





**WEEKLY CA
MARCH 2021**

MARCH 1-7



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting said that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is associating with **IIT Bombay** to form a **Centre of Excellence** in **gaming** and other related areas.
2. **Ministry of Culture** has organized 3rd and final edition of **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2021** at **Murshidabad, West Bengal**.
 - Directors of all zonal cultural centres of Ministry of Culture were present during inauguration of Mahotsav and lit the ceremonial lamp.
3. The Union Minister of **Health & Family Welfare** and Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the second edition of **Global-Bio India-2021** on March 1, 2021. This is a three-day event which will be organised from March 1 to March 3, 2021 under the Theme– '**Transforming Lives**' along with the tagline '**Biosciences to Bio-economy**'.
4. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (**NASSCOM**) is all set to launch its '**AI Game Changers**' program in India.
 - The programme will be launched to promote the artificial intelligence (AI)-led innovation across the country.
 - The programme is being run in collaboration with the innovation partner for the programme, **Microsoft**.
5. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated **Maritime India Summit-2021** through video conferencing.
 - It is organized by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on a virtual platform www.maritimeindiasummit.in.
 - It will visualize a roadmap for India's Maritime sector for next decade.
 - **Denmark** is the partner country for the three-day summit.
6. India has launched the "**Real-time Vessel Tracking System**" in order to help the seafarers and fishermen as and when they need. This system has been named as "**Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre (MMDAC)**".
 - The system was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Maritime India Summit-2021.
7. Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated **Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021** at **Noida Haat**
 - It has been organized by **Ministry of Rural Development** under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**
 - **Aim:** to bring rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under one platform to show-case their skills

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8. **CERAWeek Conference-2021** has been organized from **March 1 to 5, 2021** by **IHS Markit** based in Houston, Texas
- Theme: **The New Map: Energy, Climate, and Charting the Future**
 - It is an annual international energy conference of energy industry leaders, experts, government officials and policymaker
 - During this, PM Modi will receive **CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award**
9. Minister for Social justice and Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** will virtually launch '**Sugamya Bharat App**'.
- **Sugamya Bharat App**: Means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility. It provides for registration of complaints of inaccessibility, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem.
10. **Rajya Sabha TV** and **Lok Sabha TV** have been merged and now the new merged channel will be known as **Sansad TV**.
- **Sansad TV**: It will telecast live proceedings of both Upper and Lower Houses on two different channels during simultaneous sitting of the Houses.
11. Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has virtually inaugurated **New Delhi World Book Fair 2021-Virtual Edition**.
- It has been organized by National Book Trust (NBT).
 - Theme of 2021 New Delhi World Book Fair: '**National Education Policy-2020**'.
12. **DRDO** has conducted successful flight test of **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology** from **integrated test range (ITR), Chandipur, off Odisha coast**
- SFDR is a missile propulsion system being developed primarily by **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** and **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** in Hyderabad.

STATES AFFAIRS

13. Nagaland Chief Minister **Neiphiu Rio** has launched its **first air cargo** services from **Dimapur airport**.
- He officially flagged off the service, a joint initiative of **Department of Horticulture, Nagaland and Airport Authority of India** with **Air India and Indigo** as airline partners.
 - AAI is planning to construct terminal building including cargo service terminal at Dimapur
14. The **Governor of Haryana**, Satyadev Narayan Arya, has approved a bill to **reserve 75 per cent jobs in Private sector** jobs for the people of the state.

- Reservation will be provided in every company, trust and society. Thus, the "Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020" has now come into force in the State.
15. **Ladakh** and **Jammu and Kashmir** will have a **separate cell in National Commission for Women (NCW)**
- Ladakh became launching pad for the first-ever online training programme **Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship**.
 - It is being launched in collaboration with **IIM, Bangalore** and **India SME Forum**.
 - UT Administration will also provide women entrepreneurs with internet facilities or facilitate at a common point to participate in the training programs.
16. Karnataka has launched **India's maiden Engineering Research & Development (ERD) policy** to raise R&D contribution to 45% in 5 year.
- This policy has the potential to create over **50,000 jobs** in ERD space
 - New policy has identified **5 key focus sectors**: aerospace and defence; auto, auto components and EV; biotechnology, pharma, medical devices; semiconductors, telecom; software products
17. **Indian Army** has inaugurated **Community Radio Station** in North **Kashmir**, with the tagline '**Radio Chinar 90.4, Har Dil Ki Dhadkan**'.
18. Uttarakhand government has launched '**Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam**' (daughter's name is a home's identity) programme and development schemes.
- Around **32,000 women groups** of the state are being linked with self-employment to make them self-reliant.
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19. Tripura CM **Biplab Kumar Deb** has launched '**Jagrut Tripura**' project to empower citizens of the northeastern state
- It was developed by **EasyGov**, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura.
 - The platform will have at least **102 schemes** of various departments of central as well as state governments
20. The first consignment of '**red rice**' was flagged off on March 4, 2021 to the United States. This adds on to the India's rice exports potential. The rice was sourced by leading rice exporter called '**LT Foods**'.
21. The government of Jharkhand have presented the "**Outcome-Based Budget**" on March 3, 2021 for the first time.

- In this budget, all the departments were given specific targets and responsibilities that are required to be completed in a specified time. The results with respect to those targets will be evaluated at the end of financial year.
22. The state of **Madhya Pradesh** has introduced the **night safaris in the three national parks** in Madhya Pradesh on March 4, 2021. This move by the state is a major boost for the state which is already known for its robust tourism industry.
- With the introduction of night safaris in three national parks, wildlife enthusiasts can now experience the majestic animals at night. The three parks include the Bandhavgarh National Park, Kanha National Park and Pench National Park.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

23. Russian space corporation '**Roscosmos**' has successfully launched **its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate** and environment.
- This satellite is titled as '**Arktika-M**' and was launched onboard **Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket**, from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
 - This satellite will help to collect information to solve operational meteorology and hydrology problems, and monitoring the climate and environment in the Arctic region, Earth's northern polar region.
24. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** with six Su-30 MKI, two C-17 and one IL-78 tanker aircraft is participating in **Exercise Desert Flag-VI** for the first time **Desert Flag-VI**
- It has been organized from March 3 to 27, 2021 at Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE.
 - It is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by UAE Air Force.
 - Participants: **UAE, USA, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain**
 - It involves diverse fighter aircraft.
25. The scientists have discovered a "**space hurricane**" for the first time. The hurricane swirled for eight hours over the North Pole in the upper atmosphere of Earth.
- These hurricanes are usually occurred in the lower atmosphere of the Earth. It was never observed in the upper atmosphere.
26. The Union Ministry of Earth Science announced that India have agreed to work in collaboration with **Norway** in the area of **marine spatial planning** of the oceanic space for next five years.

REPORTS & INDICES

27. **Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs** has released **Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020**
- **Indore** has emerged as the highest ranked municipality, followed by **Surat** and **Bhopal** in **Million+ population category**
 - **New Delhi Municipal Council** has emerged as the leader, followed by **Tirupati** and **Gandhinagar** in less than Million population category
 - MPI has examined sectoral performance of 111 municipalities across five verticals, 20 sectors and 100 indicators in all totality.

28. **Bengaluru** emerged as the best city in **Government's Ease of Living Index 2020 [EoLI]**, followed by **Pune** and **Ahmedabad**, including 111 other cities.
- **Shimla** was ranked the highest in ease of living in the category of 'population less than million', followed by **Bhubaneshwar** and **Silvassa**
 - **EoLI** is an **assessment tool** that evaluates the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development, spanning across **13 categories**, account for 70% of overall outcome.
29. QS World University **Rankings by Subject** has been released with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US at the top.
- As 25 courses by Indian universities have figured in the top 100 globally:
 - Three Indian Institutes of Technology have entered the **top 100 engineering institutes** with **IIT-Bombay (49th) followed by IIT Delhi (54) and IIT Madras (94)**. MIT, USA has retained its top position.
 - IISc, Bangalore is placed at the 92nd spot for natural sciences.
30. Recently, a report was commissioned by the Amazon Web Services (AWS) on India's Digital skilled workforce. The report highlights that, digital skills are becoming a significant component for employees in order to perform their jobs efficiently
31. The United Nation Environment Programme (**UNEP**) published the "**Food Waste Index Report, 2021**". As per the UNEP report, estimated **931 million tonnes** of food were wasted across the world 2019. The agency also highlighted that this amount of wasted food can circle the Earth seven times.

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32. The World Health Organization (WHO) has published the first world report on hearing on World Hearing Day which was observed on March 3, 2021.
- In the new report, the WHO has highlighted that, one in every four individuals across the world will be experiencing mild-to-profound hearing loss by 2050, which roughly accounts for 2.5 billion

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

33. The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser of the Government of India has launched the "**Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship**" under the "**Waste to Wealth**" Mission on March 3, 2021.
- The Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship initiative was launched with the objective of recognizing the students, self-help groups, community workers, sanitary workers and municipal workers who are engaged in tackling enormous challenge of waste management in a scientific and sustainable manner.

- Under the fellowship programme, the government will be providing awards under three categories as stated below:
- **Category-A**– This category will be open to School students of standards 9th to 12th who are engaged in the waste management community work.
- **Category-B**– This category is open to UG, PG and Research Students engaged in the waste management community work.
- **Category-C**: This category of the fellowship is open to the Citizens who are working in the community and through Self Help Groups, municipal workers or sanitary workers who are working beyond the specifications of their job requirements.

34. Union Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has virtually launched the '**CSIR Floriculture Mission**'.

- **CSIR Floriculture Mission** has been recently approved for implementation in **21 States** and UT of India wherein available knowledgebase in CSIR Institutes will be utilized and leveraged to help Indian farmers and industry re-position itself to meet the import requirements.
- **Floriculture** is concerned with growing and marketing flowers and ornamental plants as well as a flower arrangement.
- The floriculture mission is being implemented in association with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Directorate of Floriculture, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) etc.
- This mission will converge the floriculture with apiculture to yield benefits. The mission will focus on the commercial crops for honey bee rearing such as Gladiolus, Carnation, Canna, Marigold, Rose etc.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

35. **Wipro** has joined the **World Economic Forum's (WEF)** 'Partnering for Racial Justice in Business' initiative to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people of all racial backgrounds in the workplace.

- This partnership will help in cross-pollinating ideas with other industry leaders and help in developing industry standards and best practices.

FINANCE & BANKING

36. **SBI** has tied up with **JPMorgan** to use '**Liink**' blockchain technology in order to speed up overseas transactions.

- With this, SBI has become the first bank in India to go live on the blockchain-based payment network of JPMorgan.
- It will reduce the transaction costs and time taken by SBI customers for overseas payments.
- It will also reduce time taken to resolve cross-border payments-related inquiries and payments will reach beneficiaries faster.

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37. **Reserve Bank of India** has included **Fino Payments Bank** in **Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- This means Fino Payments Bank is given the status of scheduled commercial bank or simply scheduled banks.
 - The bank will now be able to enhance its banking position in the treasury and participation in liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) window
 - Headquarters: **Mumbai**.
38. Govt has notified comprehensive amendments to **Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017**, or policyholders' complaints regarding insurance services, in a timely and impartial manner.
- Scope of complaints will include disputes, deficiencies in service on the part of insurers, brokers and other intermediaries.
 - The insurance brokers have also been brought within the **ambit of the Ombudsman** mechanism.
 - It will be administered by the **Council for Insurance Ombudsmen**.
39. **Matam Venkata Rao** has been sworn in as the new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of the state-run **Central Bank of India for a period of three years**.
40. The **SBI Mutual Funds** has launched its first overseas offering on 1 March 2021.
- The fund titled **SBI International Access - US Equity FOF** is an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in a mutual fund scheme/ETFs that invest in US markets, which are domiciled overseas.
41. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with **SBI Payments** to announce the launch of '**RuPay SoftPoS**' for millions of Indian merchants.
- This innovative solution has the capability to transform NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers.
 - Now, **Merchants** will be able to accept contactless payments of up to ₹5000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism on their smartphones.
42. **Axis Securities** has announced the launch of an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market named as '**YIELD**'
- **YIELD**: first-of-its-kind initiative that allows retail investors direct access to the debt instruments.
 - This will remove the hassle of filling up physical forms or the need for separate KYC with bond institutions to facilitate transactions only in secure option

43. **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** has launched '**Business Kishit Suraksha**' covering MFIs, financial institutions and banks during catastrophe or natural disaster.

- It aims to protect balance sheet of financial institutions due to non-payment of EMIs by borrowers, following listed calamities such as floods, earthquakes, cyclones, etc.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

44. **78th edition of Golden Globe Awards 2021** was held to recognise excellence in film, both American and international, and American television by Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

List of winners:

- Best Film (Drama): **Nomadland**
- Best Film (Musical/Comedy): **Borat Subsequent**
- Best Director: **Chloe Zhao for Nomadland**
- Best Actress (Drama): **Andra Day**
- Best Actor (Drama): **Chadwick Boseman**
- Best Foreign Lang Film: **Minari**
- Best Animated Film: **Soul**
- Best TV Series-Drama: **The Crown**

45. **10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021** has been released that ranked 3228 billionaires from 2,402 companies and 68 countries

- Tesla chief **Elon Musk** bagged the top spot with net worth \$197 billion.
- **Jeff Bezos** ranked second with \$189 billion net worth, followed by Bernard Arnault
- Asia's richest person and Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** is ranked 8th
- Total wealth of all billionaires across the globe surged 32% (\$3.5 trillion) in 2020

46. **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Railway Station of Central Railway** is the first railway station in Maharashtra to be awarded with Gold certification as per **CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) ratings**.

- Central Railway has implemented various green initiatives across its zone, with plantation creating green areas, installation of solar panels, etc.
- **IGBC ratings** gives impetus to the national priorities like energy efficiency, water conservation, etc.

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PERSON IN NEWS

47. **Ligia Noronha of India** has been appointed as **Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme**.
- It has been announced by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres
 - She is an economist with over 30 years of international experience in the field of sustainable development.
 - She has worked since **2014** as **Director of UNEP's Economy Division in Nairobi**, leading UNEP's on climate mitigation energy transitions
48. **Jaideep Bhatnagar** has taken over as the **Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB)**.
49. IPS officer **Kuldip Singh** has been appointed to hold additional charge as **Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, with effect from March 1, 2021

OBITUARIES

50. NA

IMPORTANT DAYS

51. **Zero Discrimination Day** is being observed every year on **March 1** globally to promote equality in practice and before the law.
- The day also highlights the urgent need to take action against the inequalities in income, age, sex, health status, colour, race, occupation, sexual orientation, religion, gender and ethnicity.
52. **World Wildlife Day** is observed on **March 3** every year to celebrate and raise awareness about world's wild animals and plants (fauna and flora)
- Theme 2021: **Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet**
 - March 3 has been chosen as it is the day of signature of **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** in 1973.
53. **World Hearing Day** is observed on **3rd March** every year by **World Health Organisation (WHO)** to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world
- Theme 2021: **Hearing care for ALL!: Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate**
54. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared the year **2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'**.
- The resolution to declare the year was sponsored by India.
 - The UN General Assembly has proclaimed the "UN Decade of action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025" in the month of April 2016.

SPORTS

55. **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has chosen **Odisha** as the host for the upcoming **Indian Women's League (IWL) 2020-21 edition**

- IWL is the top division women's league in India.
56. India is set to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022.
57. Star Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has defeated **Vanesa Kaladzinskay** of Belarus to win a gold medal at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament, held in **Kiev**
- Haryana's Bhiwani-based Vinesh won in the 53kg category with 10-8 lead.
58. Indian Boxer **Deepak Kumar (23 years)** won the silver medal at **72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament** in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- He belongs to Hisar district of Haryana.
59. **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** has topped medals tally in the **2nd edition of Khelo India Winter National Games**
- **Khelo India Winter National Games** was five-day mega sports event that was held at **Gulmarg** in Baramulla, north Kashmir
 - **J&K won 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals.** It was followed by **Karnataka** and **Maharashtra**
 - It was organized by **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** in collaboration with **J&K Sports Council** and **J&K Winter Games Association**

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