

Weekly Current Affairs Revision Notes 22nd to 27th March 2021



1. India ranks 40th on International Intellectual Property Index 2021

- India has been ranked **40th** in **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2021** among 53 global economies
- **IP Index 2021** was released by **US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)**
- **US** bags top spot in the index, followed by **UK** and **Germany**
- It is based on 50 intellectual property-related indicators, grouped in 9 categories.
- **Categories include:** Patent, Copyrights, Trademarks, Design Rights, Trade Secrets and Market Access, Enforcement, etc.

2. Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates Kurnool Airport in Andhra Pradesh

- Minister of State for Civil Aviation, **Hardeep Singh Puri** has virtually inaugurated **Kurnool Airport** in Andhra Pradesh
- Flight operations at Kurnool will begin from 28 March 2021
- It has been developed under **Regional Connectivity Scheme, Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN)**
- It will bring the region closer to major hubs in South India by providing direct flight operations to Bangalore, Vishakhapatnam and Chennai.
- **Kurnool is the 6th airport in AP** to become functional.

3. Indian Overseas Bank launches 'IOB Trendy' Savings Account for Millennials

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched Savings Bank account targeted at Millennials titled as '**IOB Trendy**'.
- IOB Trendy savings account will be customized for the growing millennial population by keeping their banking preferences in mind.
- Eligible Customers age group: **21 years to 38 years**
- IOB Trendy customers need to maintain a daily minimum balance of **₹10,000** or a daily minimum balance of **₹5,000** and a digital of minimum of **₹20,000** per month.

4. Actor Samir Soni authors book 'My Experiments With Silence'

- Actor **Samir Soni** will come out with his debut book titled as '**My Experiments With Silence**'.
- The book is about anxiety and self-discovery and has been published by **Om Books International**.
- The book is to be released in 2021 end.
- The book will present personal account of the author's dialogues with himself during his growing-up years in Delhi, his stint at Wall Street and his time in Bollywood.
- The book will be documented in prose and poetry form

5. Finance Minister launches Central Scrutiny Centre and IEPFA mobile App

- FM **Nirmala Sitharaman** has virtually inaugurated **Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC)** and **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority's (IEPFA) Mobile App**
- They have been launched by **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** to leverage digital solutions to achieve Prime Minister's vision of Digitally empowered India
- **IEPFA App** will focus on financial literacy by spreading investors' awareness, education, and protection
- **CSC** will scrutinize certain Straight Through Process (STP) Forms

6. AYUSH Ministry sets up team to explore Yoga as productivity enhancing tool

- **Ministry of AYUSH** has set up high level **interdisciplinary committee** to explore various aspects of the Productivity dimension of Yoga
- Committee will be chaired by **H. R Nagendra** (Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana)



- **Aim:** To find answer of deploying yoga as a productivity boosting tool at the workplace and its positive implications
- **Other members:** Representatives from AIIMS Delhi, IIM Bangalore, IIT Bombay, Yoga institutions, AYUSH Ministry, etc

7. India finish 3rd in 2021 Para Shooting World Cup with 7 Medals

- **India** bagged 3rd position at the end of **2021 World Shooting Para Sport competitions** with seven medals, held at Al Ain in UAE from 15 to 25 March 2021.
- India won two gold medals, one silver and four bronze medals at the event
- **Ukraine** topped the medal tally with 11 medals (five gold, five silver and one bronze) followed by host nation **UAE** which won five medals (three gold and two silver).
- **Manish Narwal** and **Singhraj** were the gold medal winners for India.

8. CJI Bobde recommends name of Justice NV Ramana as his successor

- Chief Justice of India **S A Bobde** has recommended Union Government to appoint senior most Supreme Court Judge **N V Ramanna** as the next **Chief Justice of India**
- CJI S A Bobde is set to retire on 23rd April.
- He was sworn in as the **47th Chief Justice of India** in November 2019.
- Traditionally, sitting **Chief Justice of India** writes a recommendation for his successor to law minister.
- Law Minister puts it before Prime Minister who advises President in the matter of appointment.

9. Education Minister launches more than one hundred comic books

- **Union Minister of Education** has launched **100+ comic books** created by teachers and students of CBSE schools and curated by NCERT
- It is framed by **Depart of School Education and Literacy** under New Education Policy 2020 and is aligned to chapters of NCERT textbooks across grades 3-12.
- This will help in increasing the cultural and social sensitivity in our children while imparting knowledge.
- These comics can be accessed online on **DIKSHA web portal (diksha.gov.in)**.

10. Govt to roll out GPS based toll collection system

- Govt is all set to roll out a **GPS based toll collection system** and introducing **E-Highway from Delhi to Mumbai**
- Toll collection through fast tag has reached to 93% across the country which has resulted in 10 thousand crore more toll collection in comparison to previous year.
- Introduction of GPS based toll collection system will facilitate **smooth movement of traffic, bring transparency, remove the old mechanism of toll collection system and provide jobs.**

11. NHAI to develop world class 'Wayside Amenities' at more than 600 locations

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** will develop world class '**Wayside Amenities**' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in 5 years
- Out of these, 130 are targeted for development in 2021-22
- Wayside amenities will be developed every 30 to 50 km along current and upcoming Highways and Expressways
- It will include numerous facilities for passengers such as Fuel Station, Electric Charging Facilities, Food Court, Retail Shops, ATM, Toilets with shower facility etc.

12. World's first Ship Tunnel to be built in Norway



- **Norwegian Coastal Administration** has received green signal to construct World's first exclusive ship tunnel, known as **Stad Ship Tunnel**
- It will be built under mountainous **Stadhavet peninsula** in northwestern Norway.
- It will handle ships of up to 16,000 tonnes, giving ships a safer passage
- It will be **49 metres (161 ft) high** and **36 metres (118 ft) wide**.
- It is estimated to cost at least **2.8 billion Norwegian kroner (NZ\$460 million)**.
- Its construction will begin in **2022**.

13. India, China, Pakistan to held Pabbi Anti-Terror 2021

- **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** members states, including **India, Pakistan and China** will hold joint anti-terrorism exercise titled '**Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021**'
- It will be hosted by Pakistan at its premier anti-terrorism centre in **Pabbi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**
- Indian forces will travel to Pakistan for military exercise for the first time.
- Decision to conduct exercise was announced during **36th Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) council meet** held in Uzbekistan.

14. Virat Kohli moves to 4th spot in MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Ranking

- India cricket captain **Virat Kohli** and vice-captain **Rohit Sharma** have been ranked as 4th and 14th in **MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings**
- Virat Kohli is now the highest-ranked from India ahead of KL Rahul.
- **Shreyas Iyer** has moved up five places to a career-best 26th position while **Suryakumar Yadav** and wicketkeeper-batsman **Rishabh Pant** also made rapid progress.
- Bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar has moved up 21 places to 24th while Hardik Pandya has advanced 47 places to 78th.

15. RBI constitutes 5 member Committee for Universal Banks and SFBs

- **RBI** has set up **5 members standing external advisory committee (SEAC)** to evaluate applications for on-tap licensing of universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs)
- It will be chaired by former RBI deputy governor **Shyamala Gopinath**.
- Tenure: **3 years**.
- The panel will meet periodically, as and when required.
- **Other members:**
 - Revathy Iyer (Director, central board, RBI)
 - B Mahapatra
 - T N Manoharan (Former chairman, Canara Bank)
 - Hemant G Contractor (Former MD, SBI)

16. Military Direct study: India has world's fourth strongest armed force

- **Military Direct website** has released a study titled **ultimate military strength index**.
- The study shows that the military force of India stands at 4th spot in the world
- **China** has the strongest military force, with a score of 82 points, followed by **US (74 Points)**, **Russia (69 points)**, **India (61 points)** and **France (58 points)**
- Index score was calculated after taking into consideration factors like budgets, military personnel, total air, sea, land and nuclear resources, etc

17. Indian-American Doctor Vivek Murthy appointed as US Surgeon General



- Indian-American doctor **Vivek Murthy (43 years)** has been appointed as the **Surgeon General under US President Biden's administration**
- US Senate has confirmed his nomination by 57-43 votes.
- He will occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time.
- Prior to this, he was appointed as **surgeon general under Obama administration in 2011**.
- He has co-founded **Doctors for America**, which has more than 18,000 physician and medical-student members

18. Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade: 25 March

- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** is observed every year on **25 March** to remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system
- It was first celebrated in **2008**
- The day was designated for international observance by United Nations in 2007 and aims at raising awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice
- Theme 2021: **Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice**.

19. ISRO demonstrates India's First Free-Space Quantum Communication

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully demonstrated **free-space Quantum Communication over 300 metre**, with several technologies developed within the country.
- Demonstration included live video conferencing using quantum-key-encrypted signals, at **Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad**, between two line-of-sight buildings within the campus.
- This experiment was done at night to ensure that there is no interference of the direct sunlight.

20. Sri Lanka inks USD 1.5 billion currency swap deal with China for 3 years

- **Sri Lanka** has signed **10 billion yuan (USD 1.5 billion)** currency swap deal with **China** to promote bilateral trade and direct investment
- Agreement was basically signed between **Central Bank of Sri Lanka** and **People's Bank of China**.
- It is valid for **three years**.
- Currency swaps: It allow central banks to ensure banks in their countries can borrow ready cash in any of the currencies involved.
- The People's Republic of China is the largest source of imports for Sri Lanka

21. GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2020 released

- **Fourth edition of GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List for 2020** has depicted Mumbai based Mangal Prabhat Lodha and family as the richest real estate developer in India with total net wealth worth of **Rs 44,270 crore**
- It is for the 4th consecutive year that Lodha continues to hold the first position.
- List ranks the most successful real estate entrepreneurs, inheritors in India, based on net worth proportionate to their ownership
- Rajiv Singh (DLF) stood 2nd in list.

22. Ladakh LG inaugurates first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of KREDA

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor **R K Mathur** has inaugurated **first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme** of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) at Latoo Village.
- Latoo is the last Village on the LOC.
- This project is inspired by PM's vision for fully **solarising Ladakh and making it Carbon Neutral**.
- KREDA has successfully installed 41 Hp Submersible Pump backed with 50 Kw Solar Photovoltaic Plant in collaboration with **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil**.



23. Rajendra Badamikar appointed Additional Judges of Karnataka High Court

- **Rajendra Badamikar** and **Sushree Khazi Jayabunnisa Mohiuddin** has been appointed as **Additional Judges of Karnataka High Court** by President Ram Nath Kovind
- Tenure: **2 years**
- **Rajendra Badamikar**: He joined Judicial Service as a Munsiff in 1993 and has as Civil Judge, District Judge and Sessions Judge for more than 26 years
- **Sushree Khazi Jayabunnisa Mohiuddin** joined Judicial Service as a Munsiff in 1993 and is currently working as Registrar (Vigilance), High Court of Karnataka.

24. World Tuberculosis Day: 24th March

- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day** commemorated each year on 24th March to raise public awareness about the **devastating health**, social and economic consequences of TB.
- Theme 2021: **'The Clock is Ticking'**
- TB is a **contagious infection** that usually attacks the **lungs**.
- March 24 marks the day in 1882 when **Dr Robert Koch** discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.

25. Fitch rating projected India's GDP growth to 12.8% for next fiscal

- **Fitch Ratings** has revised India's GDP growth estimate to **12.8% for the next fiscal** from the previous 11% estimate in its latest Global Economic Outlook GEO
- It anticipates the level of India's GDP to remain well below its **pre-pandemic forecast trajectory**
- Fitch also expects GDP growth to ease to 5.8% in **Fiscal Year 2023**
- India's recovery from the depths of the lockdown-induced recession in the second quarter of 2020 has been observed as swifter than expected.
- HQ: New York

26. Cabinet approves MoU between UPSC Afghanistan's IARCSC

- Union Cabinet has approved MoU between **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, India and **Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC)**, Afghanistan
- The MoU will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise in the area of recruitment, books manuals and other documents which are not of a confidential nature and Information Technology for the preparation of **written examinations** and holding of **Computer Based Recruitment Tests** and Online Exams

27. POWERGRID established e-Tendering Portal-PRANIT

- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited** has established an e-Tendering Portal-PRANIT.
- This will lead to less paperwork, ease of operation and make the tendering process more transparent.
- Now, POWERGRID is the only organization in India to have an eProcurement solution on SAP Supplier Relationship Management, complying with all applicable requirements relating to security and transparency.

28. Education Minister inaugurates Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in Delhi

- Union Minister Ramesh **Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually inaugurated the **Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak** in New Delhi.
- The inauguration took place on the occasion of a programme organised by the University of Delhi on March 23, 2021, to pay homage and commemorate **90 years of the martyrdom** of our freedom fighters - **Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar** and **Shivaram Rajguru**
- It will remain open to students and the university community to inculcate values of freedom and sacrifice



29. Danish Red Cross launches volcano catastrophe bond

- The Danish Red Cross has launched the first of its kind, a **catastrophe bond** for **volcano-related disasters** with the support of several financial firms.
- The \$3 million bonds will enable the disaster relief agency to get aid quickly to those suffering following the eruption of 10 named volcanoes, in Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia and Mexico.
- **Catastrophe bonds** offer investors high yields but do not pay out if a named catastrophe occurs.

30. Andhra to launch India's first govt run ambulance network for animals

- Andhra Pradesh government has decided to set up "**India's first government-run ambulance network**" for animals
- The **Animal Husbandry Department** has been further directed to set up one **Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic** at every assembly constituency
- These **mobile** ambulances will provide is the '**Hydraulic Lift**' facility to lift animals and shift them to the nearest Govt **Veterinary Facility in case of emergency**.
- **Governor:** Biswabhusan Harichandan

31. ITC, Karnataka govt join hands to execute Watershed Development Programme

- **ITC Limited** has entered into a partnership with the Government of **Karnataka** to execute a **Watershed Development Programme** covering over 1 million acres and 100 watersheds across the State.
- The MoU was signed under the ITC's Social Investments programme "Mission Sunehra Kal" & the Karnataka Watershed Development Department.
- It aims at covering 1.16 million acres of watershed area in 29 districts.

32. Russia launches 38 Satellites From 18 Countries Into Space on Soyuz Rocket

- Russian space agency '**Roscosmos**' has successfully launched **38 foreign satellites** into orbit, onboard Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket from **Baikonur cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan
- The satellites were launched against the grey and cloudy skies at 0607 GMT
- These 38 satellites belonged to 18 countries comprising South Korea, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy and Brazil
- One of these 38 satellites is named 'Challenge-1', which is the first-ever satellite made completely in Tunisia

33. CJJ Justice Bobde recommends Govt to appoint Justice NV Ramanna as next CJJ

- CJJ **Justice S A Bobde** has recommended the Union Government to appoint the senior-most Supreme Court Judge **Justice N V Ramanna** as the next Chief Justice of India.
- Chief Justice **Bobde** is set to retire on **23rd April 2021**.
- Justice Bobde was sworn in as the **47th Chief Justice** of India in **November 2019**.
- Traditionally, the sitting **Chief Justice** writes a recommendation for his likely successor.
- The **CJJ** is the head of the judiciary of India and the Supreme Court of India.

34. Hindi Writer Prof. Sharad Pagare to be conferred with Vyas Samman - 2020

- Noted Hindi writer **Prof. Sharad Pagare** will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman - 2020 for his novel '**Patliputru Ki Samragi**.'
- The **Vyas Samman** started in 1991, is given by KK Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.
- It carries an award of **four lakh rupees** along with a citation and plaque.



35. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar Wins Gold in Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions

- India's **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** (20-years) won the gold medal in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.
- He became the **youngest in history** to win a shooting World Cup gold in the 3 Positions event.
- Hungary's **Istvan Peni** took home the silver while Denmark's Steffen Olsen finished third to secure the bronze medal.

36. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman conferred Gandhi Peace Prize 2020

- **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** has been conferred with **Gandhi Peace Prize for 2020** posthumously
- **Jury**
 - Chair: **PM Modi**
 - **Two ex-officio members:** Chief Justice of India and Leader of largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha.
 - **Eminent Members:** LS Speaker Om Birla and Founder of Sulabh, Bindeshwar Pathak
- **Sheikh Mujibur:** Father of the Nation in Bangladesh
- **Gandhi Peace Prize:** instituted in 1995 and carries Rs. 1 crore, citation, plaque, exquisite traditional handicraft item

37. 67th National Film Awards Announced

- The **67th National Film Awards** has been announced in **Delhi** for **best of Indian cinema in 2019**
- Given by: **Directorate of Film Festivals** under MIB
- **Winners:**
 - Most Film Friendly State Award: **Sikkim**
 - Award for Best Book on Cinema: **A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema by Sanjay Suri**
 - Best Feature Film: **Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)**
 - Best Actor: **Manoj Bajpayee, Dhanush**
 - Best Actress: **Kangana Ranaut**
 - Best Non-Feature Film: **An Engineered Dream**

38. Delhi govt announces reforms in Excise Policy

- **Delhi govt** has announced **reforms in Excise Policy**, which has been approved by Cabinet on basis of recommendations of Ministers.
- It will act as a **major blow to the liquor mafia** in the national capital '**Delhi**'.
- **Legal age to drink liquor** in the national capital has also been reduced to **21 from 25**.
- No new liquor shops will be opened in Delhi and **Delhi Excise revenue** is likely to increase by 1,500 crores to 2,000 crore rupees after the implementation of new policy.

39. India Legends beat Sri Lanka Legends in Road Safety World Series T-20

- **India Legends** defeated **Sri Lanka Legends** by 14 runs to clinch the **Road Safety World Series final cricket title**, held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- Sachin Tendulkar was the captain of the India Legends and Tillakaratne Dilshan was SL legends captain.
- Player of the Match: **Yusuf Pathan (India Legends)**
- Player of the Series: **Tillakaratne Dilshan (Sri Lanka Legends)**
- Most Runs and wickets: **Tillakaratne Dilshan**.

40. Bihar becomes first state to have Ethanol Promotion Policy



- **Bihar** has become **1st Indian state** to have its own ethanol policy called **Ethanol Production Promotion Policy 2021**
- It was approved by **Centre** in consonance with **National Policy of Biofuels, 2018** and **National Biofuel Coordination Committee**
- This policy will pave the way for making Bihar an ethanol hub and investors' coveted destination
- It will allow investors to directly make ethanol from maize, molasses, broken rice, rotten grains, which was restricted to sugarcane till now

41. India slipped to 56th rank in Global Home Price Index Q4 2020

- **India** has slipped by 13 spots, to **56th rank** in 'Global House Price Index Q4 2020' released by **Knight Frank**.
- India reported a **decline of 3.6% year-on-year (YoY) in home prices**, to finish last in the 4th and last quarter ending December 2020
- It ranked **43rd in Q4 in the previous fiscal**.
- India was the weakest-performing country in the fourth quarter of the fiscal 2020.
- **Turkey** was the leading country in Global Home Price Index Q4 2020, followed by **New Zealand** and **Slovakia**.

42. Former SEBI Chief G.V. Ramakrishna passes away

- Former chairperson of India's market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), **G V Ramakrishna (91 years)** passed away in Chennai due to prolonged illness.
- He was popularly known as GVR and was appointed in 1990 as the second chairman of the then two-year-old SEBI Board.
- **G.V. Ramakrishna** was the first chairman of SEBI, after it became a statutorily empowered markets regulator.
- He is an **IAS officer of 1952 batch from Andhra Pradesh cadre**.

43. World Meteorological Day: 23 March

- **World Meteorological Day** is observed on **23 March** every year to commemorate foundation day of the **World Meteorological Organization**, which was established on 23rd March 1950
- This day also highlights the importance of the role that people and their behaviour play in protecting Earth's atmosphere.
- It also showcases the contribution of **National Meteorological and Hydro-logical Services** to the safety and wellbeing of society.
- Theme 2021: **The ocean, our climate and weather**.

44. All England Badminton Championship title announced

- Men's and women's title for **All England Badminton Championship** has been announced.
- **Winners:**
 - Men's title: **Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia (22 years)** defeated **Denmark's Viktor Axelsen** by 30-29, 20-22, 21-9 in summit clash which lasted for 1 hr 14 minutes
 - Women's title: **Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)** won women's title after defeating Pornpawee Chochuwong
 - Men's doubles: **Hiroyuki Endo, Yuta Watanabe**
 - Women's doubles: **Mayu Matsumoto, Wakana Nagahara**
 - Mixed doubles: **Yuta Watanabe, Arisa Higashino**



45. Ministry of Sports decides to extend Khelo India scheme to 2025-26

- Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has announced to **extend Khelo India scheme for a period of 5 years** from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Financial implication of Rs. 8750 crores for new Khelo India Scheme has been estimated by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)
- Budget estimates (B.E) 2021-22 has allocated **Rs. 657.71 crores** under Khelo India Scheme.
- **Khelo India scheme** was launched in 2016-17 to improve India's sports culture at the grass-root level.

46. Noted writer & filmmaker Sagar Sarhadi passes away

- Noted writer and filmmaker **Sagar Sarhadi (88 years)** passes away at his residence near Sion, Mumbai due to age related issues
- He began his career writing Urdu short stories and entered Bollywood via Yash Chopra's 1976 **Kabhi Kabhie**, starring Amitabh Bachchan
- He is also the **writer of 'Noorie', 'Silsila', and 'Chandni'**.

47. Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day): 23 March

- **Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day)** is observed every year on **March 23** to pay tribute on death anniversary of freedom fighters **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru**, who laid their lives for the freedom of India.
- They were hanged to death for assassinating **John Saunders** on **March 23, 1931 in Lahore (Pakistan)**
- They had mistaken him for British police superintendent James Scott, who had ordered lathi charge, resulting in Lala Lajpat Rai death.

48. Arindam Bagchi assumes charge as new Spokesperson of MEA

- **Arindam Bagchi** took charges as the **official spokesperson of Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- He succeeded **Anurag Srivastava** (1999 batch IFS officer).
- Prior to this, he was serving as the **Joint Secretary (north) at the MEA headquarters**.
- He was an **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of 1995 batch** and he has served as India's ambassador to Croatia from November 2018 to June 2020.
- He was also **India's deputy high commissioner to Sri Lanka**.

49. International Day of Forests: 21 March

- **International Day of Forests (World Forestry Day)** is observed every year on **March 21** to commemorate and raise awareness of the significance of all types of forests
- **UN General Assembly** adopted **International Day of Forests** on **November 28, 2012**
- The day will benefit current and future generations as well as to increase public awareness among communities about values, significance and contributions of forest
- Theme 2021: **Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being**

50. USAID & DFC jointly announce financing for renewable energy in India

- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** have announced **\$41 million-loan portfolio guarantee program** to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by Indian SMEs
- It will enable finance investments by **small and medium enterprises (SMEs) of India** in renewable energy solutions including rooftop solar installations
- These loans will enable SMEs to access reliable power and will cut the cost.



51. World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March

- **World Down Syndrome Day (WSDS)** is observed every year on **21 March** globally to raise public awareness for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down syndrome
- Theme of World Down Syndrome Day 2021: **#Connect**
- The day was officially recognized by **UN General Assembly** in **2012**.
- **Down syndrome (trisomy 21)** is a condition in which a child is born with an extra copy of their **21st chromosome** that causes physical and mental developmental delays and disabilities.

52. MoD signs contract with BDL for 4,960 Anti-Tank Guided Missiles

- **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has signed a contract with **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for supply of **4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles** to Indian Army
- Defence PSU will supply these missiles at **Rs 1,188 crores**
- **Milan-2T:**
 - Tandem Warhead Anti-Tank Guided Missile with a range of 1,850 metres
 - It can be fired from ground, vehicle launchers
 - It can be deployed in Anti-Tank Role for both offensive and defensive tasks
 - It is produced by BDL under MBDA Missile System, France

53. World's largest floating solar farms being built in Singapore

- **Singapore** is building **world's largest floating solar farms of the world** to support the effort against climate change
- It will be **60 mw-peak floating solar system** with 1200 panels and is being built at **Tengeh Reservoir** by Sembcorp Industries in collaboration with Singapore Public Utilities Board
- It will have **digital monitoring platform** that allows staff to keep an eye remotely
- It will be one of the biggest solar farm in S-E Asia covering an area of 45 football pitches

54. World Poetry Day: 21 March

- **World Poetry Day** is observed every year on **21 March** to promote reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world
- Poetry day was declared by **UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)** in **1999**, with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard
- It is the occasion to honor poets, revive oral traditions of poetry recitals.

55. Netherlands PM Mark Rutte claims victory for fourth straight term

- Prime Minister of Netherlands, **Mark Rutte** has won **2021 parliamentary elections** and sworn-in as the Prime Minister for fourth straight term.
- Prior to this, Rutte and his entire Cabinet offered its resignation on 15 January 2021 in response to a scandal relating to child welfare fraud, however Rutte remained in office till the conclusion of 2021 election.
- Mark Rutte has been serving as the **Prime Minister of Netherlands since October 2010**.
- Capital: **Amsterdam**

56. PNB sets-up wholly owned subsidiary 'PNB Cards & Services Ltd'

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has set up wholly-owned subsidiary titled as '**PNB Cards & Services Ltd**' to manage its credit card business with effect from March 16, 2021, by Registrar of Companies, Delhi.
- This new subsidiary will undertake the non-financial support services related to credit card business of the bank.



- Authorised capital of the company is Rs 25 crore and paid-up capital of the company is Rs 15 crore.
- PNB HQs: **New Delhi**.

57. UNCTAD projects India's GDP to grow 5% in 2021

- **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has projected **India's economy contraction by 6.9% in 2020** due to coronavirus pandemic.
- However, UNCTAD estimates GDP forecast to record a stronger recovery in 2021 and grow by 5%.
- Further, UNCTAD estimates the **global economy to grow by 4.7% in 2021**.
- UNCTAD Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD: **Isabelle Durant**.

58. World Water Day: 22 March

- **World Water Day (WWD)** is observed every year on **22nd March** to highlight the importance and sustainable management of fresh water.
- **UN-Water** is the convener for **World Water Day**.
- The vision for World Water Day was put forward at Rio de Janeiro United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.
- Theme of WWD 2021: **Valuing Water**.
- **UN World Water Development Report (WWDR)** is released every year around World Water Day.

59. PM launches 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign

- PM **Narendra Modi** has launched '**Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain**' campaign on World Water Day (22nd March)
- Campaign will run till **30th Nov, 2021**
- It will be undertaken across the country, in **734 districts** covering **600,000 villages** with theme '**catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls**'
- It will be launched as **Jan Andolan** to take water conservation at grass-root level through people's participation
- During this, geotagging of all water bodies will be carried out

60. Narendra Kumar Vyas appointed as additional Judge of Chhattisgarh High Court

- **President** has appointed **Narendra Kumar Vyas** and **Naresh Kumar Chandravanshi** as the **Additional Judges of Chhattisgarh High Court** under clause (l) of Article 224 of Constitution of India
- They have been appointed for **2 years**
- **Narendra Kumar Vyas** has over 23 years of experience and has practiced in Labour Court, Industrial Court, District Court, Central Government Industrial Tribunal during **1996 to 2002** and after that has been

61. Avinash Sable sets New National Record in Men's 3000m Steeplechase

- Indian athlete **Avinash Sable (26 years)** set a **new national record in men's 3000m steeplechase event** in ongoing Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala with 8:20.20 timing
- He broke his own record of 8:21.37 which he set in 2019, after finishing 13th in the final of the World Athletics Championships in Doha.
- He has secured berth in **Tokyo Olympics 2020** in **men's 3000m steeplechase** during 2019 World Athletics Championships

62. Divyansh Panwar wins bronze in 10m Air Rifle at Delhi ISSF World Cup 2021



- Indian shooter **Divyansh Singh Panwar (18 years)** has won **bronze in men's 10m Air Rifle event at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2021** in New Delhi.
- Indian team bagged air rifle men's team event, followed by **USA** and **South Korea**
- ISSF World Cup 2021 is being held from March 18 to 29 March 2021
- It is the **1st international event of 2021** by ISSF in shotgun, rifle, and pistol.
- More than 300 shooters from 43 countries are participating

63. New Nagar Van Scheme will help in creation of Urban forests in cities

- Union Environment Minister, **Prakash Javadekar** has launched **new Nagar Van Scheme** for creation of Urban forests in the cities on the occasion of International Day of Forests
- It will also fill the gap between the cities and villages in terms of having their own forest cover.
- Under Nagar Van Scheme, **Urban forests will be developed in 200 cities in its first phase.**
- **Drone mapping water conservation** and tree plantation were also taken into consideration.

64. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates Advanced High Resolution Microscopy Facility

- Union Health Minister, **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated **Advanced High Resolution Microscopy Facility** at **National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)** and Unveiled the 4 Star GRIHA Certification of Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB) Lab and Admin Building at Mohali, Punjab
- NABI & CIAB are autonomous institutes under Dept. of Biotechnology, Ministry of S&T
- **NABI:** first Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, established in India.

65. NPPA brings 80 plus medicines under Price Regulation

- **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** has brought **80 plus medicines** under Price Regulation.
- NPPA has fixed price of 81 medicines including off-patent anti-diabetic drugs allowing due benefits of patent expiry to the patients.
- With this price regulation, **NPPA has re-assured availability of medicines at fair prices to public at large.**
- NPPA also fixed retail price of 76 new drugs in the meeting dated 10th of this month to be launched by existing manufacturers

66. Moody's projects India's GDP to grow by 12% in 2021

- **Moody's Analytics** has projected **India's GDP to grow by 12% in 2021.**
- Moody's in an earlier estimate last November, India's GDP will grow at 9% in the calendar year.
- Indian economy is officially projected to contract 8% in FY21, in its worst show in more than four decades.
- **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** projected Indian economy is expected to grow **12.6% in FY22.**
- Moody's Analytics had projected the Indian economy to grow 13.7% in FY22.

67. India's Singhraj wins gold in Para Shooting World Cup 2021

- Indian para-athlete **Singhraj** won gold medal in **2021 Para Shooting World Cup** at Al Ain in UAE, after defeating **Uzbekistan's Server Ibragimov** to get the top honour in the **P1 - Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.**
- He won by a thin margin of **2.8 points**
- Singhraj won Rio 2016 bronze medal
- Turkey's former Paralympic champion Muharrem Korhan Yamaç took the bronze with 214.4 points.
- With this, India has moved to third place in the medals table with one gold and one bronze.



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