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# WEEKLY CA MARCH 2021

MARCH 23-31

PRACTICE

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. 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
2. **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited** has established an e-Tendering Portal-PRANIT.
3. CJI **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.
4. **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)
5. 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**
6. 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 crores more toll collection in comparison to previous year.
7. **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** will develop world class '**Wayside Amenities**' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in 5 years
8. Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched the '**Tribal TB Initiative**' in pursuit of TB Mukta Bharat.
9. The Union Territories of Lakshadweep and the **district of Badgam** in Jammu and Kashmir have been declared TB Free on **World TB Day** (24 March) this year.
10. **IIT Kharagpur** has emerged as winners at **CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0**, sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI and IA: Interior Architects.

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- It is for the first time that a squad from India has emerged as winners in this Challenge since 2015.

- Chief of Defence staff **Bipin Rawat** has formally commissioned **Indian Coast Guard ship 'Vajra'** into service at Chennai.
- Centre plans to issue 14-digit identification number termed as **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)** to every plot of land in the country by 2022

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## STATES AFFAIRS

- Andhra Pradesh government has decided to set up "**India's first government-run ambulance network**" for animals
- 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.
- 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)**
- Hyderabad-based startup, **Maithri Aquatech** has set up **world's first mobile water from air kiosk** and **Water Knowledge Resource Centre in Visakhapatnam**
  - Through this, potable water will be harvested from air instead of depending on water resources



17. Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually inaugurated **Ānandam: The Center for Happiness** in Indian Institute of Management, Jammu

- Centre will be divided into 5 categories: **counselling, holistic wellness, elective courses on happiness development, Research-Leadership and faculty development**



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

18. **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.

19. Russian space agency '**Roscosmos**' has successfully launched **38 foreign satellites** into orbit, onboard Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket from **Baikonur cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan

20. **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**

21. **India** and **US** conducted two-day naval **PASSEX exercise** in **Bay of Bengal**, reflecting the growing congruence in defence and military partnership

- Exercise was held from 28th to 29th March

22. **Indian Navy** will participate in France-led naval drill named as '**La Perouse**' in the **Bay of Bengal**.

23. The exercise will be held from **April 5 to 7, 2021**.

- Participating nations also include Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) member countries: **Australia, Japan and United States of America (USA)**.



## REPORTS & INDICES

24. **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**

25. **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)** has released 16th annual flagship report titled as '**Global Wind Report 2021**'.

- As per the report, despite COVID-19 pandemic, year **2020 was the best year in history for the global wind industry** as this sector installed 93GW of new capacity in 2020, representing a 53% year-on-year increase.
- There is now 743 GW of wind power capacity worldwide, helping to avoid over 1.1 billion tonnes of CO2 globally.

26. **World Bank** has released **World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives**

- The report focuses on how data can improve the lives of poor people and advance development objectives, to ensure no one is left behind
- It highlights the tremendous potential of the changing data landscape to improve the lives of poor people, acknowledging its potential to open back doors that can harm individuals, businesses and societies
- India monitors 54 out of 130 SDG indicators.

27. **World Health Organization (WHO)** is all set to release long-awaited report on the origin of the coronavirus (Covid-19)

- The report has been drafted by a team of international experts appointed by WHO, who visited China's Wuhan city
- According to the preliminary information on the study, researchers have found that Covid-19 most likely transmitted to humans via animals. However, report offers no conclusive answers to the origin questions.

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## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

28. NA

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

29. **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

30. **Govt** has operationalized **22 new routes in the last three days under UDAN scheme** as a part of endeavor to connect the unconnected regions.

- Out of these new routes, six routes have been operationalized in North-East India.
- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN):** flagship **Regional Connectivity scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation** envisaged to make air travel affordable and widespread in the country. Till date, 347 routes have been operationalized under the UDAN scheme.

## FINANCE & BANKING

31. **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**.

32. **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**

33. **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

34. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has once again extended the restriction imposed on scam-hit **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank** for a further period of 3 months till June 30, 2021.

- The restriction puts curbs on the withdrawals and deposits activity of the lender.

35. **HDFC Bank** has been conferred as 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at **Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021**.

- **HDFC Bank** has been honoured for its transformation of micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) business over the past few years.
- **Asiamoney Best Bank Awards** is based upon Annual Best Banks survey by a financial magazine based in Hong Kong, to identify excellent banks a range of core banking activities over the past 12 months.



## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

36. Noted Hindi writer **Prof. Sharad Pagare** will be conferred with the prestigious **Vyas Samman - 2020** for his novel '**Patliputru Ki Samragi**.'

37. Range officer of **Rajaji Tiger Reserve**, **Mahinder Giri** has won the prestigious **International Ranger Award** for his contribution towards conservation.

- He is the only ranger from Asia to win this prestigious Award
- It is being given by **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**

38. The **66th Filmfare Awards for 2021** has been announced to honour artistic and technical excellence in Hindi cinema for 2020. **Anubhav Sinha** directed '**Thappad**' won seven awards. Winners:

- Best Film: **Thappad**
- Best Director: **Om Raut (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)**
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male): **Irrfan Khan (Angrezi Medium)**
- Best Actor (Critics): **Amitabh Bachchan (Gulabo Sitabo)**
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female): **Taapsee Pannu (Thappad)**
- Best Lyrics: **Gulzar (Chhapaak)**



## PERSON IN NEWS

39. NA

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## OBITUARIES

40. Veteran banker and former **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) deputy governor **K.C. Chakrabarty** (68-years) passed away at his Mumbai residence following a heart attack.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

41. **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**'

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## SPORTS

42. 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.

43. Indian contingent emerged successful in ISSF World Cup in the Trap events with **30 medals in total (15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze)**

- Indian trio of **Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer** and **Rajeshwari Kumari** won the gold medal in women's Trap Team event.
- India outgunned the Kazakhstan trio 6-0 in the final

44. **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay** kicked off in **Fukushima, Japan**.

- The torch relay will travel through all the **47 districts of Japan** over the next **121 days**.

- It will arrive in Tokyo for the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony that will be held on July 23.
- Japanese footballer **Iwashimizu Azusa** is the first receiver of this Olympic Torch Relay.