American Maju Varghese has been appointed as the Deputy Assistant to US President Joe Biden and Director of the White House Military Office. He previously served as a key member of the Biden campaign and the inaugural committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maju Varghese – appointed as the Deputy Assistant to US President Joe Biden
- Maju Varghese – Director of the White House Military Office
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

9. On March 3, Shri Rajesh Vaishnav (IFS: 1996), presently High Commissioner of India to Malta, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Morocco. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajesh Vaishnav – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Morocco
- Morocco – Rabat – Dirham | PM – Saad-Eddine El Othmani

10. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given an additional charge of Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to Kuldiep Singh who is a 1986 batch officer from the West Bengal cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kuldiep Singh (West Bengal) – given an additional charge as DG of CRPF
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldiep Singh

11. On March 5, Drug major Glenmark Pharma has signed cricketer Rohit Sharma as Brand Ambassador for its product Candid Powder. Sharma will be the official face of the brand as part of its 360 degree communication. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rohit Sharma – appointed as Brand Ambassador by Glenmark Pharma for its product 'Candid Powder'
- HQs of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Glenn Mario Saldanha



12. On March 5, 73rd EXCOM and 22nd General Assembly Meeting of the APRACA were held in New Delhi. NABARD Chairman G. R. Chintala has taken over the Chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA). Chintala has succeeded Bank of Ceylon CEO DPK Gunasekera. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. R. Chintala – took over the Chairman of the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)
- [HQs of APRACA – Manila, Philippines | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala](#)

13. On March 5, Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed agricultural economist Ashok Gulati as Additional Independent Director on its board for 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashok Gulati – appointed as Additional Independent Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank
- [HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak](#)

14. On March 6, Indian-American financial services industry veteran Naureen Hassan has been appointed as the first Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naureen Hassan – appointed as the 1st Vice President & COO of Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- [HQs of Federal Reserve Bank of New York – New York | President – John C. Williams](#)

15. On March 10, Union Minister Anurag Thakur has become the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army. Thakur was promoted as Captain in the 124 Sikh regiment. He is 4-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – became the 1st serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army (124 Sikh regiment)
- He is 4-time BJP MP from – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh

16. On March 9, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil) has appointed Pallav Mohapatra as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. Prior to the appointment, Mohapatra was the MD and CEO of Central Bank of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pallav Mohapatra – appointed as MD & CEO of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd
- [HQs of Arcil – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Pallav Mohapatra](#)

17. On March 10, Garhwal Member of Parliament Tirath Singh Rawat has taken oath as 9th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand at the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun after he was elected by the BJP Legislature Party. His predecessor Trivendra Singh Rawat resigned on March 9. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tirath Singh Rawat – took oath as 9th CM of Uttarakhand | Trivendra Singh Rawat resigned
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)



18. On March 8, Thomas Bach from Germany has been re-elected unopposed for a second term as the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a 4-year term until 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thomas Bach (Germany) – re-elected as the President of the IOC for 4 years (till 2025)
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

19. On March 10, 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. The UN General Assembly had in 1959 established the Panel of External Auditors. Presently, the panel consists of 13 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Girish Chandra Murmu – re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the UN for 2021
- The Panel of External Auditors – established in 1959 | Present Member countries – 13
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

20. On March 11, The Government has appointed G. P. Samanta as 4th Chief Statistician of India. He will also hold charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). He will replace Kshatrapati Shivaji. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. P. Samanta – appointed as 4th Chief Statistician of India
- Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) – G. P. Samanta

21. On March 11, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has announced that the Arjuna Sahayak irrigation project will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. The project is worth Rs 2,600 Cr. The project is on the river Dhasan and will offer irrigation facilities to 1.5 lakh farmers of as many as 168 UP villages of Hamirpur, Banda and Mahoba. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate – Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project – in UP (Cost - Rs 2,600 Cr)
- The project is on – Dhasan river
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

22. Imran Amin Siddiqui has assumed charge as Executive Director of Indian Bank with effect from March 10. He started his banking career with erstwhile Allahabad Bank as a SSI field officer in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Imran Amin Siddiqui – assumed charge as Executive Director of Indian Bank
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chundurur | ED – Imran Amin Siddiqui

23. On March 10, Deepak Mishra has been appointed as the next Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He will take over from Rajat Kathuria. Mishra has held various positions at the World Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepak Mishra – appointed as the next Director & Chief Executive of the ICRIER
- [HQs of ICRIER – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Bhasin | Director & Chief Executive – Deepak Mishra](#)

24. On March 15, Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev was inducted as one of the board members of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). He had captained India to World Cup glory in 1983. Meanwhile, the “Delhi-NCR Open Golf Championship 2021” will be jointly organised by the TATA Steel PGTI and Prometheus School, Noida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kapil Dev ([Cricketer](#)) – inducted as one of the board members of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)

25. NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd has announced the appointment of cricketer Ajinkya Rahane as its Brand Ambassador for one year. Launched in 2013, NeoGrowth offers loans to small business owners. Rahane will feature in a campaign “Keeping it simple”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajinkya Rahane – appointed as Brand Ambassador of NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd
- [HQs of NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Piyush Khaitan](#)

26. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been appointed as Chairman of the “Stop TB Partnership Board” for the period of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – appointed as Chairman of the “Stop TB Partnership Board” – for 3 years
- [Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr Harsh Vardhan \(Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi\)](#)
- [HQs of Stop TB Partnership – Geneva, Switzerland | Chairman – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Established in – 2000](#)

27. On March 16, Former Cabinet Secretary and Principal Advisor in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) P. K. Sinha has resigned from his high-profile position due to personal reasons. Mr. Sinha is a retired 1977 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. K. Sinha – Former Cabinet Secretary & Principal Advisor in the PMO – resigned due to personal reasons
- P. K. Sinha – a retired 1977 batch IAS officer of [Uttar Pradesh](#) cadre

28. On March 19, Samia Suluhu Hassan has sworn in as Tanzania's first female President. She has succeeded John Magufuli. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samia Suluhu Hassan – sworn in as the first female President of Tanzania
- [Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – Samia Suluhu Hassan | PM – Kassim Majaliwa](#)

29. On March 19, Senior IPS M. A. Ganapathy has assumed the charge as Director General of National Security Guard (NSG). Ganapathy is a 1986 batch IPS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. A. Ganapathy – assumed the charge as Director General of NSG
- HQs of NSG – New Delhi | DG – M. A. Ganapathy

30. On March 24, Despite an ongoing economic crisis in the Republic of Congo, the country's veteran President Denis Sassou Nguesso has been reelected with more than 88% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denis Sassou Nguesso – reelected as the President of Republic of Congo
- Republic of Congo – Brazzaville – CFA franc | President – Denis Sassou Nguesso

31. On March 25, Senior bureaucrat Saurbah Garg has been appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Sanjeev Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI). And Atish Chandra will be Chairman and Managing Director of Food Corporation of India. There are a total of 22 bureaucrats who have been appointed to different ministries as part of this reshuffle effected by the Centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saurbah Garg – appointed as the CEO of UIDAI (HQs – New Delhi)
- Sanjeev Kumar – appointed as the Chairman of AAI (HQs – New Delhi)
- Atish Chandra – appointed as the MD & Chairman of FCI (HQs – New Delhi)

32. On March 26, Soma Mondal (Chairman of SAIL) has been elected as the new Chairperson of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), while Pradip Kumar Das (CMD of IREDA) has been appointed as Vice Chairman of the SCOPE. The newly elected members would take charge on April 1 and would continue in the office for the 2021-23 term. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Soma Mondal (Chairman of SAIL) – appointed as New Chairperson of SCOPE
- Pradip Kumar Das (CMD of IREDA) – appointed as Vice Chairman of SCOPE

33. On March 23, The board of directors of Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) has appointed Anish Shah as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company effective from April 2. Shah is currently the deputy MD and group chief financial officer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anish Shah – appointed as MD & CEO of Mahindra and Mahindra (by replacing - Pawan Goenka)
- HQs of Mahindra and Mahindra – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Anish Shah (2nd April onwards)

34. On March 24, Indian-American physician Vivek Murthy has sworn in as the 21st Surgeon General of the USA for the second time. In 2013, Mr. Obama nominated Dr. Murthy to be the surgeon general. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Murthy – sworn in as the 21st Surgeon General of the USA (2nd time)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

35. Agnes Callamard has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of Amnesty International for 4 years. He led a United Nations' investigation into the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agnes Callamard ([France](#)) – appointed as the new Secretary-General of Amnesty International – for 4 years

36. On March 26, As per the official order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, the government has extended the term of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) K. VijayRaghavan by a year until April, 2022. Dr. Vijayaraghavan, 67, was appointed PSA in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. VijayRaghavan – got extension as Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) – for 1 year (until April, 2022)

37. On March 31, Digit Insurance has roped in cricketer Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador. With this association, the company aims to carry the message of 'making insurance simple' through the cricketer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – roped in as brand ambassador of – Digit Insurance

38. A 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Arindam Bagchi is set to be the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), succeeding Anurag Srivastava. Bagchi served as India's ambassador to Croatia from November 2018 to June 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arindam Bagchi – to be new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (by succeeding Anurag Srivastava)
- [Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat](#)

39. On March 19, WhatsApp Pay has appointed senior Amazon Executive Manesh Mahatme to head its newly launched payment service in India. In February, WhatsApp Pay processed 5.5 million UPI transactions worth Rs 32.4 Cr as per latest data. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manesh Mahatme – appointed by WhatsApp Pay to head its newly launched Payment Service in India
- [HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum](#)

40. On March 23, US President Joe Biden has nominated former Senator Bill Nelson to serve as the 14th NASA Administrator. Earlier, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) appointed Indian-American Bhavya Lal as the agency's acting chief of staff. Nelson will succeed Jim Bridenstine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bill Nelson – to serve as the 14th Administrator of NASA
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D. C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958](#)

Amount & Agreements

1. March 4, India has pledged ₹24.6 Cr (\$2.11 million) for reconstruction of 3 heritage sites in central Nepal that were destroyed during the devastating April 2015 earthquake which saw the death of over 9,000 people. The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) will provide technical assistance for the restoration of Jestha Varna Mahavihara. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – pledged ₹24.6 Cr (\$2.11 million) for reconstruction of 3 heritage sites in Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

2. On March 4, India has extended a grant of Nepali Rs 44.17 million to Nepal to build a new building for Naharpur Secondary School at Butwal-11 in Rupandehi district under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership as part of India's High Impact Community Development Project scheme programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India extended a grant of NRs 44.17 million to Nepal – to build a new building for Naharpur Secondary School
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

3. On March 2, PM Narendra Modi has identified more than 574 port projects at a cost of \$82 billion or ₹6 lakh Cr for implementation during 2015 to 2035 under the Sagarmala Project. The Ministry of Port Shipping and Waterways has created a list of 400 investable projects. These projects have an investment potential of \$31 billion or ₹2.25 lakh Cr. It is also aimed to operationalise 23 waterways by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to invest \$82 billion or ₹6 lakh Cr in 574 port projects by 2035 – under Sagarmala Project
- Ministry of Port Shipping and Waterways – created a list of 400 investable projects
- 23 waterways to be operationalized – by 2030

4. On March 10, REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) Ltd and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) have entered into a pact with Bhutan-based Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd (KHEL) to finance a 600-megawatt Hydroelectric Project at Trashiyangtse in Bhutan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- REC Ltd + PFC = a pact with Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd to finance 600-MW Hydroelectric Project – in Bhutan
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Sanjeev Kumar Gupta

5. On March 16, A tripartite Concession Agreement was signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and GA Infra Private Ltd-Lahoti Buildcon Ltd for development of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh on Hybrid Annuity PPP mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG + UP Jal Nigam + GA Infra-Lahoti Buildcon = to develop Sewage Treatment Plants – in Moradabad, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

6. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) have announced a \$41 million-loan guarantee program to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by Indian SMEs. SMEs account for 48% of the total energy consumed in India's industrial sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USAID + USIDFC = announced \$41 million-loan guarantee program
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power
- HQs of USIDFC – Washington, DC, US | Agency Executive – Dev Jagadesan

7. On March 25, Tata Cleantech Capital has secured a 10-billion-yen loan agreement from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for offering loans to Indian firms focusing on clean energy projects. Under the Paris Agreement, India has committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Cleantech Capital + JICA = 10-billion-yen loan agreement to finance Clean Energy Projects
- HQs of Tata Cleantech Capital – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajiv Sabharwal
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

8. On March 26, India and Japan have signed agreements for loans and a grant worth a total of 232.86 billion Yen (\$2.11 billion) for crucial infrastructure projects, including 119.9-billion Yen loan for phase IV of the Delhi Metro. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = agreements for loans and a grant worth a total of 232.86 billion Yen (\$2.11 billion)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

9. The Jal Shakti Ministry has approved Rs 465 Cr as performance incentive grant to 7 states - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). It is for the first time that 5 northeast states have qualified for the Performance Incentive Grant. In the financial year 2020-21, Rs 11,000 Cr was allocated for Jal Jeevan Mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry approved Rs 465 Cr as performance incentive grant to 7 states
- 5 northeast states – qualified for the Performance Incentive Grant
- Allocated amount for Jal Jeevan Mission in FY2020-21 – Rs 11,000 Cr

10. State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a loan agreement of up to \$1 billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The bank had signed a similar deal with JBIC in October, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + JBIC = a loan agreement of up to \$1 billion
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. Around 375 million children (aged between 0-14 years) in India may suffer from the long-lasting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, including malnutrition to loss of education and work productivity, according to the annual report titled “State of India’s Environment 2021” released by Down to Earth Magazine in association with the Centre for Science & Environment (CSE). As per the report, India has ranked 117 among 192 countries in the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 5 best performing states on SDGs are Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. On air pollution, the report pointed out that 1.67 million Indians died due to air pollution in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of India’s Environment 2021” report released = by Down to Earth Magazine + CSE
- Around 375 million children (aged between 0-14 years) in India may suffer from the impact of the Covid-19
- India – ranked 117 in the sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Top 5 states in SDGs: Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Telangana
- HQs of CSE – New Delhi | Founder & Director – Anil Kumar Agarwal

2. Reliance Industries Ltd’s (RIL) chairman Mukesh Ambani is the richest Indian and the 8th richest person in the world with the net worth of \$83 billion, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2021. While in Asia, Mukesh Ambani has acquired the 2nd spot in 10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021. The list was topped by Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos & Bernard Arnault. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 10th edition of “Hurun Global Rich List 2021” – as on March 2, 2021
- 1st – Elon Musk (\$197 bn) | 2nd – Jeff Bezos (\$189 bn) | 3rd – Bernard Arnault
- Mukesh Ambani – 8th in the world & 2nd in Asia (\$83 bn)

3. Global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission has dropped by 5.8% in 2020 as the covid-19 pandemic brought economies to a standstill, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). China is the world’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases followed by the US & India. Global emissions from the electricity sector dropped by 450 million tonnes in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Global CO₂ emission dropped by 5.8% in 2020 – according to the IEA
- World’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases: 1st – China, 2nd – US, 3rd – India
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

4. Nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide or 1 in 4 people will be suffering from hearing loss by 2050, warns the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) 1st “World Report on Hearing”. The report was launched ahead of World Hearing Day on March 3. This year the theme was “Hearing Care for ALL! Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO: 1 in 4 people (approx 2.5 billion people worldwide) – will be suffering from hearing loss by 2050
- March 3 – World Hearing Day | Theme – “Hearing Care for ALL! Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate”
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

5. Ministry of Housing and Housing Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the field assessment of “Swachh Survekshan 2021”, the 6th edition of the ‘Annual Cleanliness Survey’ conducted by the Government of India in New Delhi. Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA in 2016. Since its launch in 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) has made significant progress in the area of both sanitation and solid waste management. The second phase of SBM-U for a period of 5 years (2021-26) has recently been announced in the union budget of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched the 6th edition of the Annual Cleanliness Survey “Swachh Survekshan 2021”
- Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA – in 2016
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched – in 2014
- [MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri](#)

6. Budget allocations towards Education were cut by 65% in the low and lower-middle income countries after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic while only 33% of high and upper-middle income countries did so, according to a report by the World Bank. The World Bank report was compiled in collaboration with UNESCO’s Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Budget allocations towards Education were cut by 65% in the low & lower-middle income countries
- World Bank Report – was compiled in collaboration with UNESCO’s GEM Report
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189](#)
- [President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#)

7. There are only ten countries in the world which offer full legal protections to women, according to the report “Women, Business and the Law 2021”, recently published by the World Bank. These 10 countries are Belgium, France, Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, Sweden, Canada, Iceland, Portugal and Ireland. Saudi Arabia, which came in last in 2019, has improved its score majorly following new laws implemented in the country and now ranks 91st at 80% which is ahead of India. India has scored 74.4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Women, Business and the Law 2021” report – released by World Bank
- Only 10 countries in the world offer full legal protections to women | India’s score – 74.4

8. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has published the “Initial NDC Synthesis Report”, showing nations must redouble efforts and submit stronger, more ambitious national climate action plans in 2021 if they’re to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise by 2°C ideally 1.5°C by the end of the century. 2021 is a ‘make or break year’ to confront the global climate emergency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNFCCC – published the “Initial NDC Synthesis Report” – that has set 2021 is a ‘make or break year’
- [HQs of UNFCCC – Bonn, Germany | Executive Secretary – Patricia Espinosa](#)



9. As on March 3, Closure of 1.5 million schools due to coronavirus pandemic and the resultant lockdowns in 2020 impacted 247 million children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools in India, according to a UNICEF report. Globally, schools for more than 168 million children have been completely closed for almost a full year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Closure of 1.5 million schools due to coronavirus pandemic impacted 247 million children in Indian schools
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA](#) | [Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore](#) | [Established in – 1946](#)

10. As on March 4, According to the report titled “Freedom in the World 2021 - Democracy under Siege” released by US based Freedom House, India has a score of 67 out of 100. India has downgraded from ‘free’ to ‘partly free’ in democracy report. India’s ranking has also fallen to 88 from 83 out of 211 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Freedom in the World 2021 - Democracy under Siege” report – released by Freedom House (US)
- India’s score – 67 | India’s rank – 88 | India’s status – ‘Partly Free’

11. As on March 4, An estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted globally in 2019, enough to circle the Earth seven times, according to a report titled “Food Waste Index Report 2021” released by the UNEP & Waste & Resources Action Programme. 17% of the food produced globally each year is wasted. The report states that household food waste in India is about 68.7 million tonnes a year or 50 kg per capita per year. While, globally 74 Kg per capita of food is wasted each year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Food Waste Index Report 2021” – released by UNEP
- 17% of the food produced globally each year is wasted
- An estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted globally in 2019
- Food waste in India – 50 kg per capita or 68.7 million tonnes a year | Food waste Globally – 74 Kg per capita
- [HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya](#) | [Executive Director – Inger Andersen](#)

12. On March 4, Hardeep Singh Puri has released the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 and the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020. Bengaluru has emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category under Ease of Living Index 2020, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad. In the Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living. In the Million+ category under the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – released final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) & Municipal Performance Index (MPI) for 2020
- EoLI (Million+ category): 1st – Bengaluru, 2nd – Pune, 3rd – Ahmedabad
- EoLI (Less than Million category): 1st – Shimla, 2nd – Bhubaneshwar, 3rd – Silvassa
- MPI (Million+ category): 1st – Indore, 2nd – Surat, 3rd – Bhopal
- MPI (Less than Million category): 1st – New Delhi, 2nd – Tirupati, 3rd – Gandhinagar



13. On March 4, According to the 2nd edition of NCAER Land Record and Services Index (N-LRSI) 2021, 32 States and UTs have shown an improvement in their effort to digitize land records. Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top performer for the second year in a row, followed by West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “NCAER Land Record & Services Index (N-LRSI) 2021”
- 1st – Madhya Pradesh | 2nd – West Bengal | 3rd – Odisha | 4th – Maharashtra | 5th – Tamil Nadu

14. On March 4, India has ranked 3rd in the world for women working in senior management positions, according to the “Women in Business 2021” report by Grant Thornton. The percentage of women in senior management for India stood at 39%, against the global average of 31%. As much as 47% of mid-market businesses in India now have women chief executive officers (CEOs) compared with 26% globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Women in Business 2021” report – by Grant Thornton (US)
- India ranked 3rd in the world for women working in senior management (percentage of women - 39%)

15. On March 2, LinkedIn has released the “Opportunity Index 2021” report which states that 85% working women in India believe they missed out on a raise and promotion because of their gender. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Opportunity Index 2021” report – released by LinkedIn
- 85% working women in India believe they missed out on a raise and promotion because of their gender
- [HQs of LinkedIn – California, USA](#) | [CEO – Ryan Roslansky](#)

16. On March 5, According to a report prepared by the economists of Bank of America (BoFA), Gender inequality has cost the world \$70 trillion since 1990. It will take 257 years to close the gap at the current rate. The report also notes that full gender equality globally can increase the world GDP by up to \$28 trillion by 2025 and the loss of human capital wealth due to gender inequality alone is estimated at \$160.2 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gender inequality has cost the world \$70 trillion since 1990
- According to report: Full Gender Equality can increase the world GDP by up to \$28 trillion by 2025
- [HQs of BoFA – North Carolina, US](#) | [CEO – Brian Moynihan](#)

17. On March 4, According to a report titled “COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage” released by the UNICEF, 10 million additional child marriages may occur before the end of the decade. Five countries, including India, account for about half of the total child brides in the world. Worldwide, an estimated 650 million girls and women alive today were married in childhood. A target is to end Child Marriage by 2030 under the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage” – released by the UNICEF
- Worldwide, an estimated 650 million girls & women alive today were married in childhood
- UN’s target to end Child Marriage by – 2030
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA](#) | [Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore](#) | [Established in – 1946](#)



18. As per the “UNCTAD B2C E-COMMERCE INDEX 2020 - Spotlight on Latin America and the Caribbean”, India has ranked 71 out of 152 countries. India had ranked at 75th position in 2019. Switzerland has topped the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “UNCTAD B2C E-COMMERCE INDEX 2020 - Spotlight on Latin America and the Caribbean” report
- India – 71st | Topped by – Switzerland
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

19. As on March 4, According to the UNCTAD’s “Technology and Innovation Report 2021”, India is the biggest ‘overperformer’ in frontier technologies amongst countries with similar per capita GDP. India has overperformed other countries by 65 ranking positions. It was followed by the Philippines, which overperformed by 57 ranking positions. The US, Switzerland and the UK were ‘best prepared’ for frontier technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Technology and Innovation Report 2021” – released by UNCTAD
- India is the biggest ‘overperformer’ with 65 ranking positions | 2nd – Philippines (57)
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

20. March 8, Singapore with a score of 89.7 has topped the global ranking for the second year in a row in the latest “Economic Freedom Index - 2021” published by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation. 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Economic Freedom Index - 2021” report – published by The Heritage Foundation (US)
- India – 121st (56.5) | Topped by – Singapore (89.7)

21. On March 9, Seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17% in Bangladesh and 8% in India, according to a new World Bank report titled “Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Connecting to Thrive: Challenges & Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia” – by World Bank
- Seamless Indo-Bangladesh connectivity to increase national incomes 17% in Bangladesh & 8% in India
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

22. According to a report titled “Unlocking APAC’s Digital Potential: Changing Digital Skill Needs and Policy Approaches” released by Amazon Web Services (AWS), India’s present workforce comprises only 12% digitally skilled employees, and the number of employees requiring digital skills in the country will need to increase 9-fold by 2025. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Unlocking APAC’s Digital Potential: Changing Digital Skill Needs and Policy Approaches” report – released by AWS
- India’s present workforce comprises only 12% digitally skilled employees
- No. of employees requiring digital skills in India will need to increase 9-fold – by 2025
- [HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos](#)

23. On March 13, According to the report “India FinTech: A USD 100 Bn Opportunity” released by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) & FICCI, India's financial technology companies are poised to become 3 times as valuable in the next 5 years, reaching a valuation of \$150-160 billion by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India FinTech: A USD 100 Bn Opportunity” report – released by BCG (US) & FICCI
- India's financial technology companies are expected to reach a valuation of \$150-160 billion – by 2025
- [HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy](#)

24. On March 12, India has emerged as the 5th most attractive growth destination, after being surpassed by the UK, according to PwC's 24th Annual Global CEO Survey. The US is the number one market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 24th Annual Global CEO Survey – by PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
- 1st – US | 2nd – China | 3rd – Germany | 4th – UK | 5th – India

25. At \$580.3 bn, India has the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world, after China, Japan and Switzerland. It surpassed Russia whose reserves stood at \$580.1 bn on March 14. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (\$580.3 bn) – the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world
- 1st – China | 2nd – Japan | 3rd – Switzerland | 5th – Russia

26. On March 15, The United States overtook Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier in February, according to trade data released by Reuters. India's imports from the world's top producer rose 48% to a record 545,300 barrels per day (bpd) in February. Iraq continued to be the top oil seller to India despite a 23% decline in purchases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's Biggest Oil Supplier in February – according to trade data released by Reuters
- 1st – Iraq | 2nd – US | Saudi Arabia – 3rd

27. On March 15, JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle) has released the “Human Performance Indicator (HPI)”, a new formula that gives a comprehensive view of the different aspects of the workplace. India has ranked highest in workplace satisfaction at 98% among the Asia-Pacific (APAC) countries. This is followed by China at 97%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Human Performance Indicator (HPI)” – released by JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle)
- India ranked highest in workplace satisfaction at 98% among APAC countries | 2nd – China

28. On March 15, The report titled “Autocratization Goes Viral” released by V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute, based in Sweden has termed India an ‘electoral autocracy’ instead of democracy in its democracy report for the year 2021. Top 3 democratic countries in the world are Denmark, Sweden & Norway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Autocratization Goes Viral” report – released by V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute ([Sweden](#))
- V-Dem termed India an ‘Electoral Autocracy’ instead of ‘Democracy’ in its democracy report

29. On March 15, Arms imports decreased by 33% between 2011-15 and 2016-20 while India continues to remain the second largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia, according to a report from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Russia was the largest arms supplier and the US was the second largest arms supplier to India in both years. India has targeted Rs 1.75 Lakh Cr turnover in Defence manufacturing by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to SIPRI’s report – Arms imports decreased by 33% between 2011-15 and 2016-20
- India – the second largest Arms Importer | 1st – Saudi Arabia
- Russia – the largest Arms Supplier | 2nd – US
- India targeted Rs 1.75 Lakh Cr turnover in Defence manufacturing sector – by 2025
- HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden | Director – Dan Smith

30. On March 17, The UN State of the world’s indigenous peoples report titled “Rights to Land, Territories and Resources” is released on March 15, 2020. It advocates a host of measures to remedy the situation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted on September 25, 2015 by heads of state and government at a special UN summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Rights to Land, Territories and Resources” report – released by UN-DESA
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted – on September 25, 2015
- HQs of UNDESA – New York, USA | Head – Liu Zhenmin

31. On March 17, According to the “World Air Quality Report - 2020” report by the Swiss organization IQAir, 22 of the world’s 30 most polluted cities are in India, with Delhi being ranked as the most polluted capital city globally. Delhi has ranked as the 10th most polluted city and the top polluted capital city in the world. Delhi's air quality has improved by approximately 15% from 2019 to 2020. As per the report, the top most polluted city in Xinjiang in China followed by nine Indian cities. India was the 3rd Most Polluted Country followed by Bangladesh & Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Air Quality Report - 2020” report – released by IQAir ([Switzerland](#))
- 22/30 world’s most polluted cities are in India | most polluted capital city – Delhi
- Most polluted city – Xinjiang | Delhi – 10th
- Most Polluted Country – Bangladesh | India – 3rd



32. On March 17, Out of 104 measurable targets of the SDGs, the Asia-Pacific region is on track to reach only 9 by 2030 which is less than 10%, according to the report titled “Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report - 2021” by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report - 2021” – released by ESCAP
- Asia-Pacific region may achieve less than 10% targets of SDGs
- [HQs of UNESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary – Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana](#)

33. On March 17, With 56,000 dollar-millionaire households, Maharashtra leads India in wealth creation followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat, according to a “Wealth Report - 2020” by Hurun India, known for its annual rich list. A household having an annual income of more than \$1 million is considered as a dollar-millionaire household. Maharashtra which has the highest GSDP among all the states is contributing around 16% of national GDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Wealth Report - 2020” – released by Hurun India
- Maharashtra (Mumbai) leads India in wealth creation (followed by UP, TN, Karnataka and Gujarat)
- A household having an annual income of more than \$1 million is considered as a dollar-millionaire household

34. On March 16, Disruption in healthcare services may have contributed to 2,28,000 additional deaths of children under 5 years in 2020, according to United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) recent report titled “Direct and Indirect Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic and Response in South Asia”. The report was prepared by UNICEF in partnership with WHO, UNFPA. India has recorded the largest increase of deaths among children aged 5 years and Maternal deaths in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Direct & Indirect Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic & Response in South Asia” report = by UNICEF + WHO + UNFPA
- India – recorded the largest increase of deaths among children aged 5 years and Maternal deaths in 2020
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946](#)
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194](#)
- [HQs of UNFPA – New York, US | Executive Director – Natalia Kanem](#)

35. On March 16, One in 3 women across the world, or around 736 million women, faced physical or sexual violence from their intimate partners or non-partners, according to a report titled “Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018” released by the World Health Organization (WHO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018” report – released by WHO
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194](#)

36. On March 19, India’s market capitalisation has plunged 31% as the lockdown wrecked investor sentiment. Despite the rise, India has remained at the 8th position among countries with a market capitalisation of \$2.8 trillion. Indian stocks gained the most among the world’s top 10 nations by market value this fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India remained at the 8th position among countries with a market capitalisation of \$2.8 trillion
- Top 3 countries – US, China & Canada
- Indian stocks – gained the most among the world’s top 10 nations by market value

37. As on March 17, South Africa has been ranked as the world’s most dangerous country to drive while India came at 4th place, according to a research study by Zutobi. The safest roads in the world can be found in Norway followed by Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Africa – ranked as the world’s most dangerous country to drive | 2nd – Thailand | 3rd – US | 4th – India
- The safest roads in the world – Norway | 2nd – Japan

38. On March 17, The report titled “World Energy Transitions Outlook” is released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The report proposes energy transition solutions for the narrow pathway available to contain the rise of temperature to 1.5°C and halt global warming. 90% of the global energy need will be supplied through Renewable energy by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Energy Transitions Outlook” report – released by IRENA (UAE)
- 90% of the global energy need will be supplied through Renewable energy by 2050

39. On March 23, Every person may have to live on less water as per capita reservoir capacity is decreasing globally, according to the United Nations World Water Development report titled “Valuing Water” released on March 22, which is also observed as World Water Day. While the world population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2040, the projected reservoir volume seemed to be stabilising to be around 7,000 billion cubic metre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- United Nations World Water Development report titled “Valuing Water” – released by UNESCO
- The world population is expected to reach 9 billion – by 2040
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- HQs of UN-Water – Geneva Switzerland | Chair – Gilbert Houngbo

40. On March 23, A proposal has been initiated by National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences to estimate thickness of Himalayan glaciers using Airborne Radar Surveys in collaboration with established Indian researchers in India and abroad. A pilot study is proposed in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will estimate thickness of Himalayan glaciers using Airborne Radar Surveys
- A pilot study will be done – in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

41. On March 23, According to the report titled “India: Transforming to a Net-zero Emissions Energy System” by TERI and Shell, India needs a suitable policy and innovation driven context to reach a Net-zero Emissions Energy System by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India: Transforming to a Net-zero Emissions Energy System” report – by TERI & Shell
- Target to reach a Net-zero Emissions Energy System in India – by 2050
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur | Established in – 1974
- HQs of Shell – Hague, Netherlands | CEO – Ben van Beurden

42. On March 23, India has ranked 40 among 53 global economies scoring 38.4 out of 100 in the 9th edition of the “International Intellectual Property (IP) Index” released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). The index was topped by the US with 95.31% score followed by the UK & Germany. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “International Intellectual Property (IP) Index” – released by the US Chamber of Commerce GIPC
- India – 40th | 1st – US | 2nd – UK | 3rd – Germany

43. On March 23, Himachal Pradesh has achieved the first rank in India among states with a population of more than 50 lakh, in the Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. The state is aimed to wipe out tuberculosis by 2030. But the nation is committed to ending TB by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – achieved the 1st rank in “Tuberculosis Elimination Programme” in India
- HP’s target to end TB by – 2030
- India’s target to end TB by – 2025
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

44. On March 23, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Lt. Governor Admiral D. K. Joshi has declared that the UT has achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage in Islands. Andaman and Nicobar Islands becomes the 3rd state/UT in India to achieve the target after Goa and Telangana under Jal Jeevan Mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands – achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage in Islands
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

45. The IUCN cited data showing that the populations of Africa’s Savanna Elephants found in a variety of habitats had decreased by at least 60% over the last 50 years while the number of African Forest Elephant decreased by 86% over 31 years. Savanna Elephant was listed as ‘Endangered’ and African Forest Elephant was listed as ‘Critically endangered’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IUCN Red List: Savanna Elephant – ‘Endangered’ & African Forest Elephant – ‘Critically Endangered’
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinheng Zhang



46. On March 22, According to a Bank of America (BoFA) Securities Report, COVID-19 pandemic will delay the ambitious target of becoming the 3rd largest economy by 3 years to 2031-32 now. Currently, India is the 5th largest economy in the world behind Germany. The government has set a target of becoming a \$5-trillion economy by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- COVID-19 will delay the ambitious target of becoming the 3rd largest economy by 3 years to 2031-32
- Currently, India is the 5th largest economy in the world
- India's target of becoming a \$5-trillion economy – by 2030

47. On March 25, According to the “World Development Report 2021: Data for better lives” released by World Bank, only 11% low-income countries consistently made available with a license classifiable as ‘Open’. India monitors 54 out of the 130 SDG indicators. India has dropped four indicators from its tracking list pointed out the State of India's Environment In figures, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Development Report 2021: Data for better lives” – released by World Bank
- 11% low-income countries made available a license classifiable as ‘Open’
- India monitors 54 out of the 130 SDG indicators
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

48. The global wind power industry needs to install capacity 3 times faster over the next decade in order to achieve the Net-Zero Target by 2050, according to a report titled “Global Wind Report 2021” by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC). 93 Gigawatt (GW) of new capacity was installed in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Wind Report 2021” – by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
- Aim to achieve the Net-Zero Target – by 2050 | 175 GW Renewable Energy – by 2022
- 93 GW of new capacity was installed in 2020
- HQs of GWEC – Brussels, Belgium | CEO – Ben Backwell | Founded in – 2005

49. Healthcare has become one of the largest sectors of the Indian economy and is expected to reach \$372 billion in 2022, according to a report titled “Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector” released by Niti Aayog. The sector has the potential to generate 2.7 million additional jobs in India between 2017-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector” – released by Niti Aayog
- Healthcare sector in India is expected to reach \$372 billion in 2022
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

50. India has ranked 8th in terms of Market Capitalization among the top 10 nations with market capitalization of \$2.8 trillion in FY21 as per Bloomberg's report. The list was topped by the US followed by China & Canada.

Key Points:

- As per Bloomberg's report – India has ranked 8th in terms of Market Capitalization (\$2.8 trillion)
- 1st – US | 2nd – China | 3rd – Canada

51. The Asia-Pacific region including India is staring at a 'K-shaped' recovery of their economies, according to a report titled "Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-covid 19 resilient economies", by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). ESCAP has projected the Indian economy to grow at 7% in FY22 against a contraction of 7.7% in FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Economic and Social Survey of Asia & the Pacific 2021: Towards post-covid 19 resilient economies" – by UN-ESCAP
- ESCAP projected India's GDP: 7% in FY22 & 7.7% in FY21
- HQs of UN-ESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary - Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

52. On March 24, The Labour Bureau and Employment & Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd (BECIL) have signed a service level agreement for providing technical and manpower support to Labour Bureau to conduct All India Surveys on Migrant Workers & All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Bureau + BECIL = an agreement for All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES)
- HQs of BECIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – George Kuruvilla

53. China has the strongest military force in the world scoring 82 out of 100 points while India stands at number four, according to a study released by defence website Military Direct on March 21. The USA comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China has the strongest military force in the world (Score – 82/100)
- 2nd – US (74) | 3rd – Russia (69) | 4th – India (61) | 5th – France (58)

54. The e-commerce sector in India is predicted to grow at a 27% CAGR over 2019-24 and is expected to reach \$99 billion by 2024, according to a report titled "India Trend Book 2021" released by EY-IVCA. The report also revealed that India will have 220 million online shoppers in India by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India Trend Book 2021" report – released by EY-IVCA
- E-commerce sector in India is expected to reach \$99 billion – by 2024 (to grow at a 27% CAGR)

55. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pumped in a record \$36 billion into equities so far this fiscal up to March 10, which is the highest since FY13, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India. On the other hand, net foreign direct investment inflows jumped to \$44 billion, till end January. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FPIs pumped in a record \$36 billion into equities up to March 10 (the highest since FY13) – according to RBI

56. On March 17, The RBI has released the data related to the 2019-20 round of its annual survey on exports of computer software and information technology enabled services. India's export of software services stood at \$ 128.6 billion during 2019-20, registering 9.1% growth over the previous year. The USA was the major destination for software exports with 56.6% share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's export of software services stood at \$ 128.6 billion during 2019-20 (Growth – 9.1% in FY20)
- The major destination for software exports – USA (56.6% share)

57. On March 18, India has moved down 13 spots in Knight Frank's latest "Global House Price Index" to finish last at 56th rank in the quarter ending December 2020. The country saw a decline of 3.6% year-on-year (YoY) in home prices. Turkey continues to lead the annual rankings followed by New Zealand and Slovakia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Knight Frank's "Global House Price Index" in Q4 2020: India – 56th | Topped by – Turkey
- India saw a decline of 3.6% year-on-year (YoY) in home prices

58. On March 19, More than 450 million, or one in five children, worldwide resided in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability, according to a new report "Reimagining WASH: Water Security For All" released by the UNICEF on March 18, 2021. The document identified 37 hot-spot countries where children faced especially dire circumstances. UNICEF had set an ambitious goal to ensure every child had access to Climate-Resilient Water Services by 2025 and by 2030, for all children to have access to a safe and affordable water supply and to live in water secure communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Reimagining WASH: Water Security For All" – released by the UNICEF
- Over 450 million children live in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability
- The document identified 37 hot-spot countries with High Water Vulnerability
- UNICEF's Aim: To ensure every child has access to Climate-Resilient Water Services – by 2025
- All children to have access to a safe and affordable water supply – by 2030

59. On March 18, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar has released the Compendium on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) (Volume I-IV, 1945 to 2020). Labour Bureau began compiling the index since 1945. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoS I/C for Labour & Employment – released the Compendium on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers
- Volume I-IV – 1945 to 2020 (Labour Bureau began compiling the index since 1945)
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Constituency – Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh



Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has acquired an additional 28.16% stake in skyTran Inc for \$26.76 million. Following the deal, RSBVL's stake in Delaware-based skyTran, has increased to 54.46%. This is the 4th time RIL has increased stake in skyTran. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Strategic Business Ventures – acquired additional 28.16% stake in skyTran Inc (for \$26.76 million)
- HQs of skyTran Inc – Delaware, US

2. On March 1, Siemens Ltd has completed the acquisition of 99.22% equity shares in C&S Electric Ltd from the company's promoters for Rs 2,100 Cr. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had given its approval for the deal on August 20, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Siemens – completed its acquisition of 99.22% equity shares in C&S Electric Ltd – for Rs 2,100 Cr
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Siemens Limited – Munich, Germany | CEO – Roland Busch + Joe Kaeser

3. On March 2, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will exit Numaligarh refinery in Assam by selling its entire 61.65% stake to a consortium of Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd for ₹9,875.96 Cr. The consortium of OIL and Engineers India Ltd is likely to acquire 49% and the rest 13.65% will be sold to the Government of Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL – to sell its entire 61.65% stake in Numaligarh refinery (Assam) – to consortium of OIL & Engineers India Ltd
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar
- HQs of OIL – Noida, UP | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra
- HQ of EIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – R. K. Sabharwal

4. On March 3, The government of India has planned to sell up to 7.52 Cr shares or 16% stake in IRCON International through an offer for sale (OFS) to raise about Rs 662 Cr. The base offer is for 10% share sale while the green shoes offer is 6%. The government holds 89.18% stake in IRCON. The government is looking to raise Rs 2.10 lakh Cr through disinvestment in FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian gov planned to sell up to 7.52 Cr shares or 16% stake in IRCON International – to raise Rs 662 Cr
- The government holds 89.18% stake in IRCON
- HQs of Ircon Int. – New Delhi | CMD – S K Chaudhary

5. On March 3, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones (APSEZ) Ltd, will acquire the 31.5% stake held by Windy Lakeside Investment Ltd in Gangavaram Port Ltd (GPL) for Rs 1,954 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APSEZ – to acquire the 31.5% stake of Windy Lakeside Investment Ltd in “Gangavaram Port Ltd”
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani
- Gangavaram Port – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

6. On March 5, Indian Bank has decided to divest 38.26% stake in joint venture entity ASREC (India) Ltd as part of asset monetisation exercise. The company was granted a certificate of registration by the RBI in October 2004 to carry out activities under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank – to divest 38.26% stake in joint venture entity ASREC (India) Ltd
- ASREC (India) Ltd – granted a certificate of registration by the RBI in October 2004 – under SARFAESI Act 2002
- HQs of ASREC (India) Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – V. K. Shunglu
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chundururu

7. On March 4, Wipro Ltd has agreed to acquire British consulting firm Capco for \$1.45 billion. Capco has a team of more than 5,000 business and technology consultants across 30 locations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro – agreed to acquire Capco for \$1.45 billion
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte
- HQs of Capco – Flemish Brabant, Belgium | CEO – Lance Levy

8. The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has divested 26% of its equity holding in the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). IEX separately shed a 5% equity holding to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEX divested 26% of its equity holding in the IGX – to NSE
- HQs of IEX – New Delhi | Interim MD & CEO – Satyanarayan Goel
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Head – Deepak Mehta
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye

9. On March 12, BNP Paribas Cardif has sold 4.99% stake in SBI Life Insurance amounting to a little over 5 Cr shares. The French insurer now holds 0.2% stake in SBI Life Insurance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BNP Paribas Cardif – sold 4.99% stake in SBI Life Insurance
- HQs of BNP Paribas Cardif – Paris, France | CEO – Renaud Dumora
- HQs of SBI Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mahesh Kumar Sharma



10. On March 12, Indian conglomerate Tata Sons has planned to buy a majority stake in Alibaba-backed online grocery seller BigBasket. Tata Sons, proposed to buy 64.3% of BigBasket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Sons – to buy 64.3% stake in BigBasket
- HQs of BigBasket – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEOs – Hari Menon & VS Sudhakar
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

11. On March 15, Tech Mahindra has acquired 70% stake in Perigord Asset Holdings Ltd. This acquisition will help Tech Mahindra to augment expertise in the global pharmaceutical, healthcare and life science (HLS) sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra acquired 70% stake in Perigord Asset Holdings Ltd (Dublin, Ireland)
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

12. The government will sell its entire stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) through an offer for sale. Currently, the government holds 26.12% stake in Tata Communications, 34.8% in Panatone Finvest Ltd and 14.07% in Tata Sons. The government holds 7,44,46,885 equity shares of TCL, which, at last closing price of ₹1,289.75 per unit, stands at a value of over ₹9,601 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will sell its 26.12% stake in Tata Communications
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan

13. On March 23, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) will acquire 58.1% stake in Gangavaram Port Ltd (GPL) for ₹3,604 Cr which is held by D.V.S. Raju and family. With this acquisition, firm will have 89.6% stake in Gangavaram Port. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APSEZ – will acquire 58.1% stake (₹3,604 Cr) in “Gangavaram Port Ltd” – held by D.V.S. Raju & family
- Total share of APSEZ in Gangavaram Port after this acquisition – 89.6%
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani
- Gangavaram Port – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

14. On March 24, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has signed an agreement to purchase 100% stake in Toronto-headquartered SkyPower Global's 50MW solar power project in Telangana. AGEL has a portfolio of 14.9GW of operating, under-construction and awarded projects – the highest in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AGEL – acquired 100% stake in 50 MW Telangana Solar Power Project of SkyPower Global (Toronto, Canada)
- HQs of AGEL – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S Jaain
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

15. On March 24, The government will dilute 15% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) via an offer for sale to raise nearly Rs 750 Cr. Offer for Sale in RVNL opened for Non Retail investors. Government would divest 10% equity with a 5% Green Shoe option. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will dilute 15% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd to raise Rs 750 Cr
- HQs of RVNL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Pradeep Gaur

16. On March 25, Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus (EIYP), an AIF managed by Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors Limited (EAAA), has acquired 74% stake in Solar Energy Assets of French utility firm Engie Group in India. This partnership between the two companies is aimed at creating a solar platform with a plan to add 2 GW solar assets in India over the next couple of years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus acquired 74% stake – in Solar Energy Assets of Engie Group in India
- HQs of Engie Group – La Defense, France | CEO – Catherine MacGregor
- HQs of Edelweiss Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & CEO – Rashesh Shah

17. On March 27, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has sold its entire 61.5% stake in Numaligarh Refinery in Assam to a consortium of Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd (EIL) and Government of Assam for Rs 9,876 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharat Petroleum – sold its entire 61.5% stake in Numaligarh Refinery – to OIL, Engineers India & Assam gov
- Numaligarh Refinery – located in Assam
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar
- HQs of OIL – Noida, UP | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra
- HQ of EIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – R. K. Sabharwal
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

18. On March 22, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) has signed a Share Purchase Agreement with Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd (JPVL) to acquire 74% stake in Jaypee Powergrid Ltd (JPL) in which POWERGRID holds 26% equity. JPL will become a wholly owned subsidiary of POWERGRID following this acquisition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- POWERGRID – to acquire 74% stake in Jaypee Powergrid Ltd (of Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd)
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant
- HQs of JPVL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD – Suren Jain

19. On March 22, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of 51% equity share of North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha (NESCO Utility) by Tata Power Company Ltd (TPCL) from Grid Corporation of Odisha Ltd (GRIDCO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved acquisition of 51% equity share of NESCO Utility – by Tata Power
- HQ of TPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

20. On March 17, CA Rover Holdings has divested 4.25% stake in SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd for Rs 3,943 Cr through an open market transaction. SBI Cards is the second-largest credit card issuer in India with an 18% market share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CA Rover Holdings – divested 4.25% stake in SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd for Rs 3,943 Cr
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. On March 1, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has addressed the opening ceremony of virtual exhibition and prize announcement of 'Khel Khel Mein'. I&B ministry has decided to form Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas in collaboration with IIT Bombay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I & B + IIT Bombay = collaboration to form Centre of Excellence in gaming & other related areas
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Constituency – Maharashtra)

2. On March 2, Bengaluru-based payments and banking technology company, Cashfree, has announced its partnership with PayPal to enable international payments for merchants and help SMEs sell across 200 markets. Businesses partnering with Cashfree can activate One Touch payments that would let their customers stay logged in and check out with a couple of clicks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cashfree + PayPal = partnership to enable international payments for merchants
- HQs of Cashfree – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-founder & CEO – Akash Sinha
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman

3. On March 2, Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) has signed an MoU with National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), India International Exchange (INX), National Securities Depository (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (CDSL) to set up International Bullion Exchange (IBX) at Gujarat International Financial Trade (GIFT) City Gandhinagar, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCX + NSE + INX + NSDL + CDSL = an MoU to set up International Bullion Exchange – at GIFT City Gandhinagar, Guj
- HQs of MCX – Mumbai, MH | CEO – P. S. Reddy | Chairperson – Mr. Saurabh Chandra
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

4. On March 3, The Goa government has collaborated with IBM to provide free skills training to the youth. The collaboration aims to upskill 10,000 learners across 10 institutions over one year in the state. The collaboration with IBM will provide a much desirable platform for accessing and availing digital content, personalised coaching and experiential learning. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa + IBM = collaboration to provide free skills training to the youth
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna



5. On March 2, Post-harvest agritech firm Arya has entered into a strategic partnership with Canara Bank for collateral management and warehousing services. The objective is to support and extend finance to farmers, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), processors and various depositors stocking their produce in warehouses managed by Arya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arya + Canara Bank = a strategic partnership to support and extend finance to farmers
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

6. On March 2, The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has entered into a pact with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to explore the feasibility of a debt capital platform for the MSMEs. The entities signed an MoU for co-operation in various ongoing MSMEs-related initiatives of the two institutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE + SIDBI = an MoU to explore the feasibility of a debt capital platform for the MSMEs
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990

7. On March 3, The Odisha Government has signed an agreement with Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to help tribals manage natural resources in the State. The agreement is signed to take up capacity building initiatives for the state’s ‘Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups’ that are dependent on agriculture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + ICRISAT (Hyderabad) = an agreement to help state’s ‘Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups’
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

8. On March 3, UAE's National Central Cooling Company - Tabreed has partnered with International Finance Corporation (IFC) to invest \$400 in India and South-East Asian countries to build cooling service infrastructure. IFC is a member of the World Bank Group. They have formed a joint venture (JV) to establish a district energy investment platform in Singapore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tabreed (UAE) + IFC = to invest \$400 in India and South-East Asian countries
- IFC is a member of the World Bank Group
- HQs of IFC – Washington, US | Executive Vice President & CEO – Philippe Le Houerou

9. On March 3, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and France on renewable energy cooperation. This MoU will help in attaining the ambitious target of 450 GW of installed Renewable Energy capacity by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet – approved an MoU between India & France on Renewable Energy Cooperation
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex



10. On March 3, The government has approved a pact between India and Fiji for co-operation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. The MoU also provides for establishment of Indo-Fiji Working Group for dealing phytosanitary issues and any other form of cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Fiji = an MoU for co-operation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors
- Fiji – Suva – Fijian Dollar | President – Jioji Konrote

11. On March 5, Odisha Government has signed an MoU with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India for a 12 million ton integrated steel plant in Kendrapara district with an investment of Rs 50,000 Cr. The company had won two iron ore mines - Thakurani and Sagasahi in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel = an MoU to set up 12 million ton steel plant in Kendrapara (worth Rs 50,000 Cr)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

12. On March 5, Fourth Partner Energy has entered into a partnership with Indonesia’s Indika Energy to offer a wide range of solutions and accelerate renewable energy transition by setting up a solar powered company “Empat Mitra Indika Tenaga Surya (EMITS)” in Indonesia. Indika Energy will hold 51% and Fourth Partner Energy 49% stake in EMITS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fourth Partner Energy + Indika Energy = partnership to set up a solar powered company “EMITS” – in Indonesia
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo
- HQs of Fourth Partner Energy – Hyderabad, Telangana | Director – Zubin Irani
- HQs of Indika Energy – Jakarta, Indonesia | President Commissioner – Agus Lasmono

13. As on March 4, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog partners with MathWorks-the developer of mathematical computing software for scientists and engineers to strengthen the Deep-tech startup ecosystem of India. Under this partnership, startups supported by AIM, will get access to steps of the art MathWorks tools including MATLAB and Simulink. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + MathWorks = partnership to strengthen the Deep-tech startup ecosystem of India
- HQs of MathWorks – Massachusetts, US | CEO – Jack Little
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Ramanan Ramanathan)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

14. On March 6, IIT Jammu has entered into an MoU with the Army's Northern Command providing innovative solutions through exhaustive research and development in Jammu and Kashmir. This collaboration will encourage innovations from the IIT community that can help the Indian Army on ground. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Jammu + Army's Northern Command = an MoU to provide innovative solutions through R&D
- HQs of Northern Command – Udhampur, J & K | Present Commander – Lieu. Gen. Yogesh Kumar Joshi

15. On March 2, As part of the Maritime India Summit 2021 organised by Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Cochin Port Trust has signed 3 MoUs with stakeholders for developing a Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ), a Cryogenic Warehouse and an Aviation Fuel Terminal. The Maritime India Summit - 2021 organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Port Trust (Kerala) – signed 3 MoUs with stakeholders for various projects
- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Maritime India Summit - 2021”

16. On March 7, With a vision to promote Nano-entrepreneurship amongst youth in the financial services sector, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has collaborated with SahiPay - an Android-based integrated platform developed by Manipal Business Solutions (MBS) to promote digital enablement and financial inclusion in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSDC + SahiPay = collaboration to promote digital enablement and financial inclusion in India
- SahiPay – developed by Manipal Business Solutions (MBS)
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

17. On March 7, The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed an MoU with the Central Silk Board under the Ministry of Textiles on a convergence model for the implementation of Agroforestry in the silk sector under the ongoing Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 20 States and 2 UTs. National Agroforestry Policy was launched in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare + Central Silk Board = an MoU for promotion of Agroforestry in Silk Sector
- HQs of Central Silk Board – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairman – K. M. Hanumantharayappa

18. Wipro Ltd has joined the ‘Partnering for Racial Justice in Business’ initiative launched by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people of all racial backgrounds in the workplace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro + Partnering for Racial Justice in Business = partnership to advance racial justice & social equality
- ‘Partnering for Racial Justice in Business’ – an initiative of WEF
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte



19. PNB Housing Finance has partnered with Delhi-based NGO Azad Foundation for the new initiative, 'Women With Wheels' to facilitate underprivileged women gain driving skills and also donate electric cars to them in Jaipur and Indore. The initiative is part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project called 'SHE'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB Housing Finance + Azad Foundation = for the new initiative 'Women With Wheels'
- 'Women With Wheels' initiative is part of its CSR project called 'SHE'
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tag Line – Ghar Ki Baat

20. On March 8, An MoU between the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Invest India was signed to enhance co-operation in the thematic areas of Nutrition, Child Protection and Development, Women Empowerment and convergent capacity building in mission mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Women and Child Development + Invest India = an MoU to enhance co-operation in thematic areas
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla

21. On March 8, The Punjab government has collaborated with various United Nations and other global agencies i.e. UN Women, UNDP, UN Population Fund, J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab) and FUEL (Friends Union for Energizing Lives) to scale its efforts to empower and protect women. Punjab government is also launching Technical Fest (Techshiksha) with UN Women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab + various UN agencies = collaboration to scale its efforts to empower & protect women
- Punjab + UN Women = launching Technical Fest (Techshiksha)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

22. On March 9, The state-run Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) have signed an MoU to develop a Plastic Park in Paradip. The project costs Rs 107 Cr. An incentive of Rs 2000 for each metric tonne of polypropylene granules from Paradip Refinery shall be offered to the manufacturing units located in the Paradip Plastic Park till March 31, 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + IOCL = an MoU to develop a Plastic Park in Paradip (Cost – Rs 107 Cr)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

23. On March 9, The Uttarakhand based Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has signed an MoU with IBM to improve the education standards among the female children of the state by introducing "IBM STEM for Girls" program. It will be introduced in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across 5 districts - Dehradun, Pauri, Haridwar, Almora and Udham Singh Nagar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand + IBM = an MoU to introduce “STEM for Girls” program – to improve female education standards
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna
- HQs of IBM India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sandip Patel

24. On March 16, Magicbricks has tied up with Razorpay and HDFC Bank to allow users of its platform pay rent online through credit cards. The user will get interest-free credit for 45 days when the rent is paid through credit card. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magicbricks + Razorpay + HDFC Bank = to allow users pay rent online through credit cards
- HQs of Magicbricks – Noida, UP | CEO – Sudhir Pai

25. On March 8, Telangana’s WE Hub in collaboration with the Australian government has announced to launch the 12-week pre-incubation programme “UPSurge”. UPSurge is a pre-incubation programme to aid women entrepreneurs from across India to achieve financial independence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WE Hub (Telangana) + Australia = to launch the 12-week pre-incubation programme “UPSurge”
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

26. Samsung Electronics’ System LSI Business, Mastercard, Samsung Card, have signed an MoU to develop a biometric card that features a built-in fingerprint scanner to authorize transactions securely at in-store payment terminals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + Samsung Card = an MoU to develop a Biometric Card
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

27. On March 10, The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed an agreement with UTI Infrastructure Technology and Services Limited (UTIITSL) to issue free PVC card Ayushman cards to eligible beneficiaries. Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) beneficiaries residing in at least 11 States/Union Territory can avail free PVC Ayushman cards UTIITSL from now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA + UTIITSL = an agreement to issue free PVC card Ayushman cards to eligible beneficiaries
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma
- HQs of UTIITSL – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vijay K. Jain

28. On March 10, Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has launched Edelweiss Group Domestic Travel Insurance in partnership with InterMiles. This product is a free cancellation air travel policy. Customers, booking tickets on InterMiles, for travel anywhere in India, can opt for Zero Cancellation, by paying a nominal amount, at the time of booking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss General Insurance + InterMiles = partnership to launch a new Group Domestic Travel Insurance
- It is a free cancellation Air Travel Policy
- HQs of Edelweiss General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO and Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh
- HQs of InterMiles – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Manish Dureja

29. On March 13, The National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) has signed an MoU with Japan for the designs of high speed rail track works for T2 package comprising 237 km between Vadodara to Vapi in Gujarat for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHSRCL + Japan = an MoU for Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project
- HQs of NHSRCL – New Delhi | MD – Achal Khare
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

30. On March 15, Vayana Network has partnered with CRIF India, an RBI-approved credit bureau, to introduce the Good Business Score (GBS). Good Business Score will help MSMEs measure and manage their business health effectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vayana Network + CRIF India = partnership to introduce the Good Business Score (GBS) to help MSMEs
- HQs of Vayana Network – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO & Founder – R. N. Iyer

31. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) of a strategic partnership with Aster DM Health care to support proactively the mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + Aster DM Health care = signed a Sol of a strategic partnership
- HQs of Aster DM Health care – Dubai, UAE | CEO – Dr. Harish Pillai

32. On March 16, TRIFED has tied up with Craft Village-by ZEPHYR, an established organization for the training and promotion of Craft Sector. With this collaboration, TRIFED has tied up with Craft Village-by ZEPHYR, an established organization that works for the training and promotion of Craft Sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Craft Village = tie up for the training and promotion of Craft Sector
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna

33. On March 17, PTC India has signed an MoU with the National Productivity Council (NPC) to explore business opportunities in consultancy services. PTC has also been mandated by the Government of India to trade electricity with Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PTC India + NPC = an MoU to explore business opportunities in consultancy services
- NPC functions under – Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- HQs of PTC India – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Deepak Amitabh

34. On March 16, The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi has given approval for signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment of Maldives for cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs. The MoU was signed on November, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved an MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of “India & Maldives”
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

35. On March 16, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has entered into a collaboration with Phinergy to form a Joint venture “IOC Phinergy Private Limited” to manufacture Ultra-Lightweight Batteries for Electric Vehicles (EVs) using Aluminium Air Batteries. Phinergy is an Israeli start-up company specialising in hybrid lithium-ion and aluminium-air/zinc-air battery systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOC + Phinergy (Israel) = collaboration to form “IOC Phinergy Private Limited”
- IOC Phinergy Pvt Ltd will manufacture Ultra-Lightweight Batteries for EVs using ‘Aluminium Air Batteries’
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

36. On March 18, Amazon Web Services (AWS) has partnered with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to strengthen and upskill companies building education technology (EdTech) solutions in India and empowering school students with cloud computing skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AWS + AIM (NITI Aayog) = partnership to strengthen and upskill companies building EdTech solutions in India
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos

37. On March 19, TRIFED and Arunachal Pradesh have signed an MoU for the implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana in Arunachal Pradesh. Under this agreement, 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are planned to be set-up in the state this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Arunachal Pradesh = an MoU for the Implementation of MSP for MFP Scheme & Van Dhan Yojana
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

38. On March 23, The Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between India and Japan. It aims at achieving water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = a MoC in the field of water & delta management for achieving water security
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

39. On March 23, The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of an MoU between the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) of Afghanistan to share experience on modern approach to public service recruitment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UPSC + IARCSC (Afghanistan) = an MoU to share experience on modern approach to public service recruitment
- HQs of UPSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Josh
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

40. The Consulate General of India in South Africa has partnered with Uttar Pradesh to boost tourism to India post COVID-19, highlighting the state's various religious sites and other attractions. A large number of the descendants of the first Indians had arrived in South Africa from 1860 onwards came from UP and Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Consulate General of India in South Africa + Uttar Pradesh = partnership to boost tourism to India post COVID-19
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

41. On March 25, Thermax Babcock & Wilcox Energy Solutions Private Ltd (TBWES), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thermax, has recently signed a know-how transfer and license agreement with Steinmuller Babcock Environment GmbH (SBE), Germany for Waste to Energy technology. As a part of the agreement, TBWES will design, engineer, manufacture, and sell Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) fired waste to SBE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TBWES + SBE (Germany) = a know-how transfer and license agreement for Waste to Energy technology
- HQs of Thermax – Pune, India | CEO of TBWES – Pravin Karve

42. On March 26, Tata Motors has signed a 3-year MoU with the State Bank of India, to offer financial assistance for the purchase of the company's range of small and light commercial vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors + SBI = 3-year MoU for financing light commercial vehicles
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Guenter Butschek
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

43. On March 26, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has signed an MoU with CNB Logitech of Rs 100 Cr per annum to monitor, track and optimise the movement of 50 lakh containers in EXIM trade. The MoU will help to achieve India's maritime vision of 2030 by enhancing efficiencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust + CNB Logitech = an MoU of Rs 100 Cr to organize the movement of containers
- Location of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of CNB Logitech – Bengaluru, Karnataka

44. On March 26, Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) has signed a pact with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC SPV) to create demand aggregation for electric mobility, solar, energy-efficiency solutions and other initiatives of CESL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CESL + CSC SPV = a pact to create demand aggregation for electric mobility
- HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Head – Mahua Acharya

45. The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has tied up with consulting firm Futurebrands, to launch a deep, immersive study into gender depiction in Indian advertising. The study GenderNext aims to provide actionable insights that can shape the gender narratives in advertising positively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASCI + Futurebrands (New Delhi) = tie up to launch a study on depiction of women in advertising
- HQs of ASCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Kamath

46. On March 22, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) have signed an MoU to establish a framework for collaboration and co-operation for development of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) IFSC as a world class FinTech Hub. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FICCI + IFSCA = an MoU to jointly develop GIFT-City as a world class FinTech Hub
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

47. On March 24, Jammu & Kashmir has signed an MoU with Trade Promotion Corporation of India (TPCI) for Agro & Food Processing sector and Film Tourism sector at South Asia's largest Integrated F&B Trade Show-Indusfood2021, being held at India Exposition Mart in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + TPCI = an MoU for Agro & Food Processing sector and Film Tourism sector
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of TPCI – New Delhi

48. A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed between the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) in New Delhi. The LoA defines provisions for civil aviation security responsibilities and functions at the upcoming international airport at Jewar, Noida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCAS (New Delhi) + YIAPL = signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) in New Delhi
- Jewar Airport (Noida International Greenfield Airport) – located in Greater Noida, UP (Operated by YIAPL)

49. The India Centre for Migration (ICM), a research thinktank of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have entered into a collaboration for a joint study on strengthening data-informed and migrant-centred migration management frameworks in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India Centre for Migration + Int. Organisation for Migration = collaboration to study migrant management in India
- India Centre for Migration – a research thinktank of the Ministry of External Affairs
- HQs of IOM – Geneva, Switzerland | Director General – Antonio Vitorino | Formed in – 1951

50. TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently entered an MoU with the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu for the implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu = an MoU to implement MSP for MFP Scheme & Van Dhan Yojana
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu: Capital – Daman | Administrator – Praful Patel

51. NSE Academy Ltd (NAL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), has signed an MoU with GIFT SEZ Ltd to assist in capacity building of trained manpower by developing, launching and conducting training programs related to International Financial Services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE Academy Ltd + GIFT SEZ Ltd = an MoU to mentor financial services professionals in GIFT City

52. National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has partnered with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to help its MSME members in the export potential of their agricultural and processed foods products. APEDA and NSIC will also facilitate the participation of MSMEs in fairs of international level including B2B & B2C fairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSIC + APEDA = partnership to boost export of agricultural & processed foods products
- HQs of NSIC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vijayendra
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur | Established in – 1986

53. India's DPIIT and the Japan Patents Office (JPO) have signed a Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) to act mutually as competent International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) from July to accelerate prosecution (drafting, filing & negotiating) of patent applications in both countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT (India) + Japan = Memorandum of Co-operation to act mutually as competent ISA & IPEA from July
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

54. On March 19, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela have signed an MoU for setting up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC). This collaboration with ISRO will open up new opportunities for research and development as well as space start-ups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + NIT (Rourkela, Odisha) = an MoU to set up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

55. FIFA has collaborated with the United Nations on Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to launch the Global Integrity Programme a comprehensive international programme aimed at providing all 211 member associations with enhanced knowledge and tools to fight and prevent match manipulation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FIFA + UNODC = to launch the 'Global Integrity Programme'
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- HQs of UNODC – Vienna, Austria | Director-General – Ghada Fathi Waly

56. ITC's Social Investments programme, "Mission Sunehra Kal" has entered into a partnership with the Government of Karnataka to execute a Watershed Development Programme covering over 1 million acres and 100 watersheds across the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITC's "Mission Sunehra Kal" + Karnataka = partnership to execute a Watershed Development Programme
- HQs of ITC Limited – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Sanjiv Puri
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

57. On March 19, The Jal Shakti Ministry entered a partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Denmark to help bring tap water connections to 11 water-scarce districts in Uttar Pradesh's water-starved Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions under the Jal Jeevan mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry + UNOPS + Denmark = to help bring tap water connections – to 11 water-scarce districts in UP



- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- HQs of UNOPS – Copenhagen, Denmark | Executive Director – Grete Faremo
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



Books & Authors

1. National Book Award Winner & Pulitzer Prize winner Evan Osnos's latest book, "Joe Biden: American Dreamer", perhaps capture the essence of the personal and public sides of Biden's life, one riddled with suffering and the other marked by success. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Joe Biden: American Dreamer" – authored by Evan Osnos

2. The story of that Indian-origin barrister, George Edalji, has now been dug up in detail and brought to life in a new book by London-based historian-author Shrabani Basu. The book titled "The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji and the case of the foreigner in the English village" is recently released in the UK and in India on March 10. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji and the case of the foreigner in the English village" book – authored by Shrabani Basu

3. According to a new book titled "Artificial Intelligence and The Future of Power: 5 Battlegrounds" by researcher-author Rajiv Malhotra, India currently has a disappointing level of artificial intelligence (AI) development and it needs to embark on a rapid program to catch up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Artificial Intelligence And The Future Of Power: 5 Battlegrounds" book – Rajiv Malhotra

4. As on March 2, Dr. Deepak Ravindran is set to launch his book "The Pain-Free Mindset" (published by Vermilion) shortly. In his book 'The Pain-Free Mindset', Dr. Deepak Ravindran says pain is not a sign of danger but an evolutionary mechanism of protection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Pain-Free Mindset" book – authored by Deepak Ravindran
- The book is published by – Vermilion

5. The book titled "Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani's Triumph" - an English translation of journalist-author Anant Vijay's book "Amethi Sangram: Aitihāsik Jeet Ankahi Dastan" will be released on March 15 by publishing house Westland. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani's Triumph" book – authored by Anant Vijay

6. The book, titled "The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle", is translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada. First published in Pashto in 1983, the autobiography of freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, fondly known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan, is now published in English by publishing house Roli Books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle" book – authored by Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada
- An autobiography of – freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
- Translated in English by – Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada



7. On March 9, Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar has released an e-book titled: “The Green Queens of India - A nation’s pride” on the occasion of the 1st ever Conference of Women Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers and women frontline personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Green Queens of India - A nation’s pride” e-book – released by Prakash Javadekar
- The book is dedicated to – Indian Women Forest Officers

8. On March 8, President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the state level Tribal Conference at Singrampur Gram Panchayat in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh by laying the foundation stone for the conservation work of Singaargarh Fort. First copy of ‘Bangi’ booklet is presented to the President. The book showcases the Tribal Heritage of Madhya Pradesh. Singaur region can be developed as a National Tribal Hub. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the state level Tribal Conference – at Singrampur, Damoh in MP
- The booklet “Bangi” released to showcase the tribal heritage of – Madhya Pradesh
- Singaur region – to be developed as a National Tribal Hub | Singaargarh Fort – located in Madhya Pradesh
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

9. On March 7, “A Road Map for Entrepreneur” book is published by the Biz Ayuris Foundation. Jitendra Gupta, Director of Biz Ayuris Foundation wrote the book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “A Road Map for Entrepreneur” book – authored by Jitendra Gupta

10. In “Karunanidhi: A Life” (published by Penguin House), A. S. Panneerselvan tells the story of the man who became a metaphor for modern Tamil Nadu, where language, empowerment, self-respect, art, literary forms and films coalesced to lend a unique vibrancy to politics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Karunanidhi: A Life” book – authored by A. S. Panneerselvan

11. Actor, producer, director, writer Susmita Mukherjee's new book of short stories “Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women” released in January 2021. The book is a collection of 11 short stories written over 3 decades. Her debut novel was “Mee and Juhibaby”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women” – authored by Susmita Mukherjee
- Susmita Mukherjee's debut novel – “Mee and Juhibaby”

12. On March 10, Poet, cultural theorist Ranjit Hoskote released his 8th poetry collection titled, “Hunchprose”. The book is named after the poet's claim that poetry must be heard above “The buzz of data, to transform language, broken by history, into music”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranjit Hoskote released his 8th poetry collection - “Hunchprose”

13. Bollywood actress and author, Tisca Chopra, unveiled the cover of her second book “What's up with me” on March 14, 2021. Her first book was “Acting Smart: Your Ticket To Showbiz”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “What's up with me” & “Acting Smart: Your Ticket To Showbiz” – authored by Tisca Chopra

14. Author Jahnvi Barua has won the “AutHer Award 2021” in the ‘Best Fiction’ category for her novel “Undertow” on March 17, 2021. The AutHer Awards is a joint initiative by JK Paper and The Times of India. Her other books are “Next Door” & “Rebirth”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jahnvi Barua – won the “AutHer Award 2021” in the ‘Best Fiction’ category – for her “Undertow” novel
- “Next Door” & “Rebirth” books – authored by Jahnvi Barua

15. On March 15, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has released a digital book depicting the history of Mumbai General Post Office building. The e-book, titled “Dawn Under The Dome” has been authored by Post Master General of Mumbai Swati Pandey in collaboration with Orchida Mukherjee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagat Singh Koshiyari – released a digital book titled “Dawn Under The Dome”
- The book is authored by = Swati Pandey + Orchida Mukherjee

16. On March 16, Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi has a memoir coming out titled “My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future”. In India, it will be published by Hachette India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future” book – authored by Indra Nooyi

17. The children’s book, titled Prince with a “Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma”, is written by author-poet Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan. It is published under Westland’s ‘Red Panda’ imprint. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma” children’s book – authored by Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan

18. On March 17, In “India’s Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution”, to be released in April by Penguin Random House India under its Viking imprint, Sanjaya Baru will unveil the emerging dynamics of the power elites in contemporary India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India’s Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution” – authored by Sanjaya Baru

19. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the India tourism Mumbai, Regional Office of Ministry of Tourism in the Western Region has organized an online book reading session of “Gandhi in Bombay” authored by the authors Dr. Usha Thakkar and Ms Sandhya Mehta on 15th March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Gandhi in Bombay” book – authored by the Dr. Usha Thakkar & Ms. Sandhya Mehta

20. “Battle Ready for 21st Century” was released at Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) by Gen Bipin Rawat, CDS and Gen Deepak Kapoor, Former Chief of the Army Staff. The book is co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gen Bipin Rawat + Gen Deepak Kapoor = released a book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century”
- The book is co-edited by – Lt. Gen AK Singh

21. Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe will release her new book titled “Saving Us” or “Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World” in September, 2021. Katharine Hayhoe hopes her book will convince people that the ongoing climate disasters are serious and to motivate them to act accordingly. She is the host of a digital series called ‘Global Weirding’ and was honoured as “Champion of the Earth” by the United Nations in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Saving Us” book – authored by Katharine Hayhoe
- She was honoured as “Champion of the Earth” by UN in 2019

22. Indian author Jeet Thayil has a new book titled “Names of the Women” coming out this year. The book talks about the women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or erased in the Gospels. He 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Names of the Women” – authored by Jeet Thayil
- Jeet Thayil – received “Man Booker Prize 2012” – for his “Narcopolis” | “DSC Prize” for South Asian Literature

23. A new book titled “Escaped: True stories of Indian Fugitives in London” is authored by Danish Khan and Ruhi Khan. The book on some high-profile, as well as lesser-known Indian extradition cases, attempts to decode why the UK is considered a safe haven for those wanting to escape the law in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Escaped: True stories of Indian Fugitives in London” – authored by Danish Khan & Ruhi Khan (London)

24. Actor Samir Soni will come out with his debut book later in 2021. “My Experiments with Silence” is slated to be published by OM Books International. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “My Experiments with Silence” book – authored by Samir Soni

25. Namit Arora has authored a book “Indians: A Brief History of a Civilization”. There are chapters on six places: Dholavira, Nagarjunakonda, Nalanda, Khajuraho, Hampi and Varanasi. There are five chapters on travelers: Megasthenes, Faxian, Xuanzang and Yijing, Alberuni, Marco Polo and Francois Bernier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Indians: A Brief History of a Civilization” book – authored by Namit Arora

26. Vivek Wadhwa, Ismail Amla & Alex Salkever have co-authored a book titled “From Incremental To Exponential: How Large Companies Can See the Future and Rethink Innovation”. A wealth of checklists, tips, and examples of business innovation is featured in the new book.

Key Points:

- “From Incremental To Exponential: How Large Companies Can See the Future and Rethink Innovation”
- Co-authors – Vivek Wadhwa, Ismail Amla & Alex Salkever

27. HarperCollins India is proud to announce the upcoming publication of journalist turned filmmaker, Vinod Kapri’s compelling book, “1232 km: A Long Journey Home”, a true account of human grief, grit, and gumption, which will release in May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “1232 km: A Long Journey Home” book – Vinod Kapri

28. Neha Sinha, in her new book “Wild and Wilful”, chronicles tales of 15 iconic Indian species which are in need of conservation. Neha Sinha had won “Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award” in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Wild and Wilful” book – authored by Neha Sinha

29. “Name Place Animal Things” is a debut book of Daribha Lyndem. Lyndem’s debut novel is a coming-of-age story of a young Khasi girl (referred to as D) in Shillong during the early 2000s.

Key Points:

- “Name Place Animal Things” debut book – authored by Daribha Lyndem

30. On March 19, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has released a “Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework” to stimulate the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. This handbook has been prepared by the IBBI in association with the British High Commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBBI – released a “Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework”
- The handbook is prepared by = IBBI + British High Commission
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. S. Sahoo

31. Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has launched book “Bringing Governments and People Closer”. The book was authored by Dr M. Ramachandran, IAS (Retd), Chancellor, The ICFAI University, Dehradun. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Bringing Governments and People Closer” book – authored by Dr M. Ramachandran
- The book was launched by – M. Venkaiah Naidu



Obituaries

1. Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, has passed away recently on March 2. He was 69. He was an MLA from 1985 to 1996. He was elected as the Lok Sabha member for the first time in 1996. He was six-term MP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | Constituency – Khandwa, MP)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

2. On March 2, Reggae icon Bunny Wailer has passed away. He was 73. He co-founded The Wailers with Bob Marley in the 1960s and helped make the catchy Jamaican beat a global phenomenon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bunny Wailer (Jamaica) – Singer & Songwriter – passed away
- Jamaica – Kingston – Jamaican dollar

3. On March 5, Muthoot Group Chairman M. G. George has passed away after a fall in his fourth floor residence in South East Delhi's Amar Colony area. He was 71 years old and was listed as the 26th richest man in India by Forbes in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. G. George – Indian Entrepreneur & Businessman – passed away (Chairman of Muthoot Group)
- He was listed as the 26th richest man in India by Forbes in 2020
- HQs of The Muthoot Group – Kochi, Kerala

4. Nikolai Snesev, a coach who virtually changed the distance running scene in India, has passed away on March 5. He was 72. He had landed in India a few days ago to train 3000m steeple chaser Avinash Sable. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikolai Snesev (Belarus) – Middle & long distance Coach – passed away
- Belarus – Minsk – Ruble | PM – Siarhiey Rumas

5. On March 6, Veteran Indian Athlete Ishar Singh Deol has passed away at the age of 91. He is a recipient of the “Dhyan Chand National Sports Award” in 2009 for his lifelong contribution towards sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ishar Singh Deol – Indian Athlete (Shot putter) – passed away
- He is a recipient of the “Dhyan Chand National Sports Award” in 2009

6. On March 6, Well-known Kannada Poet, critic and translator N. S. Lakshminarayana Bhatta has passed away in Bengaluru. Born in 1936 in Shivamogga district, he was a prolific writer. He won several awards including Karnataka Sahitya Akademi award, Masti Prashasti and Kannada Rajyotsava Award. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- N. S. Lakshminarayana Bhatta – a Kannada Poet, Critic & Translator – passed away

7. On March 8, Former Rajasthan & Gujarat Governor Anshuman Singh has passed away in Lucknow. He was 86. Anshuman Singh had taken charge as the Governor of Rajasthan on January 16, 1999 and remained in office till May 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anshuman Singh – a Politician – passed away (Former Governor of Rajasthan & Gujarat)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

8. On March 9, French billionaire and member of Parliament Olivier Dassault has passed away in a helicopter crash. Since 2002 he was the lawmaker for the conservative Les Republicains party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Olivier Dassault (France) – a Politician & Billionaire – passed away
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

9. On March 10, Ivorian Prime Minister Hamed Bakayoko has passed away due to cancer in Germany. Bakayoko was chosen last July as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast also known as Cote d'Ivoire. He was 56. Patrick Achi has been appointed as interim Prime Minister, while Tene Birahima Ouattara has been named interim Defence Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hamed Bakayoko – a Politician – passed away (PM of Ivory Coast or Cote d'Ivoire)
- Patrick Achi – appointed as interim Prime Minister of Ivory Coast
- Tene Birahima Ouattara – appointed as interim Defence Minister of Ivory Coast
- Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc | President – Alassane Ouattara

10. On March 7, Lou Ottens, the Dutch inventor of audio cassette tapes has passed away at his home in Duizel, the Netherlands. He was 94. He had engineered the concept of magnetic tape players and compact discs (CDs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lou Ottens (Netherlands) – a Dutch Engineer & Inventor – passed away
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

11. On March 11, Veteran Marathi actor Shrikant Moghe has passed away following age-related illness. He was 91. Moghe was popular for his work in both Marathi and Hindi languages, in films and theatre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shrikant Moghe – Veteran Marathi Actor – passed away

12. Dadi Hriday Mohini, the chief administrator of the spiritual movement Brahma Kumaris, has passed away on March 11. She was 93. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dadi Hriday Mohini – Chief Administrator of Brahma Kumaris – passed away

13. On March 15, Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair, the Kathakali actor who also played a significant role in making classical dances like Bharatanatyam popular in north Kerala, has passed away. He was 105. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair (Kerala) – a Kathakali actor – passed away
- Total 8 Classical dance forms of India have been recognised by the Sangeet Natak Academy

14. On March 14, Renowned painter and Padma Bhushan awardee Laxman Pai has passed away. He was 95. Born in Goa in 1926, Pai was honoured with several prestigious awards, including Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award and Lalit Kala Akademi Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Laxman Pai – Renowned Painter – passed away
- Awards: Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award & Lalit Kala Akademi Award

15. On March 16, Former boxing champion ‘Marvelous’ Marvin Hagler has passed away at the age of 66. Hagler has become the undisputed middleweight champion in 1980 and held the title till 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Marvelous’ Marvin Hagler (US) – Former Boxing Champion – passed away

16. On March 17, President John Pombe Magufuli of Tanzania has passed away. He was 61 years old. He was a prominent COVID-19 skeptic in Africa whose populist rule often cast his East African country in a harsh international spotlight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Magufuli – President of Tanzania – passed away
- Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – Samia Suluhu Hassan | PM – Kassim Majaliwa

17. BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma has died by suicide at his residence in New Delhi. Born in 1958 in Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi district, Sharma was first elected to Lok Sabha in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Swaroop Sharma – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | Constituency – Mandi, Himachal Pradesh)

18. On March 15, Bangladesh former Prime Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed has passed away in Singapore. He was 81. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Moudud Ahmed – Former PM of Bangladesh – passed away
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

19. BJP leader and former Union Minister Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi has passed away in New Delhi. He was 69. Gandhi had served as the Minister of State for Shipping in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led central government. He had won the Lok Sabha election 3 times from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dilip Gandhi (MP from Maharashtra) – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | MoS for Shipping)

20. On March 23, AIADMK Rajya Sabha member and former Minister A. Mohammedjan has died of heart attack at his residence in Ranipet. He was 72. He was elected chairman of Ranipet Municipality in 1996 and 2001. He was also chairman of Tamil Nadu Wakf Board. He was elected as Rajya Sabha member in July 2019 from Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A. Mohammedjan – a Politician – passed away (Party – AIADMK | RS member from – Tamil Nadu)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

21. On March 26, Noted journalist and author Anil Dharker has passed away in Mumbai. He was 74. He was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival, held in November every year. He had been a columnist and writer, an architect, a member of the advisory committee of the film censor board and more. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Dharker – a Journalist & Author – passed away

22. On March 23, Adam Zagajewski, one of Poland's greatest poets has passed away. He was 75. Zagajewski's poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World" was published in the New Yorker magazine and it came to symbolise the world's sense of shock and loss after the September 11 attacks in the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adam Zagajewski (Poland) – a Poet – passed away
- "Try to Praise the Mutilated World" poem – by Adam Zagajewski
- Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda

23. On March 26, Former RBI Deputy Governor (DG) Kamalesh Chandra Chakrabarty has passed away in Mumbai due to a heart attack. He was 69. K. C. Chakrabarty was elevated as RBI DG in 2009. He also served at the Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. C. Chakrabarty – Former RBI Deputy Governor – passed away
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

24. On March 21, Noted Odissi dancer Laxmipriya Mohapatra has passed away. She was the wife of legendary classical dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra. She was 86. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Laxmipriya Mohapatra – Odissi Dancer – passed away
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



25. On March 21, Nawal Saadawi, a renowned Egyptian Feminist, Psychiatrist and Novelist has passed away. She was 89. She was born in October 1931 in a Nile Delta village, just north of Cairo. She published her famous book, “Women and Sex” in 1972. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nawal Saadawi (Egypt) – a Feminist, Psychiatrist and Novelist – passed away
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

26. Pune Lieutenant General Walter Anthony Gustavo “WAG” Pinto, former General Officer in the Indian Army has passed away on March 25. He was 97. Gen Pinto last served as the 8th General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command. He is also known as “The Victor of Basantar”. The Battle of Basantar was one of the biggest ground battles ever fought by the Indian Army. He had received the Param Vishisht Seva Medal for his valour in the 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Walter Anthony Gustavo or WAG Pinto or “The Victor of Basantar” – Army Officer – passed away
- He served as the 8th General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command
- He had received “Param Vishisht Seva Medal” for his valour in the 1971 war
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

27. On March 31, Punjabi writer Taran Gujral has passed away in Chandigarh. She was 90. A writer of short stories and children’s literature, Taran also dabbled in poetry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taran Gujral – a Punjabi writer – passed away

28. The former President Didier Ratsiraka who was President of Madagascar from 1975 to 1993 and from 1997 to 2002 had died on March 28 in Antananarivo. He was 84 years old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Didier Ratsiraka – Former President of Madagascar – passed away
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

29. On March 15, Wrestler Ritika Phogat, a cousin of the Phogat sisters, has allegedly died by suicide in Haryana’s Charkhi Dadri district after she lost the final bout of a tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ritika Phogat (Rajasthan)– a Wrestler – passed away
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

30. On March 20, Former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman G. V. Ramakrishna has passed away in Chennai. Ramakrishna, born in 1930, was the first Chairman of SEBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. V. Ramakrishna – Former & the 1st Chairman of SEBI – passed away
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

31. On March 23, Veteran Writer-filmmaker Sagar Sarhadi has passed away due to age-related illness. He was 88. He was credited with films like Kabhi Kabhie, Silsila and Chandni. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sagar Sarhadi – a Writer & Filmmaker – passed away



Persons in News

1. Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister of Kuwait has visited India on 17-18 March 2021. A Joint Statement on establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers to steer the relationship was issued during the visit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Foreign Minister of Kuwait – visited India for 2-day visit
- Joint Ministerial Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers – to be established
- Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah – Foreign Minister of Kuwait
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Dinar | PM – Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah | Emir – Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

2. On March 2, Indian captain Virat Kohli has recorded another century as he became the first cricketer in the world to have 100 million followers on social media platform Instagram. The 32-year-old Kohli is also the first person in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the feat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – became the 1st cricketer in the world to have 100 million followers on Instagram
- HQs of Instagram – California, USA | CEO – Kevin Systrom

3. On March 8, Tashnuva Anan Shishir, a transgender has started her journey as a News Anchor in Bangladesh on International Women's Day. She went live for a Bengali channel, Boishakhi News. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tashnuva Anan Shishir – a transgender has started her journey as a News Anchor in Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

4. On March 10, Google has shared a doodle to celebrate 89th birth anniversary of renowned Indian professor and scientist Udupi Ramachandra Rao. Known as 'India's Satellite Man', Rao passed away in 2017 due to age-related ailments. He was born in a remote village of Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google shared a doodle to celebrate 89th birth anniversary of – Udupi Ramachandra Rao (India's Satellite Man)
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

5. On March 17, The Bloomberg Billionaires Index has showed that so far in 2021, Gautam Adani has added \$16.2 billion, taking his total net worth to \$50 billion. With this surge in his wealth, Adani is the World's biggest wealth gainer during the covid-19 pandemic and he is now the 26th richest person in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Adani – the World's biggest wealth gainer in 2021 (Total net worth – \$50 billion)
- Gautam Adani – 26th richest person in the world

6. On March 15, Duarte Pacheco, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, is in India on a seven-day visit. He was present in Rajya Sabha to observe the proceedings of the House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Duarte Pacheco ([President of IPU](#)) is in India on a seven-day visit
- [HQs of IPU – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Duarte Pacheco | Formed in – 1889](#)

7. On March 15, Oscar-nominated actor Elliot Page has become the first transgender man to star on the front cover of Time Magazine when the magazine's latest edition goes on sale. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Elliot Page ([Canada](#)) – became the first transgender man to star on the front cover of Time Magazine
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau](#)

8. Afghan foreign minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar has arrived in New Delhi for a 3-day visit on March 22. Atmar will hold talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and other senior officials during the visit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Haneef Atmar ([Foreign Minister of Afghanistan](#)) – arrived in New Delhi (India) for a 3-day visit
- [Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani](#)

9. On March 25, Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde has officially recommended the second most senior Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice N. V. Ramana, as his successor. Ramana will take over from CJI Bobde, who is due to demit office on April 23, and serve as the the 48th Chief Justice of India till August 26, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chief Justice S. A. Bobde – recommended the name of “Justice N. V. Ramana” as his successor (48th CJI)

10. The Ministry of AYUSH has set up an Interdisciplinary Team of experts to explore the potential of Yoga as a productivity enhancing tool for the population. The committee is chaired by H. R Nagendra (Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AYUSH Ministry set up Interdisciplinary Team of experts to explore potential of Yoga
- The committee is chaired by – H. R Nagendra
- [MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa](#)



Science & Technology

1. Russia has launched its space satellite “Arktika-M” on a mission to monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic amid a push by the Kremlin to expand the country's activities in the region. At the right orbit, the satellite will be able to monitor and take images every 15-30 minutes of the Arctic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – successfully launched its space satellite “Arktika-M”
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

2. ISRO has successfully launched Brazil’s optical earth observation satellite, “Amazonia-1” and 18 co-passenger satellites from India (5) and the USA (13) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. The satellites were carried on board the PSLV-C51. It was the 53rd flight of India’s workhorse launch vehicle and the first dedicated mission for New Space India Ltd (NSIL). Five satellites belong to India including the ‘Satish Dhawan SAT’ (SDSAT) built by Space Kidz India. The ‘UNITYsat’ is a combination of 3 satellites JITSat, GHRCEsat & Sri ShaktiSat and developed by 3 Indian Colleges. Satellite ‘Sindhu Netra’ is developed by the DRDO. And satellites ‘SAI-1 NanoConnect-2’ and ‘SpaceBEEs’ belongs to the USA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – launched Brazil’s optical earth observation satellite “Amazonia-1” & 18 co-passenger satellites
- The satellites were carried on board the ‘PSLV-C51’ (53rd flight of India’s workhorse launch vehicle)
- ‘Satish Dhawan SAT’ – built by Space Kidz India | ‘UNITYsat’ – developed by 3 Indian Colleges
- ‘Sindhu Netra’ – developed by the DRDO | ‘SAI-1 NanoConnect-2’ & ‘SpaceBEEs’ satellites – USA
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan](#) | [Formed in – 1969](#)

3. On March 1, Computer maker HP has made its first ever consumer PC using plastic waste in ocean. Newly launched Pavilion 13, Pavilion 14, and Pavilion 15 Laptops were manufactured using ocean-bound plastics. HP claims that with Wi-Fi 6, the Pavilion PCs will enable up to four times faster maximum Wi-Fi speeds and 75% lower latency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HP – made its 1st ever consumer PC using plastic waste in ocean
- [HQs of HP – California, US](#) | [CEO – Enrique Lores](#)

4. On March 3, In a bid to boost the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in India, The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) along with Microsoft has announced to launch “AI Gamechangers Programme”. It will recognise innovators for their successful AI implementation at Nasscom’s virtual ‘Xperience AI Summit’, one of the largest ‘AI event’ in India, in July. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASSCOM + Microsoft = to launch “AI Gamechangers Programme”
- [HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA](#) | [CEO – Satya Nadella](#)
- [HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi](#) | [President – Debjani Ghosh](#)
- [Chairman – UB Pravin Rao](#) | [Vice-Chairman – Rekha M Menon](#)

5. On March 3, As part of a Global Science Programme, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has recently confirmed the discovery of 18 new asteroids by Indian students. Conducted by STEM and Space, the International Asteroid Discovery Project was organised in collaboration with International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) as part of a NASA Citizen Science Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAU – confirmed the discovery of 18 new asteroids by Indian students
- NASA – initiated the International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) – as a part of ‘Citizen Science Project’
- HQs of IAU – Paris, France | President – Ewine van Dishoeck
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

6. On March 2, MapmyIndia has integrated with India’s official vaccination registration website, “Co-WIN portal” in order to make it easy for registered citizens to find nearby vaccine centres across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MapmyIndia – integrated with “Co-WIN portal” to help find nearby Covid-19 vaccination centres
- HQs of MapmyIndia – New Delhi | CEO – Rohan Verma | CMD – Rakesh Verma

7. On March 3, Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital, has indigenously designed and developed the ‘Made in India’ optical spectrograph named “Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera” (ADFOSC). The spectrograph has been commissioned on the 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT), the largest in India and in Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARIES (Nainital) – indigenously designed and developed the ‘Made in India’ Optical Spectrograph
- It is named – “Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera” (ADFOSC)
- It is commissioned on – 3.6m Devasthal Optical Telescope (the largest in India and in Asia)

8. On March 3, Researchers from India and the U.S. have discovered 5 new species of shrub frogs (genus Raorchestes) from the Western Ghats which is one of the globally recognised biodiversity hotspots as 80% of the world’s Shrub frog species is found there. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers from India and U.S. discovered 5 new species of shrub frogs – from the Western Ghats
- Raorchestes Drutaahu (Fast-calling Shrub Frog) – discovered in Idukki & Palakkad (Kerala)
- Raorchestes Kakkayamensis (Kakkayam Shrub Frog) – discovered in Kerala
- Raorchestes Keirasabinae (Keira's Shrub Frog) – discovered in the southern Western Ghats
- Raorchestes Sanjappai (Sanjappa's Shrub Frog) – discovered from the Wayanad region (Kerala)
- Raorchestes Vellikannan (Silver-eyed Shrub Frog) – discovered in the Siruvani hills, TN & Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

9. On March 3, ISRO has embarked on a mission to take startups in the space sector to a higher orbit with a string of initiatives to help them realise their business potential. It is keen on formulating an exclusive space startup programme - "Space Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development (SEED)". Department of Space (DoS) has also collaborated with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Niti Aayog, to launch 3 challenges in space domain - 'ARISE' programme as a part of Aatmanirbhar Atal New India Challenges (ANIC) for promotion of applied research and innovation in small enterprises (MSMEs-Startups). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO launched a space startup programme "SEED" (Space Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development)
- DoS + AIM (Niti Aayog) = to launch 3 challenges in space domain - 'ARISE' programme
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

10. On March 3, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the "Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Institute of Medical Sciences and Research" at IIT Kharagpur and has also addressed the 66th Convocation of IIT Kharagpur. The MBBS programme is expected to start from the academic year 2021-22 in addition to postgraduate and doctoral programmes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi inaugurated "Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Institute of Medical Sciences & Research" – at IIT Kharagpur
- PM Modi also addressed the 66th Convocation of – IIT Kharagpur

11. On March 2, Scientists of ICAR-National Rice Research Institute (NRRI), Cuttack, have developed an Alternate Energy Light Trap (AELT) device for checking pests in agricultural fields and got a patent for the invention. The automated device was invented by Dr. Shyamaranjan Das Mohapatra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Shyamaranjan Das Mohapatra (ICAR-NRRI) – developed an Alternate Energy Light Trap (AELT) device
- Location of NRRI – Cuttack, Odisha

12. On March 5, The DRDO has successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. Separately, the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) has carried out keel laying for the 3rd stealth frigate for the Navy under 'Project-17A'. The ₹19,293 Cr contract for three stealth frigates under P-17A was the largest ever order to GRSE from the Defence Ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – test fired flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology – from Chandipur, Odisha
- GRSE – carried out keel laying for the 3rd stealth frigate for the Navy under 'Project-17A'
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena

13. The Starship SN10 spacecraft of SpaceX has touched down successfully after a high-altitude test flight on March 3 in its third attempt. SN10's two immediate predecessors, SN8 and SN9 were failed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – successfully tested its 'Starship SN10' prototype rocket after two failed attempts
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

14. On March 8, The ISRO along with the NASA has completed development of "NISAR" (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission. 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. The mission is targeted to launch in early 2022 from ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + NASA = completed development of "NISAR" (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)
- It is targeted to launch in 2022 from ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

15. On March 8, The indigenously-instrumented Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) successfully cleared its maiden flight trial with a parachute system from the Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38 maritime patrol aircraft. It is designed and developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden flight trials of "Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL)"
- The test was conducted from Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38 maritime patrol aircraft
- It is designed and developed by – NSTL (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

16. The DRDO has successfully developed a prototype of an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system that will allow Indian Navy submarines to operate for up to 2 weeks without having to surface to recharge its batteries. The system is being developed by Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) of DRDO. NMRL is expected to operationally field its indigenous AIP by 2023-24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMRL-DRDO – developed a prototype of an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system for Submarines
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of NMRL – Thane, Maharashtra | Director – Dr. Manoranjan Patri

17. On March 7, ISRO has planned to launch an earth observation satellite "GISAT-1" that will provide it near real-time images of its borders and also enable quick monitoring of natural disasters. GISAT-1 is slated to be lofted into space by 'GSLV-F10' rocket from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO planned to launch an earth observation satellite "GISAT-1" (by 'GSLV-F10')
- It will be launched from Sriharikota spaceport, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

18. On March 9, Russia's Roscosmos space agency and China have signed an MoU to set up an International Lunar Scientific Research (ILSR) Station. The lunar station will be designed for conducting research on the surface or orbit of the moon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia + China = an MoU to set up an International Lunar Scientific Research (ILSR) Station
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

19. On March 10, Paytm has launched 2 new Internet of Things (IoT)-based payment devices, helping businesses to accept card payments on Android phones. The Paytm "Smart PoS" application allows smartphones to accept debit and credit card payments. Paytm upgraded its IoT device, "Soundbox 2.0" that comes equipped with a digitally enabled screen that gives instant visual confirmation of the paid amount along with a voice-based response. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm launched 2 new-based payment devices – "Smart PoS" app & "Soundbox 2.0"
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma

20. On March 10, JP Morgan has successfully tested a blockchain transaction in space using the satellites of GomSpace. It is the world's first bank-led tokenised value transfer in space. The transaction was executed between two GOMX-4 satellites in the low Earth orbit (LEO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JP Morgan + GomSpace = successfully tested a blockchain transaction in space
- HQs of JP Morgan Chase – New York, US | CEO – Jamie Dimon
- HQs of GomSpace – Denmark | CEO – Niels Buus

21. On March 11, Dubai Municipality, in collaboration with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), has announced to launch the "DMSat-1" satellite, the region's first environmental nanometric satellite, from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on March 20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dubai Municipality + Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre = to launch "DMSat-1" satellite – from Kazakhstan
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

22. On March 12, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a sounding rocket to study altitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics from Sriharikota spaceport. ISRO has developed a series of sounding rockets called Rohini series 'RH-560'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – launched sounding rocket called Rohini series 'RH-560'
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

23. On March 12, The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has set up a portal called 'SERB – Project Information System & Management (SERB - PRISM)' that offers real time information on the various research projects supported by it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SERB – set up a portal called 'SERB – Project Information System & Management (SERB - PRISM)'
- SERB – A statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- HQs of SERB – New Delhi | Secretary – Prof Sandeep Verma

24. On March 12, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have held a virtual meeting to review the progress made under the Joint Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission which is likely to be launched in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + JAXA = held a virtual meeting to review the progress made under "LUPEX" mission
- LUPEX – Lunar Polar Exploration – to be launched in 2024
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | Administrator – Hiroshi Yamakawa

25. On March 13, The indigenously-instrumented Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) has successfully cleared its maiden flight trial with a parachute system from the Indian Navy's 'Ilyushin Il-38' maritime patrol aircraft. It is developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO's NSTL conducted the 1st flight trial of Torpedo Advanced Light (TAL) from Indian Navy's 'Aircraft IL-38SD'
- HQs of NSTL – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | President – V. Bhujanga Rao

26. On March 11, The world's most powerful supercomputer "Fugaku", developed by Japan, is now fully operational. Fugaku has topped the Top500 list, a supercomputer benchmark index, for 2 consecutive years. The computer is built to help build the "Society 5.0". "PARAM-Siddhi AI" is India's fastest Supercomputer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Fugaku" the world's most powerful supercomputer – topped the Top500 list (developed by Japan)
- India's fastest Supercomputer – "PARAM-Siddhi AI"
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

27. On March 16, A 30-member team of scientists and researchers from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Panaji and another 30 crew members onboard its research vessel Sindhu Sadhana will spend the next 3 months traversing the course of over 10,000 nautical miles in the Indian Ocean to launch the first-of-its-kind project called "Genome Mapping". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A 30-member team of scientists and researchers from NIO – to launch "Genome Mapping" project
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Panaji, Goa

28. A team of botanists has recently stumbled upon a new rattlepod species named as “Crotalaria lamelliformis” in the Sadasivakona grove area of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. The discovery has been published in the latest edition of the noted international journal Phytotaxa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A team of botanists discovered a new rattlepod species named as “Crotalaria lamelliformis” – in Chittoor, AP
- The discovery has been published in “International Journal Phytotaxa”
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

29. On March 18, Samsung India 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samsung India – inaugurated a “Samsung Innovation Lab” at Delhi Technological University
- #PoweringDigitalIndia vision – belongs to Samsung India
- Country Head of Samsung India – Sunil Dutt
- HQs of Samsung Electronics – Suwon-si, South Korea | CEO – Kim Hyun Suk

30. On March 18, Nokia in partnership with Google Cloud, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services (AWS) aims to research and enable Cloud RAN (vRAN) and Open RAN technologies to develop new customer-focused 5G solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nokia + Google Cloud + Microsoft + AWS = to develop 5G solutions
- HQs of Nokia – Espoo, Finland | CEO – Pekka Lundmark
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)

31. On March 18, The government is keen to develop and strengthen its own mobile app store. India’s first indigenously developed Appstore, “Mobile Seva Appstore” hosts more than 965 live apps from various domains and categories. According to “India App Market Statistics report 2021”, around 5% apps on Android are from Indian Apps developers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first indigenously developed Appstore – “Mobile Seva Appstore”
- 5% apps on Android are from Indian Apps developers

32. On March 18, City-based Data Patterns (India) Pvt Ltd has successfully delivered the first major indigenous ‘Checkout System’ for ISRO’s prestigious Gaganyaan programme. ISRO’s manned mission is scheduled to be launched in 2022-23. ISRO has lined up the first unmanned mission in December 2021 and second unmanned mission in 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Data Patterns (India) Pvt Ltd – delivered the first major indigenous ‘Checkout System’ for Gaganyaan programme
- ISRO’s manned mission is scheduled to be launched – in 2022-23
- ISRO’s first unmanned mission in – December 2021 | Second unmanned mission in – 2022-23

33. The study led by researchers from city-based Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) has discovered a new diatom species called “Epithemia Agharkarii” named after S P Agharkar. It was found in Mula river, Pune, Maharashtra. Diatoms are single-celled algae. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARI researchers discovered a new diatom species “Epithemia Agharkarii” – in Mula river, Pune, Maharashtra
- HQs of ARI – Pune, MH | Founder Director – Shankar Purushottam Agharkar | Founded in – 1946
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

34. Russia has successfully launched “Soyuz-2.1” carrier rocket with 38 foreign satellites from 18 countries into orbit from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Among them was the ‘Challenge-1’, the first satellite made completely in Tunisia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia successfully launched “Soyuz-2.1” carrier rocket – in Kazakhstan (with 38 foreign satellites from 18 countries)
- ‘Challenge-1’ – the 1st indigenous satellite of Tunisia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | PM – Hichem Mechichi

35. On March 23, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently demonstrated free-space quantum communication over a distance of 300m for the first time. The demonstration included live videoconferencing using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – demonstrated free-space quantum communication over a distance of 300m
- The demonstration is done using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

36. On March 23, IISc Bengaluru signed a Research & Development pact with Applied Materials India to explore applications of advanced materials. Applied Materials India has joined the Industry Affiliate Program (IAP) of the Centre for Nanoscience and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISc Bengaluru + Applied Materials India = signed a pact to explore applications of advanced materials
- HQs of Applied Materials India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | President – Srinivas Satya



37. On March 24, Google and Microsoft have partnered to fix compatibility issues in their browsers. The cross-browser effort named “#Compact2021” aims to eliminate compatibility problems in five key focus areas such as CSS Flexbox, CSS Grid, and others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + Microsoft = partnership to fix compatibility issues in their browsers
- The name of cross-browser effort – “#Compact2021”
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

38. North Korea has fired two Ballistic Missiles into sea, the first such test reported since US President Joe Biden took office in January. North Korea’s ballistic missiles are banned under United Nations Security Council Resolutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- North Korea – fired two Ballistic Missiles into sea
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un

39. On March 26, Researchers from the NASA and University of Hyderabad (UoH) have jointly discovered a novel species of bacteria from the International Space Station (ISS) that could help in space agriculture to meet the long-term food needs of astronauts and space tourists to the moon or Mars. “Methylobacterium Ajmalii”, has been found to bust stress that plants undergo in zero gravity in space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA + UoH = jointly discovered “Methylobacterium Ajmalii” a novel species of bacteria from the ISS
- It is named after – Seyed Ajmal Khan
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

40. On March 26, Pakistan has successfully test-fired “Shaheen-1A” - a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 900 kilometres. It was aimed at re-validating various design and technical parameters of the weapon system including advanced navigation system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired “Shaheen-1A” - a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile
- Range of the missile – 900 km
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

41. On March 26, The ISRO has partnered with Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) to coordinate Joint Research Activities. ISRO’s partnership with the IIST is something similar to the JPL-Caltech model in the United States. JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) is federally funded by the U.S. space agency NASA and managed by Caltech (California Institute of Technology). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + IIST = to coordinate Joint Research Activities

- JPL – federally funded by NASA & managed by Caltech (JPL – Jet Propulsion Laboratory)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958
- Location of ISST – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | Director – Dr. V. K. Dadhwal

42. Google has launched a new tool called “Threadit” to help make remote work more efficient. The tool is like TikTok for workspaces. It lets users share short video recordings to share their work and connect with your team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – launched a new tool called “Threadit” to help make remote work more efficient
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

43. On March 25, Marine biologists from Central University of Punjab have discovered two new native species of marine algae, also called seaweeds, from the coasts of Gujarat, Diu and Tamil Nadu. The species are named ‘Hypnea Indica’ and ‘Hypnea Bullata’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marine biologists from Central University of Punjab – discovered 2 new native species of marine Algae (Seaweeds)
- ‘Hypnea Indica’ & ‘Hypnea Bullata’ – were discovered from the coasts of Gujarat, Diu & Tamil Nadu

44. Facebook along with Google has planned 2 new undersea cables named ‘Echo’ and ‘Bifrost’ to connect Singapore, Indonesia and North America. The two cables follow previous investments by Facebook to build up connectivity in Indonesia, one of its top five markets globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook + Google = planned 2 new undersea cables to connect Singapore, Indonesia & North America
- 2 cables are named – ‘Echo’ & ‘Bifrost’
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

45. On March 25, Indian Telephone Industries Ltd (ITI) and Thalamus Irwine have developed a technology namely “Garuda Blockchain Platform” for storing Medical/Healthcare Data on blockchain and also conducted a Proof of Concept (PoC) with as many as 300 patients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITI Ltd + Thalamus Irwine = developed “Garuda Blockchain Platform” & conducted a PoC with 300 patients
- The platform stores & processes – Medical/Healthcare Data
- HQs of ITI Ltd – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairman & MD – Rakesh Mohan Agarwal

46. On March 30, A new sub-species of the 6 line blue butterfly named “Nacaduba Sinhala Ramaswamii” has been discovered from the south Western Ghats. The new butterfly species is named after Lord Rama. It was published in the “Journal of Threatened Taxa” in March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nacaduba Sinhala Ramaswamii” – a species of Butterfly – discovered from the south Western Ghats
- The discovery was published in – “Journal of Threatened Taxa”

47. On March 29, The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Bharat Biotech International are planning to bring the messenger RNA (mRNA) platform to India after seeing its successful use in quick development of covid-19 vaccines by US-based Pfizer and Moderna. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR + Bharat Biotech = to bring mRNA platform to India
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande
- HQs of Bharat Biotech – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella

48. On March 17, The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) has launched the US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative to focus on AI cooperation in critical areas that are priorities for both countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India-US S&T forum launched Artificial Intelligence initiative
- US – Washington, D. C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

49. As on March 20, India and France are working on their 3rd joint satellite mission “TRISHNA” (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High resolution Natural resource Assessment). ISRO and French space agency CNES (Centre National dEtudes Spatiales) have undertaken two joint missions “Megha-Tropiques”, which was launched in 2011 and “Saral-Altika” in 2013. The two space agencies have also finalised all interface control documents for accommodating CNES's 'ARGOS' instrument in ISROs “OCEANSAT-3” satellite. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO (India) + CNES (France) = working on their 3rd joint satellite mission “TRISHNA”
- TRISHNA – Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High resolution Natural resource Assessment
- “Megha-Tropiques” (2011) & “Saral-Altika” (2013) – between India & France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. On March 3, The Central Government has amended “Insurance Ombudsman Rules - 2017” under the section 24 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 bringing insurance brokers within their ambit and also allowed policyholders to file online complaints. The ombudsman mechanism was administered by the Executive Council of Insurers, which has been renamed as the Council for Insurance Ombudsmen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Government – amended “Insurance Ombudsman Rules - 2017” under Section 24 of the IRDA Act, 1999
- Executive Council of Insurers – renamed as the ‘Council for Insurance Ombudsmen’
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

2. On March 15, The Rajya Sabha has passed “The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019” that declares two food technology institutes at Kundli in Haryana and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu as national institutes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed “The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019”
- The bill declares 2 food technology institutes as National Institutes - Kundli (Haryana) & Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu)

3. On March 13, The Union Cabinet has approved a Bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI). The Budget provided for an initial amount of ₹20,000 Cr for the institution. The institution would have Tax benefits for 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved a Bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI) | Tax benefits for 10 years
- An initial amount for the institution in the budget – ₹20,000 Cr

4. On March 22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021” in the Lok Sabha to pave way for setting up of a government-owned DFI to fund infra projects. NaBFID will be set up with a corpus of ₹20,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – introduced “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021”
- NaBFID will be set up with a corpus of – ₹20,000 Cr

5. On March 23, Lok Sabha has passed the “National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021” to amend the “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991”. The Bill amends certain powers and responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Lok Sabha – passed the “National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021” to amend the “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991”
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

6. On March 22, Lok Sabha has passed the “Marine Aids to Navigation Bill-2021”, which is proposed to replace the “Lighthouse Act, 1927”. India has 195 lighthouses now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lok Sabha passed “Marine Aids to Navigation Bill-2021” – to replace “Lighthouse Act, 1927”
- India has 195 lighthouses

7. President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021”. The Act provides that the term “Government” referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply Lieutenant Governor. President Kovind also gave his assent to the “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021” and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 replacing the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. NBFID will be set up with authorised share capital of Rs 1 Lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – approved “Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021”
- It replaces the “Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957”
- Ram Nath Kovind – approved “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021”
- The term “Government” referred to in any law made by Legislative Assembly will imply ‘Lieutenant Governor’
- Ram Nath Kovind – approved “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021”

8. On March 21, The Rajya Sabha has approved the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021” to amend the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971” on 16th March 2021. The Bill was approved in Lok Sabha on 17th March 2020. The Upper Gestation limit to terminate pregnancy is 24 weeks (earlier 20 weeks) for special categories of women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – amended the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971”
- The Upper Gestation limit to terminate pregnancy is 24 weeks (from 20 weeks earlier)





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