

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Recipient name	Award name	Extra Information
Mohankrishna Bohara	Bihari Puraskar 2020	The 30th Bihari Puraskar for 2020 will be given to Mohankrishna Bohara for his Hindi book of Criticism, titled Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya.S
Koneru Humpy	BBC’s Indian sportswoman of the year	The Lifetime Achievement award went to veteran athlete Anju Bobby George.+
Amitabh Bachchan	2021 Film Archive Award	Indian Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be conferred with the 2021 Film Archive Award by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) at a virtual ceremony scheduled to take place on March 19, 2021.
Deepika Padukone	World Economic Forum - list of Young Global Leader	The list also includes several Indian citizens and India-origin persons. They join a group of Nobel Prize recipients, Pulitzer winners, heads of state and chief executive officers committed to improving the state of the world.
Niger’s President Mahamadou Issoufou	2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership	Mahamadou Issoufou, the incumbent President of Niger has won the “2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership”, the world’s largest leadership prize, worth \$5 million.
Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish	Top prizes at 63rd Grammy Awards	At the 63rd Grammy Awards, Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish won the top prizes while Beyonce became the most awarded female artist in Grammy history with her 28th win.
Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019, Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020	Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman , Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Committee selected the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards social,

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		economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.
Asha Bhosle	'Maharashtra Bhushan'	Legendary singer Asha Bhosle will be honoured with the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award for the year 2020. A committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to select Ms Bhosle for the award for the year 2020.
Prof. Sharad Pagare	Vyas Samman-2020	Professor Sharad Pagare is one of the well-known writers of Hindi literature and has been known as one of the distinguished researchers, professors, and scholars of the historical past.ss
Carmen Maria Machado	The Rathbones Folio Prize 2021	In the 2019 book, the author outlines her experiences in a same-sex relationship with her former partner, and the abuse she was subjected to. It is at once an inventive and radical work, a true testimony to her narrative gift.
Mahinder Giri	International Ranger Award	The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas WCPA.

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Jaideep Bhatnagar	Principal Director General of PIB	Prior to his current charge as head of the organisation, Bhatnagar has worked in PIB for six years in different capacities. He will take over from Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, who superannuated on February 28, 2021.
Ajendra Bahadur Singh	Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Eastern Naval Command (ENC)	He replaces Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain. Atul Kumar Jain has been transferred to New Delhi to assume charge as the Vice Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).
Matam Venkata Rao	MD & CEO of Central Bank Of India	His appointment is for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after March 1, 2021, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
Mary Kom	Chairperson of AIBA champions and veterans committee	Indian Boxer Mary Kom has been appointed as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee.
Manpreet Vohra	India's High Commissioner To Australia	Vohra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently Ambassador of India to Mexico.
Ligia Noronha	UN Assistant Secretary-General	UN chief Antonio Guterres has appointed leading Indian economist Ligia Noronha as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
Tarun Bajaj	Revenue Secretary	Department of economic affairs secretary, Tarun Bajaj has been given the additional charge of revenue secretary.
Naureen Hassan	VP & COO of Federal Reserve Bank	Indian-origin Naureen Hassan has been appointed as the first

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		Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the New York-based Federal Reserve Bank.
G R Chintala	Chairman of APRACA (Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association).	He has taken over from DPK Gunasekera, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Ceylon. Chintala, in his address as APRACA Chairman, appreciated the role of the members of APRACA in promoting the development of rural finance in Asia Pacific.
Tirath Singh Rawat	Chief Minister of U'khand	This was announced by outgoing chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, who resigned. Tirath Singh Rawat will be sworn in as the new chief minister of Uttrakhand.
Dr. GP Samanta	Chief Statistician of India	He is India's fourth CSI. He will replace Kshatrapati Shivaji who was holding an additional charge of the post since September 2020.
Pallav Mohapatra	MD & CEO of ARCIL	Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil) has announced the appointment of Pallav Mohapatra as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.
Deepak Mishra	Director and chief executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)	Deepak Mishra, Practice Manager in the World Bank's Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice.
DP Pandey	Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.	An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, General Pandey was commissioned into the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment in December 1985 from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
M. A. Ganapathy	Director General of National Security Guard	Senior IPS officer, M. A. Ganapathy was on March 16, 2021 appointed Director General of National Security Guard. Ganapathy, a 1986 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, is currently Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

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Ajay Mathur	Director General of International Solar Alliance	He has been appointed for a period of four years which can be renewed for an additional term.
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board'	He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis from India by 2025. He will serve a three-year term, commencing from July this year.
Ajinkya Rahane	NeoGrowth - Brand ambassador	The agreement is for a year which can be extended further. Rahane will feature in a campaign slated to be released in the first week of April, which will talk about the ease of procuring loans through NeoGrowth for small businesses.
Samia Suluhu Hassan	Tanzania's first woman President	The 61-year-old Hassan assumed the presidency, following the death of previous President John Magufuli, due to a heart condition. She will finish Magufuli's second five-year term, which will run until 2025.
Mark Rutte	EU's third-longest serving leader	Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte claimed an overwhelming victory in the nation's General Elections held on March 17, 2021. The elections were conducted over a course of three days amid a nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19.
Arindam Bagchi	MEA spokesperson	Arindam Bagchi, an officer of the 1995 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), has assumed charge as the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA). He is replacing Anurag Srivastava, an officer of the 1999 batch of IFS.
NV Ramana	Chief Justice of India	The Chief Justice of India SA Bobde is scheduled to retire from the position on April 23rd.

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Atish Chandra	Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India	Mr Chandra, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
Saurabh Garg	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Mr Garg as the CEO, UIDAI in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry.
Sanjeev Kumar	Chairman of Airports Authority of India	Kumar is a 1993-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment
Sassou Nguesso	Republic of Congo - President	The longtime president of the Republic of Congo, Sassou Nguesso is set for another five-year term after getting over 88% of the vote.
Anish Shah	M&M's Managing Director, CEO	Anish Shah who is set to take over as the managing director and CEO of Mahindra and Mahindra from 2 April will become the first professional executive to oversee the entire business of the \$19.4 billion Mahindra Group.
Soma Mondal	Chairperson of SCOPE	Soma Mondal, the chairperson of the state-owned Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), was on March 26, 2021, elected the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE).

BANKING & FINANCE

Fino Payments Bank upgraded to scheduled commercial bank status

Reserve Bank of India has notified that it has included Fino Payments Bank in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. All banks which are included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 are Scheduled Banks. These banks comprise Scheduled Commercial Banks and Scheduled Co-operative Banks.

World Bank plans \$100-mn guarantee scheme for solar rooftop projects

The World Bank plans to introduce a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme, which has not gained enough traction. The scheme will allow micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units.

RBI imposes Rs 2 crore penalty on SBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced on March 16, 2021 that it has fined India's largest lending bank "State Bank of India (SBI)" with Rs 2 crore after it failed to follow the regulations in payment of remuneration to its employees through the commissions.

HDFC Bank Named India's Best SME Bank by Asiamoney

HDFC Bank has adjudged the 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021. In its evaluation, the magazine said on its website – "HDFC Bank's transformation of its micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) business over the past few years makes it a worthy winner of this award."

The Annual Best Banks survey of the financial magazine based in Hong Kong aims to identify which banks in each market have excelled across a range of core banking activities over the past 12 months.

SBI Mutual Funds Launches First Overseas Fund

The State Bank of India (SBI) Mutual Funds has launched its first overseas offering on 1 March 2021. The fund titled SBI International Access — US Equity FOF is an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in a mutual fund scheme/ETFs that invest in US markets, which are domiciled overseas.

Sebi cancels Sahara India Financial Corp's registration as sub-broker

Markets regulator Sebi has cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfil the "fit and proper" criteria. The regulator had appointed a designated authority in 2018 to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of Intermediaries Regulations.

RBI removes PCA restrictions on IDBI Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has removed IDBI Bank from its enhanced regulatory supervision or Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework. It was noted that as per published results for the quarter ending December 31, 2020, the bank is not in breach of the PCA parameters on regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio.

Axis Bank launches “Wear N Pay” contactless payment wearable devices

Axis Bank has launched a range of wearable contactless payment devices under the brand Wear ‘N’ Pay. These devices come in different forms of wearables like a band, key chain and watch loop and are available starting at Rs 750.

Indian Overseas Bank launches ‘IOB Trendy’ savings account

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched ‘IOB Trendy’, a savings account customised for the growing millennial population in the country by keeping their banking preferences in mind. IOB Trendy is a Savings Bank Account Scheme introduced by the bank towards this endeavour.

SBI Payments launch of ‘RuPay SoftPoS’

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in association with the SBI Payments have announce to launch the ‘RuPay SoftPoS’ for millions of Indian merchants. This technology will be helpful in transforming the NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for retailers.

RBI extends curbs on PMC Bank till 30 June

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended restrictions on withdrawals and deposits in Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank till 30 June, 2021. This decision was taken as central bank is working to finalize an investor for scam-hit multi-state cooperative bank.

Reserve Bank of India had imposed restrictions on Punjab & Maharashtra Bank Cooperative Bank in September 2019 after it came across financial irregularities in the bank.

Union Bank of India launched “UNI – CARBON CARD”

Union Bank of India has launched “UNI – CARBON CARD”, an HPCL co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI. It is a unique card designed with association with one of the largest Public Sector Bank, Union Bank of India and HPCL, a leader in the fuel retail and Rupay – India’s largest card payment network. It will create an opportunity to create value for the customers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank tie-up with Indian army to handle salary accounts

Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank will handle the salary account of the Indian army personnel. The bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army here for a salary account. The MoU enables Kotak to offer its salary account proposition, combined with exclusive benefits for the Indian Army, to all army personnel – both active and retired.

HDFC Bank launches SmartUp Unnati programme

HDFC Bank on the occasion of International Women' Day has announced the launch of a dedicated programme named "SmartUp Unnati" for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank.

This programme is available only to exist customers and will initially target more than 3,000 women entrepreneurs associated with the bank's SmartUp programme.

MeitY released the list of "Digital Payment Scorecard"

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has released the list of "Digital Payment Scorecard". In the list, the State Bank of India (SBI) has topped for the third consecutive months.

RBI imposes Rs 15 lakh penalty on Fedbank Financial Services

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 15 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Mumbai. The penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with "certain provisions of the directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) contained in "Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016'.

ESAF Small Finance Bank Awarded With 'Great Place To Work' Certification

ESAF Small Finance Bank had been awarded 'Great place to work' certification by the Great place to Work Institute. The certification is the result of an employee survey conducted by the third-party global authority on recognising high-trust and performance culture at workplaces. This recognition acknowledges the bank's commitment and credibility amongst its employees.

Parliament passes National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Rajya Sabha on March 24, 2021, passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The bill was earlier passed in the Lok Sabha on March 22, 2021.

The latest bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 which provides a framework for the functioning of the Government of Delhi and the Legislative Assembly.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Indian Women's League 2020-21 to be hosted in Odisha

All India Football Federation confirms Odisha as the venue for the forthcoming Hero Indian Women's League 2020-21 edition. This is the fifth edition of IWL, the top division women's league in India.

International Yoga festival begins in Rishikesh

The International Yoga Festival was inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand Subodh Uniyal, head of Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad (ABAP) Narendra Giri and Patanjali Yogpeeth chairman Acharya Balakrishna in Rishikesh. The festival is being jointly organised by Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN).

7th annual summit of NATHEALTH

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan, addressed the 7th annual summit of NATHEALTH. The summit focused on 'Indian Health system expansion in post-COVID era'. While addressing the summit the minister reiterated the commitments of the government for fulfilling the goal of Health for all.

India to commemorate 'Chabahar Day' on March 4

India will be commemorating 'Chabahar Day' on March 4, on the sidelines of the ongoing Maritime India Summit-2021, which is being held from March 2-4, 2021.

Ministers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan will participate in the event, as per Ministry of External Affairs.

India's first 'Transgender Community Desk' opens in Telangana

The Cyberabad Police has launched India's first-ever Transgender Community Desk' at the Gachibowli Police Station in Hyderabad, Telangana. This desk is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiatives in the country.

POWERGRID Launches Certified E-Tendering Portal "PRANIT"

Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID) has launched an "e-Tendering Portal" called 'PRANIT' to make the tendering process more transparent. The portal "PRANIT" will involve less paperwork and allow ease of operation, which in turn will make the tendering process more transparent.

Gram Ujala scheme launched in Uttar Pradesh to provide LED bulbs at Rs. 10 each

The Union Power and Renewable Energy Minister R.K. Singh on March 24, 2021, launched the Gram Ujala scheme in the Lok Sabha constituency of PM Modi, Varanasi. Under the scheme, the government offers the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at Rs. 10.

Nirmala Sitharaman launches Central Scrutiny Centre and IEPFA mobile app

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) and Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority's (IEPFA) Mobile App. The two tech-enabled initiatives have been launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to leverage digital solutions to achieve the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digitally empowered India.

WCD Ministry classified All Major Schemes under 3 Umbrella Schemes

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has announced to classify all the major schemes of the ministry for their effective implementation and programmes under the three Umbrella schemes namely, Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.

Government launches 'Mera Ration' mobile app

Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on March 12, 2021 launched "Mera Ration" Mobile App for those ration card holders who migrate to new places in search of livelihood.

Sahi Disha: UNDP launches campaign to celebrate women's livelihood in rural India

The United Nations Development Program- UNDP has launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha' in order to celebrate women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in the rural part of India.

PM Modi launches 'Catch the Rain' campaign

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign on March 22, 2021, on the occasion of World Water Day for conserving water. PM urged that every penny of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) funds be spent on rainwater conservation till the monsoon arrives.

67th National Film Awards announced

Sikkim wins award for Most Film Friendly State. An Engineered Dream wins Best Film in Non-Feature Film category, Marakkar-Arabikkadalinte-Simham bags Best Feature Film award.

Maharshi wins Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment; Anandi Gopal takes the award for Best Film on Social Issues. B Praak wins Best Male Playback Singer for 'Teri Mitti' from the movie Kesari; Oththa Seruppu Size-7 bags Special Jury Award.

Dhanush and Manoj Bajpayee share the award for Best Actor. Kangana Ranaut wins Best Actress award for Manikarnika-The Queen of Jhansi and Panga.

India to decide emergency use authorization of Russia's Sputnik V Vaccine today

The meeting of the Subject Expert Committee- SEC of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation- CDSCO will be held on March 31, 2021, to decide on the emergency use authorization of Russia's Sputnik V Coronavirus vaccine.

The Indian Vaccine manufacturer, Dr. Reddy's, has already submitted the immunogenicity and safety data of the third phase trials of the vaccine.

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World TB Day 2021: Kerala's TB eradication programme bags national honour

Kerala's tuberculosis eradication programme had won national honour as the state bagged the Union government's award for reducing the prevalence of the disease through various systematic initiatives. Kerala is the only state had chosen for recognition in the state category.

National Creche Scheme For Working Mothers

At present, in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the Creches under the "National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers" are currently not functioning in the country.

The National Creche Scheme (formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme) is being implemented through the States/UTs as a centrally sponsored scheme to provide daycare facilities to children of working mothers (age group 6 months to 6 years).

CABINET AFFAIRS

Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill Introduced in MP Assembly

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has introduced the “Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021” in the assembly. This bill has replaced the ordinance that the government had brought to check the religious conversions through any fraudulent means.

Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV merged into “Sansad TV”

The Parliament of India have merged two of the TV channels namely, Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV into an integrated channel “Sansad TV”. This new platform will continue to live telecast the house proceedings, pack news and the current affairs programme in Hindi as well as in English languages.

Cabinet approves India-Japan MoC on Water Resources

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) which was signed between India and Japan for the bilateral cooperation in the field of water resources. This will help in increasing the exchange of information, knowledge and technology.

Arunachal Pradesh launches ‘Dekho Apna Pradesh’ campaign to target homegrown tourists

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh on March 22, 2021, launched the ‘Dekho Apna Pradesh’ campaign in order to encourage people of the state to visit tourist places within it. The boost in tourism will help in healing the damage caused to the sector due to pandemic.

Parliament passes National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Rajya Sabha on March 24, 2021, passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The bill was earlier passed in the Lok Sabha on March 22, 2021.

The latest bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 which provides a framework for the functioning of the Government of Delhi and the Legislative Assembly.

Union Cabinet approves pact between India, Fiji for co-operation in agriculture sector

The Indian Government on March 3, 2021, approved a pact between India and Fiji for co-operation in agriculture and the allied sectors.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Modi, gave its approval to the signing of MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture, India and the Agriculture Ministry of the Republic of Fiji.

Delhi Cabinet approves constitution of Delhi Board of School Education

The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, has announced that the Delhi Cabinet has given approval to constitute the Delhi Board of School Education on March 6, 2021. Arvind Kejriwal

also stated that, there are some 1000 govt schools and 1700 private schools functional in the Union territory of Delhi.

Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Central Sector Scheme – “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)” to support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with India’s natural resource endowment and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets with an outlay of Rs. 10900 crore.

Union Cabinet approves creation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi as single non-lapsable reserve fund

The Union Cabinet on March 10, 2021 approved Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for a share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.

Delhi to bid for 2048 Olympics: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on March 9, 2021 that Delhi will bid to host the 2048 Olympics. The CM said that a vision has been provided for the same in the Delhi Budget presented in the state assembly.

Union Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN), as a single non-lapsable reserve fund. This has been approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess which is levied under the Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.

Lok Sabha passes Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021

Lok Sabha, the Lower House of the Parliament, passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment bill 2021 on March 19, 2021. The bill was passed through a voice vote.

The Bill seeks to amend the Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and provide for the removal of the distinction between captive and merchant mines.

Cabinet Approves Amendments in Insurance Act 1938

The Union Cabinet has given its nod for amendments in the Insurance Act, paving way for 74 per cent foreign direct investment in the sector. Currently, the permissible FDI limit in life and general insurance stands at 49 per cent with ownership and management control with Indian.

Govt of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 introduced in Lok Sabha

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced the “Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha on March 15, 2021

The bill proposes that the “Government” in the national capital territory of Delhi means “Lieutenant Governor” (L-G) of Delhi. It provides for the discretionary powers to L-G of Delhi even in matters where the law-making power rests with the Legislative Assembly of Delhi.

Marine Aids to Navigation Bill Introduced

The Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 15, 2021. The bill was moved by Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mansukh Mandaviya.

This initiative is part of the proactive approach which was adopted by Ministry of Shipping by repealing the archaic colonial laws and replacing them with the modern and contemporary needs in the maritime industry.

Rajya Sabha passes National Institute of Food Technology Bill 2019

The Rajya Sabha has approved the “National Institute of Food Technology Bill, 2019” on March 15, 2021. This bill declares the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli in Haryana and Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu as the “National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management”.

Union Cabinet approves MoU between India, Maldives on cooperation in sports and youth affairs

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of PM Modi on March 16, 2021, apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Maldives.

The MoU was signed in November 2020 between the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment of Maldives and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India for cooperation in sports and youth affairs.

Haryana Yog Aayog Bill 2021 passed by Haryana State Assembly

Haryana Yog Aayog Bill 2021 was passed on March 15, 2021 along with four other bills by the Haryana Vidhan Sabha during the ongoing budget session.

The Haryana Yog Aayog Bill, 2021 was passed to establish Haryana Yog Aayog for the promotion, management, regulation, training of Yoga.

Union Cabinet approves revised cost estimates of Comprehensive Scheme for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh

The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on March 16, 2021, approved the Revised Cost Estimate of a Comprehensive Scheme in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim at an estimated cost of Rs. 9129. 32 crores.

As per the official statement, the Cabinet Committee on the Economic Affairs under the Chairmanship of PM Modi, in a major step towards the economic development of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh through the strengthening of Intra-State Transmission and Distribution Systems has given approval to the Revised Cost Estimate- RCE of Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission and Distribution in both the states.

National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020

Rajya Sabha has passed the “National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professional Bill, 2020” by voice vote on March 16, 2021. The Bill seeks to regulate & maintain the standards of education & services by allied & healthcare professionals.

Parliament passes Finance Bill 2021

Parliament has passed the “Finance Bill 2021” on March 23, 2021. Bill seeks to bring financial proposals of central government in effect for the financial year 2021-22.

It proposes for some changes in proposals which were made in union budget 2021 with the objective of boosting the ease of doing business and easing compliance burden.

Cabinet approves vaccination for all above 45 years from April 1, MHA issues new guidelines to contain COVID-19

The Union Cabinet on March 23, 2021 approved COVID-19 vaccination for everyone above 45 years of age starting from April 1st. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar while addressing the media after the cabinet meeting, urged all eligible people to immediately register and get vaccinated.

Lok Sabha passes National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill 2021

The Lok Sabha on March 23, 2021 passed the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill 2021.

The bill seeks to establish a statutory institution called the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

President Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on March 28, 2021. The amendment bill was earlier passed by Rajya Sabha after a walkout by AAP, Congress, and other opposition parties on March 24, 2021.

Rajasthan Passes Demand for Higher Education Grants

The Rajasthan Assembly has passed the demand for grants of Rs 370.60 for the higher education by voice vote on March 16, 2021. The bill was passed amid the protest by the opposition legislators.

They stormed into the well of the House and staged a sit-in against the government even though the Higher Education Minister, Bhanwar Singh Bhati, had replied to the issue.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The Parliament has cleared the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The bill was approved in the Rajya Sabha March 16, 2021. The bill was already passed in the Lok Sabha on March 17, 2020.

STATE RELATED AFFAIRS

Uttarakhand CM launches "Gharoki Pechan, Chelik Naam" scheme

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched "Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam" (daughter's name is a home's identity) programme and development schemes worth Rs 42 crore in Nainital. Initially, the scheme has been launched in Nainital and later is set to be extended to the entire Uttarakhand.

UP govt organizes 'banana festival' in Kushinagar

Uttar Pradesh government was organised a 'Banana Festival' in Kushinagar, which has witnessed the participation of at least 35 farmers and entrepreneurs. The state government had in 2018 organised the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme to promote traditional enterprise.

Haryana government approves bill to reserve 75% jobs in private sector for locals

The Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana Dushyant Chautala announced on March 2, 2021, that the governor of the state Satyadev Narayan Arya has approved the bill that will provide 75% reservation in the private sector jobs with a gross salary of up to Rs. 50,000 per month to the people of the state. The legislation was passed by the state Assembly in 2020.

Arunachal Pradesh government to develop three model villages in Indo-Tibet China border areas

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to develop three model villages along the Indo-Tibet border area as a pilot project with an allocation of Rs. 30 crores. The move aims at boosting the development of the border areas.

Uttar Pradesh government to launch Arjuna Sahayak irrigation Project

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath informed on March 10, 2021, that Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project worth Rs. 2,600 crores will bring positive changes in the lives of the farmers of Hamirpur, Mahoba, and Banda in the Bundelkhand region which was denied to them by the previous governments.

Jammu & Kashmir government approves Rs. 2 lakh interest-free loan for PMAY-U beneficiaries

The Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Council under the leadership of Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha has given approval to the proposal of the Housing and Urban Development Department.

28th "Hunar Haat" being organised in Goa

28th Edition of the Hunar Haat of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen is being organised at Kala Academy in Panaji, Goa. The event was started from March 26th and will conclude on April 4, 2021. It is being organised under the theme- "Vocal for Local".

Madhya Pradesh Tourism introduces Night Safari

The state of Madhya Pradesh has introduced the night safaris in the three national parks in Madhya Pradesh on March 4, 2021. This move by the state is a major boost for the state which is already known for its robust tourism industry.

Delhi govt approves formation of separate board in city

Delhi government has approved the formation of a separate school board for nearly 2,700 schools in the city. There are around 1,000 Delhi government schools and about 1,700 private schools, most of them affiliated to the CBSE, in the city. The new Board will have a governing body headed by the Education Minister of the Delhi government and an executive body headed by a chief executive officer.

Kalanamak Rice Festival to be held in UP

The Uttar Pradesh government will be organising a three-day “Kalanamak Rice Festival” in the Siddharth Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh. The festival will start from March 13, 2021. This festival is being organised after grand success of “Strawberry Festival in Jhansi” and “Jaggery Festival in Lucknow”.

Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat resigns

Trivendra Singh Rawat has resigned as the chief minister of Uttarakhand, a year before the hill state is scheduled to go to polls. Rawat, who became the CM after the BJP swept the assembly elections here in early 2017, tendered his resignation after meeting governor Baby Rani Maurya. According to reports, the party is mulling bringing in a deputy chief minister, the frontrunners for the post include State Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, MP Ajay Bhatt and Satpal Maharaj.

India's first forest healing centre inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Ranikhet

The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Kalika Uttarakhand. The forest healing centre has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department after research on the healing properties of the forests and its revitalizing impact on overall health and well being. It is spread over an area of around 13 acres.

Odisha government to set up Direct Investment Promotion Agencies

The Odisha government announced on March 7, 2021, that it will set up District Investment Promotion Agencies- DIPAs in 30 districts in order to promote and facilitate investment across the state.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha e-inaugurates 73 AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres

Jammu and Kashmir, LG Manoj Sinha has e-inaugurated 73 AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat across the UT. These centres aim to promote good health and

expanding the outreach of comprehensive primary healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor observed that AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres would be a game-changer in the UT of J&K, especially in promoting the AYUSH sector.

Delhi govt presents Rs 69000 Cr ‘Deshbhakti’ Budget

The Delhi government presented a Rs 69,000-crore budget themed on ‘patriotism’ or ‘Deshbhakti’ for the financial year 2021-22. The budget was presented by the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia. While presenting the budget, he announced that the government has decided to celebrate the 75th Independence Day of India.

UP government orders removal of all roadside religious structures

The Uttar Pradesh government on March 11, 2021 ordered the removal of all religious structures on public roads. The official press release from the Home Department stated that no structure or construction of religious nature should be allowed on public roads, streets, pavements and by the roadside.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates project “Awaam Ki Baat”

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, initiated the project “Awaam Ki Baat” – a Radio program by launching its website at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. The half-an-hour long Radio program to be aired every third Sunday of the month (to start from April).

Haryana passes Bill to Recover Damages from Protesters

Haryana Assembly has passed the “Haryana Recovery of damages to property during disturbance to public Bill, 2021” on March 18, 2021 to recover the compensation from the protesters if they cause damage to property.

Manipur declared as model state for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana

Manipur has been declared as a winner state where the government’s Van Dhan Vikas Yojana has appeared as a major source of employment for the local tribals residing in the state.

100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras has been established ever since the program was launched in October 2019.

Bihar becomes first state to have own ethanol policy

Bihar Cabinet has approved the Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021, becoming the 1st Indian State to have an ethanol promotion policy. The policy allows the extraction of ethanol, which was restricted to sugarcane, from surplus quantities of maize as well.

Andhra Pradesh to launch India’s first Govt-Run Animal Ambulance Network

The state government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up “India’s first government-run ambulance network” for animals. This decision was taken in order to further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state. Ambulance network as one of its main missions in order to help in reaching out to the distressed animals to provide them with proper animal healthcare.

UP and MP sign agreement with Jal Shakti Ministry for ‘Ken-Betwa Link’ project

On the occasion of World Water Day, the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh signed an agreement with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to implement the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project. The main purpose of this project is to carry water from surplus regions to drought-prone and water-scarce region through the interlinking of rivers.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Pakistan-Qatar sign agreement on Liquefied Natural Gas

Pakistan has signed a ten-years agreement with Qatar over the liquefied natural gas (LNG). The new agreement was signed at a significantly lower rate than the other deals that both the countries had signed.

Israel officially receives first ever UAE ambassador

Israel's president has formally received the first-ever ambassador from the United Arab Emirates, following last year's historic agreement between the countries to normalise ties. UAE envoy Mohamed Al Khaja, who arrived in Israel, delivered his credentials to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at a ceremony in Jerusalem.

UNGA adopts India-sponsored resolution, declares 2023 as International Year of Millets

The 193 member United Nations General Assembly- UNGA has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The India-sponsored resolution has been adopted by consensus and is supported by over 70 nations.

TS Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador shared the news and added that it is a big step to promote ecological and nutritional benefits of millets globally as a key component of the food basket and effective policy change.

New Assessment by IUCN on African elephants

The Red List by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently showed that, African elephants living in forests and savannas are increasingly threatened with extinction. Following which, conservationists have called for an urgent end to poaching.

Eritrea to withdraw troops from Ethiopia's Tigray region, says Ethiopian PM

Eritrea has agreed to withdraw its troops from Ethiopia's northern Tigray region along their mutual border, said Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on March 26, 2021.

The announcement comes as the Ethiopian Prime Minister, who is a winner of 2019 Nobel Peace Prize, faces immense international pressure to end the months-long conflict in which both Eritrean and Ethiopian troops stand accused of atrocities against civilians including mass killings and rapes.

India Chaired the First Meeting Of BRICS CGETI

Under the chairship of India, the First Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was held from 9th March 2021 to 11th March 2021. The 2021 theme of the BRICS is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus".

Saudi Arabia proposes UN-sponsored ceasefire in Yemen

Saudi Arabia government has proposed UN-sponsored ceasefire in Yemen and is awaiting a response from the rebel Houthi movement. This peace initiative by Saudi Arabia is in line with previous proposals like consultation efforts to end crisis.

World's first Ship Tunnel to be built in Norway

The Norwegian Coastal Administration has received the green signal to start working on the construction of the world's first tunnel, being built exclusively for ships. The tunnel is dubbed as "Stad Ship Tunnel" and would be built under the mountainous Stadhavet peninsula in northwestern Norway.

Sri Lanka inks 3 year USD 1.5 billion currency swap deal with China

Sri Lanka has signed a 10 billion yuan (about USD 1,5 billion) currency swap deal with China with the main motive to promote bilateral trade and direct investment between the two countries. The agreement signed between the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the People's Bank of China is valid for three years.

WEF honours ReNew Power named as Global Lighthouse Network

ReNew Power has been named to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network, which recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community supportive, profitable growth. ReNew Power is an Indian renewable energy company.

WHO declares El Salvador malaria-free

El Salvador is the first country in Central America to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization. WHO grants a certification of malaria elimination when a country proves "beyond a reasonable doubt" that there has been no indigenous transmission of the disease nationwide for the previous three consecutive years.

World's Largest Floating Solar Farms being built in Singapore

The largest floating solar farm of the world is being built in Singapore. The country has resorted to set up the energy plants off the coasts and reservoirs across it. This floating solar farm is being set up in the light that despite being one of the smallest countries across the world, it is one of the biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in India.

New Zealand passes Miscarriages Bereavement Leave Law

Parliament of New Zealand passed the 'Miscarriage bereavement leave law'. This legislation provides mothers and their partners a "right to paid leave" after a miscarriage or stillbirth. New Zealand has become the second country, following India, across the world to pass such legislation.

The bereavement leave law was passed unanimously in parliament on March 24, 2021. It provides the employees three days leave after a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth.

BRICS contact group holds first meeting on trade and economic issues

According to the official statement, the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues-CGETI held its first meeting under the Chairmanship of India from March 9 to March 11, 2021.

The theme of BRICS 2021 is ‘BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus’.

Russia hosts Afghan Peace Meet

Russia hosted the “Afghan Peace Meet” on March 18, 2021. The meeting was organised to bring together the government representatives and the Taliban adversaries. It was also attended by the international observers in order to help Afghanistan to start its stalled peace process.

Spain Passes Law to legalise Euthanasia

The Parliament of Spain has passed and voted in favour of law that legalises the euthanasia on March 18, 2021. Thus, the country has become one among few nations that allow the terminally-ill or gravely-injured patients to end their life.

Bill Nelson to be nominated as NASA administrator

US President Joe Biden announced on March 19, 2021 that he intends to nominate Bill Nelson to serve as the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Bill Nelson is a former astronaut who served as a US Senator from Florida from 2001 to 2019. He has spent almost four decades serving the public office.

Asia’s Largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar to Open for Public

Asia’s largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, is scheduled to be opened for general public and tourists from March 25, 2021. Tulip Garden is a spectrum of colours which features lakhs of tulips. Flowers have blossomed in the lap of Zabarwan Hills along the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar city. Around 15 lakh flowers of more than 64 varieties are in full bloom nowadays in the garden.

Freedom House’s report: India declared as ‘partly free’

The US government funded NGO “Freedom House” published its annual report on global political rights and liberties recently. The report titled “Freedom in the World 2021 – Democracy under Siege” published the report on political freedom across the world.

Australia building world’s first platypus sanctuary

Australian conservationists have unveiled plans to build the world’s first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction due to climate change. The Taronga Conservation Society Australia and the New South Wales

State government said they would build the specialist facility, mostly ponds and burrows for the semi-aquatic creatures, at a zoo 391 km from Sydney, by 2022.

Food Waste Index Report-2021

The United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) published the “Food Waste Index Report, 2021”. As per the UNEP report, estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted across the world 2019. The agency also highlighted that this amount of wasted food can circle the Earth seven times.

Switzerland votes to ban full face coverings in public places

Switzerland has voted in favour of a proposal banning full facial coverings including the burqa and niqab in almost all public places. In the public referendum, around 51.21 per cent of voters voted in support of the controversial proposal.

China and Russia Inks MoU to jointly build Lunar Space Station

The space agencies of China and Russia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of their national governments, to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries.

New Zealand Parliament passes bereavement leave law for miscarriages, stillbirths

The Parliament of New Zealand unanimously approved the legislation that will give couples who have suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth- three days of paid leave.

With this, New Zealand has become the second country in the world to provide such benefits, as India is the only other country with such legislation.

Bangladesh celebrates 50 years of independence

Bangladesh celebrates 50 years of its Independence and National Day on 26 March, coinciding with the grand celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On March 26, 1971, Bangladesh was proclaimed as an independent nation by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and this led to Bangladesh Liberation War when war ensued between Pakistan and Bangladesh liberation forces with Indian support.

World Bank Releases “World Development Report 2021?”

The “World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives” was released by the World Bank. The World Development Report focuses on how data can improve the lives of poor people and advance development objectives, to ensure no one is left behind.

FOREIGN RELATION

Ghana becomes the world's first nation to receive COVAX vaccines

Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative with a delivery of 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India. Ghana is among 92 low-and middle-income countries that are receiving vaccines for free through COVAX.

India & Japan agree for Cooperation in Patent Verification

India and Japan have agreed to recognize the offices of each other in order to act in collaboration as “competent International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA)” for the international patent application which are filed with them.

India, United States to revamp strategic energy cooperation

India and the United States on March 29, 2021, agreed to revamp the strategic energy partnership. The decision has been taken to reflect the new priorities of US President Joe Biden and PM Modi with a focus on promoting clean energy with low-carbon pathways and accelerating green energy cooperation.

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Recently, India made a deal with Bangladesh where Indian companies will develop the transmission lines of Bangladesh Rooppur Nuclear power plant. Some facts about Rooppur Nuclear power plant.

It is an under-construction 2.4 GWe nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. It is being constructed at Rooppur (Ruppur) in the Pabna District of Bangladesh, on the bank of Padma River.

India describes Sri Lanka ‘Priority One’ partner in defence

Indian High Commission in Colombo has described the island nation of Sri Lanka as its “Priority One” partner in the defence sphere and reiterated the assurance of fullest cooperation in the field of defence and security. The assertion comes at a time when the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) is gearing up for the celebration of its 70th anniversary on 2 March.

India signs key pact with Philippines for supply of BrahMos Cruise Missile

The Government of India on March 2, 2021, signed a key pact with the Philippines for the supply of defence material and equipment which are also likely to include BrahMos Cruise Missiles.

Delfin Lorenzana, the Defence Secretary of the Philippines, who also attended the agreement signing ceremony in Manila has stated that the Philippines will be buying BrahMos Missiles from India.

6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum held Virtually

The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually. The Forum discussed key issues that contribute towards the transformation of women's lives. At the end of the conference, a joint declaration was also issued highlighting the shared IBSA goals and commitments for achieving gender equality in all spheres of life.

UNESCO joins USO India for Water Conservation Programme

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has joined the USO India and Toonz Media Group over the water conservation awareness programme for students.

India-US launches Artificial Intelligence Initiative

The Department of Science and Technology informed on March 18, 2021, that the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum- IUSSTF has launched the US India Artificial Intelligence Initiative. It will focus on AI cooperation in the critical areas that are priorities for both nations.

India and Kuwait to establish Joint Commission to boost ties

The Governments of India and Kuwait on March 18, 2021, decided to establish a Joint Ministerial Commission. It will formulate a framework for strengthening ties in the sectors such as trade, energy, investment, information technology, and manpower and labour.

India flags off first consignment of 'red rice' to USA

The first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off on March 4, 2021, to the United States of America from Assam, giving a major boost to India's rice export potential.

Red rice is rich in iron and the variety is grown in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without using any form of chemical fertilizer. The exported rice variety is known as 'Bao-dhaan', which is also an integral part of the Assamese food.

Italy joins International Solar Alliance, signs framework agreement with India

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Anurag Srivastava has informed that Italy on March 17, 2021, signed a framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance with India.

India, Bangladesh held water resources secretary level meeting

The India-Bangladesh Water Resources Secretary-level meeting took place on March 16, 2021, under the framework of the Joint Rivers Commission.

During the meeting, the Indian delegation was led by Pankaj Kumar, Water Resources Secretary while Bangladesh Delegation was led by Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources Kabir Bin Anwar.

India and France working on third joint space mission: ISRO Chief

The Chairman of ISRO K. Sivan has informed that India and France have been working on their third Joint satellite Mission, even as the bilateral space collaboration has been entering into multiple domains, including the human space flight programme.

India conducts first-ever joint patrol in Madagascar EEZ

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). The first-ever joint patrol between the navies reflects the growing defence ties between the two Indian Ocean neighbours aimed at the common objective of ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Climate change priority for both India and Sweden: PM Modi at virtual summit with Swedish counterpart

PM Modi held a virtual summit with the Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan Lofven on March 5, 2021. Both the leaders exchanged views on the global and regional issues and also discussed bilateral relations between the two nations.

Australia suspends Defence Cooperation with Myanmar

The government of Australia has suspended its defence cooperation with Myanmar and has decided to redirect the humanitarian aid which the country was providing to the government of Myanmar. This decision was taken on March 7, 2021 by the government following the military takeover of the government of Myanmar and detention of the Australian citizen in Myanmar.

India-Bangladesh: 'Maitri Setu' to be inaugurated on 9th March

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, will inaugurate the 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh via video conferencing on March 9, 2021. He will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several infrastructure projects in Tripura on the occasion.

First Counter-Terrorism Dialogue Between India-Nigeria

First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue was held between Nigeria and India. Highlights: Discussed the threats and challenges faced by democratic societies such as terrorism, extremism and radicalism. Identified specific areas of cooperation to strengthen the fight against terrorism.

Indian firms to collaborate with Finland to develop 5G and 6G Technologies

The Information technology companies of India, like Wipro and Tech Mahindra, will be collaborating with the companies of Finland to develop the 5G and 6G technologies to use them in India and other markets.

The tech company, Nokia has already started working in the rural areas of India so as to expand the 5G applications.

India-Finland Virtual Summit 2021

The India-Finland Virtual Summit was held on March 16, 2021, with the participation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland Ms Sanna Marin. The virtual summit was organised to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral issues as well as other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

India & Japan agree for Cooperation in Patent Verification

India and Japan have agreed to recognize the offices of each other in order to act in collaboration as “competent International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA)” for the international patent application which are filed with them.

Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021: India, Pakistan and China to hold anti-terror exercise

The eight-member bloc said that the decision to hold the joint exercise ‘Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021’ was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, including India, Pakistan and China, will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise this year.

Indian government welcomes peace initiative announcement by Saudi Arabia

The Indian government has welcomed the initiative announced by Saudi Arabia to promote peace in Yemen. The government also assured that it supports all forms of efforts to find a political solution to the Yemen crisis.

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi in a statement stated that India welcomed the decision announced by Saudi Arabia to bring peace in Yemen.

India & Bangladesh inks 5 MoU to Boost Cooperation

India and Bangladesh have signed five Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to further boost bilateral cooperation. The signing of the MoUs took place on 27 March 2021, between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Dhaka.

Indo-Korean Friendship Park Inaugurated at Delhi Cantonment

India’s First Indo-Korean Friendship Park was jointly inaugurated at Delhi Cantonment by Hon’ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, and Hon’ble Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea Mr Suh Wook. The park has been developed in joint consultation with the Ministry of Defence, the Government of India, the Indian Army, the Delhi Cantonment Board, the Embassy of Korea and the Korean War Veterans Association of India.

RANKS & INDICES

Indian skipper Virat Kohli becomes first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on Instagram

Adding another feather to his illustrious cap, the Captain of the Indian Cricket Team Virat Kohli became the first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram on March 1, 2021.

Which are the top 10 cities with less than 10L population in Ease of Living Index?

Shimla has been placed at top among the cities with less than 10 lakh population in the country in the government's "Ease of Living Index 2020". This is followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere and Tiruchirapalli. Bengaluru has been ranked on top among the cities with more than 10 lakh population.

Elon Musk Tops Hurun Global Rich List 2021

Tesla chief Elon Musk bagged the top spot on the Hurun Global Rich List for the first time after adding a massive \$151 billion during the year 2020 to take his net worth to \$197 billion.

Amazon.com Inc CEO Jeff Bezos ranked second with \$189 billion in net worth. Bernard Arnault, the chief executive of LVMH Moët Hennessy – Louis Vuitton SE, the world's largest luxury-goods company ranked third with a net worth of \$114 billion.

India ranks 139th in World Happiness Report 2021

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

India ranks 40th on International Intellectual Property Index

India ranked 40 among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released. The US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC), the Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.

Indore and NDMC tops Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has released the final rankings of the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020. The ranking has classified municipalities into two categories based on their population which are: million-plus category and the less than million categories.

11th QS World University Rankings 2021 released

The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings was released on March 04, 2021. The QS World University Rankings 2021 ranks the top 1,000 universities from around the world, covering 80 different locations. There are 47 new entrants on the list. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the United States has retained its top position as the best university for the ninth year in a row.

US Becomes India's Second Biggest Oil Supplier

The United States has become the second biggest oil suppliers of India by overtaking Saudi Arabia. This shift comes after the refiners boosted cheaper U.S. crude purchases to a record levels in order to offset the OPEC+ supply cuts.

Which are the world's most expensive cities to buy water?

Norway's Oslo emerged as the city where a bottle of water is most expensive, costing \$1.85 (₹134.50), according to a Bloomberg report citing a survey of 120 cities conducted by travel tech company Holidu. It's followed by the USA's Virginia Beach, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Sweden's Stockholm. Bengaluru featured among the places where water is cheapest, at \$0.13 (₹9.45).

New Delhi Ranked as World's most polluted capital city

New Delhi has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city for the third straight year in the 2020 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir. Globally, New Delhi is ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world.

The topmost polluted city in the world is Xinjiang in China. This is followed by nine Indian cities as the most polluted cities in the world, which are Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Birsakh Jalalpur, Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow and Bhiwari.

Which are the most and least happy nations according to World Happiness Report?

According to the World Happiness Report 2021, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Norway, New Zealand and Austria are the top 10 happiest countries in the world. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Jordan, India, Cambodia, Benin, Myanmar, Namibia, Egypt and Kenya have been ranked as the 10 least happy countries in the world in the report.

India slips to 56th rank in Global Home Price Index

India has moved down 13 spots in the latest global home price index to finish last at 56th rank in the quarter ending December 2020.

Against its 43rd rank a year ago, India saw a decline of 3.6% year-on-year (YoY) in home prices, leading to the drop in global position, showed Knight Frank's Global House Price Index.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Google and Intel Teamed Up 5G Deployment

Google and Intel have teamed up to develop cloud-based solutions for communication service providers to accelerate the deployment of their 5G and network edge solutions. Google said that cooperation across the telecom stack will help it reduce the cost and time to market for the transition to cloud-native 5G in the telecom industry.

Google Launched “Women Will” Web Platform

Google has launched a new web platform ‘Women Will’ on March 8, 2021 on the occasion of “International Women’s Day”. This platform will provide its support to 1 million rural women in India in order for them to become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship.

Tata Motors launches ‘Wheels of Love’ to support parenthood

Tata Motors has launched ‘Wheels of Love’, a holistic programme that supports new parents in the workforce. This is a move to promote a progressive culture of care, inclusion and sensitisation within the organisation across levels.

DoT Launches Online Certificate Course on 5G Technology

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched a new online certificate course on 5G technology to be conducted by the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), which is the training institute of DoT.

Nokia to Develop New 5G Radio Solutions

The Finnish telecom equipment maker, Nokia, announced on March 16 that it has partnered with the Microsoft, Amazon web services and Google so as to develop a new cloud-based 5G radio solution.

This solution will be developed with its radio access network (RNA) technology. This partnership was gone with objective of developing a new business cases, in three separate statements.

SBI and IOCL to ink India’s First Libor Alternative Rate Deal

The State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) will be sign the first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked external commercial borrowing (ECB) deal.

The deal will be signed because the de facto international benchmark reference rate called the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) will no longer work as the benchmark after December 2021.

DEFENCE NEWS

45th Civil Accounts Day celebrated on 01 March 2021

The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) observes the “Civil Accounts Day” every year on March 01, 2021, since its inception in 1976.

The year 2021 marks the 45th Civil Accounts Day celebrations. ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.

DRDO conducts Flight Test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the successful flight test of the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology on March 5, 2021. The flight test was conducted from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha

Third Scorpene submarine INS Karanj commissioned into service

The Indian Navy has inducted into service the third Scorpene-class conventional diesel-electric submarine called INS Karanj on March 10, 2021.

The watercraft called INS Karanj was commissioned by the former Navy Chief, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat. He was the Commanding Officer of previous version of the INS Karanj during 1971 India-Pakistan War.

India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commences in Ranikhet

The India – Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II has commenced in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.

This is the Second Edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies. It will continue till the 19th of this month. The first edition of the exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.

Army to procure Mobile Integrated Network Terminal (MINT) systems

The Indian army is all set to procure Made in India “Mobile Integrated Network Terminal (MINT)” systems providing a huge boost to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan of the government.

The MINT system will enhance the operational communication capability of the Indian Army in accordance with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.

Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility L58 Commissioned at Port Blair

Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility (LCU) L58 was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on March 18, 2021. This is the eighth and last ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mark IV Class.

The ship was commissioned into service in a ceremony that had Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Manoj Pande as the Chief Guest.

Indian Armed Forces 4th Strongest in the World

China has the strongest military force in the world while India stands at number four, according to a study released by defence website Military Direct. China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index.

The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58. The U.K. just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9th place with a score of 43.

India, US Carry Out Joint Military Drill In Himachal Pradesh

The 11th edition of Indo-US joint special forces exercises Vajra Prahar 2021 was conducted at Special Forces training school located at Bakloh, in Himachal Pradesh.

The exercise ‘Vajra Prahar’ is aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics. The exercise was aimed at improving interoperability between the special forces of the two countries.

Indian Air Force to Participate in EX Desert FLAG VI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Desert Flag-VI, which has been organised from March 03 to 27, 2021 at Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE.

The purpose of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to the participating forces, train them to undertake simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment, provides an opportunity to enhance their operational capabilities along with the mutual exchange of best practices.

DRDO Develops AIP Technology

The Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) on March 8, 2021 conducted the final development test of Air Independent test of the “Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)”.

The test was conducted a day before the INS Karanj attack submarine was inducted into the Indian Navy. This is a major step which will make the Indian submarines more lethal.

Operation Sankalp: Indian Navy undertakes Passage Exercise with Bahrain Navy in Persian Gulf

The Indian Navy on March 17, 2021, undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Royal Bahrain Naval Force Corvette Al Muharraq under Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf.

The Indian Navy in a statement informed that to enhance interoperability and strengthening the bilateral maritime cooperation, reassuring diaspora and merchant shipping.

Defence Ministry signs deal with Mahindra Defence to procure 1,300 combat vehicles

The Ministry of Defence on March 22, 2021, signed a deal with Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd for the procurement of 1,300 light combat vehicles worth Rs. 1,056 crores for the Indian Army.

INS Vajra commissioned to Indian Coast Guard

Indian Coast Guard Ship Vajra was commissioned to the Indian Coast Guard by Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, at Kattupalli in Chennai.

INS Vajra was sixth in series of seven Offshore Patrol Vessel and was constructed by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd at Kattupalli. It is a 98-meter ship and is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation & Communication Equipment, machinery and Sensors.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russia Launched First Arctic-monitoring Satellite

The Russian Space agency, Roscosmos, has successfully launched its first ever Arctic-monitoring satellite that will monitor the Arctic's climate and environment.

The rocket was blasted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on February 28, 2021. The Arktika-M spacecraft was launched to the orbit later.

Russia launches first Arctic-monitoring Satellite 'Arktika-M'

The Russian space corporation Roscosmos successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment.

The satellite called "Arktika-M", was launched on February 28, 2021, onboard Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Indigenously developed "Spectrograph" commissioned in Nainital

Indian Scientists at Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have indigenously designed and developed a low-cost optical Spectrograph named as Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC).

ISRO-NASA develops radar for joint earth observation satellite mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation- ISRO with the US space agency NASA completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar- SAR which is capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint Earth observation satellite mission.

ISRO Develops Joint Earth Observation Satellite Mission Radar With NASA

ISRO has completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission with the US space agency NASA. NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is a joint collaboration for a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for earth observation.

Fugaku: World's most Powerful Supercomputer

The Japanese scientific research institute called RIKEN and Fujitsu started developing the "Fugaku" six years ago. It is the world's most powerful supercomputers. Now this supercomputer is fully ready and developed in Japan and is now available for the research use.

ISRO- JAXA review cooperation on Lunar polar exploration

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) reviewed their cooperation, on March 11, 2021, in the space arena including the earth observation, lunar cooperation and satellite navigation.

World's Most Powerful Supercomputer Fugaku is ready for use

The Japanese scientific research institute called RIKEN and Fujitsu started developing the “Fugaku” six years ago. It is the world's most powerful supercomputers. Fugaku has been named after an alternative name for Mount Fuji.

First project Genome Mapping in Indian Ocean will be launched

In the Indian Ocean, the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) will launch the first-of-its-kind project of Genome Mapping. Indian Ocean covers about 20% of the Earth's water surface and so is the third largest water body in the world.

ISRO launches sounding rocket RH-560 to study altitudinal variations

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the sounding rocket (RH-560) to study altitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics, at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range (SHAR).

ISRO has developed a series of sounding rockets called Rohini series, important among them being RH-200, RH-300 and RH-560, number in the name indicating the diameter of the rocket in mm, according to the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.

ISRO Demonstrates Free Space Quantum Communication

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced on March 22, 2021 that it has successfully demonstrated its free-space Quantum Communication for a distance of 300 metres for the first time in India.

It was demonstrated at the Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad in between the two line-of-sight buildings within its campus.

Russia successfully launches 38 satellites for 18 countries

Russia has successfully launched 38 foreign satellites for the 18 countries into orbit after the successful launch from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Though, the launch was delayed due to the technical issues.

IIT Kharagpur wins CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0

A team of four undergraduate students from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur emerged as winners at the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0, sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI and IA: Interior Architects.

The team comprised Siddhant Samarth, Pratim Majumdar, Rishita Raj and Utkarsh Agrawal and were guided by Prof. Jenia Mukherjee (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences).

Shaheen 1-A : Pakistan test fires Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile

Pakistan has successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile on March 26, 2021.

Missile has a range of 900 kilometres. Pakistan test-fired Shaheen-1A surface to surface ballistic missile with the aim of re-validating various design and technical parameters of weapon system including the advanced navigation system. According to Army's media wing, missile has a range of 900 kilometres.

ISRO revises launch schedule of GISAT-1

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has revised the schedule launch of geo imaging satellite GISAT-1 on board GSLV-F10 rocket after a minor issue occurred with the spacecraft.

The spacecraft was scheduled to be launched on March 28. But due to minor issue, it will now be launched on April 18 from Sriharikota spaceport.

BOOK NEWS

A book titled “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis” by Anindya Dutta

Anindya Dutta, a banker turned author, penned a new book titled “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis”, a chronicle of Indian Tennis.

Advantage India is a well-researched account of the journey of Indian tennis, with a special section on the Doubles game and on women’s tennis in India. The book is published by Westland publications.

A book on Smriti Irani’s victory in Amethi released soon

The English translation of journalist-author Anant Vijay’s book “Amethi Sangram: Aitihāsik Jeet Ankahi Dastan” will be released on March 15.

The book, titled “Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph”, traces Union Minister Irani’s journey from her defeat in 2014 to her victory in the Congress.

A Book ‘Battle Ready for 21st Century’ released

A book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century” co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh, Distinguished Fellow CLAWS and Brig Narender Kumar, Visiting Fellow CLAWS was released by Gen Bipin Rawat. The book lays down the conceptual framework for the strategic management of future conflicts.

A book titled “Names of the Women” by Jeet Thayil

A book titled “Names of the Women” authored by Jeet Thayil. The book talks about the women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or erased in the Gospels.

Jeet Thayil is a renowned author, best known for his book ‘Narcopolis’ which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012 and won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. His most recent book ‘Low’ was released in 2020.

Maggie O’Farrell’s ‘Hamnet’ wins book critics award for fiction

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. Hamnet, an unfortunately well-timed story for the current pandemic, explores the impact of the boy’s illness and death on his family.

Frontier Gandhi’s autobiography released in English

The autobiography of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as the “Frontier Gandhi”, titled “The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle” is set to be published in English by the publishing house Roli Books. This will be his first autobiography in English. The book was translated into English by Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, the former Pakistani civil servant and author.

SPORTS

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Vinesh Phogat	Gold in Ukraine Wrestling event	The Indian wrestler, Vinesh Phogat, has won the gold medal in women's 53-kg category. She won the medal at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine.
Deepak Kumar	Silver in boxing at Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria	Deepak Kumar, in boxing, has won a silver medal at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria on February 27, 2021.
Mumbai City FC	ISL League Football Winners Shield	Mumbai and ATKMB finished level on 40 points, but the former claimed first place with a better head-to-head record.
Varun, Malvika	Uganda International titles	India's Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2021 Uganda International Badminton tournament in Kampala.
Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir	Khelo India Winter National Games – Topped in Khelo India Winter National Games	Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir topped the medals tally in the second edition of the Khelo India Winter National Games. J&K won 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals.
Kieron Pollard	Becomes 3rd Man to Hit 6 Sixes in an over	Kieron Pollard hit six sixes in an over to guide West Indies to a comprehensive four-wicket win against Sri Lanka in the first game of their three-match T20 series. Pollard joins former India batsman Yuvraj Singh as the only other player to hit six sixes in an over in T20 cricket.
Bajrang Punia	World No. 1 spot	Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has regained his world number one ranking after clinching a second successive gold medal at the Matteo Pallicone Ranking Series.

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Ravichandran Ashwin	ICC Player of Month Awards for February	Ashwin beat England captain Joe Root and West Indies' Kyle Mayers to the award.
PV Sindhu	Silver in BWF Swiss Open Super 300	The World No. 7 Sindhu lost to World No. 3 and reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin.
Manish Kaushik	Gold at Boxam International Tournament	In Boxing, continuing his splendid run, Manish Kaushik clinched gold as Indian boxers concluded their impressive campaign at the Boxam International Tournament with 10 medals in Castellon, Spain.
Mithali Raj	Becomes first Indian woman cricketer to score 10,000 international runs across all formats	She has also become the second woman cricketer internationally to achieve the milestone.
Bhavani Devi	Becomes first Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics	The 27-year-old reserved her spot in the Tokyo Olympics through the Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) method.
Mumbai City FC	ISL title	Mumbai City FC has defeated ATK Mohun Bagan 2-1 in the ISL 2020-21 final to lift yet another trophy this year.
Virat Kohli	Becomes first player to score 3000 runs in men's T20I	He also became the third captain in international cricket to score 12000 runs as a captain. He joined legendary captains Ricky Ponting and Graeme Smith in the elite list.
Dhanalakshmi	Federation Cup gold	Sprinter S Dhanalakshmi beat national record holder Dutee Chand to win women's 100m sprint final in the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala.
Hashmatullah Shahidi	Becomes 1st afghan player to score Test double century	He got his first double century on Day Two of the second Test against Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi. He made 200 not out off 443 balls with 21 fours and one six as Afghanistan put up a mammoth 545 for 4 in their first innings.
Yashaswini Singh Deswal	Shooting World Cup – Gold	India's only gold medal in women's air pistol on the second day of the shooting

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		World Cup at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad.
Avinash Sable	Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships	The Indian athlete Avinash Sable set a new national record in the men's 3000m steeplechase event in the ongoing Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala, with timing of 8:20.20.
Singhraj	Gold in 2021 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup	Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates on March 21, 2021. Singhraj defeated Uzbekistan's Server Ibragimov by 2.8 points and got the top honour in the P1- Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.
India Legends	2020-21 Road Safety World Series T-20	In Cricket, India Legends defeated Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs to clinch the Road Safety World Series final title, held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.
Singhraj	Gold in Para Shooting World Cup 2021	He defeated Uzbekistan's Server Ibragimov to get the top honour in the P1 – Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	ISSF World Cup – Gold	The 20-year-old became the youngest in history to win a shooting World Cup gold in the 3 Positions event.
Rahi Sarnobat, Chinky Yadav and Manu Bhaker	Gold at ISSF Shooting World Cup	The Indian women's team of Rahi Sarnobat, Chinky Yadav and Manu Bhaker beat Poland's Joanna Iwona Wawrzonowska, Julita Borek and Agnieszka Korejwo 17-7 in the gold medal match.
Lewis Hamilton	F1 season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix	Verstappen, starting from the pole position finished just 0.74 seconds behind the Mercedes driver.
India	15 gold at Delhi ISSF Shooting World Cup	India finished at the top of the medals table at the 2021 ISSF World Cup New Delhi, held from 18 to 29 March 2021 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

OBITUARY

Name	Associated Field
MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan	Lok Sabha MP
Lakshminarayana Bhatta	Renowned Kannada poet
M G George Muthoot	Muthoot Group Chairman
Ishar Singh Deol	Dhyan Chand Awardee Veteran Indian Athlete
Shrikant Moghe	Veteran Marathi Actor
Hamed Bakayoko	Ivory Coast Prime Minister
Laxman Pai	Renowned artist and Padma Bhushan awardee
Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair	Veteran Kathakali artist
Marvin Hagler	Former Boxing Champion
Lou Ottens	Audio cassette tape inventor
John Magufuli	Tanzanian President
Adam Zagajewski	Renowned Polish poet
Laxmipriya Mohapatra	Noted Odissi dancer
Anil Dharker	Noted journalist and author

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Date	Theme
Zero Discrimination Day	March 01	
World Wildlife Day	March 03	Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
World Hearing Day	March 03	Hearing care for ALL!: Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate
National Security Day	March 04	
National Safety Day	March 04	Sadak Suraksha (Road Safety)
International Women’s Day	March 08	Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world
World Kidney Day	March 11	Living Well with Kidney Disease
International Day of Action For Rivers	March 14	Rights of Rivers
World Consumer Rights Day	March 15	Tackling Plastic Pollution
National Vaccination Day	March 16	
Global Recycling Day	March 18	Recycling Heroes
Ordnance Factories’ Day in India	March 18	
UN French Language Day	March 20	
World Oral Health Day	March 20	Be Proud Of Your Mouth
International Day of Happiness	March 20	Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind
World Sparrow Day	March 20	I LOVE Sparrows
International Day of Forests	March 21	Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being
World Poetry Day	March 21	
World Down Syndrome Day	March 21	We Decide
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 21	Youth standing up against racism
Bihar Diwas	March 22	
World Water Day	March 22	“Valuing Water
Shaheed Diwas	March 23	
World Meteorological Day	March 23	The ocean, our climate and weather
World Tuberculosis Day	March 24	The Clock is Ticking
International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims	March 24	
International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members	March 25	
International Day of Remembrance of the Victims	March 25	Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice

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of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade		
Earth Hour 2021	March 27	Climate Change to Save Earth
World Theatre Day	March 27	
International Transgender Day of Visibility	March 31	