

PRACTICE

MOCK







**WEEKLY CA
MARCH 2021**

MARCH 8-15

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. PM Modi will inaugurate '**Maitri Setu**' between India and Bangladesh
 - It has been built over **Feni river** which flows between Tripura and Bangladesh
 - It has been built by **National Highways and Infrastructure Development**
2. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Mansukh Mandaviya** has flagged off an **all-woman crew onboard Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) vessel, MT Swarna Krishna**.
3. Minister of Culture and Tourism **Prahlad Singh Patel** has inaugurated **All-Women's Art Exhibition titled as 'Akshya Patra'** at Rabindra Bhavan Galleries in New Delhi on the occasion of International Women's Day.
 - The exhibition has been curated by **Lalit Kala Akademi** for providing opportunity to all the female artists around India and the world.
4. Union Minister, **Sanjay Dhotre** has inaugurated **International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials and Processing (MEMP 2021)** virtually on the occasion of 30th foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology.
 - It is organised by **Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune** from 8 to 10 March 2021.
5. **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** has signed an agreement with **Invest India** in New Delhi to enhance cooperation.
 - The aim will enhance co-operation in the thematic areas of **Nutrition, Child Protection and Development, Women Empowerment** and convergent capacity building in mission mode.
6. **DRISHTI** under **Invest India** will conduct input and output analysis research, and other research as per requirement including coordinating with research agencies.
7. Third Scorpene-class submarine '**INS Karanj**' was commissioned into Indian Navy in Mumbai
 - It is third in the series of six Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarine, being built for Indian Navy
 - It has been designed by France's Naval Group and is being built in India by Mazagon Dock Limited under Project 75.

8. **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
9. 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

STATES AFFAIRS

10. **Cyberabad police** has inaugurated '**Transgender Community Desk**' at Gachibowli Police Station in Rangareddy district, Telangana.
- It is the first-of-its-kind gender inclusive community policing initiative of India
11. India's first-of-its-kind '**Forest Healing Centre**' has been inaugurated at **Kalika, Ranikhet** in **Uttarakhand**
- It is based on the concept of making people healthy by bringing them into direct contact with nature over 13 acres land
 - It is a **pine-dominated forest**, developed by **research wing of Uttarakhand Forest Dept**
 - It has various activities for visitors like hug trees, walk barefoot on the grass, lie on their back and gaze at the swaying trees
12. J&K Lt Governor **Manoj Sinha** has launched '**Super-75**' scholarship schemes for meritorious girls to facilitate the education and entrepreneurship of women

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

13. India was downgraded to '**partly free**' for the first time **since 1997** in an annual ranking of democracies by the U.S.-government funded research group **Freedom House**
14. **United Nations General Assembly** has adopted a resolution sponsored by India and supported by **70 nations** declaring **2023 as the International Year of Millets**
15. **France** has launched its **first military exercise in space** to evaluate its ability to defend its satellites and other defence equipment from an attack.
- It has been codenamed as '**AsterX**' in memory of the first French satellite from **1965** and will be based on 18 simulated events
16. **China** has signed MoU with **Russia** to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries.
- This Lunar space station will be known as **International Scientific Lunar Station (ISLS)**
 - **ISLS**: Complex of experimental and research facilities, created on the moon's surface or in orbit of the moon.
17. **Quadrilateral Framework (QUAD) Leader's Summit 2021** has been held.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Joseph Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga addressed 1st virtual Quadrilateral Framework (Quad) summit 2021
 - It is first time leaders of the Indo-Pacific grouping (QUAD) are meeting.
18. World's **most powerful supercomputer** named '**Fugaku**' is made fully operational.
- It has been developed by Japanese scientific research institute **RIKEN** and **Fujitsu**.

REPORTS & INDICES

19. **FICCI's Overall Business Confidence Index** has been released that witnessed **decadal high of 74.2** in the current round on account of improvement in present conditions as well as expectations
- The Index had stood at **70.9 in 2020** survey and **59 in 2019** survey
20. **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and **WRAP** has released **Food Waste Index Report 2021** to cut food waste to half by 2030
- It estimates that around 931 million tonnes of food waste was generated in 2019
 - Out of which, 61% came from households, 26% from food service and 13% from retail
 - Around 17% of total global food production was wasted

- About 690 million people went hungry in 2019
- In India, household food waste is about 68.7 million tonnes a year

21. **Singapore** has topped in **Economic Freedom Index 2021**, for 2nd year in row with overall score of 89.7, followed by New Zealand and Australia

- The index is published by US conservative think-tank, **The Heritage Foundation**
- It covered **184 countries** that covered the period from July 2019 to June 2020
- India has been placed at **121** position in the index, with a score of **56.5 out of 100** under **Mostly Unfree category**
- Among Asia-Pacific countries, **India ranks 26 out of 40 countries**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

22. **Union Minister for Labour** has launched **convergence of ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPM-JAY)** in 113 districts of Chhatisgarh, Karnataka, MP and Maharashtra.

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ECONOMY & BUSINESS

23. **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** announced interest rates on Provident Fund deposits for the financial year 2020-21 on March 4.

- EPFO board has recommended **8.5% interest** for the **financial year 2020-21**, same as 2019-20.

24. **Ministry of Textiles** has signed MoU with **Ministry of Agriculture** to amplify sericulture activities in the country.

- MoU will focus on establishing tree based agro-forestry models in sericulture, along with exploring possibilities of activities through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

25. **NITI Aayog**, along with **Dept of Economic Affairs (DEA)** has organized **national-level virtual workshop on asset monetization**.

26. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development **Authority (APEDA)** has launched its **first virtual trade fair** to boost export of agricultural and processed food products.
- The fair will display **basmati rice, non-basmati rice, millets, wheat, maize, groundnut** and **coarse grains** have been displayed.
27. **Tata Motors** has launched a holistic programme that supports new parents in their exciting journey both as a parent and also as a valued employee, titled as **'Wheels of Love'**
- It will promote a progressive culture of care, inclusion and sensitization within the organization across levels.
28. Govt has launched **'Mera Ration' mobile app** for ration card holders, particularly migrant beneficiaries to identify the nearest fair price shop, check details of their entitlement and recent transactions.
- The app has been developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**
 - It is currently available in **Hindi** and **English** and will be made available in **14 languages**
 - It will facilitate various **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** related services.

FINANCE & BANKING

29. **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **cancelled certificate of registration** of **Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd (SIFCL)**, as a sub-broker.
- The move has been taken by **SEBI**, due to failure of SIFCL to fulfill the **'fit and proper' criteria**, in terms of Intermediaries Regulations
30. **HDFC Bank** has launched dedicated mentoring programme named as **'SmartUp Unnati'** to support women entrepreneurs.
31. **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has acquired **26% equity stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)**, through its wholly owned subsidiary NSE Investments.
32. **RBI** has removed **IDBI Bank** from **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework**, amid the improving finances of the bank after Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) review
- PCA places curbs on lending and expenditure of bank and RBI keeps close watch on banks certain financial parameters like capital ratios, asset quality and profitability
33. Cabinet has approved amendment to **Insurance Act, 1938** to increase the permissible **foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in insurance sector to 74%**

- It will allow foreign ownership and control with safeguards, and also provide insurance companies with committed funds to improve the penetration of insurance

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

34. Ambassador of India to Thailand **Suchitra Durai** has received the prestigious **King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 Award** on the behalf of Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Bangkok.

- The award was announced by **Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome** in view of ICAR's excellent contributions in Soil Health Awareness on the theme **Stop soil erosion, save our future**

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PERSON IN NEWS

35. Indian-origin **Naureen Hassan (25 years)** has been appointed as **1st Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO)** of New York-based **Federal Reserve Bank** by Board of Governors of Federal Reserve System.
36. Chairman of NABARD, **G.R. Chintala** has been sworn in as the **Chairman of APRACA (Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association)**
- **Established:** 1977 by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - **Aim:** to promote the development of rural finance in Asia Pacific.
 - Headquarters: **Bangkok, Thailand.**
37. Autobiography of freedom fighter 'Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan', titled '**The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle**' has been released
38. Comptroller and Auditor General (**CAG**) of India, **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-appointed as **Chairman of United Nations Panel of External Auditors** for 2021
39. World rapid chess champion **Koneru Humpy (33 years)** has won **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2021.**
- She was the youngest grandmaster in 2002 at the age of 15. She has received the Arjuna Award in 2003 and the Padma Shri in 2007.
 - She hails from Andhra Pradesh
40. Centre has appointed **G P Samanta** as the **new Chief Statistician of India (CSI)** for a period of two years.
- Prior to this, he was serving as an **adviser in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Department of Statistics and Information Management**
 - He will also serve as the Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
41. Bollywood actor **Deepika Padukone** has joined **Forum of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs)** for 2021 compiled by World Economic Forum.

OBITUARIES

42. Renowned **Kannada** poet, eminent academic, and critic Prof **N S Lakshminarayana** passed away in Bengaluru. He was known as '**NSL**' in the literary circles and Kannada music world

IMPORTANT DAYS

43. **International Women's Day (IWD)** is observed every year on **March 8** to celebrate women, their rights and their achievements.
- Theme 2021: **Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.**
44. **World Consumer Rights Day** is observed every year on **15th March** to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs.
- Centre has enacted **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** replacing old 1986 Act to protect the interest of consumers and timely settlement of disputes in 2020.
 - Theme 2021: '**Tackle plastic pollution**'.

SPORTS

45. World Championship bronze medallist wrestler, **Bajrang Punia** won a gold medal at **Matteo Pallicone** ranking series held in Rome, Italy.
- He defeated Mongolia's **Tulga Tumur Ochir** by 2-2 in 65kg freestyle event final.
 - Apart from this, ace India woman wrestler **Vinesh Phogat (26 years)** won gold medal in the **53kg title**, after beating Canada's Diana Weicker by 4-0
46. India's ace shuttler **PV Sindhu** has won **silver** medal in **BWF Swiss Open Super 300** in final of women's singles event held at Basel
- She lost to World No. 3 and reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin.
47. India's off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** has been named as the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2021.**
48. Veteran cricketer **Mithali Raj (38 years)** became **first Indian woman cricketer** to complete 10,000 runs across all formats.
- With this, she also became the 2nd largest woman scorer in international cricket
49. **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.

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