FreshersLive Current Affairs
Weekly Edition (1st Mar'21 - 7th Mar'21)

- India & World - at a Glance
- Bills & Acts
- Schemes
- Science & Technology
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- Finance & Banking
- Economy & more

1st Week Current Affairs - March 2021
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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Union Signs $304 million Pact With AIIB for Power Transmission Network

Central Government signs $304 million pact with AIIB for power transmission network in Assam. The funds will be used for the "Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project", which aims to improve the reliability, capacity and safety of the state's power transmission network.

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:**
The AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) is a multilateral development bank. The mission of AIIB is to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond. The parties to the agreement (57 founding members) include membership of the World Bank. Its headquarters is in Beijing. It started operations in January 2016.

India Emerged Out of Technical Recession

According to data from the National Statistical office (NSO), India's economy is out of recession, but there is still a long way to go before returning to the pre-pandemic growth rate.

**Highlights:**
- India, the third-largest economy in Asia, observed increase in GDP growth of 0.4% in the last three months of 2020, compared with previous year
- Last year, the country fell into recession for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century, and economists warned that it would be difficult to recover from the recession.
- Key takeaways from Q3 GDP data: Manufacturing revival, Agriculture growth accelerates, Financial, real estate sectors rebound, Consumer confidence still low, Government spending picks up, Investment demand rises.

**Recession:** This is a macroeconomic term that refers to a slowdown in economic activity or a large-scale contraction long enough, or it can be said that when a recession period lasts long enough, it is called a recession.

**Depression:** This is a long-term period of negative economic growth. Production has fallen for at least 12 months and GDP has fallen by more than 10%, or it can be said to be a serious long-term recession.
WhatsApp Banking Launched by Axis Bank

Axis Bank launched WhatsApp Banking on March 3, 2021 to help and meet the banking needs of its customers. WhatsApp Banking will help customers use the bank anywhere in the chat application, at any time.

**Know about WhatsApp Banking**

In order to use WhatsApp banking services, customers must initiate a chat with the designated Axis Bank number and ask for detailed information. The service will allow customers to ask for information about their account balances, credit card payments, recent transactions, regular and fixed deposit details. Customers can also put forward their inquiries and get answers or solutions in real time.

Customers can use their designated number to chat with Axis Bank to inquire and ask for detailed information about bank transactions, details of the nearest branch, location of loan center and location of ATM center, etc. Customers can apply for various banking services and products.

Including holidays, the service will be available 24 hours a day. It applies to both bank customers and non-customers. Axis Bank said the service is safe and reliable because it works in an end-to-end encryption mode. The service is launched based on the bank's "Dil Se Open" philosophy. Through continuous innovation, this will help establish clearer customer focus and greater convenience.

WhatsApp Payments is a point-to-point remittance function. This feature is currently only available in India. The messaging app has been licensed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) to establish a partnership with the Bank of India to launch its payment service in July 2017. The app now allows its users to make in-app payments and remittances via the following method: Unified Payment Interface (UPI).

Red Rice of Assam Exported to US

The first batch of "Red Rice" cargo will disembark to the United States on March 4, 2021. This increases the export potential of Indian rice. The rice is purchased by the leading rice exporter "LT Foods".

**Highlights:**

APEDA Chairman Dr. M. Angamuthu held a flag-off ceremony for export goods in Haryana. With the help of several stakeholders in the value chain, APEDA
participated in activities to promote rice exports. The government has also established the "Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF)" under the authority of the Asia Pacific Agricultural Development Foundation (APEDA).

Red rice is rich in iron and grows in the Yarlung Zangbo Valley in Assam. It grows without using any chemical fertilizers. This kind of rice is called "Baoji" and is an indispensable part of Assam food.

According to the Ministry of Commerce of India, India's non-basmati rice exports have increased to Rs 26,058 crore in the two months from April to January 2020-21, while the export value for the same period in fiscal year 2019 was Rs 11,543 crore- 2020.

APEDA is the Apex-Export Trade Promotion Active government agency. The agency was established by the "Ministry of Commerce and Industry". It was established under the APEDA Act. The decree was passed in December 1985. After that, the supreme body was established and became effective in February 1986.

Rice Export Promotion Forum: REPF was established by the Indian government to promote rice exports. The forum takes collaborative steps to identify and record detailed information. It also touches stakeholders in the entire production or supply chain of rice exports. In this way, it increases exports to the global market. In this way, it increases exports to the global market. REPF consists of representatives of exporters, APEDA, rice industry, officials from the Ministry of Commerce and major rice producing countries (such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Telangana, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Austria). Rissa)'s composition of agricultural directors and Chhattisgarh.

**Bao-dhaan - Red Rice**

The first batch of "red rice" exports from Assam to the USA has been postponed. **Highlights:** This development has greatly promoted the export potential of India's rice. Bao-dhaan is the name of the "red rice" variety grown in the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam without using any chemical fertilizers. It is rich in iron and is an integral part of Assamese cuisine.
International

Home Secretary Level Talks between India and Bangladesh

The 19th Home Secretary Level Talks was held between India and Bangladesh.

**Highlights:**

In the context of the "MujibBarsho" and the 50 years of Bangladesh War of Liberation and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, India and Bangladesh held the 19th Home Secretary Level Talks (HSLT).

The two sides discussed the early completion of the fence to be completed on the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB) reached by the prime ministers of the two countries. The two sides reiterated that they are not allowed to use the territories of the two countries for any activities that are not conducive to each other's interests.

The two sides reviewed all aspects of security and border-related cooperation and agreed to cooperate closely to realize the common vision of the leaders of the two countries.

PM of Pakistan Visited Sri Lanka  India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

The Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Sri Lanka. This is the first visit by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Sri Lanka since 2016 and the first visit by any head of government to Sri Lanka since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Highlights about the Visit:**

Pakistan has provided Sri Lanka with a new credit line of US$50 million to promote cooperation in the field of defense and security.

Pakistan will establish an Asian Culture and Civilization Research Center at Peradeniya University in Kandy.

Sri Lanka also named a sports academy in Colombo after Pakistan's prime minister, emphasizing the cricket connection between the two countries.

**Significance of the Visit:**

For Pakistan, it will strengthen trade links
For Sri Lanka, it will seek support from the UNHRC
It will balance relations with India and Pakistan
Fix anti-Muslim images
Switzerland's Policy of Neutrality

The Switzerland's Ambassador recently said that due to changes in world political realities, its traditional foreign Policy of Neutrality (Swiss Neutrality) has once again become attractive.

About Policy of Neutrality:

This is a foreign policy position in which the country intends to remain neutral in future wars. Sovereignty is preserved, and the right to war is in a state of armed neutrality in the event of an attack by one of the parties.

A state that is permanently neutral is a sovereign state, bound by an international treaty or its own declaration, and remains neutral to all warring parties in future wars. Switzerland is an example of a permanently neutral country. Other countries are Ireland, Austria and so on.

The concept of neutrality in war is narrowly defined and imposes specific restrictions on neutral parties in exchange for the internationally recognized right to maintain neutrality.

International Neutrality Day is a day recognized by the United Nations held on December 12 each year to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations.

Right to Repair - European Union

Companies that sell refrigerators, washing machines, hair dryers or TVs in the European Union (EU) will need to ensure that the repair period for these devices is up to 10 years.

About:

The Right to Repair electronic products refers to government legislation designed to enable consumers to repair and modify their own consumer electronic devices. Otherwise, manufacturers of such devices require consumers to use only the services they provide.

The concept of Right to Repair originated in the United States, when the United States' Motor Vehicle Owners Right to Repair Act of 2012 required manufacturers to provide necessary documents and information, allow anyone to repair their vehicles.

New Rules:
According to the new EU regulations, manufacturers will have to ensure that parts can be used for up to ten years, although some parts will only be provided to professional repair companies to ensure proper installation.

The new equipment must also be accompanied by a repair manual and be manufactured in such a way that when it is really impossible to repair it, it can be dismantled with conventional tools to increase the recycling rate.

**International Year of Millets Declared by UNGA**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 the "International Year of Millets." It was announced that this year's resolution was proposed by India. The resolution was passed by consensus and was supported by more than 70 of the 193 countries.

**Highlights:**

Tirumurti, the Permanent Ambassador of India to the United States, shared the news. He emphasized that this is a big step that will promote the ecological and nutritional benefits of millet worldwide.

Xiaomi will now be promoted as a key component of the food basket and effective policy changes. The ambassador also expressed his gratitude to all the co-sponsors of the Indian resolution, especially countries other than the UN member states, such as Bangladesh, Senegal, Nepal, Russia and Nigeria.

A resolution initiated by India declared 2023 the International Year of Millet. With the passage of this event, this day now invites the United Nations, United Nations member states and other world organizations to commemorate this year through several activities, with the purpose of raising people's awareness of the health and other nutritional aspects of using millet and arousing people's awareness Policy concerns. These activities should also highlight that millet is suitable for cultivation even in unfavorable weather conditions.

**Indian resolution:** India proposed a resolution to commemorate the Year of Millet, considering that it is necessary to promote a diverse, balanced, diverse and healthy diet by increasing the consumption and sustainable production of millet. Also recognize the diversity and adaptability of Xiaomi.

The United Nations General Assembly announced the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 in April 2016. The declaration recognizes the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition in the world.
The announcement provides a comprehensive platform for a wide range of groups dedicated to solving nutritional problems. In the context of this resolution, India proposed a resolution on the "International Year of Millet" to promote a sustainable food system.
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Sustainable Development for Coal Sector

The Government puts emphasis on the sustainable development of coal mines, and takes a multi-pronged approach to the environment and society.

**Highlights:**

In addition to regular environmental monitoring and mitigation measures during the mining process, the Ministry of Coal has also taken some ready-made measures to sustainably develop the coal sector. Some measures are described below.

**Utilization of mine water:** A large amount of mine water released during coal mining is partly used for internal consumption in the coal mine to provide drinking water, dust suppression, industrial use, planting, etc. in its colony. Internal consumption accounts for about 45% of the mine's total consumption. The total amount of water in the mine is very large for community use. A plan has been drawn up to maximize water supply to nearby villages.

**Eco-parks:** The coal company has developed 15 eco-parks in various coal fields. Ten new eco-parks are at different stages of development.

**Extraction and use of sand from Over Burden (OB):** Extracting sand from Over Burden (OB) for construction and storage materials will not only help to obtain cheaper sand houses and other construction, but also make all the required land area minimized for dumping in future projects. The move also reduces the unfavorable footprint of sand mining in the riverbed.

**First mile connectivity:** Under this measure, coal is transported from the coal processing plant to the silo for loading via conveyor belts. This process eliminates the movement of coal on the road, thus not only minimizing environmental pollution, but also reducing the carbon footprint.

**Renewable energy:** Coal companies have established solar power plants to achieve their set targets for renewable energy production.

Biological reclamation and Tree Plantation: Biological reclamation and large-scale plantation forests have been one of the main driving areas for coal companies to promote environmental sustainability.

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E-Daakhil Portal in 15 States/UTs
E-Daakhil's consumer grievance redressal portal has been put into use in 15 States/UTs.

**About E-Daakhil Portal:**

It is a portal for e-submission of consumer complaints with the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and other consumer commissions. NCDRC launched the plan in September 2020, and Delhi is the first state to implement the plan.

The fee for submitting a complaint can also be paid online through the e-Daakhil portal.

The e-Daakhil portal gives consumers and their supporters the right to file consumer complaints online from anywhere, and pay the necessary fees online to redress their complaints.

It also helps the Consumer Commission to check the complaint online to accept, reject or forward the complaint to the relevant commission for further processing.

In order to facilitate e-filing by rural consumers, it has been decided to integrate the Common Service Center (CSC) with the e-daakhil portal.

Since many Gram Panchayat level consumers may not be able to use electronic communication or tools, they can use CSC's services to lodge a complaint with the Consumer Commission.

**Saras Aajeevika Mela Inaugurated**

The Union Minister inaugurated Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021.

**About Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021:**

The Ministry of Rural Development is organizing "Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021" in Noida Haat.

More than 300 rural self-help groups and artisans from 27 states are participating in the Mela event.

In Mela (exhibition), a booth showing regional cuisines and cultural performances is being organized.

During Mela, workshops on product packaging and design, communication skills, social media promotion and Business 2 Business marketing will be organized to educate rural self-help groups and craftsmen.

By participating in SARAS Aajeevika Mela, these rural SHG women have gained critical national level understanding to understand the needs and tastes of urban.
customers.

**E-Commerce Portal for KVIC**

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises, Road Transport and Highway Union, expressed his appreciation for Khadi's successful e-commerce business, saying that it provides a wide range of marketing platforms for a variety of Khadi and rural industrial products.

**Highlights:**
The Khadi and Village Industry Council (KVIC) is a statutory body established under the Parliamentary Act "The Khadi and Village Industry Council Act of 1956".

It is under the management control of the Mini, Small and Medium-Sized Ministry (MSME).

KVIC promotes, organizes and implements plans for the development of Khadi and other rural industries in rural areas across the country.

KVIC also helps build stocks of raw materials for manufacturers. The focus of the committee is to establish general service facilities for processing raw materials (such as semi-finished products). KVIC also helped create jobs in the Khadi industry.

The Khadi e portal was launched in July 2020. It has established pan-Indian coverage, enabling artisans to sell their products to the most remote areas of India. The online sales launched only with Khadi Face Masks this year have evolved into a mature electronic market platform with many products.

According to KVIC, the product range includes hand-spun and hand-woven high-end fabrics such as muslin, silk, denim and cotton, Ritu Beri's neutral Vichar Vastra, Khadi's signature watch, various honey, herbal and green tea, herbal medicine and Soap, Papad, Kacchi, Gani mustard oil and a series of herbal cosmetics.

KVIC is responsible for all logistics and infrastructure support, such as cataloging, product photography, maintaining online inventory, and packaging and shipping the goods to the customer's doorstep. This can free the Khadi artisans, institutions and PMEGP units that produce Khadi products from any financial burden.

**Launch of Sugamya Bharat App**
The Union Minister for Social justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot will launch the "Sugamya Bharat App" in virtual mode on March 2, 2021. The Minister will also release a handbook called "Access-The Photo Digest".

**About Sugamya Bharat App:**

It is a crowdsourced mobile application developed to improve accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign (i.e. the transportation sector, the built environment and India's ICT ecosystem).

**Features of the App:** This mobile application contains five main functions. Among these functions, 4 are directly related to enhanced accessibility, and one function is a special function for Divyangjan's COVID-19 related issues. The accessibility-related function of the app is-register complaints about the inaccessibility of the 3 main pillars of Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan. It also includes various user-friendly features such as simple drop-down menus, Hindi and English videos, sign language translation, and complaint uploading with photos.

**Registration on the App:** The mobile application is simple to use because it is easy to register. Registration only requires 3 required fields, namely name, mobile phone number and email ID. After users register in the app, they will ask questions about accessibility.

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**Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2021 in West Bengal**

The third and final stop of the 11th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2021 was held in Murshidabad, West Bengal. Local artists performed a variety of colorful performances, including Baul Gaan', Alkup Gaan', Leto gaan', Jhumuriya' and Ranpa folk dances.

**Highlights:**

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is a flagship festival of Ministry of Culture. Since 2015, the event has been organized with the active participation of Seven Zonal Culture Centres.

The original purpose was to showcase the country's rich and diverse cultural heritage in one place, namely Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture and Performing Arts- Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary Art.

**Significance:**

Bringing India's vibrant culture to the masses instead of confining it to auditoriums.
and galleries has always played a pivotal role. It played a role in showcasing folk and tribal art, dance, music, food and culture of one state in other states, reinforcing the goal of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat". It also provides an effective platform for artists and craftsmen to support their livelihoods.

In the context of "India as a nation" for thousands of years, it reconnects people (especially young people) with their indigenous culture, its multi-faceted nature, and grand historical significance.

**Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme**

The Government plans to replace the Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP) with the new program MERITE project.

**About the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme:**

- It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development in 2002 with the assistance of the World Bank and is currently being implemented in phases.
- It aims to improve the quality of technical education and strengthen the capacity of institutions.
- Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme III (TEQIP-III) was launched in 2017 and will be completed in 2021.
- It aims to develop technical education as a key component of improving the quality of engineering education.
- The objective is to improve the quality and fairness of engineering institutions in key states (such as low-income states).

**About MERITE Project:**

- The objective of the project is to improve technical education, such as TEQIP.
- However, the MERITE project is still in the conceptual stage and has not yet been approved by the Cabinet.

**Suryakiran Aerobatic Team - Air Show**

The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Sarang Helicopter Display Team and Light Fighter Aircraft (LCA) will hold an air show at Galle Face in Colombo from March 3 to 5, 2021, marking the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lankan Air Force
About the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team:
The team was formed with the Kiran Mk-II aircraft in 1996 and has attracted audiences from all over the country until 2011.
By 2015, Hawk trainers used 4 aircraft to restore it and developed it to 9 aircraft.
The SKAT team, also known as 52 Squadron or Sharks, is based in Bidar (Karnataka).
Since its establishment, the SKAT team has conducted more than 600 exhibitions across the country, and represented India in the entire Southeast Asia region including China.
Marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Bangladesh War of Liberation in 1971, the SKAT team started from Kanyakumari in the south and flew different formations over landmarks across the country.

About Sarang Helicopter Display Team:
The Sarang team evolved from the ALH Evaluation Flight (AEF), which was established in Bangalore in 2003 to evaluate indigenous helicopters before they are formally evaluated.
The Sarang (Peacock) of the Indian Air Force aerobatic team includes four Dhruv helicopters made in India (an advanced light helicopter-ALH, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in Bangalore).

Aircraft in India: Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk I and MK II, Rafale Aircrafts, Sukhoi jets, etc.

Lok Shaba TV and Rajya Shaba TV Sansad TV
Lok Shaba TV and Rajya Shaba TV Sansad TV
The Indian Parliament has merged two TV channels, Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV into one integrated channel "Sansad TV".

Highlights:
This new platform will continue to broadcast live TV shows in Hindi and English, including news and current affairs programs. Rajya Sabha TV station is operated from leased public property near Talkatora Stadium.
Now, this agency will merge with Lok Sabha TV's infrastructure to create a new entity. Former textile minister Ravi Kapoor (Ravi Kapoor) was appointed as the chief executive officer of Sansad Television, with a one-year contract.
A committee of experts led by Prasar Bharati CEO Surya Prakash put forward a proposal to merge the two entities in 2019. Sansad TV will be composed of two platforms or channels, which will ensure the smooth live broadcast of the two hospitals. During the adjournment of the parliament, the channel will be given two options, namely to run the current affairs channel in English and Hindi, or to close one channel and run the program on the other channel. The new channel will set up an office in a small bungalow on Mahadev Road.

The consolidation of entities will be a major cost-saving activity. Through the merger, Rajya Sabha Television Company will pay 10-12 crore rent for offices and studios on Talkatora Road.

**Establishment and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations - FPOs**

The first anniversary of the Central Sector Scheme for the establishment and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

**Highlights:**

- This scheme was launched by the Prime Minister in Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh) in February 2020 with a budget allocation of Rs 6865 crore.
- Implementing Agencies (IAs) are integrating with Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBO) to aggregate, register and provide professional handholding support for each FPO for a period of 5 years.
- CBBO will become a platform to provide end-to-end knowledge of all issues related to FPO promotion.
- Financial assistance will be provided to FPO for a period of 3 years, with a maximum of Rs 18 lakh per FPO.
- At the National level, the National Project Management Agency (NPMA) as a professional organization has been involved in providing overall project guidance, coordination, compilation of FPO-related information, MIS maintenance and monitoring purposes.

**Janaushadhi Diwas 2021 Kicked off**

The 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas 2021 celebration event kicked off.
Highlights:
Janaushadhi Diwas was observed all over the country on March 7. Week-long celebrations such as health camps, interactions and gatherings have begun, especially at the Jan Aushadhi Centres. Janaushadhi Diwas theme for 2021: "Seva bhi Rozgar bhi". Janaushadhi Center is part of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). In these centers operated by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs in India (BPPI), the selling price of generic medicine is 50% to 90% lower than the market price of branded medicines.

Civil Accounts Day 1st March

Celebrated the 45th Civil Accounts Day. March 1 is Civil Accounts Day to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS).

About Civil Accounts Day:
March 1 is Civil Accounts Day to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS). The service was created in 1976 to provide accounting and auditing services to the Indian Government. By reducing the responsibility of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in preparing the Union Government accounts, the Audit and Accounting functions are separated. Therefore, the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) was established. It is carved out of Indian Audit and Accounts Services (IA&AS).

Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) Foundation Day

Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) was celebrated their 9th Foundation Day.

About Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI):
LPAI is a statutory body established under Land Ports Authority of India Act of 2010. The Act gives LPAI the power to develop, disinfect and manage cross-border transportation facilities for passengers and goods at designated points on India's international borders. LPAI strives to provide safe, secure and systematic facilities for the transportation of goods and passengers on its ICPs (Integrated Checkpoints).

Global Bio India 2021 2nd Edition

Union Minister unveiled the three-day "Global Bio India 2021".

Highlights:
The 2nd edition of the "Global Bio India-2021" has been unveiled. The 3-day online event will showcase India's strengths and opportunities in the field of biotechnology to the country and the global community.

The theme for 2021 is Transforming lives and the slogan is Biosciences to Bio-economy.

As one of the largest biotechnology stakeholder groups, the event was jointly organized by the Department of Biotechnology, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Government of India and its Public Sector Undertakings and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) and Invest in India.

Swachhta Saarthi Fellowships - GoI

Swachhta Saarthi Fellowships initiated by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser.

**Highlights:**

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser of GOI launched the "Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship" to recognize students, community workers/self-help groups and municipal/health workers who are committed to science and sustainably respond to the great challenges of waste management.

This is part of Waste to Wealth Mission.

"Waste to Wealth" mission is one of the nine national missions of Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).

Fellowship is an initiative aimed at empowering young innovators with the capacity of Swachhta Saarthis to engage in community management, waste management/publicity campaigns/waste survey/research and other community work, and take actions to reduce the waste of the green planet.

This fellowship aims to enable interested students and citizens to continue their efforts to reduce waste in urban and rural areas.

Fellowships invite applications from students and community workers who have already done work or currently engaged in waste management activities (including awareness campaigns, surveys and research).

**The three categories of awards under the fellowship are as follows:**

Category A: Open to school students of 9 to 12 standards participating in waste
management community work
Category B - Open to college students (UG, PG, research students) participating in waste management community work
Category C - Open to citizens working in the community and through SHG, municipal or health workers who, work beyond their work requirements/descriptions

Chabahar Day Commemorated on March 4 by India

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) - India will commemorate the "Chabahar Day" on March 4, 2021, before the 2021 Indian Maritime Summit to be held in Delhi from March 2 to March 4.

**Highlights:**
The virtual event will witness the participation of ministers from various countries which includes Afghanistan, Iran, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. During the event; Minister of Foreign Affairs S Jaishankar will deliver a speech at the opening ceremony at the ministerial level, while Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will deliver a keynote speech.

After the ministerial opening meeting, two webinars will be held, namely "Promoting Business Development through Trade Promotion and Regional Connectivity" and "Development of Port Infrastructure: Unleashing Opportunities".

Chabahar Port is a sea port in Chabahar, located in the Gulf of Oman in southeastern Iran. The port is the only maritime port in Iran. The port consists of two independent ports, namely Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari. The port was first proposed by the last king of Iran in 1973. The first phase was opened during the 1983 Iran-Iraq War.

**India and Iran:** India and Iran first agreed in 2003 to further develop the Shahid Beheshti port. However, the plan was unsuccessful due to various sanctions imposed on Iran. The two countries signed a bilateral agreement again in May 2016. According to the agreement, India will renovate a berth at the Shahid Beheshti port and rebuild a 600-meter-long container handling facility at the port. The port also seeks to provide India with an alternative trade route between India and Afghanistan. This is because the port is 800 kilometers closer to the Afghan border than the port of Karachi. The port has strategic advantages and has great
potential to provide connectivity between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and other Commonwealth countries.

**Union Minister Inaugurated India Telecom**

The Union Minister will inaugurate India Telecom 2021.

**About India Telecom 2021:**

Organized by TEPC (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council). This is an exclusive international business fair, actually held under the Market Access Initiative scheme (MAI) of the Department of Commerce and supported by the Department of Telecommunications and the Ministry of External Affairs. More than 1,000 representatives participated in the event, of which more than 200 foreign representatives from more than 45 countries participated in the event. More than 40 Indian telecommunications companies are demonstrating their most advanced products and functions at the exhibition. India Telecom 2021 is a platform for technology integration and business exchanges.

**About Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council (TEPC):**

TEPC was established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Communications to promote and develop the export of telecommunications equipment and services. The council has carried out some activities aimed at promoting exports, such as commissioning research to find potential markets, holding national/international seminars and promoting exporters to participate in various overseas exhibitions. The council also distributes trade-related data to its members. The council makes various recommendations to the government to make necessary changes to various policies and procedures for promoting exports and services.

**Udyog Manthan- January to March**

Udyog Manthan will hold events from January 2021 to March 2021.

**About Udyog Manthan:**

Udyog Manthan is organized from January to March of 2021 by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
It is a series of webinars aimed at improving the quality and productivity of Indian industry.

The webinar was supported by the National Productivity Council, the Bureau of Indian Standards, and industry associations such as CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM.

The webinar aims to draw on the best practices and experience of sector and industry experts to identify the quality and productivity-related challenges faced by the Indian industry, with a view to solving these challenges, thereby promoting a Vocal for Local and ultimately for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Udyog Manthan will cover various fields such as pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, closed-circuit cameras, electronic system design and manufacturing, new and renewable energy, robotics, aerospace and defense, toys, furniture, etc.

**India Becomes Partly Free  Freedom Report**

The 2021 World Freedom Report downgraded India's status from "free" to "partially free."

**Highlights:**

The report pointed out that the global democratic system has been declining in the past 15 years. The report pointed out that nearly 75% of the world's population lives in this country that was facing deterioration last year.

The most free countries in the world are Finland, Norway and Sweden with a score of 100, while the least free countries are Tibet and Syria with a score of 1.

The Freedom House, a human rights monitoring agency in the United States, is mainly funded by the US government and has been tracking the progress of democracy since 1941.

India's score was 67, which was a decrease from last year's 71/100 (reflecting data for 2019), and it was down from last year's free category (that is, based on data for 2020).

**PM to Receive CERAWeek Award**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the CERAWeek Global Energy and Environmental Leadership Award.

**About the Award:**

The CERAWeek Global Energy and Environmental Leadership Award was
established in 2016 to recognize leaders' commitment to the future of global energy and the environment and to provide solutions and policies for energy access, affordability and environmental management.

**CERA: Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week**

**About CERAWeek**

CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Dr. Daniel Yergin. Since 1983, it has been held in Houston every March and is considered the most important annual energy platform in the world.

**Turkmenistan Special Forces at Indian Special Forces Training School**

Turkmenistan Special Forces began Combat Free Fall Training at the Indian Special Forces Training School.

**Highlights:**

Paratroopers in Turkmenistan will receive "Combat Free Fall" training, which is the predecessor of a series of customized courses that will help them improve their abilities.

The Special Forces Training School (SFTS) is responsible for providing training for the Indian Army's special forces. It is located in Himachal Pradesh Nahan.

**Special Forces of India:**

**Para SF:** The Indian Army's wing of Special Force commandos called Para SF was created in 1966 during the Indo-Pakistan War in (1965). The group was disbanded and joined the Parachute Regiment, becoming the first special operations unit. Para SF participated in many combat operations, including Operation Blue Star, the Maldives conflict and the 1999 Kargil War. Para SF is considered to be one of the oldest special forces in India, with real combat experience.

**MARCOS:** The Marine Commandos (MARCOS) is an elite force in the Indian Navy, trained to perform missions on all terrains. The organization was formerly known as the Indian Marine Special Force and is said to specialize in maritime operations. With the strength around 2000, most of their business is still confidential.

Among known active combat participation, the team participated in Operation Pawan (Sri Lanka-LTTE conflict), Operation Black Tornado (Terrorist attack in Mumbai in 2008) and the Kargil War in 1999.
Indias Rank in QS World University Rankings

The Union Education Minister delivered a speech at the Unveiling of QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021.

**Highlights:**

In the 2021 QS World University Rankings, 12 Indian colleges and universities have won the top 100 positions.

The 12 institutions include Bombay IIT, Delhi IIT, Madras IIT, Kharagpur IIT, Bangalore IISC, Guwahati IIT, Bangalore IIM, Ahmedabad IIM, JNU, Anna University, Delhi University and O.P Jindal University.

Three Indian Institutes of Technology entered the ranks of the top 100 engineering institutes, and Bombay IIT ranked first in the engineering and technology category. In the same category, Bombay IIT ranked 49th, Delhi IIT ranked 54th, and Madras IIT ranked 94th. The MIT in the United States continues to maintain its top position.

**About QS World University Rankings:**

QS World University Rankings by Subjects 2021 covers 51 disciplines, divided into five main subject areas.

These rankings are aggregated every year to help prospective students identify leading universities in specific subject.

Use research citations and key global surveys of employers and scholars to rank universities.

Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple Under PRASHAD Scheme

Under the PRASHAD Scheme, the foundation stone was laid for the "Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple in Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh"

**Ministry:** Ministry of Tourism.

**National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation & Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive:**

This is a Central Sector Scheme

**Initiated by:** Ministry of Tourism 2014-15

**Objective:** Comprehensive development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations

**Goals:** Infrastructure development, such as entry points (road, rail and water
transportation), last mile connection, ATM/money exchange, area lighting and renewable resource lighting, emergency centers, etc. So far, 13 projects have been successfully completed according to the PRASHAD scheme.

**External Affairs Minister Of India Visited Bangladesh And Held Bilateral Meetings**

The meeting was held before the Prime Minister of India planned to visit Bangladesh in March 2021. Previously, the 122-member Bangladesh Armed Forces participated in the 72nd "Republic Day" military parade to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1971 India-Pakistan War, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh.

**Highlights:**

**Bangladesh's Stand:**
- Problems between neighboring countries should be resolved through discussion and negotiation.
- There needs to be a focus on possible ways to fulfill promises and meet each other's priorities in a mutually beneficial way.
- Bangladesh appreciates the cooperation initiative between India and Bangladesh in implementing a vaccination programme for the current pandemic.
- The Covid vaccine purchased by Bangladesh from the Serum Institute in India.
- Bangladesh is the largest recipient of 9 million doses of vaccine manufactured in India.
- The two countries are committed to expanding relations in various aspects such as security, trade, transportation and interconnection, culture, human relations, energy, the joint development of our common resources and defense.

**India's Stand:**
- Bangladesh has been listed on the United Nations Least Developed Countries list since 1975.
- Bangladesh met all the standards needed to elevate it to a developing country in 2018.
- Therefore, the United Nations recommends that Bangladesh graduate from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category.
- Once the final recommendation is received, Bangladesh will officially graduate
from a developing country in 2026.
Launch of PSLV-C51 and Amazonia-1 Mission

The countdown to the launch of the Indian Space Research Organization (PSV-C51) or Amazonia-1 mission begins on February 27, 2021. The countdown starts at 8:54 in the morning. Finally successfully launched on February 28, 2021.

**Highlights:**

PSLV-C51 is planned to be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

It will be launched from the Space Center at 10:24 PM on February 28, 2021. This is ISRO's 53rd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle mission.

In this launch, the PSLV-C51 rocket will carry the Brazilian satellite Amazonia-1 as the main satellite.

In addition to Brazilian satellites, ISRO vehicles will also carry 19 passenger satellites. However, this launch will be affected by the weather in the city on February 28, 2021.

This task is also the first specialized commercial task of ISRO's commercial node organization "New Space India Limited (NSIL)".

NSIL is conducting this task under a commercial agreement with Spaceflight Inc. Spaceflight Inc. is a provider of satellite carpooling and task management. It is located in Seattle, USA. Of the 18 passenger satellites, 14 will be sent by NSIL.

The Brazilian National Institute of Space Research is sending Amazonia-1. The satellite is an optical earth observation satellite. The satellite will strive to provide strength to the existing structure. It will also share remote sensing data to monitor deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon. In addition, the satellite will also provide analysis of diversified agriculture throughout Brazil.

The PSLV vehicle will carry four passengers from a node agency called the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe). IN-SPACe is an independent agency under the Ministry of Space. It allows the private sector to participate in space activities.

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.

**Highlights:**

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.

When communication service providers provide cloud-native 5G for enterprises, it can also open up new business areas for communication service providers.

Under this partnership, Google and Intel will focus on accelerating the deployment of virtualized RAN and open wireless access network (ORAN) solutions. The two technology giants plan to achieve this goal by providing infrastructure and hardware and launching a new laboratory environment for cloud-native 5G innovation.

Google said that vRAN can benefit operators by improving network performance and spectrum efficiency, cost efficiency, and flexible deployment models. It will also provide communication service providers with strict network and timing arrangements.

**Russia Launched 1st Arctic-monitoring Satellite**

Russia Launched 1st Arctic-monitoring Satellite

The Russian space agency Roscosmos has successfully launched the first Arctic monitoring satellite, which will monitor the climate and environment of the Arctic.

**Highlights:**

The space agency launched the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, which also carries the Arktika-M satellite. The rocket was blown up at the Baikonur International Space Airport in Kazakhstan on February 28, 2021.

In order to solve operational meteorological and hydrological problems, it is necessary to develop such a satellite system in a highly elliptical orbit to collect information.

The satellite will also monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic region. It will also provide continuous round-the-clock surveillance of Russia's northern territory.

The Arktika-M satellite will also send an overview image of the Earth's Arctic and neighboring regions every 15 to 30 minutes.

**Arktika-M:** This satellite is one of a series of remote sensing and emergency
communications satellites in the Russian plan. The satellite orbits in a highly elliptical 12-hour orbit. A constellation of two Arktika-M satellites was also designed to monitor the high latitudes of the earth. The satellite will be based on the Lavochkin Elektro-L weather satellite. The satellite's payload includes MSU-GSM multi-spectral imagers and transmitters for weather systems and rescue systems. The first launch of the satellite is scheduled for 2013, but it has been postponed and launch in 2021.

**Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos):** It is a state-owned company of the Russian Federation engaged in space flight, aerospace research and space programs. Roscosmos appeared after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It was originally established as the Russian Space Agency in 1992. Roscosmos is headquartered in Moscow. Its main mission control center is located in the nearby city of Korolyov.

**TLR 7/8: Covaxins Key Molecule Developed by Indian Laboratory**

The Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories helped develop the key molecules of COVAXIN.

**Highlights:**

Covaxin is a indigenous vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech International Ltd. It is a highly purified whole virus particle that inactivates SARS-Cov-2. It is formulated by "Algel-IMDG", which contains chemically absorbed TLR7/8 as an adjuvant, which can be attached to aluminum hydroxide gel to generate the necessary type of immune response without harming the body.

**Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) - Lakshadweep and Puducherry**

India and Norway agreed to carry out Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

**Highlights:**

India and Norway have agreed to work together in the field of Marine Space Planning (MSP) in marine space in the next five years.

India and Norway have agreed to work together in the field of marine space planning in the next five years.
This is part of the "India-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative" under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two countries in 2019. Lakshadweep and Puducherry have been identified as pilot sites for this project. The two countries have decided to expand support for the sustainable use of marine resources to promote economic and social development in coastal areas. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through the National Centre for Coastal Research of India (NCCR) and the Norwegian Environment Agency through the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is worth noting that the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have expressed interest in supporting the Ministry of Education to implement MSP.

**CRCL is Confirmed as RCL**

The Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL) is recognized as the Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

**Highlights:**

CRCL (Central Revenues Control Laboratory) is recognized as the Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in the Asia-Pacific region.

CRCL is considered RCL and has joined select customs laboratories in the region, such as Japan and South Korea.

About CRCL:

The Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL) was established in 1939. CRCL is the headquarters of 14 taxation laboratories, including government opium and alkaloid factories, and two laboratories in Ghazipur and Neemuch.

CRCL is a subsidiary office under the control of the Central Indirect Tax and Tariff Central Committee of the Revenue Department of the GOI Ministry of Finance.

The laboratories under the CRCL assist on-site agencies to conduct chemical analysis on samples of various traded commodities in order to properly assess their responsibilities.

These laboratories also assist in the implementation of the Customs Law, the NDPS Law, the GST Law, the Consumption Tax Law and other related laws,
including environmental protection, food safety and other purposes.

**EX Desert FLAG VI to be held in UAE**

EX Desert FLAG VI is scheduled to be held at Al-Dhafra Air Force Base in the UAE from March 3 to March 27.

*About Exercise Desert Flag:*

The Ex Desert Flag is an annual multinational mercenary warfare exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force.

The Indian Air Force joined with Air Forces of the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain for the first time to participate in the "Exercise Desert Flag-VI".

IAF participated in the battle of 6 Su-30 MKI, 2 C-17 and 1 IL-78 tanker.

The C-17 Globemaster will provide support for the IAF task force's performance.

The Su-30 MKI aircraft will take on the mission of a long-range ferry and fly directly from India to the exercise area with the support of in-flight refueling of IL-78 tanker aircraft.

The purpose of the exercise is to provide combat exposure to participating forces while training them to conduct simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment.

Participating forces will get the opportunity to develop their combat capabilities and exchange best practices with each other.

**Launch of CSIR Floriculture Mission**

Union Minister launches CSIR Floriculture Mission.

*About CSIR Floriculture Mission:*

Under this mission, the available knowledge base in the CSIR Institute will be used and utilized to help Indian farmers and industries reposition themselves to meet import requirements.

The mission has been approved for execution in 21 States and Union Territories.

Implementation in cooperation with the following organizations:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research -Directorate of Floriculture
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd
Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj

The CSIR Floriculture Mission is expected to create opportunities for the development of floral entrepreneurs.
CSIR can successfully guide the injection of the latest technology in the field of floral art.

The mission will focus on the cultivation of commercial floral crops, seasonal/annual crops, wild ornaments and cultivation of flower crops for beekeeping. Gladiolus, Canna, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Gerbera, Lilium, Marigold, Rose, Tuberose are some of the popular crops.

Technology and Innovation Report 2021 - UNCTAD

According to the latest country readiness index of the "Technology and Innovation Report 2021", India is the largest "overperform country" in frontier technologies, which is better than the country's per capita GDP implies.

The report was issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Highlights:
The report examines the possibilities of frontier technology to expand existing inequalities and create new inequalities.

It also addresses the national and international policy, instrument and institutional reforms needed to create a more equal opportunity world for all.

Frontier Tech Market: The report shows that frontier technology represents a $350 billion market, which may grow to $3.2 trillion by 2025.

International cooperation: It calls for strengthening international cooperation to build innovation capabilities in developing countries and promote technology transfer.

Inclusive: Imagine increasing women's participation in the digital sector, conducting technology assessments, and engaging in inclusive debates on the impact of frontier technologies on sustainable development.

Humans and Machines At Work: Technological changes affect inequality by affecting jobs, wages and profits.

About United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 to
promote the integration of developing countries into the world economy in a development-friendly way. UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
ENVIRONMENT

Study on Snow Leopard in Himachal Pradesh

A new study based on the scientific enumeration of this elusive animal indicates that up to 73 snow leopards (Panthera uncia) may be hidden in the high-altitude hills of Himalayas.

Conservation of Snow Leopard:

India has been protecting snow leopards and their habitats through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL). Since 2013, India has been a party of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) program. In order to protect, India has identified three major landscapes, namely Hemis-Spiti across Ladakh and Himalayas; Nanda Devi-Gangotri in Uttarakhand, And Khangchendzonga-Tawang, which straddles Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Snow Leopard Project (PSL) was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to protecting snow leopards and their habitats. According to the restoration plan of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, snow leopards have been included in the list of 21 critically endangered species.

Habitat: Snow leopards inhabit the high landforms of the Himalayas and trans-Himalayas in five states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himalayas, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. In Himachal Pradesh, the snow leopard habitat covers most of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur. Its potential habitat also extends to the upper areas of Shimla, Kuru, Camba and Kangra. Most of these areas are remote areas, and winter also limits accessibility challenges.

IUCN Status: Vulnerable

Himalayan Serow Spotted in Assam State

Himalayan mammals are the latest creatures discovered in Assam. The serow in the Himalayas looks like it is somewhere between the goat and the antelope.

Himalayan Serow:

It was found in the Manas Tiger Reserve with an area of 950 square meters. It will reach 2 kilometers on December 3, 2020. This animal is a high-altitude animal, usually found at an altitude of 2,000 to 4,000 meters. The Himalayas are a
subspecies of continental birds. This species is native to the Himalayas. The opium of the Himalayas was previously called Capricornis thar. It and the sides and hindquarters are mostly black. The thighs of this species are rusty red, while the calves are white. This species has been listed in CITES Appendix I. The scientific name of the mainland serow is Capricornis sumatraensis. The row people are native to China, the Himalayas and Southeast Asia. The sewn coat has bristle or coarse guard hair. The hair covers the fur layer closest to the sutured skin. The animal's bristles are sewn between the shoulder cap bones covering the skin from the horns to the middle of the back. Males are characterized by horns and light in color. It is six inches in length and is slightly curved toward the animal's back. The continental seam grows to six feet long. The weight of an adult se is about 150 kg.

**Manas National Park** is a national park and is listed as a World Natural Heritage by UNESCO. It is also the Tiger Project Sanctuary, Elephant Sanctuary and Biosphere Reserve. It is located in Assam in the foothills of the Himalayas. The reserve is adjacent to the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan. It is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife, including Himalayan hares, Assam tortoises, pygmy pigs and golden leaf monkeys.

**Five New Shrub Frogs Found in Western Ghats**

Researchers from India and the United States have discovered five new species of bush frogs. These frog species were discovered from the Western Ghats, which is a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot.

**Highlights:**

Five species of frogs belong to the old-world tree frog family (Rhacophoridae). These species were discovered by researchers belongs to the Kerala Forest Research Institute, the University of Delhi and the University of Minnesota.

The discovery is part of a long-term comprehensive study of shrub frogs of the genus Raorchestes in the Western Ghats.

The study was conducted for 10 years. Based on several criteria, including the frog's external morphology, calling pattern, DNA and behavior, these new species were identified and unique.

The results of this study were published in an article titled "A Comprehensive Method to Infer the Systematic Relationships of Bush Frogs and Define Species Groups, and describe five new species from the Western Ghats of India."
This research was conducted under the leadership of Professor Biju from the University of Delhi.

The report emphasized that the new species of shrub frog, Raorchestes drutaahu, was discovered in the Kadhalar area of the Idukki area of Kerala and the Siruvani area of the Palakkad area. Another species named Raorchestes kakkayamensis or Kakkayam bush frog was only found near the Kakkayam dam. A third species of bush frog called Raorchestes keirasabinae or Keira was found in the Agasthyamalai and Anamalai Mountains of the Western Ghats. The fourth species called Raorchestes sanjappai is a green bush frog. It was found in the Wayanad area in northern Kerala. It is named after Dr. M Sanjappa, an Indian botanist and former director of the Botanical Survey of India. The last species found was Raorchestes vallikkannan or silver-eyed shrub frog. It is found in the area around Siruvani Hills and Silent Valley National Park.

Rediscovery of Black-Browed Blabber

A black-browed Blabber (Malacocincla perspicillata) was rediscovered in southeastern Kalimantan (part of Indonesian Borneo).

**Background:**

In the 1840s, a mysterious bird was discovered during an expedition to the East Indies. It is called black browed blabber. This species has never been seen in the wild again, and a filled specimen with bright yellow glass eyes is the only evidence of its existence. Until the black-browed long bird in Indonesia, no Asian bird has been missing. It has been gone for the past 170 years. This bird is often referred to as "the biggest enigma in Indonesian ornithology".

Black-Browed Blabber: It has strong bank bill, chocolate color and unique black eyeliner stripes, and its iris has a striking maroon color. It has brown wings and black stripes on its eyebrows.

**IUCN Status:** Data Deficient.

**Nag River project has approved**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the Nag River pollution reduction project has been approved, costing more than 21.17 billion rupees.

**Highlights:**
The Nag River, which passes through the city of Nagpur, is named after the city and has now become a highly polluted waterway for sewage and industrial waste. The project approved under National River Conservation Plan will be implemented by the National River Conservation Directorate, (NRCD).
From the perspective of untreated sewage, solid waste and other impurities flowing into the Nag River and its tributaries, this will reduce pollution levels.

**About the National River Conservation Directorate:**
National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) to protect the country's rivers, lakes and wetlands.
NRCD is under Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
NRCD only provides financial assistance to state governments/local bodies for the establishment of infrastructure to reduce river pollution in the river section under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).
The goal of NRCP is to improve the water quality of rivers (the country's main water source) by implementing pollution reduction projects.

**Massive Fire in Similipal Biosphere Reserve**
A fire broke out in the Similipal Biosphere Reserve in Odisha. The fire did not touch the core area of the biosphere, but the fire threatened the destruction of its rich biodiversity.

**Highlights:**
The name of Similipal comes from the "Simul" (silk cotton) tree. It was officially designated as a tiger reserve in 1956 and was included in the "Tiger Project" in 1973.
In June 1994, the Indian government declared it a biosphere reserve. Since 2009, it has become part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network.
It is part of the Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Sanctuary, commonly known as the Mayurbhanj Elephant Sanctuary, which includes 3 sanctuaries, namely the Similipal Tiger Sanctuary, the Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary.
It is located in the northern part of the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. Geographically, it is located at the eastern end of the Eastern Ghats.
Similipal has 1,076 flowering species and 96 orchids. It has tropical semi-evergreen forests, tropical humid deciduous forests, dry deciduous mountain forests, high-grade Saar forests and dense grasslands. The two tribes of Erenga Kharias and Mankirdias live in the forests of the reserve and engage in traditional agricultural activities (collecting seeds and wood). In addition to 304 species of birds, 20 species of amphibians and 62 species of reptiles, Similipal also has a variety of wild animals including tigers and elephants.

**WWF Conservation Drive on 3rd March**

On the occasion of World Wildlife Day on March 3, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) called on multiple stakeholders including the European Union (EU) to save the last old tree forest in Europe.

**Highlights:**

The European Old Growth Forest (OGF) is a primeval forest, dominated by natural processes. These include the primitive, near primitive, and untouched forests of humans, such as the Biaowieza forest in Poland.

So far, 350,000 hectares of old and virgin forests have been identified in Central and Southeast Europe. Of these, only 2.8 million hectares are protected by law.

Europe (outside Russia) has the largest area of surviving OGF and forest habitats, mainly in Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

They are home to the largest carnivorous population in Europe and thousands of other plant and animal species.

These forests provide important ecosystem services, such as filtering and storing fresh water to regulate the climate, and are therefore vital to humans and the economy.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF): WWF was established in 1961 and is headquartered in Grande, Switzerland. Its mission is to protect nature and reduce the most urgent threats to the diversity of life on earth.

World Wildlife Day: Since 2013 the World Wildlife day has been celebrated on March 3 every year. The selected date coincides with the signing of the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Theme: Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and the Earth

In India: On this occasion, the Environment Ministry announced its commitment to
reintroducing the cheetah, which went extinct in 1952.
PERSONS

**Bir Chilarai Jayanti  Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister still remembered Bir Chilarai on Jayanti.

**About Bir Chilarai:**
Bir Chilarai (1510-1571) was a brave warrior and general of the Koch dynasty of the Assamese. He is the younger brother of King Nara Narayan of the Kamata Kingdom. Since 2005, the Government of Assam has organized Mahabir Chilaray's birthday anniversary every year. He played an important role in the expansion of his brother's empire.

**Guru Ravidas Jayanti is Designated on 27th Feb**

According to the Hindu lunar calendar, on the full moon day of the month of Maga, Magh Purnima (February 27, 2021) celebrates Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

**About Guru Ravidas:**
He is a 14th century saint and religious reformer of the Bhakti movement in Northern India. It is believed that he was born into a cobbler family in Varanasi. He is highly praised for his belief in one God and his impartial religious poetry. He devoted his life to abolishing the caste system and publicly despised the concept of Brahman society. His devout singing had an immediate impact on the Bhakti movement, and his poems were included in the Sikh religious text "Guru Granth Sahib"

**Morarji Desai  125th Anniversary**

The 125th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Morarji Desai was celebrated. He was the fourth prime minister of India (1977-79) and the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India.

**Key Facts:**
**Early Life:** Shri Morarji Desai was born on February 29, 1896 in the village of Bhadeli in Bulsar districts of Gujarat. After graduating from the Wilson Civil Service College in Mumbai in 1918, he served as an Deputy Collector for twelve years.

**Contribution in Freedom Struggle:** In 1930, when India participated in the "civil
disobedience movement" initiated by Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Desai lost confidence in Britain's sense of justice and decided to resign from the government and join the struggle. Shri Desai was imprisoned three times in the struggle for freedom. He became a member of All India Congress Committee in 1931 and served as the Secretary of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee until 1937. He was detained by an individual Satyagraha, initiated by Mahatma Gandhi, released in October 1941 and detained again in August, 1942 at the time of Quit India movement.

**Political Career:** In 1952, he became Chief Minister of Bombay. He joined the Union Cabinet as Minister of Commerce and Industry in November 1956. Later, he acquired a financial portfolio in March 1958. In 1963, he resigned from Union Cabinet under the Kamraj Plan. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri who succeeded Pt. Nehru served as prime minister and persuaded him to become chairman of the Administrative Reform Commission to reorganize the administrative system. Desai was arrested and detained when a state of emergency was declared on June 26, 1975. He went on an indefinite hunger strike to support the Nav Nirman movement in Gujarat. He was later unanimously elected as leader of the Janata Party in Parliament and was sworn in as Prime Minister of India on March 24, 1977.

**New Chairperson of AIBAs Champions & Veterans Committee Mary Kom**

Indian boxer Mary Kom was appointed as the Chairman of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Champion and Veterans Committee on March 3, 2021.

**Highlights:**

AIBA Chairman Umar Kremlev said that he believes Mary Kom will make a significant contribution to the success of the committee with his wealth of knowledge and experience.

**About the AIBA Champions and Veterans Committee:** The committee was established in December 2020. It is made up of the most respected boxing veterans and champions from all over the world who have achieved some important goals and are ready to share their experiences.

**Mary Kom:** Mary Kom is an Indian boxer. She is also a current member of the Indian Parliament (MP). The boxer was nominated by President Ram Nath Kovind as a member of the House of Lords Rajya Sabha on April 25, 2016. She has made a lot of history for India in the field of boxing. She is the only female boxer who has won the "World Boxing Champion" six times. She was also marked as the only
boxer to win eight world championship medals. In addition, Mary is the only female boxer who has won medals in the previous seven world championships. Mary Kom is considered the only Indian female boxer to qualify for the 2012 Summer Olympics and won the 51kg lightweight bronze medal.

**Awards and honors:** The Indian boxer won the Padma Vibhushan award in 2020, which is the second highest civilian award in India. In 2006, she won the Padma Shri Award, which is the fourth highest civilian award in India. She also received the 2013 Padma Bhushan honor, which is the third highest civilian award.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

Highlights of Golden Global Awards

The 78th Golden Globe Awards Ceremony will be held on February 28, 2021 in virtual and offline formats.

**Highlights:**

The award ceremony was filmed in Los Angeles and New York City. Therefore, the award ceremony was co-hosted by Amy Poehler and Tina Fey for the fourth time.

All the winning stars accepted their awards in virtual mode. They also gave a virtual acceptance speech. During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this year's Golden Globe Awards is the first major television broadcast award.

The award ceremony was also postponed from the original January date. Netflix has nominated the most this year, with a total of 42.

Among them, 22 nominations belong to the film category, including best picture (drama) nominations. The Netflix films "Mank" and "The Trial of the Chicago 7" were nominated for Best Picture (Drama). The TV show category nominated 20 Netflix shows, and the TV shows are mainly "The Crown" and "Schitt's Creek".

The award for best film and drama went to Nomadland, and the award for best director went to Chloe Zhao, director of Nomadland. Since Barbra Streisand won the award in 1984, she became the second woman ever to win the award.

The late American actor Chadwick Boseman won the Best Action Award for his role as Levee Green in the movie "Marini's Black Background".
SPORTS

Vinesh Phogat Won Gold in Ukraine Wrestling Event

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the women's 53kg gold medal. She won a medal at the 24th Ukrainian Outstanding Wrestler and Coach Memorial in Kiev, Ukraine.

**Highlights:**

As a result, Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat defeated Vanesa Kaladzinskaya, ranked seventh in the world from Belarus, in the final. This is a fight for the gold medal.

After winning a wrestling match and after the lockdown imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic, she won for the first time in a match. Now, the 26-year-old wrestler will resume playing in the first match of the season in Rome from March 4 to July 7, 2021.

The gold medalist of the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games defeated Romania's Ana A in the semifinals to advance to the final. The wrestler recently booked her position in the Tokyo Olympics with a height of 53 kg. She is the only Indian female wrestler qualified to participate in the Tokyo Olympics.

The 2020 Summer Olympics are also called the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. This is an upcoming international multisport event, which is expected to be held in Tokyo, Japan from July 23 to August 8, 2021. The plan was originally scheduled for July 24 to August 9, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the plan was postponed in March 2020. Even if it is rescheduled to 2021, the event still retains its name "Tokyo 2020". The Olympic Games was postponed and rescheduled for the first time, not cancelled.

**Olympic Games:** Summer and winter sports competitions are leading international sports events. In the end, thousands of athletes from all over the world participated in many competitions. These games are considered to be the most important sports competitions in the world, with more than 200 countries/regions participating. The Olympic Games are usually held four years later in the summer, while the Winter Olympics are held every four years and every four years.

Odisha to Host Indian Womens League Football

The All India Football Federation announced that Odisha will host the Indian
Women's League (IWL). However, the date will be announced at a later stage.

**Highlights:**

In the ongoing Covid-19 case, Indian football has been trying to restart field sports. The game starts from the I-League qualifiers. Followed by the Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League. The two leagues, ISL and I-League, are currently in competition.

In recent years, Indian women's football has also received extensive attention on the international stage. The Indian senior team will gather in Goa on December 1, 2021 for a two-month training camp. They will also play three games in Turkey against Russia, Serbia and Ukraine.

**Indian Women's League** is the top women's professional football league organized in India. The first meeting of the league was held in Cuttack in October 2016. It is organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The game provides a platform for many budding football players to showcase their talents. It also provides them with opportunities to pursue a career in football.

**The All India Football Federation (AIFF)** is the governing body that manages the Indian Football Association. It is part of the South Asian Football Federation. It was established in 1937. AIFF is also a founding member of the Asian Football Federation, which is the supervisor of Asian football. The governing body sanctions and manages all competitive football matches and leagues nationwide, such as the Indian Super League, Super Cup and I League. It also manages local football matches with the state government. It also manages the Indian national football team, women's football team and several youth national teams.
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Conference by National Bamboo Mission


About National Bamboo Mission:
The National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was implemented as a sub-scheme under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
The National Bamboo Mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which started in 2006-07, and then came under the jurisdiction of MIDH, applicable to 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Objectives of the National Bamboo Mission:
- Increase yield through improvements and new varieties.
- In potential areas, increase the area covered by bamboo.
- Promotion and marketing of bamboo and bamboo handicrafts.
- Establish coordination and cooperation among stakeholders to promote the development of the bamboo sector.
- Promote, develop and disseminate technology through the perfect integration of modern scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom.
- Create job opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers, especially unemployed youth.

Maritime India Summit 2021 - 2nd March

The Prime Minister will hold the opening ceremony of the Maritime India Summit 2021 on March 2.

About Maritime India Summit 2021:
This is a virtual summit organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
The summit will formulate a roadmap for the Indian maritime sector in the next ten years and will push India to the forefront of the global maritime sector.
It is expected that well-known speakers from many countries will attend the summit and discuss potential business opportunities and investments in Indian waters.
Denmark is a partner country for the three-day summit.

**Merchant Digitization Summit Hosted by GoI**

Government of India (GoI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and United Nations' Better Than Cash Alliance hosted the Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat, with special attention to the Himalayan Region, Northeast Region and the Aspirational Districts of India.

**Highlights:**

The summit convened the public and private sector leaders of the Responsible Merchant Digitization Summit to accelerate the responsible digitization of Merchant in North-Eastern India and the Himalayan regions, and Aspirational Districts.

This summit is part of a series of learning and exchange activities between all States and Union Territories. According to the series, the Department of Economic Affairs also organized a webinar called Unlocking the value of Fintech in promoting Digital Payments' in December 2020.

**About Better Than Cash Alliance:**

Headquarters of Better Than Cash Alliance in United Nations. It is a partnership of governments, companies and international organizations designed to accelerate the transition from cash to digital payments to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The Alliance has 76 members, including India.
Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan - RUSA

The Union Education Minister presided over a review meeting on Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan.

About the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA):
This is a scheme initiated by the central government and launched in 2013.
It aims to provide strategic funding for qualified state higher educational institutions.
Central funding (60:40 for general categories states, 90:10 for special categories states, and 100% for union territories) is based on norms and depends on the results.
Funds flow from the central ministry through the state government/union territory to State Higher Education Council before reaching the identified institution.
State funding will be based on a rigorous evaluation of State Higher Education Plans, which will solicit state strategies to address the issues of equity, access to opportunities, and excellence in higher education.
This is a scheme under the Ministry of Education (formerly HRD).
APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

Appointment of CBI Director

The Supreme Court has filed a writ petition requesting the appointment of a regular Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Director of CBI was appointed in accordance with Article 4A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.

**Highlights:**
- The Director of the CBI has obtained a two-year term guarantee under the 2003 CVC Act.
- The Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act (2013) amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946) and made the following changes for the appointment of the CBI Director:
  - The central government should appoint the Director of the CBI on the recommendation of the three-person committee consisting of Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition party in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.
  - The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act of 2014 changed the composition of the committee related to the appointment of the Director of C.B.I.
  - It pointed out that if there is no recognized opposition leader in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the largest single opposition party in the Lok Sabha will become a member of the committee.

**About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**
- The CBI was established in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of the Home Affairs.
- Currently, CBI is under the administration of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Appeals and Pensions.
- The Santhanam Anti-Corruption Commission (19621964) recommended the establishment of CBI.
- CBI is not a statutory body.
- CBI power comes from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.
- CBI is the main investigation agency of the Union Government.
- It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India, coordinating investigations on behalf of
INTERPOL member countries.
IMPORTANT DAYS

National Science Day is on 28th February

The National Science Day (NSD) is designated on February 28 every year to commemorate the discovery of the "Raman effect". The 1st NSD was celebrated on February 28, 1987.

Highlights:
- Celebrating the NSD commemorating the discovery of the "Raman effect", which led to Sir C.V. Raman won the Nobel Prize.
- Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work - Theme of NSD
- Node organization supporting the celebration: National Science and Technology Exchange Committee (NCSTC) of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The Raman effect is a spectral phenomenon discovered in 1928 by the famous physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.
- In 1930, he won the Nobel Prize for this extraordinary discovery, which was India's first Nobel Prize in the field of science.
- The change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules is said to be Raman Effect. When the beam passes through a dust-free, transparent compound sample, a small part of the beam will exit in a direction other than the incident (incoming) beam.
- Most of this scattered light has a constant wavelength. However, a small part of the wavelength is different from the wavelength of the incident light. Its existence is the result of the Raman effect.

Rare Diseases Day is on 28th February

Generally, February 28 or 29 designated as day of rare diseases. In 2021, February 28 is observed as Rare Diseases Day.

Highlights:
- A rare disease which is also called orphan disease is any disease that affects a small part of the population. Even if the symptoms of disease do not appear immediately, most rare diseases are inherited diseases that might run through a person's life.
- The most common rare diseases recorded in India are hemophilia, thalassemia,
sickle cell anemia and primary immunodeficiency in children, autoimmune diseases, lysosomal storage diseases, such as Pompe disease, big hidden Sporidiosis, Gaucher's disease, cystic fibrosis, hemangioma and some forms of muscular dystrophy.

Although there is no universally accepted definition of rare diseases, countries usually make their own descriptions based on the prevalence, severity, and the existence of other treatment options. For example, in the United States, a rare disease is defined as a disease that affects less than 200,000 people. The National Organization for Rare Diseases (NORD) uses the same definition.

**Zero Discrimination Day is on 1st March**

On March 1, 2021, the 2021 Zero Discrimination Day will be celebrated globally to challenge the discrimination and inequality faced by women and girls.

**Highlights:**

The purpose of the day is to raise awareness and take action in gatherings to protect women's rights, abolish discriminatory norms, and promote women's empowerment and gender equality.


The Zero Discrimination Day aims to celebrate everyone's right to a full and productive life with proper dignity. The purpose of this day is to build global solidarity to end all forms of discrimination. According to UNAIDS, eliminating discrimination against women is important to combat HIV/AIDS.

**World Defence Day is on 1st March**

World Defense Day is designated on March 1, 2021. This day aims to raise awareness of public protection from natural and technological disasters and rescue services.

**Background:**

World Civil Defense Day was established in 1990 by the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) Congress. It commemorates the day when the 1972
ICDO Constitution entered into force as an intergovernmental organization. ICDO was founded in Paris in 1931 by the French surgeon George Saint-Paul. It was recognized by the French Parliament in June 1935, and in 1972 received the status of an intergovernmental organization. ICDO's Constitution has two purposes. It aims to arouse public attention to the vital importance of citizen protection worldwide, to raise people's awareness of self-protection preparations and preventive measures that should be taken in the event of an accident or disaster, and I would like to extend my high regards. The efforts and sacrifices of national institutions in charge of disaster relief.

World Wildlife Day is on 3rd March


**Highlights:**

The UN General Assembly resolution also designated the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as the facilitator of the global commemoration of this special Wild Fauna and Flora Day on the United Nations calendar.

The theme 2021: "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", This highlights the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystem services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people around the world, especially indigenous and local communities that are historically connected to forests and adjacent forest areas.

This theme is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 13, and 15, and their broad commitments to reduce poverty, ensure the sustainable use of resources, and protect the land of life.

Year 2020 is called the "Biodiversity Super Year" and it will host several major global events that will put biodiversity at the forefront.

On March 3, 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was passed. World Wildlife Day was proposed by Thailand.

World Hearing Day is on 3rd March
World Hearing Day is March 4th every year. Several people are living with unrecognized hearing loss. This day will arouse people's attention to early detection of hearing loss. This day promotes the health of ears and hearing, and makes people aware of how to prevent deafness and hearing loss.

**Highlights:**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 466 million people have hearing impairments that are disabled. By 2050, it will affect one in ten people.

Previously, on World Hearing Day 2019, WHO launched a new mobile and web-based application called "HearWHO". Specifically, the app allows people to check their hearing on a regular basis. In addition, it is necessary to detect hearing loss as early as possible.

In addition, the application can also display the user's score, which means that the results of the test can be stored so that the user can monitor the hearing status over time. Hearing apps benefit people who are often exposed to high sound quality.

The WHO organizes its annual World Hearing Day seminar at its Geneva headquarters.

The theme of the year 2021: Hearing Care for ALL! Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate. World Hearing Day 2021 will mark the release of the first "World Hearing Report" in history.

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Womens History Month 2021  March

The first day of March 2021 is the beginning of Women's History Month. The month of this year is more meaningful because in the COVID-19 pandemic, all centennial celebrations that mark women's suffrage will be cut or cancelled in 2020.

**Highlights:**

Women's History Month (Women's History Month) is a month announced every year to highlight the contribution of women in history and contemporary society. The month is celebrated in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia in March, which also corresponds to International Women's Day on March 8.

The two countries began to carry out commemorative activities in 1978. The commemoration first began in Sonoma County, California. Then, it was championed by Gerda Lerner.
The year 2020 marks the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the pandemic, women face the challenges of inequality, from wage gaps to family threats. Statistics also show that one in three women is vulnerable to gender-based violence in their lifetime. Therefore, it is observed that this month will fight, protect and support women. This month will also be "Celebrating Women".

March 8th is International Women's Day around the world. This day is the focus of the women's rights movement. In 1909, after the American Socialist Party celebrated Women's Day in New York City, the German representative put forward a proposal to commemorate Special Women's Day. In 1917, women won the right to vote in Soviet Russia. For this reason, March 8 becomes a national holiday there. Later, in 1977, the United Nations began to celebrate this day.

National Safety Day is on 4th March

India celebrated 2021 National Safety Day on March 4. The purpose of observing this day is to make people aware of safety measures. This year, the theme of this day is: "Sadak Suraksha" (Road Safety).

Highlights:
To commemorate this day, the purpose is to raise people's awareness of all standards, including workplace safety, road safety, human health and safety, and environmental health and safety.

The one-day celebration will last for a week, so National Safety Week will be held from March 4 to March 10, 2021. Safety Week will highlight the importance of road safety.

The National Safety Day movement began on March 4, 1972. The Ministry of Labor and Employment of the Trade Union emphasized the necessity of commemorating this day at the first "Industrial Safety" conference held from December 11 to 13, 1965.

During the meeting, the minister emphasized the necessity of the national and state safety committees and put forward a proposal for the establishment of a national safety committee. This proposal was accepted at the twenty-fourth session of the Standing Committee. The day of March 4 marked the establishment of the National Safety Council.

The National Safety Council is a non-profit, self-financing and tripartite highest institution. It was established by the government to initiate, develop and maintain
voluntary campaigns on health, environment and safety at the national level.
In view of the increase in road traffic accidents in India, National Safety Day is of
great significance. According to the National Criminal Records Bureau (NCRB),
the total number of accidental human deaths in 2019 was 421,104. Among them,
there were 467,171 traffic accidents.
AGREEMENTS MOU

MoU Signed Between India and Fiji

The Cabinet approved a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between India and Fiji in the fields of Agriculture and related sectors.

**Highlights:**
The memorandum of understanding requires the exchange of scientists, experts, technology transfer, infrastructure development for agricultural development, holding workshops and seminars, forming joint ventures, promoting agricultural product marketing and value-added investment, promoting direct agricultural trade, research programs, etc.
The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be valid for five years.

MoU signed between India and France

The Cabinet approved a memorandum of understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation between India and France.

**Highlights:**
The MoU was signed in January 2021.
The purpose of the memorandum of understanding is to lay a foundation for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of new energy and renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.
It covers technologies related to solar energy, wind energy, hydrogen energy and biomass energy.
MoU requires exchange and training of scientific and technical personnel, exchange of scientific and technical information and data, organization of workshops and seminars, transfer of equipment, expertise and technology; and development of joint research and technology projects.
INDEX / LIST

Highlights of LinkedIn Opportunity Index

The "LinkedIn Opportunity Index 2021" was recently released. The report focuses on how women perceive their opportunities. It also focuses on how the gender gap slows the career development of working women in India during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Highlights:**

According to the index, the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the professional women in India the hardest compared to professional women in other countries.

The index believes that in Asia-Pacific countries, Indian professional women continue to struggle with the strongest gender bias in terms of equal pay and opportunities for equal work.

According to the report, about one-fifth of women (22% of Indian professional women) are dissatisfied with their career development opportunities. These women said that their company favored men.

In addition, 85% of professional women claim that they have missed a salary increase, promotion or job opportunity in India. In the Asia-Pacific region, this figure is 60%.

The report also emphasized that 37% of professional women in India have fewer opportunities than men. In addition, 37% of women's wages are lower than men's.

The LinkedIn survey further pointed out that women are now looking for employers who treat them as equals. On the other hand, 56% of women want to be recognized at work. Other women want them to work according to their skills.

World Food Price Index Rises in February

In February 2021, world food prices rose for the 9th consecutive month. This increase is the highest level since July 2014.

**Highlights:**

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, food prices have risen due to rising sugar and vegetable oil prices. The food price index measures the monthly changes in a basket containing grains, dairy products, oils, meat and sugar. The index averaged 116.0 points in February 2021, compared to 113.3 points in
January. FAO also emphasized this point; the world's cereal harvest remains at a normal level in order to set an annual record in 2020.

The grain price index provided by FAO increased to 1.2% in February 2021. The price of sorghum rose the most, at 17.4% and 82.1%. The increase in the sorghum price index is mainly due to the increase in demand in China.

Corn and rice prices have also risen, while wheat export prices have remained stable. The price of sugar rose to 6.4% on a month-to-month basis. In addition, due to the decline in production in major producing countries and strong demand in Asia, people are concerned about the supply in 2021.

The vegetable oil price index also rose by 6.2%, while palm oil prices rose for the 9th consecutive month. The price of dairy products rose by 1.7%, while the meat index rose by 0.6%.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has increased its forecast for the 2020 cereal season to 2.761 billion tons. It was previously estimated at 2.744 billion. Compared with February, the forecast of global rice production in March 2021 has also increased by 2.6 million tons.

The food price index is issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization. It measures the monthly changes in the international price of a basket of food commodities.
QUIZ CORNER

1) When is National Science day is celebrated?

A. Feb 28  
B. Feb 27  
C. Mar 1  
D. Mar 2

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The National Science Day (NSD) is designated on February 28 every year to commemorate the discovery of the "Raman effect". The 1st NSD was celebrated on February 28, 1987.

2) When was first National Science Day is celebrated?

A. 1986  
B. 1987  
C. 1988  
D. 1989

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The National Science Day (NSD) is designated on February 28 every year to commemorate the discovery of the "Raman effect". The 1st NSD was celebrated on February 28, 1987.

3) The Raman effect is a spectral phenomenon discovered in ____________.

A. 1928  
B. 1930  
C. 1932  
D. 1934

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Raman effect is a spectral phenomenon discovered in 1928 by the famous
physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.

4) When Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman won nobel prize?
A. 1930  
B. 1927  
C. 1925  
D. 1932

Answer A

Explanation The Raman effect is a spectral phenomenon discovered in 1928 by the famous physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. In 1930, he won the Nobel Prize for this extraordinary discovery, which was India's first Nobel Prize in the field of science.

5) What is the theme of National Science Day 2021?
A. Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work  
B. Women in Science  
C. Science Education  
D. None of the above

Answer A

Explanation Celebrating the NSD commemorating the discovery of the "Raman effect", which led to Sir C.V. Raman won the Nobel Prize. Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work - Theme of NSD.

6) When is Rare diseases day celebrated in 2021?
A. Feb 28  
B. Feb 27  
C. Feb 26  
D. Feb 25

Answer A

Explanation Generally, February 28 or 29 designated as day of rare diseases. In 2021, February 28 is observed as Rare Diseases Day.
7) When is Rare diseases day celebrated in 2020?

A. Feb 29  
B. Feb 28  
C. Feb 27  
D. Feb 26  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Generally, February 28 or 29 designated as day of rare diseases. In 2021, February 28 is observed as Rare Diseases Day. Generally, February 28 or 29 designated as day of rare diseases. In 2021, February 28 is observed as Rare Diseases Day.

8) In which month World AIDS Day is celebrated?

A. December  
B. November  
C. October  
D. March  

**Answer A**


9) When was first Zero Discrimination Day celebrated?

A. 2014  
B. 2013  
C. 2012  
D. 2011  

**Answer A**

10) When was World Defense Day celebrated?

A. March 1  
B. March 2  
C. March 3  
D. March 4

**Answer A**

**Explanation** World Defense Day is designated on March 1, 2021. This day aims to raise awareness of public protection from natural and technological disasters and rescue services.

11) World Civil Defense Day was established in ____________.

A. 1990  
B. 1991  
C. 1992  
D. 1993

**Answer A**

**Explanation** World Civil Defense Day was established in 1990 by the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) Congress. It commemorates the day when the 1972 ICDO Constitution entered into force as an intergovernmental organization.

12) In which year International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) Congress was founded?

A. 1930  
B. 1931  
C. 1932  
D. 1933

**Answer A**

**Explanation** World Civil Defense Day was established in 1990 by the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) Congress. It commemorates the day when the 1972 ICDO Constitution entered into force as an intergovernmental organization. ICDO was founded in Paris in 1931 by the French surgeon George Saint-Paul.
13) ICDO was founded in ____________.

A. Paris  
B. New York  
C. London  
D. Geneva

**Answer A**

**Explanation** ICDO was founded in Paris in 1931 by the French surgeon George Saint-Paul. It was recognized by the French Parliament in June 1935, and in 1972 received the status of an intergovernmental organization.

14) When was Amazonia-1 launched?

A. 2021  
B. 2020  
C. 2019  
D. 2018

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The countdown to the launch of the Indian Space Research Organization (PSV-C51) or Amazonia-1 mission begins on February 27, 2021. The countdown starts at 8:54 in the morning. Finally successfully launched on February 28, 2021.

15) When was PSLV-C51 launched?

A. 2021  
B. 2020  
C. 2019  
D. 2018

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The countdown to the launch of the Indian Space Research Organization (PSV-C51) or Amazonia-1 mission begins on February 27, 2021. The countdown starts at 8:54 in the morning. Finally successfully launched on February 28, 2021.

16) PSLV-C51 is ISROs ____________ Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle mission.
17) Amazonia is a mission of ____________.
A. Brazil
B. India
C. China
D. UK

Answer A

Explanation The Brazilian National Institute of Space Research is sending Amazonia-1. The satellite is an optical earth observation satellite. The satellite will strive to provide strength to the existing structure.

18) When was Department of Biotechnology established?

A. 1986
B. 1985
C. 1984
D. 1983

Answer A

Explanation The Department of Biotechnology is a government department under the Ministry of Science and Technology, responsible for managing the development and commercialization of modern biology and biotechnology in India. It was established in 1986 and is headquartered in Delhi.

19) Where is Department of Biotechnology headquartered?
A.Delhi
B.Kolkata
C.Chennai
D.Mumbai

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Department of Biotechnology is a government department under the Ministry of Science and Technology, responsible for managing the development and commercialization of modern biology and biotechnology in India. It was established in 1986 and is headquartered in Delhi.

**20) When was 78th Golden Globe Awards Ceremony held?**

A. February 28, 2021  
B. February 27, 2021  
C. March 1, 2021  
D. March 3, 2021

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 78th Golden Globe Awards Ceremony will be held on February 28, 2021 in virtual and offline formats.

**21) In 2021, ____________ Golden Globe Awards Ceremony held.**

A. 76th  
B. 77th  
C. 78th  
D. 79th

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 78th Golden Globe Awards Ceremony will be held on February 28, 2021 in virtual and offline formats.

**22) The 78th Golden Globe Awards Ceremony was filmed in ____________**

A. Los Angeles
B. New York  
C. Paris  
D. Both A and B

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The award ceremony was filmed in Los Angeles and New York City. Therefore, the award ceremony was co-hosted by Amy Poehler and Tina Fey for the fourth time. All the winning stars accepted their awards in virtual mode. They also gave a virtual acceptance speech. During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this year's Golden Globe Awards is the first major television broadcast award.

23) Which among the following has maximum nominees in 78th Golden Global Awards?

A. Netflix  
B. Amazon Prime  
C. Walt Disney  
D. None

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Netflix has nominated the most this year, with a total of 42. Among them, 22 nominations belong to the film category, including best picture (drama) nominations. The Netflix films "Mank" and "The Trial of the Chicago 7" were nominated for Best Picture (Drama).

24) When did Barbra Streisand won Golden Global Award for Best Director?

A. 1984  
B. 1985  
C. 1986  
D. 1987

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The award for best film and drama went to Nomadland, and the award for best director went to Chloe Zhao, director of Nomadland. Since Barbra Streisand won the award in 1984, she became the second woman ever to win the award.

25) When was Snow Leopard Project (PSL) launched?
The Snow Leopard Project (PSL) was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to protecting snow leopards and their habitats. According to the restoration plan of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, snow leopards have been included in the list of 21 critically endangered species.

26) IUCN Status of Snow Leopard is ____________.
   A. Vulnerable
   B. Extinct
   C. Endangered
   D. Critically Endangered

   Answer A

Explanation In Himachal Pradesh, the snow leopard habitat covers most of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur. Its potential habitat also extends to the upper areas of Shimla, Kuru, Camba and Kangra. Most of these areas are remote areas, and winter also limits accessibility challenges. IUCN Status: Vulnerable

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   A. Vulnerable
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   Answer A

Explanation In Himachal Pradesh, the snow leopard habitat covers most of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur. Its potential habitat also extends to the upper areas of Shimla, Kuru, Camba and Kangra.
Most of these areas are remote areas, and winter also limits accessibility challenges. IUCN Status: Vulnerable

28) Central Government signs $304 million pact with AIIB for power transmission network in ____________.
   A. Assam
   B. Mizoram
   C. Nagaland
   D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer A

Explanation Central Government signs $304 million pact with AIIB for power transmission network in Assam. The funds will be used for the "Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project", which aims to improve the reliability, capacity and safety of the state's power transmission network.

29) When did Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank started its operation?
   A. 2015
   B. 2016
   C. 2017
   D. 2018

Answer B

Explanation The parties to the agreement (57 founding members) include membership of the World Bank. Its headquarters is in Beijing. It started operations in January 2016.

30) Where is headquarters of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank?
   A. London
   B. Beijing
   C. New York
   D. Paris

Answer B

Explanation The AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) is a multilateral development
bank. The mission of AIIB is to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond. The parties to the agreement (57 founding members) include membership of the World Bank. Its headquarters is in Beijing. It started operations in January 2016.

31) In which month does Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank start its operation?

A. Jan  
B. Feb  
C. Mar  
D. May  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) is a multilateral development bank. The mission of AIIB is to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond. The parties to the agreement (57 founding members) include membership of the World Bank. Its headquarters is in Beijing. It started operations in January 2016.

32) Since ____________, India has been a party of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) program.

A. 2013  
B. 2014  
C. 2015  
D. 2016  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India has been protecting snow leopards and their habitats through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL). Since 2013, India has been a party of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) program.

33) When was world wildlife day observed?

A. March 3  
B. March 2  
C. March 1  
D. March 5

34) The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared ____________ the "International Year of Millets."

A.2023  
B.2024  
C.2025  
D.2026

Answer A

Explanation The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 the "International Year of Millets." It was announced that this years resolution was proposed by India. The resolution was passed by consensus and was supported by more than 70 of the 193 countries.

35) International Year of Millets resolution was supported by ____________ of 193 countries.

A.70  
B.75  
C.80  
D.81

Answer A

Explanation The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 the "International Year of Millets." It was announced that this years resolution was proposed by India. The resolution was passed by consensus and was supported by more than 70 of the 193 countries.

36) When was the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 announced?

A.2015  
B.2016  
C.2014
D.2013

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The United Nations General Assembly announced the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 in April 2016. The declaration recognizes the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition in the world.

37) **When was the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 announced?**

A. April 2016  
B. March 2016  
C. June 2016  
D. July 2016

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The United Nations General Assembly announced the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 in April 2016. The declaration recognizes the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition in the world.

38) **Indian boxer Mary Kom was appointed as the Chairman of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Champion and Veterans Committee on _____________.**

A. March 3, 2021  
B. March 4, 2021  
C. March 3, 2020  
D. March 4, 2020

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian boxer Mary Kom was appointed as the Chairman of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Champion and Veterans Committee on March 3, 2021.

39) **When was AIBA Champions and Veterans Committee established?**

A. Dec 2020  
B. Jan 2020
Answer A

Explanation About the AIBA Champions and Veterans Committee: The committee was established in December 2020. It is made up of the most respected boxing veterans and champions from all over the world who have achieved some important goals and are ready to share their experiences.

40) Mary Kom is a ____________.

A.Boxer  
B.Weight lifter  
C.Swimmer  
D.Badminton player

Answer A

Explanation Mary Kom is an Indian boxer. She is also a current member of the Indian Parliament (MP). The boxer was nominated by President Ram Nath Kovind as a member of the House of Lords Rajya Sabha on April 25, 2016.

41) In which year Mary Kom was appointed as MP?

A.2016  
B.2015  
C.2017  
D.2018

Answer A

Explanation Mary Kom is an Indian boxer. She is also a current member of the Indian Parliament (MP). The boxer was nominated by President Ram Nath Kovind as a member of the House of Lords Rajya Sabha on April 25, 2016.

42) When Mary Kom won the Padma Bhushan award?

A.2020  
B.2006
43) When Mary Kom won the Padma Shri award?
A.2020
B.2006
C.2013
D.2016

**Answer B**

*Explanation* The Indian boxer won the Padma Vibhushan award in 2020, which is the second highest civilian award in India. In 2006, she won the Padma Shri Award, which is the fourth highest civilian award in India. She also received the 2013 Padma Bhushan honor, which is the third highest civilian award.

44) When Mary Kom won the Padma Vibhushan award?
A.2020
B.2006
C.2013
D.2016

**Answer A**

*Explanation* The Indian boxer won the Padma Shri award in 2006, which is the fourth highest civilian award in India. She also received the 2013 Padma Bhushan honor, which is the third highest civilian award.

45) Mary Kom is considered the only Indian female boxer to qualify for the 2012 Summer Olympics and won the ____________ lightweight bronze medal.
A. 51kg  
B. 50kg  
C. 5kg  
D. 25kg  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Mary Kom is considered the only Indian female boxer to qualify for the 2012 Summer Olympics and won the 51kg lightweight bronze medal.

46) **India will commemorate the Chabahar Day on _____________.**

A. March 4, 2021  
B. March 4, 2020  
C. March 5, 2021  
D. March 6, 2021  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) - India will commemorate the "Chabahar Day" on March 4, 2021, before the 2021 Indian Maritime Summit to be held in Delhi from March 2 to March 4.

47) **India and Iran first agreed in ____________ to further develop the Shahid Beheshti port.**

A. 2003  
B. 2004  
C. 2005  
D. 2006  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India and Iran first agreed in 2003 to further develop the Shahid Beheshti port. However, the plan was unsuccessful due to various sanctions imposed on Iran. The two countries signed a bilateral agreement again in May 2016.

48) **Chabahar Port was first proposed by the last king of Iran in _____________.**
Chabahar Port is a sea port in Chabahar, located in the Gulf of Oman in southeastern Iran. The port is the only maritime port in Iran. The port consists of two independent ports, namely Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari. The port was first proposed by the last king of Iran in 1973. The first phase was opened during the 1983 Iran-Iraq War.

49) When Axis Bank launched WhatsApp Banking?

A. March 3, 2021
B. March 4, 2021
C. March 5, 2021
D. March 3, 2020

Answer A

Explanation Axis Bank launched WhatsApp Banking on March 3, 2021 to help and meet the banking needs of its customers. WhatsApp Banking will help customers use the bank anywhere in the chat application, at any time.

50) NPCI to establish a partnership with the Bank of India to launch its payment service in ____________.

A. July 2017
B. July 2018
C. July 2019
D. July 2020

Answer A

Explanation WhatsApp Payments is a point-to-point remittance function. This feature is currently only available in India. The messaging app has been licensed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) to establish a partnership with the Bank of India to launch its payment service in July 2017. The app now allows its users to make in-app payments and remittances via the following method: Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
51) IUCN Status of Black-Browed Blabber is ______________.

A. Extinct  
B. Vulnerable  
C. Data Deficient  
D. Endangered

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Black-Browed Blabber: It has strong bank bill, chocolate color and unique black eyeliner stripes, and its iris has a striking maroon color. It has brown wings and black stripes on its eyebrows. IUCN Status: Data Deficient.

52) Better Than Cash Alliance has ____________ members including India.

A. 76  
B. 75  
C. 74  
D. 70

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Headquarters of Better Than Cash Alliance in United Nations. It is a partnership of governments, companies and international organizations designed to accelerate the transition from cash to digital payments to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The Alliance has 76 members, including India.

53) Nag River is in ____________.

A. Nagpur  
B. Nagaland  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. None of the above

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Nag River, which passes through the city of Nagpur, is named after the city and has now become a highly polluted waterway for sewage and industrial waste.
54) When was National Safety Day celebrated in 2021?
A. March 4  
B. March 5  
C. March 6  
D. March 7  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India celebrated 2021 National Safety Day on March 4. The purpose of observing this day is to make people aware of safety measures. This year, the theme of this day is: "Sadak Suraksha" (Road Safety).

55) National Safety Week will be held from _____________.
A. March 4 to March 10, 2021  
B. March 5 to March 11, 2021  
C. March 6 to March 12, 2021.  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The one-day celebration will last for a week, so National Safety Week will be held from March 4 to March 10, 2021. Safety Week will highlight the importance of road safety. The National Safety Day movement began on March 4, 1972. The Ministry of Labor and Employment of the Trade Union emphasized the necessity of commemorating this day at the first "Industrial Safety" conference held from December 11 to 13, 1965.

56) The National Safety Day movement began on _____________.
A. March 4, 1972  
B. March 4, 1973  
C. March 4, 1974  
D. March 4, 1975  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The National Safety Day movement began on March 4, 1972. The Ministry of Labor and Employment of the Trade Union emphasized the necessity of commemorating this day at the first "Industrial Safety" conference held from December 11 to 13, 1965.
57) According to the National Criminal Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of accidental human deaths in _____________ was 421,104.

A. 2019  
B. 2020  
C. 2018  
D. 2017

**Answer A**

**Explanation** In view of the increase in road traffic accidents in India, National Safety Day is of great significance. According to the National Criminal Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of accidental human deaths in 2019 was 421,104. Among them, there were 467,171 traffic accidents.

58) When was APEDA established?

A. 1985  
B. 1986  
C. 1987  
D. 1989

**Answer A**

**Explanation** APEDA is the Apex-Export Trade Promotion Active government agency. The agency was established by the "Ministry of Commerce and Industry". It was established under the APEDA Act. The decree was passed in December 1985. After that, the supreme body was established and became effective in February 1986.

59) When was decree for APEDA passed?

A. 1985  
B. 1986  
C. 1987  
D. 1988

**Answer A**

**Explanation** APEDA is the Apex-Export Trade Promotion Active government agency. The agency was established by the "Ministry of Commerce and Industry". It was established under the
APEDA Act. The decree was passed in December 1985. After that, the supreme body was established and became effective in February 1986.

60) The vegetable oil price index also rose by ____________ in 2021

A.6.2%
B.6.3%
C.6.4%
D.6.5%

Answer A

Explanation The vegetable oil price index also rose by 6.2%, while palm oil prices rose for the 9th consecutive month. The price of dairy products rose by 1.7%, while the meat index rose by 0.6%. The Food and Agriculture Organization has increased its forecast for the 2020 cereal season to 2.761 billion tons. It was previously estimated at 2.744 billion. Compared with February, the forecast of global rice production in March 2021 has also increased by 2.6 million tons.


A.1.7%
B.1.8%
C.1.9%
D.2.0%

Answer A

Explanation The vegetable oil price index also rose by 6.2%, while palm oil prices rose for the 9th consecutive month. The price of dairy products rose by 1.7%, while the meat index rose by 0.6%.


A.0.6%
B.0.5%
C.0.4%
D.0.3%

Answer A
The vegetable oil price index also rose by 6.2%, while palm oil prices rose for the 9th consecutive month. The price of dairy products rose by 1.7%, while the meat index rose by 0.6%. The Food and Agriculture Organization has increased its forecast for the 2020 cereal season to 2.761 billion tons. It was previously estimated at 2.744 billion. Compared with February, the forecast of global rice production in March 2021 has also increased by 2.6 million tons.

63) The grain price index provided by FAO increased to __________ in February 2021.

A.1.2%
B.1.3%
C.1.4%
D.1.5%

Answer A

Explaination The grain price index provided by FAO increased to 1.2% in February 2021. The price of sorghum rose the most, at 17.4% and 82.1%. The increase in the sorghum price index is mainly due to the increase in demand in China.

64) Similipal Biosphere Reserve is located in ______________.

A.Odisha
B.Andhra
C.Tamil Nadu
D.Kerala

Answer A

Explaination A fire broke out in the Similipal Biosphere Reserve in Odisha. The fire did not touch the core area of the biosphere, but the fire threatened the destruction of its rich biodiversity.

65) Similipal Biosphere Reserve is designated as Tiger Reserve in ___________.

A.1955
B.1956
C.1957
D.1958
**Answer B**

**Explanation** The name of Similipal comes from the "Simul" (silk cotton) tree. It was officially designated as a tiger reserve in 1956 and was included in the "Tiger Project" in 1973. In June 1994, the Indian government declared it a biosphere reserve. Since 2009, it has become part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network.

66) **When was Similipal Tiger reserve included in Project Tiger?**

A.1972  
B.1973  
C.1974  
D.1975  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The name of Similipal comes from the "Simul" (silk cotton) tree. It was officially designated as a tiger reserve in 1956 and was included in the "Tiger Project" in 1973. In June 1994, the Indian government declared it a biosphere reserve. Since 2009, it has become part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network.

67) **When was Similipal declared as biosphere reserve by GoI?**

A.1994  
B.1998  
C.1992  
D.1991  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The name of Similipal comes from the "Simul" (silk cotton) tree. It was officially designated as a tiger reserve in 1956 and was included in the "Tiger Project" in 1973. In June 1994, the Indian government declared it a biosphere reserve. Since 2009, it has become part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network.

68) **When Similipal biosphere reserve become part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network?**

A.2009  
B.2010
C.2011
D.2012

Answer A

Explanation In June 1994, the Indian government declared it a biosphere reserve. Since 2009, it has become part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network. It is part of the Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Sanctuary, commonly known as the Mayurbhanj Elephant Sanctuary, which includes 3 sanctuaries, namely the Similipal Tiger Sanctuary, the Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary.

69) When was world wildlife day observed?

A. March 1
B. March 2
C. March 3
D. March 4

Answer B

Explanation On the occasion of World Wildlife Day on March 3, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) called on multiple stakeholders including the European Union (EU) to save the last old tree forest in Europe.

70) World Wildlife Fund was established in ____________.

A. 1961
B. 1962
C. 1963
D. 1964

Answer A

Explanation World Wildlife Fund (WWF): WWF was established in 1961 and is headquartered in Grande, Switzerland. Its mission is to protect nature and reduce the most urgent threats to the diversity of life on earth.

71) When was World Wildlife Fund headquartered?

A. Paris
B. London  
C. New York  
D. Switzerland

**Answer D**

**Explanation** World Wildlife Fund (WWF): WWF was established in 1961 and is headquartered in Grande, Switzerland. Its mission is to protect nature and reduce the most urgent threats to the diversity of life on earth.

72) CERAWeek was founded in ___________.

A. 1983  
B. 1984  
C. 1985  
D. 1986

**Answer A**

**Explanation** CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Dr. Daniel Yergin. Since 1983, it has been held in Houston every March and is considered the most important annual energy platform in the world.

73) Central Bureau of Investigation was established in ___________.

A. 1963  
B. 1964  
C. 1965  
D. 1966

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The CBI was established in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of the Home Affairs. Currently, CBI is under the administration of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Appeals and Pensions. The Santhanam Anti-Corruption Commission (1962-1964) recommended the establishment of CBI. CBI is not a statutory body.
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