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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly Capsule PDF

1st March to 7th March 2021

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Weekly Current Affairs

(1st March 2021 to 7th March 2021)

IMPORTANT DAYS

Zero Discrimination Day is observed on March 1

The Zero Discrimination Day is held every year on 1 March. Purpose of the day is to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers. The Day was launched by UNAIDS in 2014. Theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2021 is “End Inequalities”

45th Civil Accounts Day celebrated on March 1

The 45th Civil Accounts Day was celebrated in New Delhi on 1 March. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest of the event. Comptroller and Auditor General G.C. Murmu, Expenditure Secretary Dr T. V. Somanathan and Controller General of Accounts Soma Roy Burman were present on the occasion among others.

3rd Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrations begins on March 1

The Third Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrations began on 1st March. The week-long celebrations will go on till 7th of March. Jan Aushadhi Kendras conducted Health Check-up Camps across the country. The health check-up activities include Blood Pressure check-up, Sugar level check-up, free doctor consultation and free medicine distribution.

World Wildlife Day is observed on March 3

The World Wildlife Day is observed every year on March 3 to celebrate and raise awareness about the world’s wild fauna and flora. Theme for World Wildlife Day 2021 is “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”. The day was proposed by Thailand and recognised in 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

World Hearing Day is observed on March 3

World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year by the 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 of World Hearing Day 2021 is Hearing care for ALL!: Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate.



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National Safety Day is celebrated on March 4

The National Safety Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on March 4 by the National Safety Council (NSC) of India. In 2021, we are observing the 50th NSD. The National Safety Day Theme 2021 is "Sadak Suraksha (Road Safety)". Purpose of the day is to instill a sense of safety awareness among people by providing them with safety, health and environment related support services. The first National Safety Day was observed in 1972.

National Security Day is celebrated on March 4

In India, March 4 is celebrated as National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) every year, in the honor of the Indian Security Forces. The day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, para-military forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country.

International Women's Day is observed on March 8

International Women's Day is observed on 8 March. The day is celebrated every year to help forge a gender equal world, celebrate women's achievements and their increasing visibility in every sphere of life. This day celebrates the cultural, political, economic and social achievements of women. It also highlights the extraordinary roles played by women in almost every walk of life and celebrates acts of courage and determination by ordinary women. The theme this year is - Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.

STATE NEWS

"Gharoki Pechan, Chelik Naam" Scheme launched in Nainital

In Uttarakhand, the Chief Minister, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched "Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam" (daughter's name is a home's identity) programme and development schemes. Initially, the scheme has been launched in Nainital and will be extended to entire Uttarakhand in the coming weeks. The government has allocated Rs 42 crore for this scheme. This scheme is in line with the effort of the state government towards promoting women empowerment.

Combined Commanders' Conference to begin at Kevadiya in Gujarat

A three-day Combined Commanders' Conference will begin at Kevadia in Gujarat. Theaterisation of armed forces, self-reliance in the defence sector and evolving threats in the region will be the focus areas during the three-day annual event.



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Mumbai's CSMT becomes first railway station to get IGBC Gold Certification

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 plantations creating green areas, installation of solar panels, customer-friendly initiatives at many stations, LED bulbs and lights etc.

Nagaland launches its first air cargo services from Dimapur airport

Nagaland yesterday launched its first air cargo services from Dimapur airport. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio 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.

Bengaluru and Shimla among 'Most liveable' cities across country

Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri announced the release of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index-2020 and the Municipal Performance Index-2020 in New Delhi in an online event. Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million Plus category, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore and Greater Mumbai. In the Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere and Tiruchirappalli.

Two-day Gur Mahotsav underway in Lucknow

In Uttar Pradesh, a Gur Mahotsav or jaggery festival is underway in Lucknow. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the two-day event. Mr Yogi said that the state government aims to provide maximum benefit of their products to the farmers and for this purpose, the Mahotsav is being organised.

India's biggest Kidney Dialysis Hospital inaugurated at Balasahib Gurudwara in Delhi

India's biggest Kidney Dialysis Hospital was inaugurated at Balasahib Gurudwara in Delhi. The Guru Harikshan Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Kidney Dialysis Hospital has been opened by Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee. The 100 bedded hospital is equipped with most technically advanced medical facilities where services will be provided free of cost to the patients. There will also be no billing counter at the hospital.

Himachal Pradesh police to organize 'All Women Parade' at Ridge in Shimla

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Himachal Pradesh Police Department will organize 'All Woman Parade' at the historic Ridge Grounds in Shimla, aimed at increasing the strength of women in the police force. The state police will celebrate the Day in two sessions.



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NATIONAL NEWS

Nitin Gadkari launches Real-Time Monitoring System of Toll Plazas

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the Real-Time Monitoring System of Toll Plazas at a function in New Delhi.

Union Minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot launches 'Sugamya Bharat' App and handbook 'Access - The Photo Digest'

Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot launched the 'Sugamya Bharat' App and a handbook titled 'Access - The Photo Digest' through a video conference in New Delhi. The App and the handbook have been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

DDC Pulwama inaugurates artisan mela organised by NRLM

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Raghav Langer today inaugurated an artisan mela organised by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) at Govt Degree College in Pulwama. The DDC appreciated the role of artisans and Self Help Groups (SHGs) for keeping the traditional art alive to extract employment avenues from this sector.

Education Minister inaugurates New Delhi World Book Fair 2021

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 - Virtual Edition. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister appreciated that 'National Education Policy-2020' is the theme of the book fair.

Union Minister Sanjay Dhotre inaugurates MEMP 2021 virtually

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated the 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. Mr Dhotre said that the domestic production of electronic items has increased from over one lakh 90 thousand crore rupees in 2014-15 to over five lakh 33 thousand crore rupees in 2019-20 at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate of 23 per cent.

Indian Railway integrates all railway helplines into single number 139

Indian Railway has integrated all railway helplines into single number 139 which is Rail Madad Helpline for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey. As the new helpline number 139 will take over all the existing helpline numbers, it will be easy for the passengers to remember this number and connect with Railways for all their needs during the travel.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel officially receives first ever UAE ambassador

Israel's president formally received the first-ever ambassador from the United Arab Emirates, following last year's historic agreement between the countries to normalise ties. UAE envoy Mohamed Al Khaja delivered his credentials to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at a ceremony in Jerusalem. The UAE was the first country to agree to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state under the Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by former US president Donald Trump.

Sri Lanka approves new port development with India and Japan

Sri Lanka's government will allow India and Japan to develop a new container terminal at the country's main port, several weeks after scrapping a deal with the two countries to develop one of the key terminals at the same port.

US imposes fresh sanctions against Russia over Navalny issue

The United States has slapped sanctions on Russian individuals and entities over the near-fatal poisoning of prominent opposition figure Alexei Navalny with a nerve agent. Speaking to reporters, the senior White House officials said the sanctions were being imposed in coordination with the European Union, and urged the release of Navalny from prison.

Bangladesh launches national app portal

The Government of Bangladesh has launched its national app portal bdapps.com. The agreement between the ICT division of the government of Bangladesh and the telecom company Robi was signed in Dhaka. BDApps will be established as the hub of the ICT division for application developers. Under the agreement, the ICT division will collaborate with bdapps to organise exclusive boot camps and software development events in the country.

1st consignment of 'red rice' flagged off to US

In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off today to the US. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. The rice variety is referred as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of Assamese food.

EAM Dr. Jaishankar inaugurates new Cultural Centre of High Commission of India in Dhaka

A new cultural centre of the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in Dhaka. It is the second cultural centre of the High Commission of India after the Dhanmondi centre at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka. The new cultural centre has facilities for conducting short term courses on Indian art forms and holding cultural programmes and art-exhibitions.



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PM Modi to inaugurate 'Maitri Setu' between India & Bangladesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Maitri Setu between India and Bangladesh through video conferencing. Mr Modi will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure projects in Tripura during the event. The bridge Maitri Setu has been built over Feni river which flows between Indian boundary in Tripura State and Bangladesh. The name Maitri Setu symbolizes growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's first transgender newsreader appointed

A private news channel has appointed Bangladesh's first transgender news presenter. Tashnuva Anan Shishir will start presenting news for Boishakhi TV from the International Women's Day on March 8. This was announced on Friday by the TV news channel. The TV channel has appointed another transgender Nusrat Mau as one of the main characters for the regular drama section of the TV channel's entertainment wing.

BANKING & FINANCE

NPCI Partners SBI Payments to launch "RuPay SoftPoS" for Merchants

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and SBI Payments have partnered to launch "RuPay SoftPoS" for Indian merchants. RuPay SoftPoS will enable merchants to use their near-field communication (NFC)-enabled smartphones as point of sale (PoS) terminals and accept payment up to Rs 5,000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Board approves sale of its 61.65 % stake in Numaligarh Refinery

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Board has approved sale of its 61.65 percent stake in Numaligarh Refinery for 9,875 crore rupees. Oil India Limited, Engineers India Ltd and Assam Government will be picking up the stake.

HDFC ERGO Launches "Business Kisht Suraksha" to Protect MFIs & Financial

HDFC ERGO General Insurance has launched a product called "Business Kisht Suraksha", to provide a unique cover to MFIs, financial institutions and banks in the event of a catastrophe or natural disaster. The Business Kisht Suraksha aims to protect the balance sheet of financial institutions due to non-payment of EMLs by borrowers, following listed calamities such as floods, earthquakes, cyclones, etc.



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Axis Securities launches online platform 'YIELD' for hassle free investment in bond, debenture

Axis Securities has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative called 'YIELD', that will allow retail investors direct access to the debt instruments, YIELD is an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

PM Modi to receive CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award. He will also deliver the keynote address at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week 2021 via video conferencing. CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Dr. Daniel Yergin. The CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award was instituted in 2016.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Jaideep Bhatnagar takes over as Principal DG, PIB

Mr. Jaideep Bhatnagar has taken over as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau. Mr. Bhatnagar is an Officer of the Indian Information Service belonging to the 1986 Batch. He has earlier served in Doordarshan as Head of the Commercial, Sales and Marketing Division. He also served as Prasar Bharati Special Correspondent in West Asia.

Matam Venkata Rao takes charge as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India

Matam Venkata Rao has been sworn in as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of state-run Central Bank of India. The appointment of Rao is effective from March 01, 2021, for a period of three years.

IPS Officer Kuldiep Singh given additional charge as Director General of CRPF

Centre has appointed IPS officer Kuldiep Singh to hold additional charge as the Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), with effect from March 01, 2021. Singh is a 1986-batch officer from West Bengal cadre, working as the special DG of its central zone.



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Mary Kom appointed as Chairperson of AIBA's champions & veterans committee

Mary Kom has been appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee. Mary Kom thanked AIBA President and said she will give her best at the position.

Manpreet Vohra Appointed as High Commissioner of India To Australia

Manpreet Vohra has been appointed as the High Commissioner of India to Australia. Vohra, a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service Officer, is presently Ambassador of India to Mexico.

Indian-Origin Naureen Hassan appointed as First VP & COO of Federal Reserve Bank

Indian-origin Naureen Hassan has been appointed as the first Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the New York-based Federal Reserve Bank, by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. The 25-year Hassan will take over the new role with effect from March 15, 2021.

Indian Economist Ligia Noronha appointed as Assistant Secretary-General of UN

Leading Indian economist Ligia Noronha has been appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Noronha will succeed fellow Indian and development economist Satya Tripathi. Noronha, who has been working with UNEP since 2014, is an economist with over 30 years of international experience in the field of sustainable development.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India conducts successful flight test of SFDR technology off Odisha coast

Defence Research and Development Organisation has successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology from Integrated Test Range Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The Defence Ministry said all the subsystems, including the booster motor and nozzle-less motor, performed as expected. During the test, many new technologies were proven, including Solid Fuel based Ducted Ramjet technology.



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SPORTS

Ladakh Sqay Team wins eight medals in 21st National Sqay Championship

Ladakh Sqay Team won eight medals in the recently concluded 21st National Sqay Championship held at Jaipur in Rajasthan. It was also presented an Outstanding Performance Award by the Sqay Federation of India.

Vinesh Phogat bags Gold in Ukraine wrestling event

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won the gold medal in the women's 53-kg category at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine. Vinesh Phogat defeated world number seven Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus in the finals to win the gold medal and make a winning return to her first competitive outing since the Covid-19 induced lockdown.

Manish Kaushik clinches gold at Boxam International Tournament

Manish Kaushik clinched gold as Indian boxers concluded their impressive campaign at the Boxam International Tournament with 10 medals in Castellon, Spain.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Titled 'Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis' by Anindya Dutta

The banker-turned-author Anindya Dutta has come out with his new book titled "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis", which is about the history of Indian tennis. The book revolves around pre-Independence tennis and early players like Ramanathan Krishnan and Vijay Amritraj. Westland Sport is the publisher of the book.

OBITUARY

BJP MP Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan passes away

BJP MP from Khandwa, Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan passed away in Medanta Hospital, Delhi-NCR last night. He had tested positive for COVID19 and was undergoing treatment at Delhi.



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Veteran Marathi actor Shrikant Moghe dies at 91

Veteran Marathi actor Shrikant Moghe died in Pune. He was 91. He was active in Marathi Stage and Film industry for more than 50 years. Moghe was famous for his roles in Marathi films like Madhuchandra, Sinhaasan, Gammat Jammata, Umbaratha and Vasudev Balwant Phadke; and Marathi stage plays Varyavarchi Varat, Tuze Aahe Tujapashi and Lekure Udand Jali.



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