

Top Current Affairs of the Week (15- 20 March 2021)

ISRO launches sounding rocket 'RH-560' to study attitudinal variations

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched indigenously made sounding rocket, **RH-560** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota Range, Andhra Pradesh
- **RH-560** will study attitudinal variations in neutral winds and plasma dynamics
- ISRO has developed series of sounding rockets known as '**Rohini series**'. Among them **RH-200**, **RH-300** and **RH-560** are the important ones
- The number in the name of rocket series denotes the diameter of the rocket in mm
- ISRO HQs: **Bengaluru**

Telegram Groups

NDA & Other Exams: <https://t.me/joinchat/TX7hKUXmUvKsOL5IFHsbRA>

CDS & Defence Exams: <https://t.me/joinchat/TX7hKVbSbpp5PDJuRccltw>

Air Force X & Y: <https://t.me/GradeupAirforce>

World's fastest supercomputer 'Fugaku' begins its full operations

- World's most powerful supercomputer named '**Fugaku**' is made fully operational.
- It has been developed by Japanese scientific research institute **RIKEN** and **Fujitsu**.
- **Japan's Research Organization for Information Science and Technology (RIST)** has selected 74 research projects for this
- Fugaku will help Japanese govt to achieve its vision to establish an ultra-smart **Society 5.0**, where all people live safe and comfortable lives
- It has 100 times app performance of K supercomputer

PM Modi addresses 4th Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) virtually

- **PM Narendra Modi** has virtually addressed **4th Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF)** in Kozhikode
- It has been organized from **12 to 19 March 2021**
- **GAF** is the **largest Ayurvedic event** ever held anywhere across the world and witness the largest gathering of experts, stakeholders, and business explorers from Ayurveda.
- **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)** is the festival and industry partner
- Chairman of Organizing Committee of festival: **Muraleedharan**

International Day of Mathematics: 14 March

- **International Day of Mathematics (IDM)** is observed every year on **March 14**
- Theme for 2021 IDM: '**Mathematics for a Better World**'
- The day was initiated by **International Mathematical Union (IMU)** to celebrate the importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life
- March 14 as IDM was proclaimed at **40th General Conference of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** on November 26, 2019
- It is celebrated in more than **40 countries**.

PM launches 91st Anniversary of Gandhi's Dandi March in Gujarat

- India observed **91st anniversary of the historic Salt Satyagraha** led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- On **March 12, 1930**, Mahatma Gandhi walked from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi in Gujarat to break **salt-tax law** imposed by the British. It was an act of civil disobedience to protest against British rule in India
- On the occasion, PM Modi visited Gujarat and flagged off **padyatra (foot march)** by 81 marchers from Sabarmati Ashram to commemorate Dandi March
- **Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav** was launched

Centre announces new scheme for tourist vehicle operators to boost tourism

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has announced **new scheme for tourist vehicle operators**.
- Under this, any tourist vehicle operator may apply for All India tourist authorization and permit through online mode.
- It will be issued, after relevant documents are submitted and fees deposited, within **30 days** of submission of such applications.
- New set of rules to be known as **All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021**, with effect from **April 2021**

Govt announces linking of OTPRMS certificates with DigiLocker

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has announced **linking of Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System (OTPRMS) certificates** with DigiLocker to ensure hassle free access to **verified OTPRMS Certificates**
- The certificate will automatically be transferred to DigiLocker and the same may be traced at the website of **National Council for Teacher Education** and **DigiLocker**.
- Registration fee of Rs 200 for obtaining OTPRMS Certificates has been waived off.

Virat Kohli becomes 1st cricketer to score 3,000 runs in T-20 International

- **Virat Kohli** has become **1st-ever batsman** to score 3,000 runs in T-20 International
- He achieved this milestone during **2nd T20-International against England at Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad**, in which unbeaten knock of 73 runs and crossed 3,000-run mark
- He currently has **3,001 runs from 87 T20I**
- New Zealand's **Martin Gupthill** is second on the list of leading run-getters in T20I cricket, scored 2,839 runs in 99 matches, followed by **Rohit Sharma** with 2,773 runs in 108 matches

India's first centralised AC railway terminal in Bengaluru to function soon

- India's first centralised air-conditioned (AC) railway terminal has been built at **Baiyappanahalli in Bengaluru**.
- It is named after '**Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya**', one of the foremost civil engineers, and set to become operational soon.
- It has been built at an estimated cost of **Rs 314 crore**.
- **Byappanahalli terminal** is the 3rd coach terminal and is equipped with all the modern facilities and is aimed to offer an airport-like aura to the passengers.

NIO launches Genome Mapping in Indian Ocean.

- **National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)** is going to launch first-of-its-kind project of **Genome Mapping in Indian Ocean**
- **Aim:** To gather samples for genome mapping of microorganisms in Indian Ocean
- **Project Cost:** Rs. 25 crores.
- Team from NIO will spend 90 days traversing the course of over 10,000 nautical miles in Indian Ocean on research project to reveal internal working of ocean at cellular level
- Indian Ocean is 3rd largest water body in the world

Himachal CM inaugurates Swarnim International Shivratri Fair

- Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** has formally launched famous **Swarnim International Shivratri Fair** at historic Paddal ground, Himachal Pradesh
- Thousands of people dressed in their traditional attire participated in the procession carrying their local deities dancing all the way up to Paddal ground.
- Over 150 deities participated in the '**Jaleb**', the traditional Shobha Yatra from almost all parts of the district.
- Chief Minister of HP: **Jairam Thakur**

Britain's cabinet office to set up second flagship Head Quarter in Glasgow

- Britain's cabinet office will set up '**2nd flagship Head Quarter**' in **Glasgow** as the govt plans to move some of its operations to Scotland in wake of growing support for Scottish independence in recent times
- It will strengthen the diversity of UK civil service, and ensure that Scottish voices shape everything the government does
- It will create 500 new jobs at an existing office in **East Kilbride**, while in total 1,000 more jobs will be located in Scotland over next 4 years

Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill 2021 introduced in Lok Sabha

- WCD Minister **Smriti Irani** has introduced **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021** has been introduced in Lok Sabha
- It seeks to amend **Juvenile Justice (Care, Protection of Children) Act, 2015**
- Other bills:
 - Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021.
 - National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021.
 - Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill 2021.
 - National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill 2021.

President Ramnath Kovind to take part in Jagran Forum programme

- President **Ramnath Kovind** will take part in 3-day visit to Uttar Pradesh programme **Jagran Forum at Varanasi** organised by Media House
- He inaugurated the newly constructed building of Seva Kunj Ashram and will inaugurate program on '**Ganga, Environment and Indian Culture**' by Jagran Forum
- It will highlight the different development works carried out by the **Yogi Adityanath-led BJP govt**
- There will be 5 sessions in programme will also be present.

Election Commission of India appoints observers in Puducherry

- **Election Commission of India** has appointed **10 expenditure observers, 10 General Observers** and **4 police observers to Union Territory** to conduct the General Election to **Puducherry Legislative Assembly 2021**
- **Expenditure observers:** monitored election expenditure of contesting candidates and to verify day to day expenses, etc
- Expenditure observers Chandra Prakash Meena, Aditya Shukla, Aparajitha Sharma, Deepti Chandola, Devesh Gupta, among others participated in the meeting

Govt reconstitutes panel for studying Sarasvati river

- Centre has reconstituted an **advisory committee** to chalk out plan for studying mythical Sarasvati river for 2 years
- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** issued notification for reconstitution of Advisory Committee for Study of River Sarasvati
- ASI had first set up committee for **2 years**, continue to be chaired by Culture Minister.
- It would include officials from Culture, Tourism, Water Resources, Environment and Forest, Urban Affairs Ministries, ISRO and an ASI official

Grammy Awards Winners 2021 announced in Los Angeles

- **63rd edition of Annual Grammy Awards (2021 Grammy Awards) ceremony** was held in **Los Angeles** to recognize best recordings, compositions, and artists from Sep 2019 to Aug 2020 by Recording Academy
- Beyonce received most nominations with nine
- **List of Winners**
 - Record of the Year: **Everything I Wanted** by Billie Eilish
 - Album of the Year: **Folklore**, by Taylor Swift
 - Song of the Year: **I Can't Breathe**, by Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas
 - Best New Artist: **Megan Thee Stallion**

NPCI launches UPI-Help on BHIM app for Grievance Redressal

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched '**UPI-Help**' on **BHIM UPI** for grievance redressal mechanism for the users of the BHIM application
- **BHIM UPI** is an **umbrella entity for digital payments in India**
- It will check the status of pending transactions, raise complaints against, money, etc
- UPI-Help has been made live on BHIM app for customers of **SBI, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank**
- Users of other banks participating in UPI will also be added to UPI-Help

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves surpasses Russia to become 4th biggest

- **India's foreign-exchange reserves** become the **world's fourth largest reserve of the world**, surpassing Russia.
- **Foreign currency holdings of India** fell by **\$4.3 billion to \$580.3 billion**, as per the data by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Foreign Reserve of Russia was **\$580.1 billion** as of March 2021
- **China** has the largest reserves, followed by **Japan** and **Switzerland**, as on the **International Monetary Fund table**.

National Vaccination Day: March 16

- **National Vaccination Day (National Immunization Day)** is observed every year on **March 16** in India, to convey the importance of vaccination.
- The day was first observed in **1995** as India started Pulse Polio Programme and **first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine** was given in 1995
- **National Vaccination Day 2021** is important as the country has started its biggest Covid-19 immunization programme
- According to WHO, immunization is a process through which an individual's immune system.

Renowned Padma Bhushan winning painter Laxman Pai passes away in Goa

- Renowned Indian artist and painter **Laxman Pai (95 years)** passed away in Margao, South Goa after a brief battle with illness
- He was a Goa-based painter and had also participated in Goa's liberation movement from Portuguese rule and was imprisoned at least thrice for his political activism.
- He also served as the **principal of Goa College of Arts**
- **Awards:**
 - Padma Bhushan
 - Padma Shri
 - Nehru Award
 - Lalit Kala Akademi

US surpasses Saudi Arabia to become India's second biggest oil supplier

- **United States (US)** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** as India's second biggest oil supplier.
- Oil import of India from US rose 48% to a record **545,300 barrels per day (bpd)** in Feb 2021 compared to Jan 2021
- This accounts for 14% of India's overall imports in Feb 2021.
- **Saudi Arabia** slipped to **No. 4 Oil importer of India** for the first time since January 2006.
- **Iraq** is the top oil supplier to India despite a 23% decline in purchases to a five-month low of 867,500 bpd.

Government to set up Winter Sports Institute in Gulmarg

- Youth Affairs & Sports Minister **Kiren Rijju** has announced to set up **Winter Sports Institute in Gulmarg, Kashmir**.
- He also announced inauguration of **100 small sports centres** under **Khelo India mission**.
- Gulmarg will hold the national camp for winter games in 2021
- **'Khelo India' centres of excellence** will also be set up in Srinagar and Jammu, with different disciplines
- Govt has sanctioned setting up of 40 small centres and 60 more such centres.

INS Jalashwa reaches Port Anjouan in Comoros to deliver 1,000 tonne of rice

- Indian Naval Ship **INS Jalashwa** has arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice, under **Mission Sagar-IV**.
- **SAGAR: Security and Growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region**
- Mission Sagar was started by PM Narendra Modi in May 2020 to assist maritime neighbours such as Comoros amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- INS Jalashwa is the largest amphibious ship of Indian Navy.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan programme held at J&K's Budgam

- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir held day-long 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' programme at Budgam.
- The programme was inaugurated by **District Development Commissioner Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza** and was jointly organized by Social Welfare Department and District Administration in collaboration with Dept of Health and many NGOs.
- It is a **result-oriented campaign** and at all levels to spread the message among common people is need for the hour.

Bhavani Devi becomes first Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics.

- Tamil Nadu's **Chadalavada Anandha Bhavani Devi (27 years)** became the first-ever fencer from India to qualify for Olympic Games through **Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) Method**
- She secured a spot for the Tokyo Olympics at the World Cup in Hungary.
- She is ranked **45th** and occupies one of the two available slots based on the ranking, according to Press Trust of India.
- She was trying to qualify for the Olympics from 2012
- **Sagar Lagu** is the trainer of Bhavani Devi.

Principal Adviser P K Sinha resigns on personal grounds

- Principal Adviser to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **P K Sinha** has resigned from his position citing personal reasons.
- He is a former Cabinet Secretary Sinha, a retired IAS officer (1977 batch) of Uttar Pradesh cadre, was appointed officer on special duty in PMO in August 2019 after then principal secretary to the PM Nripendra Mishra requested to be relieved of his charge.
- He was made **Principal Adviser to the PM** and has since continued in his post in September 2019

Sixth IBSA Women's Forum meeting held virtually

- **Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting** was held virtually
- Forum discussed key issues that contribute towards the transformation of women's lives
- **India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum** is a unique platform which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents.
- It was led by **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

Chinese capital faces largest sandstorm in a decade

- Capital of China, **Beijing** is facing heavy sandstorm as the city was covered with **thick brown dust cover** due to heavy winds blowing in from northern parts of China, reducing visibility to less than 1,000 meters
- Sandstorms had spread from **Inner Mongolia** into **Gansu, Shanxi and Hebei**, which surrounds Beijing.
- As per the meteorological agency, it is the strongest sandstorm in the past decade which has reached the level of a strong storm.

Cabinet approves bill to set up DFI with initial capital of Rs 20 thousand

- **Union Cabinet** has approved bill to set up **Development Finance Institution (DFI)** with an **initial capital infusion of Rs 20 thousand crores**.
- It will be tabled in Parliament during the current Budget Session.
- DFI is expected to raise long-term funds for infrastructure development projects in the country.
- Initial grant to the DFI will be Rs 5 thousand crore and additional increments of grants will be made within the limit of Rs 5 thousand crores.

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Hurun India Wealth Report 2020 released

- **Hurun India Wealth Report 2020** has been released
- According to the report, there are **412,000 dollar-millionaire households/affluent households** in India with net worth of Rs 7 crore.
- Hurun Rich Listers have a wealth of Rs 1,000 crore and pegs number of such cumulative households in India at 3,000.
- Top 10 states that are home to 70.3% of millionaire households in India: **Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat**.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 announced

- **Sahitya Akademi** has announced annual literary honour in India, **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2020** in **20 Indian languages**.
- The awards includes 7 books of poetry, 4 novel, 5 short stories, 2 plays, and one each of memoirs and epic poetry.
- **Winners:**
 - M Veerappa Moily
 - Arundhathi Subramaniam
 - Dwijen Kumar Das
 - Apurba Kumar Saikia
 - Late Dharanidhar Awari
 - Gachh Roosal Achhi
 - Harish Meenakshi
 - RS Bhaskar
 - Irungbam Deven
 - Rupchand Hansda
 - Nikhileswar

Delhi ranked as World's most polluted capital city by IQAir

- **New Delhi** has been ranked as the **10th most polluted city in World's most polluted capital city** for 3rd straight year, in **2020 World Air Quality Report** by Swiss organisation, **IQAir**
- Top most polluted city of the world: Xinjiang, China
- Most polluted Indian cities: **Delhi, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Birsakh Jalalpur, Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow and Bhiwari**.
- **IQAir report:** It measures air quality levels based on concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles PM 2.5

Indian Army's two longest serving Artillery Systems de-commissioned

- **Indian Army** has decommissioned two longest serving artillery systems '**130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns**' and '**160mm Tampella Mortars**' from Service at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
- They have been in the inventory of Indian Army for around 60 years.
- **130mm Catapult:** It has a range of more than 27 km and was merger of Vijayanta tanks and 130mm M-46 guns
- **Tampella mortars:** It has a range of 9.6km and was inducted after 1962 war with China

Audio cassette tape inventor Lou Ottens passes away

- Dutch engineer who is credited with the invention of the audio cassette tape, **Lou Ottens (94 years)** passed away.
- He founded the cassettes in 1960s, while he was employed with tech giant Philips.
- Later it led to the invention of the first reel-to-reel **walkman in 1963**.
- He is also known for helping develop the concept of magnetic tape players and the computer discs (CDs).

S Dhanalakshmi won 100m Gold in Federation Cup Athletics

- Tamil Nadu Sprinter **S Dhanalakshmi (22 years)** beat national record holder **Dutee Chand** to win **women's 100m sprint final in Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships** in Patiala
- She clocked 11.39 seconds to become the fastest woman of the championships, while Dutee Chand clocked 11.58 seconds and **Archana Suseendran (11.76 seconds)** came third
- Hima Das was disqualified after a false start
- In men's 100m, **Gurindervir Singh of Punjab** won gold in 10.32 seconds.

ReNew Power named in WEF's Global Lighthouse Network

- **ReNew Power** has announces its addition to the **World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network of Companies** leading in the Area of Technology-Enabled, Sustainable Growth
- It is now **World's first clean energy company to be recognised as a Lighthouse by World Economic Forum**.
- ReNew joins cross-sector international network of companies and diverse group of Lighthouse companies from the tech, heavy industry, consumer products, healthcare and energy sectors.

Nokia and AWS to enable cloud-based 5G radio solutions

- **Nokia** has signed an agreement with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to enable **Cloud RAN (vRAN)** and **Open RAN technologies** supporting the development of new customer-focused 5G solutions
- It aims to develop innovative **proof of concepts (PoC)** to explore and enable Cloud RAN and related technologies.
- This collaboration will allow Nokia to leverage AWS services like Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2), Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (EKS), AWS Outposts, AWS Local Zones, etc

Samsung sets up Innovation Lab at Delhi Technological University

- **Samsung Electronics** set up **Samsung innovation lab** at **Delhi Technological University (DTU)** to promote joint research and training on domains such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and computer vision.
- It has been launched towards Government's Skill India initiative as part of its latest vision **#PoweringDigitalIndia**.

- Samsung now has 8 technical labs spread across India as part of its **Samsung Innovation Campus initiative (Earlier Samsung Digital Academy)**.

Blades of Glory deemed as world's largest cricket museum

- Blades of Glory Museum, Pune has been conferred with **The World Record Award** by **World Record Academy, Miami, USA**
- It is deemed as Largest Cricket Museum in the world.
- The Museum is founded by cricket enthusiast and former U-19 Maharashtra cricket player, Rohan Patel.
- The museum features over 51,000 memorabilia from cricket players all over the world
- It has 5000 Sq. Ft long gallery, which is known as Castle of Cricket.

M A Ganapathy appointed as Chief of National Security Guard

- Senior IPS officer **M A Ganapathy** has been appointed as **Director General (DG) of National Security Guard (NSG)**
- He is a **1986 batch Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer of Uttarakhand cadre and is currently serving as the **Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**
- His appointment will be effective from the date of joining NSG till Feb 29, 2024
- **NSG:**
 - It is an elite counter-terrorism unit under Indian Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Established: **1986**
 - HQs: **Delhi**

Italy joins International Solar Alliance under amended ISA Framework

- **Italy** has signed amended **Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA)** with India
- The amendments to the **ISA Framework agreement** entered into force in Jan 8, 2021, opening its membership to all Member States of the UN, including those lying beyond the tropics.
- ISA was launched in 2015 by Indian PM and his French Counterpart during **2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP21)** in Paris
- ISA Director General: **Ajay Mathur**.
- HQs: **Gurugram, India**.

SIPRI depicted India as 2nd largest arms importer during 2016-2020

- Sweden-based **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** released report titled '**Trends in International Arms Transfers-2020**'
- As per the report, **imports of weapons and military equipment of India declined by 33%** during 2016-2020
- India continues to be 2nd largest World importer, despite import rates cut
- Largest arms importers: **Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia, China**
- Largest arms exporters: **US, Russia, France, Germany, China**. India ranked 24th in this

Harsh Vardhan appointed as Chairman of Stop TB Partnership Board

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** has been appointed as the **Chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board'** with effect from **July 2021**.
- He will be serving at this post for **3-year tenure**.

- He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement of eradicating Tuberculosis from India by 2025
- **Stop TB Partnership:**
 - Unique international body with the power to align actors all over the world in the fight against TB
 - Established: **2000**

US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative launched

- **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum's U.S. India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI)** Initiative has been launched.
- IUSSTF's USIAI Initiative focuses on AI cooperation in critical areas that are priorities for both countries.
- USIAI will serve as a platform to discuss opportunities and challenges for **bilateral AI R&D collaboration, enable AI innovation, help share ideas for developing AI workforce and recommend modes and mechanisms for catalyzing partnerships.**

Ajay Mathur takes over as Director General of International Solar Alliance

- **Ajay Mathur** has assumed the charge as the **Director General of International Solar Alliance (ISA)** with effect from March 15, 2021.
- He has been appointed for tenure of 4 years which can be renewed for an additional term.
- He succeeded **Upendra Tripathy**, who completed his term on March 15, after serving as the Director General since 2017.
- ISA Headquarters: **Gurugram, India.**

AIM, NITI Aayog, AWS launches initiatives to boost innovation

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Amazon Web Services (AWS)** has announced new initiatives to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India
- It will be done by empowering school students with cloud computing skills, and enabling entrepreneurs to build innovative education technology solutions on the cloud.
- AIM will leverage AWS Educate, that provides resources for students and educators to accelerate cloud-related learning.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurates Amar Ekushey book fair in Dhaka

- Bangladesh PM **Sheikh Hasina** has inaugurated **Amar Ekushey book fair in Dhaka** through video conferencing
- She also released the book titled '**New China 1952**' which is the English translation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's book '**Amar Dekha Naya Chin**' and **Bangla Academy Literary Award 2020**
- Theme of 2021 book fair: **Birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee of independence**
- The book fair will conclude on April 14.

Kuldiep Singh appointed as Chief of Central Reserve Police Force

- Senior IPS officer **Kuldiep Singh** has been appointed as the **Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**
- He is a **1986 batch IPS officer** of West Bengal cadre

- He succeeded **A. P. Maheshwari**, who supernatured in Feb 2021
- He is presently serving as **Special DG of CRPF**
- His appointment will be effective from March 1, 2021 to Sep 30, 2022 i.e. date of his superannuation.
- CRPF is **India's largest Central Armed Police Force**, under Ministry of Home.
- HQs: **Delhi**

Tanzanian President John Magufuli passes away in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

- Tanzania's President **John Magufuli (61 years)** passed away at a hospital in Dar es Salaam due to severe illness.
- He served as the **fifth president of Tanzania from 2015** until his death in 2021.
- He served as Minister of Works, Transport and Communications from 2000 to 2005 and 2010 to 2015 and was chairman of the Southern African Development Community from 2019 to 2020.
- Capital of Tanzania: **Dodoma**.
- Currency: **Tanzanian shilling**.

Madhya Pradesh CM launches Mission Gramodaya

- The **Mission Gramodaya** has been launched in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The mission was launched by the Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** and Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- Under the Gramodaya mission, besides providing housing facilities in rural areas, basic and fundamental infrastructure will also be expanded.
- Rural Development schemes, especially **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna** and **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** are being effectively implemented in MP.

India ranks 139 in World Happiness Report

- **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network** released the **World Happiness Report 2021**.
- **Finland** was once again crowned as the world's **happiest** country.
- India has been ranked **139** out of 149 countries.
- In 2019, India was ranked **140th**.
- **Denmark** ranked 2nd, followed by **Switzerland, Iceland** and the **Netherlands**.
- **Afghanistan** was classed as the world's unhappiest nation this year.
- The ranking is based on **GDP per person, healthy life expectancy** and **the opinions of residents**.

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IIT Bombay Built 'Energy Swaraj Yatra' Bus

- An '**Energy Swaraj Yatra**' bus has been built by **Dr Chetan Singh Solanki, Prof. IIT Bombay**.
- The bus runs on **solar energy** and has a complete work-cum-residential unit.

- Mr Solanki has been travelling on it to raise awareness about the use of solar power.
- The Energy Swaraj Yatra began in **2020** and will continue till **2030**.
- Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** took a ride on the bus.
- Mr Solanki has been recently conferred with the **Brand Ambassador of Solar Energy of MP**.

Gram Ujala programme launched by Power Minister RK Singh

- **Convergence Energy Services Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)**, unveiled the **GRAM UJALA programme**.
- Under the programme, high-quality energy-efficient **LED bulbs** will be given for **Rs 10 per piece** in certain villages of five states in the first phase.
- The programme will be financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.
- In phase-I of the programme, **15 million LED bulbs** will be distributed.

ISRO-NIT Rourkela sign MoU to set up Space Technology Incubation Centre

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela** have signed an MoU for setting up a **Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC)**.
- The MoU was signed after ISRO agreed to set up a Space Technology Incubation Centre(S-TIC) at NIT Rourkela.
- This collaboration with **ISRO** will open up new opportunities for research and development as well as space start-ups.

Niti Aayog, AWS partner to train students on cloud computing

- IT major **Amazon Web Services** and **NITI Aayog** partnered to train students on the fundamentals of cloud computing through Atal Tinkering Labs.
- The education and tools will establish a strong foundation in cloud computing for students of Atal Tinkering Labs while the support of AWS EdStart for startups will accelerate their productisation and potential commercialization.
- **AWS** will introduce the fundamentals of cloud computing to students at more than **7,000 ATLS**.